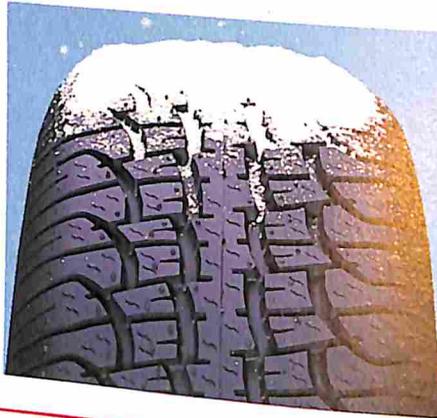


Performance tires

If you wanted high-performance rubber for your car, it used to mean you had to give up performance in rain or snow. But now manufacturers have come up with a whole new breed of tires that go no matter what the road conditions. **Page 55**



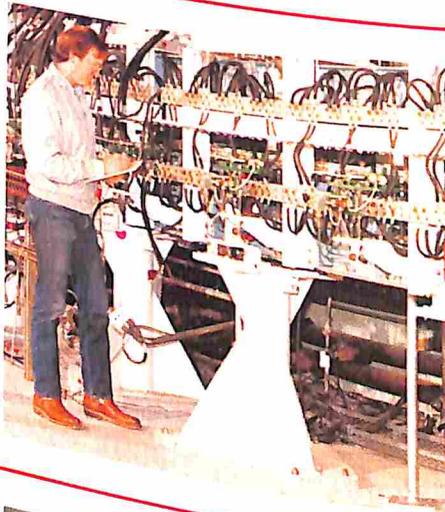
Foam-block house

Polyurethane blocks stack to become the walls, insulation, and the formwork for the poured-concrete structure that makes a fast, easy, and cost-competitive house. **Page 52**



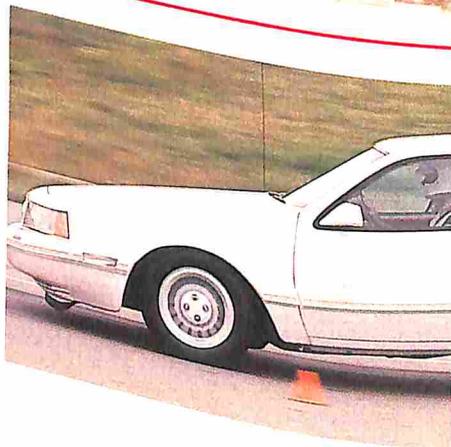
Free-electron lasers

Recent experiments have catapulted the most powerful, most efficient laser yet produced to the position of the leading contender for use as a "Star Wars" beam weapon. In an anti-missile role, free-electron lasers would pulse intense flashes from a telescope to blast aircraft or missiles out of the sky. **Page 63**



Regal vs. Cougar and LeBaron

The redesigned Buick Regal is a smooth-riding, roomy, and fuel-efficient machine. Do the Chrysler LeBaron Coupe and Mercury Cougar XR-7 stack up against GM's newest front-drive? **Page 24**



What's New Digest 84-92

Science and Technology

Science newsfront	48
Flexible battery	51
Foam-block house	52
High-performance all-weather tires	55
Free-electron lasers	63
Smart windows	68
What's new—products and technology	84

Computers and Electronics

Electronics newsfront	14
Dazzling data discs	35
Super searcher	60
What's new in electronics	86

Cars and Driving

Automotive newsfront	18
Car test: Regal, Cougar, and LeBaron	24
Sonar suspension	62
Hot coupes	71
What's new for your car	82

Home, Shop, and Yard

PRODUCTS	89
Mail-order mantels	89
What's new in home improvement	94

PLANS AND PROJECTS	74
All-wood bathroom	76
Build-in a video corner	78
Make yourself a panel saw	46

HOME ENERGY	72
Wood stoves must clean up their act	72

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES	73
Fill 'er up: gutsy gas tools	80
Electronic square	80
What's new in tools	94

CAR CARE	4
"Say, Smokey—"	51

Additional Features	120
Readers talk back	4
What's news	51
Product information	120

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