

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **"ROBOT SECRETARY,"** particularly useful in one-man offices, answers the phone while no one is there. Using magnetic drums, the robot can deliver a pre-recorded message to the caller that lasts 30 seconds. In addition, it can take a 28-second message from the caller.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **TROUBLE LIGHT** for automobiles is housed in a telephone receiver that is cradled in a bracket attached to the instrument panel. The light's coiled cord stretches out 10 feet, allowing the device to service any part of the car. Drawing one-half amp from the battery, the lamp also can be used to spot house numbers at night.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **BABY BOTTLE** holder is a vinyl plastic jacket that is inflated around the bottle. When the baby throws the bottle from his crib, the inflated jacket cushions the fall, preventing the bottle from breaking. Painted to resemble a doll, the jacket also doubles as a toy.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **BRAKE COMPOUND** is designed to end brake "fade" and to yield better braking action, the maker reports. Brushed on roughened surfaces of the brake linings, as shown in the photograph, the paint-like



compound helps dissipate high heat created in the brakes during sudden stops. Truck, bus, taxi, and racing-car tests reveal the compound waterproofs linings, doubles brake life and eliminates frictional squeals.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **NAILCLIPPER, MADE** of a heavy-duty nickel-plated copper, has a receptacle fitted

to its blades to catch clippings as you trim your nails. The clipping catcher opens at the touch of a thumb.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **EIGHT-SIDED MOTHBALLS** resemble tiny doughnuts. The new design permits them to be strung like beads on clothes hangers. It also keeps them from rolling under beds and dressers when dropped. The "mothballs" are said to be more efficient than spherical ones because of their extra vaporizing areas.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **HAND CLEANER** looks like a cold cream when first applied but rapidly turns into a liquid. Especially good for mechanics, painters and home hobbyists, the cleaner penetrates crevices of the skin and dissolves grease and grime. Hands are rubbed briskly, then wiped clean with a cloth or paper towel. No water is needed, but it can be used.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

⚙️ **ROLL CUTTER** has four blades on one side and a spiral blade on the other. Used after dough has been put in roll pans, the bright red plastic cutter turns out four-sectioned clover leaf rolls and fan tan rolls easily.

Science News Letter, July 4, 1953

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Do You Know?

More than 77,000,000 Americans wear glasses.

When they alight, most butterflies keep their wings upright, but most moths fold theirs.

Tubing of brass, copper or other metals can be bent without kinking if it is first filled with sand and the ends are plugged.

On well-drained land free from the danger of serious erosion, corn can produce more total livestock feed an acre than any other common field crop.

Every man, woman and child in the U. S. could have had a free four-ounce serving of meat in 1952 if the beef, pork, veal and lamb wasted by rough handling could have been saved.

The average farm kitchen requires 20 to 30 tons of water each year; carrying it from an outdoor pump would require about 30 eight-hour days of labor.

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