

## PLANT WATER GAUGE

THIS PLANT WATER GAUGE CAN EASILY BE constructed on a small piece of perforated construction board. Its case is made from a piece of Styrofoam with a section carved out to hold the nine-volt battery, and a small recess is made into which the underside of the board is pressed. The probes are stuck right through the center of the foam and glued in.

Assemble the gauge following the schematic in Fig. 1 and the drawing in Fig. 2. Be sure to tin the probes with solder to keep them from corroding.

To calibrate the gauge, connect the battery and press the probes gently into a pot containing a plant that is just on the verge of needing water (stick it in so that only an inch of the probe is left visible at the top). Turn the potentiometer until the "OK" LED lights and then turn it back to the point where that LED goes out and the "W," or "Water," LED just comes on. The device should now be properly adjusted.

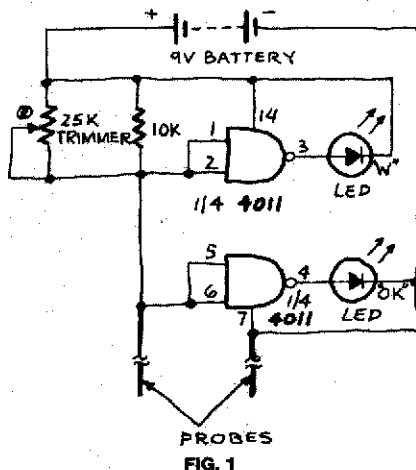


FIG. 1

Use this gauge anywhere for indoor plants and you will find it very useful in determining when to water and in preventing overwatering, since it reaches much farther down into the soil than you possibly can with your own fingers.—Bob Mostafapour

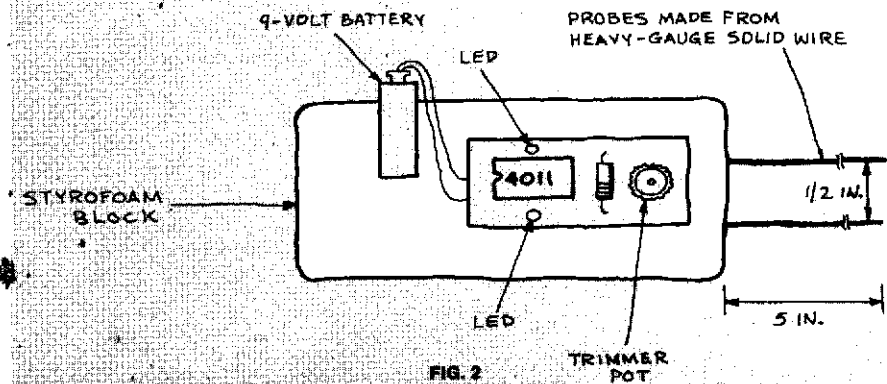


FIG. 2