Denis Papin Encyclopedia Article

Denis Papin

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Denis Papin

1647-1712

French physicist and inventor who developed several useful devices using steam as the source of power. These devices included a steam-powered version of Thomas Savery's pump used for de-watering mine shafts, the first engine to use steam as the motive force, and the "steam digester," a forerunner to today's pressure cooker, in which pressurized steam is used to speed cooking times.