

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SELF-LEVELING STEPLADDER** has a special hinge-like device that adjusts the ladder to stand on uneven surfaces without twist, sway or walk, the maker reports.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **ELECTRIC FORK lift truck** can be used in hazardous locations involving fire or explosion. Backed by an Underwriters' Laboratories seal of approval, the trucks are said to be safe in areas containing gasoline, petroleum, naphtha, alcohols, acetone, lacquer solvent vapors and natural gas.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **SIGNAL LIGHT and ashtray** combine into a small unit for restaurant tables to attract the attention of the waiter. When the customer wants something, he merely pushes a button on top of the device. A soft light that in effect says, "Hey, waiter!" winks on silently.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **COVERING MATERIAL** for kitchen counters, showers and shelves can be cut with scissors or a sharp knife to the proper contours. It can be held in place with pressure-sensitive tape or recommended cements. The vinyl-plastic-surfaced mate-



rial, shown in the photograph, resists moisture, abrasion, soaps, oils and greases.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **FLY-TYING KIT** enables the fisherman to whip up any of hundreds of hand-made lures. The kit contains colorful feathers,

quills, wool, fur, chenille, raffia, tinsel, floss, a hook vise, 24 fly-tying hooks, thread wax, tying threads, hook cement and instructions.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **CAMERA CASE** has a built-in flashgun so that users of the 35mm Voigtländer camera no longer must carry flash equipment along in a separate bundle. One part of the case contains the flash reflector and another part contains a battery-condenser power supply. The manufacturer anticipates developing similar cases for other camera makes.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **AIR PUMP** for home aquariums works on a thermal principle that involves no moving parts. It produces a stream of air and works silently and efficiently in tanks holding three to 30 gallons of water. When combined with special filtering equipment, the butyrate plastic device filters and aerates about 80 gallons in 24 hours. It works on ordinary house current.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

⚙️ **SHAMPOO DISPENSER** is a palm-sized plastic device consisting of a chamber in which the shampoo solution is stored. Attached to the lower chamber is a set of tiny flexible plastic fingers. When squeezed, the dispenser squirts out a tiny stream of the shampoo and the finger-like probes work up a lather while massaging the scalp.

Science News Letter, January 9, 1954

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1-9-4

Do You Know?

Anthropoid apes are much stronger than men on a weight-for-weight basis.

A baby electric eel can give you a 120-volt shock.

Malaria now is no more of a military problem than smallpox or typhoid.

It would take up to 2,000 fireflies, flashing simultaneously, to produce the same room illumination as a single candle.

At the speed of sound, the leading edges of a low-flying airplane grow 95 degrees warmer than the surrounding air; at 10 times the speed of sound, they can reach an incandescent 9,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Undesirable "dwarf" calves may be reduced on cattle ranches by a "profilometer," a device that detects a small bulge on the bull's head; the bulge seems to mean that the bull is likely to sire dwarf offspring.