

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ A **BAYONET** which closes like a jack-knife blade into a protecting slot in an extension of the rifle stock has just been patented. It can be locked in either an extended or closed position.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE thumbtacks** of a type recently patented can be made longer or shorter, just like the lead in a mechanical pencil, by turning a nut in the head. Screw threads on the shank control the length of the tack.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

⚙️ **RUGS and carpets** may be thoroughly cleaned by the addition of a scrubbing attachment to the vacuum-type floor cleaner. This device, just patented, holds a scrubbing solution which is mechanically ejected under the revolving brushes.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

⚙️ **SYNTHETIC shellac**, essentially a duplicate of the natural product which is the hardened secretion of an insect found in India, is in production and will be available for civilian use after the war. It will adhere to metal as well as to wood. One of its important constituents is the corn by-product known as zein.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944



⚙️ **TUBES in the radially mounted battery of collimators** shown in the picture contain tiny illuminated cross threads, somewhat like those in a telescope, which look like distant stars seen by a navigator using a sextant. These "indoor heavens" are used to calibrate and test aircraft sextants before delivery to the armed forces.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

⚙️ **LEATHER trimmings and parts of hides** not generally used are processed with a new chemical compound to make a product suitable for shoe soles and other purposes. It is claimed to compare favorably with sole leather in flexibility, resiliency and moisture absorption.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

⚙️ **SPRING BLADES**, and razors to hold them, are claimed to give better shaves and to have greater resiliency and rigidity than ordinary types. The double-edged wafer type blade has a pair of longitudinal parallel springs of the same material as the blade. The razor of this patented device is designed to hold the blade firmly in place.

Science News Letter, January 22, 1944

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 191.

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