

## 1.32 How things are made: The Big Inventor's Quiz 2

Welcome to the Great Inventors Quiz.

This is today's mysterious Mr X.

He produced his invention at the age of 27.

You can find his invention in the music world.

What did he invent?

If you knew that, you'd also know his name.

Tip 1: Childhood.

Mr X was born in Belgium some 200 years ago.

He was the oldest of 11 children.

His father built musical instruments.

Young Mr X was quite a handful.

He had one accident after another.

When he was a toddler, he fell from three storeys.

When he was three, he drank a cup of poison.

Then he ate a brooch.

Then he injured himself in an explosion.

Then he burnt his head on a hot frying pan,

got hit in the head by a cobblestone,

and almost drowned.

Luckily, Mr X had a good guardian angel. He survived it all.

When he was 6, his family moved to Brussels.

His father opened a wind instrument shop and workshop there.

Mr X helped in this family business and also followed flute and clarinet lessons.

Tip 2: Professional life.

Mr X was a good musician and instrument builder.

He explored every instrument.

When he was 20, he built an improved clarinet.

He went on to develop a whole series of innovations and instruments.

Tip 3: The invention.

Mr X found the difference between the sections of the orchestra too big.

The brass section was too loud for the woodwinds

and the woodwinds were too loud for the strings.

He dreamt of an instrument that could bridge those differences.

Mr X set to work.

He developed an instrument as versatile as the strings,

as soft as the woodwinds

and as powerful as the brass section.

He presented it in Brussels, behind a curtain,

because the patent hadn't yet been granted.

He called his instrument the saxophone.

Yes, dear viewers, today's mystery man is Mr Adolphe Sax.

Adolphe Sax made various types of saxophone,

from very high to very low.

Adolphe Sax is meanwhile long dead.

But the saxophone is still very popular in jazz music, classical music,

rock, pop and rap music.

Thank you, Mr Adolphe Sax.