

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

⚙️ **ELECTRIC SCISSORS** take the effort out of cutting cloth. Operated by a vibrator-type motor with 14,400 strokes per minute, this labor-saver can be plugged into any AC outlet. Plastic covered, the instrument is described as safe to operate and cuts through cloth like butter without pinching.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **KNOT-TYING KIT** teaches Junior and Sis how to tie shoe laces and hair ribbons. Kit contains colored cord, ribbon and shoe laces for practice, as well as an instruction book with over 200 self-instructing knot pictures.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **ANTI-STATIC PROTECTION** for synthetic fabrics lasts even after repeated washings and dry cleaning. The material is applied by padding, and fixed on the fabric by heat treatment. It can also be applied in conjunction with crease-resistant or water-repellent finishes.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **RADICALLY DESIGNED** camera offers amateur photographers a built-in close-up lens for portraits and a built-in yellow filter for cloud effects. Both new conveniences are dial-controlled for use or inactivity.



⚙️ **WASHABLE TOYS**, soft and cuddly, come in all sizes and shapes from sly monkeys and sleepy puppy dogs to lovable teddy bears and jaunty ponies. Containing "Orlon" acrylic fiber, these whimsical play-toys, shown in the photograph, can be tossed into the washing machine at the first sign

of soil and dried in an automatic dryer. All trims on the toys are also washable.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **POWER MOWER** has a unique device on the front wheels that permits the operator to elevate either of the front wheels off the ground, thus saving hand trimming. The new three-speed rotary mower also has a small handle that controls automatically the cutting height of the mower, from one to three inches.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **LABORATORY IMPLEMENT** has a stainless-steel spoon at one end and a keen-edged spatula at the other. Described as an "all-purpose" instrument, it is nine inches long and corrosion-resistant.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

⚙️ **STEEL PADLOCK** defies padlock breaking by prying. The secret is a shackle, one-half an inch long, that holds the lock so close to the door mount there is no room to fit a lever between them. The two-inch thick case is cadmium rust-proofed, has an extra-heavy brass locking lever and a hardened steel shackle to resist sawing.

Science News Letter, January 15, 1955

Scientific Instruments You Can Make

How teen-age scientists have designed and built various scientific instruments. References guide the reader to research in the fields opened by use of these instruments.

Astronomical Instruments

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Do You Know?

A bird traveling about 40 miles an hour flies about 18 feet while a hunter is "getting set," 18 feet while he pulls the trigger and another six feet while the bullet travels through the air at a range of 20 yards.

Fossils 100,000,000 years old have been dragged up from the muddy sediments at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean near Bermuda; these are the oldest known ocean fossils.

About 60,000,000 pages of technical literature are published yearly throughout the world; as 100,000 bound volumes, they would fill a bookshelf almost two miles long.

Accidents kill more children annually than the seven deadliest childhood diseases combined.

The gribble, a tiny underwater wood-boring creature, is most active when the sun goes down.

Double-glass windows can save as much as two tons of coal a winter for an average home, experiments showed.