

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BETTER MOUSETRAP** is self-setting. A British invention, the mousetrap is triggered by the rodent's gnawing action. As described, it can be set in the dark without trapping the setter's finger. Made of steel, the trap can be washed and does not retain odors.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **MIXING BOWLS** made of aluminum are designed for use with portable hand mixers. The bowls have pouring spouts on both sides and plastic handles. Available in two sizes, the larger bowl is 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches high, and its smaller companion is 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches high.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **POCKET SCISSORS** made of nickel-plated instrument steel measure 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches. A German import, the scissors can substitute for a screwdriver, wire cutter, ruler, hammer, glass cutter, rod or pipe wrench and other tools. It can be carried in purse or pocket.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **SCOURING PAD**, shown in the photograph, to help the busy housewife consists of a block of soft foam rubber with a carborundum grit firmly adhered to the bottom side. Usable with any detergent, cleaner, or soap and water, the pad can be



used to scour pots and pans and, after a few days, bathtubs and enamelware.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **CAR SCREEN** lets air in, but keeps insects out. Put on or removed when desired, the screen is designed to fit all cars with a vent post, except hardtop convert-

ibles. Made of a non-rusting, non-metallic material, the screen requires no screws, nails or hooks for installation.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **EXTENSION DUCT** for electrical outlet needed in the middle of the room is made of rubber. Stumble-proof so that office furniture can be rolled over it, the duct is 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at the base, rising from a feather edge to an apex of 7/16 inch. Ribs on its underside prevent slipping.

Science News Letter, August 18, 1956

⚙️ **DOLL CARRIAGE** has a body that lifts out to convert it into a doll swing or car seat. The triple-play carriage is made with a collapsible frame of steel with axles welded to the frame. The toy also has a removable shopping bag and a detachable canopy.

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⚙️ **PROFILE DRAWINGS** of screws, screw heads and screw threads can be done quickly with a broad-range template kit. Containing four templates, the kit has one for small machine screws, one for screw threads, one for screw heads and a general dimensioner. All four templates have jet black, needle sharp centering guides.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ **ARISING** before dawn and driving scores of miles in search of a bit of wilderness, today's week-end woodsman is often frustrated by an ever present "No Trespassing" sign.

These warning signs may make him sigh for the good old days when no such barriers were up. But when were there such "good old days?"

Ever since two or more animals lived in competition with one another, there have been "No Trespassing" signs erected to warn invaders off. Today's signs are in big, black, printed letters. The older signs are snarls and growls, bird songs, sudden charges.

Even signposts are set up in nature to let creatures know they are invading private territory.

"Signpost" behavior can be seen among some of the deer. The Roosevelt elk of the American Northwest have very definite signposts to mark their territory, and the

No Trespassing



outsider who ignores the sign must be ready to fight to stay in the reserved area.

Female Roosevelt elk follow a highly ritualized pattern in laying out their "No Trespassing" signs. First, an appropriate sapling or limb is selected for "nosing,"—careful drawing of the nose up and down along the wood for a half dozen times. Then the post is scraped by drawing the front teeth over the "nosed" area in delib-

erate strokes. The shavings fall to the ground, where they may accumulate in quantity. The final flourish is made to the elk's "No Trespassing" sign when she carefully rubs the sides of her muzzle and chin on the shaved post.

The male elk erect such "signposts" generally only in the breeding season. The procedure is similar to that of the females, except that antlers are used for scraping instead of teeth and scraping comes before "nosing."

When a strange male enters the territory of another male in breeding season, the resident elk may "challenge" the newcomer by slashing and whipping shrubs and saplings with his antlers. This has been thought to be a direct challenge to fight.

More recently, some scientists have suggested that this slashing of shrubs is primarily signpost behavior—a warning, not a challenge. In effect, the resident bull elk is pointing to his sign—"Stay off: No Trespassing."

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