

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS USEFUL OBJECTS EXHIBITION

Pots and pans have been demobilized. More than ploughshares and pruning hooks are being beaten out of the weapons of war. Materials and machines that several years ago were converted to the manufacture of objects that had death as their ultimate aim are now reconverted to the manufacture of useful objects for everyday living. To celebrate this return and to call attention to new designs and new or improved use of materials, the Museum of Modern Art will open, on Wednesday, November 27, its seventh and largest exhibition of Useful Objects. The Museum this year has extended the price range of objects in the exhibition to \$25, although many of them will come within the \$10 price range the Museum established in previous years.

Materials used in the objects are metal, wood, plastic, glass, china and pottery, and a miscellaneous group which includes materials such as cardboard, leather, and various combinations of materials. There are copper dishes and heavy aluminum plates. An aluminum window rack holds four potted plants. Two hot-plates are combined into a streamlined electric portable stove. A heavy aluminum grill stretches its oblong shape far enough to cover two burners at once and can be used either for broiling steaks or, upside down, as a grill for pancakes. Extremely lightweight wood is used to make a nest of handsomely plain trays. A pair of carving knives comes in a wooden case severely beautiful. A Carrycart Baby Stroller can be used either with or without the baby, as it can be collapsed into a two-wheel carrier for packages. And a new aluminum coffee percolator has been skillfully designed as an object of beauty as well as utility.

Sportsmen should find this year's exhibition of Useful Objects of real interest. A large and a small fly-box are shown; and a portable electric flash-lantern promises thirty hours of fluorescent light in camp. A small axe with a remarkably functional and beautiful sheath and a woodman's knife of original and ingenious design would add a high degree of efficiency and good looks to any sportsman's pack. For the man who adventures more quietly, though scarcely less intensely, there is a chess set with streamlined chessmen of aluminum and brass.

Other items in the hundreds shown are clothespins, wine glasses, metal jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, sandwich boxes, lamp shades, cardboard toys and a tiny plastic pepper and salt which receive their supplies through the open top and even when turned upside down do not spill.

There is one lone antique shown among all these modern objects. It is a large wine bottle of hand-blown glass which, although generations old, looks quite at home in the midst of its modern neighbors.

Directed and installed by Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Director of the Museum's Department of Industrial Design, the exhibition will remain on view through January 26 and will then be sent on a tour of the country.