

TOP TEN SIMPLE IMPROVEMENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.

THE SAFETY MATCH

All matches were dangerous strike "anywhere's" before 1855, then the simple idea of splitting the ingredients between match head and striker changed everything.



THE ROBERTSON SCREWDRIVER

Fed up with knuckle-busting slot head screws, Canadian Peter Robertson patented the simple square head in 1909.



BLUE JEANS

Trousers had been worn for 250 years before Levi Straus introduced rugged blue denim and copper pocket rivets in 1873.



THE CHILD PROOF CAP

A simple push and twist was patented by American Ronald Kay in 1984. A lifesaver all over the world.



THE SAFETY RAZOR

Men shaved with a straight razor up until the 18th century (ouch!) when a French inventor borrowed the simple design of a carpenter's plane.



THE TEA BAG

The most popular drink in the world since 3000 BC came as loose leaves until 1904.



THE SANDWICH

Bread and meat had been around for eons, but in 1762 the Earl Of Sandwich told his cook to put them together because he was in a hurry.



THE CLAW HAMMER

The hammer goes back to the Stone Age, but the addition of a claw nail-puller wasn't perfected until 1840.



THE NON-REMOVABLE PULL TOP

The first pull-top rings came out in 1959 and millions were tossed until environmentalists said "Whoa!" in the mid-70's.

CORRUGATED PAPER CLIP

An icon of simple design, earlier ones were made of smooth wire and could slip. Simple improvement? Corrugated edges.



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