



Unconventional Inventor

Dan Pool

You never know where you'll find Dan Pool, inventor of Breathe Right Nasal Strips and a host of other products.

It wouldn't be unusual to discover Pool tinkering with the prototype of a new invention at the Scottsdale offices of his company, Designer Products. But the 46-year-old inventor, who is something of a modern-day Renaissance man, is just as likely to be off writing a love song in the recording studio he built in his north Scottsdale home. He might be found wielding a paintbrush and using a unique deep-texture medium he created to turn a canvas into an impressionist landscape. You might catch him hosting a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Or, he could be adding to an automobile collection that, at last count, included a Lotus, Hummer, BMW and pair of Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Since selling his first patent for \$4.5 million in 1992, Pool has sold about a dozen inventions to a variety of companies. He recently sold several patents for nasal dilation products for \$2.25 million to CNS, the same company that bought the rights to Breathe Right Nasal Strips.

His newest inventions include an inexpensive plastic shell that protects the data side of recordable CDs and a tape dispenser for dry-wall mesh tape. The multi-talented inventor also hopes to apply his talents on a grander scale, such as developing a system for predicting earthquakes based on the gravitational pull between the Earth and the sun.

Pool never lacks inspiration. "Just about everything in everyday life has room for improvement and refinement," he says.

Denny Guge