

Inventing

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

By

Glen K. Dash

- The XPRIZE.
- Two business ideas inside.
- Tips on online resources.
- List of open innovation companies.
- LEGO ideas.
- Self publish your books.
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E-mail address: kishwardass@hotmail.com

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the following persons:

- My nephew Joel and niece Faith who both attend Elementary School.
- My nephew Christon and niece Nathalia who both attend Secondary School.
- My nephew Allan who is working in the industrial sector.

One evening Joel showed me three small toy animals which he always carries with him in his pocket. He referred to them as “my animals.” I immediately realized that something as simple as educational toys, interesting story books, constructive games and progressive inventions can have positive and profound effects on children. This encouraged me to begin my new journey of inventing toys, games, products and technology to be used by children and adult around the world, which will benefit them. This also encouraged me to write self publishing books like this one. In

future when my inventions are developed and begin to bear fruits, I will write another book to outline their successes.

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PREFACE

I took up the challenge of inventing in 2012, so every time I got an idea I recorded it and if a diagram was required I made a detailed sketch of this diagram. Then I wrote a brief explanation of the idea and what it can do, what are the benefits and what problems it will solve. I was always on the look out for a new idea, a way to make a new product and a way to improve an existing product. I also looked out for something that will create a new market for consumers. I was always observing the products at the stores, the supermarkets, the tool stores and the retail outlets. While I was doing this I was also seeking ideas for businesses that are presently non existent. From then to now I have made sketches for more than two hundred ideas that can be made into products. These ideas can be considered as future inventions because they are about revolutionary new products, improvements to existing products and combinations of existing products into one final product. Every single one of these products will benefit the lives of people globally and I have done

extensive research on the internet and in my country and have not seen any of my ideas around, even after five years. This means that all the good ideas have not been used up as yet. Imagine yourself in the early 1900s. The world view of the people back then was that there were no new discoveries to be made, no new ideas to explore and no new inventions to be made. Today the world would still be the same as the early 1900s if everyone embraced that philosophy and did nothing to improve the lives of people.

I have also made a list of more than fifty ideas for new businesses. Anyone can do this. It is simple. One needs to look at what is needed in the market, what can be improved in the market and what can be expanded in the market and then formulate a business plan. I will cover ideas to business in the next book.

Last year, I decided to turn some of my ideas into inventions, so I started to research online for ways to do this. I came across a wealth of information on the internet. **There are some bogus websites**

and some crooked companies, so one has to be careful online. There are people and companies that will steal your ideas, mislead you and even start manufacturing your product without giving you one cent. After one year I have made only two submissions to reputable U.S. companies, because the vast array of information online was too overwhelming for me to digest in a few weeks or a few months. The entire process was new to me, so I had to slowly learn new concepts about the inventing and manufacturing industry. It is a totally new field for the newcomer and for the rookie inventor. It is like three entire reading courses at University: a course in Engineering, one course in Social Sciences and another course in Law. At the end of the online research one will grasp a better understanding of the invention process, the patenting process, the licensing process and the marketing process. If you are a working person, the online research and reading will take a lot of time and effort, so that after a few days the average person would completely give up on his idea. My advice to you is not to give up.

Because of this experience, I decided to make the steps easier for the average individual who is now learning about inventing and marketing. The new inventor, the enthusiastic individual, the busy individual, someone who has a great idea and the person who has the next disruptive idea, will benefit tremendously from this book.

I have simplified the process and explained the steps as basic as possible so that the target group would understand this field. I directed the readers to important websites that will be of interest to them. I also explained where they can get other resources online, such as online access to important information, online access to advisors and online access to cheap PDF e-books on inventing, patenting and getting a product licensed. For an individual who is now starting out on the process, he will come across an important website or important pieces of information months after he has started his research. These important pieces of information are

discussed in this book. GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR INVENTION.

INTRODUCTION

‘Necessity is the mother of all inventions’. This statement has been true over the course of history. There was the need for fire, so man created it. There was the need for a stake to be used to catch fish and wild animals, so man came up with it. Then someone saw the need for a wheel, so this was created. On the internet and on books one can read millions of stories of inventions that have changed the course of history which improved the lives of humans and have even changed the world. Can you imagine what the world would be like today if electricity was never discovered or harnessed? We can clearly see that all inventions were firstly imagined by people, who dared to be different and then were created into products. Therefore man by nature is an inventor.

Out of the need to solve a problem an individual may encounter everyday or he sees regularly, he thinks deeply about this problem and formulates a solution in his mind. This solution may be a tool or gadget

to solve a problem or a series of problems. The solution may be a different way of doing steps or processes to solve problems. Either way, problems are solved or lives of individuals are improved. An individual can have an idea for a solution to a problem in his mind, write it on paper, draw a diagram and explain the steps. Many people see these ideas as pictures in their minds, so it is easy to put these on paper. If he does not have the manufacturing capability, he can partner with a manufacturing company to get the product built and brought to customers.

We all know about great inventors like Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, Henry Ford, Karl Benz, Alexander Graham Bell, Benjamin Franklin, Leonardo De Vinci, Eli Whitney, George Washington Carver, Johannes Gutenberg and Alfred Nobel just to name a few. I will recommend to the readers of this book to research on the internet a list of names of great inventors and read their biographies to get an idea how they lived their lives, how they think and how they come up with solutions to practical and theoretical problems. Once

you get an understanding of their lives, you will be able to understand how they became great inventors. Plus you will be able to apply some of their wisdom and perspectives to solve problems, instead of seeing problems and no solutions or creating problems for yourself and others.

The right frame of mind will enable anyone to solve a problem. Once an individual develops a solution oriented frame of mind, he can easily see solutions instead of problems. The average person around the world is quick to complain, find faults, nag and annoy others with existing real or imagined problems. The perspective of such individual is such that he cannot see beyond any problem, cannot offer any solutions or even make any attempt to solve any problem. You would know who they are in the community and at the workplace. On the other hand, a minority of individuals around the world who can see beyond an existing fault and problem, will **postulate** solutions in their minds and make an attempt to solve these problems. Hence, this is the mindset of any inventor.

CHAPTER 1

HAVING THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND

Anyone can become an inventor regardless of age, experience, educational level, or which country he is from. In the modern world, one just has to look around and see the many technologies, novelties and material products and tools that make our lives comfortable. For example, a simple tool like the paper clip makes our lives easier and comfortable in the office, at school and at home. The stapler is another productivity tool that makes our lives comfortable in the office, at school and at home. The post-it note that was accidentally invented also makes our lives comfortable. So there are millions of inventions, products and tools around us that we can look at and realise how simple these are and these have changed our world and make us more productive and comfortable.

A complex invention on the other hand is made up of hundreds, thousands and even millions of smaller inventions. These

smaller inventions were simply put together to make a complex product. For example if you look at the individual components that make up a car and you focus on these individually and maybe even count the number of individual parts, you will realise that each part was invented separately of each other. Then all these parts were brought together to make a car. Therefore a budding and inspiring inventor does not have to think about a complex problem, product, machine or tool. He just needs to think about the simpler components, focus in each and build on these simpler components to make a complex machine, tool or product.

The first step to becoming an inventor is to think simple and look at an individual part or component in isolation from the large machine. For example, instead of looking at an entire car, one can focus on the wheel and ask himself how to improve the wheel design. After a close examination, he might realise that the tire needs improvement, so he comes up with an idea for a broader tire or a tyre with stronger or modified threads, which when produced will improve the

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