

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **REAR-WHEEL SEAT** on a bicycle, for the carrying of a passenger, is easily convertible into a luggage-carrying basket in an invention just granted a patent. The basket sides, of wire grille, are hinged to the four edges of the rectangular seat, and can be turned up or down.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **CORD SHORTENER**, to take up slack in the electric cord from outlet to lamp or other household device, is merely a plastic plate with a slot in each end. The cord is wound around the plate and passed through the end slots to hold it in position.

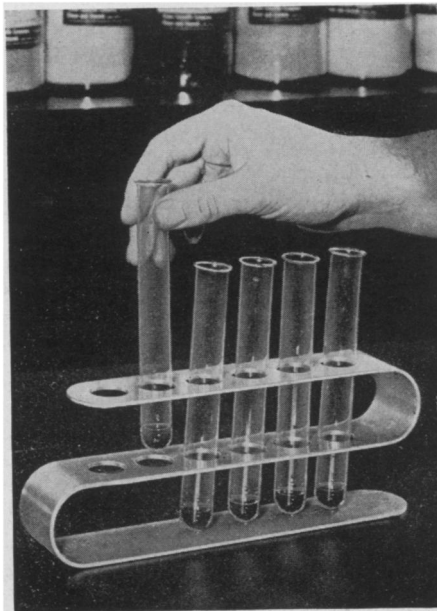
Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **LIFESAVING DEVICE** for swimmers, recently awarded a patent by the U. S. Government, is an inflatable bag worn ordinarily hidden under the trunks. When needed, it is pulled out and upward, and filled with air by means of a tube which is then near the user's mouth.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **LOUNGE CHAIR** for the beach is an inflatable affair made of a tough plastic which, when filled with air, forms a seat and an inclined back-rest. Deflated, it can be tucked into an ordinary beach bag. It has no rigid parts.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950



⚙️ **TEST TUBE RACK** for the laboratory, shown in the picture, is a flat "S" in shape and is made of aluminum. This corrosion-resistant metal rack is superior to the long-used racks of wood because it is more durable and can be used in drying ovens.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **BUMPER CUSHIONS**, made of a rubber material, are fashioned to be fixed on the uprights on automobile bumpers. The thick pads lessen shock in minor collisions, can be applied on both front and rear bumpers and are made to fit various car models.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **LATCHLESS DOORS** on an electric refrigerator, household type, close without a sound and form a tight uniform seal with the cabinet. The tough plastic gaskets of the door are lined with one-inch Alnico permanent magnets which are attracted to the steel cabinet as the door swings shut.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **FILTERS** of an inexpensive paper-like material are usable for filtering fine radioactive particles from contaminated gaseous wastes and also for filtering ventilation air or the gases from a factory smoke stack. They contain paper-making and mineral asbestos fibers.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

⚙️ **AIR-DRYING UNIT**, utilizing silica gel to absorb the moisture, consists of a small canister suitable to place in a fishing tackle box or a linen closet. A small window in the holder permits viewing the gel, which needs oven-drying when it becomes pink.

Science News Letter, May 6, 1950

Do You Know?

Sterling silver usually contains 7.5% copper.

Benzene hexachloride is an effective insecticide to use where the odor is not important.

Winter or summer, hot or cold, the bobwhite rarely strays outside a ten-mile radius of his native hatch.

Non-rhythmical noises, such as those of street and traffic, are the most annoying type because the ear can not readily adjust to them.

Pribilof islands in the Bering sea, noted as the famous breeding place for the fur seal, have some 3,000,000 of these animals there each summer; they migrate south for the winter.

What weathermen call the hydrologic cycle refers to the three stages through which water passes—water in oceans, lakes and streams; water in atmosphere; and water in the soil.

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