

THE RAM

THE MAGAZINE BY & FOR SERVING
& EX-RAAF PEOPLE & OTHERS



Vol 78

Page 6



Out in the Shed with Ted.

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How long do CDs and DVDs last?

How-To Geek

CDs and DVDs last anything from two years to several hundred years, depending on factors like storage condition and disc quality.

In general, factory-pressed CDs and DVDs are expected to last many years if you store them under ideal conditions, but the exact lifespan can vary. Some studies have suggested that factory-pressed CDs and DVDs may last for up to 20 years or more under ideal conditions, while others have found that they may begin to degrade after just a few years.

For example, a study conducted by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with the Library of Congress, found that the lifespan of CDs and DVDs can range from as little as two years to more than 30 years. What makes the difference is the discs' quality and storage conditions.



In contrast, CDs and DVDs burned at home may have a significantly shorter lifespan. This is because burning can often make lower-quality discs more susceptible to damage and degradation. That means you should store burned CDs and DVDs under ideal conditions and back them up regularly to ensure that the data they contain isn't lost. For backup purposes, you may want to buy special archival-grade blank discs, which if handled correctly are rated for decades or even centuries.



Factors that affect the durability of CDs and DVDs

Some of the most important factors that can affect the lifespan of CDs and DVDs include:

- Disc quality
- Disc type
- How you store the disc
- How you handle the disc
- The type of data stored on the disc
- The quality of the CD or [DVD player](#) you put the disc in

Maximizing as many of these factors as possible will increase the odds that your discs will last as long as possible.

How to Extend the Lifespan of CDs and DVDs

You can take several steps to extend the lifespan of CDs and DVDs and ensure that the data they contain remains accessible for as long as possible. Some tips for increasing the longevity of CDs and DVDs include:



- Store CDs and DVDs in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and other sources of heat and moisture. Exposure to high temperatures and humidity can cause CDs and DVDs to warp or be damaged, reducing their lifespan.
- Handle CDs and DVDs carefully to avoid scratches and other physical damage. Avoid touching the disc's surface and use a soft cloth to clean any dirt or fingerprints on the disc.
- Avoid leaving CDs and DVDs in a car or other hot, humid environments. The heat and moisture in a car can also cause CDs and DVDs to warp or become damaged.
- Use high-quality CD and DVD players that are less likely to cause scratches or other physical damage.
- Back up the data on CDs and DVDs regularly. This will ensure you have a copy of the data in case the disc becomes damaged or lost.

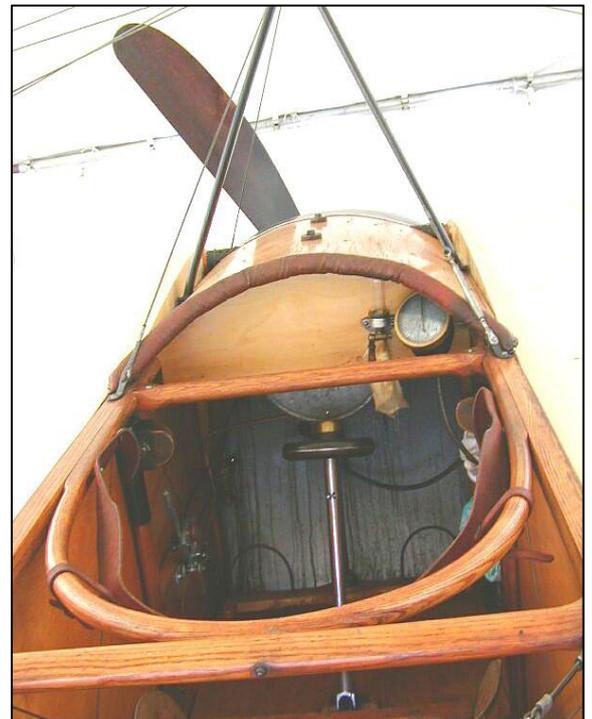
With all of that in mind, you should also consider using alternative storage methods for essential data. CDs and DVDs may not be the most reliable data storage method in the long term. Consider using other storage methods, such as hard drives or cloud-based services, for valuable data you want to protect. Using multiple forms of media is always better than putting all your eggs in one basket.

Why is an airplane's cockpit called that?

