

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC PLUG**, a simple type installed without tools or screws, consists of an outer plastic shell and an inner unit or insert with two prongs. To wire, the inner unit is pulled out of the shell, the prongs are separated, and the wire is pushed into it without removal of insulation. The closed prongs hold the wire and make electrical connection.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **POURING SPOUTS**, which are quickly snapped on liquid containers from bottles to oil cans, can be used over and over again and save the need for funnels. They are made of precoated colored metal stock as well as aluminum, and have an adjustable tab section to fit over the container neck.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **PISTOL-GRIP handle**, for the fisherman's casting rod, fits either right or left hand naturally, while an adjustable reel bed allows the reel to be moved to suit the user. Made of aluminum and a plastic, it has a comfortable thumb rest which permits a firm grip on the rod.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **NON-MARRING hammer** of an improved type, shown in the picture, has



relatively soft plastic faces, and a hollow metal head between them, which contains a charge of steel grit. As the tip is lowered, the charge follows, practically eliminating recoil of the hammer after it has struck. The plastic tips withstand heavy impact

without cracking or flaking.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **MOLDED MATERIAL** for kitchen table-top work surfaces is a special composition permanently bonded to steel that resists wear, is easily cleaned and is uninjured by hot pots moved directly from the range. It is applied to treated steel without glue or adhesive under heavy pressure and high temperature.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **GAGE**, to show the height of a liquid in a barrel from which the contents are drawn by means of a faucet near the bottom, is an upright transparent plastic tube set in an elbow between barrel and faucet. The liquid stands as high in the tube as it does in the barrel.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

⚙️ **ELECTRIC SOCKET**, with a bottle-stopper base easily converts almost any bottle, oil lamp or vase into a table lamp. Its stopper, available in three sizes, is constructed of a curved cork strip which can be easily peeled down to make a perfect fit. Connection wire and outlet plug accompany the socket.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1949

Do You Know?

Agricultural byproducts are used as nutrients for the mold that produces penicillin.

It has taken four years to get Norway's war-destroyed lighthouses and bearing lights back to prewar standards.

Iron carbonyl was used as an anti-knock fluid in motor vehicles in Europe and America during the war, but it fouls spark-plugs and wears engine parts.

In the past 20-year period the number of American farms equipped with electric current has increased from 600,000 to over 4,000,000.

Parking meters are now in use on public tennis courts in one American city; a half-hour playing time costs 25 cents and a red flag "ups" at the end of 30 minutes unless another quarter is deposited.

Carnauba wax from the carnauba palm of Brazil, widely used in polishes in the United States, serves an unusual purpose on its mother tree; it prevents the escape of moisture from within the tree, enabling it to survive severe droughts.

Ocean brine, with salts removed, is a possible source for household water.

Genuine "Panama" hats come from Ecuador, not from Panama as many suppose.

The path of a total eclipse of the sun may be thousands of miles in length but it is only about 65 miles wide.

One power shovel, used by a coal company in stripping the cover of earth over coal veins, has a capacity of 46 cubic yards; in other words, it can move 60 tons of earth in one bite.

The spark plug of an operating automobile sends out electrical impulses strong enough to interfere with television reception when a car passes the antenna unless the broadcasting station is strong enough to overcome them.

Some 3,000 acres of "waste" lands in Kansas, made waste from coal strip-mining operations, now have an excellent cover of bearing black walnut trees, planted some 15 years ago by the former Civil Conservation Corps.

Trimethylhexanol is a new but promising industrial alcohol.

Lunar eclipses occur about two-thirds as often as solar eclipses.

Soybean has been pronounced the greatest addition to American staple crops since colonial days.

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