

'Silent Sound' May Cut Bread And Wash Dishes

Los Angeles—(UPI)—"Silent sound" someday may be used by housewives to cut bread and clean dishes, according to Dr. Oscar Dallons of Dal-lons Laboratories, Inc.

Sound waves created elec-tronically and dubbed "silent sound" because they are in frequencies beyond the range of the human ear already are being used to cut objects near-ly as hard as diamonds and to help in the diagnosis and cure of certain illnesses.

Dallons, whose firm is a subsidiary of International Rectifier Corp., said his com-pany uses sound to dissect hard silicon wafers by bom-barding the silicon with sound until it wears away at the de-sired place.

Blasts Dirt
Sound also is being used in the electronics industry to clean relays and other space vehicle components by blast-ing away dirt invisible to the naked eye.

In medicine, "silent sound" is being used in experiments at the University of Colorado Medical center in Boulder, Colo., to take pictures of such parts of the body as tissues which cannot be photograph-ed by x-ray techniques be-cause of their softness, Dal-lons said.

He reported encouraging progress with a technique whereby body cells have been given accelerated growth by "silent sound" bombardment, thus being stimulated to a new lease on life.

Such a use of "silent sound" could prove dramatic in treat-ment of such maladies as ar-thritis and shingles, Dallons said, where the sound bom-bardment could dissolve bone calcium deposits.

May Be Some Time
As for bringing "silent sound" into the average American kitchen, it may be some time, admitted Dallons.

He declined to attempt to predict when "silent sound" will be as common as the kitchen sink, but he pointed out that a national appliance manufacturer already has built a sound dishwasher for demonstration purposes.

However, it might not be too long before the corner delicatessen slices your sand-wich meat with nothing more than sound.

Backward Seating Is Called Safety First in Planes

Washington—(Science Ser-vice)—Airline passengers should be flying backwards for "safety-first" reasons, Col. John Paul Stapp of the Aero-space Medical Center, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, told Science Service.

Experiments under Stapp's direction by the Air Force since 1948 "have demon-strated conclusively that seats facing backwards are the best and safest position for air transport passage," he said. His tests also show that sur-vival chances in the event of a crash landing would be in-creased if planes had attach-ments and seat strength 25 times the force of gravity.

Similar findings were in-dependently made and acted on by the British, he said.

Between 1953 and 1957 there were seven crashes of British military and com-mercial transports, in which 239 backward-facing passengers were involved. The crashes ranged in intensity from de-struction of the forward-fac-ing pilot compartment with death of crew to virtual dis-integration of the aircraft. Only three passengers in the seven accidents were killed and 12 injured, Stapp said.

The jet age has not improv-ed the situation. Sixty-two forward-facing passengers were killed in the Electra jet crash at Logan airport on Oct. 4, with only 10 survivors.

Most military air transports now have backward-facing seats. Government planes re-served for executive travel, however, including the Presi-dent's plane, the Columbine, have not yet been modified in accordance with Air Force safety recommendations.

Federal Aviation Agency engineers are working on a new and stronger seat design better suited for the hazards of a jet crash. The tragedy of the recent Electra crash at Boston may result in general acceptance of seating arrange-ments and design recom-mended by Stapp more than a decade ago.

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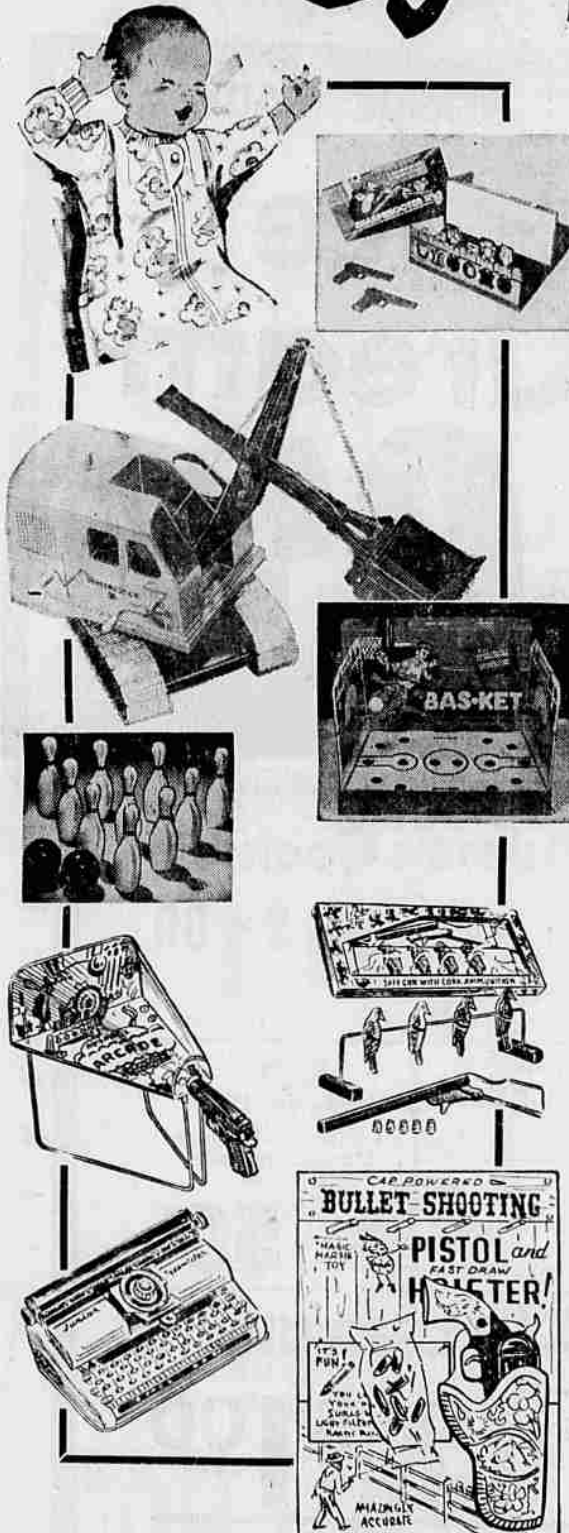
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