

Assistance to the Inventor Community

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Administrator, Inventor Assistance Program



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Customer Interaction

- Inventor Assistance Center
 - ◆ 800 number
- Independent Inventor e-mail
 - ◆ Special e-mail account
- Inventors Eye eNewsletter
- On-line chats
 - ◆ Bi-monthly
 - Experts answer questions
 - Transcripts on-line



Inventors Eye

inventorseye



JAN 2011
vol two issue one

The USPTO's bimonthly publication for the independent inventor community

COMMERCE
connect

CommerceConnect Helps Businesses Become More Competitive and Create Jobs

CommerceConnect is a U.S. Department of Commerce initiative launched by Secretary Gary Locke in October 2009 to make businesses more competitive and to create jobs by bringing the department's more than 70 business-focused technical assistance, grant and information-based programs together under one roof.

[Read more](#)

Inventors Eye | articles

[CommerceConnect Helps Businesses Become More Competitive and Create Jobs](#)
By Dennis Alvord : CommerceConnect

[Trademarks Litigation Tactics Study](#)
By Toni Hickey : Office of the Under Secretary

[spark of genius](#)
[The Step 'N Wash](#)
By John Calvert : Inventors Assistance Center

[advice](#)
[Working with a Patent Practitioner](#)

[events](#)
[Where Independent Inventors Meet](#)

[network](#)
[Organizations for Inventors](#)

recent issues

[January 2011](#)

[November 2010](#)

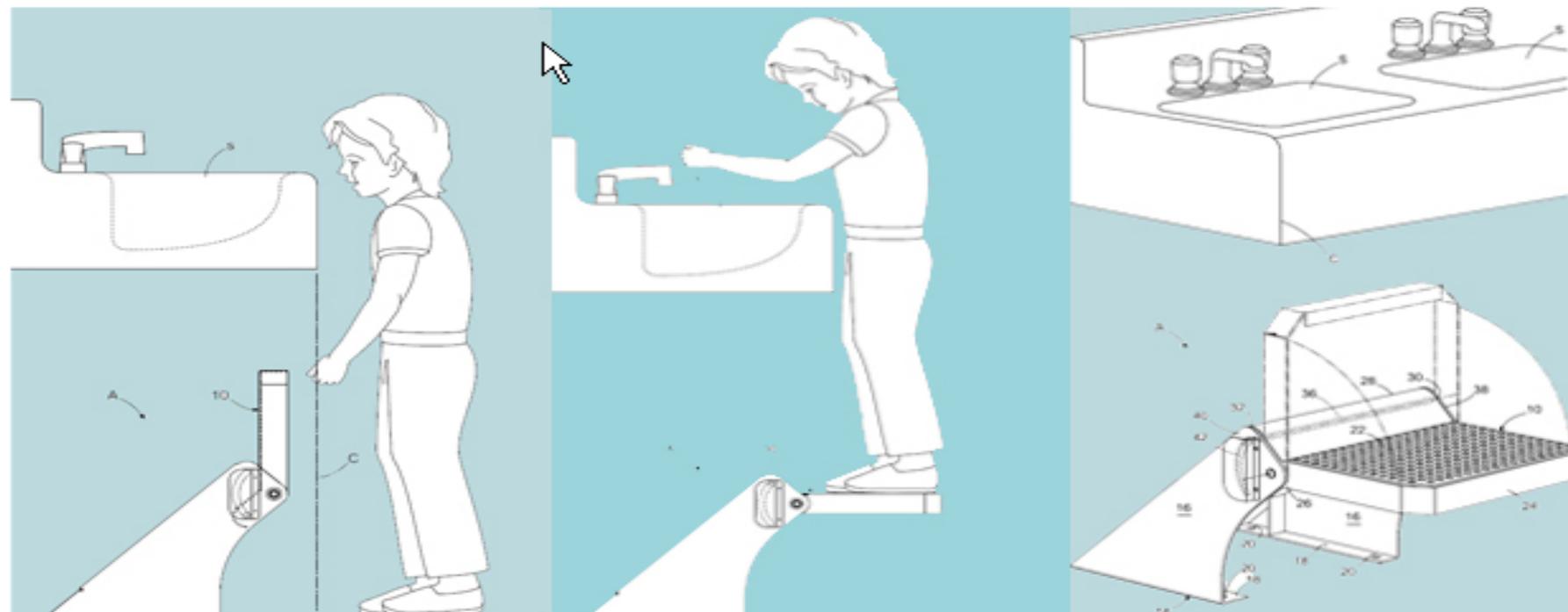
[September 2010](#)

[July 2010](#)

[April 2010](#)

[February 2010](#)

[all issues](#)



spark of genius

The Step 'N Wash

Joi Sumpton and her retracting step stool

Web Assistance

- Inventor Resource Page
 - ◆ General questions answered
 - ◆ Invention marketing complaints
 - ◆ Links to other agencies and inventor organizations
- Computer based training
 - ◆ Training videos
 - Limited to 20 minutes
 - 508 compliant



Inventors Resource Page



United States Patent and Trademark Office

An Agency of the Department of Commerce

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Inventors Resources

[Inventors Eye Newsletters](#) (previous issues)

[Programs and Policies for Independent Inventors and Small Businesses](#)

[Welcome to the Inventor Resources Web site](#)

[Is the Inventor site for me?](#)

PATENTS

- [What is a Patent?](#)
- [Who can apply for a Patent?](#)
- [What can and cannot be patented?](#)
- [How do I know if my invention is patentable?](#)
- [How long does patent protection last?](#)
- [How much does it cost to get a patent?](#)
- [What is a PCT application?](#)
- [Frequently asked questions about patents](#)
- [Computer Based Training](#)

COMPLAINTS

- [Complaints](#)
- [Complaints Forms](#)

I

Electronic Media

- iTunes
 - ◆ 4 direct links with USPTO produced video
 - ◆ Multiple university links
- YouTube
 - ◆ At least 4 university made videos
 - ◆ USPTO videos to come
 - Short – less than 5 minutes
 - Directed to specific topics
- Others to come



Inventor Conferences

- Annual conference
 - ◆ 15th annual held in Alexandria November, 2010
- Congressional outreach
 - ◆ Working with representatives
 - One day event highlighting federal, state and local resources
- Regional conferences
 - ◆ USPTO sponsored
 - ◆ Inventor group, non-profit sponsored



Campus Visits

- Academic year 2008-09
 - ◆ 74 universities and colleges
 - ◆ 11,000 students
- Academic Year 2010-11
 - ◆ 22 universities and colleges
 - ◆ 3,600 students
- Faculty and staff contacts
 - IP presentations
 - Individual Q&A
 - Technology Transfer discussions



Virtual Visits

- New in academic year 2009-10
 - ◆ Contact was made at approx 100 schools
 - ◆ Video teleconference format
 - ◆ Live presentations with Q&A

