

• 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 1141. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **POCKET-SIZE COMPUTER** helps save on grocery bills. Easy to operate, it instantly tells the shopper which of two products of the same quality is the better buy. It accurately compares values of any items weighing between two ounces and eight pounds and costing between 10 cents and \$10, showing the percentage of money saved.

• Science News Letter, 81:272 April 28, 1962

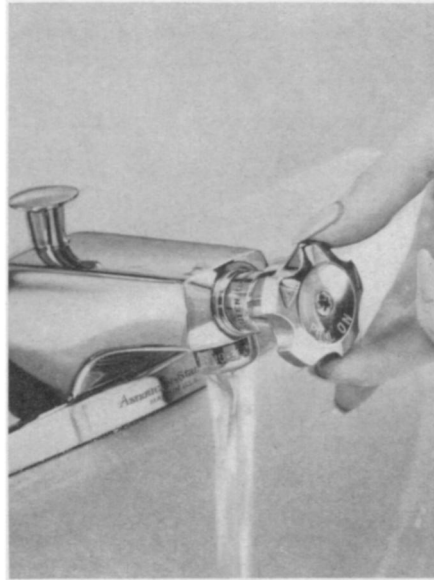
☛ **SIGNAL LAMP LENSES** of butyrate plastic are highly resistant to shattering from rocks or hunter's bullets. Especially useful for railroad signal switch lamps, the amber, green and red lenses have a strong visibility radius with exceptional resistance to weathering. The colors will not wear or chip off.

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☛ **AUTO PAINT CONDITIONER** comes in an eight-ounce, self-measuring dispenser that enables the user to add the exact amount of conditioner required. A silicone fluid, it prevents fisheyes, improves flow-out and increases gloss when mixed with auto paint. One ounce of the product will condition six to seven gallons of ready-to-spray paint.

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☛ **PUSH-PULL FITTINGS** of brass and stainless steel, for bath, shower and lavatory, shown in the photograph, have a single knob that controls both water flow and



temperature. An easy pull of the knob starts the water flow; a turn to the right gives colder water, a turn to the left hotter. The faucets are washerless, eliminating expensive drip problems.

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☛ **FOLDING NEWSPAPER CADDY** holds up to 20 pounds of half-folded newspapers in a flat, neatly aligned stack. Made of brass plated steel wire, its open design

permits taking out any desired edition without removing those on top. Its feet are equipped with mar-preventing plastic tips.

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☛ **PRE-FORMED MODEL COMPONENTS** of lightweight plastic permit industrial designers and architects to assemble plant models in less time and at less cost. Components, available in a wide range and variety of sizes, are quickly joined by press-fit attachment, eliminating the need for soldering. Various colors provide coding convenience.

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☛ **AIR ABRASIVE TOOL** useful for museums as well as industry provides a controlled, shockless cutting action by means of finely graded abrasive particles propelled to supersonic speeds. The tool can be used to clean delicate fossil remains, drill hard, brittle materials such as germanium or silicon or etch fragile crystals.

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☛ **ELECTRONIC AUTO-COLLIMATOR** measures vibration without physical contact with the vibrating object at distances up to 50 feet. Sensing angular vibration frequencies up to 10 kilocycles, it can analyze vibration in rotating machinery and mechanical oscillating systems and can also give accurate angular alignment information.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► **THE LAZY CHRYSALIS** stirs inside the cocoon, stretching, unfolding, anxious to exit as a butterfly.

This is a sign of spring, along with beautiful flowers, budding trees, flocks of birds returning from the South, and the busy, humming, buzzing insects.

Although a few species, as the mourning-cloak, seem unable to wait for the season, most butterflies remain within their protective winter homes until the warm sun beats down.

Thousands of species of the multi-colored creatures will soon be emerging to spread their scale-covered wings in flight. Flitting to and fro over the bright green grass, they will spend their short existence mating and laying their eggs in a relatively commonplace way.

Much time and money is spent chasing and capturing these beautiful insects. Children take them to school and millionaires frame them in gold. Books explaining butterflies line the shelves of most libraries.

While related to the moth, the butterfly is distinguished by several different features.

Butterflies



Perhaps the main difference is its preference for light, while the moth prefers night life.

In a moment's pause to rest on a flower, the butterfly holds its wings erect or vertical. The moth, however, holds its wings outstretched horizontally at rest. The moth's body is generally larger in relation to its wings, and its antennae are feathered or thread-like, unlike the club-shaped butterfly antennae.

"And what's a butterfly? At best, He's but a caterpillar, drest."

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Chronic disease is the leading cause of disability in the United States.

The United States exported a record 530.4 million pounds of dry milk products in 1960.

Radiation casualties are dependent on the total amount of radiation received and not on the intensity of radiation.

Albino fishes occur most frequently in populations living where predation is low or in species that have no real enemies.

Rice was probably first introduced into the New World by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493.

Irrigation is basic for any intensive agricultural development in Greece, because of the almost complete absence of rainfall during the growing season.

Static electricity is now utilized to apply ceramic coatings to metal.

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