

The ten **most prolific inventors** in history, [ranked](#) by the number of issued U.S. [utility patents](#) issued, are:

Rank	Inventor	U.S. utility patents	Total U.S. patents	Years	Main fields of invention
1	<a href="#">Kia Silverbrook</a>	3127 <sup>[1]</sup>	3135 <sup>[2]</sup>	1958 -	<a href="#">Printing</a> , <a href="#">Internet</a> , <a href="#">Electronics</a> , <a href="#">CGI</a> , <a href="#">Chemical</a> , <a href="#">MEMS</a> , <a href="#">Mechanical</a> , <a href="#">VLSI</a>
2	<a href="#">Shunpei Yamazaki</a>	2369 <sup>[3]</sup>	2377 <sup>[4]</sup>	1942 -	<a href="#">Thin film transistors</a> , <a href="#">Liquid crystal displays</a> , <a href="#">Solar cells</a> , <a href="#">Flash memory</a> , <a href="#">OLED</a>
3	<a href="#">Thomas Edison</a>	1084 <sup>[5]</sup>	1093 <sup>[6]</sup>	1847 - 1931	<a href="#">Electric power</a> , <a href="#">lighting</a> , <a href="#">batteries</a> , <a href="#">phonograph</a> , <a href="#">cement</a> , <a href="#">telegraphy</a> , <a href="#">mining</a>
4	George Albert Lyon	993 <sup>[7]</sup>	993 <sup>[7]</sup>	1882 - 1961	<a href="#">Automotive</a> , <a href="#">Stainless steel products</a>
5	John F. O'Connor	949 <sup>[8]</sup>	949 <sup>[8]</sup>	1864 - 19??	<a href="#">Railway draft gearing</a>
6	Donald Weder	948 <sup>[9]</sup>	1356 <sup>[10]</sup>	1947 -	<a href="#">Florist supplies</a>
7	<a href="#">Melvin De Groot</a>	925 <sup>[11]</sup>	925 <sup>[11]</sup>	1896 - 1963	<a href="#">Chemical de-emulsifiers</a>
8	<a href="#">Leonard Forbes</a>	902 <sup>[12]</sup>	902 <sup>[13]</sup>	1940 -	<a href="#">Semiconductor Memories</a> , <a href="#">CCD's</a> , <a href="#">Thin film processes and materials</a> , <a href="#">VLSI</a>
9	Francis H. Richards	894 <sup>[11]</sup>	894 <sup>[11]</sup>	1850 - 19??	<a href="#">Mechanical</a> , <a href="#">automation</a>
10	Gurtej Sandhu	815 <sup>[14]</sup>	820 <sup>[15]</sup>	1960 -	<a href="#">Semiconductor chip packaging</a>

†This table was last updated on June 8, 2010.