

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

⚙️ **FLOATING KNIFE** for Izaak Walton's who accidentally drop their fishing knives into deep water has a four-inch stainless steel blade and five-inch plastic handle. The handle keeps the knife afloat. The back of the blade has saw-tooth edge for scaling.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **PLASTIC FISHING** lures are multi-colored spinners. The heavily overlaid lure of a rigid vinyl withstands a 40-pound pull. Available in three models, ¼ ounce, ⅜ ounce and ½ ounce weights, the lures are made especially for fresh water use.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **OIL FILTER** for automobiles is a permanent porous bronze unit. Cylindrical in shape, the filter is described as filtering out grit particles as small as 39,000,000ths of an inch. All that is needed for cleaning the filter itself is an occasional rinse in gasoline.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **FLOOR SWEEPER**, shown in the photograph, operates by electrostatic or magnetic action, which attracts dust and dirt. Resembling a window cleaner's squeegee, the sweeper is ribbed to fold gently back and forth when it is moved across the floor. Collected dirt is held until removed by user.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955



⚙️ **KNOCKDOWN KITCHEN** sink now makes the adage "everything but the kitchen sink" untrue for home do-it-yourself makers. The home assembly sink kit can be put together in ten minutes by hubby with only a screwdriver and a pair of pliers. Kit contains 42-inch single-bowl, single drainboard sinktop, complete faucet and hardware kit, cup strainer, two end panels, and rest of undersink cabinet.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **URANIUM ANALYZER** is designed to help prospectors confirm the presence of uranium in radioactive materials. Weighing only five ounces, and small enough to be carried in a coat pocket, the tester is known scientifically as a spectrum isolation chamber. It employs a special lens of ultra-violet filter material.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **THREE-SPEED TAPE** recorder permits tapes to be cut at 7½, 3¾, or 1⅞ inches per second. The recorder also has fast forward and rewind mechanisms which allow a 1,200-foot spool to be rewound in 70 seconds and cueing of an entire 1,200-foot spool in 90 seconds.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955

⚙️ **XEROGRAPHIC COPYING** equipment reduces engineering drawings up to 24 inches by 36 inches onto a 12 by 18 inch paper master, making possible 100 copies in five minutes. Process is a dry, electrical method described as requiring no intermediate negative, sensitized papers, water or liquid chemicals.

Science News Letter, April 2, 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.

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Do You Know?

If sagebrush grows in an area it is a good indication that the soil is fertile and good for planting when irrigated.

Although all available land is farmed intensively in *Formosa*, the island is barely able to supply its own agricultural needs.

Eighty-eight percent of 1,149 representative farm homemakers in 11 western states did some home sewing, a survey showed.

Long continued overuse of alcohol leads to structural changes in the liver and other organs, largely as a result of the nutritional deficiencies associated with alcoholism.

The chance for a multiple birth is least among mothers aged 20, increases to a maximum for mothers in the late 30's, then falls off toward the end of reproductive life.

Science News Letter, April 2, 1955