

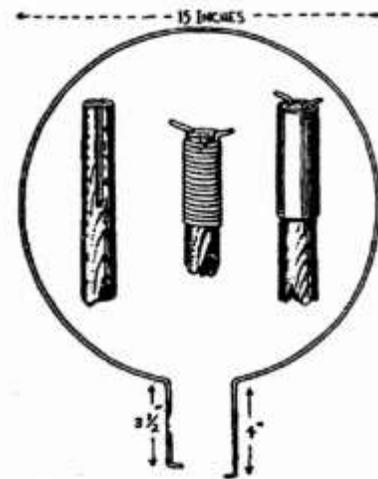


### How to Make an Insect Net

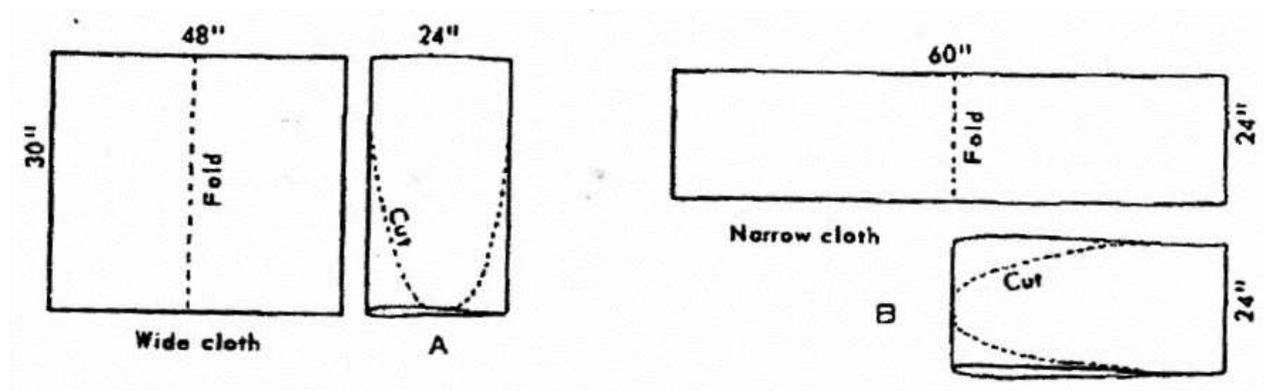
Many types of insects can be caught with a net. Two kinds of nets are generally used. One is called a butterfly or aerial net. It has a bag made of mosquito netting, or similar porous material, permitting it to be swung freely through the air. The other kind of net, called a beating or sweeping net, has a bag made of unbleached muslin. It is swung back and forth, scraping grass, weeds, and foliage as you walk along. The third kind of net detailed combines a muslin casing for the wire with mosquito netting. The muslin strip at the top provides some protection for the net from brush and blackberry damage. This net can be used as both an aerial net and sweep net.

**MAKE A SINGLE PURPOSE NET THIS WAY:** Bend a 54-inch piece of No. 12 steel wire into a 15-inch loop, as shown in the diagram.

Make the bag from a single piece of cloth. If cloth is wide, fold and cut as shown in Figure A. If narrow, fold as in Figure B. Feed sacks, unbleached muslin, or sheeting can be used. The shape should taper towards a rounded bottom. The top edge of the bag should measure 48 inches. The bag can be about 30 inches in depth.

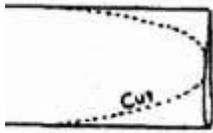


Cut the cloth to shape. Pin the cut edges together to hold them while you sew. Make a flat or a felled seam. Fasten the open end of the bag to the wire loop by folding over the wire and sewing with heavy thread. Turn under the edge of the fabric so you have a smooth, flat seam. Attach ends of the wire loop to a 3-foot broom handle with fine wire, heavy cord, or with a ferrule.



**MAKE A COMBINED AERIAL AND SWEEP NET THIS WAY:** Bend a 54-inch piece of No. 12 steel wire into a 15-inch loop, as shown in the diagram for the other nets. Do not bend the ends of the wire until after it has been threaded through the net casing.

Cut a muslin strip 16 inches deep and 48 inches long. Cut a piece of netting to the same size. Fold the netting in half the long way; it will now measure 16 X 24 inches. Measure 3 inches down each long side of the netting. Cut a curve in the netting from the 3 inch mark as shown in the illustration.



Sew the muslin and netting together along one 48 inch side. Press the seam toward the netting side and zigzag stitch it into place.

Make the wire casing: Zigzag finish the top 3 inches of the muslin on both of the 16 inch deep sides. This will reinforce the opening ends of the casing where the wire will pass.

Press the 48 inch top length of muslin under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and zigzag stitch the fabric into place. Fold the  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch folded edge over the muslin toward the netting to measure  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches to form the casing for the wire. Press and pin into place.

Stitch BOTH the top and bottom edge of the casing with using a zigzag stitch. Place a second row of straight stitches  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edge of the zigzag stitches to reinforce them.

Now the bag is ready to finish. Pin the cut edges together to hold them while you sew. Make a flat or a felled seam starting at the folded side of the net. Stitch around the net leaving the top 2 inches below the muslin casing open where the wire will pass so there is room for the material to move when the net is used in a sweeping motion.

Thread the wire through the casing and follow the instructions for the other nets for attaching the wire to a 3 foot broom handle.