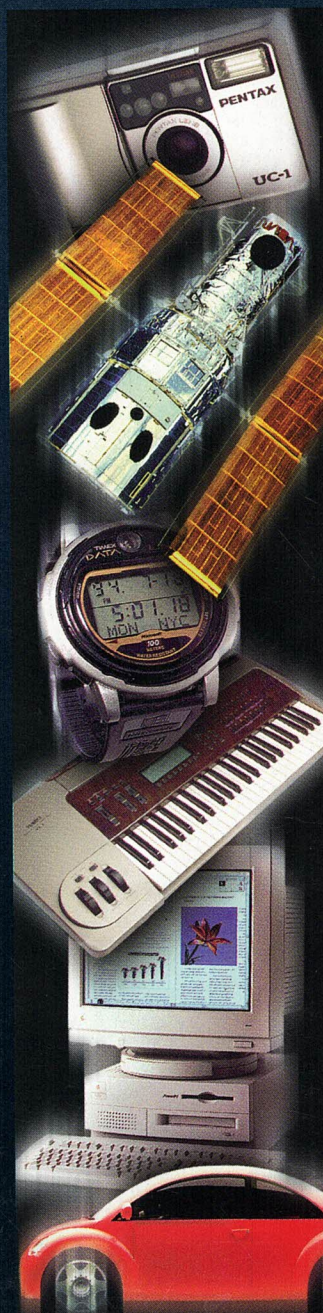


Cataloging Earth's Biodiversity • Weather Radar That Saves Lives

Popular Science

A Times Mirror Magazine

THE BEST OF What's NEW



The Year's

100

Greatest

Achievements

In Science &

Technology

DECEMBER 1994
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SEVENTH ANNUAL

1st Best OF What's New

The Year's
100 Greatest
Achievements in
Science & Technology

From discoveries about the universe we live in to products created here on earth, we salute 100 of 1994's top science and technology achievements with our seventh annual Best of What's New Awards.

This year saw the discovery of one of matter's tiniest building blocks and that of the first planets outside our solar system. Closer to home, \$1 prescription eyeglasses were invented as was a test to diagnose heart-attack victims quickly.

The products honored this year promise a not-too-distant future of greater ease and enjoyment: Included are a microwave clothes dryer, a car that remembers cabin settings, safer in-line skates, and a computer that's also a cable-ready TV, stereo, speaker phone, and game machine all rolled into one.

Continuing a tradition, we have selected a Grand Winner in each of ten categories.

BY THE EDITORS OF POPULAR SCIENCE

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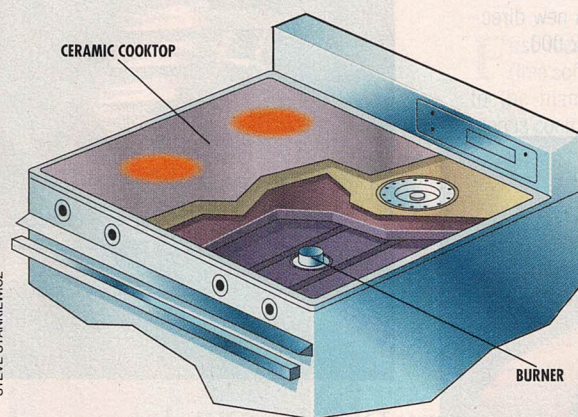
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Information, in USA call 800-221-3000 or
07828. In Canada: Carson Group, Inc.

Star Gazer

Using liquids instead of exotic glasses to bend light, researchers at Lockheed Missiles & Space Co. have discovered a way to reduce the cost of camera, microscope, and telescope lenses dramatically. The first product incorporating the technology is a liquid-lens assembly for a 5.5-inch f/10 refractor telescope. Made by Epoch Instruments, the \$2,500 lens assembly is comparable with \$4,000 assemblies made from solid materials.



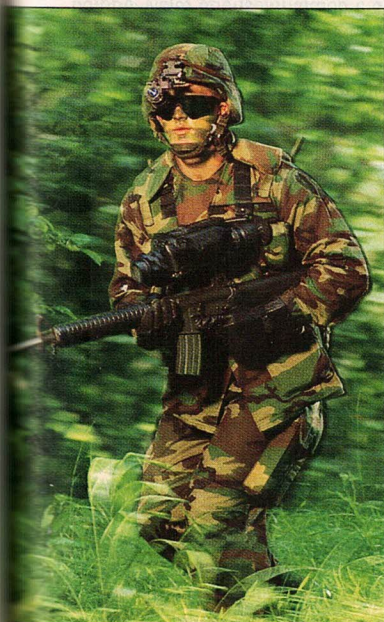
STEVE STANKIEWICZ

Gas Ranges Clean Up

Though favored by chefs, gas ranges have had drawbacks: They release combustion by-products (including carbon monoxide), as well as natural gas when a low flame or pilot light blows out. Now the Canadian Gas Research Institute has developed the first gas range with a ceramic cooktop and sealed combustion chamber. A fan draws fresh air from outside into the chamber, then expels combustion by-products. The Institute is working with manufacturers to market the range.

Digital Soldier

The first digital uniform promises the 21st-century soldier an array of unprecedented capabilities: With a GPS receiver, he'll be able to pinpoint his exact location at all times. With wireless digital communications, he'll rarely lose track of his comrades. And with infrared sensors displaying information directly in his eyepiece, he'll spot the enemy before the enemy sees him. The Army plans to produce 4,800 of the Digitized Soldier high-tech uniforms by early next decade.



GRAND AWARD

COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS

Simon Says: Do Everything



A handheld computer inside a cellular phone's body, Simon is a "personal communicator" in the fullest sense of the term: It can send and receive voice calls, electronic mail, faxes, and pager messages—all without wires. Developed primarily by IBM for BellSouth Cellular,

Simon sports a bright LCD screen and a card slot for adding new functions. A host of organizing features includes an appointment calendar and address book. List price: \$899.