Paul Nipkow Encyclopedia Article

Paul Nipkow

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Paul Nipkow

1860-1940

German engineer and inventor who developed a mechanical scanning device (the Nipkow disk) used in early televisions. The Nipkow disk consisted of a spinning metal disk with a spiral pattern of holes drilled in it. Invented in 1884, it was used in televisions until 1932, then replaced by electronic scanning devices.