

J. N. De La Hire Encyclopedia Article

J. N. De La Hire

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J. N. De La Hire

Inventor who developed the double-acting water pump in 1716. This seemingly simple invention produces a continuous stream of water by pumping on both the "up" stroke and the "down" stroke. Previous pumps, using a handle attached to a piston, would suck water into the pump while pulling a handle up, then discharge it into a pail while pushing the handle down. By discharging water on both strokes, de la Hire's pump greatly improved efficiency. Variants of this type of pump are still in use.