

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ROLLING PIN**, a non-traditional type, actually is a combination of eight small parallel rollers in a circular frame with a grasping handle above. The multi-roller, made entirely of a non-porous plastic, flattens dough to a uniform thickness and without the wavy conformation produced by the single roller.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **SPARK PLUG** for motor boats, designed to eliminate engine-induced interference with radio-telephone sets, has a built-in 10,000-ohm carbon resistor which, in effect, cancels out the lingering spark impulses that make miniature radio transmitters of the ordinary plug. Their cost is low.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **FLOOR LAMP**, with an adjustable standard, can be raised or lowered to any height desired. This recently patented device is a telescoping type, with the upright in three or more sections made to slide one within another and held in place by means of a special clamping mechanism.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **PINKING SHEARS**, shown in the pic-



ture, have plastic handles that make the tool light and easy to manipulate. The handles are molded to fit the curvature of the hand, and have enough flexibility to adjust to individual hand and arm pressure. Blades are hardened steel with a durable chrome-satin finish.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **SAFETY HANDLE** for automobile doors, to prevent children from accidentally opening a door while the car is in motion is a replacement handle, easily installed, which is disengaged from the door lock by the turn of a key. The door can be opened from the outside at all times as originally made to operate.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **REVERSIBLE WRIST** watch, which can be turned dial face inward to protect it from injury at a workbench, for instance, is slid along a metal frame and flipped over, leaving its steel back facing upward. This Swiss product is a rectangular watch with a strong leather or metal wrist band.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

⚙️ **COLOR FILM** for the professional motion picture industry is an entirely new, synthetic polymer which is also a color former. It is a product which takes the place of both the gelatin binder and the color former heretofore used, providing results in excellent color reproduction and improved image.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1949

## • Do You Know? •

*Palladium*, sister of platinum, is increasingly used in jewelry.

A crane equipped with a modern 29-inch round electromagnet can lift five tons.

Some half a million *fish-hooks* are made a day in the United States; amateur fishermen buy 50% of them.

Even the *birds* that feed extensively on seeds most of the year feed largely on insects during the spring.

*Platinum* has been known to the scientific world only about 200 years, while gold has been in use some 6,000 years.

The 1948 world production of *non-ferrous metals* was 268% greater than in prewar days.

*Standard weights* most generally used are made of brass; platinum and aluminum are often used for weights of one gram or less.

The present year marks the 400th anniversary of *Bahia, Brazil*, a Portuguese settlement 16 years older than the St. Augustine settlement in Florida.

The *population* of the world has doubled in the past century, according to the best estimates available; in 1850 it was some 1,091,000,000, it is thought.

The North Atlantic 1949 *iceberg* season, which ended June 15, was the mildest and shortest in recent years; in other years it has continued as late as August.

One of the world's best *cows* is a 16-year old Holstein at the Pennsylvania State College which has produced 236,325 pounds of milk containing 7,466 pounds of butterfat up to about April 1, 1949.

Some of the so-called *carnivorous plants* that trap and digest insects are so independent of the normal sources of nitrates that they are able to live in extremely poor soil.

Non-broadcast *television* service will probably do many jobs in the near future including the guarding of asylum and prison corridors and making it possible to watch chemical or radioactivity action from a protected position.

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