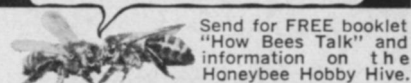


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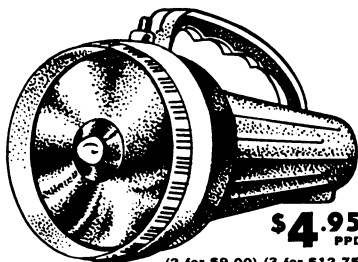
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## INVENTION

# Current U. S. Patents

A system utilizing computers has been devised to eliminate much of the confusion involved in air trafficking and to aid in air-sea rescue operations—By William McCann

➤ A NEW AIR TRAFFIC system designed to prevent mid-air collisions saves stress and strain on the man in the control tower by letting him keep track of flights visually on transparent tape.

Two air safety consultants, Leonard C. Moore, Somers Point, N.J., and Patrick J. Kenneally, Valley Lane, N.Y., received U.S. patent 3,178,704 for this system.

A trained operator controlling the various flights often must do much of his work by memory, the inventors report. He must take into account the various routes and courses being flown, and mentally construct abstract pictures of the flights. This task is both complicated and nerve-racking.

In the new system information for every flight is fed into a computer, which gives its answers on a transparent tape. The tape for each flight shows the name of the plane,

its flight path, which way it is going and its altitude.

In this way the controller can visually keep track of the various flights all at once in three dimensions.

If two flight paths cross, the controller can immediately see it on display and can relay directions to one of the pilots to change altitude at a particular time to avoid collision.

The system, which could be easily adapted for use at any airport in the world, is so simple that a minimum amount of training is needed to learn how to operate it, an official of the International ATC System Corporation said.

Another object of this system is to provide rapid air-sea rescue operations by visually determining the positions of various ships so that the nearest ship can immediately be sent to aid the fallen plane.

Patent rights to the air traffic system were assigned to the International ATC Systems Corporation, New York.

## Space Simulator

A device for making conditions similar to outer space, to give both man and machine a space dress rehearsal before leaving the ground, was awarded a patent.

The space simulator, which has been used in a number of experimental tests, is equipped with an extra shield to supercool the test chamber at a temperature as low as minus 333 degrees Fahrenheit.

The extra cooler helps condense the last residues of condensable gas in the chamber to help attain a lower vacuum than before possible.

Karl H. Seelandt, Arlington Heights, Ill., earned patent 3,177,672 for the device and patent rights were assigned to Martin-Marietta Corporation, Chicago, Ill.

## Other Interesting Patents

A cardboard chair that is held together by tabs and slots rather than nails earned patent 3,178,227 for Ernest L. Snyder, Kansas City, Mo.

A taxi control system that stops the taxi if there are passengers in the car and the meter is not running earned patent 3,177,967 for Louis A. Wilson, Gardena, Calif. In addition, the system, which "senses" any passenger in the car, is tamper-proof and cannot be "fixed" by the driver.

For a list of registered patent attorneys and agents and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or call 202-967-4058 for specific data.

• Science Nws Letter, 87:286 May 1, 1965

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