The earliest airplanes copied the designs of the 1903 Wright Flyer, on which the pilot lay on the wing, in the open and subject to the wind. As airplanes developed, constructors like France's Louis Blériot built and enclosed a space to protect the pilot from the wind and cold.



Cock fighting pit.



Aircraft cock-pit.



This space had a slight resemblance to a cockpit, the small round enclosure in which two fighting cocks were thrown.

The term was already used in sailing vessels and was in widespread use in aviation by 1913.

So now you know.

I saw a car parked outside Woolies with a bumper sticker that said: "I miss Alice Springs."
So I smashed the windows, stole the radio, let the tyres down
and left empty VB cans on the back seat with a note saying "Hope this helps."

Ghost Bat – Australia.



Boeing has an Australian division and part of its function is to develop aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). While Australia's military may not be as large and well-funded as the US, it is a high-tech and well-equipped fighting force. The first aircraft to be completely produced by Australians in a half-century is shaping up to be like the Valkyrie UAV, a semi-autonomous aircraft that uses AI for flight control. The project had been known as Loyal Wingman but is now referred to by its official moniker, MQ-28A Ghost Bat. Giving it an official designation represents another step toward the completion and deployment of the project and naming it after a species native to Australia helps denote it as an Aussie original.



The project is a joint effort between the RAAF and Boeing's Australian division. With the heavy involvement of an American company and the historical sharing of intelligence and hardware means that the Ghost Bat will be adopted elsewhere with the USAF Secretary recently giving the program praise and signalling continued investment in autonomous AI technology.

Given Australia's significant geographic isolation, the Ghost Bat may be more of a menace to rogue wallabies, but should the RAAF join its defence partners in combat, this will be a fearsome component of their fleet.

There's more information [HERE](#).

My teacher told me not to worry about spelling as soon there will be autocorrect everywhere.
And for that I am eternally grapefruit.



Did You Know?

The chocolate between the wafers of a Kit-Kat bar isn't the same chocolate used on the exterior of the bars—it's made from mashed up Kit-Kat bars that failed their quality checks because of exterior air bubbles, off-centre wafers, other imperfections, or simply not being shiny enough.

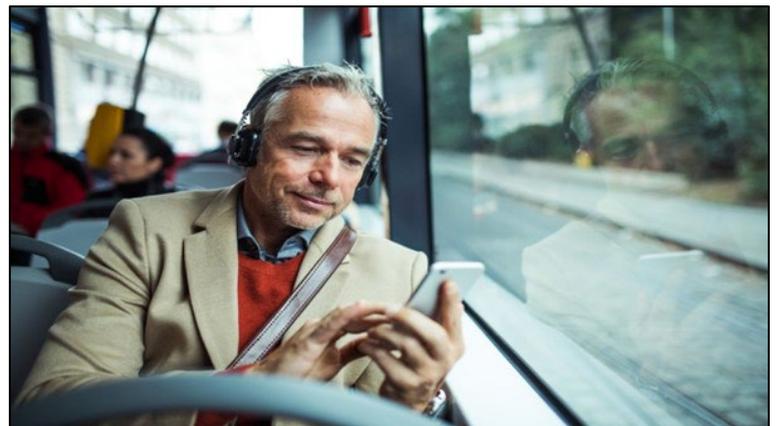
Don't say we don't handle the important stuff here!!

Can't shake that tune? The science behind earworms.



Ever had a song stuck in your head, playing on repeat? This near-universal phenomenon, known as an earworm or involuntary musical imagery (INMI), could affect up to 98 per cent of us, according to some research.

While previous studies have focused on the tempos and pitches of these catchy tunes, new research published in *Music & Science* suggests that repetition is the key to understanding why certain songs become earworms. Professor Emery Schubert, the author of the systematic review study from the Empirical Musicology Laboratory in the School of the Arts & Media at UNSW Sydney, found that the music must contain repetition to become an earworm.



“Drawing together the literature, it appears there's an essential characteristic necessary for a song to roll out the earworms – the music itself must have some repetition in it.”

Hooked on the chorus.

Professor Schubert said most reported earworms are the chorus of songs, which are inevitably the pieces of the music repeated the most. “Most research on earworms to date analyses what's in the hook – the short riff or passage to catch the ear of the listener, but what hasn't been considered is that the hook is invariably repeated in the music, most commonly in the chorus.”

