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## INVENTION

# Current U. S. Patents

A new kind of contact lens that contains a special dye lights up when subjected to ultraviolet rays and will not interfere with vision—By William McCann

➤ A CONTACT LENS that contains a special chemical dye that lights up under ultraviolet rays so that the owner can find it easily has been patented.

Contact lens wearers often drop them when either putting them in or taking them out, reported inventors Lorraine Gusewitch, Los Angeles, and Ruth M. Chevalier, Hollywood, Calif. These tiny lenses are very difficult to find, especially since their owners apparently already have eye troubles.

The improved lens contains a dye, which, the inventors claim, does not interfere with vision. Nor is it harmful to the eye or other human tissue.

When subjected to a battery-operated ultraviolet light source, the lens will light up. It received patent 3,189,914.

## Polka Dot Highway

A system of dotted markers down the middle of each lane of highway has been invented to keep a driver at a safe distance behind the car in front.

The markers would be spaced a certain distance apart and road signs would instruct the drivers how many dots he should stay behind the car in front.

Allan M. Woods, Garden City, N.Y., earned patent 3,188,927 for the traffic control system, which he believes will help eliminate many accidents. Mr. Woods also claims a number of other advantages including: traffic will proceed smoothly around obstacles; merging of multiple lanes of traffic will be accomplished without congestion; vehicles will be able to enter a high-speed highway with less danger, and police cars, ambulances and other emergency vehicles will be able to move easier through lanes of moving traffic.

## Motorized Market Cart

A motorized grocery cart received U.S. patent 3,190,386 for grocer James H. Swinny, Natchez, Miss. The invention consists of a regular supermarket cart with a

tiny motor attached at the bottom. A combination throttle and steering mechanism is located on the handle. When a shopper pushes the throttle button he merely follows the cart instead of pushing it.

When the throttle is released, the motor stops instantly, so that there is no danger of the cart getting away from an inexperienced "driver." The cart travels at the normal walking speed and its speed can be changed to suit the shopper. The cart also goes in reverse.

## Other Interesting Patents

An "inner-tube-with-rotors" that may be used as a helicopter or even a space station received design patent 201,409 for William J. Flett, Drexel Hill, Pa. The tire-shaped body is attached by a series of poles to a unit above, consisting of four rotor blades.

A method of coating spheres with a thin metallic film earned patent 3,189,535. Patent rights were assigned to James E. Webb, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with respect to an invention of Hubert Erpenbach.

For a list of registered patent attorneys and agents and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 or call 202-967-4058 for specific information.

• Science News Letter, 88:14 July 3, 1965

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# International Patent System Should Exist

➤ THE UNITED STATES should take the leadership in creating an international patent system, a U.S. Department of Commerce official has urged.

Speaking at a conference in Washington, D.C. on patents, Dr. William W. Eaton, deputy assistant secretary for science and technology, declared that this country should not sit back and let the rest of the world take advantage. The system will be "one of the most necessary things in the world of tomorrow," he said.

At present, if someone devises a new innovation, he must also take out separate patents in most foreign countries or run the risk of someone else using his idea elsewhere. An international system would eliminate this problem by issuing one patent which would cover all countries.

With the world constantly getting smaller through better communications and faster transportation, we are increasingly facing the problem of extending patents into foreign countries, he said.

• Science News Letter, 88:14 July 3, 1965

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