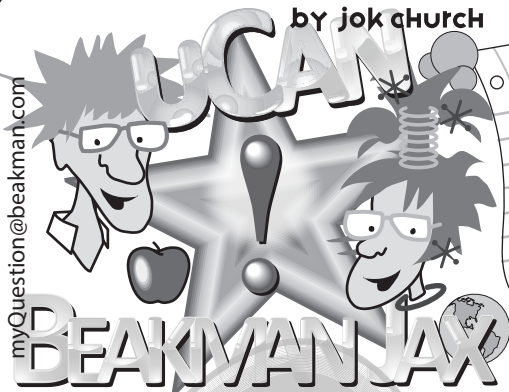


by jok church

myQuestion@beakman.com



Dear Beakman,

How does Velcro® work? How does it stick to stuff?

Hannah Stein
Wind Lake, Wisconsin

Beakman or Jax
1130 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
Questions, name & address

Dear Hannah,

Velcro works just like briars or some thistles that stick to your pants when you walk in fields. Velcro was invented by a guy in Switzerland who had to brush burrs out of his dog's coat when they went for walks. Georges de Mestral named his invention after the French words for velvet and hook: velours (vah-LOOR) and crochet (cro-SHAY), which became Velcro.

Google: Velcro proprietary name

Mr. de Mestral decided to see what was up with those burrs, so he got out magnifying glasses and a microscope. He found little hooks on the ends of the spikes that stuck out from the burrs.

The plant was using those hooks to spread its seeds far and wide away from the plant itself.

Mr. de Mestral figured he could make a machine with whirling tilted blades that would cut into loops woven into cloth.

When synthetic fibers like nylon and polystyrene came along, those hooks became long-lasting and would grab onto fluffy fibers like the ones you're probably wearing right now.

Beakman
Beakman Place

