MONTHLY ® The What's New magazine

HIGHLIGHTS

THIS ISSUE

U.S. mpg champs: Is fuel economy enough?

Ford Escort tops Chevette, AMC Spirit, and Plymouth Horizon in mpg tests. PAGE 39

Wave-challenging giant rigs plumb deep for undersea oil Prodigious machines will explore, drill, and produce on deep-sea sites. PAGE 76

NEW TECHNOLOGY

World's biggest wind machine is a one-armed monster German aerospace firm plans to build an unusual five-megawatt windmill. PAGE 83

Alcohol fuel—can you make your own?

We describe how to make it, and how a still works-but is it practical? PAGE 90

How to choose an energy-efficient fireplace

Author tells you how to interpret new labels to help you decide. PAGE 112

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HOME AND YARD

CARS AND DRIVING U.S. mpg champs: Escort tops the pack, but is fuel economy enough? PS 7500-mile test—Ford Escort 48 PS exclusive: GM designs for the '80's Hybrid-tread tire grips on wet or dry roads Automotive trouble-shooting quiz -match wits with the champs . . . 118 **ENERGY NEWS** Portable radiant heaters: Do they cut heating costs?.... World's biggest wind machine is a one-armed monster...... Alcohol fuel: Can you make your own? How to choose an energy-efficient Cheaper to leave fluorescents on? Forget that myth-switch 'em off . 133 NEW PRODUCTS AND INVENTIONS Video disk player-instant movies with push-button options..... Cleverer than ever -the new compact 35's Powered rollers load boat 125 Water-powered drill125

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