

TOP TEN SIMPLE MISTAKES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

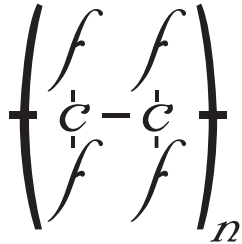


ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER

A scientist working on an anti-fever medication put his cigarette down in the powder, and discovered the sweet taste of cyclamate.

TEFLON

Making the mistake of using an iron container, Roy Plunkett caused a chemical reaction that created Teflon in 1938.



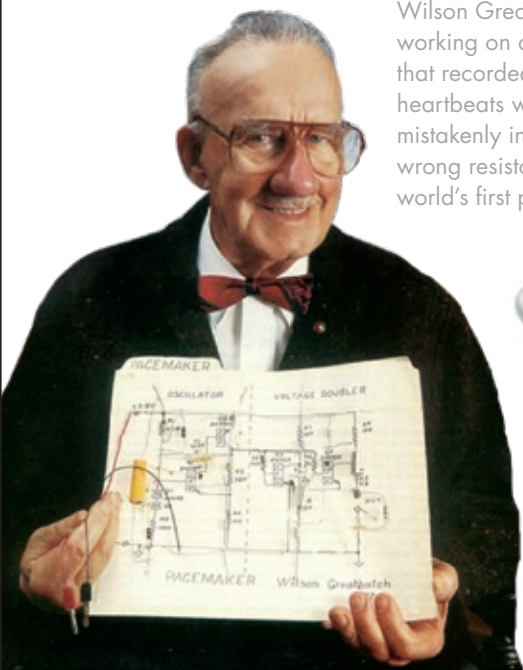
PENICILLIN

Alexander Fleming left a culture out while he went on a holiday. It became contaminated by a fungus, which stopped the bacteria. He had discovered the first antibiotic, penicillin.



THE PACEMAKER

Wilson Greatbatch was working on a gadget that recorded irregular heartbeats when he mistakenly inserted the wrong resistor. It led to world's first pacemaker.



CHAMPAGNE

17th century monk Dom Perignon tried growing grapes that needed two seasons to ferment. The wine's carbon dioxide bubbles horrified him, until he was later toasted for his efforts.

VULCANIZED RUBBER

When Charles Goodyear spilled India rubber and sulphur on a hot stove in 1843, he discovered flexible rubber.



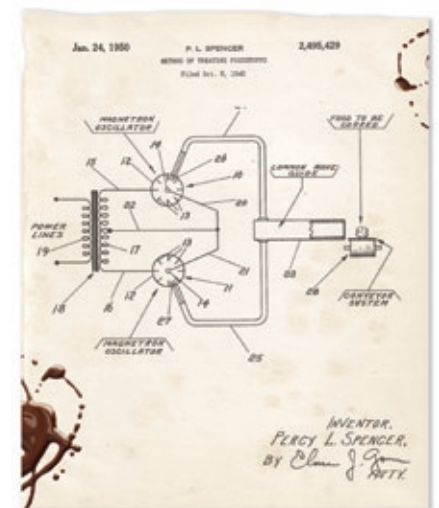
SUPER GLUE

Dr Harry Coover was trying to isolate a clear plastic when he exposed it to moisture, which caused it to bond firmly together.



LSD

Swiss scientist Albert Hoffman forgot to wear gloves in the lab and the chemical he absorbed sent him on the world's first "acid trip".



THE MICROWAVE

In 1945, Percy Spencer stood too close to a magnetron that produced microwave radio signals for radar, and noticed that the chocolate bar in his pocket had melted.

DRY CLEANING

Clumsy Baptiste Jolly of Paris spilled camphene onto his wife's dress. Instead of ruining it, the dress was cleaned.



ANTIBODY

S I M P L I F Y