

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STEAM IRON** for laundry work is a regular lightweight electric dry iron to which is attached a bulb-shaped four-ounce plastic reservoir. This fits on the back of the iron and makes instantaneous steam when the iron is flat on the ironing-board. Steam or dry ironing is obtained by a turn of a knob.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **ELECTRIC WORMER**, to get bait without digging, is a rod-like device pushed into the ground and connected to an electric outlet. It can be used attached to an automobile engine spark plug if iron wire is wrapped around the car bumper and the other end stuck in the ground to complete an electric circuit.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **SANDING DEVICE** for use on automobiles to give traction on icy roads, recently patented, is built about the muffler with its bottom sloping toward the rear. Operated from the driver's seat, a valved connection between the exhaust pipe and the sand delivery tube delivers distribution pressure.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS**, shown in the picture, and blocks for the youngster are made of styrene plastic in various colors and are safe objects for chil-



dren to handle. Each lightweight, transparent ball contains a three-dimensional star or a figure suggestive of the holiday season.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **FAUCET FILTER**, easily attached to the cold or hot water outlet at the kitchen sink, removes foreign matter from the water, including organic material, along with objectionable tastes and odors. It contains

several layers of fine screen, each of different mesh, and layers of taste- and odorabsorbing chemicals.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **FROSTGUARD**, to protect orchards from freezing, is a nickel-alloy kerosene burner and reflector combination, mounted on stilts between the fruit trees. By means of a special generator type burner and a combustion chamber, high heat is developed which is directed downward and outward by the reflector.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **HOSIERY-HANGER**, for drying stockings in a bathroom, is a three-inch wide plastic shelf which has slots on the front side into which the stocking toes are inserted. Fixed to the wall with two screws, the hanger is available in colors to match bathroom color schemes.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

⚙️ **DOG LEASH**, usable as a tethering device, has a metal stake on the outer end which can be easily forced into the ground, and a recoil spring in the leash itself cushions the shock when the animal lunges. A metal plate on the top of the stake, flush with the earth, holds it in place in spite of sidewise tugging.

Science News Letter, November 12, 1949

Do You Know?

The *white starling* of Java has a touch of black on its wings.

Handicapped persons in 14 states are granted some form of tax exemption.

A substitute for *horsehair* for upholstery comes from cows; it is a curled fiber made from casein from milk.

A scientist has recently found that a good trained dog will kill 75 *field mice* in an orchard in one afternoon, while a cat is playing with the one she killed.

The so-called *New Hampshire Midget watermelon*, developed at the state university, is said to combine small size with high quality and to be suitable for the New England climate.

In the fall a chemical transformation takes place in the *leaf* of a tree; the green chlorophyll becomes colorless and is no longer able to hide the reds and yellows and other colors as it does during the growing season.

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