New Ideas and Gadgets

New Ideas and Gadgets is an editorial service to readers; more information on items can be secured from the manufacturers.

Explosion Detector

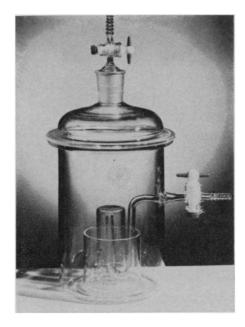
Extinguishing systems are set off within microseconds after detection of fires and incipient explosions by this small solid state device that reacts to ultraviolet light. Made from a single crystal of silicon carbide, the device is operable up to 500 degrees C. Insensitive to solar ultraviolet radiation, it cannot be triggered by sunlight.

Westinghouse Electric Corp., Box 2278, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15230

Polycarbonate Resin

Many times tougher than glass, this new transparent polycarbonate plastic is especially suitable for making vandalproof windows for schools and public buildings. Transmitting 90 percent of natural light, almost as much as glass (92 percent), it can also be used for making safety lenses, instrument covers and meter faceplates. It will withstand temperatures from minus 150 to 175 degrees F.

Mobay Chemical Co., Penn Lincoln Parkway West, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205



Fume Chamber

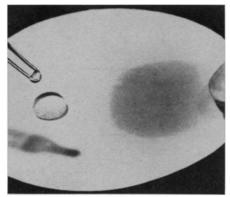
70

Designed for research in which chemical coatings are exposed to highly reactive gases, this 10-by-15-inch device makes it possible to expose samples to the gases in a completely closed airtight chamber. The unit consists of a tube and vessel arrangement inside a stoppered borosilicate glass container. The gas is diffused continuously through a liquid seal into the chamber.

Scientific Glass Apparatus Co., Inc., 737 Broad St., Bloomfield, N.J.

New Polymer Film

Only a few millionths of an inch thick, this new polymer applied by photodeposition has possible application for electrical insulation for microelectronic devices as well as for cor-



rosion-resistant protective coatings. The item to be coated is exposed to a monomer gas in a vacuum chamber and then irradiated with ultraviolet light which causes a polymer film to form directly on the object.

General Electric Research and Development Center, P.O. Box 8, Schenectady, N.Y.

Nitrogen Converter

Operating on a closed-cycle principle, the liquid nitrogen converter provides temperatures of approximately minus 320 degrees F. wherever needed. Weighing less than 50 pounds and measuring 12 by 12 by 15 inches overall, the unit finds application for cryosurgery, as well as research in biochemistry, crystallography, magnetic and solid state devices and metallurgy.

North American Philips Co., Inc., Mendon and Angell Roads, P.O. Box 2200, Ashton, R.I. 02864

Cleaner-Degreaser

Heavy grease deposits or rubber marks on concrete are readily removed by this cleaner for use in automatic scrubbing equipment. The biodegradable, low sudsing product, which can also be used on terrazzo, is available in one and five gallon cans and in 55gallon drums.

NS. Simoniz Co., 110 No. Wacker Drive, Chicago, III. 60606

Breakaway Signs

These signs break away when struck by cars, helping make freeways safer. The steel posts are so constructed that on impact they come apart at ground level and swing up and out of the way just below the sign, allowing the car to pass. The sign then collapses.

Aztec Manufacturing Co., 2901 W. Pafford St., Fort Worth, Tex.

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