

# Inventors Challenge

*Book 1*

"My quest at being a quirky inventor"



Murice Damion Miller

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“My quest at being a quirky inventor”

Murice Damion Miller

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*This book is dedicated to my family, specifically my lovely wife Valencia. I am always coming up with ideas and she always keeps me encouraged and focused at the same time. Also my sons Jaheime and my son Jedidiah. These two young men inspire me to be better each and every day.*

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# About Quirky.com



Quirky.com

Quirky is a crowdsourcing company headquartered in New York City. Quirky brings products to the marketplace through interaction between the online global community and Quirky's product design staff.

Ben Kaufman, the then 23 year old company CEO, founded Quirky in 2009. Kaufman developed Quirky based on the belief that ordinary people have extraordinary ideas, and that invention should be accessible to everyone.

Any of Quirkys community members can become an inventor or person of influence by submitting ideas and helping to determine which products Quirky will design, manufacture, and sell. Inventors who submit ideas that are then created and people who contribute to those ideas share in royalties based on product sales.

A prospective inventor can submit an idea to Quirky, and there is no limit on the number of invention ideas that

a person can submit. When determining which products to make, Quirky considers factors such as uniqueness, manufacturing complexity, and intellectual property rights, yet they are committed to working on ideas both big and small that make life better. Submitted ideas are voted on by the Quirky community, as well as by employees of the company at Eval.

# What is Inventors Challenge?

It was 2005 and while working with a Non-Profit Organization, an amazing idea came to my mind. I was very excited about it and I literally told everyone. Usually, family members and friends commented about how successfully I will be, but two things made me shift from talking about the ideas to actually making plans with them. One, I saw my idea on television and I was so upset at myself for waiting so long and not doing anything about it and two, a good friend figuratively slapped me upside my head and told me to go after those ideas myself. So, since then I have been doing that. Though I have not fulfilled my greatest goals, yet, I am still striving. Now fast forward to 2013. I was reading an amazing article about Quirky in Inc. magazine on the 12 day of November 2013 and that same day I joined Quirky and I have been hooked ever since. Inventors Challenge came about as a way to stay motivated while creating new ideas on a consistent basis. It is something that I made up for myself, but I am gladly introducing the concept to the world so that others could start their own challenge. The challenge is simple, simply set a goal of how many ideas you will come up with within a certain time frame. For me, I would set my goal at 30 ideas within a month or basically one idea a day for 30 days. Whatever goal you set, you must seek to accomplish it within the time

frame. I am developing an app that helps in setting and accomplish those goals. Book two of inventors challenge will cover it in details.

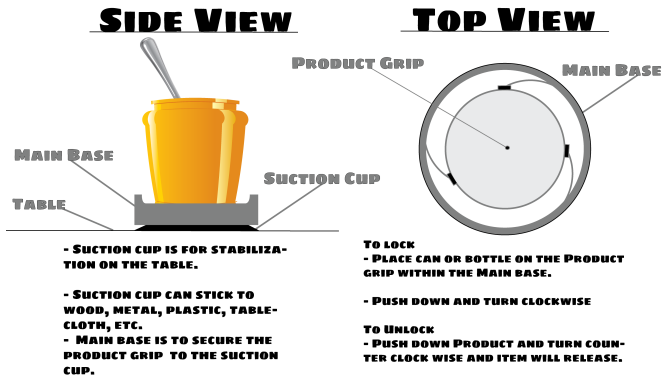
# Tip 1: Idea Generation

This could be the hardest part of creating an idea for some, while for others it is the easiest. For me, creating ideas is simple, it just literally pop up consistently. For awhile it used to drive me crazy because I am creating all these ideas but unable to do anything with them. I tried those invention companies who promise to help you, I tried contacting a television program that has investors who are willing to help you in your invention, but to be honest I am glad that that did not work out, because it turns out that even if they do not help you financially, because you were on the show and you mention your products name, you will have to pay them a certain amount of the profits from your products profits for life. That is really really wrong, but hey, before people knew about Quirky, they did not have many options. So in continuing, if you are not blessed with the ability to just create ideas, do not be discouraged because you could develop that skill. You have to literally put your mind in a state of seeking to help make yourself, the lives of your family and friends and the world a better place. When you do that, you will see, hear, smell, taste, and touch solutions. For example, let us look at the idea that I had that was brought to the market by someone else. My idea was a simple ladies handbag that enabled the user to have multiple bags without removing the items from bag to bag on different occasions. All they had to do was change the

the outer layer of their handbag. Having plenty of ladies in my family and plenty of female friends, I noticed that they always had plenty of bags and I really felt bad for them when it was time for them to go anywhere because of all the things that they had to rearrange, etc. So my mind created a solution of having the one inner layer and then they could use the multiple outer layers with various designs. So that has been my mindset and I encourage you to keep that mindset as well, a creative solution mindset.

