

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

⚙️ **MENDING KIT** permits anyone to patch garments neatly and expertly at a relatively small cost. The kit includes several dies to cut the proper-sized hole around the damaged part of the article. The same die is used to cut a patch from some other part of the garment to fit that hole exactly. A plastic tape, applied to the under side, bonds with the cloth patch when heated properly with an electric iron.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **HOME KNITTING** machine makes 36,000 stitches an hour on the average. It saves time and yarn, and turns out wide garments 20 times faster than hand knitting. Working with all gauges of wool or cotton, the machine can yield firm or loose knitting as required, with absolute uniformity of stitch.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **ANTI-SLIP SOLE** tread is available for a variety of industrial boots, shoes and overshoes. Molded in neoprene rubber, the special tread has a squeegee action and provides sure-footed walking on wet, icy or oily surfaces. The tread was originally developed for use on Navy aircraft carrier flight decks.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954



⚙️ **PLANT FOOD** attachment for garden hoses holds a supply of a special powdered plant food and feeds it into the hose while the water is on. It is shown in the photograph. One filling will apply almost 200 pounds of liquid nutrients to lawn or garden in about 15 minutes from the butyrate plastic hopper.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **GRAY WINDOW** glass can cut out as much as 90% of the sun's glare, but lets in warming infrared rays. Unlike tinted glasses, the gray glass does not distort colors that are seen through it.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **SEED-SOWING DEVICE** will distribute seeds evenly and quickly. A transparent, plastic tube, it has a palm-fitting cork at one end. After loading with seeds, the device is held in the hand and tapped lightly with a finger to make the seeds drop out in a steady stream.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **THUMB TACK** applicator has a magnetic button which picks up tack and holds it in position. Then a quick press and the tack is in to stay. The tool also removes tacks and deposits them in a storage space.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

⚙️ **NEW OFFICE** chair for typists has a base of phenolic plastic. The smooth surface prevents hosiery snags and shoe heels do not mar it. The swivel chair can be adjusted in various ways to suit the needs of the user.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1954

CITY DWELLER?

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6-5-4

O.K. by initials.....

Do You Know?

There is said to be more hafnium in the earth's crust than copper, lead or zinc.

Powdery mildew attacks many plants, including roses, lilac, phlox, zinnias and dahlias; spraying or dusting regularly with sulfur, when the disease first appears, will provide effective control.

Electronic scientists have conquered the "fadeout" nuisance in car radios with special tubes that adjust the automatic volume control when going under bridges or through tunnels.

Bathing suits now are being made out of wallpaper specially processed for wet strength.

Only 10% to 15% of your gas bill is for the gas itself; the rest pays for having it piped to you and for service.

The newest types of electronic detectors not only warn of the presence of metal in foodstuffs, but will also stop the conveyor and drop a marker on the production belt.

The largest known animal is the blue whale.