

**A** FEW DOLLARS worth of material, a little patience and not much time is all it takes—and you, too, can own a complete title outfit that will do anything its expensive cousin can do . . . and then some.

The title board pictured here is four feet long and has a sliding track along the center, extending the full length of the board. Though especially designed to hold the Bolex, any camera will fit on the stand.

The same track which holds the camera stand firmly in place also serves as a sliding track for 1) a light unit consisting of two "goose neck" lamp holders with reflectors,

2) a bracket which will hold a picture frame or flop-over bracket, or anything else you want to use in conjunction with making titles.

The very end of the board holds a piece of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood, 11 x 14". It is permanently attached, and is not movable. It may be made removable to allow for easier storage.

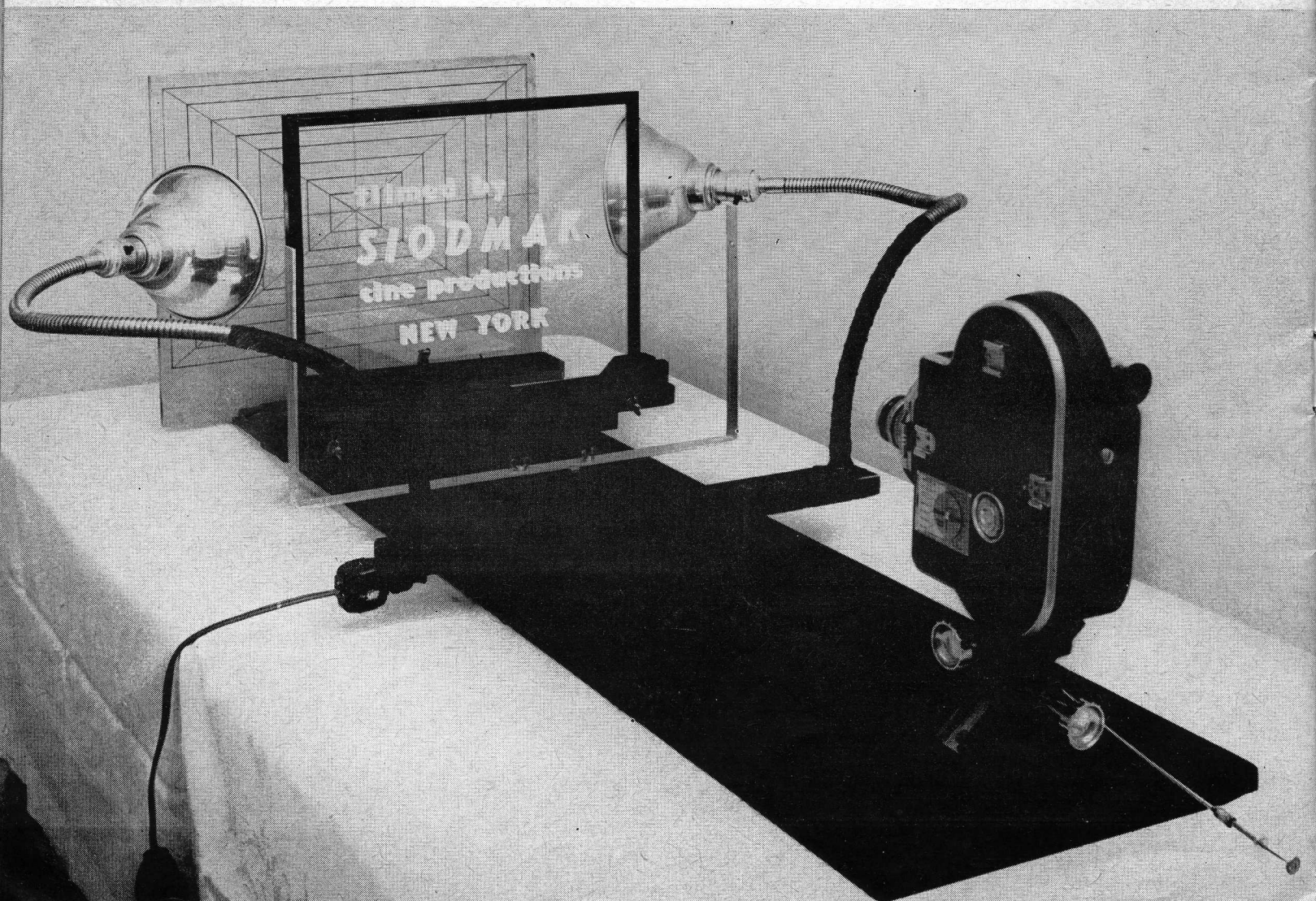
Proceed as follows: construct the base four feet long by one foot wide of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood or Novoply (the latter material is made of wood chips and will not warp); cut two strips of wood  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick by  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, and cut one side on a bevel. Attach one of the strips along the center of the base,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

A versatile, low-cost titler can be yours if you are handy with tools. Here is the way to build the unit, and some suggestions for getting various professional-type titling effects with it.