The implication is that earworms might not have anything to do with the musical [features](#) at all. It largely doesn't matter what the music is, as long as repetition is part of the music structure. But repetition alone doesn't explain the entire phenomenon. Several preconditions, such as recency and familiarity with the music, must be met for an earworm to occur.



Additionally, the study found that earworms tend to happen when individuals are in a low-attentional state, often referred to as mind-wandering or relaxation. Inside your relaxed mind, you don't have to follow the exact structure of the music. Your mind is free to wander wherever it likes, and the easiest place to go is the repeated fragment and to simply repeat it. In a 2021 article published in the Harvard Gazette, David Silbersweig, the medical school's Stanley Cobb Professor of Psychiatry, who studies the cognitive neuroscience of music, said the human brain has evolved to remember associations and snippets of music. He said earworms are thought to result from "stuck" connections in the brain, causing involuntary playback of musical memories.

Professor Silbersweig said that people with attention-deficit disorder may experience fewer earworms, while those with obsessive-compulsive disorder may be more prone to them.

Shake it off.

For those of us who want rid ourselves of an unwanted earworm, Professor Schubert suggests finishing the song, consciously thinking of another piece of music, or removing oneself from triggers, such as words or memories related to the music or lyrics. He said the new research provides valuable insights into consciousness and how we organise and recall information.



"We don't go out to find earworms, but earworms find us," he said. There are still several puzzles we need to solve to understand not only their nature but what it might mean for cognition and memory.

Bill: "Sometimes I think today's Air Force isn't as tough as it used to be".

Bob: "I know how you feel, I had the same discussion with the Sqn manicurist this morning."

Statistics.

What do they say? "There are three kinds of lies: Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics" This phrase describes the persuasive power of statistics to bolster weak arguments.

Whether through malice, poor training or simple ignorance, bad statistics have a rich and storied legacy stretching back as long as humans have been counting things. Countless books, papers and blogs chronicle the myriad ways in which data and statistics are abused to lend false support to arguments in fields ranging from the academic world to public policy. As data-driven journalism is on the rise and calls continue to grow for increased evidence-based "fact checking," it is worth stepping back to ask how much of the "fake news" that surrounds us today is based at least in part on bad statistics.

Have a look [HERE](#) .



Emergency landing of the week.

These days aircraft are very reliable and emergency landings are rare but sometimes they happen and are unavoidable.

[THIS](#) is one such time.

Nesting Falcon.

I've seen many remarkable nature photographs over the years but this photo of a nesting Falcon is perhaps the most remarkable nature shot that I've ever seen. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Nature is truly breath-taking!

See [HERE](#).

Men and women have drastically different views on mess.

Often household chores tend to be split into more 'masculine' and more 'feminine' tasks, but not all chores are created equal. Deep cleaning the bathroom is miles away from taking out the bins. While mowing the lawn and washing the dishes aren't on the same level, effort-wise.

Academics from the University of Cambridge now believe women do the majority of household chores because men do not see mess in the same way. Apparently, men looking at a pile of dishes in the sink or smears on the kitchen counter will see disorder. While women view it as a job in need of completing, and they often feel the urge to do so.



The theorists believe that these perceived differences come down to how each gender is raised. Social training during childhood and early adulthood wires the brains of men and women differently. Females, according to them, are instilled with an instinctive urge to keep things neat and tidy if they encounter a mess whereas men, simply put, never get that compulsion. As a result, this could lead to the notion of women doing more housework as a natural default. This can lead to a difficult situation where a woman is trapped between doing jobs as soon as they need doing while trying not to solely shoulder the domestic burden.

The Cambridge philosophers investigated why women, on the whole, are left to do more housework than men and why men fail to see this imbalance.



The issue, they believe, is that men and women see everything in different ways. They have dubbed this phenomenon the “affordance theory”. The philosophers write in their paper: “A floor can afford sweeping, dishes can afford cleaning, mess can afford tidying, a crying infant can afford nappy changing, and so on. We suggest that for many domestic tasks, women are more likely to perceive the corresponding domestic task affordance.”

Professor Paulina Sliwa, a philosopher at the University of Vienna who worked on the topic while at the University of Cambridge, says this mechanism is backed up by science. “Neuroscience has shown that perceiving an affordance can trigger neural processes preparing you for physical action. This can range from a slight urge to overwhelming compulsion, but it often takes mental effort not to act on an affordance.”

