

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PLASTIC FLOATS** for upcoming summer sports can double as boat fenders or swimming hole line markers. Molded in one piece, the plastic floats will not shatter, rot, mildew or become waterlogged. They are available in different sizes and colors.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **WEED LIFTER** is designed literally to jack crab grass out of the ground. The prongs of the metal and wooden tool are inserted just below the surface of the ground, under the plant. Pressure on the handle lifts the whole thing out.

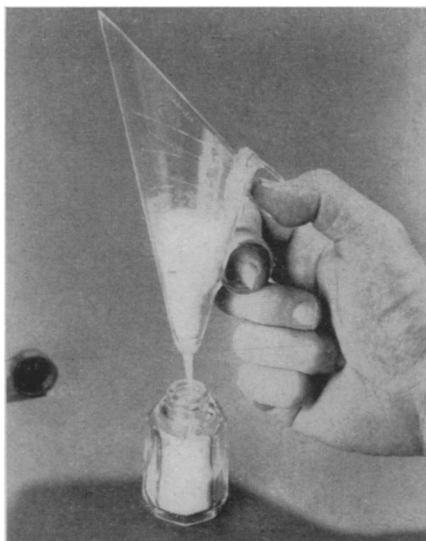
Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **WOOD VENEER** for covering exposed plywood edges is 1/85th of an inch thick and can be cut with scissors, knife or razor blade. The veneer, mounted on a latex impregnated paper backing, can be applied with wood glue. It is available in mahogany, oak, walnut, birch and Korina.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **FIRE EXTINGUISHER** for the home goes off automatically. When a fire raises the temperature to about 165 degrees Fahrenheit, a valve opens and the can releases a fire-extinguishing chemical. The chemical is described as harmless to fabrics.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956



⚙️ **SCOOP AND FUNNEL** to aid the housewife solves measuring and pouring problems in the kitchen. Made of clear styrene plastic, the combination device is graduated from 1/4 teaspoon to four tablespoons. Control fins release and stop flow of the funnel's contents, as shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **PLASTIC LAMPSHADE MATERIAL** consists of a woven glass fiber fabric that has been fused to a plastic backing. The lampshade material is colorfast, dimensionally stable and washable, and will not shrink or stretch.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **ANTIQUK KITS** contain all the necessities for the do-it-yourself home decorator. A set of six colonial reproductions of early Americana is available. The kit for each antique piece contains wood parts and accessories, together with material for finishing and antiquing. Among the reproductions are a 7-drawer spice box, a 3-drawer wall shelf and a deacon's pipe box planter.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

⚙️ **HI-FI RECORD RACK** made of wrought iron provides 10 compartments for the disc collection. Designed to prevent warping and to show off the albums, the 25- by 22- by 10-inch open cabinet holds over 200 long-play records.

Science News Letter, May 12, 1956

## Do You Know?

Strange glass-like sponges grow in the Arctic ocean.

Sesame has the distinction of being one of the first crops cultivated by man.

Garbage is said to have a heat value of about one-third that of coal and is a cheap fuel.

Tiger whiskers, eagle feathers, kangaroo tail tendons and elephant hair are being studied by biophysicists in an effort to chart the structures of *proteins*, complex compounds required in life processes.

Fewer forest fires occurred in areas administered by the National Park Service during 1955 than in any of the previous 20 years except 1944.

Ornithologists have succeeded in recording for the first time the voices of two very rare *birds*, the whooping crane and the trumpeter swan.

More than a thousand species of *wild flowers* have been found growing in Glacier National Park.

*Puff-adders*, if irritated, will roll over belly-side up, with tongue comically protruding and play dead like an opossum.

## A FEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

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