

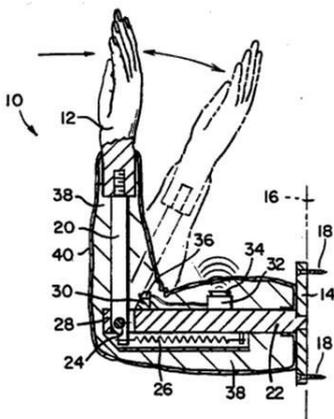
# Crazy Patents

## Discussion

- What is a patent? Why would you need one?
- Have you come across any interesting/exciting new inventions recently?
- Have you seen or used any recent inventions which you were not impressed with?
- Can you think of a problem (big or small) and how it could be solved by a new invention?

## Group activity

- In pairs or small groups look at each of the patents in the seven diagrams below. For each one decide on a name and describe what it does (its purpose) and what problem/s it solves. Rate each of them out of 10
- Once you've completed the information compare your ideas with the rest of the class. Add up the total scores for each patent from all the groups and see which has the highest score.
- Your teacher will give you descriptions for the patents. Read them and match each description with the diagram. How do they compare to your ideas? Would you change your scores?

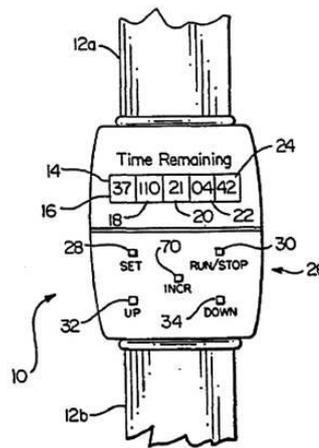


1.

Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....

Problem solved:.....  
 .....  
 .....

Rating: ...../10



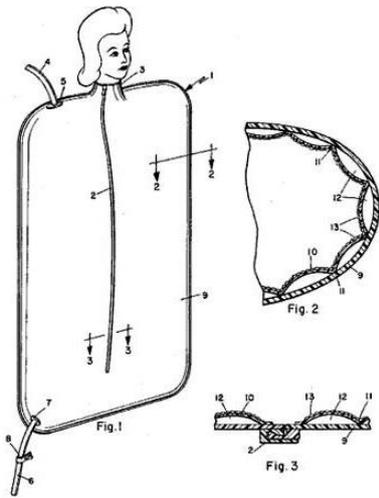
2.

Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....

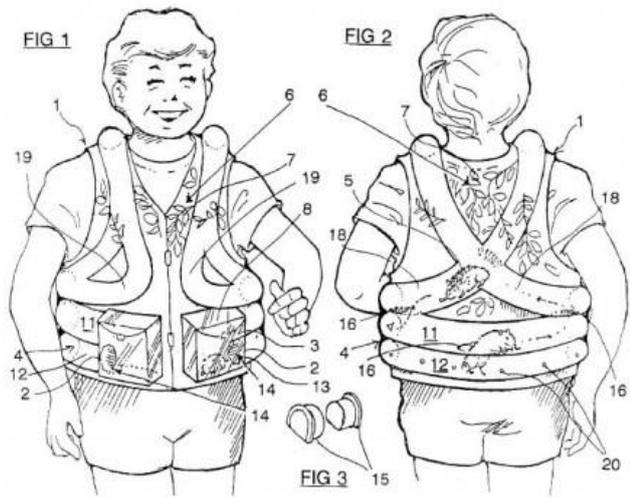
Problem solved:.....  
 .....  
 .....

