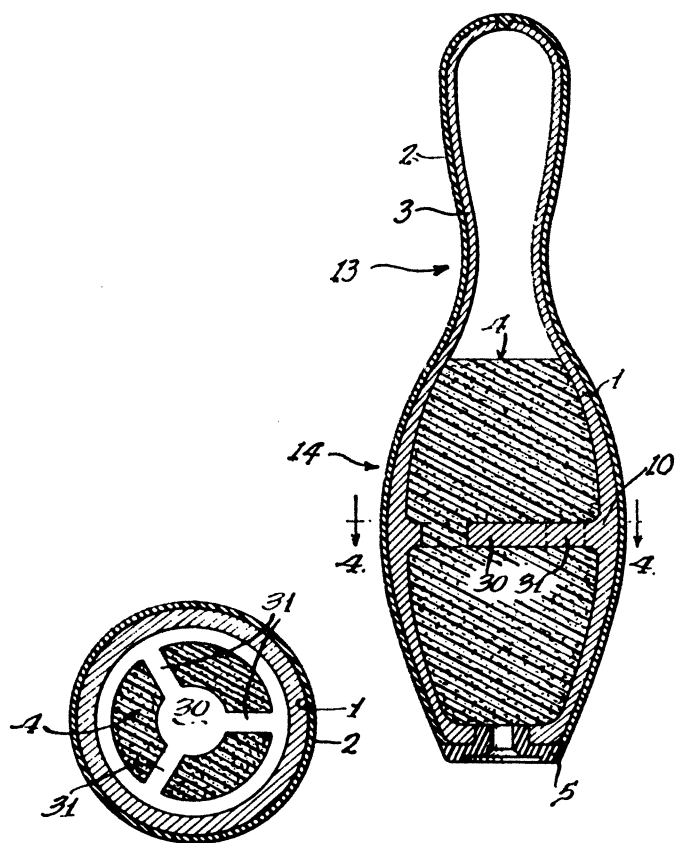


# Current Patents



## Bowling Pin Rigged for Sound

A metal bowling pin designed to sound like wood when hit was patented last week by Fred E. Satchell and William L. Jolitz and assigned to Brunswick Corp. Metal pins should have advantages of durability and ease of manufacture over wooden pins, but the noise factor, as well as the way they bounce, are objectionable.

The patent, No. 3,301,560, claims to have eliminated the metallic ring by putting foam material in a hollow metal core. The bounce characteristics are also like those of wood, according to the patent.

## Visibility Detection for Airplanes

A means of warning pilots when visibility is too poor to land was given Patent No. 3,299,769. Donald J. Byers of Falls Church, Va. received the patent.

At present, visibility information supplied to pilots is an average value for the landing area, and does not distinguish patches of fog or smog which might obscure the landing strip. The new invention, by a series of ground detectors, measures the visibility at different points along the landing flight path.

# New Ideas and Gadgets

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

## Gas Chromatograph Programmer

The micro-volume valve programmer and its two activators make possible precise automatic control of gas chromatographic studies, saving the chemist's time by eliminating the need for constant attention and errors due to forgetfulness. Easy to operate, multivalve programs lasting from less than one minute to an hour or more can be handled by the unit's four dials.

Carle Instruments Inc., 532 South Rose St., Anaheim, Calif.

## Micro-Surface Evaluator

The smoothness of the surface of a material, or the extent of its wear and tear, can be measured by simply pressing the new film down on its surface and obtaining an impression. The three-dimensional replica made on the film is checked by interferometer, microscope or other analytical instrument. A highly accurate method, it is useful in such fields as metalworking, textile machinery, glass, ceramics and aerospace.

Testex, Inc., P.O. Box 867, Newark, Del. 19711

## Fuel Strainer

Water from gasoline can be effectively strained by the marine engine fuel strainer suitable also for use with diesel and lubricating oil. The filter element assembly

is contained in a two-piece cast bronze housing and is easily cleaned and replaced. Units are available in four sizes.

Perkins Marine Lamp & Hardware Corp., 16490 Northwest 13th Ave., Miami Fla.

## Teaching Aid for Industrial Process

The compact bench-top torque rheometer duplicates in miniature full-scale processing of plastics, ceramics, foods or other materials. Useful for familiarizing students with basic industrial equipment, the instrument includes interchangeable mixing heads and a recorder that furnishes a graphic case history of the substance under study.

Brabender Instruments, Inc., 50 East Wesley St., South Hackensack, N.J. 07606

## Infrared Thermometer

The same technique found in heat-seeking missiles is used in the infrared thermometer that gives surface temperatures of objects from 60 to 3,000 degrees F. without contact. Useful for spot checking of foods, metals, paper, plastics, glass and other materials, the pistol-shaped battery-operated device is simply aimed at the stationary or moving object. Temperatures are read directly from a scale placed at the back of the unit.

Raytek, Inc., 1277 Terra Bella Ave., Mountain View, Calif. 94041