

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A patent has been granted for the discovery of the woodpecker-repellent properties of a well-known industrial dye expected to find wide use as coating for utility poles.

➤ A CHEMICAL to protect utility poles from the vast and costly damage of woodpeckers was granted a patent by the U. S. Patent Office.

The chemical is benzanthroneacridine, a well-known vat dye used extensively in industry because it combines with other colors without problems. When the chemical is coated on utility poles, it repels woodpeckers.

Although benzanthroneacridine is not now being used commercially, it is expected to find wide application as new utility poles are installed.

Dr. Anders E. Lund of Koppers Company, Inc., Pittsburgh, was awarded patent 3,140,913 for discovering the chemical's woodpecker-repellent properties. He assigned rights to Koppers.

The chemical can be applied by spraying, brushing, dipping or pressure impregnating.

Dr. Lund previously earned patent 3,103,449 for another chemical bird repellent, parabenzoquinone, which is now in wide use.

The pileated woodpecker, which can be up to 17 inches long, is the bird doing the most serious damage to utility poles in forested areas. This bird has been found to dig out up to 80% of the cross-section of a pole to a depth of four feet.

Even a metal steel mesh wrapped around the pole will not stop the pileated woodpecker from damaging utility poles.

Battery-Powered Soldering Iron

A soldering iron that runs on batteries placed in the handle earned patent 3,141,087.

The inventor, Alexander Schoenwald, Grove City, Pa., explains in the patent two significant improvements over the conventional electrical soldering iron. First, since the heating coil is connected directly to the soldering tip, there is no heat loss. Also, in the battery-powered soldering iron there is no need for heat insulation in the handle to protect the user.

Mr. Schoenwald assigned patent rights to the P. Wall Manufacturing Co., Grove City. He told SCIENCE SERVICE he was now working to improve the original device.

Meter Measures Fuzz

A fuzz meter that automatically measures the amount of surface fuzz on textile yarn was awarded patent 3,140,604. When there is too much fuzz, it can alter the texture and general appearance of fabrics.

The machine electronically inspects the yarn with a fuzz-sensing transducer to detect individual fuzz fibers. The inventor, Edwin J. Bernet, Charlottesville, Va., assigned rights to the Institute of Textile Technology, Charlottesville.

Aids for Swimmers

Three new devices, that may help struggling "paddlers" to become better swimmers, were granted patents.

A rubberized garment, similar to a space

suit in appearance, can be used in giving swimming instructions. Attached to the garment are a series of water pressure nozzles and hoses to assist the student in performing the movements of a desired swimming stroke.

This garment, invented by David J. Wayfield, West Islip, Long Island, N. Y., permits the teaching to be done within the water.

Another of Mr. Wayfield's devices is a swimming instruction apparatus for teaching coordination in various swimming movements. The apparatus consists of a cabinet and head rest for the student.

Jets of water streaming from nozzles in the cabinet help to regulate the movements of the student. In addition, lamps and a mirror help to give the student directions. With the mirror the student can observe his movements to see what he is doing wrong.

The third swimming device helps the student learn the breathing movements for various swim strokes. The device is a swimming mask that fits tightly around the face.

Mr. Wayfield's three devices were awarded patents 3,140,549-551.

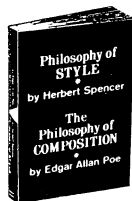
Other Interesting Patents

A fuze that is detonated electrically from the power produced by an air-driven generator. Allen S. Clarke of Washington, D.C., in 1946 when the patent application was filed, assigned rights to patent 3,140,661 to the Government through the Secretary of the Army.

A heat exchanger that warms or cools blood as required for surgery, making possible the so-called "bloodless" operation. Robert R. Harrison of Park Ridge, Ill., and Leonard F. Waldman Jr. of Niles, Ill., assigned rights to patent 3,140,716 to Baxter Laboratories, Inc.

A method and apparatus for producing electrical power and distilling water using the earth's own geothermal heat. Walter A. Hubbard of Bell Gardens, Calif., was awarded patent 3,140,986 for his invention.

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TECHNOLOGY

'Seeing-Eye' Guides Milling Machine

➤ A MILLING MACHINE can automatically carve out die contours with the guidance of a "seeing-eye."

The "seeing-eye," called a Line Tracer, "reads" outline drawings by light beam for milling stripper plates, punches, and dies for sheet metal blanking. Only one drawing is required to mill all three of these die elements. The tracer, a product of the Cincinnati Milling Machine Co., can also be used to make master templates for guiding conventional finger tracers.

• Science News Letter, 86:78 August 1, 1964

Doctors Trim 2 Inches Off Flabby Waists!

German doctors at the famous Max-Planck Institute have discovered an instant-workout method that reduces waistlines in 30 days. Called "Isometric Contractions," one 60-second daily workout reduces waistline 2 inches—fast. 10 simple exercises can put the whole family in shape fast. No sweat, strain or tiring repetition. Acclaimed internationally by physiologists, coaches, athletes. Results guaranteed. Free, illustrated information. Write **AWARD-WINNING ISOMETRIC**, Minute Home-Gym, Inc. Dept. A, 37 Centuck Station, Yonkers, N. Y. 10710.