

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SHOE PRESERVER** protects leather by preventing it from soaking up water. Containing water-shedding silicones, the preserver is swabbed on and allowed to dry. Shoe polish can then be applied to give a glossy shine.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **TOY COOKWARE**, copper-clad stainless steel with cool, safe plastic handles, permit little girls to do some "honest-to-gosh cooking," not just "play-cooking." The pans are small replicas of a popular line of utensils.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **INSECT-KILLER**, a cone that burns slowly like a cigarette, disperses a deadly vapor in the air. Used as directed, in a closed room, the new product kills flies, mosquitoes, sandflies, moths, wasps, spiders, silverfish, ants and roaches.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **PLASTIC GUARD** for circular table saws protects operators of saws with blades of six- to 16-inch diameters. In place, the transparent guard permits a clear view of the work, although completely covering the blade, with only enough room under the guard to allow entrance of the wood being cut.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955



⚙️ **HOBBYIST'S MAGNIFIER**, a microscope-like instrument designed for examining such things as stamps, coins, leaves and mineral specimens, provides an erect unreversed image of the object viewed. Field of vision is unusually wide and the only light needed is ordinary room illumination, as shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **REVERSIBLE LENS** for eight-millimeter movie cameras enables the user to take wide-angle or telephoto pictures, depending on which side of the lens is toward the camera. This unique lens is color corrected.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **HACK SAW** has the advantage of small size for carrying in a tool case, but can be easily converted into a large saw for cutting large pipe or deep into sheets of wood or metal. Distance between the blade and the frame top can be adjusted from three and one-half to seven inches. The saw also features an aluminum handle and knuckle guard.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

⚙️ **REPORTER'S RECORDER** is a 13-pound portable unit, operated by a self-contained storage battery. The brief-case-size unit permits freedom of movement while recording because its operation is controlled by a switch on the hand microphone, thus freeing the other hand for carrying, even during recordings. The tape recorder has a built-in oscillator for play-backs by ordinary radio.

Science News Letter, August 6, 1955

Do You Know?

The yield of gasoline from crude oil has almost doubled since 1918.

The first observation flight over a forest fire was made in 1919 for the U.S. Forest Service.

A tiny re-chargeable storage battery having a cell that weighs only one-sixth of an ounce has been developed.

Testosterone, the male hormone, has been synthesized directly from simple coal tar chemicals for the first time.

Birds have supplementary air sacs in their bones, especially in the major bones of the wings, which supply extra oxygen for the tremendous muscular effort of flying.

The palm-chat, bird of the West Indies, constructs a bulky communal nest in the sides of which several pairs burrow to lay their eggs.

The total production of all classes of distilled spirits at registered and fruit distilleries in the United States totaled 184,522,919 gallons in 1954, an 11% increase over the previous year.

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