



MATILDA



EFFECT

Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers
of Research

Part 3:
Hedy Lamarr





Hedy Lamarr (1914-2000)

(born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler)

Actress & inventor

Due to her Jewish heritage, but also because of her husband, she left Germany in 1937 and continued her film career in Hollywood.



After 16 pianos were supposed to be synchronized in a film, which could not be technically achieved, Lamarr, together with George Antheil, developed a 'Secret Communication System' for torpedo radio control in 1941:

The so-called frequency hopping method, which was registered as US Patent 2292387.



GPS, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and smartphones would be practically unthinkable without this principle. Frequency hopping allows many users to communicate simultaneously with fewer signal interferences in wireless communication systems. Multiple signals can use the same frequency; if one fails or is blocked, it hops to another.





"Hope and curiosity about the future seemed better than guarantees. That's the way I was. The unknown was always so attractive to me... and still is."

