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Heated Goggles The electrically heated ski goggles shown incorporate technology similar to that once used in Apollo astronauts' helmet visors, and for the same reason—providing fogfree sight in an activity that demands total vision.

Defogging is accomplished by applying heat to prevent moisture condensation. Electric heat is supplied by a small battery built into the goggles' headband. Heat is spread across the lenses by means of an invisible coating of electrically conductive metallic film.

The goggles were introduced to the market last fall. They were designed by Sierracin Corporation, Sylmar, California, specialists in the field of heated transparent materials. The company produces heated windshields for military planes and for such civil aircraft as the Boeing 747, McDonnell Douglas DC-10 and Lockheed L-1011 TriStar. The ski goggle lenses are manufactured at Sierracin's Sylmar Division and the product is marketed through Smith Goggle Company, Sun Valley, Idaho.

Trash Compactor A boon to operators of boats and recreational vehicles is a new trash compactor that needs no electrical power. Originally developed for use aboard the Space Shuttle Orbiter, the device shown at left has hand-operated ratchets which drive a pressure plate to crush the material in the liner bag. The compactor has a compressive force of 2,000 pounds, more than ample to flatten food cans. Its energy-less operation may also attract household kitchen use.

The compactor was developed by Nelson & Johnson Engineering, Inc. Boulder, Colorado under contract to Johnson Space Center. NASA granted the firm a waiver of rights to the invention under its policy of encouraging contractors to develop spinoff products. The compactor is now in the early production stage.