

Current U.S. Patents

► A METHOD for treating money with a scent so that any thief stealing it can be easily traced by the odor was granted a patent by the U.S. Patent Office.

The method is now being used by banks and savings and loan associations in Atlanta and surrounding Georgia communities, the inventor told SCIENCE SERVICE. He said police dogs in Atlanta are being trained to follow one of the distinct scents, and plans are being made to train police dogs from other cities to do likewise.

One of the chemicals that could be used to release the long-lasting odor is diacetyl, or dimethyl diketone, which is related to acetone, an ingredient of fingernail polish removers.

Milton F. Allen of Decatur, Ga., assigned rights to patent 3,272,533 to Milton Frank Allen Publications, Inc., also of Decatur.

The method he devised involves applying the odor-producing chemical directly to the surface of the currency or other negotiable paper. When the tiny tube containing the chemical is broken, either intentionally by a bank teller or unintentionally by a thief, the distinctive odor can then be detected.

Devices for Astronauts

Two devices of value to astronauts, one for use in space and the other for training, have earned patents assigned to the Government through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The hand-held unit that has enabled Gemini astronauts to maneuver in space was developed by Harold I. Johnson of Seabrook, Texas, and William C. Huber of League City, Texas, who were awarded patent 3,270,986.

A reduced gravity simulator that helps men to learn on earth how it will feel to walk on the moon or to move about on space stations in low gravitational fields has been used by three astronauts. It is installed at Langley Field, Va. The simulator, awarded patent 3,270,441, is the invention of Donald E. Hewes and Ames A. Spady Jr.

The astronauts and others using the simulator hang sideways in a series of slings that reduce the effect of earth's gravitational pull to one-sixth normal, which is what will be encountered on the moon. The trainees have been able to jump two times farther and six times

higher than they could without the slings.

Radar Tornado Alarm

A method by which ordinary radar sets can be used to detect tornadoes and then automatically sound an alarm when a twister is spotted earned patent 3,271,764 for Dr. David Atlas, now at the University of Chicago, and Roger M. Lhermitte, now with the U.S. Weather Bureau, Norman, Okla.

The alarm system is based on the fact that within the radar beam, particles whirling in the tornado's twisting funnel will be moving both toward and away from the radar with speed of 50 meters per second or higher. Fluctuations at this rate can be detected, and are the only known meteorological phenomena to produce such a condition.

Dr. Atlas assigned rights to patent 3,271,764 to the Government through the Secretary of the Air Force.

Restoring Blood to Normal

Use of ion exchange resins to restore blood to its biochemical normal, thereby extending the shelf-life of stored blood, earned patent 3,269,911 for three doctors and a chemist. The method can also be used to restore blood to biochemical normalcy in patients having impaired or no kidney function.

Drs. John H. Gibbon Jr. of Media, Pa., Thomas F. Nealon Jr. of Wynnewood, Pa., and Jerome L. Sandler of Drexel Hill, Pa., assigned their patent rights to Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Dr. Robert Kunin assigned his rights to Rohm & Haas Company, Philadelphia.

Dr. Gibbon is one of the inventors of the heart-lung machine that made open-heart surgery possible.

Other Interesting Patents

Cattle chewing on the electric cables used for connecting geophones in seismographic surveys cause thousands of dollars of damage each year. Dr. Lyle D. Goodhue and Roger F. Kleinschmidt of Bartlesville, Okla., earned patent 3,269,902 for their cattle repellent, the chemical N,N,1,1-tetramethyl-2-butylnyl amine. They assigned rights to Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville.

A mathematical model for predicting how stocks will behave in the future was granted patent 3,270,190. John M.

Lambert of Northport, N.Y., assigned rights to Stock Evaluator Corp., also of Northport. The invention is based on the premise that during a relatively long period of time the price of common stock will vary in accordance with certain intrinsic variables, such as earnings, dividends paid, asset value and trading volume.

A method for improving the quality of synthetic speech so that it more closely resembles actual speech was granted patent 3,268,660. James L. Flanagan assigned rights to Bell Telephone Laboratories.


Superconductive devices of potential value in superconducting computers earned patent 3,271,585 for J. W. Crowe of International Business Machines Corporation, to which patent rights were assigned.

Solid state semiconductors so fashioned as to form symmetrical current-controlling devices are covered in patent 3,271,591, awarded to Stanford R. Ovshinsky of Birmingham, Mich., who assigned rights to Energy Conversion Devices, Inc., Troy, Mich.

A rip-open method that works on many different sizes and shapes of canned products has been devised by Joseph A. Geiger of Washington, D.C., for which he was granted patent 3,268,105.

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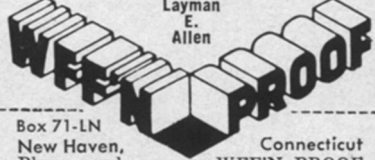


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