

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 695. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **HOOK-ON ARM** rest for motorists attaches to the front seat and provides support for the driver's right arm. Because of its fiat surface, the arm rest also can be used as a tiny table to hold drinks and sandwiches at drive-ins.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **FLOOR MAT**, which can double as an auxiliary auto seat cushion, combines the springy resilience of foam rubber with the toughness and beauty of plastic-coated fibers. The manufacturer reports the plastic-coated fibers and foam rubber are firmly joined and will not separate. Washable in soap and water, the mat is particularly useful in kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **HARD OVERLAY** material extends the life of metal surfaces subject to heavy wear. Available in paste and powder form, the material is painted on the metal surface, then melted with a torch or carbon arc. The overlay bonds to the metal, forming a "skin thick" film of a tough surface designed to make the metal last longer.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **ALUMINUM CHAIN** has been developed for use as decorative fencing around lawns, monuments, and restricted areas in



parcs and on campuses. One-third as heavy as an iron chain the same size, the aluminum chain also is comparatively strong and will not rust or corrode, the maker reports. It is shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **NYLON ELASTIC** bandage, particularly good for taping sprained ankles and

wrists, is non-constricting and retains its high elasticity for long periods. Cotton is woven into the soft fabric to absorb perspiration. The bandage layers adhere slightly to each other, providing a firm non-slip bandage in use.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **TURRET-LENSED** still camera features normal, telephoto and wide-angle lenses that twirl into position at the flip of a finger. Focusing is done through the camera's eye-level ground glass viewer. The complete unit consists of camera, turret and a special pistol-like grip designed to improve camera steadiness at slow shutter speeds.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **SOAP STAND** holds a bar of soap slightly up in the air on four plastic prongs so that the cake is not resting in a pool of water in the soap dish or on the surface of basins, bathtubs and sinks. The butyrate plastic stand is equipped with a suction cup for gripping slippery porcelain surfaces.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

⚙️ **HEATING PAD** for motorists plugs into a cigarette lighter and warms the user's back. The manufacturer reports a special harness has been developed to hold the pad on farmers' backs as they use the pad while running tractors during the nippy winter months.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1953

## THE CHEMISTRY WE USE

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## Do You Know?

The terms "bugs" and "insect" are not synonymous; the true *bug* is a member of one particular family of insects, the *Hemiptera*; this family has over 55,000 known species, of which more than 4,000 are found in North America alone.

A pound of *germanium*, the element used in the manufacture of new, revolutionary electronic devices called transistors, is the yield of 20 freight-car loads of zinc ore.

An international agreement to help cut world *opium* production from 2,000 to 500 tons yearly, the amount needed for medical purposes, has been signed by 17 countries.

Eight North American animals *hibernate* during the cold winter months; these are the jumping mouse, badger, bat, gopher, woodchuck, chipmunk, raccoon, and bear.

The use of new machines and methods in *agriculture* have increased the per-acre yield of the nation's croplands by 25% in 20 years.