

INVENTION

Current U.S. Patents

A coating for runways can be applied that slows jet planes three times faster than regular runways and helps prevent dangerous skidding—By William McCann

► A RUNWAY COATING that will keep heavy jet planes from taking dangerous skids during landing in wet weather was awarded a patent by the U. S. Patent Office.

The coating, which is used at a number of air bases around the country, can slow a jet aircraft three times as fast as a regular runway, recent tests have shown. In addition, the coating allows less skidding when wet than an ordinary runway does when dry, reported Bernard S. Lynn, Los Gatos, Calif.

The anti-skid compound, which earned patent 3,168,019, is a mixture of mesh plaster sand, asphalt emulsion, water, Portland cement and powdered wood rosin. It can be applied quickly and simply to a strip by truck.

The coating, which will hold up under runway wear from one to three years, is also easy on the giant airplane tires.

Seven-in-One Boat

A boat that is shaped like an ice cube tray has seven separate compartments to make it virtually unsinkable. It earned patent 3,167,791 for Motiejus Balciunas, Chicago, Ill.

The boat, which is really seven little boats in one, can stay afloat even if several of the compartments are damaged or destroyed. It can be rapidly assembled or taken apart and may have valuable military use as floats or pontoons supporting floating bridges or similar structures, Mr. Balciunas reported.

The boat's compartments are telescoping, that is, each compartment is slightly smaller than the next, so that each fits inside another for easy transportation.

Brick Aging Machine

New bricks can be made old in minutes by a just-patented brick aging machine.

The new bricks, fed into the machine, are dipped, chipped and tumbled around in a production-line aging process. The device even goes so far as to smear mortar on the bricks at random to help give them the just-out-of-the-rubble look.

The demand for attractive looking second-hand bricks is greater than the supply, report inventors Lee Harrison and William R. O'Leary Jr., both of Sacramento, Calif. There are not enough old buildings, fireplaces and walls being torn down to keep up with the public's requirements for used bricks, they say.

The machine, which turns out old bricks at a rapid rate, earned patent 3,168,413.

Crane Warning Bell

A newly patented alarm system keeps a crane or power shovel operator out of

danger by letting him know when his machine gets too close to live power lines.

Sensor wires, located on the boom of a crane, cause the alarm bell to ring faster as the boom gets closer to the danger spot. The alarm, which is used widely in the western United States and also in Europe, cannot be triggered by other electrical sources such as nearby high power radio towers or lightning in the vicinity.

The alarm earned patent 3,168,729 for Herman W. Volberg, El Cajon, Calif., and patent rights were assigned to Crane Products Manufacturing Company, Inc., Las Vegas, Nev.

Insect Screen for Autos

A screen that can be clipped to an open window of an automobile has earned a patent.

The screen can be quickly installed to let fresh air in the car and keep pesty insects out, as during drive-in movies, reported Norman G. Cole Jr., Cedar Grove, N.J.

The screen device, which could be adapted to most U.S. automobiles, earned patent 3,166,116 for Mr. Cole.

Other Interesting Patents

A tiny welding torch, equipped with a solid rocket propellant to help form a pencil-thin flame, can be used for emergency repairs on land or underwater.

The torch, which burns at temperatures up to 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit for several minutes, earned patent 3,168,090 for Donald F. Billhardt, Redlands, Calif., and patent rights were assigned to Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, Calif.

For a list of registered patent attorneys and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or call 202-967-4058 for specific information.

• Science News Letter, 87:125 February 20, 1965

TECHNOLOGY

Aerosol Bomb Sprays Diamond Abrasive

► AN AEROSOL BOMB now provides a spray of diamond abrasive compound for polishing metals and precious stones.

The diamond powder in a chemical base is sprayed directly on the surface of material or polishing wheel and is available in five grades. The diamond particles ranging from one-fourth to ten microns in size are colored according to size.

L. De Vries & Son Ltd., London, is the producer.

• Science News Letter, 87:125 February 20, 1965

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