

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1100. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ADAPTABLE DISHWASHER** can be installed in walls, under or above kitchen counters, and in other areas hitherto inaccessible to conventional dishwashers, without any special cabinet modifications. Available in three sizes, the plug-in, 30-inch long units use water waves instead of sprays to wash and purify dishes in 25 minutes, leaving them spotless.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **LUMINOUS ELEVATOR WALLS** of polyester-glass fiber are illuminated from the rear by fluorescent lighting. The wall panels may be plain or incorporate abstract or decorative designs, enhancing the beauty of the elevator car's interior.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **GAS-SIPHONING PUMP** easily transfers gasoline from automobile to power mower, outboard motor or can. The polyethylene pump has two check valves which give the siphoning action. To operate, the hose is inserted in the supply tank and the hand pump squeezed.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **PLANTING POTS** of cardboard, coated on both sides with a green plastic, are very durable for use in nurseries or home gardens and orchards. The colored coating



also helps retain moisture. Available in 5- to 12-inch sizes, the lightweight pots, shown in the photograph, come with or without air holes, depending on the type of plant used.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **SOAP SAVER** for the economy minded holds pieces of left-over soap too tiny to be

used otherwise. The soap pieces are inserted in a perforated plastic "soap bar" that produces suds when put in water and rotated.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **SAW-KNIFE** can be used as a keyhole saw or knife for cutting wood, metal and plastics. Three knife blades and blade guard are stored in the 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch aluminum handle. Wood-cutting and metal-cutting blades are included in the unit.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961

⚙️ **COMBINATION VIEWER-PROJECTOR** projects life-sized pictures from 16mm film without using a screen. A bell-shaped plastic tube with double focusing lens, the viewer doubles as a projector by attaching it with a rubber adapter to any standard flashlight. A color film strip, "Story of the Bible," comes with the projector.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE ALARM** uses a transistorized pocket-sized radio transmitter that sends a radio signal to a fixed receiver, sounding an alarm. The 10-inch- and 5-inch-long battery-operated transmitters have ranges of 120 and 100 feet respectively. The unit can also control lights and other electrical equipment.

• Science News Letter, 80:48 July 15, 1961



Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

➤ **VACATION WANDERERS** on any seashore are likely to come upon them in numbers—the empty cuirasses of the horseshoe crab. Or they may even find one with the owner still inside, scuttling down the moist sand toward the water or moving along the bottom of a shallow pool like a submarine armored tank.

There is something slightly uncanny about the movements of these archaic-looking creatures, for their legs are concealed under a rim of armor and they seem to glide along without visible means of support.

The name "horseshoe crab" is more or less a misnomer. The animal is not a crab at all. Its nearest cousins long ago forsook a marine existence and took to life on the shore. It is an arachnid and its relatives are spiders and scorpions. One mark that identifies it as an arachnid and separates it from the true crabs is the absence of antennae, or feelers. Arachnids have none, but true crabs have two pairs.

Horseshoe Crab



Although the horseshoe crab has a rather formidable appearance, it really is quite harmless. It does not even have the claws of the ordinary crab and is quite shy in the presence of humans.

But the somewhat old-fashioned appearance is appropriate, because the horseshoe crab is very ancient. Some of the earliest rocks that show signs of life include remains of organisms very much like the horseshoe crabs of today.

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An alkaloid called solanine normally found in potatoes can be toxic when present in large enough amounts, and is now thought to cause potato poisoning.

Well fertilized pasture grasses may be as high as 28% to 30% in protein in April and then decline to 4% to 7% in July and August.

The first U. S. astronaut broadcast from outer space to earth was powered by two small electron tubes about the thickness of a pencil.

Anti-cancer drugs are most effective at the time of cell division.

The decimal inch scale, which achieved national status for the first time in 1957, was used as far back as 1792 by Benjamin Franklin when he designed his famous Franklin stove.

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