

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STONE FACING** is only one-thirtieth the weight of actual stone. It is made of glass-fiber-reinforced plastic. Available in panels 48½ inches wide by 12½ inches high, the stone veneer can be nailed on interiors or exteriors.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

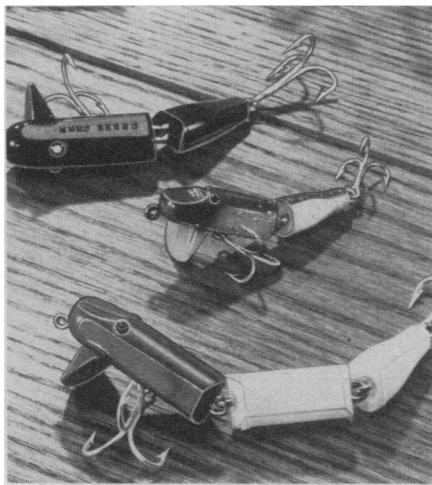
⚙️ **PICNIC PACKAGE** eliminates the need for a half dozen assorted containers. The package is made up of five aluminum pans that fit together in a single insulated carrying case. Foods may be packed either hot or cold. The pans can also be used for warming or cooking.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **BELT SANDER** offers the do-it-yourselfer a 1,100 feet per minute high speed for rough lumber and 800 f.p.m. for finishing. A plastic handle and grip knob keep cool during the sanding. The tool holds a four-inch sanding belt.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **FISHERMEN'S LURES** have a mouth-piece that causes a vibrating motion in the water. Jointed in structure, the lures, shown in the photograph, are molded of a butyrate



plastic. Available in three designs with different colorations and finishes, the lures are sinkers. They run deep when reeled slowly and medium deep on faster retrieve.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC TARGET** resets itself when hit. Made of steel, the target is

mounted on 18-inch steel rods for insertion into the ground. It has a flat surface to restrict ricochet. The overall height can be adjusted from eight to 22 inches.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **TWO-DIMENSIONAL PLANETARIUM** is designed for educational purposes and persons of all ages interested in astronomy. It consists of a number of plastic and cardboard charts and movable pieces for assembly, including a solar system positioner, star charts, horizon indicators and a manual.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **BICYCLE STABILIZER** can be mounted in minutes and adjusts to any height. The six-inch wheels are 21 inches apart. They are attached to the bicycle frame with two self-locking brackets at the axle nut.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958

⚙️ **WIND INDICATOR** consists of a small wind vane, 50 feet of lead-in cable, and an indoor dial. Eight points of wind direction are indicated on the dial. The vane flashes the wind direction indoors by lighting the compass points on the etched and spun brass dial.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958



Nature Ramblings



By BENITA TALL

Master Builder

► IT IS the time of year for the young Baltimore orioles to leave their nests. A human observer must sometimes wonder if the fledgling fully appreciated his first home, as nice a piece of construction engineering as any man could build.

Bird experts agree that the Baltimore oriole is probably the best artisan and architect of North American birds. In fact, its nest building goes beyond skilled craftsmanship into the field of construction engineering.

How the bird builds or rather weaves the long pocket-shaped nest is an amazing thing to see.

The first strands, usually long ones, are loosely wound around a selected twig. Each additional fiber the oriole brings to the growing nest is worked into the "fabric" by shuttle-like movements of the bill.



As the work progresses and the hanging mass of plant fibers, milkweed silk and sometimes string, horsehair and bits of cloth takes shape, the tempo of these shuttle movements increases greatly. Ornithologists have counted more than 100 of the thrust and draw motions made at a single visit to the nest.

It takes two or three days before one side

of the nest is completed. Many long strands of the plant fibers dangle at the ends.

At this point the bird begins work from what will be the inside of the nest. At each visit to the nest she—it is the female who is design and construction engineer here—not only weaves in new strands but also gathers up many others still hanging free.

More twigs are used to support the other side of the nest; more weaving with the typical random stitching motions of her beak follow.

Finally a soft lining of hair, wool or fine grasses is molded to shape.

The oriole settles down in the nest and shakes all over in order to bring the pressure of her breast to bear down on the nest's inner surface.

The result: A nest that will outlast many wind and rain storms, yet will probably be "home" for a Baltimore oriole family for several weeks.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1958