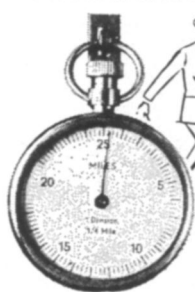


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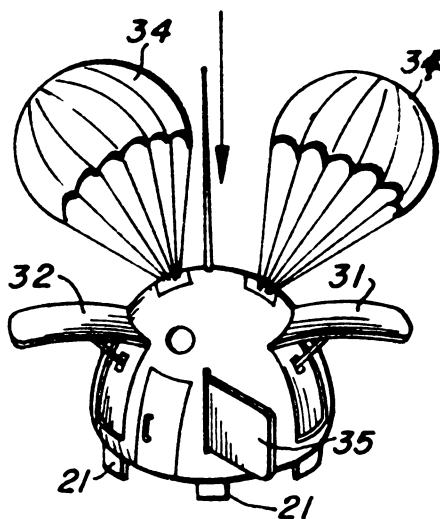
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current patents

ASTRONAUTICS

Escape capsule



An escape capsule for astronauts has been invented by Alexander T. Deutsch of Washington, D.C.

The capsule would form the front compartment of a spacecraft and be connected to the rest of the vehicle in such a way that it can be detached at need. When the escape capsule is attached to the main vehicle a door communicates between them, but this can be atmospherically sealed at the time of detachment.

The capsule would house one or several persons safely for enough time to get them back to earth from near space. It can be provided with rockets for propulsion, and it has wings and a rudder for use in the atmosphere as well as parachutes to control its descent.

Patent 3,374,965

GYNECOLOGY

Resonant ring contraceptive

An intrauterine contraceptive ring that can be located within the body by radio has been patented by Fred L. Hatke of Skillman, N.J., who assigned rights to the Radio Corporation of America. The device is a tubular plastic ring about three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Within the plastic is a wire ring and a 68 picofarad capacitor connected so as to form a resonant circuit.

The resonance allows detection of the ring by means similar to those used to locate radio pills. In proper position the ring will resonate at a predetermined frequency. If it slips into a bad position, the frequency will change. No

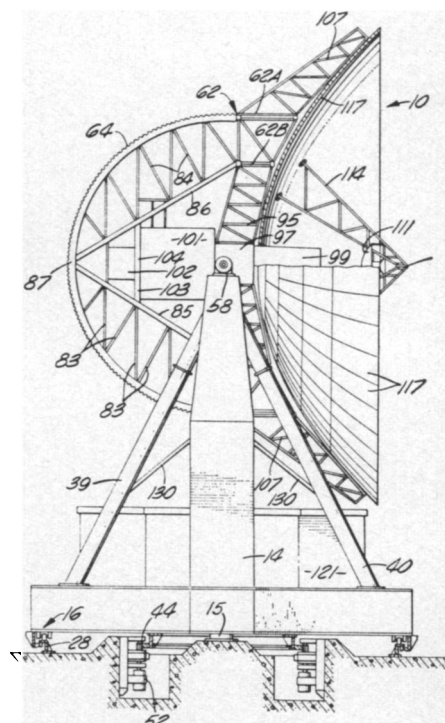
resonance at all signals that the device has been ejected.

Resonant detection was applied by the inventor to get around the necessity of using uncomfortable and often painful methods of examination to check position of conventional intrauterine devices. RCA has not tested the device and has no present plans to manufacture it. "It's just an idea," says a spokesman.

Patent 3,374,787

RADIO

New antenna mount



An improved method for mounting a parabolic reflector antenna so that the axis around which it swings to change its elevation is near the center of gravity of the system has been patented by Jerry Laibson of San Diego. The antenna might be used in radio astronomy.

By placing the elevation axis near the center of gravity, the design minimizes inertial deflections and drive power requirements.

The whole structure—reflector, tripod, computer house and all—is built on a turntable that rotates horizontally on a central kingpin. Gears in a pit below ground level push the turntable around.

