

Children's Science Toys So Simple Adults Understand

The makers of science sets have finally come up with the right formula. They have made children's science toys so simple even an adult can understand them.

Parents will be pleased to note that there's now a series of "Eretronic" sets with diodes, transistors and other electronic components that assemble with the ease of an Erector set. The parts are just as versatile too; by re-

using the same parts in different combinations, Junior can broadcast through his own radio, build a code transmitter or any of 13 other radio sets. And he doesn't need so much as a screwdriver to do it.

Electrical engineering sets may spark the beginnings of a career for a child as he finds out how a dry-cell battery stores energy by making his own. With this fascinat-

ing toy he can also answer questions that have vexed many a parent. He'll discover (and so will you) what makes a light go on, and how magnetism works, just as eas-

ily as he learned to play marbles.

Suggestions for Parents
Scientists at the 53-year-old A. C. Gilbert company, where they have been making science sets since the electron was discovered in 1817, offer these suggestions to parents in search of the right science set for their children:

Expect fair value for your money. Science sets, while not the same as roller skates, should be well made and expected to serve for a reasonable amount of time. Reputable manufacturers offer the best guarantee of a good toy.

Hard-To-Please Man May Like Sportswear
If you've got a hard-to-please fellow on your gift list, make a note right now that he'll probably go for the casual, relaxed look of new season sportswear.



FOR THE MAN THAT'S HANDY—There's no finer gift than a power drill kit. Complete, in a metal carrying case, the kit contains a 1/4-inch drill, saw attachment, drill bits for wood and metal plus sanding discs. Grinding wheel, buffing wheel, lamb's wool bonnet, wire brush and other. Drill Kit by Cummins Portable Tools

Plants Take Added Charm on Gift List At Christmas Time

Christmas plants are more numerous than ever this year. Shop windows are a riot of blossom color — as sparkling as ornaments on a Christmas tree. All this indicates an increase in indoor gardening interest.

Christmas. And the kalanchoe's brilliant orange-red blossoms sparkle like tree lights. Both plants fit easily on a window sill and are a long-term investment for any gardener.

Flowering gift plants are always welcome, at any time of the year, but at Christmas they take on added charm, perhaps because of their bright contrast to the winter scene.

Select any of these favorites for Christmas giving, choosing kinds in red clay pots so the plant roots can breathe freely. Of course, a decorative wrapping of foil paper, or other Christmas paper will do no harm, temporarily.

The poinsettia is still the traditional Christmas plant. Once the red-flowered forms held the spotlight — although "reds" are still the most popular, whites, pinks and partially double kinds are also available. The poinsettia plant likes a warm room. So, keep it out of cool drafts, away from hot radiators or hot-air vents. Use warm water of room temperature when applying moisture. Take these precautions to keep the leaves from turning yellow and falling.

After the holidays, however, the plant will be easier to water if its clay pot is allowed to function naturally without any covering. And along with your Christmas gift plant, attach a small card giving watering instructions, most favorable lighting conditions, etc., that will add to the pleasure your gifts will bring.

Harmonica Makes Welcome Gift

Moist Air in Room
The air in the room should be a bit moist; set the plant on a saucer of water full of pebbles so the base of the clay pot is kept above water level. This keeps water from evaporating around the plant and the pot is not constantly immersed in water and the roots do not become waterlogged or suffocated from lack of air.

There's Christmas music in the air, and perhaps no other instrument is so traditional at Christmas as the harmonica. Harmonicas have joined the jubilant voices of carolers for centuries, and now, the harmonica is a welcome gift in the Christmas stocking or under the Christmas tree.

Azaleas are now also Christmas favorites. There are those azaleas that must be kept indoors each winter, and hardy kinds that can be planted next spring — clay pot and all — out in the garden permanently.

Children love harmonicas—even a one-year-old can gain pleasure from the sounds he can produce on a simple harmonica.

The "tender" kinds look like miniature trees in shape. The hardy ones branch out closer to the ground like shrubs. Your nursery, garden center, or florist can usually tell you whether the one you select is hardy or not.

The harmonica is a "self-starter" for those who want to express themselves musically in a small way.

Among the smaller pot plants, kalanchoe and African violets are tops for Christmas. A white-flowering African violet in a red clay pot, dressed up with a bright red bow seems ideally suited for

For those possessing both talent and industry, the harmonica also offers unlimited possibilities as a concert instrument. For solos and in groups, the harmonica's tones combine effectively with other instruments and also serves as an excellent accompanist for the human voice.

Ranging in price from \$1 to \$15, the harmonica is a "fun" Christmas gift for young and old alike.

Aspiring Chemists

Aspiring chemists can have a new chemistry experiment lab that features a "Chem-Dial" to make experiments faster and easier. All a youngster has to do is dial the experiment he wants, then follow the simplified directions in the dial windows. A more elaborate instructional book-

let contained with the sets gives a complete scientific explanation of each experiment in language a child can understand.

If your youngster is a bug on biology, the latest zoom microscope will hold his interest. He can make this microscope zoom up to examine large specimens or zoom down for smaller ones. The optical system also can be shifted 180 degrees to look at objects too large to fit on the viewing stage. The zoom microscope comes fully equipped with slides, instruments and other laboratory equipment.

Size is not too much of a problem in sportswear since sizes are most often marked small, medium, large and extra large. But, don't hesitate to snoop or question those in the know to get the proper size.

Give a science set that is versatile. Good science toys do more than one thing. They should allow for many experiments to fit a child's expanding interests. Versatility is really the key to any good toy, not just science sets.

Remember that fun comes first. A youngster won't profit at all from a science set unless the experiments are fun.



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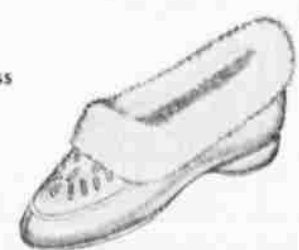
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