

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PORTABLE TORCH** permits you to have the soft and unusual lighting of an open flame wherever you go: at the beach, at barbecues, or in your own backyard or patio. In green metal or copper models, the torch, which uses kerosene, is installed on a pole which may be pushed into the ground wherever light is desired.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **CURRENCY CALCULATOR** permits travelers to tell at a glance what their dollars are worth in 26 foreign exchanges. Operating like a verb wheel, the compact guide is made of a rigid sheet-plastic that resists dirt, moisture, cracking and aging.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **TRI-COLOR FLASHLIGHT** signals in red, green or white light. Especially designed for hunters, campers, and sportsmen, the unit has an attachment for carrying on belts.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **SLINGSHOT RELOADS** automatically for quick firing. After each shot, Junior places the firing pouch under the hollow handle of the gadget, and presses a button which drops one pellet into the sling. The handle holds 500 pellets.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955



⚙️ **URANIUM DETECTOR**, shown in the photograph, is designed for aerial prospecting from a small plane. The detector, a scintillation system, weighs less than 75 pounds, features low power consumption, and has an alarm that signals pilot and observer if any unusual radioactivity is detected.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **CASTING FLOAT** contains a spring that jerks the line, setting the hook in the fish as soon as he bites. For more effective casting, the weight of the float is concentrated in its base near the sinker.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **BARBECUE MOTOR** is a portable gadget that operates on two flashlight batteries and easily attaches to any type of grill or brazier. Strong enough to turn heavy roasts, the gadget is useful at the beach, on hunting and fishing trips, or in your own backyard.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC SWITCH** is a light-sensitive mechanism that turns lights on when it grows dark outside, and off when it becomes light again. Unlike clock-type switches, this gadget switches lights on at a different time each night. The switch is good burglar insurance for people on vacation, and can also be used to switch on lights in store windows or dangerous areas.

Science News Letter, July 23, 1955

## Do You Know?

The United States has agreed to sell 30 tons of *heavy water* for research reactors.

Repairing cost on an *automobile* has risen 20% in the past five years.

Laying *hens* seem to function best at temperatures somewhere between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

*Viruses* vary in size, the largest being about the same size as the smallest bacteria and the smallest about the same size as an ordinary protein molecule.

Nests of the *oropendola*, or "giant oriole," are narrow bags two to three feet long, woven of straws and weeds; there may be as many as 50 of these nests in a single tree.

Increased drinking of cool water together with the evaporation of moisture from the lungs through normal breathing are the best ways for a *chicken* to cool itself when the temperature rises above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

One kilowatt-hour of *electricity* will light a 150-watt reading lamp for six and two-thirds hours, run a clock for 20 days, run a vacuum cleaner for three hours, run the average electric refrigerator for one day, or operate a TV set for three hours.

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—The American Naturalist.

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