

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PLAID DECALS** are in giant sheets of plastic to use in self-colorizing your car. Weather-resistant with an enamel-like finish, the Scotch-plaid decals can be easily applied to an auto's roof-top or fenders and just as easily removed.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **AUXILIARY ACCELERATOR** is designed for driving automatic-shift cars by feeding gas with the left foot, leaving the right foot free for brake action. Made of steel and rubber, the left-foot substitute has a bar that controls the actual accelerator on the right driving side of the floor board.

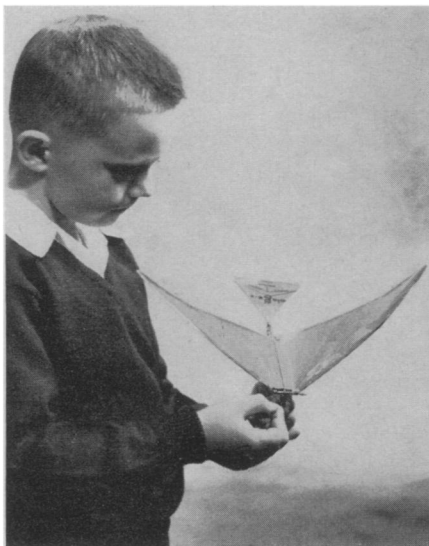
Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **HERBICIDE APPLICATOR** for the home gardener is an aerosol weed killer attached to a walking stick, thus eliminating bending. Spray can be concentrated on a small spot to kill weeds growing next to desired plants. One 12-ounce container on the 28-inch, ball-handle stick treats 600 weeds.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **NIGHT PIERCER** is an infra-red instrument that enables the human eye to see great distances in darkness and dense fog. Seen as a safety device for transportation vehicles, the combined infra-red receiving tube and built-in coated lens, was recently taken from under Navy security wraps.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955



⚙️ **TOY BIRD** that looks like a paper airplane flies by flapping its wings. The 15-inch tear-proof wings and tail are coated with a tough, polyester film. The toy bird, shown in the photograph, is powered by several rubber bands inside the plastic fuselage which in turn cause the wings to flap. Available soon will be wing-flapping butterflies, bats, bees and moths.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **NIGHT TIMEPIECE** glows in the dark by means of "indirect lighting." Eliminating need for excessive luminous paint, the substance used is claimed to be three times brighter than that used in "radium watches." The location of hour and minute pointers show up in relation to the hour markers.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **SHEET MATERIAL** for laboratory table tops and similar uses resists heat, impact and most active chemicals. Basically a mixture of Portland cement and asbestos fibers, the new material is available in charcoal gray and cameo brown. Metal working tools are all that is needed to drill, rout or mill the sheets.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

⚙️ **CELLULAR GLASS** insulating material combines insulation with a ceramic finish, making a finish coating unnecessary. A completely insulated wall can be erected in one operation. Made of pure glass, the material is chemically resistant and does not provide food or nesting for rats.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

Do You Know?

Yoghurt is made by converting the sugar in milk to lactic acid.

Hay fever can be contracted at any age but it usually begins before the age of 40.

This summer, 86,000 square miles of the Arctic and sub-Arctic will be topographically surveyed by the Army.

A bamboo pole hanging from a weaving helicopter has been used to knock ice from power lines.

A device has been developed for private planes that can automatically prevent them from going into a spiral dive.

One of the most biologically important radioactive substances found in fall-out of atomic bombs is strontium 90, which has a relatively long persistence.

The smallest of all armadillos, the *pichiciego*, has a vertical shield at the rear of its body that closes the path behind as it digs its tunnel.

A cosmic ray detector is being used in Australia for the first time to determine the density of the land mass above a tunnel now being constructed.

Science News Letter, April 16, 1955

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