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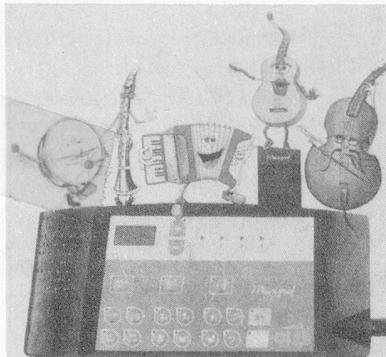
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ULTIMATE MUSIC BOX

The recent Geneva "International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products" saw a Gold Medal go to "Musiprof", which also received the Prize of the Taiwan Inventors Association as "a distinguished contribution to the human race".

Musiprof is for those who love to make music, or who would at least love to try. It is an electronic musical all-purpose instrument which makes it possible to work with "midi-files" (recorded music for a sound processor), enjoying all the technical advantages without having to master any technological complexities. The user chooses a title, a tempo and a type of sound or indeed an "instrument". He may then play whichever part he wishes: solo, bass, drums, 2nd voice, accompaniment, etc.

This incredible machine also allows for the possibility of visual support. The user can thus refer to "live and direct" optical indications for the various musical instruments, plus indications of the notes and chords being played. All these visual references - instruments and notes - can be viewed on a screen, as can the words of numerous songs. And there is no limit to the processing possible with the musical theory prompter cards which can also be summoned up. The important thing however is that Musiprof, the new benchmark in musical education aids, is a way to learn music that is sure to be fun for the student.



With Musiprof, the band is complete.

SWISS BRING DEMOCRACY TO SPORT OF KINGS

If golf is a sport reserved to the elite in Switzerland, one reason is that the cost of building golf courses puts many would-be investors off the whole idea. Thanks to a patented Swiss process however, golf may now become a whole new ball game, accessible to all.

Until now the traditional course required about 150 acres of land - hard to find in areas where today's golfers live and work. The need for constant intensive maintenance of such a large play

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area is so costly that, even with sky-high dues and fees, amortisation takes endless years.

This no longer need to be the case, for the Swiss have designed a new "golf implantation structure", and they have done it without taking any of the challenge or fun out of the traditional game. The Swiss course requires just a little over 22 acres, seven times less land. This means golf can now be brought closer to city centres and played on courses that are not just easier to reach but which are designed to be "environment friendly". Investors can also look forward to a good yield and a total pay-back time of under five years. Note from the Editor: Maybe one of you golf experts could tell us what the Swiss have actually done, because the article does not explain what this new Swiss patent is.



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SEAT BELTS

As from 1st of October 1994, all adult persons travelling in a car in Switzerland must wear seat belts. Up to now, only drivers and front seat passengers were under that obligation. So Switzerland has at long last joined New Zealand in this wise move of also protecting back seat passengers in case of accidents.

As far as children are concerned, the ruling is somewhat bizarre. Children travelling in the front seat must either wear a seat belt or must be strapped into a specially designed children seat. So far this makes sense. What does not are the rules for children in the back seats. For children aged 7-12 years the rule says: seat belts or special children seats are compulsory. However, three children are allowed on two seats and if there are only 2 seat belts available, the third child can travel without a seat belt (!). For children under 7 years, seat belts or special children seats are NOT compulsory. No limit of number of children allowed on the back seat as long as they can sit down. So how can you prevent a whole bunch of toddlers from standing up and moving around in the back of the car and what would happen to them in case of a head-on collision? Something does not make sense in this new rule. What do you think?

MORE INDEPENDENCE FOR SWISS CANTONS

Following last year's vote by the Swiss people against joining the European Common Market, the Federal Government is now agreeable to give the cantons with common borders with foreign countries more autonomy to negotiate across border arrangements. These cantons will now be free to discuss and implement special common interest agreements with neighbouring foreign countries, but mini-Common Market agreements are not allowed.