By ALEX SIODMAK

**STEP-BY-STEP WAY TO . . .**

# BUILD A TITLER



off center, so that the widest part of the bevel faces up. Cut a one foot piece  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3" with the same angle bevel as the strips previously cut. Lay this on a baseboard so that bevelled side matches bevel of the attached strip. Lay the other strip along the baseboard and attach it to the base, leaving clearance for a foot long piece to slide smoothly back and forth, but not allowing for any side play. Remove the foot long piece and cut it into one 4" piece and two 3" pieces. Use the 4" piece for camera support, the other 3" and 2" pieces for lights, frame holders, etc.

In the case pictured here, the Bolex rackover was first

(use 11 x 14 picture frame) and a color photograph is placed on the background board.

Letters may be silhouetted by eliminating any illumination on the letters themselves. A third-dimensional effect will be achieved by placing a spotlight high and off to one side of the letters.

Use #1 photofloods only, as a larger size generates too much heat for working in comfort.

When using the glass frame as the base for letters, unwanted reflections from the camera may appear. To eliminate this, take a piece of black cardboard about 8 x 10



CALENDAR photo is used as a colorful background for the title. The letters are pasted right onto the glass, and the frame is held by special holder. Learn the way to avoid shadows from letters.



ASSISTANT is required to film a flopover title. Camera operator gives a signal at the desired time for flipping the board. Note cutout in front of lens to eliminate reflections from the camera.

attached to the sliding camera support (by drilling  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hole in the bottom and using a flat head  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 20 screw). For other cameras, build a platform about 4" high on which to place camera. With the camera on a platform or rackover, take a thumbtack, glue or Scotch tape it to the lens-cap so that the point sticks out directly over the exact center of the lens. Bring the camera up to the title board and keep pushing until the thumbtack has left an indentation in the 11 x 14 plywood panel. The hole that is left will be the exact center of the picture area. Draw guide lines from the center to the corners, and cross the lines at 1" interval spaces, so that you will get a spiderweb effect. Centering copy on the board will no longer be a problem.

The entire board (except for the 11 x 14 panel), plus all sliding pieces, must be painted a flat black to eliminate any reflections when copying from a glossy surface. Saving the black tape found around film cans will provide an excellent material to use for covering the lower half of the goosenecks, as they are usually highly polished and kick back objectionable highlights.

In use, the background paper should be larger than the area you intend to show. You may then pull back the camera any time you decide to have smaller lettering, and still not shoot off the background.

For superimposed titles, letters can be pasted on glass

◀ **TITLE** board shown here is described in detail in text. It is four feet long, and one foot wide. All the attachments (except the copy board in the rear) are moveable. Cost is low.

inches, stand it in front of the camera (black side facing copyboard) and cut a hole just large enough for the camera lens. In addition, wear dark clothes and turn off all other room lights not absolutely necessary.

Owners of cameras which have rewind provisions can film a title against a black background, rewind film (don't forget to cap lens while doing this because the shutter is operating) and then shoot a background for the title on location. Having made a note of the amount of footage consumed for the title, you will know exactly how much you have to film in order to cover title completely. Perhaps you can continue with a background scene to lead into the opening of the picture and thus have a smooth transition. The only limitation here is the amount of film which your camera will transport on one winding.

It is not too late to have superimposed titles on some of your older films. The rear-projection screen is your answer, for it permits the super imposition on existing footage (or color slides). The translucent rear-projection screen material is stretched tightly over a frame measuring approximately 11 x 14 and fastened to the base in place of the plywood panel. The projector is then set up with footage you want duplicated (if on double-perforated film, reverse the picture because you are projecting from the back) and set the titles on the glass frame in the usual manner. Care must be taken not to let any of the light used to illuminate the letters to spill over onto the rear-projection screen.

The construction and ownership of a title outfit might well be a co-operative effort of a movie club, with all members having access to it. The use of the outfit can be scheduled in advance and not inconvenience anyone. ■