

TIME

INVENTIONS
2000

WHAT THEY THINK OF NEXT?

INVENTIONS

do—ever. So Biolink's U-Match Mouse comes with a thumb scanner and easy-to-install software that renders passwords obsolete. Up to 10 thumbprints can be held in memory at any time, and parents can limit the access of younger thumbs.

NOW HEAR THIS

INVENTOR: GEOFF BALL
Hearing-impaired since he was 8, Geoff Ball waited years for someone to create an implantable hearing device. With none forthcoming, he developed one himself. Vibrant Soundbridge is an external processor linked to a skull-mounted internal receiver. Unlike standard hearing aids, which merely amplify sound, the

Soundbridge directly vibrates the bones in the middle ear for a more natural sound quality that clarifies background noise and nearly eliminates feedback.



HAIR THICKENER

INVENTION: LASERCOMB

INVENTOR: LEXINGTON INTERNATIONAL
Marketing a hair product to bald men makes shooting fish in a barrel look challenging. O.K., the HairMax LaserComb makes the same claims as turn-of-the-century hair tonics—thicker hair, faster follicle regeneration, etc., but it uses a low-level cold-beam laser arrayed like the

teeth of a comb to stimulate follicles and increase scalp blood flow. Under FDA guidelines, the LaserComb has been approved for cosmetic use, meaning the company has proved such benefits as shinier, stronger and fuller hair. A submission for FDA medical approval of the LaserComb as a hair-growth product (i.e., the marketing mother lode) is pending.

IS SHE OR ISN'T HE?

INVENTOR: MERCK
Perhaps you didn't know this, but turkeys are sold by gender—toms as cutlets and deli meats, hens as whole birds. So turkey

boys are born with black feathers, girls with brown. The colors fade as the turkeys grow.

INTERNET FOR DUMMIES