

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TOY SUBMARINE** floats just beneath the water's surface in bathtubs and fires two toy torpedoes from tubes on either side of its gray hull. When the trigger is released, both torpedoes are thrust out by a spring, traveling a few feet through the water and then rising to the surface.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **RUG FIRST-AID** equipment has been designed to help the housewife cope with more than 120 common stains on wool, rayon and cotton rugs and carpets. The set consists of four formulas, each guaranteed to remove safely a particular class of common stain.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **ANTISTATIC BRUSH** for photographic negatives has a radioactive material, polonium, stored in its plastic handle. When used on negatives, the brush sweeps away lint and dust, and the polonium neutralizes static electricity on the film so that it will not attract more dust.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **PAINTER'S GUIDE** resembles a sawed-off dustpan and is used to keep paint from being smeared where it is not wanted,



as shown in the photograph. Example: When the painter is coating walls, the hand-held butyrate plastic device keeps paint off door jams and baseboards. Small pads beneath it prevent streaking when the tool is moved to a new position.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **SAFETY PROBE** enables television troubleshooters to check high voltage in video sets without danger. The highly shielded, well-grounded device works with kilovoltmeters and vacuum-tube voltmeters. It can be used on voltages as high as 60,000 volts D.C. with "complete safety to the operator."

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **LEATHER KIT** includes all the materials needed for the enterprising woman to assemble her own alligator handbag. The maker reports the handbag can be put together without special tools or previous leather-working experience.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **FRYING PAN** lid lets smoke and steam escape, but keeps grease from spattering out and possibly starting fires in the kitchen. Fitting pots from eight to 11 inches in diameter, the lid features two sections, each perforated with small vents. The sections are screwed together so the holes are staggered. Water can be added to the pot contents with the lid in place.

Science News Letter, August 29, 1953

⚙️ **REPAIR PATCHES** for vinyl plastics come with a one-ounce bottle of liquid "glue" based on vinyl resins. Tears in aprons, inflatable toys, raincoats, shower curtains and other objects made of vinyl plastics thus can be fixed easily. Pinholes can be patched merely by brushing the solution over the rupture.

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8-29-3

Do You Know?

If a cast-iron pot is scrubbed too vigorously with a detergent, its protective film of grease or oil is removed; some rusting will occur and food will stick.

Jet planes frequently leave vapor trails because moisture in their hot exhaust gases crystallizes in the cold air of high altitudes.

Insecticides in concentration may reduce soil fertility by slowing down the decomposition of organic matter.

Field brome grass is a promising cover crop for peach and cherry orchards where permanent sod culture is not satisfactory.

Historians have concluded that the Chinese used rockets with a black powder propellant as early as 3,000 B.C. in fireworks displays.