USPTO resources for independent inventors, small business owners, and entrepreneurs

Office of Innovation Outreach
Office of the Chief Communications Officer
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Driving innovation
Audrey Sherman, a leading inventor of adhesives at 3M, shows what’s possible through persistence and collaboration. FULL STORY>

Find It Fast
Quick links to applications and tools.

- Patents
- Trademarks

New to IP?
Learn the basics of intellectual property.

- Patent basics >
- Trademark basics >
- Inventor & entrepreneur resources >

COVID-19 Response Resource Center

Expanding innovation

Artificial intelligence

USPTO in your region
## Inventor and entrepreneur resources

Resources to help you navigate the patent and trademark application processes

### Get started
- Learn about types of intellectual property (IP) and how to protect your idea or product.
  - Types of IP protection
  - Attend a free training
  - Patents basics
  - Trademark basics

### Before you apply
- Search existing patents and trademarks to find out if your idea is unique. If it is, create an account.
  - Search patents
  - Search trademarks
  - Create an account to apply

### Get help to apply
- Set yourself up for success by learning via USPTO's free resources and find expert help.
  - Find resources near you
  - Watch our videos
  - Find a patent attorney
  - Do I need a trademark attorney?

### Apply for IP rights
- Submit your application for a patent or trademark. See if you qualify for reduced patent fees.
  - Apply for a patent
  - Apply for a trademark
  - Costs to file
  - Reduced patent fees

### After you apply
- As your patent or trademark is examined you may need to take additional steps.
  - Check application status
  - Respond to a Patent decision
  - Prepare for a patent interview
  - Respond to a Trademark decision

### Appeal or fix an issue
- An applicant may petition a procedural rule or issue, or appeal a patent rejection or trademark refusal.
  - Learn about patent petitions
  - Learn about patent appeals
  - Learn about trademark petitions
  - Learn about trademark appeals

### Entrepreneur resources
- Learn about small business resources at the USPTO and other federal agencies.
  - Startup resources
  - License or sell your IP
  - Change patent owner
  - Change trademark owner
  - Other federal resources

### Protect yourself
- Don’t be misled by false claims, scams, or companies offering services for unusually low prices.
  - Known patent scams
  - Known trademark scams
  - Prevent or report a scam

[www.uspto.gov/inventors](http://www.uspto.gov/inventors)
USPTO assistance centers

Inventor Assistance Center (IAC)
- Provides general information about the patent examination policy and procedure.
- 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday
- (571) 272-1000
- (800) 786-9199 (press 2)

Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)
- Provides general information about the trademark registration process.
- 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday
- (571) 272-9250
- (800) 786-9199 (press 1)

www.uspto.gov/InventorAssistance
www.uspto.gov/TrademarkAssistance
Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs)

Nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support intellectual property needs of the public.

www.uspto.gov/PTRC
Free legal assistance programs*

• **Patent Pro Bono Program** works nationwide to match financially underresourced inventors and small businesses with volunteer practitioners to file and prosecute patent applications.
  
  – www.uspto.gov/ProBonoPatents
  – probono@uspto.gov

• **Law School Clinic Certification Program** permits law students under the supervision of a participating law school’s clinic to practice patent and/or trademark law before the USPTO while providing those services to applicants, *pro bono*.
  
  – www.uspto.gov/LawSchoolClinic
  – Lawschoolinformation@uspto.gov

*Applicant(s) must pay for all USPTO fees*
USPTO offices across the nation

USPTO headquarters: Alexandria, VA

Eastern Regional Outreach Office
Alexandria, VA
- www.uspto.gov/EastCoast

Midwest Regional Office
Detroit, MI
- www.uspto.gov/Midwest

Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Denver, CO
- www.uspto.gov/RockyMountain

Silicon Valley Regional Office
San Jose, CA
- www.uspto.gov/SiliconValley

Texas Regional Office
Dallas, TX
- www.uspto.gov/Texas
Find help in your area

- Free legal assistance for filing for a patent or registering a trademark
- Registered patent attorney or agent
- Inventor and entrepreneur organizations in your state
- Accessible via uspto.gov homepage
  - USPTO in your region

www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-office-locations
The USPTO’s kids pages

- Fun hands-on activities
- Inspiring stories
- Engaging lessons in IP for students of all ages

education@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/kids
Upcoming events

- Trademark Basics Boot Camp
- The Path to a Patent
- Meet the Patent Experts
- Do You Know @ USPTO
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Inventor Hour
- Hispanic Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program
- Veterans Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program
- Women’s Entrepreneurship Symposium
- Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program

www.uspto.gov/events
Thank you

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