

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SURVIVAL BLANKET**, made of re-processed wool treated with fireproofing chemical, smothers clothing fires without charring and resists outside flames. Inexpensive, it affords emergency protection to the traveling motorist, truck driver and home owner. The washable blanket can also be used as a regular bed covering.

• Science News Letter, 81:350 June 2, 1962

⚙️ **STEREO TAPE SPLICER** has factory preset trimming blades to minimize contact with the "live" surfaces of four-track tape. Including look-through windows to permit the user to see exact blade positions, the device also has a built-in tape dispenser and safety lock. It can handle all ¼-inch tapes and one and two track recordings.

• Science News Letter, 81:350 June 2, 1962

⚙️ **ALTERNATOR SERVICE TOOLS** include a diode tester and a diode remover and installer. The tester, battery-powered, determines the condition of diodes used in automobile alternators. The rustproof steel remover and installer allows a mechanic to remove and install diodes quickly and safely without damage.

• Science News Letter, 81:350 June 2, 1962

⚙️ **SPRAY-CONTAINER COVER** shaped like a poodle sitting on its haunches, shown in the photograph, stretches to fit over any standard spray container. The cover is hand crocheted of 4-ply worsted yarn. Pompons



make up the paws, ears, tail and the top of the head of the "poodle," which is available in a variety of colors.

• Science News Letter, 81:350 June 2, 1962

⚙️ **PORTABLE FLUORESCENT LAMP** for area lighting has a wide scope of industrial, commercial and household applica-

tions. Powered by ordinary flashlight batteries, it gives 15 continuous hours of light equivalent to a 50-watt incandescent bulb. Weighing only 7½ pounds, it uses a standard 18-inch, 15-watt fluorescent tube.

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⚙️ **ELECTRO-SINK CENTER** replaces faucets with push-buttons for hot and cold water. The center is an electric unit that also includes a hand-operated dishwasher, blender, mixer, juicer, coffee mill, and ultraviolet lamp to sterilize the sink.

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⚙️ **TENSILE STRENGTH TESTER** is a manually operated instrument, 15 x 6 x 4 inches, with accuracy within 1%. Available in capacities of from one to 30 pounds and 500 to 5,000 grams, it is ideally suited for checking the tensile strength of paper, foils, plastic films, textiles and other light-range materials.

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⚙️ **SECURITY SYSTEM MONITOR** that guards against tapping or circumvention can detect current variation as small as five microamperes. Fully transistorized with an adjustable sensitivity range from 7% to 20%, it operates on 120 volt AC and can be used with any security detection system. A self-contained power supply eliminates feedback problems.

• Science News Letter, 81:350 June 2, 1962



Nature Ramblings



Black Bass

Photograph by E. P. HADDON • Text by WILLIAM E. SMALL

► THE WIRY BLACK BASS is perhaps the gamiest of all freshwater fish in this country. A choosy feeder, art and skill of an angler are required to entice it, and a furious fight ensues.

Known locally by more than 40 names, the largemouth black bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) weighs up to 25 pounds, although the record catch is slightly less. The species prefers the quiet of lakes or sluggish waters.

The smallmouth black bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) is a smaller fish, found in many types of water, with preference to clear running streams and colder lakes. For reproduction it desires a gravelly bottom and little silt.

The size of the mouth is an obvious difference between the two species. The mouth of the larger bass extends back past the eye, whereas the mouth of the smaller bass does not. However, the smallmouth usually contains 17 rows of scales on the cheek, unlike the 10 on the largemouth species.

Spawning season for both bass is generally from April through June, with a closed fishing season in many states at that time. The males build a nest by fanning the bottom and carrying away the debris in their mouths. Although the females lay the eggs, this is their only function as a parent. The nests are kept clean and well guarded by the male until the young are ready to leave.

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