

# • 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 703. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SANDBAG FOR cars** is easily carried in the trunk and holds enough sand to provide grit when traction is needed on slippery, snow-covered roads. Made of a mildew-proof fabric, the bag has a tapered design which permits the user to control the flow of sand easily.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **TELEPHONE INDEX** for the businessman or housewife holds names, addresses and telephone numbers in a small plastic compartment that attaches to the bottom of the telephone. The numbers are written on pull-out cards with alphabetized tabs protruding from the front of the compartment. Space is available on the cards for a brief advertisement.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **CARBON DRAWING INK** has been developed that can be used on glass and other water-repellent surfaces without damage due to freezing and thawing. The ink itself can be rendered water resistant by a brief cure at 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **PLANT FEEDER**, pushed into the soil in flower pots, slowly permits water or plant



food to trickle through a sponge at its bottom to water or nourish the plant's roots. The device, shown in the photograph, is sufficiently long that it can be used to "stake up" taller plants.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **NEW WEATHERSTRIPPING** consists of a plastic rib to which is attached wool pile—thousands of tiny brush-like fibers. The fibers fill the irregularities around doors and windows that admit harsh winter winds to houses. Somewhat similar to the felt liners around car windows, the weatherstripping is easily tacked into place and is said to be long-wearing.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **INDUSTRIAL X-RAY** film is ultra-fine-grained and is particularly useful where minute detail is desired. With million-volt X-ray or betatron equipment, it may be used in the examination of steel up to three inches in thickness. At low voltages it can be used to picture low-opacity materials such as aluminum, corn and wheat.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **EARPHONES, RESEMBLING** a doctor's stethoscope, have a small phone jack that plugs into the electronic amplifying systems in churches, theaters, schools and hospitals. Also suitable for secretarial and aviation uses, each headset has its own volume control and weighs only 1.2 ounces.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

⚙️ **INTERLINING FOR** winter garments consists of a fluffy, soft, lightweight layer of glass fibers covered with a fabric facing. Said to be the warmest for its weight ever developed for the clothing industry, the interliner is dry cleanable, washable and moth-proof. It will be used in some women's and men's coats and children's outerwear for the coming season.

Science News Letter, December 5, 1953

Don't forget to make it

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## Do You Know?

A device has been developed to weigh bits of protein of extremely small mass by measurement of the amount of X-ray absorbed by the pieces tested.

Crickets' chirps have surprising carrying power; one cricket barely an inch long can be heard nearly a mile.

The mileage death rate for the United States, the number of deaths per 100,000,000 miles, is at its lowest point in history.

Last year 17 children below the age of four years died of lead poisoning in New York City alone.

The United States is the world's third largest exporter of rice, ranking after Thailand and Burma.