



GADGETS & GIZMOS

20th Century Inventions

- 1901 Double-edged safety razor—patented 1904 (King Camp Gillette)
- 1902 Flashlight (Conrad Hubert)
Air conditioner (Willis Carrier)
- 1903 Airplane (Wright brothers)
Crayons (Edward Binney and Harold Smith)
Windshield wipers (Mary Anderson; she receives a patent in 1905)
- 1904 Tea bags (Thomas Sullivan)
- 1905 Theory of Relativity (Albert Einstein)
- 1907 Paper towels (Arthur Scott)
Dixie Cups (Lawrence Luellen and Hugh Moore)
Bakelite—the first synthetic plastic (Leo Baekeland)
- 1908 Cellophane (Jacques Brandenberger)
- 1909 Instant coffee (G. Washington)
- 1912 Shopping bag (Walter H. Deubner)
Zipper (Gideon Sundback; he patented the modern zipper in 1917)
Gas mask (Garrett Morgan)
- 1913 Crossword puzzle (Arthur Wynne)
- 1914 Liquid-fueled rockets patented (Robert Goddard)
- 1919 Pop-up toaster (Charles Strite)
Pogo stick (George Hansburg)
- 1920 Band-Aid (Earle Dickson)
Three-color, 4-direction traffic light (William Potts)
- 1922 Insulin (Frederick Grant Banting)
- 1925 Masking tape (Richard G. Drew)
Mechanical television (John Logie Baird)

CONTINUES

GADGETS & GIZMOS, continued

- 1927 Television (Philo T. Farnsworth)
- 1928 Bread slicer (Otto Rhowedder)
- 1929 Sun glasses (Sam Foster)
- 1930 Scotch cellophane tape (Richard G. Drew)
 - Frozen food process patented (Clarence Birdseye)
 - Analog computer (“differential analyzer”) (Vannevar Bush)
- 1931 Aerosol can patented (Erik Rotheim)
- 1932 Parking meter (Carl C. Magee)
- 1935 Ballpoint pen (Ladislav and Georg Biro)
- 1937 Shopping cart (Sylvan Goldman)
 - Electrophotography—the Xerox photocopy (Chester F. Carlson)
- 1938 Nylon stockings (Wallace H. Carothers)
- 1939 Atanasoff Berry computer (John Vincent Atanasoff)
- 1942 Duck tape (Johnson & Johnson Company)
 - Blood transfusion process (Charles Drew)
- 1944 Mark I Computer (Howard Aiken)
- 1945 Slinky (Betty & Richard James)
 - Tupperware (Earl Tupper)
 - Atomic bomb
- 1946 ENIAC computer (John Mauchly and J. P. Eckert)
 - Disposable diapers (Marion Donovan)
 - Microwave oven—patented 1950 (Percy Spencer)
- 1947 Transistor (J. Bardeen, W. Brattain and W. Shockley)
 - Mobile phones (AT&T, although not sold commercially until 1983)
- 1948 Velcro (George de Mestral)
- 1950 Credit card (Ralph Schneider -- it was Diners Club)
- 1951 Videotape recorder (Charles Ginsburg)
- 1952 Bar code (Joseph Woodland and Bernard Silver)
- 1953 Transistor radio (Texas Instruments)
- 1954 Geodesic dome (R. Buckminster Fuller)
 - Milk carton (John Van Wormer)

