

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

⚙️ **WATER-PROOF** wrist watch has been slenderized to reduce its thickness by one-third. Key to the watch-reducing technique is a gasket six times the thickness of a human hair that seals out moisture. Both crystal and back are snapped into place, and watches are stylized for work and dress.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **NON-MELTING "ice"** can turn an ordinary shopping bag into a portable refrigerator. Sealed in flexible plastic, the cooling agents are said to be harmless and will not flow. Three one-pound bags do the work of 15 pounds of ice for picnics, travels or camping jaunts. Available in eight sizes, they can be frozen and refrozen.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **CERAMIC PHONOGRAPH** cartridges come in two basic types: a single needle "pickup" for either microgroove or older 78 rpm machines, and a two-needle cartridge for playing all record speeds. The ceramic cartridges are described as in the do-it-yourself class for assembly and installation, and provide inexpensive hi-fi performance.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **RECORDED MUSIC** providing up to eight hours of uninterrupted playing is contained in a sound book that measures



6 by 5½ inches. The sound is an engraved process on pure vinylite. To play a book, shown in the photograph, a window-face is slid back, the tape or soundband wound around a special playback machine, and the needle set against it. The soundband also rewinds as it plays.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **MODERN FRAMING** in a jiffy is the boast for a frame-it-yourself assembly. A picture to be framed and mounted is sandwiched between the provided mount board and a glass. Clear butyrate plastic strips then are clipped into place around the four sides. Strips fit tightly into scored grooves and are already mitered at the corners.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **HAMMER-TOOL KIT** imported from Germany contains seven different tool heads made of steel that lock in the handle for use. Designed for household repairs, the car or hobby work, the kit contains a three-inch saw blade, wood drill, chisel, large and small screw drivers, an awl, and a hammer with a nail remover claw. Overall length is 6 and ¾ inches.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **ELECTRIC DRILL** has been equipped with a built-in work light to permit work in dark, hard-to-see places. The standard duty, ¼ inch drill also has a lock action trigger switch, pistol grip handle and weighs only three pounds. The built-in light eliminates the need for bulky drop cords.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

⚙️ **NEW DECORATOR** fabric combines one layer of colored and brightly printed film with a protecting layer of clear plastic, both laminated to any type of fabric from silk to canvas. The plastic coating of the new kind of textile resists wear, water, dirt, and is easily wiped clean. The material sews well, is lightweight and flexible for easy draping.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955

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## Do You Know?

Per capita consumption of eggs last year in the U. S. was estimated at 412, about a dozen more than in 1953.

The smallest known fish is the *Pandaka pygmaea*, about the size of an ant and almost transparent.

The Air Force has developed a target that can perform evasive maneuvers while being towed at 500 miles an hour as far as two miles behind another plane; it lands safely with the aid of a parachute.

Surgeons are testing the possibility of replacing parts of major arteries in animals with dried frozen arteries from other animals, and with cloth tubes made from synthetic fibers.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1955