

Karl Ferdinand Braun

By Milo Harms

Karl Ferdinand Braun is the inventor of a technology that is still used to this day. Karl Ferdinand Braun was a physicist best known for the invention of the cathode-ray tube and helping develop wireless technology.

Braun was born in on June 6, 1850 in Fulda, Germany. He was the fourth child of Johann Conrad and Franziska Braun. He took courses in mathematics and chemistry at the University of Marburg. Then once he had finished there, he went to study physics at the University of Berlin where he got his doctorate in 1872.

In 1897, he invented the cathode-ray tube. Biography.com states, "By using magnetic forces in a vacuum tube to deflect cathode rays, Braun was able to produce a fluorescent image on a screen." These said "Cathode rays" are basically particles that are sped up, creating a singular beam of light. This beam of light is moved using two electromagnetic coils that control the X and Y coordinates of the beam on the screen. With the X and Y coordinates, the beam can move anywhere on the screen. The more energy that is put into the tube, the brighter the pixel. As this pixel moves hundreds of times across the screen, the brightness fluctuates, creating a black and white image, one pixel at a time. This is only possible with persistence of vision, meaning that our eyes are too slow to keep up with the single pixel, thereby showing a illuminated screen. The cathode-ray tube is important because it has shaped television and computer viewing technology into something that we sometimes still use today.

Karl Ferdinand Braun also helped improve wireless technology. Biography.com states that after Braun had discovered the Cathode-ray tube, he became immersed in wireless technology. Another inventor much like Braun had already make the first wireless transmission in 1885, but the antenna sparked and had a very small broadcasting range. Braun solved this problem by powering the antenna inductively, making the broadcasting range much larger.

In conclusion, Karl Ferdinand Braun Helped improve wireless technology and invented the cathode-ray tube. Karl Ferdinand Braun was, in my opinion, one of the greatest minds of the time period. He invented the Television and the radio, “In 1874, he identified the rectification effect at the point of contact between metals and certain crystal materials with a semiconductor device—a discovery that helped bring about the invention of the radio a few decades later.”, and helped improve wireless technology.

Source(s): www.Biography.com