

# Lonnie Johnson: The Super Soaking Stream of Inventions

Lonnie Johnson is an American engineer and inventor who is best known for his invention of the Super Soaker water gun. Johnson is also a prolific inventor with over 120 patents to his name. His inventions have spanned a wide range of fields, including aerospace, medical devices, and consumer products.

## Early Life and Education

Lonnie Johnson was born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1949. He showed an early interest in science and engineering, and he built his first working model airplane at the age of 12. Johnson attended Tuskegee University, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduating from Tuskegee, Johnson went to work for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he helped to develop the Space Shuttle program.

## Invention of the Super Soaker

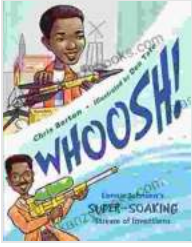
In the early 1980s, Johnson was working on a new type of water gun for his children. He wanted to create a water gun that was more powerful and accurate than the ones that were currently on the market. Johnson experimented with different designs, and he eventually came up with the idea of using a pressurized air tank to propel the water.

### Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 13849 KB



Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 32 pages



The Super Soaker was an instant success when it was released in 1990. It quickly became the best-selling water gun in the world, and it has remained popular for over 30 years. The Super Soaker has been credited with helping to popularize water gun fights and has become a staple of summer fun.

## Other Inventions

In addition to the Super Soaker, Johnson has invented a number of other products, including:

- The AquaSphere, a water-powered rocket launcher
- The Orbiter, a flying toy that uses a compressed air engine
- The ZoomBall, a self-propelled ball that uses a flywheel to generate lift
- The PowerBlast, a water gun that uses a battery-powered pump to propel the water

Johnson's inventions have been used in a variety of applications, including aerospace, medical devices, and consumer products. His work has helped to improve the lives of people around the world.

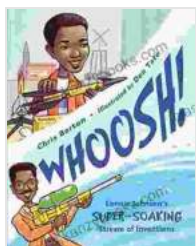
## Awards and Recognition

Johnson has received numerous awards for his inventions, including:

- The National Medal of Technology and Innovation
- The Lemelson-MIT Prize
- The Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy and Employment

Johnson has also been inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Lonnie Johnson is a brilliant inventor who has made significant contributions to the fields of aerospace, medical devices, and consumer products. His inventions have helped to improve the lives of people around the world, and he is an inspiration to young inventors everywhere.



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