# Invention 1 (Jelly/Butter Secure)

Making a sandwich will never be a chore again. No more sliding jars of peanut butter, jelly, or another spread.



## JELLY/BUTTER SECURE

No More slipping while swiping

### The Problem

When was the last time you made a sandwich, whether for yourself or someone else? Was it time consuming to make or was it a cinch to make. I was making a peanut butter sandwich with the bread in one hand the the knife in another. While trying to scoop the peanut butter, i was delayed because the container kept on sliding on the table.

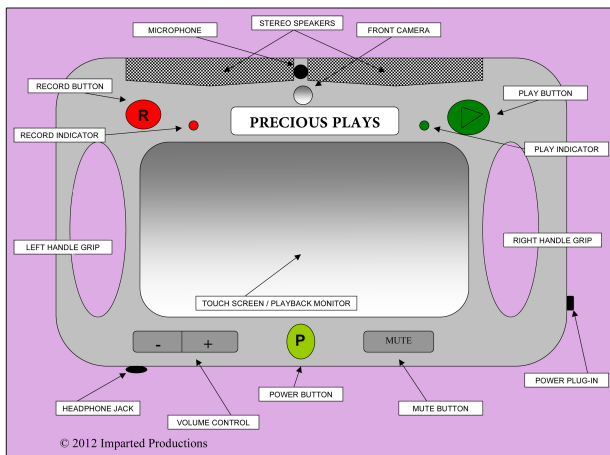
I had to ask someone to hold the container for me.

#### The Solution

My product solves this problem by enabling the container (weather peanut butter, jelly, hummus, etc) to have a secure foundation so that the user could scoop without the container sliding all over the table. And because it is secured, the use would be able to get a good size scoop instead of a little at a time, therefore taking less time to make each sandwich.

# Invention 2 (Precious Plays)

Imagine being in the hospital sick and lonely. Now you are gaurenteed to get every word of encouragement.



Every word, every smile, with love

## The Problem

Hospitals have limited visiting hours and sometimes when you make it in time the patient is resting. They are not able to get all the well wishes that would help them to get better soon. In an article by Angela Epstein, from

the Daily Mail, she stated that , “A close relationship with a friend, partner or relative has been found to halve the risk of heart patients having another cardiac arrest, while a lack of a close confidant puts sufferers at a greater risk of having further heart attacks.” Imagine those who do have close confidants or friends. It is a serious problem when a person who is very sick goes to bed feeling sad and lonely.

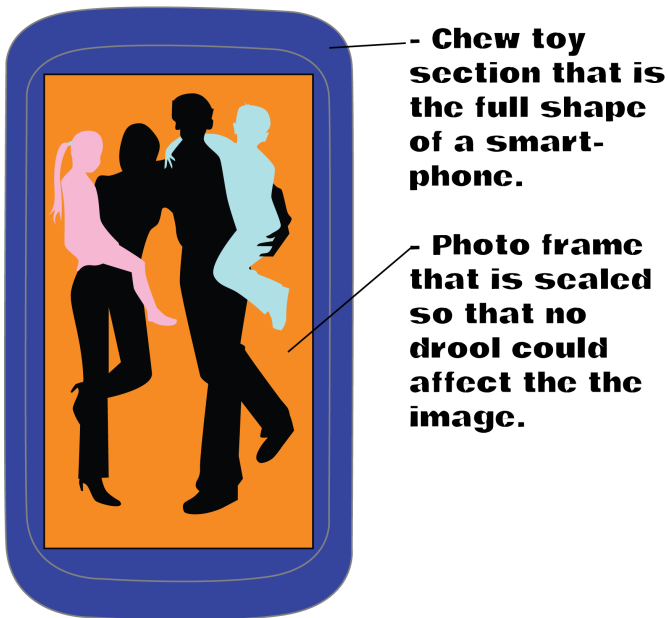
#### The Solution

When a person visits and the loved one is sleeping or knocked out, the visitor could leave a personalized message for them. When they wake up, they could view and hear the message whenever they want. Precious Plays will address the patient’s need for encouragement, love, reassurance and comfort. In turn the patient can have a full recovery with less of a likelihood of relapse. Ronnie Nathan, Chief Barker of the Variety Club, endorses the idea that love and kindness can help us recover from ill health. By the way, there are almost 6,000 hospitals in the United States alone and I could imagine, that all of them could benefit from this idea.