Every person sees a specific thing and perceives it differently. For example, one person might look at a structure and think it is easily climbable whereas another might think it’s impossible. This same idea can be applied to mess and clutter around the home; one individual may look at a carpet and think ‘vacuum’ whereas another may see the same carpet and deem it ignorable. Dr Tom McClelland, from Cambridge University’s department of history and philosophy of science, says that applying this theory to the home might explain the inequality in chore workload. The team believes that men and women see the domestic situation differently as a result of how they were raised.

“This puts women in a catch-22 situation: either inequality of labour or inequality of cognitive load.”

Some skills are explicitly gendered, such as cleaning or grooming and girls are expected to do more domestic chores than boys. This trains their ways of seeing the domestic environment, to see a counter as ‘to be wiped’.

Cambridge academics make it clear that the “gendered affordance perception hypothesis”, as it has been called, doesn’t absolve men of any household duties. Yes, men may not have the same automatic impulse to tidy up a mess when they enter a space, but that doesn’t mean they’re not capable of making that decision to get cleaning in their own time.

Time on domestic chores.

A few years ago, the ABS surveyed 2000 households to determine who does what and when. They found both men and women spend, on average, 4 hours, 23 minutes a day watching video, listening to audio or some other activity involving a computer or hand held device and they found the average worker (both males and females) spends 8 hours, 44 minutes a day working.

But when it comes to domestic chores, there is a definite difference. See [HERE](#).

A police officer came to my house and asked me where I was between 5 and 6.
He seemed irritated when I answered “Kindergarten”.



How to scan documents to PDF with your **How-To Geek** Android phone's camera.

There was a time when people owned a scanner, but that time has passed. Nowadays, all you really need is an Android phone with a camera.

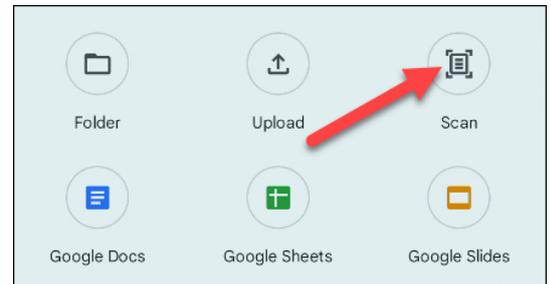
There are several ways to scan and save using your Android phone, Google Drive and Microsoft Lens are two, here's how to do it.

How to Scan Documents on Android Using Google Drive.

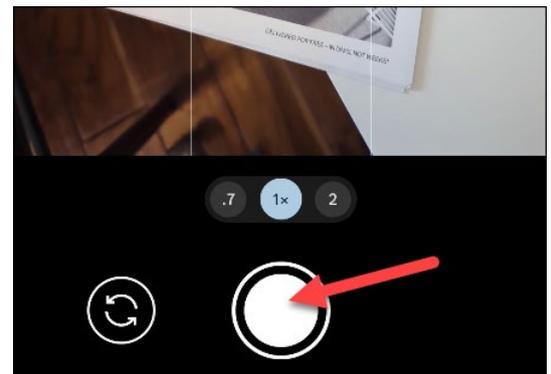
First, open [Google Drive](#) (called Drive) on your Android device and make sure you're signed in with your Google account. Tap the floating "+" button in the bottom right corner.



You'll see a menu with some options. Select "Scan."



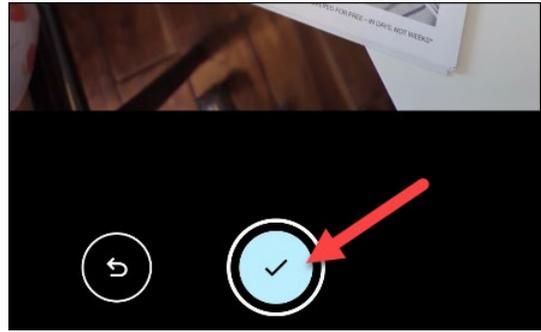
The camera will immediately open—you may need to grant the app permission to use your camera first. Position the document so that it's entirely in the frame, then snap the photo.



