

The Gutenberg Press

(Scan the QR code for a demonstration video)



The Gutenberg press, invented by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440, changed the way books were made.

Scribes could copy about 1-2 pages per day, but the Gutenberg press could print about 200-300 pages per day with a team working efficiently.

The job of the inker, (or dabber) was to use ink balls (leather-covered, padded tools) to dab and spread thick, sticky ink across the surface of the metal type.

After the inker applied ink to the movable type, the presser would

carefully place a sheet of paper (or parchment) onto the press's frames that held the paper in position. The inked type was slid under the paper.

The presser operated a large screw mechanism to apply even, strong pressure on the paper against the inked type.

There is no historical evidence that Gutenberg's dog actually invented dog-eared pages. The practice of folding down pages to mark your place, now called dog-earing, dates back well before Gutenberg's press.

Give me twenty-six soldiers of lead and I will conquer the world.

— Johannes Gutenberg

A spring of truth shall flow from it: like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and cause a light heretofore unknown to shine amongst men."

— Johannes Gutenberg