# Invention 3 (Paci Phone)

You and your toddler could enjoy using a smartphone while helping the child in teething.

## Paci Phone



Each bite won't send a text

The Problem

Being a parent and holding your child is a joy. Now, imagine trying to check email, making a call, typing notes, etc. while holding your child. For me, my son tries to take the phone and sometimes when I give it to him, he places it in his mouth. If your phone gets drool damage, then it is done. Now, your child is teething and being able to help ease the pain is a joy for a parent.

#### The Solution

My idea will combine a pacifier with a photo frame that is shaped like a smartphone. The pacifier, of course, helps in his/her teething while the photo frame feature helps to keep his/her attention and makes it seem like they are using a phone. You could switch out your photo at any time and reseal it without worrying about the photo getting drool damage.

## **Tip 2: Do something about it.**

So you have generated your ideas, so what is next? You must document it immediately, no waiting until tomorrow. Doing that is so important because you never know what might happen that causes you to forget what you envisioned. I am speaking from experience when I tell you that forgetting an awesome idea the next day could cause you a minor stress especially when it is something you believe is really good. In times past I used to write on notepads, which is good by the way, but we are in the digital age so I highly encourage you to use an app that keeps your notes. As a matter of fact, I use google keep on my phone, computer, and tablet. Every change is updated instantly on the server so that I could keep working on any device. You could also use evernote, but google keep is 100% free. Now that you have your ideas jotted down, I encourage you to start working on them one by one. Let us go back to Quirky. On Quirky, you are able to submit your idea into a variety of categories and after placing it you must first vote for yourself and then share your idea with your friends, family members and the rest of the world. Other Quirky users go through and view newly added ideas and vote for the ones that they like. Sometimes you will get users who will vote for yours and then ask you to vote for theirs, but that is another story altogether. If you get 200 votes, then your

idea gets reviewed and the door could opened wide for it to become an invention. But before you submit your idea, you need to make sure that your idea have a title, a good explanation of the problem and the solution. Also, a very good drawing or 3d sketch really helps as well. There are very good programs out there that help with the graphic design but I will share some of the free ones. First there is Gimp, it is like photoshop but 100% free. Next there is Inkscape, it is like Illustrator but 100% free. There are plenty of expensive, yet very good 3d programs, but I will only mention a free good one. 123d Design is from Autodesk and it is a program that I am learning right now. You could use the 3d program to sketch out your design in the submitting stage or you could use your skills and create a design later on after your idea is chosen and the Quirky community is working together to put everything together such as design, name, tagline, color, etc. In book two I will go into detail with tips on naming a product, taglines, and research etc.

# Invention 4 (Disposable Drool Guard)

Burping an infant without fear of getting stain on your

## Drool Guard



### The Problem

Your infant needs burping and your wife is tired after feeding him/her. There are times when the infant vomits

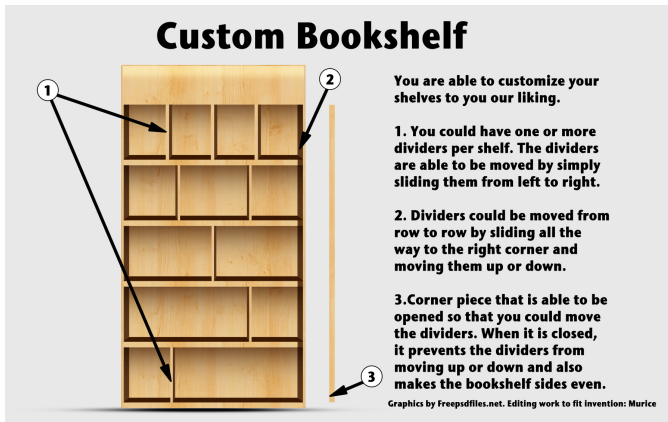
and if he/she is on your shoulder then the vomit could get on your shoulder easily and cause a big mess, ruining your suit, etc. With the drool guard you do not have to worry about your clothing getting soiled. The Solution

My idea solves this problem by having a wrapped cloth around your neck and upper body that is almost like a bib, but for front and back (More like a half t-shirt, but it is leak proof. And because it is disposable, you could give one to a visiting family member or friend to help in burping the baby.

