



LAWRENCE SPERRY

Innovator (1892 - 1923)

Sperry was the third son of Elmer Ambrose Sperry, the co-inventor of the gyrocompass - a vital navigational tool for pilots and navigators. Lawrence Sperry developed the artificial horizon indicator that allows pilots to orient their position relative to the ground, and he also invented first autopilot system in 1912. The autopilot system could not replace a human pilot, but it could maintain the altitude of an aircraft and allow pilots to fly hands-free during long flights, or focus on other issues like changing weather.