



The first escalators, built at the end of the nineteenth century, were basically nothing more than conveyor belts with sloping wooden panels. In 1859, Nathan Ames patented a triangular staircase. In 1892, the American Jesse Reno patented a moving walkway with an endless platform.

However, George A. Wheeler, also an American, is considered the real inventor of the escalator with his patent registered in 1892. This escalator had a handrail that ran with the escalator. Otis later acquired these patents and further developed the escalator.

Due to its design, the escalator quickly gained acceptance in department stores, as it can transport many people within a short time without long waiting times [1].

Reference

1. Lifts and escalators; technology, planning, design, Oliver Bachmann, Verlag Moderne Industrie, 1992