

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1137. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **CARBON PAPER** that is said to outwear ordinary carbon paper three to one is coated with Mylar polyester film. Clean and easy to handle, it does not tear, "dog-ear," wrinkle or curl. Because of the capillary action of the coating which replenishes the ink as it is used, the carbon wears evenly and eliminates "spotty copy."

• Science News Letter, 81:208 March 31, 1962

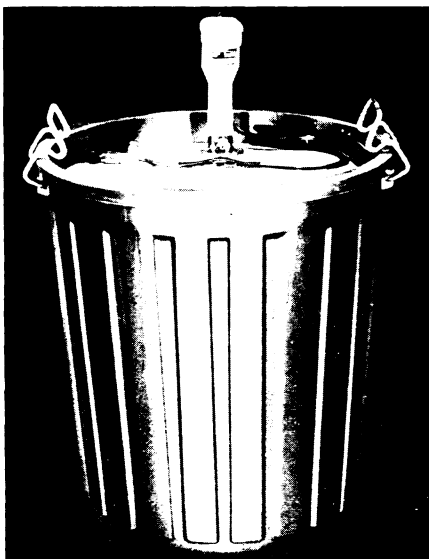
⊗ **HIGH RANGE SURVEY METER** is a battery operated, portable device for measuring high intensity beta and gamma radiation up to 5,000 R/HR. Especially designed for health physicists, it has a 40-inch extension rod with swivel bracket allowing right, left or downward rotation and usage behind a shield.

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⊗ **DISPOSABLE PLASTIC SHEETING** with white linen finish is resistant to water, oil and acid. Its uses include hospital draw sheets, pillow covers, or rainy day runners for the home. Available in a 300-foot roll or cut sizes of 54 x 108 and 27 x 36 inches, the sheeting can be burned after use.

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⊗ **PORTABLE BAIT WELL** for fishermen has a battery-powered aerator to supply oxygen continuously, keeping shrimp, sardines and other bait at peak activity. Corrosion-proof, the 12-gallon well, seen in the photograph, has carrying handles and a



hinged trap door in the top to permit easy access to the bait. A car's cigarette lighter can be adapted to supply the power.

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⊗ **POCKET-SIZE WATER PURIFIER** kit will remove chemical, bacteriological and radioactive contaminants from water. The contaminated water is drained through a plastic bag containing purifying agents and then treated with sterilizing tablets. The

unit will provide 28 quarts of pure water, enough for one person to survive two weeks.

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⊗ **SLIDE RULE KIT** to make circular, special-purpose slide rules contains all required materials and instruction booklet. By following the step-by-step instructions given, slide rules with scales calibrated with actual values can be made to fill specific needs, saving calculating time and reducing errors.

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⊗ **LOW-COST INTERFEROMETER** permits determination of the wavelength of light to an accuracy of 0.2%. The instrument, available either as a Michelson or Fabry-Perot interferometer or a combination of both, has easily adjustable carriage and mirrors. Optical travel can be read directly with no calibration necessary.

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⊗ **EPOXY TAPES AND SHEETS** that can be die-cut into gaskets, washers and other shapes are especially useful for permanent bonding, sealing or insulating small non-porous parts, including metal to metal or metal to non-metal. Consisting of Dacron webbing treated with uncured epoxy resin, a simple heat treatment produces a bond that is shock resistant and moisture- and fungus-proof.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► **THE HERRING FAMILY** of fishes, including the Maine and California sardines, *Clupea harengus* and *Sardinops caerulea*, and the anchovy, are savored by many.

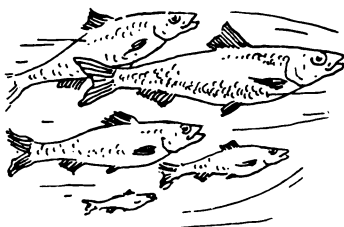
But the number of sardines caught and canned in the United States has decreased annually. A drop in production from more than 300,000 tons yearly to the present less than 25,000 tons has prompted millions of dollars of research and put many fishermen out of work.

Experts on commercial fishes have theorized that the reduction is caused by everything from nuclear explosions to too much fishing, but studies indicate changes in water properties in common fishing areas are to blame.

The Maine sardines, which are usually packed in oil in oval cans, are presently at a low point of a fluctuating population cycle. They should begin to increase, experts say.

The Pacific Coast sardines, however, are a source of despair. The familiar rectangular tin or jar containing sardines drenched in tomato sauce is becoming scarce.

Sardines



The small anchovy is another popular member of the herring family because of its salty, spicy tang. It seems to be holding its own in population.

Most sardines are less than one foot long, and are easily spotted by their silvery scales, the source of the pearl essence which makes glass beads look like gems.

Iridescent fingernail polish is made from a waste product of the sardine's air bladder, while protein flour, cat food and rust inhibitors are also made from other parts of the sardine.

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The development of instantized form of nonfat dry milk has proved an important factor in the widening acceptance of dry milk by consumers.

Any age group is vulnerable to rheumatoid arthritis, victims ranging in age from two to 90 years.

All-cotton stretch yarn has been developed by U.S. Department of Agriculture research chemists.

In the 120 globular clusters of our galaxy, about 1,650 variable stars have now been found in over 80 clusters searched.

Rhodium is used in the glass industry in equipment to extrude fibers.

Competition between man and other forms of life, such as insects and other pests, for the world's food and other resources will increase rapidly as our population grows.

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