
Subject: Re: What is the deal with Q-tips?

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 07:20:21 GMT

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http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/108704/the_history_of_qtips_cotton_swab_s.html

Quote:Leo Gerstenzang's original cotton swab was a wooden stick with cotton wrapped around both ends. He named his invention "Baby Gays" and he founded the Leo Gerstenzang Infant Novelty Company in New York City. Gerstenzang sold the disposable cotton swabs in bundles.

It's not known why Gerstenzang chose that name. Obviously, the term "gay" didn't have the same meaning as it does today. Apparently not happy with his first choice, the inventor later added "Q-Tip" in front of "Baby Gays." The "Q" supposedly stands for "quality." The word "tips" refers to the cotton at the ends.

Finally, Gerstenzang shortened the name of his cotton swabs to just "Q-Tips" and that name has never changed.
