

Microelectronics Timeline Trivia

1. Each person appears at the intersection of the day and month of their birth and includes their name, the year they were born, and any prestigious medals they were awarded by their peers.
2. The top six most prestigious medals (indexed at February 3) Nobel Prize, Copley Medal, Royal Medal, Franklin Medal, Rumford Medal, and Potts Medal, are symbolic in that when you make a contribution to society you are not only recognized by your peers but rewarded as well.
3. Red lines connect important relationships between people.
4. Each rectangle is proportional to the Golden Ratio, as is the overall Timeline ratio.
5. In 600BC Thales of Miletus (November 14) rubbed a piece of amber and observed its attractive properties to small pieces of material (static electricity) and referred to the amber by its Greek name "*Electron*".
6. Luigi Galvani (September 9) was a pioneer in bioelectricity and began "electrifying" dead animals and human corpses. Mary Shelley (August 30) was inspired by this and wrote one of her most famous books "Frankenstein".
7. Schrödinger's cat (August 12) is a thought experiment devised by Erwin Schrödinger (August 12) in 1935.
8. The traitorous 8 were originally hired by William Shockley (February 13) but left within a year to start Fairchild Semiconductor and would become the pioneers of silicon valley.
9. Isaac Newton (January 4) was never awarded a prestigious medal because he died four years before they were first awarded.
10. John Bardeen (May 23) was the only person ever to win two Nobel Prizes in Physics, including one for the invention of the solid state transistor in 1947 at Bell Labs, along with Walter Brattain.
11. There were "four" generations of famous French Becquerel chemists (follow the red line): Antoine C. Becquerel (March 7), whose son was Alexandre E. Becquerel (March 24), whose son was Antoine H. Becquerel (December 15), whose son was Jean-Antoine Becquerel (February 5), shown admiring a picture of his great-great grandfather.
12. The first ever successful solid state transistor demonstration was held at Bell Labs on December 23, 1947 by John Bardeen (May 23) and Walter Brattain (February 10), considered one of the most extraordinary moments in history. However, it would be one of the few times their transistor was ever used and was soon replaced by Shockley's junction transistor due to the fact that the latter could be manufactured much easier. The junction transistor configuration is still used today.
13. Many semiconductor experiments were conducted at Bell Labs prior to December 1947. However, one of the main reasons many of the early experiments failed was due to inferior purity levels in the semiconductor samples.
14. The first patent ever awarded for the most common transistor configuration (FET) was to Julius Lilienfeld (April 18) in 1925.
15. Olivia Newton-John's (September 26) grandfather was Max Born (December 11), one of the pioneers of quantum mechanics.
16. Niels Bohr (October 7) was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922, the same year his son, Aage Bohr (June 19), was born. Aage was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1975.
17. William Bragg (July 2) and his son William Lawrence Bragg (March 31) were the only father and son awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics at the same time.
18. The resonant cavity magnetron (June 4) was invented by John Randall and Harry Boot in 1940 at the University of Birmingham, England, and continues to play a crucial role in radar and in modern microwave ovens.
19. Marie Curie (November 7) was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and was, in fact, awarded two Nobel Prizes; one in Physics and one in Chemistry, only one of four people to do so.
20. Checkout the Timeline under a black light.