

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC ANCHOR LIGHT** for small boats switches itself on at dusk and off at dawn. Powered from the ship's batteries and operating at 6, 12 or 24 volts d.c., the light can be mounted on top of the mast or in the rigging. It is visible for at least a half mile in clear weather when a 0.3 amp lamp is used. A light-sensitive mechanism controls the transistor-operated switch.

• Science News Letter, 82:232 October 6, 1962

⚙️ **DISPOSABLE TOOTHBRUSH** has the quality and characteristics of a standard toothbrush. Made with five double rows of nylon bristles, the toothbrushes are inexpensive and keyed to use in hotels, motels, hospitals and airplanes. They are not yet available in retail shops.

• Science News Letter, 82:232 October 6, 1962

⚙️ **PIGGY-BACK OILER** quickly converts any standard petroleum quart can into a thumb pump dispenser. Provided with a non-leaking, flexible spout for hard-to-reach spots, the device pierces and then reseals the can, insuring clean operation. The oiler can be transferred from one quart can to another for dispensing kerosene, water, detergents or lubricating oils. Varied spout sizes are available.

• Science News Letter, 82:232 October 6, 1962



⚙️ **SOLDERLESS PLUG**, shown in the photograph, for master antenna and other electronic systems eliminates the need to solder attachments to cables. The connector unit, which has small teeth, is fitted over the stripped cable and the toothed portion is squeezed together over the insulated part

of the wire, securely holding it. A holding ring is slipped over the leaves and crimped.

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⚙️ **PRACTICE PUTTER** that returns the ball automatically is useful to golfers who wish to improve their putting. The all-steel device operates on any 110-volt circuit and is designed for use in the home. Complete instructions are included.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC ENGRAVER** for personalizing gifts is an electric tool that handles like a pencil. Requiring no special skill, it works on steel, glass, brass, plastic or any other hard material by using regular handwriting or any printing style. It is also useful for identifying tools, golf clubs, cameras and other objects to prevent theft or loss.

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⚙️ **MEDICINE CABINET FRAME** with an oval opening fits over the mirror on the door. Made of pine and masonite, it is finished in antique with gold trim. Four metal brackets held by screws secure the frame to the door. Available in three sizes, the frame gives a portrait appearance to the reflection.

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## Nature Ramblings



### Pheasants

By WILLIAM E. SMALL

► THE ECHO of gunshots will ring across the open countryside soon as hunting season opens in many states this fall. One of the most prized targets will be the colorful Old World bird, the pheasant.

Larger than quail and partridges, the beautiful ring-necked pheasant is a transplant from Asia, a mixture of several strains of pheasants. In some areas, however, other unusual and rare pheasants will confuse hunters as well as game wardens when the starting gun goes off.

The Reeves pheasant is one of the new breeds which are being turned loose by conservationists in several localities in North America. This new Asian immigrant looks a lot like the ring-necked pheasant. It is nearly as brilliantly colored and has the characteristic white collar.

The small Lady Amherst has a striking green breast and wings, with black and white tail feathers and back. It displays a red plume on the back of its head. The golden has a plume of yellow and a red breast, with green and black feathers adorning the back and wings.

To complicate the issue even further, nearly a dozen species of pheasants have been successfully released in this country by game experts. Each is characteristically different.

Pheasants, genus *Phasianus*, roam wild from the northern Caucasus through central Asia to China and Japan. Since 1881, however, they have been seen in America and are now widespread in Europe.



The ring-necked pheasant ranges throughout southern Canada and is most abundant in the northern United States. Most of the newer breeds are being first tried in Virginia and Maryland, although some have been released in other states.

Pheasants find most of their food in farm-crop fields. They are mainly grain eaters, with corn the preferred food. The newer breeds must adapt to the new climate and foods and learn to elude the hunter before they will become established.

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