

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

⚙️ **MODEL TOWN** can be built up by children from separate items now available. Made of styrene and vinyl plastics, the new items include traffic lights, street lights, fire hydrants, houses, stores, a church, theater, schools and railway stations. Doors on the model buildings actually open and the stores have interchangeable sign and window display cards.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **CHILD'S RAINSUIT** transforms him into a spaceship commander on grizzly days when he must be outdoors. Made of a light-weight, sturdy, water-resistant material, the silver-toned suit resembles coveralls and has a long zipper in front which permits the child to get in and out of it easily. A "helmet" ties under the youngster's chin.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **TYPEWRITER BAIL** is made of a transparent plastic which permits the typist to see the typewritten line usually obscured by the common metal bail. It is available for all standard machines and can be installed quickly.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **PLASTIC ALPHABET** blocks have snaps on them that permit the blocks to be



joined into a string, as shown in the illustration. Children form words merely by snapping the blocks together. The blocks can be rotated while joined. A quick pull unfastens them. Enclosed picture word cards help the child associate words and objects.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **LETTER SET** for preschool children consists of five basic letter shapes, plus parts needed to build all letters in the alphabet. The vinyl plastic letter parts stick to glossy surfaces but strip off easily and can be re-used. A colorful book of text and pictures helps the child learn simple words while he plays.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **DECORATING KIT** permits the user to dress up his Christmas parcels and stockings and to make cheerful Christmas signs. The kit consists of a "tube pen" that is squeezed while tracing the message on glass, paper, wood, cloth and metal. Then tiny spangles are sprinkled over the "writing" and are bonded into place. The spangles are available in red, green, gold, silver, blue and chartreuse.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **ALUMINUM SHEETING**, rods, bars, angles and tubing now are available for the home craftsman and can be sawed, planed or drilled with ordinary woodworking tools. The aluminum comes in a variety of shapes and finishes and can be made into storm windows as well as ashtrays, dishes and candle holders.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

⚙️ **ELECTRIC HAIR DRYER** blows cool or warm air at the flick of a switch. Although the portable device is designed for milady, the manufacturer whispers that husbands can use it in their photographic darkrooms. It makes a fine dryer for negatives and reel-type developing tanks.

Science News Letter, December 12, 1953

Don't forget to make it

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## Do You Know?

Some tree crops are harvested about every 100 years.

Still in serviceable condition, samples of 2,000-year-old concrete recently were recovered from an ancient submerged Roman wharf.

Through vocational rehabilitation, over 60,000 persons are put to productive work each year.

Vibration causes as much damage as heavy shock blows to delicate equipment carried on Navy ships.

Once considered and treated as a moral lapse, a sin or a crime, alcoholism now is more often viewed as a disease resulting from disturbances in the normal functions of mind or body.