

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

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