Paper Clip Encyclopedia Article

Paper Clip

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Paper Clip

Invented in 1900 by Norwegian Johann Waaler, the now common item was actually patented in Germany. Originally a metallic clip, the invention allowed several pieces of paper to be joined together, but then easily separated when necessary. Now Waaler's invention is distributed by countless companies in materials ranging from plastic to steel to goldplate and in a vast range of sizes. Specialty clips are sold for resealing food bags such as potato chips or cereals.