# Invention 5

## (Customizable Book Shelf)

No more books falling over. Just neat and orderly placement of your books, trophies, and any other items.



Your books, your trophies, your style

### The Problem

Have you ever tried to keep a book shelf neat and tidy. Have you ever tried placing a few books and something else on the top shelf with success. Usually the best way to get all the books to stay steady is by having the entire row filled with books or use a metal holder, but sometimes it is

### tedious. The Solution

My idea allows you to customize your bookshelf any way that you would like. You could actually use more than just books, you could use trophies, toys, etc. And because the shelves have dividers that make it easy to create a unique spacing, you could make it one way today and another way tomorrow, literally.

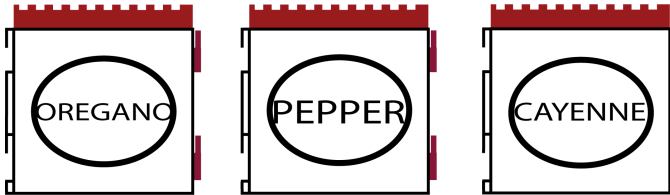
# Invention 6

## (Interlocking Spice Set)

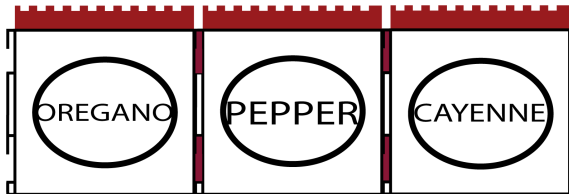
Add a little spice to your meal away from home.

### Interlocking Spice Set

Separated: At home



Connected: Easy to pack and go for any trip.



Any spice, anywhere

The Problem

If you have to cook your meals when you are away

from home, having a spice set that is just yours is always beneficial. When you do not have your normal spice set, things are just not the same when you cook a meal. Packing your spices and trying to keep them together does not work because they do not stay together. You could try to get a mini spice carrying set, but it won't feel like what you are used to in your kitchen.

#### The Solution

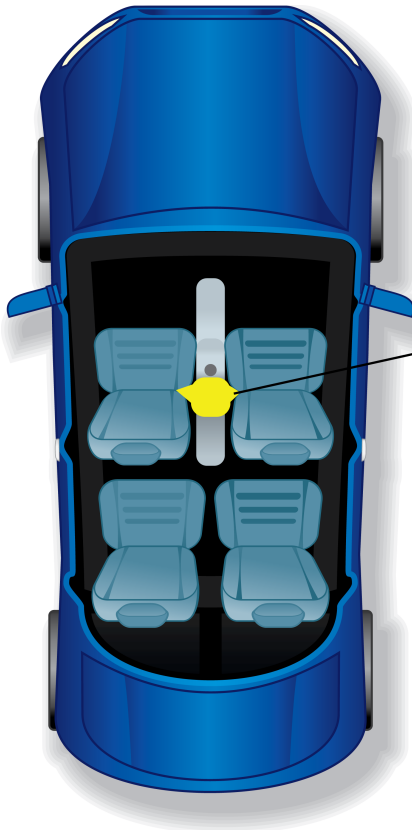
My idea makes it possible to have your spice set at home like normal, but when it is time to hit the road, you simply connect them together so that traveling with your spices would not be a hassle. Just connect them one by one and you are set. If your set falls, no need to worry, because they will be in one instead of multiples.

## Tip 3: Marketing Strategies

If you had a cure for a major disease, what would you do with it. Would you keep it to yourself and say nothing or would you share it with the world? Of course you would share it with the world and how you share it makes a big difference. Same thing with Quirky. If you have a great idea that you have submitted or even after it has become an invention, are you going to just keep it to yourself or share it with the world. When you do that through the Quirky platform, your chances of getting your idea turned into a product or getting your product sold often increases. What are your options for marketing your idea. You could use social media such as facebook, twitter, etc. I am working on some sure fire way of promoting my ideas and hopefully when they get turned into an products they will be sold all over the world. Before I blab about the sure fire way, I will implement them first and then share them in book two. But you must be creative or your idea may get stuck as an indicator that you have such and such amount of ideas. For me, I do not want to have just ideas, I want to create solutions that are used to make a difference. So what would you do to market your idea or invention. You could try using video, posters, tshirts, etc. Whatever you do, do it with your might because the hard work will show in the end.

