

Tiny Loom Aids Carpet Makers

Designs Displayed to Avoid Costly Big Samples

By STACY V. JONES

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WASHINGTON, June 21—
A tiny loom that weaves
a square inch of textile ma-
terial is saving money for the
carpet industry. The device,
which is about two by three

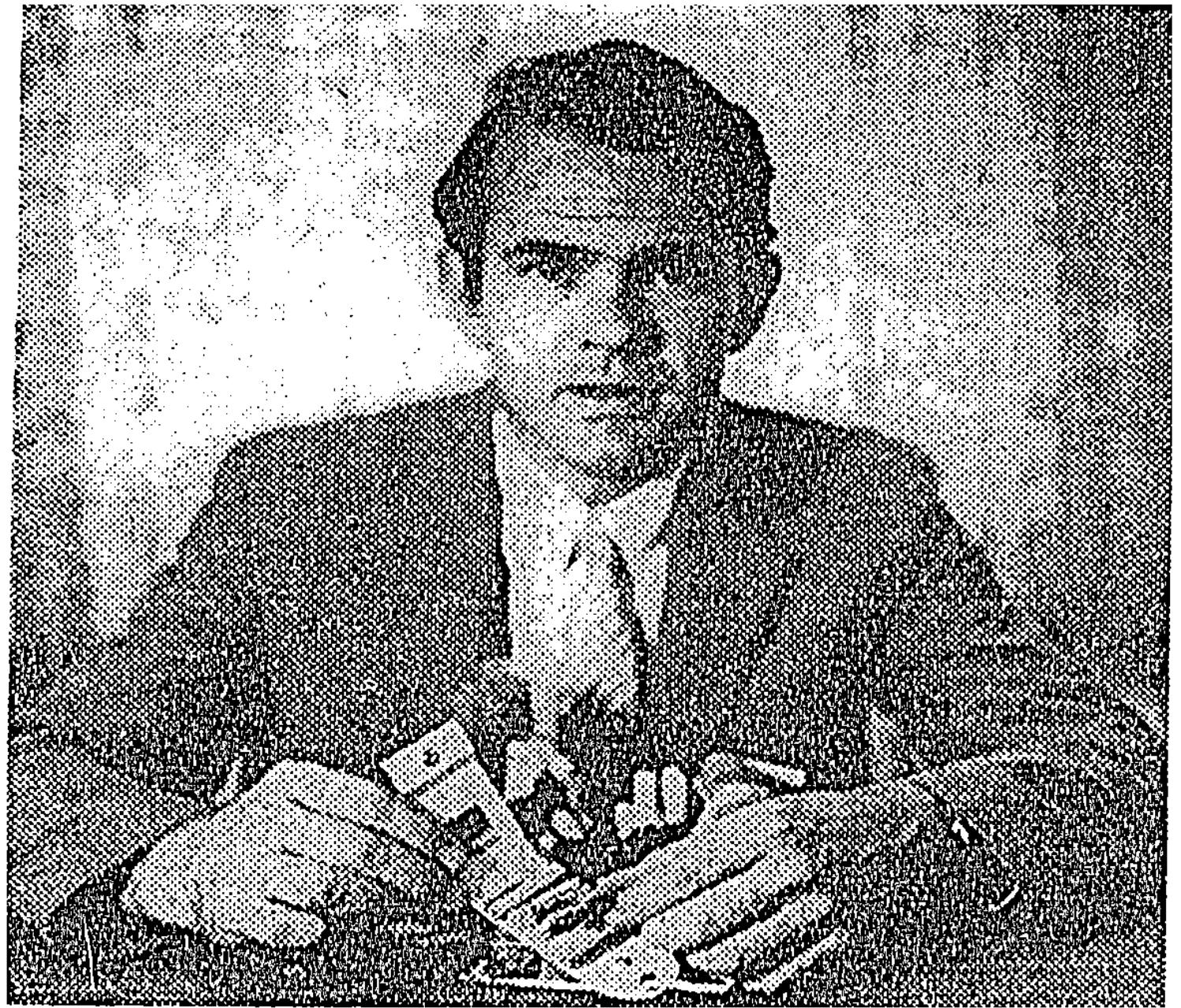
Patents
of the
Week

inches overall,
displays carpet
designs for buy-
ers, avoiding the
considerable cost
of larger sam-

ples. John M. Snyder, direc-
tor of research and develop-
ment for Viking Carpets, Inc.,
New York, received Patent
3,388,441 for it this week.

The major mills have cus-
tom lines for architects and
other special clients. In the
past, a designer had no prac-
tical way of simulating a
woven piece of carpet for a
buyer. He could twist yarns
of different colors together
and show them, but the cus-
tomer might not like the fin-
ished product. The alterna-
tive was to wait for a woven
sample of the carpet, which
might have to be ordered
from a distant mill and take
three or four weeks.

The invention is a small



Miniature loom is shown by John M. Snyder, its inventor

box with an internal frame
and a window in the top. The
designer selects colored
threads and twists them to-
gether into a single yarn,
which he wraps around a bar
that fits across the frame. He
repeats the process with
other bars representing other
rows of carpet yarn, in the
same or other colors. Then
he closes the lid and displays
the result.

Viking Carpets distributes

the device, which is known
as Little Loom. So far it has
been used only for carpeting,
but inquiries have been re-
ceived from manufacturers
of other textiles.

The company has mills in
South Carolina and Georgia.
Mr. Snyder assigned the pat-
ent to the Commercial Carpet
Corporation, an affiliate.
Both are members of the

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Wide Variety of Ideas Covered By Patents Issued During Week

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group controlled by Commercial Affiliates, Inc.

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Sleep-Inducing Machine

A psychologist and an engineer have invented an electric machine called the Relaxatron for inducing lethargy and sleep. Contacts are applied to the eyelids and to the mastoid bones, and a pulsating direct current is passed through the head.

The inventors are Dr. Marvin W. Webb of Redington Beach, Fla., who recently retired as a psychologist for the Veterans Administration, and Gulden W. Yoder of Largo, Fla.

Patent 3,388,699, granted this week, is assigned to Professional Bionics, Inc., which has opened an office in Columbus, Ohio. The president is Dr. Daniel Skandera Jr., also a psychologist. Dr. Webb, a vice president, is on a European trip.

The patentees borrowed from nature. According to the patent, the wave form applied corresponds to that produced by the basic neuron discharge of all nerve cells. The equipment, which can be connected to household current, includes a pulse generator.

Within minutes, it is said, there is lethargy, and ultimately sleep. As relaxation proceeds, the subject becomes responsive to suggestions. Upon waking, he has a feeling of refreshment,

general well-being and mild exhilaration.

Dr. Skandera said this week that the Relaxatron had been tested in hospitals. Besides relieving insomnia and aiding psychotherapy, he believes it will "sleep condition" persons who must travel through several time zones or must spend long periods in space capsules. He was not ready to announce production plans.

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Self-Straining Eaves

Rex E. Foster of Pontiac, Mich., was granted a patent this week for a self-straining eaves trough, designed to keep out twigs and leaves and to eliminate the usual periodic cleanings.

As pictured in Patent 3,388,555, the outside is made convex, to shed the tree fallout, and is pierced by slots that strain the roof water into the gutter. The top flange can be parallel to the roof line although the trough proper is inclined toward a downspout.

The manufacturer is Filter-Trough of Pontiac.

Patent Office records rarely show whether an invention is in production. To get a copy of a patent, send the number and 50 cents to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231. Design patents are 20 cents each. To reach an inventor or assignee, if the address given is insufficient, write him care of the Commissioner of Patents, being sure to cite the patent number.

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