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# 101 Gadgets that Changed the World

Popular Mechanics

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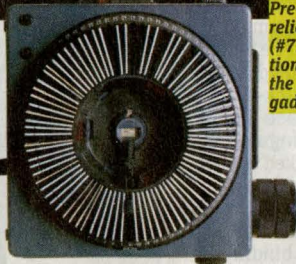
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Pre-PowerPoint-era bosses relied on the Kodak Carousel (#71) for visual communication. Here, Don Draper pitches the ad campaign for the gadget on *Mad Men*.



# 64.

The derringer used to assassinate Abraham Lincoln was actually a deringer, with one r. Renowned pistol-maker Henry Deringer's original Philadelphia Deringer, produced from 1852 through 1868, spawned copycats worldwide, and the name—albeit misspelled—became a generic term for any small, large-caliber handgun.



**59. CD-ROM**  
See p. 60, *Saving the World*

**60. MOOG SYNTHESIZER**  
Among the first widely used electronic instruments, the Moog used analog circuits to generate sound electronically. Without it, the Doors' *Strange Days*, Simon & Garfunkel's *Bookends* and the Beatles' *Abbey Road* would have sounded much different.

**61. SMOKE DETECTOR**  
Duane Pearsall wanted to curb static in photo darkrooms, but noticed that a meter measuring ion concentration on his static-control device flat-lined whenever cigarette smoke hit it. "By accident, we had discovered how to make an ionization smoke detector," Pearsall said.

**62. CHARCOAL GRILL**  
See p. 63, *Great American Weekend*

**63. LUNCHBOX**  
When Aladdin Industries launched the Hopalong Cassidy kit in 1950, it kicked off the lunchbox boom: *Between 1950 and 1970, 120 million lunchboxes shot off store shelves* as America's youth scrambled to get the latest in branded boxes.

**DERRINGER**  
The authenticity of the Booth deringer at Ford's Theater came into question in 1997 after members of a bygone burglary ring claimed to have stolen the original in the 1960s. FBI forensic tests disproved the claim; the gun on display in D.C. (shown here) is the one used to kill Lincoln in 1865.

**65. ZIPPER**  
See p. 56, *Gizmo Expos*

**66. TAPE MEASURE**  
See p. 57, *Man at Work*

**67. BINOCULARS**  
See p. 63, *Great American Weekend*

**68. COLEMAN LANTERN**  
See p. 63, *Great American Weekend*

**69. ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH**  
U.S. Navy submariners didn't have much to smile about: Subsisting on mushy canned food for months on end, they got almost zero gum stimulation. Electric toothbrushes came aboard in 1959, solving the problem. They later found a wider audience—and inspired the invention of another vibrating device (but that's a gadget for an entirely different article).

**70. BOOMBOX**  
See p. 53, *Music Machines*

**71. KODAK CAROUSEL**  
Adman Don Draper said it best in his pitch to Kodak execs in an episode of the '60s-set show *Mad Men*: "This device isn't a spaceship, it's a time machine." He waxed poetic about the Carousel, the ingenious 35-mm slide projector, while clicking through images of his family life before it unraveled. "It lets us travel the way a child travels—around and around and back home again."

**72. STOPWATCH**  
When the TAG Heuer Mikrograph stopwatch was invented in 1916, it allowed the measurement of time with unprecedented accuracy—down to 1/100 second. This precision led to major changes in the sports world, including records such as the world's first sub-4-minute mile (3:59.4, by Roger Bannister, May 6, 1954). Digital stopwatches accurate to 1/1000 second debuted in 1971.