

•New Machines And Gadgets•

⚙️ **OPTICAL micrometer** measures the thickness in central sections of large sheets of glass or transparent plastics. It is a microscope focussed on a chalk-mark on the opposite side of the material, while its nosepiece rests on the front side. Micrometer readings on its barrel give the thickness.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **HEMISPHERICAL parachute**, that looks like half a baseball as it floats in the air, drops without the characteristic swaying or oscillation of the conventional type. It has a unique shock-absorbing hem cord that enables it to withstand the opening impact when used with a load from a speedy plane.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **OVERFLOW STOPPER** for kitchen sinks permits surplus water to escape in a too-full sink. Waste coffee or other liquid may also be emptied into the waste pipe without removal of the stopper. It consists of an open upright tube with an annular rubber flange that holds the device in place by suction.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **TOY TOP**, made of transparent material and containing liquids of different color and density, changes color as the top spins and the liquids are mixed by centrifugal force. Vanes inside the recently patented top cause the liquid to rotate when spinning motion is initially given to the toy.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **DIRECT-READING compass**, developed for the armed services, is now available to civilians. It is a combination



compass and matchbox, as the picture shows. Its principal advantage is that the user, by looking through a small side window, can determine at a glance the direction he faces.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **ERASING attachment** for a typewriter, that erases without removing the copy from the machine, is operated by a special key on the keyboard. When the key is depressed, the eraser strikes the paper. It is a belt stretched over a tiny wheel which is mechanically operated by the impact blow.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **INCUBATORS** for infants are now made of transparent plastics with a clear top and sliding panels. The baby is always visible, and can be observed without disturbing him or the scientifically controlled humidity and temperature inside. When necessary he can be reached by sliding a panel.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

⚙️ **FIREFIGHTING plow**, to break the soil in front of forest fires, is an implementation of the middle-buster or two-way type that plows a clear double 28-inch furrow. A set of wings and disks spreads the loosened soil to cover the vegetable litter on each side of the furrow.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

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 304.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1946

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