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HUMMING-TOP BEATS WASH-DAY BLUES:

For a whole heap of housewives, Monday morning still means a scene like this. A pile of washing, a couple of tubs, gallons of hot water, clouds of steam, bars of soap - and a whole heap of honest-to-goodness elbow-grease. But soon, everything being well, a new gadget will be putting a stop to it all. A small machine, resembling a humming-top is the gadget in question.

Let's see how it works. First you plug it in to an ordinary power point. Next you put the top in amongst the weekly wash, and then you switch on. Sound waves cause thousands of tiny ripples as the top starts humming gently. The waves, plus soap-powder, do all the work for you. They sift the dirt away while the lady of the house takes it easy.

Just one cigarette later, and the weekly wash is done. The sound-waves move each fibre very gently, and virtually shake the dirt away. Even the greasiest of garments are swiftly cleaned. Invented in Germany, the top should soon be on the market for English housewives. It's price with any luck, shouldn't be more than about £10.