A gear-driven toothed semicircle is used to change the reflector's elevation. The center of vertical rotation is an axis mounted atop the tripod directly

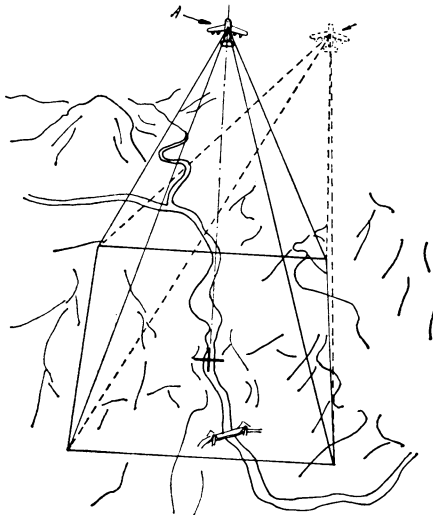
over the turntable's kingpin. This form of suspension permits use of the large elevation gear, electronic cages and other miscellaneous equipment as part of the counterweight to the reflector.

Rights to the patent have been assigned to Whittaker Corporation of Los Angeles.

Patent 3,375,523

TERRAIN SENSING

Stereogram from single radar



A technique for deriving a stereogram from a single radar scan of terrain beneath a flying airplane has been patented by Arthur L. Rossoff of Huntington Station, N.Y., and Howard E. Lustig of Flushing, N.Y., and assigned to General Instrument Corporation of Newark, N.J.

The system works because a radar reflection brings information on both the range and the direction of the target. From this it is possible to derive mathematically a synthetic signal that represents what would be seen by a plane flying beside the real one. The real and the synthetic signals can then be combined into a stereogram just as laterally displaced aerial photos are combined.

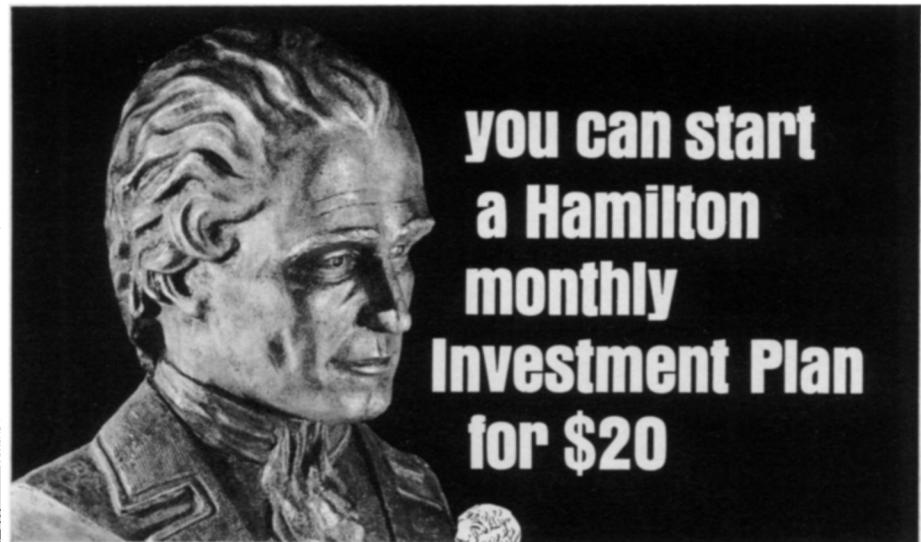
Patent 3,375,353

OCEANOGRAPHY

Variable buoyancy buoy

A variable buoyancy messenger buoy for use by divers has been invented by William H. Hunley of Alexandria, Va. The need was for a buoy that had neutral buoyancy in seawater as long as a diver carried it, but would be able to change to positive buoyancy and float to the surface when released. Ballast in the form of metal shot—lead or iron—can be dribbled out the bottom of the buoy to change its buoyancy.

Patent 3,374,494



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