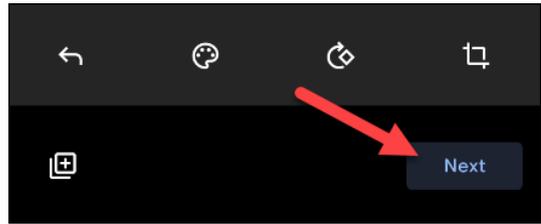
Thought of joining a gym yesterday. [NA!](#)



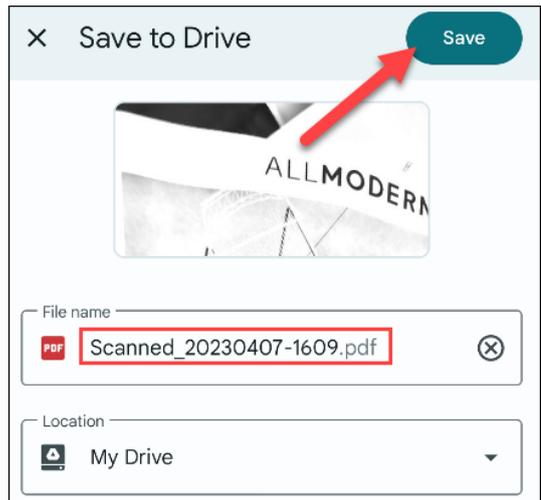
The next screen will ask you to confirm that you want to use the photo. Tap the checkmark button if it looks good.



Google Drive will attempt to automatically crop and adjust the lighting. If it needs some help, you can manually adjust it with the crop and colour buttons. If it's ok, click OK. To add another page to the document, tap the Add Page button. Tap "Next" to proceed.



Now you can give the file a name and choose which folder to save it to. The document will be saved as a PDF in the desired folder.



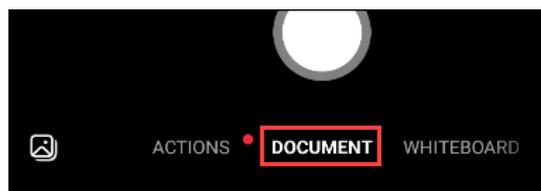
That's all there is to it! Google Drive is surprisingly good at detecting documents and adjusting them to look as if they were scanned by a real scanner.

How to scan a document on Android with Microsoft Lens.

You might have to install Microsoft Lens before you can use it. Open your Google Play Store, type Microsoft Lens in the window at top then install it. Once installed you'll find it in your apps as LENS.

Here's how it works.

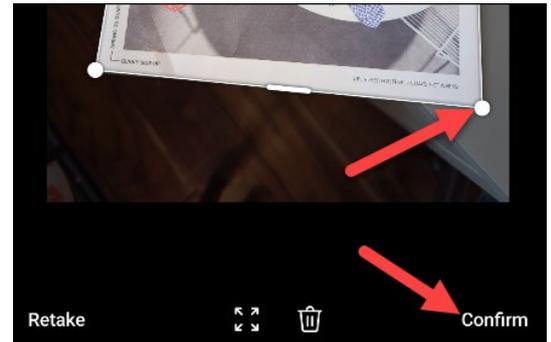
First, open (Microsoft) Lens on your Android device and make sure you're using the "Document" tool in the bottom bar.



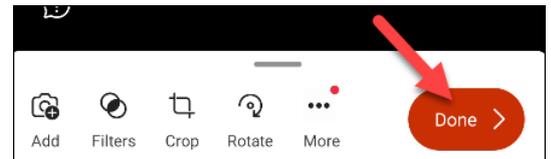
Point the camera at the document and tap the shutter button to snap a photo. You may see Lens automatically detect the outline of the document.



Next, use the handles on the following screen to outline the document, then tap “Confirm” to proceed.



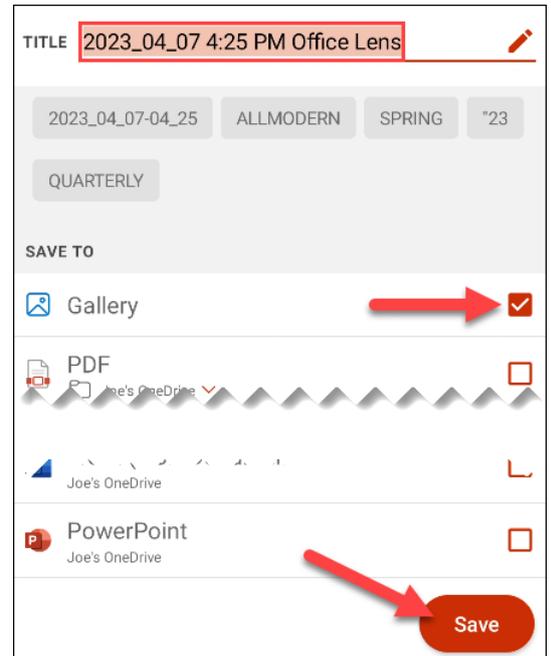
Now there are a few more tools at your disposal. You can add another photo, apply filters, crop, rotate, and more. Tap “Done” when you’re ready.



