

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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☛ **DRY BOX** for the pantry keeps foods ranging from crackers to salted nuts crisp and tasty even under high humidity conditions. The cover of the 16-inch-long box contains a pouch of a harmless drying agent, which can be reactivated when needed by drying in an oven.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **ELECTRICAL HEATER**, for the home aquarium to keep the water at the proper temperature, consists of two concentric metal tubes with a heating element between. Standing erect on the bottom of the tank, the heat creates a water circulation through the inner tube and the tank.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **NON-FOGGING MIRROR** in the bathroom has behind it an electric heater made of electrically-conductive rubber. The heater operates on ordinary household current and warms the glass to a temperature of 98 degrees Fahrenheit. A switch is provided to turn the current on and off.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **BASS OCARINA**, shown in the picture, sounds like a bass viol and was developed as an instrument suitable for radio and recording and for dance bands. It is provided with a built-in microphone and volume con-



rol, and with shielded cable to connect it with a public address system.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **EXIT LOCK** for emergency doors permits opening the door from the inside at any time by authorized persons with keys or by others in emergencies merely by strik-

ing a clapper. When the clapper is struck, an alarm bell rings, a safety device to prevent stealthy use of the door.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **SCREEN POINTER**, for a lecturer at a distance to indicate a particular spot on a picture screen, utilizes a beam of light that makes a bright round spot or an arrow at the detail to be noted. It is a telescoping tubular affair, about 17 inches long when extended, with battery and lamp within the tube.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **TESTING SET** for a pilot's headset and microphone involves the use of an audio-oscillator and cathode ray oscillator, together with an artificial "ear" and artificial "voice." It takes all the guess work out of testing the delicate essentials of every aircraft's radio system.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

☛ **UMBRELLA COVERS** make it possible for a single umbrella to harmonize with the clothes of the user. The plastic covers, in a wide variety of colors and designs, can be put in place on the specially designed frame in two to four minutes.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

Do You Know?

Magnolias are called the aristocrats of the flowering trees.

Oil shale does not contain *oil*; it contains a solid organic material that yields oil when heated.

Barbed wire fence separates northern Norway from Soviet Union; it is an "*iron curtain*" in restraint of trade and traffic.

Gravitation is a general force by which every particle pulls on every other particle; gravity is the force exerted on a body by the pull of the earth.

The "*Coyog*" or "*Dogote*" is a cross-breed between dogs and coyotes frequently found where wild coyotes abound; this cross-breed is notorious for attacks on livestock.

The violent *eruption* of the volcano Tomboro, near Java, is claimed to be responsible for 1816 being called "a year without a summer;" the almost world-wide dust resulting cut solar radiation.

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