

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

⚙️ **SOIL MOISTURE** gage is pushed into ground to the root depth of the crop growing on the land. It measures the amount of soil moisture, indicating on a dial-type gage when irrigation is needed. Made in lengths ranging from six to 48 inches, the device is accurate to within three percent. Its plastic moisture-finding probe is made of tough butyrate.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

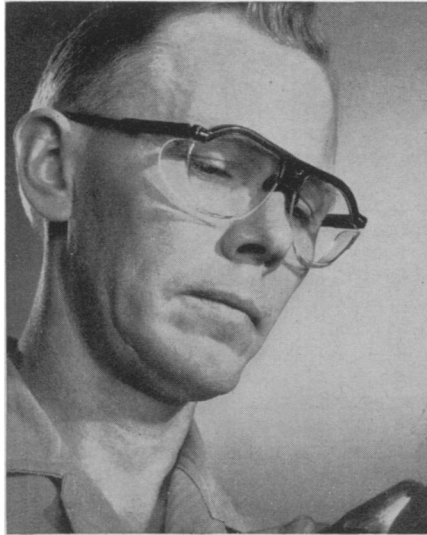
⚙️ **ENGRAVED SLIDE RULES**, both pocket and desk sizes, are made of a rugged vinyl plastic sheeting that resists body oils, perspiration and chemicals. The plastic gives the instrument long-lived accuracy by eliminating the warping effect of humidity.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **HEADLIGHT SWITCH** has built-in delayed action that permits the motorist to lock the car and walk to the house while the headlights remain on. One and a half minutes later (maximum adjustment) the lights snap off. Molded of a durable phenolic plastic, the device is easily mounted on the dashboard.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **SAFETY GLASSES**, shown in the photograph, are quickly adjusted to fit each workman-wearer. The plastic temples slip



out to any desired length and will stay at the selected position. Many-purpose plastic lenses are designed to snap into the frames.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **EXPERIMENTAL KIT** in electricity provides 190 experiments that children and science teachers can perform without dan-

ger. It demonstrates the basic principles of direct and alternating currents, and reveals in its 240-page manual how to build and operate six different types of motors. "This kit," the maker says, "is a real instruction tool."

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **FREEZER THERMOMETER** permits the housewife to read the temperature of her food freezer without opening it. Mounted on the wall near the freezer, the thermometer is connected to the food locker by a flexible tube.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **MOVIE OUTFIT** permits continuous showing of 16mm film on a 13-by-18 inch "shadow-box" screen that can display the picture in an undarkened room. Projecting the picture from the rear of the screen, the outfit accommodates 1,600 feet (44 minutes) of film and will repeat the performance for 200 hours with no rewinding. A special humidifier puts moisture back into the film to extend its life.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

⚙️ **INSULATED TRUCK DOORS** are lightweight and will not freeze closed, the maker reports. Fabricated of glass fiber and a plastic resin, the doors are molded in a single pan-like section filled with insulation and covered with aluminum.

Science News Letter, January 2, 1954

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Do You Know?

Although there is no current powered-aircraft production in Germany, gliding has been sanctioned and about 1,600 gliders now waft through German skies.

The Air Force's latest fighter-bomber, the F-84F Thunderstreak, "breathes" as much air in a minute as an adult does in four months.

One female *moth* and her family can destroy in a single year as much wool as it would take a dozen sheep to produce.

A manufacturer of electric refrigerators now includes a warning note in the instruction book that goes with its new models; the note reminds the buyer to make his discarded refrigerator safe so that children cannot suffocate inside it.

Members of the expedition that recently conquered *Mount Everest* each wore a climber's suit of an assigned color to provide easy identification at long distances.