

Re: Proper breakthroughs/inventions.

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From: ChrisGibboGibson (*chrisgibbogibson_at_aol.com*)

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Stefan Heinzmann wrote:

[snip]

>Strange that you single out the inventiveness of the Wien bridge
>oscillator with the bulb over the development of the transistor. Both
>were developments that relied on previous work. That's not to belittle
>their achievement, but Hewlett's thesis for example contains a reference
>to a paper by Meacham that described the usage of a lamp in a crystal
>oscillator. (I got this from Jim William's book).
>
>But if you are content with innovations of that scale, you could cite
>some of Widlar's work, for example the bandgap reference.
>
>Things I also find outstanding is the planar process, the DRAM, and on a
>higher scale the invention of virtual memory.
>

DRAM yes, I hadn't thought of that one. Pure genius.

Virtual memory? An invention that would have no use whatsoever if PC programmers learnt how to write software properly.

Gibbo