Clothespin: Not Just for Your Clothes Anymore

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not just for your clothes anymore
I go by many different names—clothes peg, peg, spring-loaded wood clamp, C47, and bullet—but you can just call me by my most common name, clothespin. I come in many different designs and colors, but the original wood clothespin that you see so often today comes from my inventor David M. Smith.

People who say the clothespin is becoming obsolete are liars! Why would people stop using us when we have been so good to them since our invention in 1853?

Before World War II there was no such thing as a plastic clothespin in the United States. We were usually made out of hardwood, such as birch, beech, or poplar wood, because it doesn’t easily split.

Then one fine summer day in 1944, Mario Maccaferri, an Italian immigrant and the inventor of the plastic reed for woodwinds, was sent out by his wife to buy clothespins. The local shop didn’t have any in stock, so Maccaferri made six models of plastic clothespins from his reed plant. And that’s how the plastic clothespin came about!

Who cares if statistics say that almost 60% of American homes have clothes dryers?

We can be used for more than just clothes! To prove that point, the following pages show 5 new ways to use your clothespin:

- to hold up hot lights on movie sets
- to keep straws in place for celebrities’ drinks
- as parts in fire-throwing catapults and detonators

Did you know?

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Who am I?
To prevent garbage bag slippage.
pin your hair
pick your wedgie
pinch your brother
Scrub up your sleeves
Have I convinced you yet?

Are you excited to use your clothespins now?