

Strange Inventions

You are being provided with a book chapter by chapter. I will request you to read the book for me after each chapter. After reading the chapter, 1. shorten the chapter to no less than 300 words and no more than 400 words. 2. Do not change the name, address, or any important nouns in the chapter. 3. Do not translate the original language. 4. Keep the same style as the original chapter, keep it consistent throughout the chapter. Your reply must comply with all four requirements, or it's invalid. I will provide the chapter now.

STRANGE INVENTIONS

? The cyclomer was an amphibious bike that was invented in Paris in 1932. It had four air-filled floats to keep it up and was propelled by two fan blades that were attached to the spokes.

? London designer Dominic Wilcox invented the finger-nose stylus in the late 2000s so he could use his iPhone in the bathtub. It's a long Cyrano de Bergerac looking nose that you strap to your head.

? Valentin Vodev designed the roller buggy for parents on the go. It's a combination scooter-baby buggy, which makes me wonder if Vodev is a parent.

? The Greek-Alexandrian scientist, Ctesibius (285–222 BCE), invented many devices. His most notable invention was a water-powered organ called the hydraulus.

? Today there's an app for everything. There's even a "tampon app" that lets women know when it's time to switch things around.

? Chester "Buck" Weimer's claim to fame is being the inventor of the world's first odor-proof underwear. The Colorado inventor received the patent for his fart-proof underwear in 1998.

? The "hamster shredder" may sound awful, but it's actually pretty useful. It's a hamster cage with a paper shredder on top that's hamster powered!

? Chinese inventor Lu Ban (ca. 507-444 BCE) has been credited for inventing the "wooden bird." It's not quite known what it was, but an ancient text stated it stayed in the air for three days, suggesting it was a kite.

? The baby mop is a real thing. It's an infant onesie with mop strings attached to its front. I kid you not!

? Ironing and coffee seem to go together, right? That was the idea behind the Ironius, the clothes iron-coffee mug combo, but it's yet to catch on.

? Kraft began selling sliced, processed cheese in 1950. But individually wrapped cheese slices were invented by Indiana engineer Arnold Nawrocki, who worked for the Clearfield Cheese Co, which released the product in 1956.

? In 1949, the “radio hat” started selling in American stores. Billed as the “Man-from-Mars Radio Hat,” it was simply a portable radio built into a plastic safari helmet.

? The Japanese camera company Doryu produced the unique Doryu 2-16 from 1954 to 1956. This 16mm camera was special because it looked just like a semi-automatic pistol and even made a loud sound when the trigger was pulled, but this gun only shot pictures.

? Jaap Haumann invented the “anti-rape tampon” in South Africa in 2000 and was marketed in 2005. The device is inserted like a tampon, with a spring activating a blade on a potential rapist's jewels!

? The Roman engineer Vitruvius (c. 80-15 BCE) followed in Ctesibius's path in many ways. His most impressive invention was the early steam engine. His writings on anatomy were also the inspiration for Leonardo da Vinci's drawing, Vitruvian Man.

? Brit Harvey Adams is credited with inventing the “moustache cup” in the 1860s. The cup worked by having a ledge with a small opening that allowed liquids to pass without getting the whiskers wet.

? Snow protectors were invented in Canada in 1939 to protect against the harsh northern winters. They were simply plastic cones you put on over your face!

? Antikythera mechanism, is an ancient Greek mechanical device used to calculate and display information about astronomical phenomena. The remains of this ancient “computer,” now on display in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, were recovered in 1901 from the wreck of a trading ship that sank in the first half of the 1st century BCE near the island of Antikythera in the Mediterranean Sea. Its manufacture is currently dated to 100 BCE, give or take 30 years.

? The flask tie was invented for those who can't make it to happy hour. It looks like a regular corporate tie, but beneath the stripes is a pouch for your booze.

? There was actually a group shaving machine in the 1800s. It's no wonder why the device didn't make it in the era of straight razors!

? The Chinese inventor, Zhang Heng (CE 78-139), is credited with inventing the world's first seismoscope. His device could record the direction but not the time of an earthquake.

? The paternoster lift is a nonstop elevator with no doors, invented in 1868 in England. Due to the obvious safety concerns, they've been largely eliminated except for a few places in Europe.

? Charles Steinlauf invented the sewing machine bicycle in 1939 (aka The Goofybike). It was a pyramid-shaped contraption where two people peddled, the person in front steered, and a person in the middle used the sewing machine.

? Gunpowder was first invented in China in the 9th century CE, but it wasn't fully weaponized until it made its way to Europe in the 13th century. Europeans then brought muskets and cannons to East Asia in the 16th century.