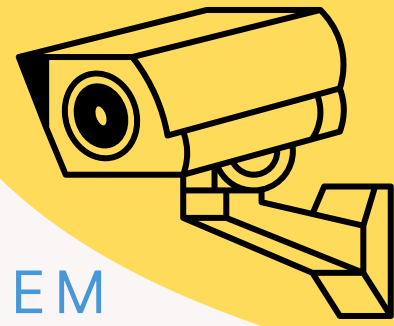


INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

# Marie Van Brittan Brown

INVENTOR OF THE VIDEO HOME SECURITY SYSTEM



Marie Van Brittain Brown was a nurse living in Harlem, New York in the 1960s. Her job meant she worked unusual hours. Her husband was an electronics technician and also worked unusual hours. This meant she was often alone and afraid in their apartment at night in an unsafe neighbourhood.

Marie decided to try to figure out a way to safely see who was at her door if she heard knocking. She designed a camera system so she could see her front door from inside her apartment.

The system had four peepholes, a sliding camera to see people of different heights, television screens and microphones. She could also buzz people in and press an emergency button to call the police.

This was the first CCTV system and led to many other security systems for homes and businesses since.

Van Brittan Brown and her husband were awarded a patent in December 1969 and she won an award from the National Scientists Committee for their invention.