Lastly, you can edit the name of the document, choose where to save it, and tap “Save.”

Microsoft Lens is a handy app if you do a lot of document scanning with your phone. Since that’s all it does, you don’t have to wade through other needless features.

The ability to pretty accurately scan a document to PDF without needing a clunky scanner is an often overlooked superpower of smartphones.



Train left overnight in Collingwood.





The best way to fry an egg.



Once you try Spanish fried eggs, you'll never cook them any other way.

There are lots of ways to cook an egg but fried is probably the favourite. Fried eggs are almost foolproof to make and can turn just about anything into a hearty meal, from a pile of baked beans to avocado toast.

While there are a number of ways to fry an egg, from sunny-side up to over easy, one method in particular might be the very best way to go about it. It's called a Spanish fried egg, and it's something you should get to know ASAP.



What Is a Spanish Fried Egg?

Spanish fried eggs are as decadent as fried eggs come. Instead of using just a little bit of olive oil or butter, they're fried in a very generous amount of olive oil and they're basted in the oil while they cook. The result is a fried egg with seriously crispy, lacy edges and a just-set yolk that practically melts in your mouth.

To prepare a Spanish fried egg, pour about 1/4-inch of olive oil into a small, heavy pan. Heat it over medium-high heat until it's extremely hot (but not smoking). Crack 1 egg into a small dish. When the oil is hot, carefully slip the egg in and reduce the heat to medium-low. Then spoon some of the oil over the egg as it cooks. Remove the egg with a slotted spoon after no more than 1½ minutes (when the white puffs and becomes crispy and golden-brown around the edges and when the yolk still jiggles).



Serve sprinkled with a bit of flaky salt and freshly ground black pepper.

A thief entered a house late one afternoon. He tied up the woman and at knife point asked the man to hand over the jewellery and money. The man started sobbing and said, "You can take anything you want but please untie the rope and free her!" Thief: "You must really love your wife!" Man: "Not particularly, but she will be coming home shortly!"



Choir

On Sunday 11th June 2023, myself and 999 fellow choristers, assembled at the Perth Concert Hall to perform 11 popular songs. Yep – you read it right 1,000 singers. The audience was packed to the rafters with a full house who were invited to “sing along”. One of our songs was based on “Africa” as performed by the [Angel City Chorale](#). The audience joined in with rubbing hands, clicking fingers, slapping thighs, etc. The energy, pre and post-performance, was so evident with many smiles and laughter. I, for one, will remember this memorable day for years to come. The inspiration, conception and direction was made by a wonderful man – Martin Meader. The love and warmth shown to this man by the 1,000 was palpable – he deserves a medal for bringing us so much joy. (Disclaimer:- I don't get anything special from these words neither am I trying to “blow smoke up his bum”).

Click [HERE](#) for some pics of the event.

For those who wish to get involved, the Concert Hall has been booked for 30th June 2024 for the next 1,000 performance.

Tra-la-la,

Vietnam era music.

If you were around during the 60's, when Vietnam was in full fling, [THIS MUSIC](#) will bring back some memories.

Australia's iconic Owen gun

The Owen gun, also known as the Owen Machine Carbine, is indeed an iconic firearm from Australia's military history. It was the only mass-produced Australian-designed submachine gun used during World War II and in subsequent conflicts. The Owen gun was created by Evelyn Owen, an Australian soldier and inventor, in the early 1940s.

The design of the Owen gun was unique compared to other submachine guns of the time. The weapon had a distinctive look, it featured a top-mounted magazine which allowed for a more compact and ergonomic design. This design made it easier for soldiers to fire from the prone position or in close-quarters combat.

