



Photo courtesy of Sally Maison

George Maison

Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI)

U.S. PATENT NO. 3,001,524: Aerosol dispensing apparatus

Inducted in 2026 Born: Oct. 13, 1911 Died: July 24, 1993

Primary Connections:

- Dart Industries: Vice President; Staff Officer; 1966-76
- Riker Laboratories: President and Board Chair; Director, Research and Development; 1952-66
- Boston University: Professor and Head of Pharmacology Department, 1945-52
- Wayne State University: Assistant Professor, 1941-42
- St. Louis University: Physiology Instructor, 1937-40
- University of Wisconsin-Madison: Physiology Instructor, 1935-37

Education:

- Northwestern University: B.A., 1930; M.S., 1934; M.D., 1935

Military Service:

- U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942-45

George Maison, Irving Porush and Charles Thiel invented the first pressurized metered dose inhaler (MDI). Developed at Riker Laboratories and introduced in 1956 for the management of asthma, it quickly gained widespread acceptance as the first convenient, portable inhaler that effectively delivered medicine to the lungs. The MDI has saved countless patients' lives and improved the quality of life for hundreds of millions more.



Full Bio: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/george-maison>

Things You Should Know:

- Maison was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, in 1911.
- During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Forces and was chief of a unit in the air technical service command's engineering division.
- He received the Legion of Merit in 1945 for his work in improving a suit worn by fighter pilots.
- He established himself as an innovator when he contributed to the development of Veriloid, a drug used to treat hypertension, at Boston University School of Medicine.
- The inspiration behind the invention of the MDI came from a conversation Maison had with his daughter, 13-year-old Susie, who had asthma and depended on an inconvenient, fragile nebulizer.
- When Susie asked if asthma medication could be delivered in a spray, Maison — the president of Riker Laboratories, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rexall Drug Co. — approached his colleague Porush to explore the idea, and Porush consulted with the cosmetics laboratory at Rexall before developing a prototype.
- The MDI was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in March 1956, making it the first such device to receive approval for use by asthma patients.
- In 2014, medical market research indicated that more than 2,000 people were taking doses from an MDI every second.