



## Conducting a Patent Search on the U.S.P.T.O Website The 7-Step Strategy

### 1. Initial Class/Subclass Search

- Go to [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)
- Select "How to Search" located on the blue line
- Select "How to search for patents at a USPDL."
- Select **U.S. Patent Classification (USPC) Index.**
- Click on the **letter** of the alphabet for the term you wish to search. For example if I have an idea for a new design of an artificial fishing lure, I would click on the letter "L". Then arrow down to "Lures"

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LURES
043 / 4 _____ + - - - - . FISHING
043 / 42 _____ + - - - - . . . . . ARTIFICIAL
D22 / 126 _____ + - - - - . . . . . DESIGN
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### 2. Identify Subclass (es).

- Click on class D22 and arrow down to subclass 126. Check to see if there is other classifications in the same area that are also appropriate. Note where the term falls within the system. Scan the entire class schedule, paying attention to the dot indents. Revise search strategy as needed. Class D22 is called Arms, Pyrotechnics, Hunting and Fishing Equipment. Most patents have more than one class and subclass.

### 3. Classification Definitions

- From the Manual of Classification, click on "Class Definitions" at top right hand side of page. Then click on the Class. Clicking on the Title of the class will show you the definition of that class and clicking on the subclass will show you the definition of the subclass. Definitions will soon be added to design classes.
- When possible definitions should be read to establish the scope of class (es) and subclass (es) relevant to the search. The definitions include important search notes and suggestions for further search options such as "see references".

#### **4. Initial Search**

- Check if you are on the right path by clicking on the red "P" to the left of the subclass.
- All patents in the class and subclass are displayed.
- Retrieve results and examine patent titles.
- Search published patent applications in class and subclass by clicking on the blue "A" next to the subclass in the Manual of Patent Classification.
- Try other relevant classes/subclasses.

#### **5. Patent Class**

- Once relevant classes and subclasses are identified, obtain a list of all patent numbers (1790 to present) granted for every class and subclass to be searched.
- To obtain patent list of titles go back to "Quick Search" and enter class and subclass as above or get list by going to the Manual of Classification.

#### **6. Examine Title List**

- Examine title list and click on title to display a summary of the patent, which includes claims, cited references, and US, classification numbers.
- Look up any other classification numbers assigned to each patent in *Index to U.S. Patent Classification* to determine relevancy.

#### **7. View Complete Patent**

- For those patents from the titles list that seem close to your invention, after viewing the summary of the patent click on blue "images" box on top of page. This will display complete patent including drawings.

#### **TO VIEW COMPLETE IMAGES ON USPTO WEBSITE YOU MUST DOWNLOAD ALTERNATIFF SOFTWARE!**

From [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) choose "search" under "patents" on left side of page.  
Select "How to Access Full-Page Images" from the purple section.  
Select "Alternatiff"  
Select your internet browser and download.

**TO VIEW PATENTS IN PDF FORMAT:**  
Go to [www.pat2pdf.org](http://www.pat2pdf.org) and type in patent number

**\*For a Video Tutorial of this Strategy go to**  
[http://www.library.gatech.edu/search\\_locate/techres/patentsearching.wmv](http://www.library.gatech.edu/search_locate/techres/patentsearching.wmv)

Created by Joanne Tobin  
Revised on July 25, 2008

# PATENT & TRADEMARK WEBSITES

Georgia Tech Patent and Trademark Depository Library  
<http://www.library.gatech.edu>

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
<http://www.uspto.gov>

European Patent Office – search and print worldwide patent  
<http://ep.espacenet.com>

CAMBIA – an international non-profit institute based in Australia, offers *Patent Lens* for searching granted US, Australian, and European patents and US, WIPO/PCT, and Australian applications simultaneously.  
<http://www.patentlens.net/daisy/patentlens/patentlens.html>

U.S. Copyright Office  
<http://www.loc.gov/copyright>

Georgia Office of the Secretary of State – Trademarks Database  
<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/corporations/marksearch.htm>

Inventors Association of Georgia  
<http://www.georgiainventors.com>

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Attorney Information  
<http://www.martindale.com>

Thomas Register of Corporations –  
<http://thomasregister.com>

State Trademarks Database  
<http://smallbusiness.findlaw.com/trademark/trademark-registration/state-trademark-info-links.html>

Georgia Galileo Database – useful for searching non-patent literature  
<http://www.galileo.usg.edu>

## Choosing and Using: Patents

Name of Database	What is it?	Coverage	Pros	Cons	Truncation, wildcard	Phrase, adjacency, Boolean	Notes
USPTO Web	Registered and pending U.S. patents	1790-1976 scanned images 1976-present searchable full-text	Fast. Ample documentation.	Must load tiff viewer. Prints one page at a time. Searching <i>index to classification</i> and <i>manual</i> is not intuitive.	\$	Use quotes, Boolean only in command mode.	Pre-1976 search by class or patent # only. See PAIR for image file wrappers.
PubWEST	USPTO's database of U.S. and foreign registered and pending patents.	Full text searchable to 1976. Searchable OCR'd text 1920-1976. Begins 1790.	Good for searching older patents. Can search multiple databases at once. KWIC.	Complex sign-on (need secure ID). OCR'd (scanned) text often sloppy.	\$. left, right ? wildcard to (?re and recycles [i,ab]	Quotes, adj; and, or, not adj# copper adj2sulfate	For experienced patent searchers.
Cassis	DVD's of U.S. patents.	1790-present Search abstracts back to 1991. Titles back to 1969.	Batch downloading, sorting. Loaded to workstation.	Must load a USAPar or USAApp disk to view each patent.	*	and, or, not	Use when the Internet is down.

Date:

Branch Chief  
Public Search Facility  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Madison EAST Room 1B05  
600 Dulany St.  
Alexandria, VA 22313

or

Fax: (571) 273-0021 or (571) 273-0020

Please let me know what field of search, patent class/subclasses cover my idea. I understand class(es)/subclass(es) are preliminary and can be subject to change during the examination process of a patent application. The enclosed sketches on the back of this sheet with each part labeled show my intended invention.

My idea has certain features of structure, mode of operation, and intended uses, which I have described below.

**I understand that a minimum of two to three weeks from the time the Public Search Facility receives it will be needed to fill this request and there is no charge for this information.**

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS:

CITY:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

FAX (if available):

E-MAIL (if available):

- (1) Features of structure, or how it is constructed.
  
- (2) Mode of operation, or how it works.
  
- (3) Intended uses, or purpose of idea.

**OVER FOR SKETCHES OF IDEA**

(4) Rough sketches of my idea, viewed from all sides, with labels to identify each part. (If necessary, use additional sheets of paper, either plain or with lines. The sketches may be made in pencil and need not be drawn to scale.)