# **Invention 7 (Instant Arm Rest)**

Always have a comfortable ride with your instant arm rest.  
When your car is without, you could add one now.



# Arm Rest

- With the portable arm rest, you could enjoy your ride anytime. Place it in any vehicle that does not have it's own middle arm rest.

Picture was downloaded from <http://www.fordesigner.com/>

**Comfortable ride everytime**

## The Problem

Simple, I enjoy being comfortable while driving, just as any other driver. If the automobile that I am driving, whether mine or a rental, does not have an arm rest, then

it is always an uncomfortable ride. The ride could be long or short, it does not matter.

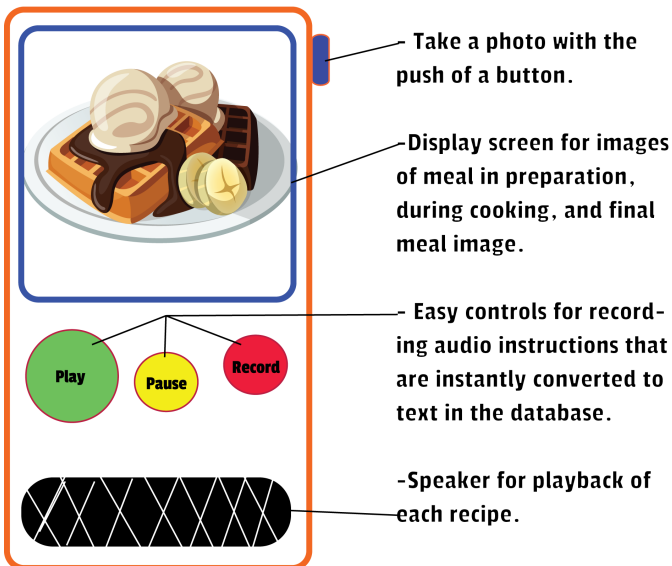
#### The Solution

My idea solves the problem by allowing the driver to rest their arm comfortable so that they could enjoy their ride. There is just something about being able to place your arm on it's rest while on a short or a long journey. It really makes the journey shorter and more comfortable.

# Invention 8 (Recipe Maker)

Have you ever cooked or baked something and forgot how to make it. Now you do not have to forget.

## Recipe Maker



Create your recipes with ease.

### The Problem

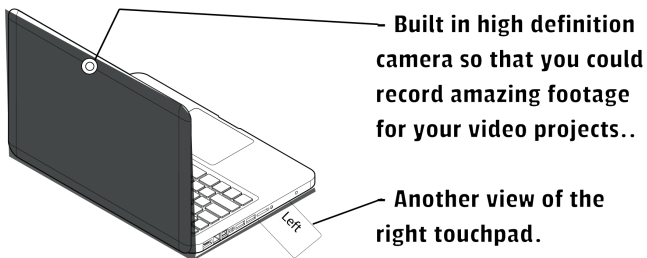
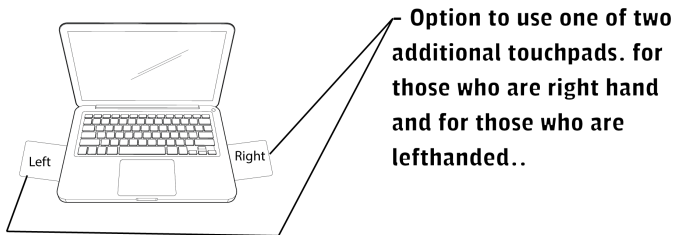
Growing up, my mom made some awesome meals, but whenever i asked her for the recipe she could never do it because cooking is something that she just does. I understood it clearly when i started to cook for my family as well. While you are cooking or baking something that you made up, you have no time to stop and write down, then do measurements, etc. It just takes up too much time and it really takes the joy out of making the meal. The Solution

My idea allows you to record your creation in audio, and possibly video. While you are in preparation, step by step you could take a photo so that you could even make a cookbook in the near future. There is a simple button at the side to take photos, the record, pause and play buttons to control audio, which you could listen to with the built in speaker. Ideally, I would like for the device to be simple , small and waterproof. When you are in the kitchen, things happen that could ruin any other device such as ipads, iphones, android tablets/phones etc. Recipe making will now be at it's finest.

