

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STENCILS FOR** use in decorating cakes are made of white cardboard and have "cut-outs" of birds, animals, cowboys and witches to make one-color pictures with confectioners sugar or whipped cream. A combination of colors may also be used. Stencils are cleaned for reuse with lukewarm water.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **TALKING BOOKS** for the blind are sets of special, long-playing phonograph records, 12 inches in diameter and made of a thin, semi-flexible plastic material. Each disk has title and page number in braille. A printed book of average length requires 18 double-faced records.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **METAL PLATING** on plastic objects of Bakelite or Vinylite is deposited in an electrolytic bath after the plastic article is dipped in a solution to give it a very thin coating of silver to make it electrically conductive. A thin layer of copper is then deposited electrolytically, followed by gold, silver or other metals.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **DEODORIZING FILTER**, for use in a ventilating system, removes not only dust from the air but also absorbs the odors from the area served by the heating or cooling system. It uses a chemical impregnated in the porous fibers of a "throwaway" filter or sprayed onto an aluminum permanent filter.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

Do You Know?

Animal horns have a bony core covered with a material called keratin; the antlers of a deer consist of a growth of connective tissue which becomes hardened with a deposit of calcium.

Sap of the macaranduba tree found in the Amazon country of Brazil is used as a drink and is said to be as good as milk; it is 34% butterfat, 4% sugar, 4% minerals and 58% water.

A fish scale can indicate to an expert the years the fish grew rapidly, when it spawned, its weight and length at any particular age and what it eats.

Liberia has an estimated 30,000,000 tons of the richest iron ore in the world; mining operations have recently begun and ore is now reaching the United States.



⚙️ **HOME-MADE DEVICE**, to keep birds out of a garden, is an imitation snake such as shown in the illustration. It has a 12-foot cross-striped bamboo pole for a body and a heart-shaped aluminum head painted white with glaring black eyes. Balanced on the

top of an upright, it rotates continuously, driven by an electric motor.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **HIGH SPEED CAMERA** has a side lens attached to record the images on a cathode-ray oscillograph tube through the back of the film while the mechanical aspects of the subject are being photographed with the regular lens. It is designed to record the behavior of electro-mechanical devices.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **INFLATABLE STRIP seal**, for use to hold pressurized air in a bubble-type airplane canopy, is made of rubber-coated special fabric in tubular form which fits in collapsed condition around the edges of the canopy. When filled with air it makes an air-tight seal.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

⚙️ **TRAFFIC SIGNAL standard**, a portable type which can be tilted on its own two wheels and moved to where needed to meet emergency traffic conditions, has regular green, red and amber lights. Storage battery on which the lights operate is in the square base of the standard.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1951

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