

The First PDA



Phineas Dinklaker invented the personal digital assistant in 1972. He had intended it to be a simple ophthalmological enhancement – he’d been nearsighted for years – and his PDA, which originally stood for “Phineas Dinklaker’s Autovisionotron,” boosted his ability to see distant objects by 75 percent. However, on clear nights, the device also picked up long-wave television broadcasts from the University of Hummock-on-Smythe in southwesternmost Lincolnshire. So he began to tinker with his PDA to see what else it could do. He discovered that simply by turning the rabbit ears this way or that, the unit also functioned as a teletype terminal, a microwave oven, a Betamax videocassette recorder, and a toupee rejuvenator. Unfortunately, Phineas fixated on the toupee rejuvenator utility so much that he neglected the PDA’s original purpose. As a result, his vision deteriorated, until one day he couldn’t find where he’d put the darned device. Worse, he’d just purchased a dozen microwaveable chicken pot pies! So let this be a lesson to all you budding inventors: never lose sight (ha) of your initial vision (likewise ha).