

50 Top Inventions 1955-2005

- 1) ARAPANET (the forerunner of the Internet)
- 2) the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM)
- 3) birth control pills
- 4) carbon-fiber composites
- 5) the cell phone
- 6) the charged-couple device
- 7) communication satellites
- 8) the computer mouse
- 9) cordless tools (I included the lithium-ion battery as an essential element)
- 10) coronary bypass surgery
- 11) digital music
- 12) DNA fingerprinting
- 13) electronic ignition
- 14) fiber optics
- 15) float glass
- 16) fuel cell vehicles
- 17) genetic engineering
- 18) genetic sequencing
- 19) the global positioning system (I included GPS receivers as an essential element)
- 20) high-yield rice
- 21) HIV protease inhibitors
- 22) HTML (the mark-up language used initially on the World Wide Web)
- 23) the hybrid electric car
- 24) the industrial robot
- 25) the integrated circuit
- 26) in vitro fertilization
- 27) the jet airliner
- 28) Kevlar
- 29) the laser beam
- 30) the light-emitting diode
- 31) the microwave oven
- 32) the MP3 player
- 33) the Magnetic Resonance Instrument (MRI)
- 34) the music synthesizer
- 35) the pacemaker
- 36) the personal computer
- 37) polio vaccine
- 38) polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- 39) Prozac
- 40) the scanning tunneling microscope
- 41) the smoke detector
- 42) the Sony Walkman
- 43) superglue
- 44) the three-point seat belt
- 45) the television remote control
- 46) unmanned aerial vehicles
- 47) Velcro
- 48) video games
- 49) waffle-sole running shoes
- 50) World Wide Web.

Source: Popular Mechanics Magazine Panel of 25 Science & Technology Experts (2005)