# Invention 9 (Smat Case)

Now your laptop could truly be safe and complete with a smart case that has a built in camera and touchpads.

## Smart Case



Enhance your Macs value.

The Problem

1. A macbook pro is very powerful, especially for video editing and photo editing, etc. But with the built in camera, it is only good for selfie's.
2. With only a middle touchpad, you will eventually hurt your hand, get tired, or lose time on projects with the constant shifting of your hand.
3. Recording yourself for promotional videos, interview, etc. takes good effort to do it by yourself.
4. Most covers are just to cover and that is it, no use other than covering. The Solution

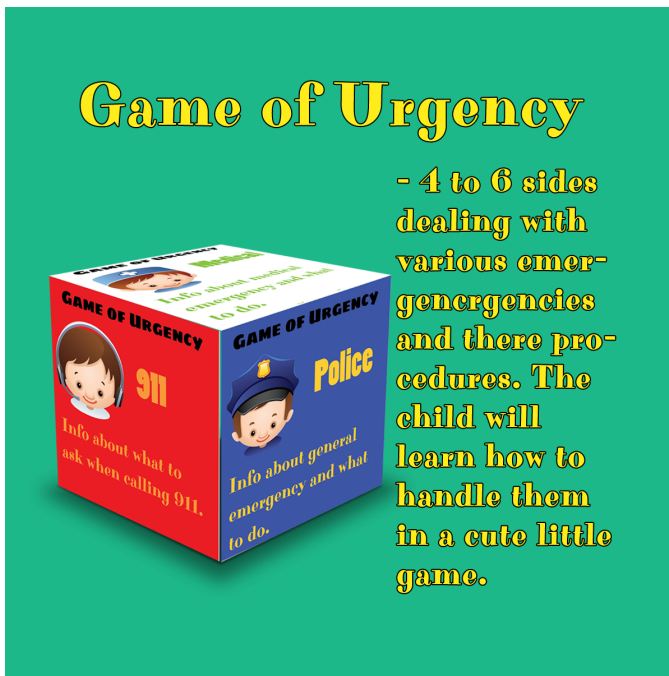
Solution 1:. With the additional camera on the smart cover, allows you to record hi definition video or take high resolution photos with a built in timer or with the Wink App. With the App you could start a record process / photo shoot for your preferred video or photo editing program. Also, if you plan to be away from the computer for awhile, or even for a quick break, the camera could be setup to take photos every 30 secs, minutes, or hours. And if your device is stolen, then those photos will be sent online where you could see the perpetrator who took your laptopl.

1. You could use either a right touchpad or a left touchpad. Each are able to be position in our out depending on which hand you are using.
2. With the Wink App connectivity, you could control your camera with the push of a button. Now, this option could be for a deluxe version of the smart case. We could sell it with the wink connectivity or without.

4.The smart cover does more than just cover your laptop, it takes it to another level and add more value to your investment, especially since they are not cheap.

# Invention 10 (Game of Urgency)

Learn emergency procedures in a nice little game/toy..



Learn emergency procedures with fun.

The Problem

Children enjoy playing with toys and sometimes they play with things that are not toys, which cause plenty of dangers, such as fire, choking, etc. Kids need a way to learn how to deal with those emergencies and get to enjoy being a kid at the same time. Because it is an interactive toy/game, they will spend time with it and have fun, but at the same time they will learn life saving procedures. The Solution

My idea allows any child, young adult, or adult learn the basics of what to do in emergencies while having fun. They are able, at the push of a button, to hear step by step instructions and then they are quizzed to see if they remember. The questions and facts are random, but after awhile, they will get the clear understanding of what to do in those various emergencies.

# Credits and Support

1. About Quirky: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quirky>
2. Book Publishing: [www.leanpub.com](http://www.leanpub.com) (I highly recommend it)
3. Graphic Design Resources: [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com) (free)
4. Graphic Design Resources: Envato (Graphic River)

Your support is greatly appreciated. Please visit [my Quirky page](http://www.quirky.com/Murice)<sup>1</sup> and vote on your favorite ideas. If you are already a Quirky member, then you will see the ideas but if you are not a Quirky inventor then by all means, join. There are great benefits to joining. You not only get to become a possible inventor, but you also get to support other inventors as well and when you support others you literally will be a beneficiary of the teamwork by receiving a percentage of the products profits. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [invchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:invchallenge@gmail.com).

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.quirky.com/Murice>