

## INVENTION

# Patents of the Week

A machine that can sort mail in up to 300 destination codes regardless of the texture and thickness of the letters has been awarded a patent.

► A SMALL inexpensive letter sorting machine that can sort almost any mail toward its destination regardless of the condition of the letter earned patent 3,080,072 for Jacob Rabinow, Takoma Park, Md., and Harold J. Rosenberg, Silver Spring, Md. They assigned rights to the Rabinow Engineering Co., Inc., Rockville, Md.

The sorting machine is able to process mail regardless of the texture and thickness of the letters, even to the extent of handling letters that are partly mutilated.

Basic to the invention is a sorting structure made of a number of spaced guides over which the letters, lying flat, are moved. The gates open and close to do the actual sorting.

The sorting is controlled by destination codes, which insure that letters are dropped into their particular destination bins. There can be up to 300 codes for any one machine, depending upon the memory span of the person operating the machine.

## All-Purpose Car

A new type of passenger car incorporates some novel building ideas. The opposite doors are each made to slide, and the front and rear ends are almost identical so that a uniform system of fastenings throughout the inside can be adapted for a number of uses, such as carrying a motorcycle.

A mast can be elevated in the car, for example, for hunting, photographing or military purposes.

Bela Barenyi of Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, who won patent 3,080,189, assigned rights to Daimler-Benz Aktiengesellschaft, Stuttgart-Unterturkheim, Germany.

## Model Your House Structure

An invention that allows architects and industrial designers to test proposed arrangements with a large number of possibilities gained patent 3,079,706 for William R. Hayes, New York, N. Y. The invention can provide children with pleasure but the primary use is for professional architects to have a way to test their ideas. The height of the walls varies from three inches to 39 inches, with many in-between sizes for bedrooms, kitchens and the like.

## Other Patents

Other patents include:

An apparatus for sorting small objects into as many as 16 receptacles, which gained patent 3,080,033 for Graeme Scott, Lachine, Quebec, Canada, and Zenon Andrew Kular, Dorval, Quebec, who assigned rights to Northern Electric Company Limited, Montreal.

A lure light for fishing, contained in a watertight lamp unit, with a space for bait to be confined in a transparent receptacle. Newman J. Smith of Columbia, S. C., was awarded patent 3,079,721 for this invention.

An apparatus for balancing engines, claimed to be the "first to provide practical means of balancing the rotary parts of an assembled and operative engine," for which Robert J. Fibikar and Werner I. Senger of Madison, Wis., won patent 3,079,802.

A compact chair, groups of which can be easily folded and stacked upon one another, for which David L. Rowland of New York, N. Y., earned patent 3,080,194.

A portable can crusher for collapsing tin cans and the like in the kitchen, for which Charles A. Swartz of Denver, Colo., won patent 3,079,856.

A method for cutting and aligning frozen fish by machine, in order to cut and distribute them, by placing them on their sides in a regular pattern on processing conveyor belts. Charles G. Oldershaw of Albion, N. Y., who gained patent 3,079,964, assigned rights to the General Foods Corp., White Plains, N. Y.

• Science News Letter, 83:189 March 23, 1963

## TECHNOLOGY

### Water Cuts Wood More Economically Than Saws

► JET STREAMS of water cut lumber more economically than saws.

Elimination of waste sawdust runs as high as 40% of log volume. Other advantages are greater speed and a minimum of equipment maintenance. University of Michigan researchers found that commercial use of the jet water to cut lumber is feasible.

• Science News Letter, 83:189 March 23, 1963

## TECHNOLOGY

### Ultra-High Temperature Control Furnace

► A NEW GRAPHITE tube furnace provides ultra-high temperature controlled atmospheres for the use of researchers on refractory metals or ceramics. The furnace has a temperature range of from 2,000 degrees to 5,500 degrees Fahrenheit and can be heated from room temperature to 5,500 degrees in 55 minutes.

Although primarily for use in neutral or reducing atmospheres, the furnace can be adapted for use in oxidizing operations without equipment alterations. It can be tilted to aid use.

• Science News Letter, 83:189 March 23, 1963

### The Battery That's Used in Guided Missiles Now Released as Government Surplus

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