

Popular Science

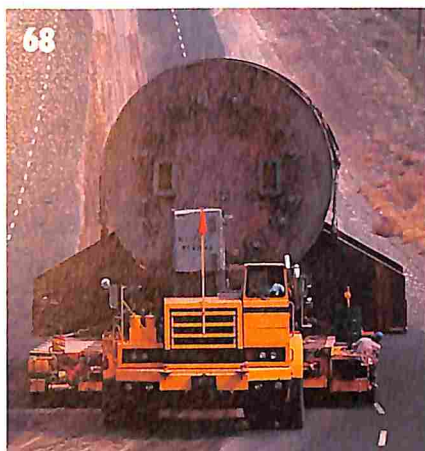
APRIL 1990

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COVER STORY

Next generation nuclear reactors

The debate over nuclear power has become more turbulent and complex than ever as the threats of global warming and an energy crisis loom closer to reality. Many, both in and out of the industry, favor a new generation of safer, simpler, more economical reactors. Many environmentalists remain skeptical.



Compact sedans

A 1970s econocar that evolved into a family sedan, the Honda Accord was America's best-selling car of 1989. But 1990 brings fresh competition, with technological advances in the Hyundai Sonata, Mitsubishi Galant, Nissan Stanza, and Subaru Legacy.



Safer takeoffs

Pilots continue to rely on their instincts to make split-second takeoff and abort decisions. To help reduce accidents, NASA researchers have come up with a computer system designed to monitor takeoff performance.



Memory chips

With ordinary semiconductor chip capacitors, a loose AC plug or weak batteries may cause hours of work to disappear. But new integrated circuits that use ferroelectric ceramics can store data for more than 10 years even after power is turned off.



WHAT'S NEW DIGEST.....15-23

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

What's new	15
Science newsfront	25
Next generation nuclear reactors—dare we build them?	68
We need safer, smaller, simpler reactors	76
Memory chips that don't forget	86
Safer takeoffs for airliners	90
Hello satellite, get me central	96

COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS

What's new electronics	20
Electronics newsfront	41
World without wires	100

CARS AND DRIVING

What's new cars	18
Automotive newsfront	29
Car test:	
compact sedans grow up	80
"Say, Smokey—"	110

RECREATION

What's new recreation	23
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HOME PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY

What's new home	17
What's new tools	22
Home newsfront	46
A house for all seasons	94
Decks that solve problems	104

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

What's news	4
Readers talk back	8
Product information	127
Looking back	128

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SAFER TAKEOFFS FOR AIRLINERS

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\$1.95
CANADA \$2.50

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NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR REACTORS

DARE WE BUILD THEM?

Advanced designs for nuclear plants promise an answer to our energy and climate concerns, say the likes of **Paul E. Gray**, president of MIT. But can we be certain this new technology is safe and reliable? A special report begins on page 68.

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