

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STATIONERY EMBOSSER** is an all metal desk model that will emboss a three-line text, monogram or design, within 1¼ by ¾ inches on note paper or envelope with a flip of the finger. In addition to a reversible die, it features an adjustable paper guide and non-slip, non-scratch rubber feet.

• Science News Letter, 80:408 December 16, 1961

⚙️ **ANTI-STATIC** prevents static-caused dust attraction on plastics for months with one application. Fast drying, a spot-free finish is obtained by dipping the object into the anti-static solution which can also be brushed or sprayed on. Application on one side removes static on both sides of objects one-half-inch thick.

• Science News Letter, 80:408 December 16, 1961

⚙️ **TRANSISTOR TELEPHONE AMPLIFIER** is a plastic electronic device 5½x5x3 inches that permits a person to talk over the phone while it lies on the desk. The telephone receiver is just placed in the cradle of the amplifier and, by adjusting the volume, a clear, loud conversation can be carried on even while one is walking around the room.

• Science News Letter, 80:408 December 16, 1961

⚙️ **HIGH CHAIR** of molded polyethylene, shown in the photograph, is designed to aid good posture of an infant. The easily cleaned chair, with a sturdy safety belt and a strong



foot rest, converts to a youth chair when the tray is removed. Heavy gauge, non-marring chrome-plated steel tubular legs provide stability.

• Science News Letter, 80:408 December 16, 1961

⚙️ **LUMINESCENT SWITCH PLATE** glows green by night permitting quick location of the light switch while doing double

duty as a night light. Made of a nylon resin, the plate is simply wired directly to an electrical outlet and screwed into place in the usual manner.

• Science News Letter, 80:408 December 16, 1961

⚙️ **PLASTIC DOMED INCUBATOR** with full visibility that eliminates the need to open doors and disturb specimens is an entirely new concept to incubation. The portable unit of functional design without corners or crevices is easily cleaned and has a tray that can be sterilized.

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⚙️ **X-RAY PROTECTIVE GLOVES** for radiologists and technicians are made of ozone resistant lead-loaded neoprene that can be disinfected or cleaned with soaps, detergents or chemical solutions without damage. Contour-shaped with flexibility for freedom of motion, the gloves are available in four sizes.

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⚙️ **MINIVAC** is a low-cost digital computer, performing all of the functions of a large scale computer, which teaches the basic principles and uses of computers by demonstrating through experiments. It will also play a variety of games offering exciting fun to teen-agers and adults. A set of six instruction books are provided.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

➤ ALL SORTS of supernatural powers were once attributed to holly. This shiny, green-leaved plant was thought to have the power to repel lightning. It was also believed that holly could freeze water and cause cattle to kneel in their stalls on Christmas Eve.

Early Christians believed that holly was used to make the crown of thorns for the crucifixion. This plant was then called the "righteous branch" or "thorn of Christ," for the little red berries supposedly symbolized the drops of blood on Christ's brow.

In North America the Puritans thought it "superstitious to keep Christmas or deck the house with holly or ivy." But in spite of their belief, holly is an accepted Christmas decoration. The world's 300 or more species of holly furnish a lot of this holiday green.

Of all the world's hollies, only 14 or 15 are native to North America. Plants of the genus *Ilex* grow in the eastern U.S. in moist

### Holly



woods. One of the best known wild varieties is the evergreen American holly (*I. opaca*), which flourishes in Tennessee.

In its tree form the American holly may grow to a height of 40 feet. It is a slow-growing tree, fairly resistant to diseases and insects. It is also a tree that is either male or female. Both have flowers, but only the female bears berries. Therefore a pair is needed so the pollen from the flowers on the male can fertilize those on the female.

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*Fumigants*, no matter how effective, cannot kill insects in stored grain unless they penetrate the grain mass to all points where the insects are doing the damage.

*Diphtheria* cases in the U.S. are concentrated in the southern states.

Railroad net income for the year ending May 31, 1961, was less than a third of that earned in 1955.

Progressive *hearing loss* may be the fault of the teeth, not the ears.

The chief factors that cause farm *accidents* are the human elements of fatigue, hurry and carelessness.

At least 60 of the underdeveloped countries and territories associated with the United Nations face forms of *water shortage* which can be met only from brackish and salt water sources.

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