

Adapted by Ingenio



TWELVE IDEAS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THEODORE H. MAIMAN

What do these things have in common: CD readers and bar codes, medical instruments that eliminate ulcers, devices that serve to measure accurately distances from the Earth to the Moon, images of ultra-defined brain tissue, show lights that entertain us during a spectacle. ¿Do you know? ¿Not? Well, all that is a reality thanks to laser! In this Ingenio's edition we present you the Laser inventor.

1 Theodore Harold Maiman was born on July 11, 1927 in Los Angeles, California. His parents were Rose Abramson and Abraham "Abe" Maiman, an electronic engineer as a profession but an inventor as a passion. "Ted" was curious, creative and adventurous... They used to say about their child.

2 Abe was who introduced him to technology and addressed a great influence in his interest for the mysteries of the electronics. He always had a small laboratory in the house, in the attic or the basement. Opportunity that Ted took in order to access to a professional equipment and to learn how to design audio amplifiers and simple radios.

3 This was the way he obtained his first job, when he was 12 years old, in a domestic appliances repairing workshop in Denver, Colorado. The knowledge learned at Abe's laboratory about electronics and electricity were enough to repair everything people used to take there.

4 Once he graduated from high school at age 17, he started to work for the National Union Radio Company in Nutley, New Jersey, as a junior engineer. Later, he passed the examination and obtained a first class license as commercial radiotelephony, being the youngest person in achieving it in the USA.

5 But the same year, Maiman was enlisted in the United States Marine and was accepted in the training for radar and communications program, which strengthened furthermore his knowledge of electronics and increased his passion for the field of study.

6 When he returned, he went to the University of Colorado, where he studied a Master in Sciences in Physical Engineering. And he realized the post degrees at Stanford's University: Mastery in Sciences in Electrical Engineering and the University conferred a doctor's degree on Physics. His thesis in experimental physics was directed by the Nobel Prize: Willis Lamb.

7 In January, 1956, he began to work at the Maiman Hughes's Atomic Physics (Culver City, California) department, where he directed the MASER project (not visible device of electromagnetic emission of waves that serves to receive weak energetic signs) for the signaling body in the USA army, he managed to improve the yield and the design of the MASER at having reducing its weight. And little by little he was turning in his interest towards what it would be the laser.

8 After doing a lot of independent efforts, having discipline in the research and expending a very low budget (only expended \$ 50.000) he demonstrated that laser in action was possible, from a ruby crystal in his laboratory in Hughes, Malibu. The laser was then presented to the world as a sufficiently small device as to fit in the hand.

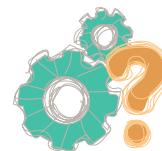
9 The magazine Nature of England (1960, v.187, P.493) curiously was the one that published the first scientific report on the first laser "Estimation of Optical Radiation with Ruby " on August 6, 1960 in Great Britain.

10 In 1962, Ted founded Maiman Korad Corporation to develop and to create a high Laser power equipment line. Then he turned into the market leader of his field. In addition he created Maiman Associates, a consultancy company, and co - founded Video Laser, Inc., where he developed a great color screen. He also introduced the optical fiber technology.

11 In 1999 he moved to Vancouver with her wife Kathleen, and three years later he was granted an honorary doctorate of the Simon Fraser University. In 2000, Maiman completed a book of memories "The Odyssey laser ", where he refers to the years and months before the accomplishment of the first laser, and his later achievements.

12 Maiman, who died on May 5, 2007 in Vancouver, Canada, at the age of 79, was a very productive researcher: articles in magazines and in scientific encyclopedias; papers in international events, as the speech of opening in the international Symposium "73" in Munich. His name is mentioned in: Swindle 100, "A century of the science" and Business Week of "100 years of innovation", among others. He was a member of academic associations related to the optics and addressee of prestigious prizes.

*This twelve ideas about Theodore H. Maiman's life, were the result of an exhaustive seek from different references of public knowledge. The text was elaborated, proved and approved by the Editorial Committee of the **Ingenio** Magazine.



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