

History of the telephone

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, an American inventor, in 1876. The establishment of telephone exchanges was essential, however, to the widespread use of the telephone.

The first telephone exchange (manually operated) opened in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1878. The first automatic exchange opened in 1891 in Kansas city. The mass production and spread of automatic telephone exchanges led to a huge increase in the numbers of telephones in use over the next century.