

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **MUSICAL TELEPHONE ATTACHMENT** provides soft music for the waiting party on the line. The receiver is simply placed on the musical device, depressing a button that starts the music. Inconspicuous and looking like a part of the telephone, it is wound by a pull of a cord and will play for three minutes. A choice of classical, popular or spiritual music is available.

• Science News Letter, 81:64 January 27, 1962

⊗ **CARRIAGELESS TYPEWRITER** is a new electric typewriter without type bars or a movable carriage. A single spherical element containing all the characters moves across the paper as the letters are typed on a conventional keyboard, the carriage remaining stationary. The sphere, available in a variety of type styles, can be quickly changed for another type style.

• Science News Letter, 81:64 January 27, 1962

⊗ **TAPE RECORDER-RECORD PLAYER** combination for listening to a disc and making a tape simultaneously is a monaural tape recorder that can be converted into a high fidelity record player with a disc conversion kit. The two-speed unit can use a spool up to seven inches in diameter and it is wired for stereo conversion.

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⊗ **FISHING FLY BOX**, shown in the photograph, has a sliding tray that snap



locks in the closed position. Holding up to 80 lures without crushing, but firmly under flexible bands, the transparent plastic box enables anglers to keep an accurate count of the fish flies. A tie cord permits attaching the box to coat button for instant access during casting.

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⊗ **HALF MASK RESPIRATOR** for miners only 4.3 ounces in weight has an improved peripheral seal that eliminates pressure points, and an improved exhalation valve system. Applying a new suspension system,

the mask fits varying facial contours more easily. It is more resistant to oils and chemicals because of its special rubber composition.

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⊗ **AUTOMATIC CAR HEATER** is an electronic temperature control unit that keeps a car warm while the driver is away from the car, saving gas and wear and tear on the engine due to cold starting. Thermostatically controlled, the mechanism can be set either for the engine block or car interior. Built-in safety devices control the unit.

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⊗ **RUBBER CUSHION GLIDE** for stands, chairs and other metal furniture with tubular legs reduces noise and vibration when equipment is moved. Consisting of a rubber cushion, a pliable rubber adapter and a nickel-finished steel tip, the glide is inserted into the tube and turned for a tight fit. Two sizes are available.

• Science News Letter, 81:64 January 27, 1962

⊗ **CRYOGENICS DEMONSTRATION KIT** contains more than 25 low temperature experimental components. Experiments such as liquefaction and vaporization of air, changes in strength of metals with temperature changes, and freezing of liquid metals can be performed. An instruction manual organized into five areas of study is included.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

➤ **ALLIGATORS** are found only in China and the United States. The American species (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is confined to the Southeast, from North Carolina to Florida and west to Texas.

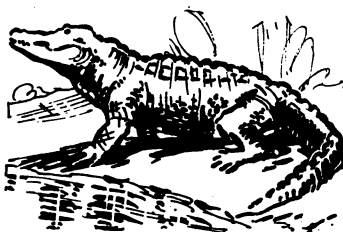
The American alligator, the larger species, has been largely restricted to small areas in and around Florida. Hunters killed many, since their skin was, and still is, used in the manufacture of handbags, shoes, and other rugged leather articles. Man's impact on habitat is also responsible for restricting their range.

The 'gator differs from the crocodile only slightly. The fourth lower tusk-like tooth fits into the upper jaw and is not visible when the mouth is closed as in the crocodiles.

The record length of an American alligator is 19 feet two inches, shot in Louisiana. Although the usual size is 11 to 12 feet, they used to grow to an average length of 14 or 15 feet.

The alligator has two predators besides man. The black bear and the raccoon like

### Alligator



the eggs of the alligator and dig them out of the nest-mound made by the reptile. The 'gator deposits 20 to 70 eggs in the mound.

The alligator's diet changes with age, the old alligator choosing larger animals for dinner. Pigs, muskrats, deer and cows are often pulled into the water and eaten by adult alligators.

Today the alligator is protected by law in most areas. A limited number is harvested each year for the hides. Prices vary with length from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per foot.

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Ethylene and benzene are the raw materials of the plastic styrene.

A computer that possesses total and almost instantaneous "recall" over a huge mass of literary material culled from the works of 74 great writers has been developed.

By the use of electric soil heating cable, nursery stock may now be rooted and grown to salable size in 12 to 24 months less time than previously.

Farm buildings may soon be constructed from low-cost prefabricated concrete panels, light enough to be erected without the aid of construction machinery and strong enough to last at least 20 years.

Chicks gain more weight and consume less feed when housed at a temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit than those housed at 49 degrees.

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