

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PLASTIC CHAIR**, pressure-molded in a form to fit the human body, is made of plastic resins reinforced with natural or synthetic fiber. In making, the combination mixture is put in a steel mold, pressure applied, then baking heat for five minutes. It is a one-piece affair except for its steel legs.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **ANIMAL REPELLER**, claimed effective in keeping dogs, cats, rabbits and other such pests out of the home garden, uses a chemical with an odor objectionable to animals but inoffensive to humans.

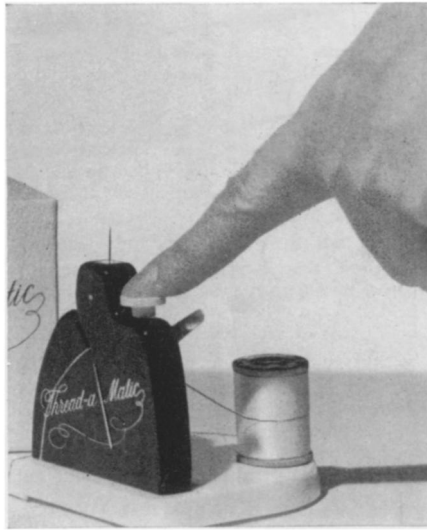
Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **FLUORESCENT LAMP**, that needs no electrical current, produces light when its bulb, containing mercury and phosphor particles, is shaken. The mercury and phosphor are sealed in the bulb in an atmosphere of rare gas at low pressure. The device may have application in automobiles.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **WINDOW SHADES**, particularly for apartments and other places where there are fire hazards, are made of a fiber treated to make them fire-resistant and will char but will not support combustion.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949



⚙️ **NEEDLE THREADER**, shown in the picture, is a simple device that does the job merely by pushing a button, permitting even a blind man to thread a needle after he inserts it in the top with the needle eye down. The case is a black plastic.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **TIRE-CHANGING light**, for use at night on the highway, is stored in the glove compartment until needed, when it is set in the road, electrically connected into the cigar lighter outlet. By means of a reflector, it throws white light on the work, while a blinking red light behind the reflector gives warning to approaching cars.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **TABLE FEET**, quickly attachable to the legs of a card table, increase its height to permit temporary use as an extension to a dining-room table. They are four sturdily constructed tubes, with inside hardwood plugs, which fit over the ends of the card-table legs.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

⚙️ **ASH-TRAY lamp** is for living room or office use on table or desk, and consists of a lamp and shade and a stand with a base designed to hold an ash tray. The base and upright are of a bronze finish, and removable ash tray is amber glass.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1949

## Do You Know?

The average yield of *mushrooms* produced by commercial growers is from one to one and one-half pounds per square foot.

"Self-budgeting" *fertilizer*, under test, is intended to supply nitrogen to plants at a predetermined rate over long periods of time.

The amount of commercial *fertilizers* used in America today is twice the quantity used in 1940; some 16,000,000 tons were used in 1948.

The present trend toward small decentralized *industrial plants* is based in part on the ability of trucks to provide flexible transportation.

In the brass and copper industry, a *rod* is a solid straight piece which is round, hexagonal or octagonal in cross section; a *bar* is square or rectangular.

Measurements of temperatures, vertical distribution of ozone, cosmic ray intensity and other phenomena are being made at altitudes of 72 miles by *rocket-borne instruments*.

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