



Ray Dolby

GRFP Recipient: 1960

Undergraduate Institution:
B.S. 1957, Stanford University

Graduate Institution:
Ph.D. 1961, Cambridge University

Graduate Field of Study:
Physics

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Current Position:
Founder and Director Emeritus of
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.

RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Ray Dolby's research interests and innovations have led to the development of many ground-breaking technologies, though he is best-known for his pioneering work in noise reduction and surround sound. Dolby holds more than 50 U.S. patents and has written papers on videotape recording, long-wavelength X-ray analysis, and noise reduction. In 1965, he founded Dolby Laboratories, Inc. and created an environment where scientists and engineers continue to advance the science of sight and sound to make entertainment experiences more engaging.

BROADER IMPACT OF MY WORK ON SOCIETY //

Early in Dolby's career, while still attending high school and then Stanford University, he worked on the world's first practical videotape recording system at Ampex Corporation. Later, thanks to his pioneering work in noise reduction, Dolby Laboratories' technologies became an essential part of the creation process for recording artists and filmmakers, who continue to use Dolby tools to bring their visions to life.

Over the years, Dolby led the company to new engineering breakthroughs, and his company quickly became the standard for digital cable, broadcast television, and disc-based media. Today, Dolby innovation can be found in professional recording and post-production studios where movies, television, music, and video games are created; in digital broadcast TV, digital cable, and satellite systems, as well as Blu-Ray and DVD players; in mobile and online media and services, PCs and laptops, smartphones, and tablets.

AWARDS/ HONORS //

Ray's pioneering work in noise reduction and later in surround sound has earned extensive recognition worldwide. Honors and awards he has received include:

- U.S. National Medal of Technology
- National Inventors Hall of Fame
- Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame
- Royal Academy of Engineers
- Audio Engineering Society Silver and Gold Medal Awards
- Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers: Samuel L. Warner Memorial Medal Award; Alexander M. Poniatoff Gold Medal; Progress Medal
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: Masaru Ibuka Consumer Electronics Award; Edison Medal
- American Electronics Association: David Packard Medal of Achievement
- Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: Scientific and Engineering Award; Academy Award® of Merit (Oscar®)
- National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences: Emmy® Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement; Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Engineering Development; Charles F. Jenkins Lifetime Achievement Award
- National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences: GRAMMY® Award

POSITION PROFILE //

From 1949 to 1952, Dolby worked on various audio and instrumentation projects at Ampex Corporation. In 1957, Dolby left Ampex to complete his studies. He received his PhD in 1961 and was elected a Research Fellow of Pembroke College. During his last year at Cambridge, he was also a consultant to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. In 1963, Dolby took up a two-year appointment as a United Nations advisor in India, and then returned to England in 1965 to establish Dolby Laboratories in London. In 1976, he moved to San Francisco, where his company established additional offices, laboratories, and manufacturing facilities. Dolby served as chairman of Dolby's Board of Directors from 1965 until 2009, and officially retired from the board in 2011.

