

## Top 5 Inventions

Source: Business Week, 1996

Ratings aside, could you live without a TV set? Or a telephone? In a recent poll, 1,000 people ranked the most important modern inventions. Are these your Top 5 too?

1. Automobile 63%
2. Light bulb 54%
3. Telephone 42%
4. Television 22%
5. Aspirin 19%



## Remembering the Model T

On October 1, 1908, the Ford Motor Company introduced the Model T. It was an instant hit. The car came only in black. But at \$850, it cost about half as much as other cars on the market. By 1918, half of all the cars in the United States were Model Ts.

Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903. At first, Ford built only a few cars a day. Because demand for Model Ts was so high, Ford developed a way to make more of them without increasing cost. In 1913, he rolled out a moving assembly line. Workers stood in front of a conveyor belt, and each completed one step in putting the cars together.

Ford's method of mass production revolutionized car manufacturing. It also changed life in the U.S. More people could travel. Highways grew. Suburbs developed outside of cities.

The Ford Motor Company stopped making the Model T in 1927. But the automotive lifestyle had taken hold of America. Today, the race is on to make cars more fuel efficient and to find alternative energy sources to power them. Will inventors with Ford's creativity bring the next revolution?