

INVENTION

Current U.S. Patents

A computer located in a plane, satellite or missile traveling faster than sound can automatically adjust a camera inside to take sharper pictures of the land below.

► CLEARER PICTURES can be taken from airplanes, satellites or missiles with the aid of a computer that automatically moves the camera on target.

The computer, one of the 1,003 patents granted by the U.S. Patent Office, adjusts the camera or synchronizes the camera film to compensate for the movement of the plane, which is traveling at a supersonic speed and at a high altitude.

It earned patent 3,163,098 for Friend H. Kierstead Jr., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and patent rights were assigned to his employer, the Goodyear Aerospace Corporation, Akron, Ohio.

The computer, which is connected with a number of classified materials, is now being used for Government surveillance work.

Located in the plane along with the camera, the computer will move the camera so that it will look at the same terrain area during the time that the shutter is open, regardless of the forward movement of the aircraft or its height, Mr. Kierstead reported.

The system will measure the velocity-height ratio to an accuracy of 99.9% or better.

Pistol Trainer

A device that helps teach policemen how to shoot a pistol with very high accuracy has earned a patent.

The training aid, which is now being used by the Fairfax County, Va., police, consists of a piece of steel wire that keeps the shooter's wrist from wobbling as he pulls the trigger. The gun stabilizer, which earned patent 3,162,966 for Gregory M. La Coss, Falls Church, Va., is attached to the gun handle on both sides and cradles the lower part of the arm and wrist.

Shooters lose most of their accuracy by an unwanted wrist movement, Mr. La Coss told SCIENCE SERVICE. The stabilizer is designed to give the trainee the correct idea of how to shoot a gun, and once he learns he will not forget. The device helps to teach anyone to shoot a gun accurately in a very short period of time, Mr. La Coss said.

Suitcase With Wheels

A newly patented suitcase-with-wheels lets travelers roll their heavy suitcases rather than dragging them.

The built-in wheels blend into the contours of the suitcase, yet are wide enough to give good rolling action over irregular surfaces, reports Charles Leavell, Lombard, Ill., inventor.

Two wheels are exposed at the base on one side of the suitcase and a handle is attached to the opposite side so that the traveler can push or pull the suitcase around

like a wheelbarrow. The suitcase with built-in wheels earned patent 3,163,268 for Mr. Leavell.

Jettisoned Instruments Recovery

Two Atomic Energy Commission scientists have come to the aid of their agency as well as others who would like to recover instrument packages from rockets or missiles, or from airplanes about to ditch at sea.

They have devised an improved flotation bag that automatically sends out radio or other signals after it hits the water. Ira T. Holt and Harold E. Widdows of Albuquerque, N. Mex., assigned rights to patent 3,161,896 to the Government through the Atomic Energy Commission.

Other Patents Issued

A process for preparing wheat in a form widely used in the Middle Eastern countries was patented. Known as bulgur, the preparation can be ready for table use within five minutes after mixing with hot water, com-

pared to the usual 20- to 40-minute cooking period.

Robert E. Ferrel of Richmond, Calif., assigned rights to patent 3,162,535 to the Government through the Secretary of Agriculture.

A new launching system permits a continuous flow of guided missiles from a magazine to a launching apparatus, adaptable for either single or salvo firing. The Government was assigned rights to patent 3,162,088 through the Secretary of the Navy by Sven Landstrom of Stockholm.

A trainer for conditioning astronauts to work in space earned patent 3,161,968 for Marvin F. De Boy of Buffalo, N.Y., and Ralph E. Flexman of Tonawanda, N.Y., who assigned rights to Bell Aerospace Corporation.

A gate that can be adjusted to fit the doorway or passageway earned patent 3,163,205 for Robert Gottlieb, Jackson Heights, N.Y. The gate needs no rivets, bolts or screws to be fastened to the walls, but uses press-fitting contacts that hold the gate in position.

An earring chain that keeps earrings from getting lost earned patent 3,163,026 for John M. Kenny, Weehawken, N.J. It consists of a tiny chain with a hairpin in the middle and an earring attached to each end.

For a list of registered patent attorneys 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, 87:47 January 16, 1965

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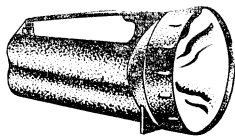
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