

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RAY GUN** with new television set permits viewer, without getting out of his chair, to change channels, turn the set on or off, or cut off the sound. The viewer simply "shoots" a ray of light at the set's controls, which are photo-cell chambers that can be adjusted so that ordinary lighting does not act on them. The controls are set at opposite corners of the TV screen to make them easy targets.

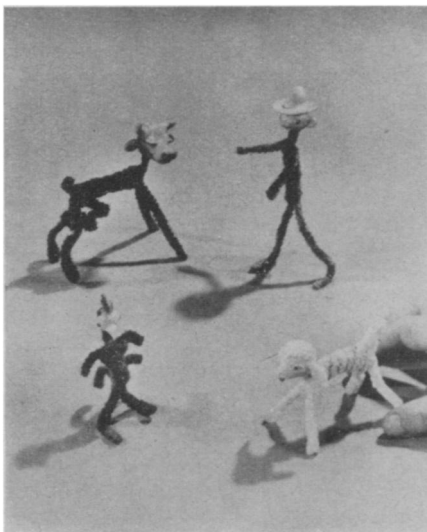
Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **STEREO CAMERA**, for medical research work, permits the photographer to take undistorted 3-D pictures of extremely close objects. On the 35 mm camera, adjustable prisms are mounted in front of two lenses, enabling the camera's "eyes" to converge as human eyes do when viewing a close object. (See SNL, July 9, p. 25.)

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC BRAKE** eliminates the conventional foot pedal by operating through the accelerator pedal as the operator relaxes pressure on it. The new power brake operates in the top three-quarters of an inch of a specially adjusted accelerator pedal. The manufacturer claims drivers, once used to the device, can safely stop automatically braked cars in much shorter distances than cars with conventional brakes.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955



⚙️ **FIGURE KITS**, containing colored pipe cleaners and plastic animal heads, have all the makings for constructing a wire menagerie. There is even a shaggy dog in the dog kit, and the farm group, shown in the photograph, includes a cow, a chicken and a lamb, and a farmer to tend them. Mounted cowboy and Indian battle it out in the western kit, and the cat kit has kittens of four different hues.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **SWITCH-LESS LAMP** is turned on or off merely by touching its base, which contains a sensitive electronic control device. No pressure, only a touch, is needed to activate the mechanism. The portable lamps with the new control will be available in the fall.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **WINDOW GLASS** lets only 12.5% of the outside brightness into building interiors. Designed to eliminate glare discomfort in classrooms and offices, the glass permits viewing the outside without color distortion.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **SCREW FEEDER** automatically supplies screws, one after another, in screwing position at the head of the power screw-driver to which it is attached. The device has enabled factory workers to speed up screw-fastening operations from 50% to 400%.

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

⚙️ **STYLUS-LESS STENCIL**, for duplicating use, is prepared with an artist's brush and special ink, instead of the stylus gadgets formerly used. The brush feature permits the easy preparation and reproduction of small posters, signs, maps, charts, etc.

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7-16-5

Do You Know?

There were 845,116 fires in urban areas of the United States in 1954.

A Government collection of half a million fungus specimens helps scientists identify and study the destructive growths.

A modern jet fighter sucks 132,000 cubic feet of air into its turbines every minute of flight.

Color television sets contain more than twice as many parts as typical black-and-white sets and take three times as long to assemble and test before leaving the factory.

Milk standing in a clear glass container on a sunny window sill or doorstep loses riboflavin and may develop a "sunlight" off-flavor in as brief a time as half an hour.

An aluminum reflector lens 79 inches in diameter is now ready for use in Japan's first solar heat furnace, which is designed to generate temperatures up to 5,000 degrees centigrade for manufacturing synthetic gems.