Ian Skennerton





The Owen gun had a reputation for its reliability and effectiveness in combat. It was particularly well-suited for the harsh conditions of the Pacific Theatre during World War II, where its open-bolt design proved resistant to jamming caused by sand, mud, or other debris.

The Owen gun saw service with the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force during World War II. It continued to be used by Australian forces in subsequent conflicts, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. It was also exported to other countries, such as Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

After World War II, the Owen gun remained in service with the Australian military for several decades, eventually being phased out in the 1960s as more modern firearms became available. Today, the Owen gun is highly regarded as a symbol of Australian ingenuity and military history. It is often featured in museums and collections dedicated to firearms or military artifacts.

See [HERE](#).

Some days.

Some days not everything goes according to plan – see [HERE](#)

Popeye the Sailor man.

Who [KNEW](#)?

Implosion of the Titan Submarine (18 June 2023)

The five passengers on the Titan met a truly violent and brutal end, but fortunately, it was also instant and without them even having time to realize it.

The bathyscaphe imploded with unimaginable force and speed, due to the enormous water pressure at those depths, which is about 380 atmospheres at 3,800 meters. This pressure corresponds to a compressive force of 380 kg per square centimetre, imagine this number multiplied by the square centimetres of the bathyscaphe's external surface...





According to calculations, the devastating implosion lasted just 1 millisecond (1 ms), with the walls accelerating from 0 to 2,400 km/h (just under Mach 2) in a fraction of a second. The duration of the implosion, 1 ms, was much shorter than the average time it takes for nerve signals to reach our brain, which is about 25 ms. The 5 occupants didn't notice anything, not even by mistake!

But the interesting part is yet to come, unfortunately...

The compression of the internal air happened so quickly that it was essentially adiabatic, that is, without heat dispersion. If we compress a gas, it heats up and the more rapid and intense the compression, the more the gas heats up. The implosion of the Titan essentially balanced the internal pressure with the external one. Doing some calculations, it turns out that to balance the two pressures, the internal air was compressed to a volume 70 times smaller with a temperature increase from 20 degrees to almost 1,300 degrees, all in a single millisecond!

If you consider that the autoignition temperature of paper is about 200-220 degrees and that of iron is about 1,315 degrees at 1 bar, this means that in 1 ms the interior of the bathyscaphe became practically hell, igniting and carbonizing everything that was combustible (clothes, hair, fur, and epidermis included). With the added severity of being at 385 bar, not just one...

Crushed to death by an imploding supersonic wall, and also carbonized...

Of course, it all lasted an instant and in a short time the temperature dropped to a few degrees of the seabed, the bathyscaphe disintegrated and the remains of the burnt bodies became a roast for fish and other abyssal creatures.

Anyway I think **THIS** is funny

Thought you'd want to know this!!

The U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) says biological men who believe themselves to be women can "chestfeed" infants. Physicians are being told to provide transgender people with medication that mimics natural lactation – despite evidence that suggests such "milk" may be harmful to babies.



"Can transgender parents who have had breast surgery breastfeed or chestfeed their infants?" the CDC asks itself in the ['Breastfeeding and special circumstances'](#) section of its website, answering with an emphatic "Yes."



“Some transgender parents who have had breast/top surgery may wish to breastfeed, or chestfeed (a term used by some transgender and non-binary parents), their infants,” it continues, adding that healthcare providers should help trans parents with, among other things, “[m]edication to induce lactation”.

Elsewhere, the CDC emphasizes that “[a]n individual does not need to have given birth to breastfeed or chestfeed” in a document that also advocates using language “inclusive of all gender identities” such as “pregnant person” and “lactating person” instead of “mother”.

Biological men posting pictures of themselves “chestfeeding” as an expression of [“queer joy”](#) has become a trend in recent months, but there are serious concerns about the nutritional quality of their “milk” and the drugs it may contain. One drug often used off-label to induce lactation, domperidone, [may cause heart problems](#) in babies.

Natural-born women are seemingly held to much higher standards when it comes to breastmilk safety, being advised [not to drink alcohol](#) when breastfeeding and even avoid all but low doses of [aspirin](#), never mind the cocktail of drugs prescribed to most transwomen.

Bet you feel better now knowing that!!

Softies

Today's generation just does not understand the struggles we endured back when we were their age. Many aircraft back in our day were hand refuelled.....

Who can forget the “Black Snake”???

