

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **LAMP KIT**, complete except for shade and bulb, is a do-it-yourself project that results in an attractive table reading lamp. The lamp's wooden base has a drawer for telephone pad, cigarettes or mail, and includes two holders for plants or cut flowers.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **CHEESE GRATER** works like a hand-cranked meat grinder to do the job quickly and easily. Imported from Italy, this hand-held device has a hopper for cheese, chocolate, almonds, bread, carrots and other foods to be grated. One arm of the handle presses on the hopper's lid to speed up grating.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **OUTBOARD 10- and 25-horsepower motors** now have been "silenced" to permit you to cruise around a lake at full throttle, yet talk to your companion in normal tones. Engine noise and vibration are absorbed by special cushioning between the engine and boat.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **FEED-THROUGH BUSHING** for TV antennas is a 3/4-inch butyrate plastic tube with ivory or brown end plates. It acts as a conduit to carry any standard TV lead-in wires through walls 16 inches thick, protecting them from abrasion and weather. The bushing can be hacksawed to any desired length.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954



⚙️ **PLASTIC LAUNDRY tubs**, molded in decorative colors, rest on wrought iron stands, as shown in the photograph. Reinforced with glass fibers, they also are suitable for holding ice and cold beverages in rumpus rooms and patios. Stand, tub and soap-holder weigh 21 pounds combined.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **WINCH-HOIST WORKS** like a jack to pull up tree stumps, stretch chain-link fences or lift engines on the farm. Weighing only nine pounds, the device can handle

up to 3,000 pounds. Its safety handle bends when extreme overloads are applied, thus protecting the 133-strand flexible aircraft cable that is its winch line.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **SPEEDY SCREW driver** features tempered steel jaws that spring open automatically when a sleeve is pushed forward. A gentle tug frees the driver after the screw has been started.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

⚙️ **CONVERSION SLIDE rule** has slide settings on its back for quick changes of such things as meters to yards, nautical miles to statute miles, liters to quarts, drams to fluid ounces, grosses to dozens, and foot-pounds to meter-kilograms. This reduces chances of error in setting up the figures from conversion tables. Ten standard scales are squeezed on the slide rule's front.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

## METEOROLOGY

# Hurricane Radar Net

➤ **COASTAL CITIES** in possible hurricane paths could probably save themselves and their neighbors hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and many lost lives by buying their own radar sets.

The cost of converting a used radar to storm spotting is only about \$10,000, although a new set costs about \$200,000.

It would be "wonderful" if coastal cities would pitch in to buy their own radar for hurricane spotting, as midwestern cities have done for tornado searching, I. R. Tannehill of the U. S. Weather Bureau told SCIENCE SERVICE. (See SNL, March 13, p. 171.)

The Weather Bureau just does not have enough money to purchase and redo as many of these outdated radar sets from the armed services as it would like, he explained. This was also true for the tornado warning service in the Midwest. There, radar sets bought by local communities have helped to save lives and lessen property damage.

Over a dozen communities in Texas are now part of such a tornado-warning system, which started operating last winter.

Even with radar sets every 150 miles or so along the coast, however, Mr. Tannehill pointed out, a human forecaster would still have to predict where the hurricane was headed. That job would remain a big headache, as it is now, because the tropical storms sometimes have erratic paths. Occasionally, they double back on themselves, earning the name "hairpin."

The radars would tell exactly where the hurricane was located at any given time, and this knowledge would aid them in forecasting where it was headed.

Some hurricanes are too far at sea to be tracked by land-based radars, which can "see" bad weather only when it is within about 200 miles.

Approximately 600 man-hours of labor are required to change a military radar to one suitable for weather patrol.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1954

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