Rating: ...../10

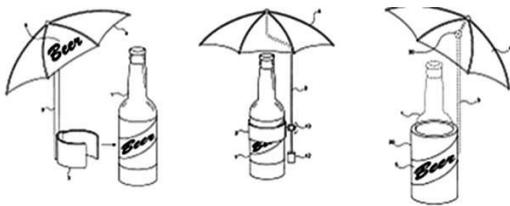
TABLE II	
Health Factors	
Factor	Life Expectancy Adjustment (Years)
<b>Family History:</b>	
Father	+1/each year above 70 your father lived
Mother	+1/each year above 70 your mother lived
<b>Marital Status:</b>	
Married	+5
Unmarried and older than 25 yrs.	-1/unmarried decade
<b>Residence:</b>	
Small Town	+4
City	-2
<b>Economic Status:</b>	
Wealthy	-3
Poor	-3
Your Shape	-1/each 5 lbs overweight -2/each inch girth exceeds chest measurement
<b>Exercise:</b>	
Regular and Moderate	+3
Regular and Vigorous	+5
<b>Disposition:</b>	
Good-natured/Placid	+1 to +5
Tense and Nervous	-1 to -5
<b>Alcohol:</b>	
Heavy Drinker	-5
Very Heavy Drinker	-10
<b>Smoking:</b>	
1 to 1 Pack per day	-3
1 to 1 1/2	-5
More than 1 1/2	-10
Pipe or Cigar	-2
Regular Medical & Dental Checkups	+3
Frequent Illness	-2



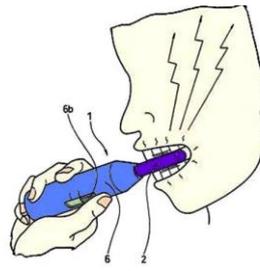
3.  
 Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Problem solved:.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Rating: ...../10



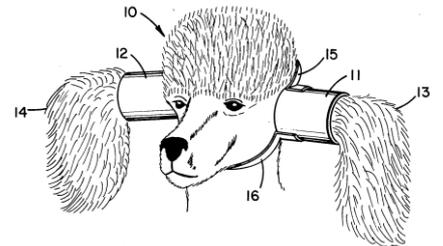
4.  
 Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Problem solved:.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Rating: ...../10



5.  
 Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Problem solved  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Rating: ...../10



6.  
 Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Problem solved  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Rating: ...../10



7.  
 Name.....  
 Purpose.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Problem solved  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 Rating: ...../10

## Patent descriptions

### The Beerbrella

According to its inventor, the Beerbrella can be attached to a bottle of drink in order to shade it from the direct rays of the sun...or the rain...or whatever you want to shade your drink from.

### Brain Buzzer

If you want something that will keep you awake during long speeches or long-night movie marathons, just bite down on the small end of the vibrating wand and you will be jolted to your senses. This wand will transmit vibrations to your brain that will buzz you awake without disturbing your neighbour. Not very comfortable but apparently that's the point!

### High-Five Machine

Boost your self-esteem with this high-five machine if nobody else wants to do it with you! Patented in 1993, this machine allows you to stimulate the celebratory effect of high-5'ing as a convenient outlet for the release of excitement. According to the patent's instructions, you will have to fix the high-five machine to the wall or set it on a table, as it improves your hand-and-eye coordination and your mood, by giving the plastic arm a high-five anytime you want to.

### Dog Ear Protector

Designed to "protect the ears of long eared animals, especially dogs, from coming into contact with their food or drink while they eat". Don't expect to win any style points for your pooch with these things.

### Life expectancy watch

Ever wonder how long you have left on this planet? Well wonder no more. Now you can have the ultimate countdown wrapped around your wrist and not look like the most gullible person in the world...no...not at all.

### Portable Bath Capsule

This invention was made as an alternative to sponge baths given to patients in hospitals and nursing homes. The patient would be encapsulated in an elongated sheath of fluid tight material, thereby enclosing the whole body of the patient except for the head. There is an inlet to admit fluid and an outlet for drawing out the dirty water. Though it may seem like a practical idea, there are no reports of successful usage.

### Gerbil Shirt

One of the most ridiculous patents ever, the Gerbil shirt was intended for pet owners who want to take their little pets for a walk out in the sun. This pet display vest has an elongated, enclosed, pet-receiving passageway that is transparent so people can view the gerbil or rodents as they go through the maze.



### Your Own Invention

- As a group you are going to come up with your own invention.
- Choose one of the options below and agree on a problem that needs solving in that area.
- Once you have an idea of what kind of device/machine/structure/technology you could use to solve the problem, write a description and draw a diagram.
- Present your invention to the rest of the class who can ask questions and offer feedback.

*Clothing*

*Garden*

*Leisure*

*Transport*

*Health/Fitness*

*Communication*

*Household appliance*

*Work*

*Food*

Problem: .....

Solution: .....

Name of invention.....

Patent description: .....

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.....

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Diagram: