

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



National Summer Teacher Institute 2025

July 21, 22, and 23, 2025

11am – 3pm ET | 8am – 12 noon PT



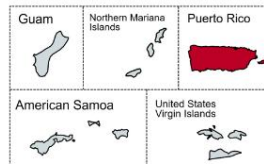
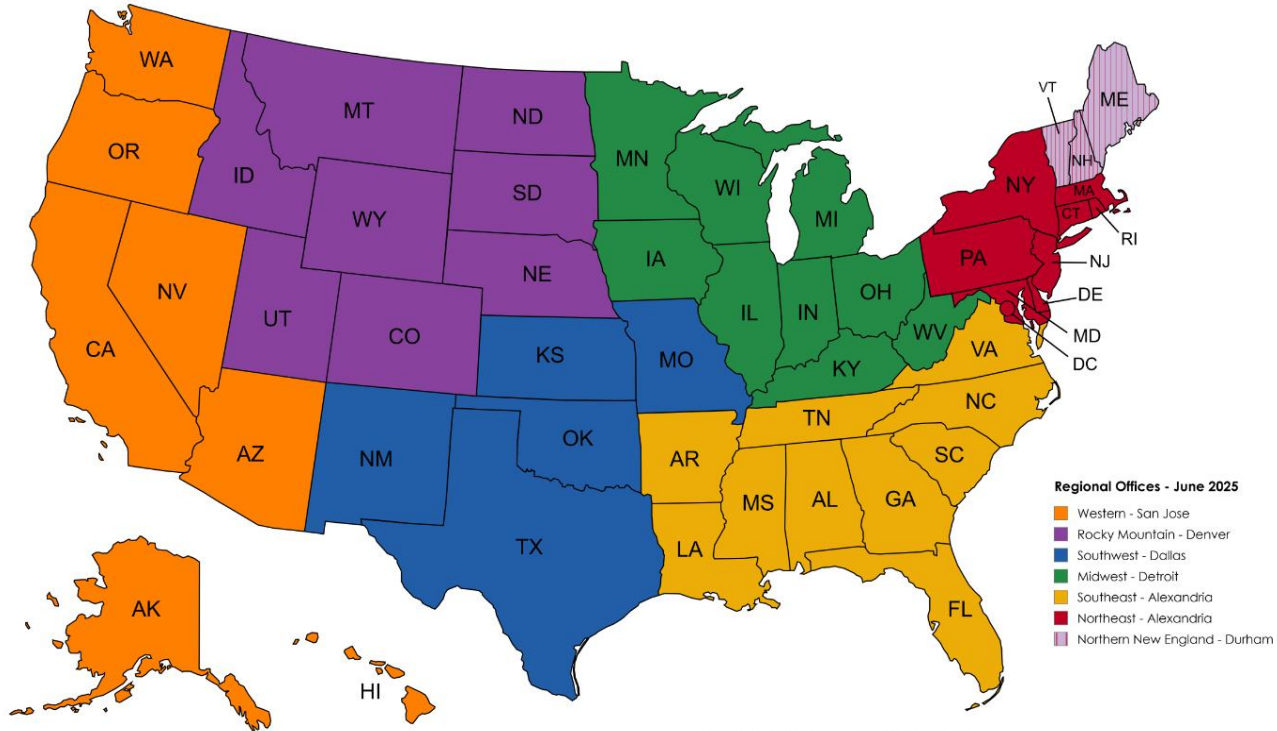
UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE®

America's Innovation Agency

The **United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)**, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), is responsible for issuing patents and for registering trademarks. The USPTO also advises the president of the United States, the secretary of commerce, and U.S. government agencies on intellectual property (IP) policy issues, including patent, trademark, and copyright policy.



USPTO Regional & Community Outreach Offices



USPTO Office of Public Engagement

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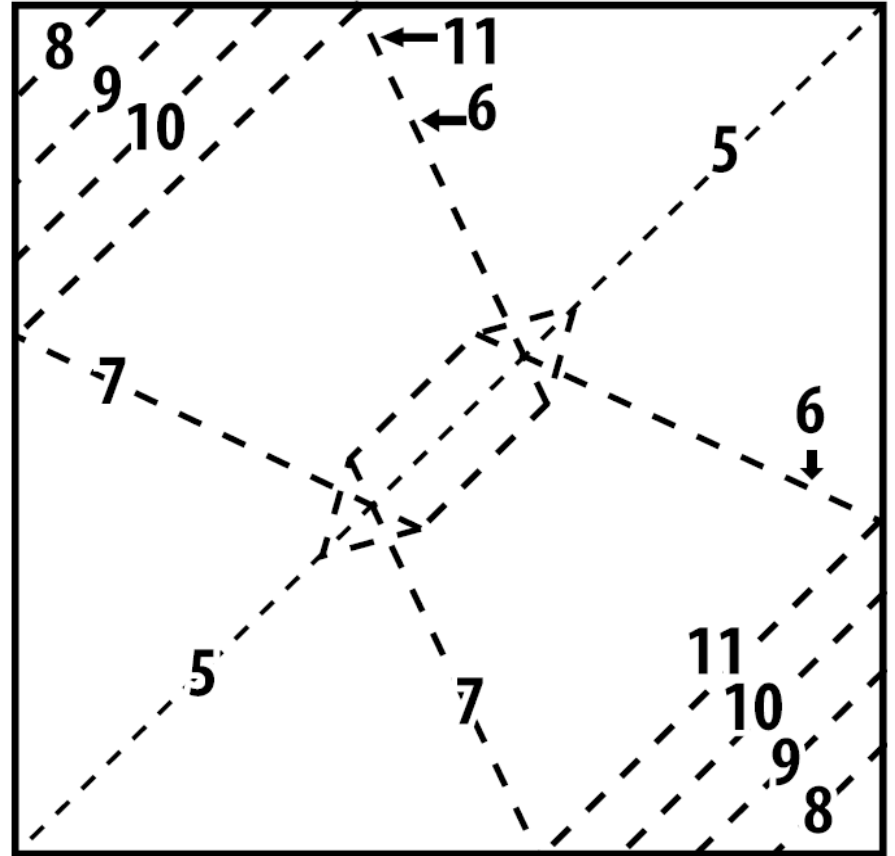
SCAMPER: An invention activity to unleash student creativity



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

**How many uses can you think of
for a square piece of paper?**

List as many uses as you can!



uspto®

Let me tell you a story

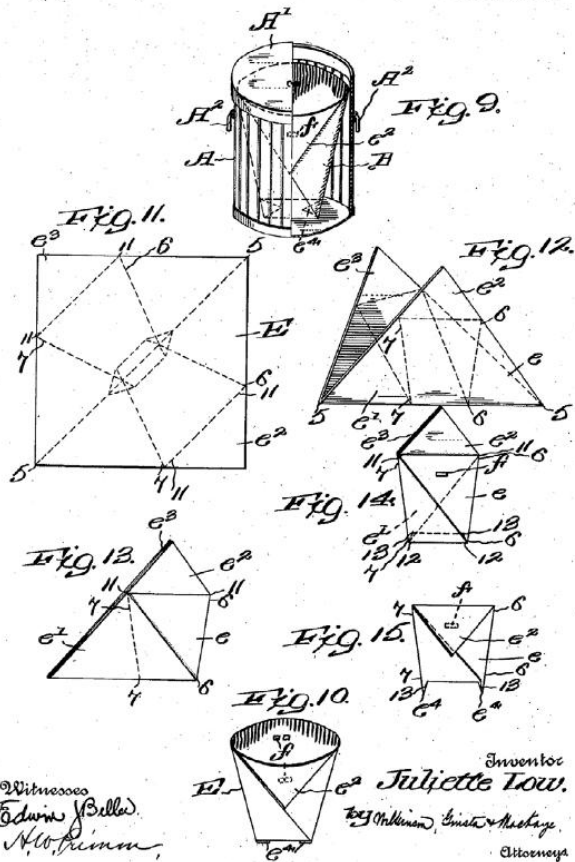
LIQUID CONTAINER FOR USE WITH GARBAGE CANS OR THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 13, 1914.

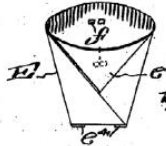
1,124,925.

Patented Jan. 12, 1915.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 2.



Witnesses
Edwin J. Bell,
N. W. Primm,



Inventor
Juliette Low.

by Wilkinson, Gustaf & Maschke,
Attorneys

DESIGN.

J. LOW.

BADGE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 22, 1913.

45,234.

Patented Feb. 10, 1914.



Witnesses
David W. Hutton,
N. W. Primm.

Inventor
Juliette Low
by Wilkinson, Gustaf & Maschke,
Attorneys



USPTO Inventor Trading Cards



Juliette Gordon Low

Inventor and Pioneer

Born: October 31, 1860 in Savannah, Georgia

Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts® organization and was an inventor with two patents. She received a utility patent for a liquid container to use in trash cans and a design patent for a badge shaped like a trefoil symbolizing the three parts to the Girl Scout Promise. The Trefoil design is now a registered trademark of GSUSA and has identified its members for over 100 years.



What is intellectual property?

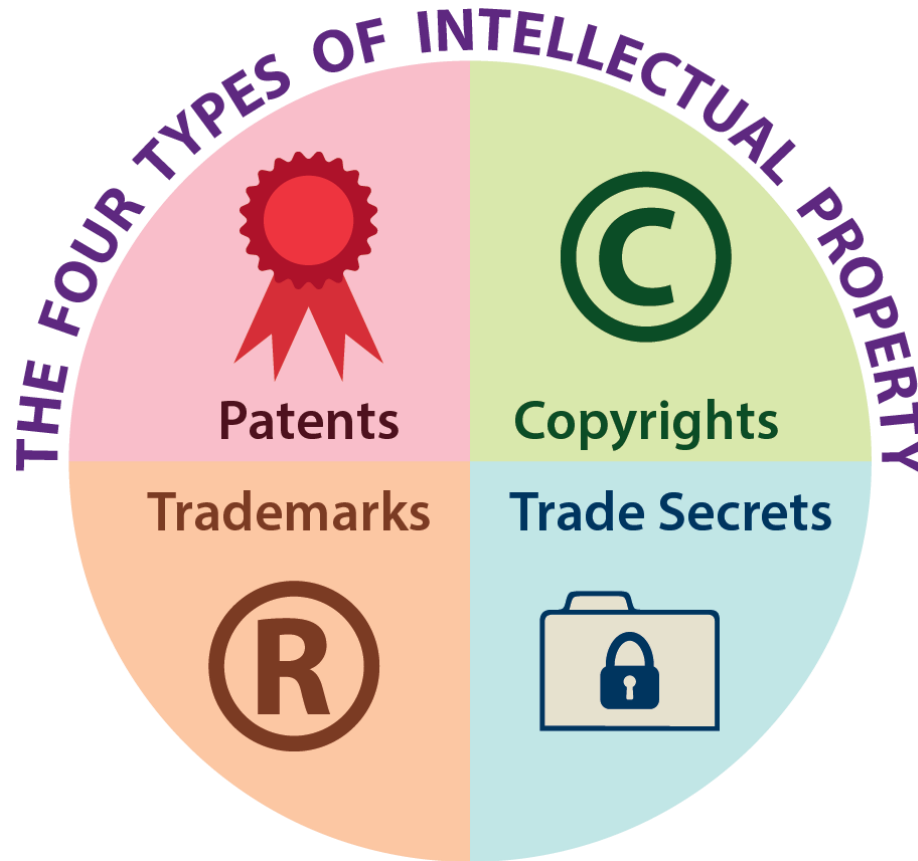
Refers to "creation of the mind"

It is more than an...



It must be in a tangible form!

Types of intellectual property



An easy on-ramp to teaching invention and IP to students

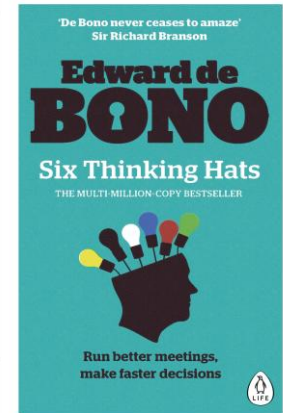
SCAMPER



How do you Brainstorm?

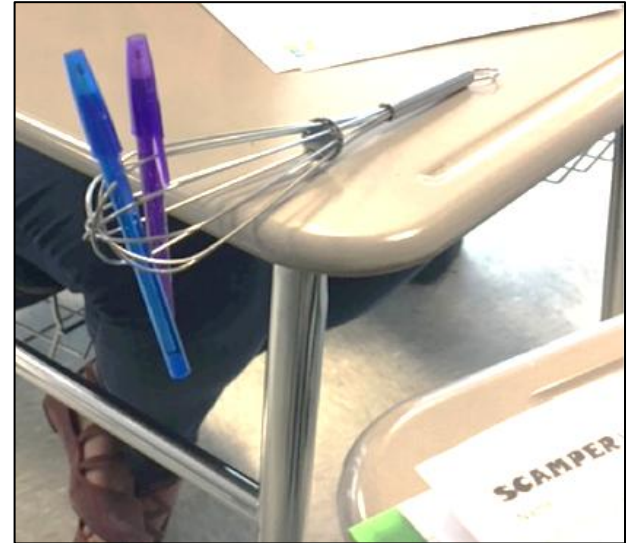
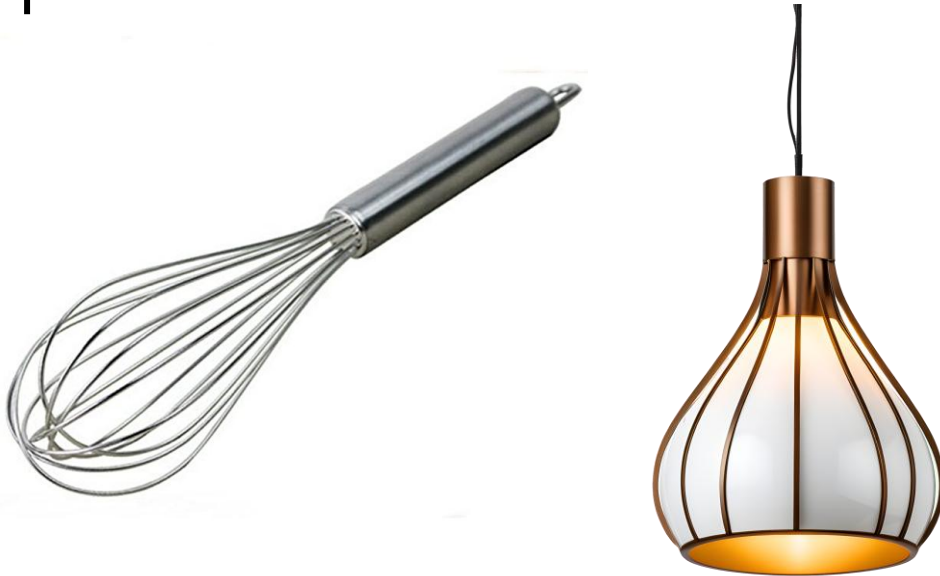
“Creative thinking is not a talent; it is a skill that can be learnt. It empowers people by adding strength to their natural abilities which improves teamwork, productivity, and where appropriate, profits.”

—EDWARD de BONO, Author *Six Thinking Hats*



What is SCAMPER?

SCAMPER is a lateral thinking technique that provides a framework for creative ideation.



The SCAMPER brainstorming method

Substitute

Combine

Adapt

Modify

Put it to another use

Eliminate

Rearrange

Cool Questions for Creative Thinking!

What if I ____?

How might I ____?

What would happen if I ____?

How might things change if ____?

Cool Notions for Conceptual Thinking!

It would be funny if I ____!

It would be interesting if I ____!

It might be more useful if I ____!

It might be surprising when ____!



**Let's start with something
common...**



Like a spoon!

What could I...

Substitute?

Combine?

Adapt?

Modify/Magnify/Minimize?

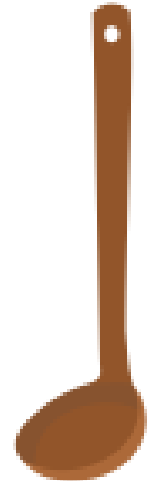
Put to other uses?

Eliminate?

Rearrange?



Applying SCAMPER



uspto®

Let's SCAMPER!



Generate new ideas for improving or repurposing the water bottle.

- **Brainstorm** some ideas for each of the letters
- **Record** your ideas
- **Draw** your favorite idea

Use SCAMPER to improve or repurpose a water bottle



S	Substitute What elements of the idea could be substituted to create a new possibility?
C	Combine Can two existing ideas be combined to create a new one?
A	Adapt Can an existing idea be adapted to a new situation?
M	Modify Can the idea be changed to create something new or improve it?
P	Put To Other Uses Can the same idea be used for other purposes?
E	Eliminate Are there any elements of the idea that can be eliminated?
R	Rearrange Can the order of the components of the idea be rearranged?



Students use their imagination to name
their invention and draw a logo that is memorable

Create a brand

Branding

Create a name, logo, and slogan for your SCAMPER invention.

- **Name** your product
- **Draw** a logo
- **Write** a slogan or tagline



How to create a brand

First, describe your product

- List 10 or more words related to your product
- Think about the uses as well as the appearance

Red, fruit, sweet, tree, seeds, snack, wisdom, Newton, juicy, round



Brainstorm product names

Make sure the product name is:

1. Unique and not likely to be confused with another popular product
2. Not generic
3. Easy to pronounce correctly
4. Easily spelled and could be adequately searched on the internet
5. Short, and not too wordy
6. Appropriate when abbreviated and does not stand for something unrelated
7. Relatable and make sense for your product



Brand names and logos are trademarks

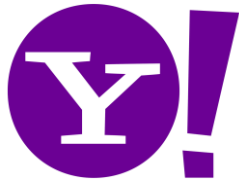


Design a logo

Logos are a visual representation of your brand.

They should be:

- ✓ Recognizable
- ✓ Clearly visible in color and monochrome
- ✓ Include design elements



Color emotion guide



Chart used with permission from "The Logo Company."

What is a tagline?



A tagline can consist of a couple of words or a whole phrase related to a product or service and reinforces messaging of the brand. Taglines are often very short and only a few words.



Share your creations!

Great starting points for inventing in the classroom!

Other Invention Activities

Education resources and materials

- Online hub with classroom-ready lesson plans, standalone activities, and more
- Filter by grade band, topic, or resource type
- Bookmark this page and visit often, as new resources are added regularly



Education resources and materials

We offer a wide range of educational materials and for all ages and grade levels. These resources can be used in the classroom or other educational environments to inspire the next generation of American inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs.

Use the filters below to find a resource.

Filter by: [Reset](#)

Show only these grade levels:

- Grades K-2 (12)
- Grades 3-5 (15)
- Grades 6-8 (25)
- Grades 9-12 (24)
- Postsecondary (18)

I'm interested in these topics:

- Copyright (8)
- IP (27)
- Invention (30)
- Inventor Story (11)
- Patents (23)
- Trade Secrets (5)
- Trademark (9)

Show only these resource types:

- Lesson Plans (7)
- Activity (22)
- Rubrics (0)
- Supplementals (12)

Showing 36 results

A beginner's guide to IP protection

Get started on your IP journey with these resources curated for inventors and entrepreneurs.

Postsecondary

Beulah Henry Trading Card Lesson Plan

Explore the remarkable legacy of Beulah Louise Henry, a trailblazing woman inventor with more than 100 inventions and 49 patents.

Grades 3-5 Grades 6-8

David Petite Trading Card Lesson Plan

T. David Petite's transformative inventions have enabled access to wireless technology across nations worldwide. Learn more about his legacy through activities focused on computer science, engineering, design, and community planning.

Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Ellen Ochoa Trading Card Lesson Plan

Ellen Ochoa is a veteran of four NASA Space Shuttle flight missions and a co-inventor on three patents in optical technology. In this lesson plan, students engage in interactive activities focused on the physics of light.

Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Create a hologram

Create a working hologram based on the optical technology inventions of Ellen Ochoa.

Marian Croak Trading Card Lesson Plan

Dr. Marian Croak is a pioneering technology leader known for her groundbreaking work in Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Students



Two patents and an invention

1 Invent

Pick two patents and create an invention

1. Select two patents that interest your group
2. Identify the problems solved by the patents.
3. Using the selected patents, brainstorm new inventions that could solve the same problem differently or a new one.



2 Sketch and Label

Draw your invention

1. Create line drawings using black ink or pencil.
2. Make drawings large so that you can place numbers on the different components of your invention.
3. Place numbers on the drawing that point to significant components of your invention.



3 Develop the Brand

Design a trademark

1. Create a name for your invention.
2. Draw a logo.
3. Write a slogan for your brand.



4 Plan the Pitch

Write an invention statement

1. Describe the invention.
2. Explain the features of the invention and how it would be used.
3. Explain how the brand was created.
4. Identify the forms of IP that could protect the invention.



Mini invention challenge:

Quickly create something new!



What does it mean to invent?

To create something new and unique that has not existed before.

What is intellectual property?

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, and images used in commerce. There are four types of intellectual property: patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

What is a patent?

A patent confers the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling or importing an invention for a limited period of time in exchange for its disclosure.

There are three different types of patents that the USPTO may grant:

- **Utility patents:** New and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.
- **Design patents:** New, original ornamental design for an article of manufacture.
- **Plant patents:** New, distinct, and asexually reproduced plants.

What is a trademark?

Trademarks identify one person's product or service and distinguish those products or services from another's. They can be words, designs, or a combination, but can take many other forms.

What is copyright?















Copyright is a type of intellectual property that protects original works of authorship as soon as an author fixes the work in a tangible form of expression. There are many different types of works that can be protected by copyright, including art, literature, architecture, and movies.

What is a trade secret?

A trade secret is confidential information that can make the owner money as long as it stays a secret. The information must have value to others who cannot legitimately obtain it, and the owner of the trade secret must make efforts to ensure the information remains a secret.


Directions: Follow the steps below.

1. Select one of the problems below. Work individually or with a group. **(1 minute)**

-  Your ring fell to the bottom of the pool, but you don't know how to swim.
-  You want to eat spaghetti, but you don't have a fork.
-  There is a hole in the screen in your room and flies keep getting in, but you don't have any tape or extra screen.
-  You kicked a soccer ball over a barbed-wire fence and need to get it back.
-  Your paper airplane got caught on the ceiling fan, and you can't use anything heavy to get it down.
-  Your water bottle doesn't fit into the water dispenser, and you don't have money to buy a new one.
-  You work on a team, and everybody misses their deadlines.
-  The air conditioner in your room is too loud, and you can't sleep with the noise.
-  You hate to eat the cereal dust that always accumulates at the bottom of the cereal container.
-  Your cell phone died, and you can't remember anybody's number.
-  You have a deadline to write a community center newsletter, but don't have the necessary resources.
-  You are out with a group of friends, and they cannot decide on a restaurant.
-  You keep slipping inside your bathtub, but you don't want to buy a bath mat.
-  You have a student who never pays attention in class and it drives you crazy.


Young Inventors stories

Young Inventor spotlights can be found on the USPTO's webpage for kids, students, and educators.




**Katia Avila & Garey HS
InvenTeam**

[+ Read more](#)



Gabby Goodwin

[+ Read more](#)




Kenneth Shinozuka

[+ Read more](#)




Jennifer Wen

[+ Read more](#)



Christianna Alexander

[+ Read more](#)



Bishop Curry V

[+ Read more](#)

[Show more](#)

www.uspto.gov/kids/young-inventors



Inventor collectible trading cards



www.uspto.gov/kids/inventors-change-world#cards

Collect all our Inventor Cards!

The USPTO launched the Inventor Collectible Trading Card Series in 2012 at the USA Science and Engineering Festival. The cards feature drawings of various inventors and are designed to recognize patent holders throughout American history. The goal of the cards is to encourage and inspire future generations of inventors and innovators.



Trading card activities and lesson plans

Create a hologram projector: Video in 3-D

Background

Ellen Ochoa earned her doctorate at Stanford University. She continued researching at Sandia National Laboratories and the NASA Ames Research Center. She is an inventor who created new ways to "look" at objects in outer space. Some of her inventions helped ensure that equipment was safe. Others allowed the recording of events in space by detecting objects and removing image distortion, which makes objects appear to be a different shape, not relatively straight or wavy.

In this picture, the moon is slightly distorted and appears longer than its actual shape. There are mathematical equations that can identify distortions that occur with camera lenses. Based on these equations, researchers and engineers can correct these distortions using innovative equipment, like that developed by Ellen Ochoa.



Simplest mathematical model of distortion in a camera lens:

r_u - undistorted radius

r_d - distorted radius

k - arctangent/tangent coefficient

$$r_d = r_u + k r_u^3$$

$k_1 > 0$ for barrel distortion

$k_1 < 0$ for pincushion distortion

Types of distortion



13

A USPTO inventor trading card activity challenge: Up close and personal with Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa

Optical analysis systems inventor

Born: May 10, 1958; Birthplace: Los Angeles, California

Ellen Ochoa, a veteran of four NASA Space Shuttle flight missions, is a co-inventor of three patents: An optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for image noise removal. In 1993, she became the first Hispanic American woman to travel in space. Ochoa served as a mission specialist, payload commander, and flight engineer. In 2013, she became the first Hispanic director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In recognition of her accomplishments, numerous schools have been named after her. Ochoa has also received many awards, including the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, Exceptional Service Medal, and Outstanding Leadership Medal.

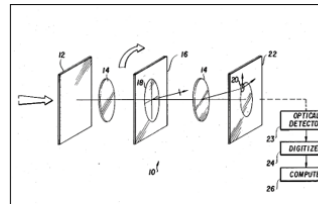


Activity

Can you create a smartphone microscope using lenses from another tool?

Background

In this activity, you will explore how to create a macro lens for a smart device. The challenge is to remove the lens from a laser pointer and attach the lens to a smart device. Your teacher may provide lenses, so you do not have to deconstruct a laser pointer.



This patent drawing is from Ellen Ochoa's Position, Rotation, and Intensity Invariant Recognizing Method patent. U.S. Patent 4,838,644

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RORY COOPER Trading Card Lesson Information



CURRICULUM TOPICS

Empathy
Design
Prototyping
Physiology
Physics
Biomechanics

CONTENT

Engineering
Science
Humanities

GRADE LEVEL

Grades 3-12

BACKGROUND

Rory Cooper is a distinguished professor of rehabilitation engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and a senior career scientist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. His team has developed over 100 inventions and received 25 patents related to technologies including wheelchairs, robots, and wearable instruments that have significantly improved the lives of people with disabilities and military veterans.



LESSONS

- ❖ Rory Cooper USPTO trading card activity
- ❖ Dealing with a disability
- ❖ Who is Rory Cooper helping now?
- ❖ Invent an assistive device
- ❖ Discussion and journal reflection

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Science of innovation video series

Smart Concrete

Concrete is one of the most common construction materials in the world, with its basic technology dating back to the ancient Romans. Engineers like Professor Deborah Chung at the State University of New York at Buffalo are using the innovation process to turn this old idea into a new technology.



www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/uspto-videos#type-uspto-for-kids-amp-amp-teachers

Using Viruses to Make Batteries (NEW)

While most people see viruses as harmful, Angela Belcher at MIT sees the future of energy. Belcher uses viruses engineered in her laboratory to form nano-scale wires for tiny batteries that could eventually be used to produce a wide range of electronics at a lower cost.



Bionic Limbs

Professor Homayoon Kazerooni is a robotics engineer at the University of California, Berkeley with more than 40 patents to his name. His research on exoskeletons relies on more than just ingenuity and engineering expertise, it's also an example of how inspiration can play a part in the innovation process.



USPTO Journeys of Innovation



"There's a better >
Beulah Louise Henry



One girl's commitment >
Gitanjali Rao



As if by magic >
Lanny Smoot



"Let's do this for real" >
Doug Scott

www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/journeys-innovation



Questions?



Thank you!

Kathleen Lanman

Maggie Dressel

www.uspto.gov/education

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Intellectual Property 101

Patents, Trademarks,
Copyrights, Trade Secrets



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What is intellectual property?

Refers to "creation of the mind"

It is more than an....



It must be in a tangible form!

The Constitution and protecting intellectual property

Congress shall have the power: to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.

— *U.S. Constitution*
Article I, Section 8, Clause 8



Intellectual property: A brief overview

**How will you protect
your new invention?**

Types of intellectual property



Patent

New, inventive ideas



Trademark

Identifies the origin of goods or services



Copyright

Creative expression stored in a tangible form



Trade secret

Any information that is valuable & kept confidential



What is a trademark?



Any word, name, symbol, sound, or design (or any combination thereof) used to **identify the source** of goods and services and **distinguish** them from other sources.



D'oh!



Find the 7 trademarks in the picture



WHAT CAN BROWN DO FOR YOU?®

Did you find them all?



What is a trade secret?

- A trade secret protects confidential information used to give competitive advantage, e.g., a secret formula, ingredient, or process.



What is copyright?

- © protects “original works of authorship” such as artwork, writing, music, and shows. To be copyrighted, a work must be in a fixed medium.
- Poems, plays, songs, novels, drawings, smartphone app code, etc.



Examples of copyright



Books



Software
Computer code



Art



Movies



Music



Types of intellectual property



Patent

New, inventive ideas



Trademark

Identifies the origin of goods or services



Copyright

Creative expression stored in a tangible form



Trade secret

Any information that is valuable & kept confidential



Patents

A technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, possibly a valve or a similar component, shown in a cutaway view. The drawing is rendered in a light gray color and features numerous numbered callouts (e.g., 28, 34, 38, 42, 46, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 82, 84, 86, 90) pointing to various parts of the assembly. The drawing is positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping the main text area.

Warmup activity

Guess that invention



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Patent title: TV Control Device

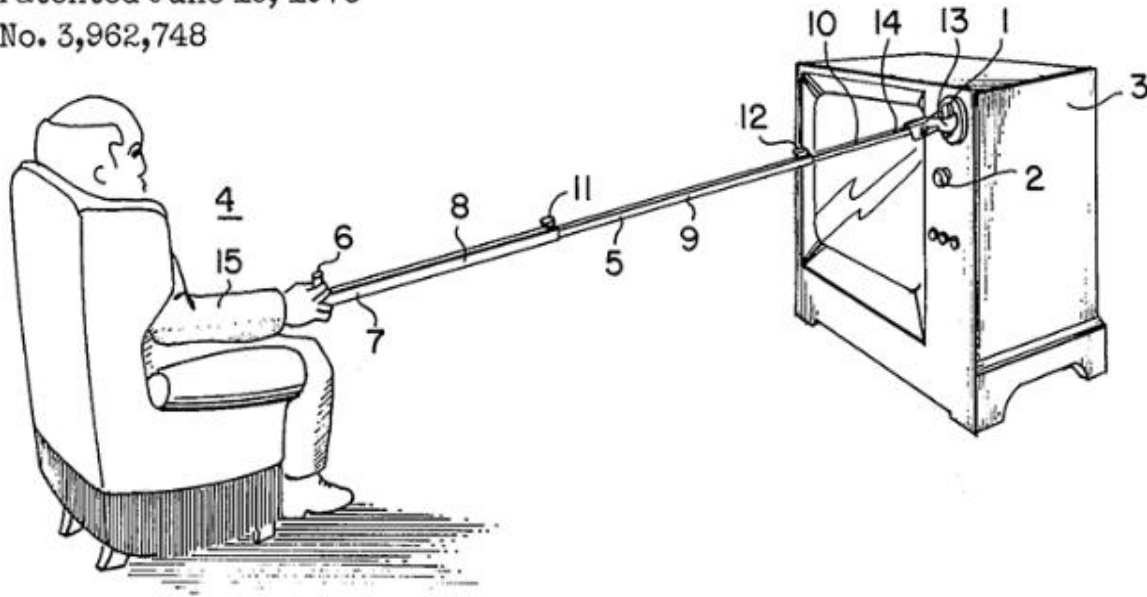
- The patent explains – This TV control device can adjust volume, and more from the comfort of your sofa... variable adjustable length and considerably less expensive... and functions efficiently.

TV Control Device (1976)

CHRIS T. MICHAELS
TV CONTROL DEVICE

Patented June 15, 1976

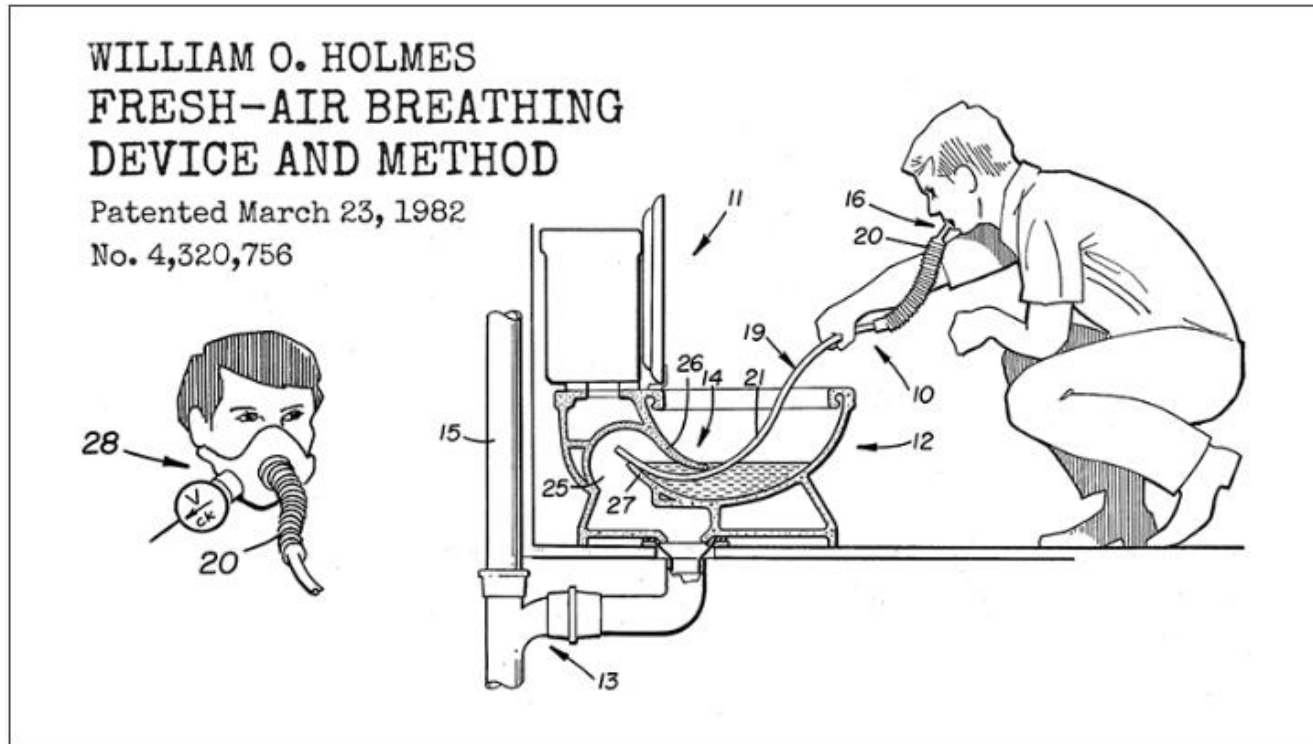
No. 3,962,748



Patent title: Fresh-Air Breathing Device and Method

- The patent explains – This fresh-air breathing device and method makes it possible to breathe in a smoke-filled room while waiting to be rescued from a hotel fire...it enables the user to breathe fresh air through a tube.

Fresh-Air Breathing Device and Method (1982)



Patent title: Pet Umbrella and Leash

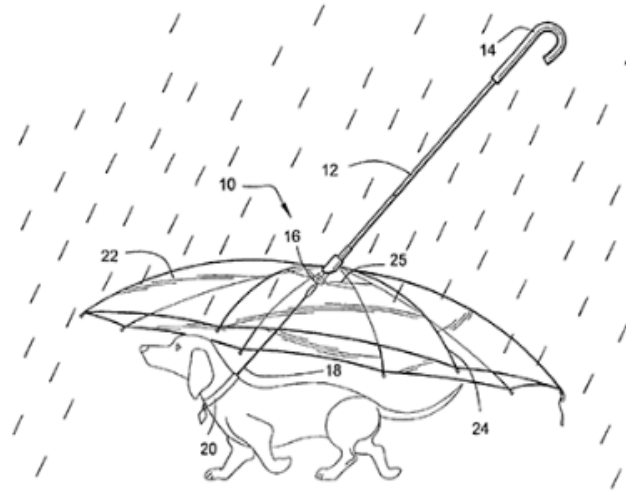
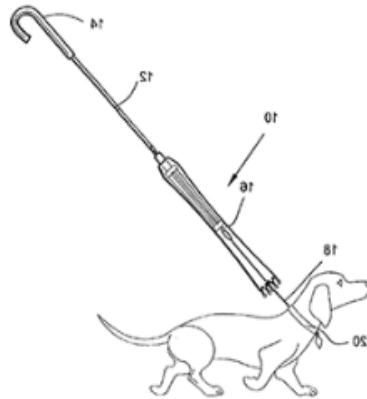
- The patent explains – Here's a new must-have pet gadget, the combined pet umbrella and leash; this gadget will protect your pet from inclement weather conditions while also serving as a leash for the pet.

Pet Umbrella and Leash (2005)

IRINA ZHADAN-MILLIGAN, YURI ZHADAN
PET UMBRELLA AND COMBINED
PET LEASH AND UMBRELLA

Patented March 29, 2005

No. 6,871,616



So, what is a patent?



Rights conferred by a patent:

✓ The right to exclude others from:

- ✓ Making
 - ✓ Using
 - ✓ Selling or offering for sale
 - ✓ Importing the invention into the United States
- Patentee responsible for monitoring whether others are infringing upon their patent.
 - Patentee responsible for enforcing patent, e.g., for filing an infringement suit to obtain an injunction and/or seek monetary damages.

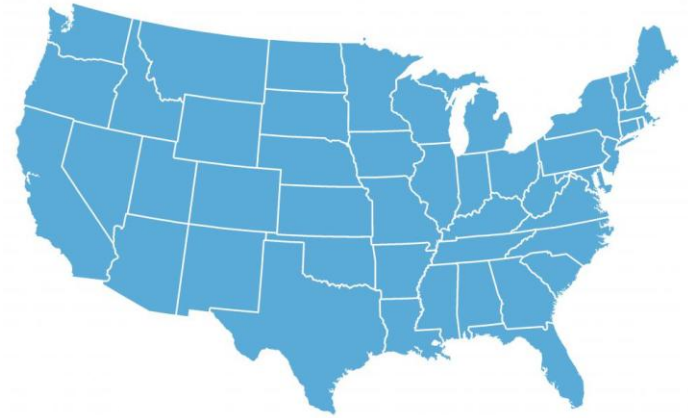
True or false?



Once I am granted a patent, I am guaranteed the right to manufacture my invention.

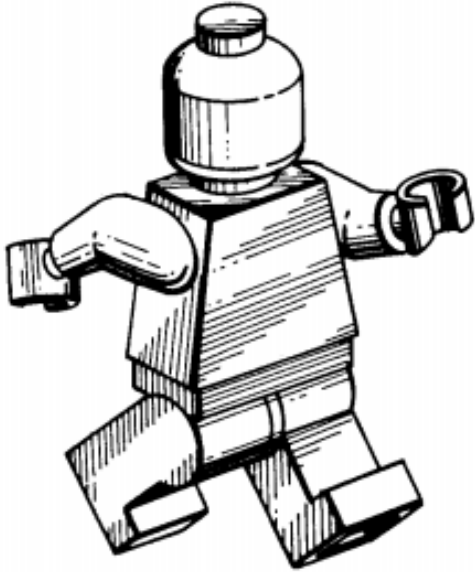
Property rights are:

- For a limited term.
- Territorial: Protection only in territory that granted patent;
NO world-wide patent.



- Government grants the **property right** in exchange for the **public disclosure of the invention.**

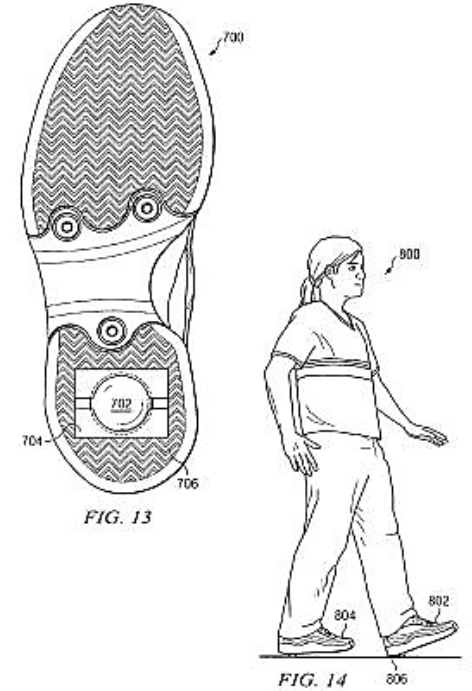
There are three types of patents



DESIGN



PLANT



UTILITY





True or false?

**You can only get
a patent for a
device.**

Utility patents

Protect how an invention works, functions, or is made:

- Process
- Machine
- Article of manufacture
- Compositions of matter

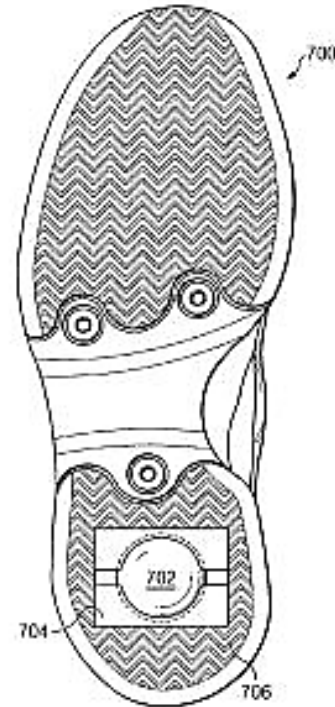


FIG. 13



FIG. 14

In order to receive a utility patent your invention must be:

➤ **New**

(novelty)

➤ **Useful**
(utility)

➤ **Non-
obvious**

Plant patents

Plant patents protect any distinct and new variety of non-tuber plant invented or discovered in a cultivated area (i.e., discovered only on land used for growing crops) and successfully reproduced asexually.

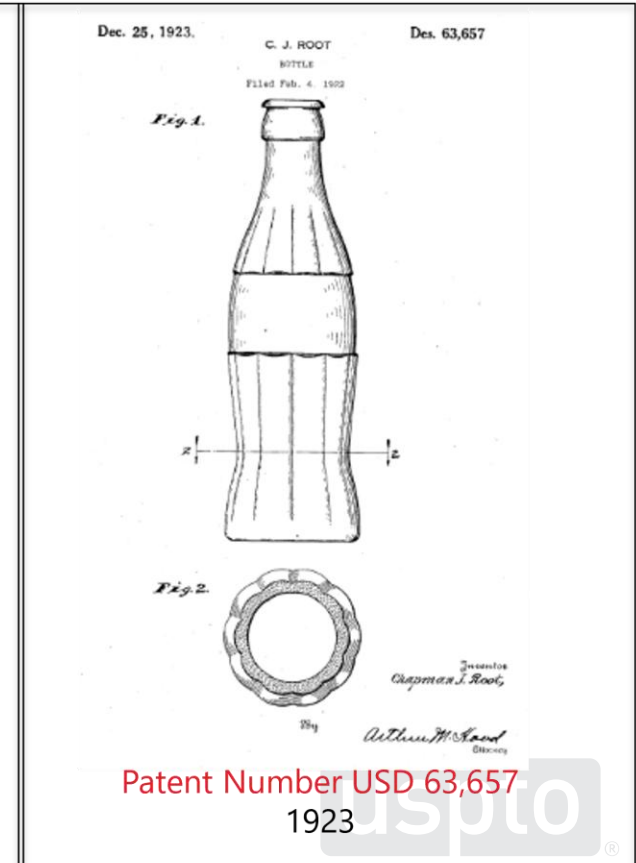
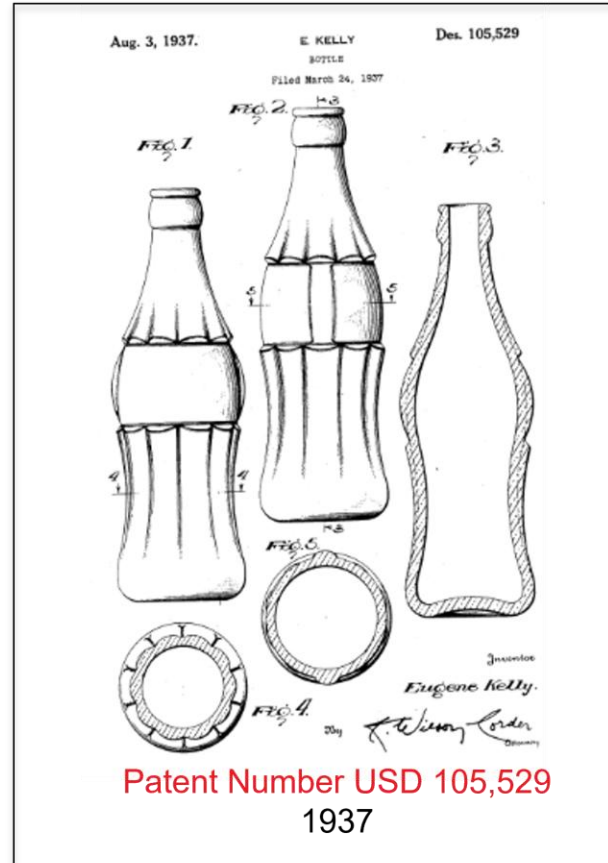


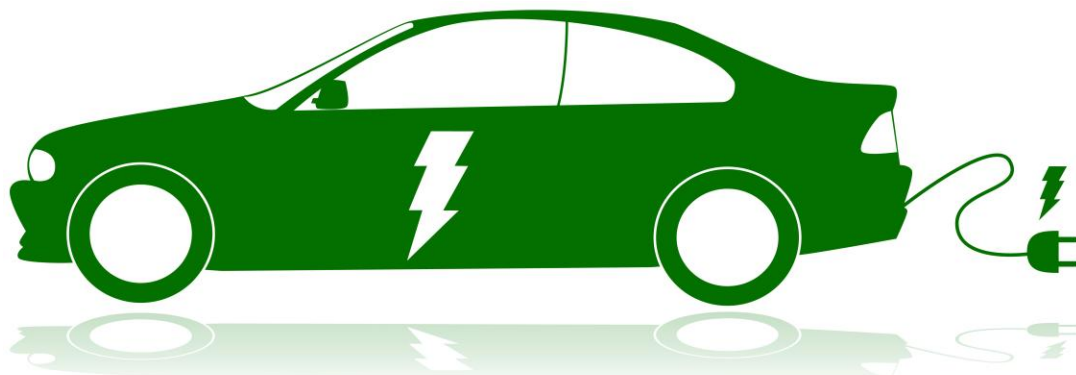
Graft

Grafting is one way to asexually reproduce a plant. Grafting involves cutting a branch of a tree and **placing a bud from a different tree into the cut.**

Design patents

Protect any new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.





Electric ⚡
Car
Electric ⚡



**Different
inventions
can be put
together to
create
something
NEW!**

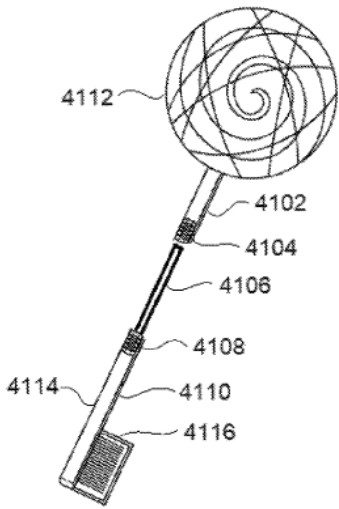


FIG. 41

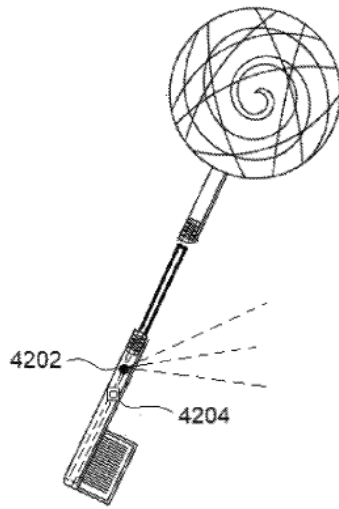


FIG. 42

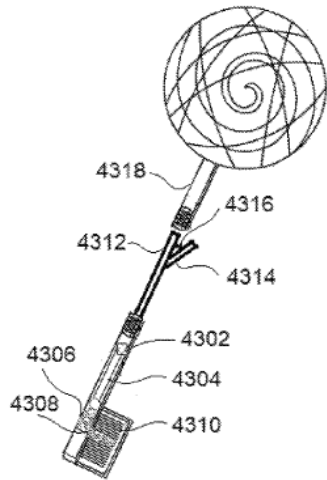


FIG. 43

Patent No. 10,021,965

July 17, 2018

"Hold A Dental Cleaning Device On Food Related Accessories"

Inventors: Nevaan Kothari and Riaan Kothari

You can use
past patents to
get ideas
for new
inventions!



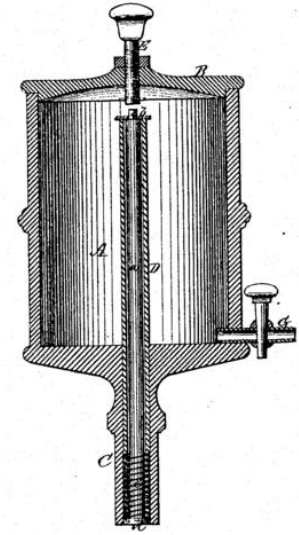
Elijah J.
McCoy

E. McCOY.

Improvement in Lubricators for Steam-Engines.

No. 129,843.

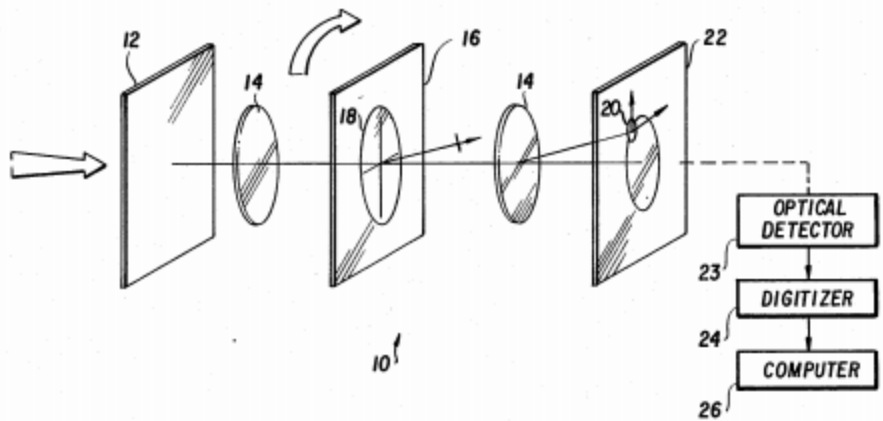
Patented July 23, 1872.



Witnesses
John A. Ellis
C. H. Watson

Inventor
Elijah McCoy
Per
W. H. Alexander & Co.
Attys.





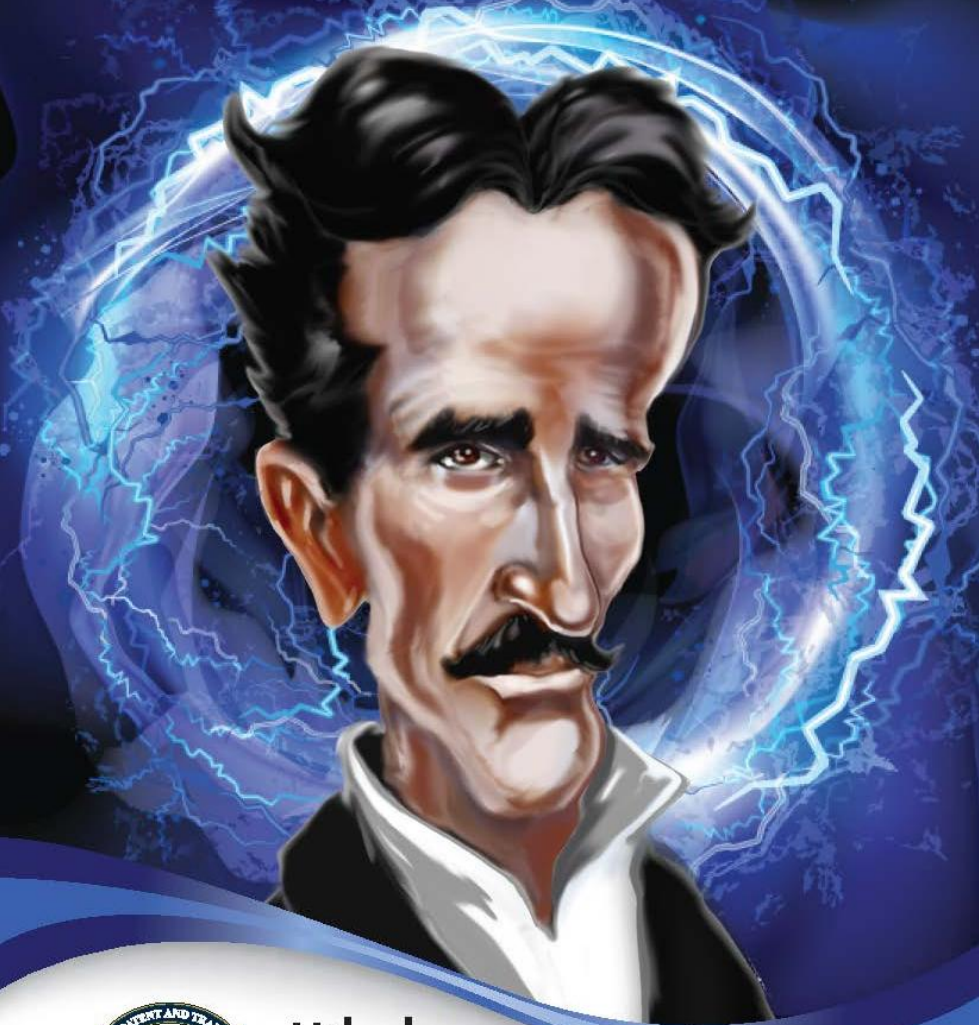
U.S. Patent

Jun. 13, 1989

4,838,644



Ellen
Ochoa



Nikola
Tesla

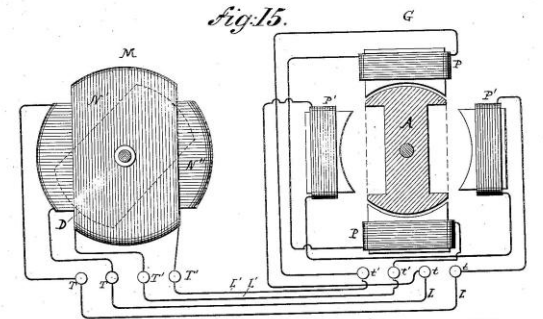
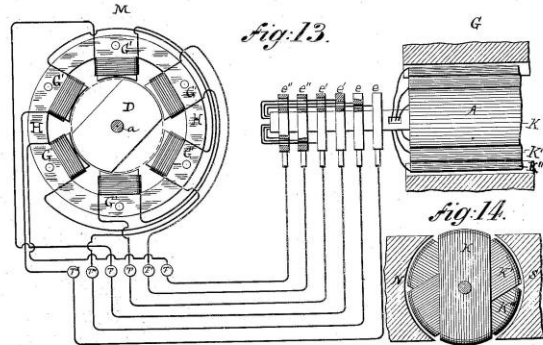
(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 3.

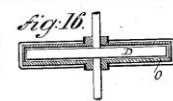
N. TESLA.
ELECTRO MAGNETIC MOTOR.

No. 381,968.

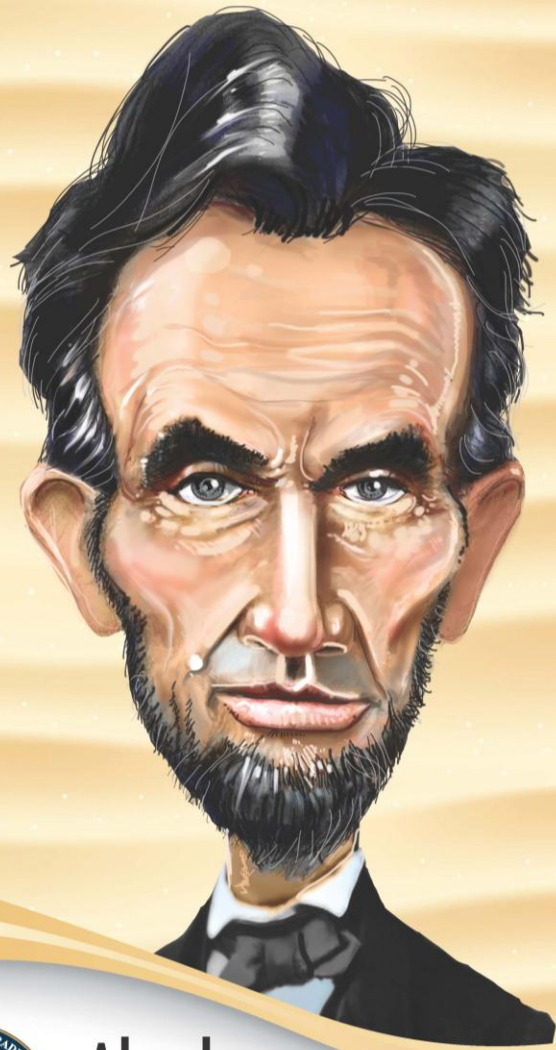
Patented May 1, 1888.



WITNESSES:
Frank E. Hartley,
Franc B. Murphy.



INVENTOR.
Nikola Tesla.
BY
Lumau, Curtis & Page
ATTORNEYS.

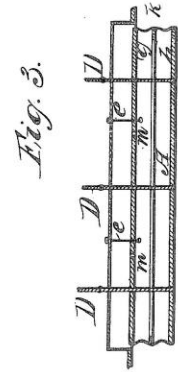
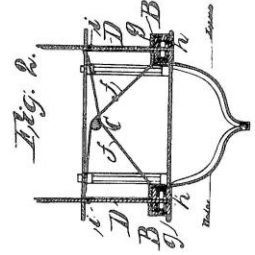
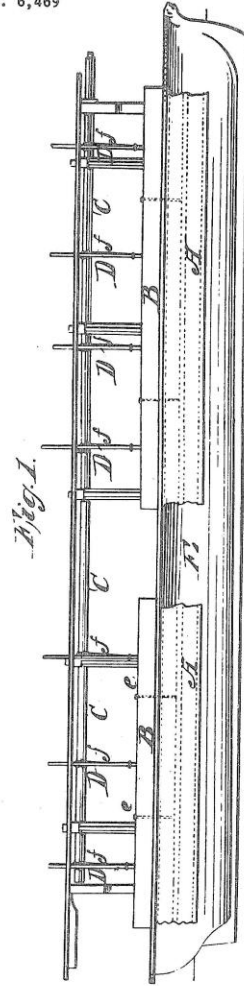


Abraham
Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
MANNER OF BOUYING VESSELS

No. 6,469

Patented May 22, 1849



Education resources and materials

- Online hub with classroom-ready lesson plans, standalone activities, and more
- Filter by grade band, topic, or resource type
- Bookmark this page and visit often, as new resources are added regularly



Education resources and materials

We offer a wide range of educational materials and for all ages and grade levels. These resources can be used in the classroom or other educational environments to inspire the next generation of American inventors, creators, and entrepreneurs.

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- Trade Secrets (5)
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Show only these resource types:

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Showing 36 results

A beginner's guide to IP protection

Get started on your IP journey with these resources curated for inventors and entrepreneurs.

Postsecondary

Beulah Henry Trading Card Lesson Plan

Explore the remarkable legacy of Beulah Louise Henry, a trailblazing woman inventor with more than 100 inventions and 49 patents.

Grades 3-5 Grades 6-8

David Petite Trading Card Lesson Plan

T. David Petite's transformative inventions have enabled access to wireless technology across nations worldwide. Learn more about his legacy through activities focused on computer science, engineering, design, and community planning.

Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Ellen Ochoa Trading Card Lesson Plan

Ellen Ochoa is a veteran of four NASA Space Shuttle flight missions and a co-inventor on three patents in optical technology. In this lesson plan, students engage in interactive activities focused on the physics of light.

Grades 6-8 Grades 9-12

Create a hologram

Create a working hologram based on the optical technology inventions of Ellen Ochoa.

Marian Croak Trading Card Lesson Plan

Dr. Marian Croak is a pioneering technology leader known for her groundbreaking work in Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Students learn how she revolutionized digital communication.



Wright Brothers Flying Machine

Patent No. 821,393 (1906)

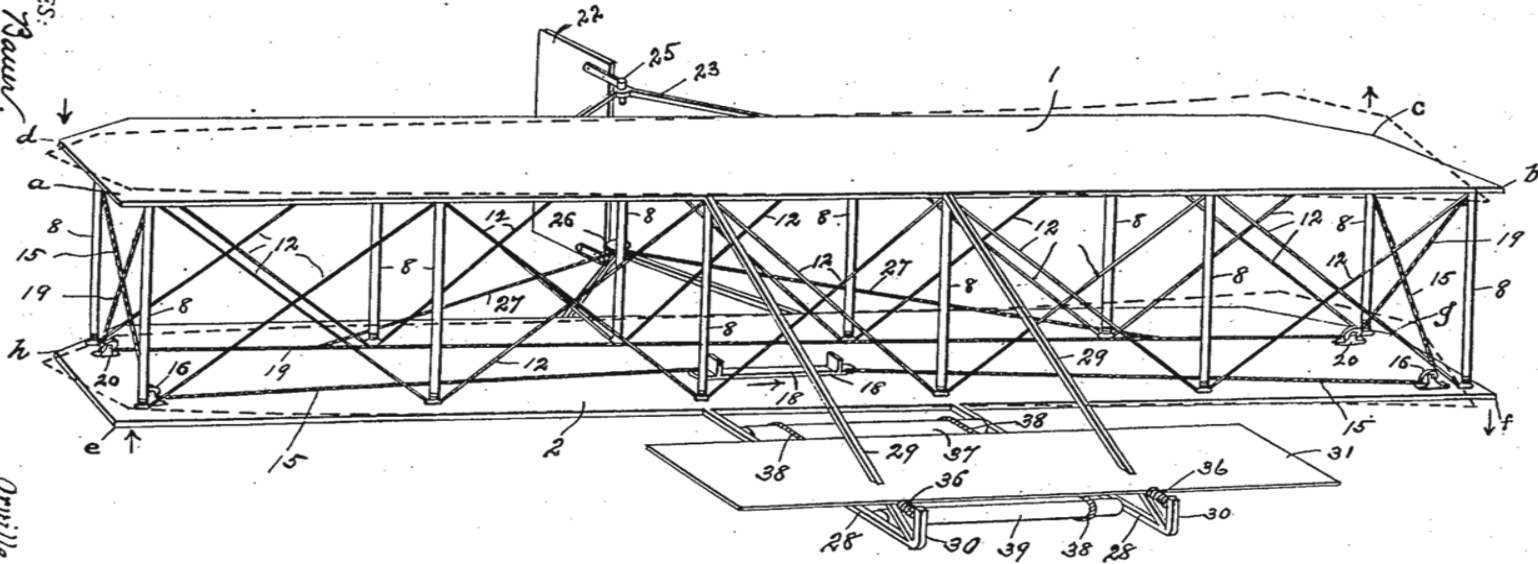
No. 821,393.

O. & W. WRIGHT,
FLYING MACHINE.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 23, 1903.

PATENTED MAY 22, 1906.

3 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.



WITNESSES:
William F. Bauer.

Ernie Miller.

INVENTORS.
Orville Wright.
Wilbur Wright.

BY
H. S. Baldwin,
ATTORNEY.

uspto

Marissa Streng is an entrepreneur. She is also an inventor (U.S. Patent No. 8371246), and the owner of registered trademark (U.S. Registration No. 4180825) for **Puff-N-Fluff**[®]. Marissa came up with a way to dry her pet pug, Mojo, fast and without him running away.



Popsicle Patent

Aug. 19, 1924.

F. W. EPPERSON
FROZEN CONFECTIONERY
Original Filed June 11, 1924

1,505,592

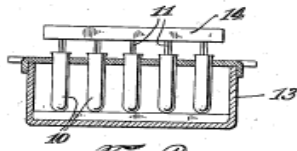


Fig. 2.

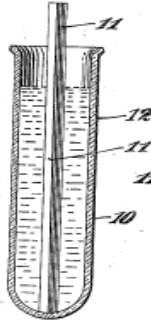


Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.

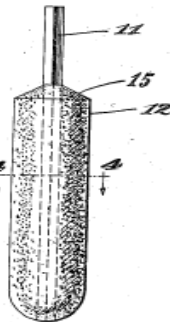
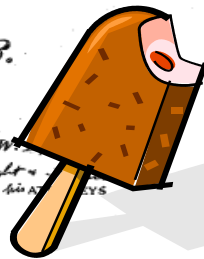


Fig. 3.

Frank W. Epperson
BY
Dean, Inventor
Chught
his
YS



One day in 1905, 11 year-old Frank Epperson mixed some soda water powder with water and left the mixture on the back porch overnight with the stirring stick still in it.

The temperature dropped to a record low that night and the next day Frank had a stick of frozen soda water to show his friends at school. Later he began a business producing "Epsicles" in seven fruit flavors. The brand name "Epsicles" was later changed to Popsicle® brand.

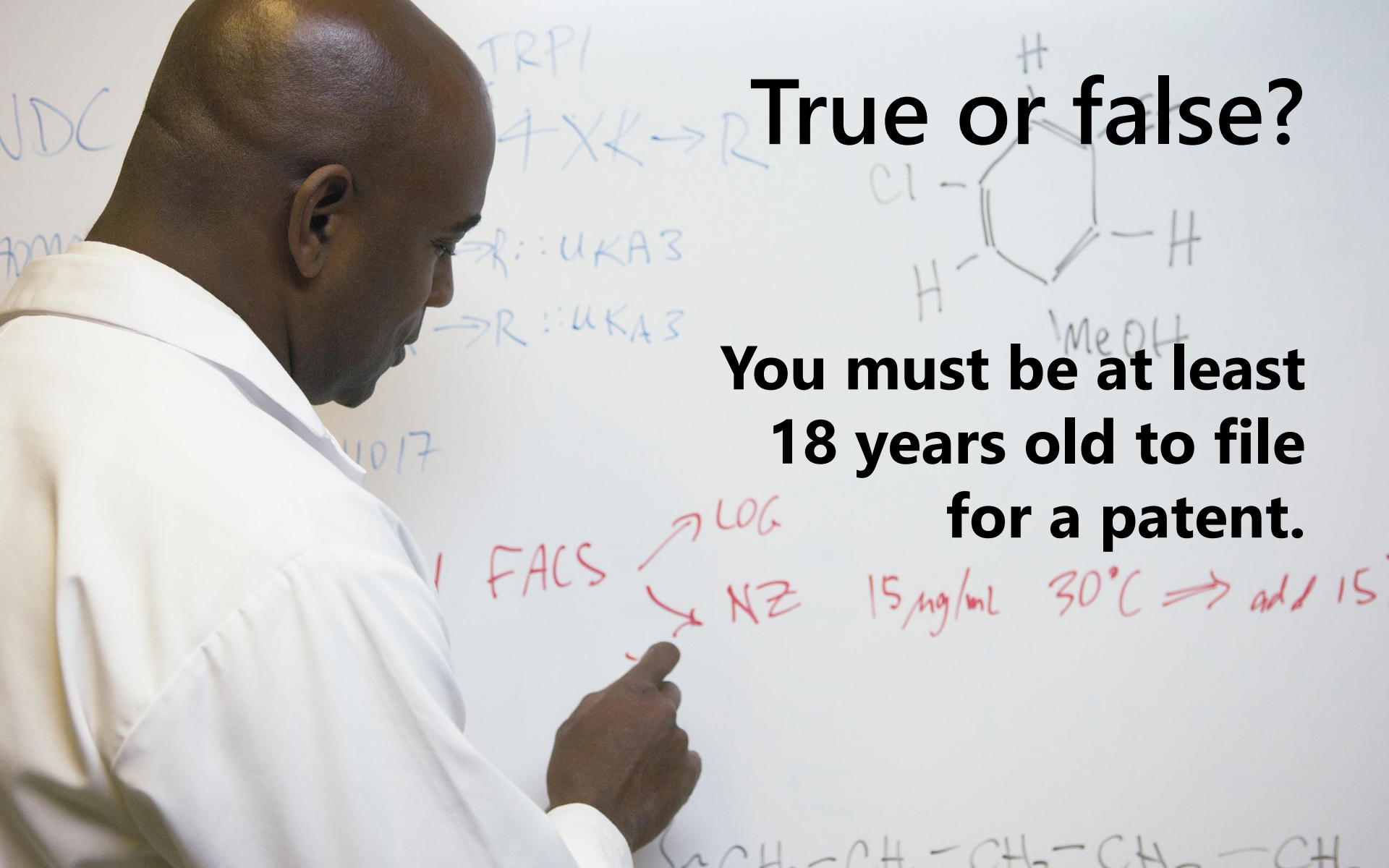
True or false?

A glowing lightbulb is shown against a dark background. The lightbulb is illuminated, casting a soft glow and a shadow on the surface below it. The background is dark with some faint, light-colored lines or patterns.

**Patents are only granted for that “Eureka!”
moment invention or a ground-breaking
technology.**

True or false?

**You must be at least
18 years old to file
for a patent.**

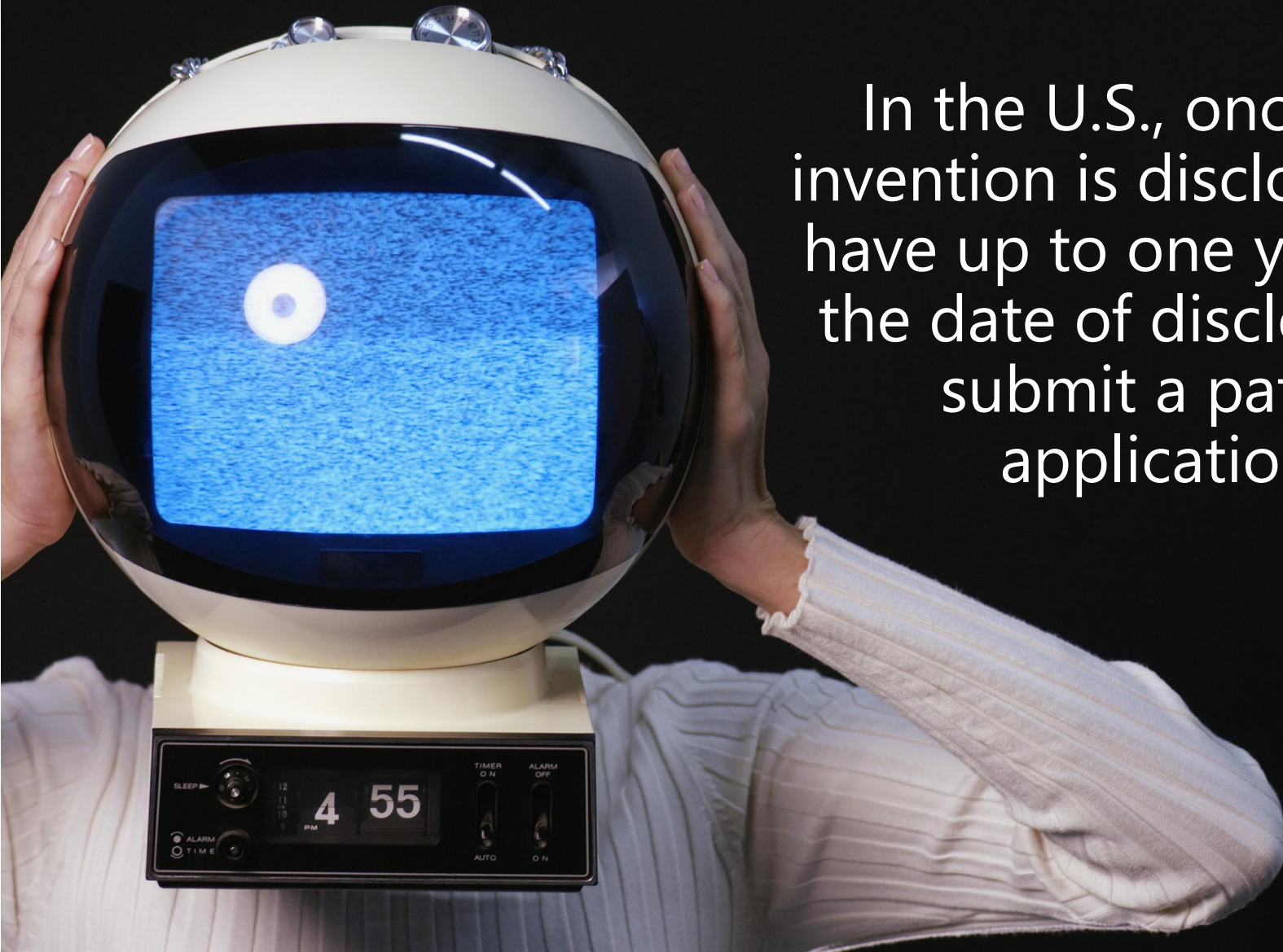


Applying for a patent

True or false?

**You must
be a U.S. citizen to file
a patent application.**





In the U.S., once your invention is disclosed, you have up to one year from the date of disclosure to submit a patent application.

True
or
false?

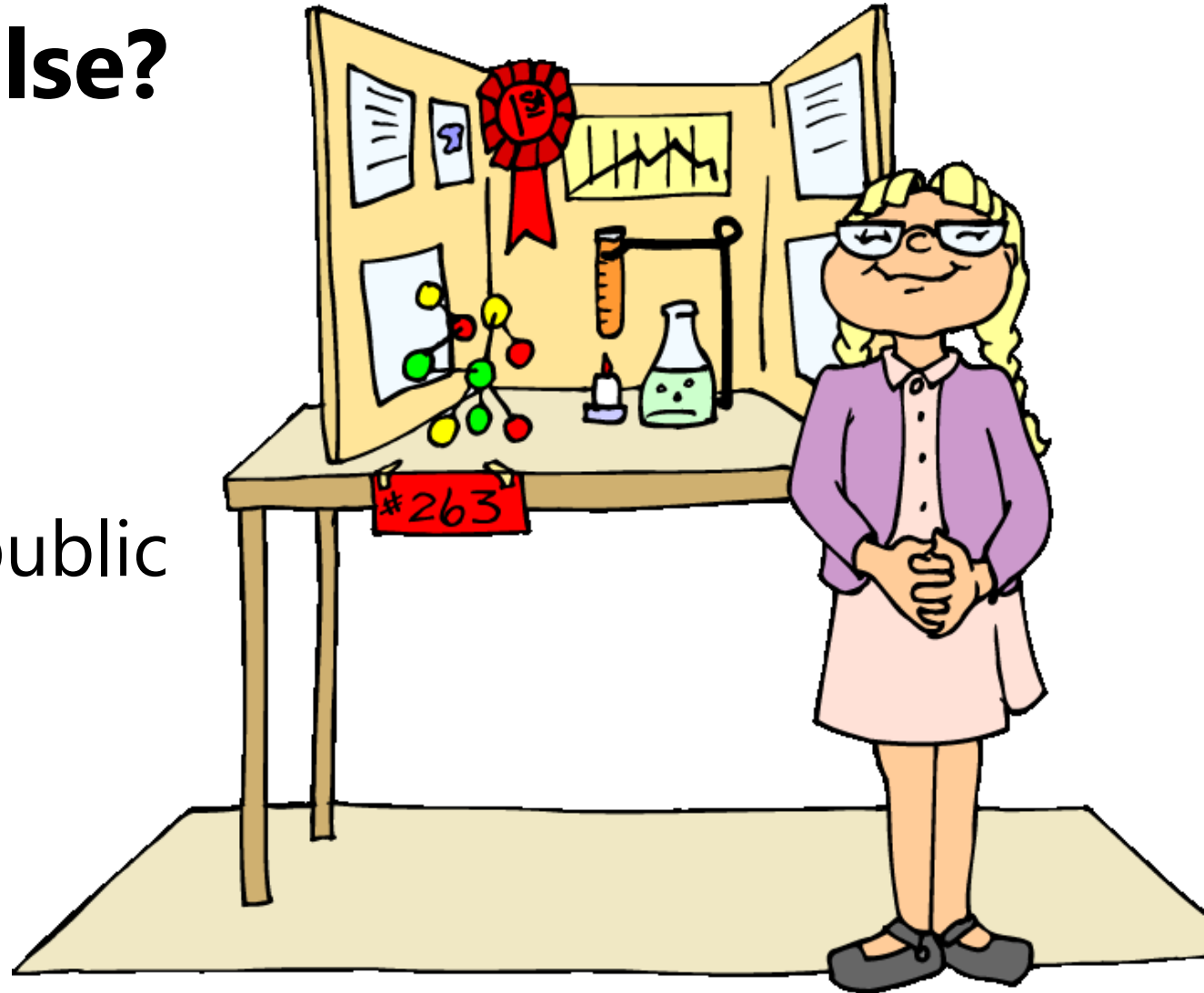
True or false?

PAT. PENDING.

A “patent pending” marking provides the same protection as an issued patent.

True or false?

My students' science fair project is considered public disclosure.



True or false?



A provisional patent application gets examined by a Patent Examiner.



**Filing of a Provisional Application for Patent
+12 months from date of Public Disclosure to
file in US only
July 21, 2026**

**Today July 21, 2025
Public Disclosure**

**July 21, 2027
Filing of Non-Provisional
Patent Application
+12 months from date of Provisional
patent application to file in US only**

IMPORTANT to note that in most foreign countries patent laws **do not have a grace period** to file after a public disclosure. You must file in those countries **BEFORE** you publicly disclose your invention.



Thank you!

Jorge Valdes

Juan Valentin

Education Program Advisors

www.uspto.gov/education

DISCLAIMER: References to particular products, patents, trademarks, service marks, services, individuals, companies, and/or organizations in this presentation are for illustrative and educational purposes only and do not constitute or imply endorsement by the U.S. Government, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or any other federal agency.

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Invention Challenge Introduction: Ideation Phase

NSTI 2025



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

USPTO Invention Challenge

Day 1: Ideation

How do you get started?

Invention challenge

Goal: Invent a new product or service

Key deliverables:

1. **Sketch** your invention
2. **Create** a logo, slogan, and/or jingle for your invention
3. **Identify** which forms of **IP protection** are appropriate for your invention
4. **Search** patent, trademark, and other databases to confirm novelty and avoid the likelihood of confusion
5. **Pitch!** Everyone must be fully ENGAGED in the process

Ideation: What bugs you?

Before tomorrow's session, **list four problems you observe or things that annoy you.**

Be sure to list problems that might be solved WITH AN INVENTION. Inventions can be products or processes.

- What problems do you encounter that you wish someone could create something to solve?
- What tasks, chores, or jobs do you dislike doing? How could they be made easier?
- What kind of invention would make life easier for you or someone else?



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Does My Invention Exist: Tips and tricks for patent searching using Google Patents

NSTI 2025



UNITED STATES
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Workshop objectives

- Understand the benefits of searching
- Know what the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) is
- Know when to use keyword search and when to use CPC search
- Build a search strategy using CPC and keywords
- Know how to analyze results

Disclaimer

References to particular products, patents, trademarks, service marks, services, individuals, companies and/or organizations in this presentation are for illustrative and educational purposes only and do not constitute or imply endorsement by the U.S. Government, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or any other federal agency.

While USPTO staff can provide general information about how to conduct a patent search, they are not allowed to formulate patent searches directed to specific inventions for the public or provide advisory opinions on the patentability of an invention based on the results of a patent search.



Why search?

Patentability:

- A utility patent can be obtained for any **new, useful, and non-obvious** process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter (or any new and useful improvement thereof). The patent application must be accompanied by a **written description** disclosing how to make and use the invention.

But how do you know if an invention is new and non-obvious?



Let's try a search...

patents.google.com

- Enter your search terms in the search box.
- From the left-hand column select:
Patent Office = U.S.





uspto[®]

United States Patent [19]

Stillinger

[11] Patent Number: **4,756,529**

[45] Date of Patent: **Jul. 12, 1988**

[54] **GENERALLY SPHERICAL OBJECT WITH FLOPPY FILAMENTS TO PROMOTE SURE CAPTURE**

[75] Inventor: **Scott H. Stillinger**, Los Gatos, Calif.

[73] Assignee: **OddzOn Products**, Campbell, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **60,640**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 11, 1987**

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ **A63B 37/14**

[52] U.S. Cl. **273/58 K; 273/428; 446/268; 446/490**

[58] Field of Search **446/490, 901, 268; 273/58 R, 58 J, 58 K, 199 R, 199 A, 415, 428; 15/244.1, 244.3**

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,290,216 7/1942 Steinmetz et al. 15/244.1
2,521,703 9/1950 Emmitt 273/58 K
2,789,305 4/1957 Weil 15/244.1
3,759,518 9/1973 Mroz 273/58 K X
4,131,276 12/1978 Judkins 273/58 C

4,149,723 4/1979 Simon 273/428 X
4,522,396 6/1985 Girard et al. 273/58 K

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

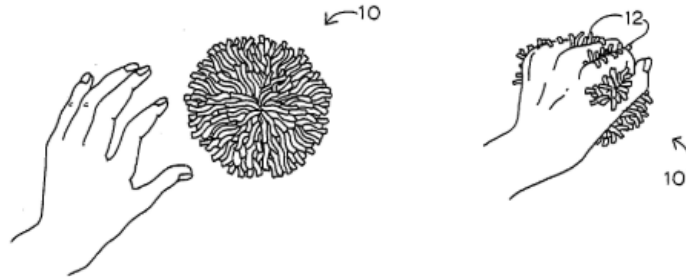
3121758 12/1982 Fed. Rep. of Germany 446/901

Primary Examiner—Richard T. Stoffer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Kolisch, Hartwell & Dickinson

[57] ABSTRACT

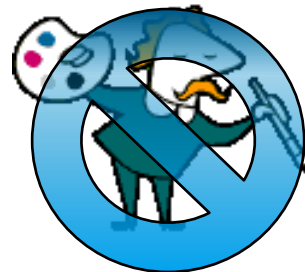
An amusement device which has a substantially spherical configuration, and which is formed from a large plurality of floppy, elastomeric filaments that radiate in a dense, bushy manner from a central core region. The filaments are sufficiently floppy to collapse on impact, thus to absorb enough energy to avoid any tendency to bounce. They are also sufficiently dense and floppy that they tend to quickly thread their way between the fingers of a user on contact with the hand. These features promote sure and quick capture of the device during the act of catching.

8 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



Prior art

A prior art reference may be **any information known publicly** before the effective date of a U.S. patent application, relevant to an invention for which a patent is currently being sought or enforced.



What other types of information can be considered prior art?

Prior art

Prior art consists of information disclosed to the public including:

- U.S. patents and published patent applications
- Foreign patents and published patent applications
- Journal and magazine articles
- Books, manuals, and catalogs
- Websites
- Conference proceedings
- Scientific papers



U.S. patent prior art search

In order to be sure that your invention is indeed novel and non-obvious, conduct a prior art search before filing a U.S. patent application.

- Search U.S. patents and published patent applications for your invention.
- Search for the classification that best describes your invention.
- Search for keywords and synonyms that best describe your invention.



Name the type of invention

- Occupant-propelled wheeled land vehicle
 - Bicycle
- Small mammal trap device
 - Mousetrap
- Horological instrument with musical simulated avian
 - Cuckoo Clock
- Generally spherical object with floppy filaments to promote sure capture
 - Koosh[®] ball



Challenges with relying on keyword searching of patents

- Vague or inconsistent terminology
- Obsolete names and terms
 - “LP” ... “hi-fi” ... “laser disc” ... “water closet”
- Different meanings in different fields
 - “Mouse” the animal vs. computer “mouse”
- Synonyms
 - Rodent extermination device (Patent 5,185,953)

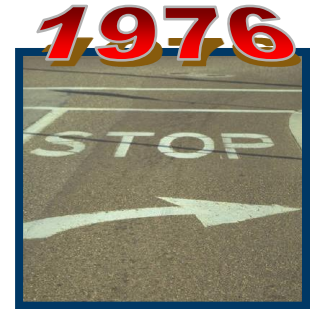


Challenges with relying on keyword searching (cont.)

- Occasional British spellings
 - Colour vs. color
 - Tyre vs. tire
- Spelling errors and variations
 - Repellant vs. repellent
 - Three wheeled vs. tri-wheeled
- Acronyms and abbreviations
 - LED, light emitting diode
 - PDA, personal digital assistant

Biggest challenge with relying on keyword searching...

- USPTO's web full-text patent database limits keyword searching to **no further back** than 1976 (with some exceptions).
- Searching by **classification** can cover all U.S. patents issued prior to 1976 — all the way to 1790, if needed.



What is the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)?

- Joint partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO)
- Divided into 8 main areas, A to H:
 - A: Human necessities
 - B: Performing operations; transporting
 - C: Chemistry and metallurgy
 - D: Textiles; paper
 - E: Fixed constructions
 - F: Mechanical engineering; lighting; heating; weapons; blasting; engines or pumps
 - G: Physics
 - H: Electricity
- <https://www.uspto.gov/Classification>

Find the CPC for your invention

- Go to Google Patents: patents.google.com.
- Click on Advanced Search.
- In the search box, type in your invention description (e.g., “wind-resistant umbrella”).
- Limit your search to “US” in the Patent Office field.
- Identify patents similar to your invention.
- Determine if the classification correlates to your invention.



Follow along with the example provided, or come up with your own.

Let's search for an invention!

Search example

We have invented an umbrella with a new rib design to eliminate the umbrella collapsing or inverting due to winds.



Where to search – USPTO website

- Patent Public Search tool is USPTO's web-based patent search application
- Search for patents using the USPTO website:
<https://www.uspto.gov/PatentPublicSearch>



Where to search – Google Patents

For Patent Day at NSTI, Google Patents will be the interface used for conducting a prior art search.

Google Patents features:

- The pre-grant publications and patents are combined in Google Patents.
- You can directly search the classification with one click.
- You can efficiently browse through the front page information.



1. Search keywords describing your invention.

Google Patents

(Wind resistant umbrella) country:US



SEARCH TERMS ?



Wind resistant umbrella x or
+ Synonym

+ Synonym A45B25/16

SEARCH FIELDS

Date · Priority ▾

YYYY-MM-DD - YYYY-MM-DD

+ Inventor

2. Limit to "US" Patent Office.

Patent Office · US ▾ Language ▾

Status ▾

✓ US

EP

WO

CN

CA

DE

About 1,651 results

Download Side-by-side

Sort by · Relevance ▾ Grouped by · None ▾ Results / page · 10 ▾

Automatic opening wind resistant umbrella structure made of fiberglass ...

[Grant US6345637B1](#) · Chin Sung Ko · Chin Sung Ko

Priority 2000-08-23 · Filing 2000-08-23 · Grant 2002-02-12 · Publication 2002-02-12



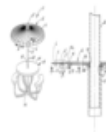
An improved automatic opening **wind resistant umbrella** structure made of fiberglass reinforced plastics (FRP) mainly uses an innovative connecting structure between the ribs and the ribs with umbrella ribs and has advantages of simple structure and easy operation.

3. Select a patent or application that is similar to your invention.

Wind-resistant umbrella

[Grant US6330886B1](#) · Philip H. Culver · Aerovane Products, Inc.

Priority 2000-07-19 · Filing 2000-07-19 · Grant 2001-12-18 · Publication 2001-12-18



What is claimed is: 1. A **wind-resistant umbrella** comprising: an elongated main support pole; a tubular secondary pole slidably translatable over said main support pole; a hub having a periphery and connected at one end thereof to said secondary pole and supportively engaged against a support member ...

Wind-resistant reversible umbrella

[Grant US2788792A](#) · Koller Morris · Koller Morris

Priority 1955-03-02 · Filing 1955-03-02 · Grant 1957-04-16 · Publication 1957-04-16



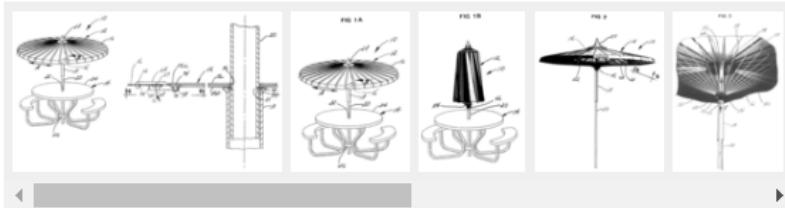
WIND-RESISTANT REVERSIBLE UMBRELLA Filed March 2, 1955 3 Sheets-Sheet 1 INVENTOR. MORRIS KOLLER 2 A TORNEY A ril 16, 1957 M. KOLLER **WIND-RESISTANT REVERSIBLE UMBRELLA** 3 Sheets-Sheet 2 Filed March 2, 1955 INVENTOR. MORRIS KOLLER ATTORNEY April 16, 1957 M. KOLLER, 78 **WIND-RESISTANT REVERSIBLE** ...

Wind-resistant umbrella

Abstract

A collapsible **wind-resistant umbrella** including an elongated main support pole and an **umbrella** top. The **umbrella** top includes a tubular secondary pole slidably translatable over the main support pole, a hub connected at an upper end thereof to the secondary pole and supportively engaged against a support member on the main support pole whereby the secondary pole and hub are supported on the upright main support pole. A plurality of vanes, each being wider at the outer end thereof, are pivotally connected in evenly spaced relation at a central or inner end thereof to and around substantially the entire hub periphery. A vane carrier is mounted for sliding translation over the secondary pole and a plurality of rigid or semi-rigid vane support rods are pivotally connected at one end thereof in evenly spaced relation to and around substantially the entire said vane carrier periphery. The end of each said vane support rod is pivotally connected to a mid point of one longitudinal edge of each corresponding vane. An elongated endless non-elastic cord extends circumferentially around and is connected to each vane adjacent its outer or distal end. The other edge of each vane remains free and overlapping the next adjacent vane whereby a portion of each vane is lifted from the next adjacent vane.

Image



Classifications

- [A45B25/22](#) Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind
- [A45B23/00](#) Other umbrellas
- [A45B2023/0012](#) Ground supported umbrellas or sunshades on a single post, e.g. resting in or on a surface there below
- [A45B2200/1063](#) Umbrellas; Sunshades combined with other objects with tables

US6330886B1
US Grant

[Download PDF](#) [Find Prior Art](#) [Similar](#)

Inventor: Philip H. Culver

Current Assignee: Aerovane Products Inc

Original Assignee: Aerovane Products Inc

Priority date: 2000-07-19

Family: US (1)

Date	App/Pub Number	Status
2000-07-19	US09619299	Expired - Fee Related
2001-12-18	US6330886B1	Grant

Info: [Patent citations \(8\)](#), [Cited by \(15\)](#), [Legal events](#), [Similar documents](#), [Priority and Related Applications](#)

External links: [USPTO](#), [USPTO Assignment](#), [Espacenet](#), [Global Dossier](#), [Discuss](#)

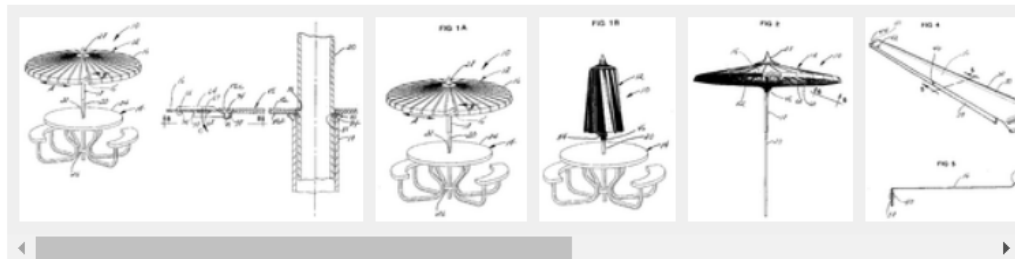
5. Google prior art search.

4. Download the entire patent.

6. Review the classifications assigned and select classification(s) relevant to your invention.

edge of each vane remains free and overlapping the next adjacent vane whereby a portion of each vane may lift free of the next adjacent vane in a wind to permit venting of the umbrella top.

Images (9)



Classifications

A HUMAN NECESSITIES

A45 HAND OR TRAVELLING ARTICLES

A45B WALKING STICKS; UMBRELLAS; LADIES' OR LIKE FANS

A45B25/00 Details of umbrellas

A45B25/22 Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind

A45B23/00 Other umbrellas

A45B2023/0012 Ground supported umbrellas or sunshades on a single post, e.g. resting in or on a surface there below

A45B2200/1063 Umbrellas; Sunshades combined with other objects with tables

[Hide more classifications](#)

Application US09/619,299 events ⓘ

2000-07-19 • Application filed by Aerovane Products Inc

2000-07-19 • Priority to US09/619,299

2000-07-19 • Assigned to AEROVANE PRODUCTS, INC. ⓘ

2001-12-18 • Application granted

2001-12-18 • Publication of US6330886B1

2019-08-19 • Application status is Expired - Fee Related

2020-07-19 • Anticipated expiration

Info: [Patent citations \(8\)](#), [Cited by \(16\)](#), [Legal events](#), [Similar documents](#), [Priority and Related Applications](#)

External links: [USPTO](#), [USPTO Assignment](#), [Espacenet](#), [Global Dossier](#), [Discuss](#)

7. Expand the CPC classification tree to reveal the parent classes which contain the classified subclass.

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Scope of Invention

Claims (15)

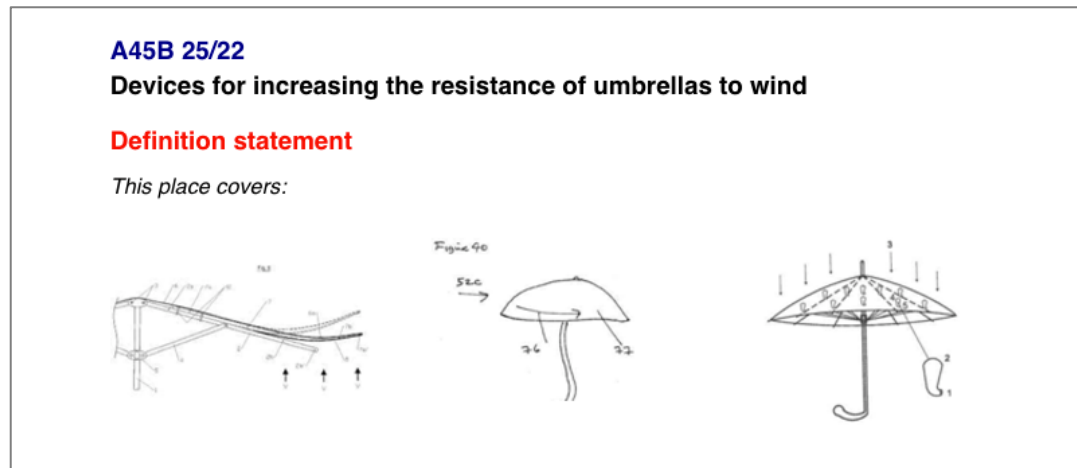
[Hide Dependent](#) ^

What is claimed is:

1. A wind-resistant umbrella comprising:

Review classification definition of selected CPC

CPC definitions are helpful in establishing the scope of the relevant classification. The "A45B 25/22" definition relies on images (below); however, most CPC definitions use text.



Search the CPC for your invention in Google Patents

Google Patents (A45B25/22) country:US

SEARCH TERMS (A45B25/22) or + Synonym

SEARCH FIELDS

Date · Priority
YYYY-MM-DD - YYYY-MM-DD

+ Inventor

+ Assignee

Patent Office · US Language

Status · Type

About 249 results

Sort by: **Newest** Grouped by: None Results / page: 10

[Download](#) [Side-by-side](#)

Wind-proof dual canopy system
[Grant US9986799B1](#) · Daniel P. King · Daniel P. King
Priority 2017-08-11 · Filing 2017-08-11 · Grant 2018-06-05 · Publication 2018-06-05
A wind-proof dual canopy structure with offset venting in both upper and lower canopies and with inter-canopy suspension structures, keeps the upper and lower vents properly aligned and blocks the perimeter of the lower vents so that rain cannot drip through these vents onto protected persons and/ ...

Wind resistant umbrella
[Application US20170354215A1](#) · John P. Stamos · John P. Stamos
Priority 2016-06-10 · Filing 2017-06-09 · Publication 2017-12-14
An inversion resistant umbrella. The inversion resistant umbrella is configured to minimize the likelihood of a protective canopy from turning inside out, thereby minimizing the risk of damage to the umbrella. The inversion resistant umbrella comprises a canopy sized and shaped to protect a user ...

Umbrella having an anti-inversion mechanism
[Application US20170238662A1](#) · David Haythornthwaite · Shedrain Corporation
Priority 2015-02-05 · Filing 2017-05-05 · Publication 2017-08-24
An umbrella has a plurality of ribs attached to a runner by main struts. The umbrella has an anti-inversion mechanism formed of a plurality of anti-inversion struts. Each anti-inversion strut is pivotally coupled to one respective main strut and is pivotally connected to a floating joint member ...

Flexible canopy
[Application US20170258187A1](#) · Alejandro H. Stochetti · Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture Llp
Priority 2012-11-12 · Filing 2017-03-27 · Publication 2017-09-14
Various embodiments of the present disclosure provide a flexible canopy. In one embodiment, the flexible canopy includes a central shaft, a sliding collar, a plurality of supports, a plurality of tensioners, a tensioner connection hub, and a membrane. The sliding collar is slidably connected to ...

8. Search by classification(s).

Sort by relevance or newest or oldest.



Use the arrows to navigate through front page information of results.

Wind-proof dual canopy system

Abstract

A wind-proof dual canopy structure with off-center inter-canopy suspension structures, keeps the perimeter of the lower vents so that rain can fall and/or objects. These inter-canopy suspension structures are vented, allowing wind that would otherwise be blocked from passing through the canopy to pass through the vents.

SEARCH TERMS (A45B25/22) × or + Synonym

Wind resistant umbrella

Abstract

An inversion resistant umbrella. The inversion resistant umbrella is configured to resist the effects of a gust of wind from turning the umbrella inside out. The inversion resistant member, or sleeve, is configured to act as a barrier to allow air to travel through the interior portion of the umbrella and through at least a portion of the canopy. As such, when a gust of wind strikes the canopy from underneath, the inversion resistant member resists upwardly and outwardly to allow for the air to pass through.

Figures (9)

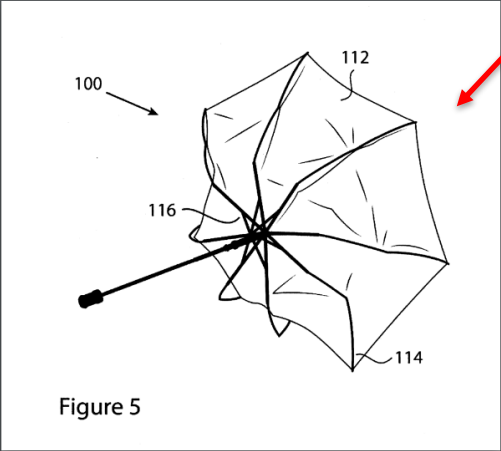


Figure 5

Classifications

A45B25/22 Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind

View 2 more classifications

Claims (18)

1] In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.76, a claim of priority is included in an Application Data Sheet filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, the present invention is claimed as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. An inversion resistant umbrella comprising:

US20170354215A1
US Application

Download PDF Find Prior Art Similar

Inventor: John P. Stamos
Original Assignee: John P. Stamos
Priority date: 2016-06-10

Family: US (1)

Date	App/Pub Number	Status
2017-06-09	US15619135	Abandoned
2017-12-14	US20170354215A1	Application

Info: Similar documents, Priority and Related Applications
External links: USPTO, USPTO Assignment, Espacenet, Global Dossier, Discuss

Use the zoom viewer to analyze drawings or download and view PDF.



US 20170354215A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.:** US 2017/0354215 A1
Stamos (43) **Pub. Date:** Dec. 14, 2017

(54) **WIND RESISTANT UMBRELLA**

(52) **U.S. CL.**
CPC ——— *A45B 25/22* (2013.01); *A45B 25/02* (2013.01); *A45B 2200/1036* (2013.01)

(71) Applicant: **John P. Stamos**, Hobe Sound, FL (US)

(72) Inventor: **John P. Stamos**, Hobe Sound, FL (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(21) Appl. No.: **15/619,135**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 9, 2017**

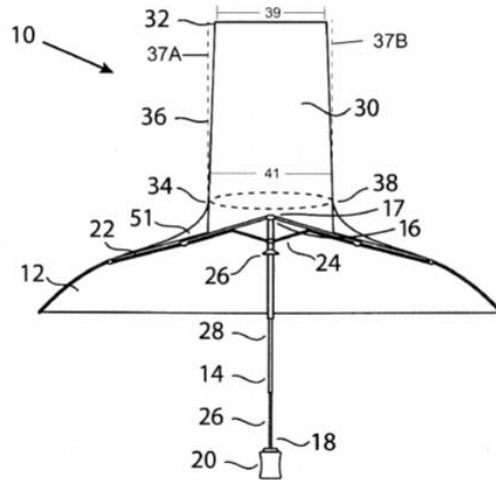
Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 62/348,354, filed on Jun. 10, 2016.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. CL.**
A45B 25/22 (2006.01)
A45B 25/02 (2006.01)

An inversion resistant umbrella. The inversion resistant umbrella is configured to minimize the likelihood of a protective canopy from turning inside out, thereby minimizing the risk of damage to the umbrella. The inversion resistant umbrella comprises a canopy sized and shaped to protect a user from one or more environmental elements, such as rain. Attached to, or integrally formed from the canopy, is an inversion resistant member. The inversion resistant member, or sleeve, is configured to act as a valve to allow air to travel through the interior portion of the umbrella and out through at least a portion of the canopy. As such, when a gust of wind catches the canopy from underneath, the inversion resistant member extends upwardly and outwardly to allow for the air to pass through.



Review the front page information of each patent and jot down the number of those patents you feel are similar to your invention that will merit later closer review.



Conduct in-depth review of patents selected based on front-page information

- Review each U.S. patent you selected in-depth for similarity to your own invention.
- Look at other sections of the patent—additional drawings pages, the specification, and especially the claims.
- References cited by the applicant and/or patent examiner may lead you to additional relevant patents.
- Save the most relevant U.S. patents you find.

Options for broadening your search

- Supplement with a keyword search.
- Extend your search to foreign patents and published patent applications using CPC classification and re-run your search with Patent Offices or Espacenet (worldwide.espacenet.com).
- Search non-patent print and electronic publications (books, journals, websites, technical catalogs, and conference proceedings).
- Hire a registered patent attorney or patent agent to review your search and conduct a follow-up search of their own.



Keyword search

- A keyword search may turn up documents that were not well classified or had classifications you missed in your review of CPC schema.
- Use Boolean operators OR, AND, and NOT ("-" in Google Patents).
 - Use "OR" to group together synonyms.
 - Use "AND" to find the intersection of two sets of information.
 - Use "-" to eliminate information you have previously searched.
- Use truncation symbols to get singular and plural versions of words (? = zero or one character; \$ or * = zero or more characters). Consult the handout for more information.
- Use quotes to group search phrases where words are adjacent.
- Use selected fields and indexes.



Keyword search strategy

((umbrella\$ OR parasol\$ OR sunshade\$) AND (windproof or (wind resistant))) - A45B25/22



SEARCH TERMS ?



umbrella\$ × or parasol\$ × or
sunshade\$ × or + *Synonym*

windproof or (wind resistant) × or
+ *Synonym*

-A45B25/22 × or + *Synonym*

+ *Synonym*

Enter the search terms to be OR-ed together in each box in the left-hand column. Each search term box will be AND-ed together.

SEARCH FIELDS

Date · Priority ▾
YYYY-MM-DD — YYYY-MM-DD

+ *Inventor*

+ *Assignee*

Patent Office · US ▾ Language ▾

Status ▾ Type · Patent ▲

- ✓ Patent
- Design

Enter the CPC that was already searched with a minus sign in front of the CPC.

In addition to selecting the US Patent Office, also limit your search to "Type = Patent" in order to eliminate design patents.

Prior art search strategy review

- Search U.S. patents and published patent applications.
 - Locate and evaluate relevant prior art to determine if your invention is new and non-obvious.
- Search foreign patent publications and non-patent literature.
- Carefully record the search process (databases used, date and time of search, CPC searched, and relevant patents/published patent applications retrieved.)

Video tutorial for searching USPTO Patent Public Search

<https://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/prelim-patent-search/index.html>

The screenshot displays a video player interface. The main content area features a technical drawing background with the title "How to conduct a preliminary U.S. patent search: A step-by-step strategy" in large, bold, black text. Below the title, the text "Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program" is visible on the left, and the "uspto" logo is on the right. The top of the video frame shows the URL "How to conduct a preliminary U.S. patent search: A step-by-step strategy". On the right side, a "Menu" sidebar is open, listing a table of contents with 17 items, including "1. How to Conduct a Preliminary U.S. Patent Search" and "1.2. How to conduct a preliminary U.S. patent search: A step by step strategy", which is currently selected and highlighted in blue. The video player controls at the bottom include a progress bar, play/pause, previous, next, and volume icons.

Resources

USPTO resources:

USPTO patent search: www.uspto.gov/patents/search

Patent Public Search: www.uspto.gov/PatentPublicSearch

Patent basics: www.uspto.gov/PatentBasics

Patent classification: www.uspto.gov/Classification

Inventors Assistance Center: www.uspto.gov/InventorAssistance

Pro Se assistance: www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents

More resources:

Espacenet worldwide.espacenet.com/

Google Patents patents.google.com/advanced

Patentscope patentscope.wipo.int

CPC General Website www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/



Thank you!

Johnna Childs
Juan Valentin

www.uspto.gov/education

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National Summer Teacher Institute 2025

Day 2 – Tuesday July 22, 2025, 11am – 3pm ET
From Ideas to Impact



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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE®

Trademark basics: Learn the fundamentals

Jason Lott

Managing Attorney, Trademarks Customer Outreach

Images used in this presentation are for educational purposes only.



UNITED STATES
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Discussion topics

- Trademark fundamentals
- Benefits of federal registration
- Selecting a trademark
- How to find help

Discussion topic

Trademark fundamentals

What is a trademark?



What does a trademark do?

- Trademark
 - Identifies the source of goods and services.
 - Distinguishes them from the goods and services of another party.
 - Provides legal protection for a brand.

What does a trademark not do?

- Trademark
 - Does **not** mean you legally own a word or phrase.
 - Does **not** mean you can stop other people from saying a word or phrase.
 - Does **not** mean people owe you money if they say a word or phrase.

Definitions

- **Trademark**
 - Indicates the source of goods or products.
- **Service mark**
 - Indicates the source of services.

Traditional types of marks

- Common source identifiers:
 - Brand names
 - Slogans
 - Logos

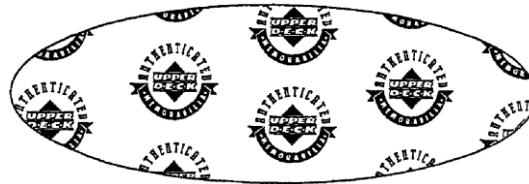
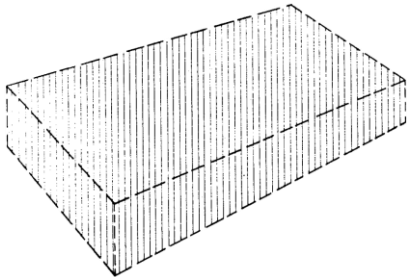
COCA-COLA

**IT'S THE
REAL THING**



Non-traditional types of marks

- Anything that functions as a source identifier might be eligible for registration.
 - Sound
 - Color
 - Scent/smell
 - Motion
 - Hologram
 - Configuration/shape



Knowledge check #1

Does a federally registered trademark mean that you own a word or phrase?

Yes

No

Knowledge check #2

Do you have to use your business name as your trademark?

Yes

No

Discussion topic

Benefits of federal registration

Trademark rights

- Traditional ways of creating rights:
 - Common law
 - Federal registration

Common law trademark rights

- Rights
 - Created when you use trademark in commerce
 - Limited to geographic area where mark is used
- Symbols
 - Optional: TM SM
 - Never: ®



Federal registration rights

- Rights
 - Created when you federally register trademark
 - Legal presumption you own the trademark
 - Legal presumption you have the right to use the trademark in all 50 states and the U.S. territories
 - Notice to the public of your rights in the trademark



Federal registration rights (cont'd)

- Rights

- Can bring legal action concerning trademark in federal court.
- Enables recordation of registration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- Can be used as a basis for filing in another country.



Federal registration rights (cont'd 2)

- Symbols
 - Unnecessary: TM SM
 - Permitted: ®

Knowledge check #3

Are you required to register your trademark with the USPTO?

Yes

No



Knowledge check #4

Does registering your trademark with the USPTO give you international protection?

Yes

No



Discussion topic

Selecting a trademark

Trademark selection challenges

- Remember:
 - The mission of the USPTO is to register any trademark that is eligible for registration.
 - Not every trademark is registrable.
 - Not every trademark is enforceable.
 - Select a trademark that is both federally registrable and legally protectable.



Registrable and protectable

Two main concepts:

- Likelihood of confusion
 - Likelihood of confusion refusal
- Strength of the trademark
 - Descriptiveness refusal

Discussion topic

Selecting a trademark: Likelihood of confusion

Likelihood of confusion

- **Concept:**
 - Avoid confusing consumers about the source of the goods and services.
- **Test:**
 - Are the trademarks confusingly **similar**?
 - and
 - Are the goods and/or services **related**?



Likelihood of confusion: example #1

Your trademark

T.MARKEY

for

shirts

Registered trademark

T.MARKEY

for

pants



Likelihood of confusion: example #2

Your trademark

T.MARKEY

for

shirts

Registered trademark

TEE MARQEE

for

pants



Likelihood of confusion: example #3

Your trademark

T.MARKEY

for

shirts

Registered trademark

TEE MARQEE

for

golf flags



Suggestions for searching

- On your own:
 - USPTO database
 - Federally applied-for and registered trademarks
 - The internet
 - One option for searching for common law use

Suggestions for searching (cont'd)

- Hire a private trademark attorney:
 - Comprehensive clearance search
 - USPTO database of registrations and applications
 - State trademark databases
 - Business name registries
 - Foreign trademark databases
 - The internet



Knowledge check #5

Your trademark

X-SEED

for

agricultural seeds

Registered trademark

EXCEED

for

live plants



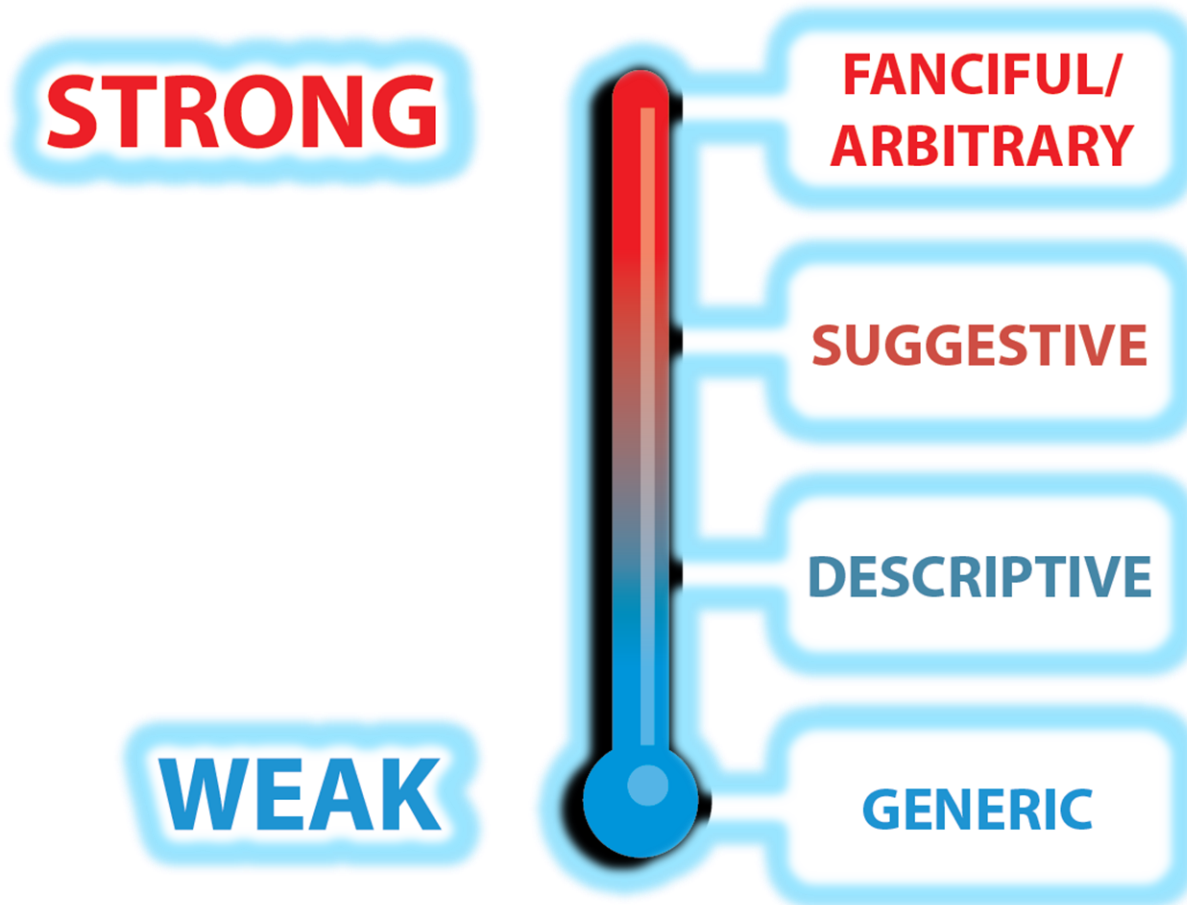
Discussion topic

Selecting a trademark: Strength of the trademark

Strength of trademark

- Concept:
 - Avoid using trademarks that fail to indicate the source of goods and services.
- Test:
 - Does the trademark **merely describe** the goods and services?

Strength of trademark (cont'd)



Strength of trademark examples

- **Generic terms**
 - Common, everyday name for the good or service
 - Unregistrable
- **Example**
 - MILK for “dairy-based beverage”

Strength of trademark examples

(cont'd)

- **Descriptive trademarks**
 - Directly describe something about the goods and services
 - Unregistrable on the Principal Register
 - Except with showing of acquired distinctiveness
- **Example**
 - SCOOP for “ice cream”



Strength of trademark examples

(cont'd 2)

- Suggestive trademarks
 - Suggest a quality of the goods and services
 - Registrable
- Example
 - COPPERTONE for “suntan lotion”

Strength of trademark examples

(cont'd 3)

- **Fanciful trademarks**
 - Invented words with no meaning in any language
 - Registrable
- **Example**
 - XEROX for “photocopiers”



Strength of trademark examples

(cont'd 4)

- Arbitrary trademarks
 - Actual words, but no association with the goods and services
 - Registrable
- Example
 - APPLE for “computers”



Knowledge check #6

Which is registrable?

BICYCLE

for

bicycles

BICYCLE

for

playing cards



Discussion topic

How to find help

Caution: scam alert

- Beware of scams.
 - www.uspto.gov/TrademarkScams
- Beware of non-attorney filing firms.
 - www.uspto.gov/trademarks/protect/filing-firms
- Beware of misleading notices and offers.
 - www.uspto.gov/TrademarkSolicitations



USPTO resources

- Website
 - www.uspto.gov
- Trademark videos
 - www.uspto.gov/TMvideos
- Trademark basics registration toolkit
 - www.uspto.gov/TrademarkBasicsToolkit



USPTO resources (cont'd)



The screenshot shows the USPTO website header with the logo and navigation links. The main navigation bar includes 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'IP Policy', and 'Learning and Resources'. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > About Us > Events > Trademark Basics Boot Camp'. The main content area features the title 'Trademark Basics Boot Camp' and three paragraphs of text. To the right of the text is a blue graphic with the text 'Trademark Basics BOOT CAMP' and three testimonials from boot camp veterans.

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Home > About Us > Events > Trademark Basics Boot Camp

Trademark Basics Boot Camp

This free USPTO event series provides a comprehensive overview of the process for federal trademark registration and maintaining a federal trademark. If you're a small business owner or entrepreneur seeking to protect your brand and product identities, Trademark Basics Boot Camp is for you.

Trademark Basics Boot Camp is offered regularly throughout the year. During each series run, we cover one module weekly for eight weeks, with each module focusing on different aspects of trademarks and the registration process, from filing and examination to post-registration requirements for keeping your registration alive. Each module concludes with a question-and-answer period where you can ask our USPTO trademark experts questions.

You can attend the entire series or just the modules that best match your interests, but you must sign up for each module to attend. If you attend all eight modules, you can request a certificate of attendance. To learn more and sign up, select an individual module from the listing below.



Trademark Basics
BOOT CAMP

Here's what our boot camp veterans are saying:

- "It's a terrific program. I may take it again as it is a wealth of knowledge."
- "Great information and very thorough explanation of the process and requirements for trademarks."
- "Fantastic program. Have already recommended it to several people."

USPTO resources (cont'd 2)

- IP Identifier
 - <https://ipidentifier.uspto.gov>
- Free services and resources
 - www.uspto.gov/FreeServices
- USPTO virtual assistant
 - www.uspto.gov/trademarks/basics



USPTO resources (cont'd 3)

- Trademark Assistance Center
 - Main support center for all trademark customers
 - Phone: 1-800-786-9199 (press 1)
 - Email: TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov

USPTO resources (cont'd 4)

- The USPTO does not:
 - Provide legal advice.
 - Enforce legal rights.
 - Recommend specific private attorneys.

Questions?



Thank you!

Jason Lott

www.uspto.gov

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When You're a Teacher, It's Easy to:
Find Yourself in Copyright

United States Copyright Office

John A. Saint Amour
Office of Public Information



When You're a Teacher, It's Easy to: Find Yourself in Copyright

United States Copyright Office

John A. Saint Amour
Office of Public Information

Constitutional Basis for the Copyright Law

“The Congress shall have Power...
To promote the Progress of Science and
useful Arts; by securing for limited Times
to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right
to their respective Writing and Discoveries...”

*United States Constitution,
Article I, Section 8*

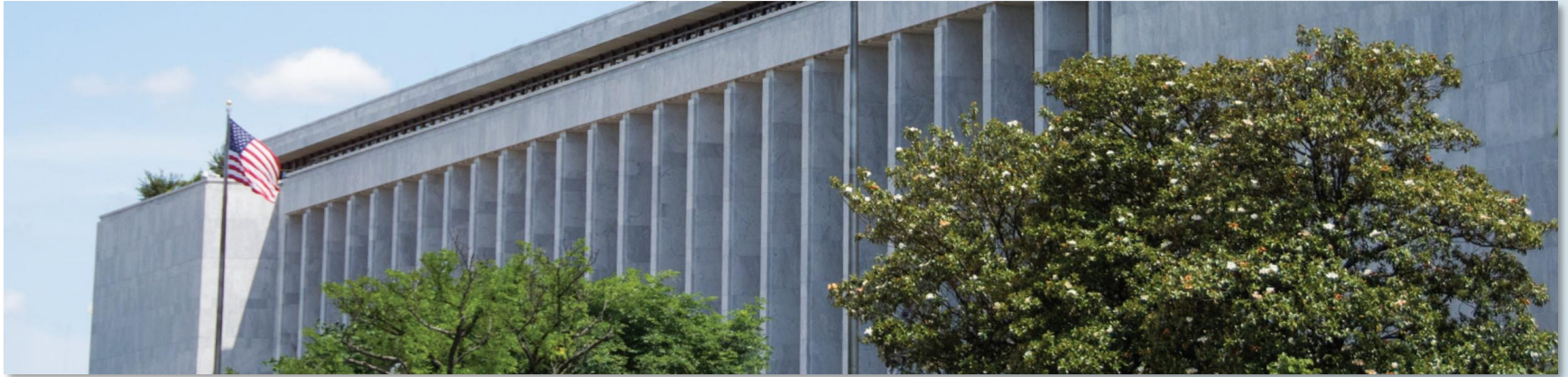


Major Responsibilities

- Administer the copyright law
- Create and implement regulations
- Examine and document registrations
- Examine and record documents
- Maintain public records and expand access
- Administer statutory licenses
- Support Library of Congress collections
- Advise Congress
- Provide information to the public
- Serve as a resource to the international copyright community

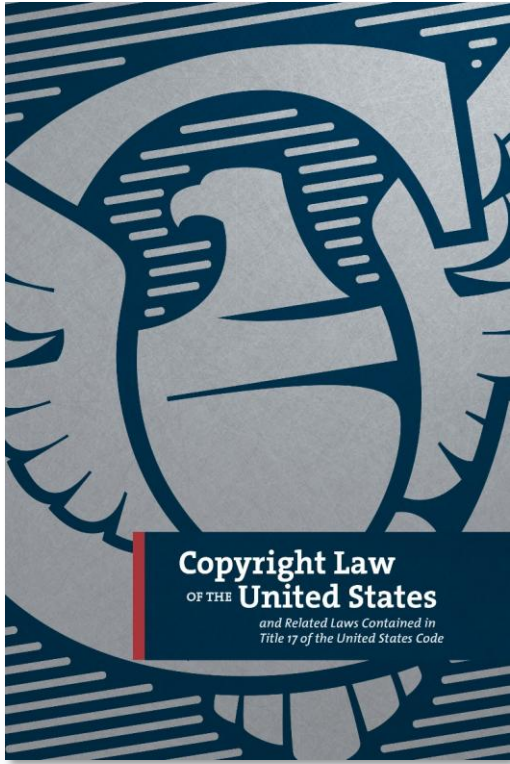


Mission Statement



The **U.S. Copyright Office** promotes creativity and free expression by administering the nation's copyright laws and by providing impartial, expert advice on copyright law and policy for the benefit of all.

The Basics (Section 106)

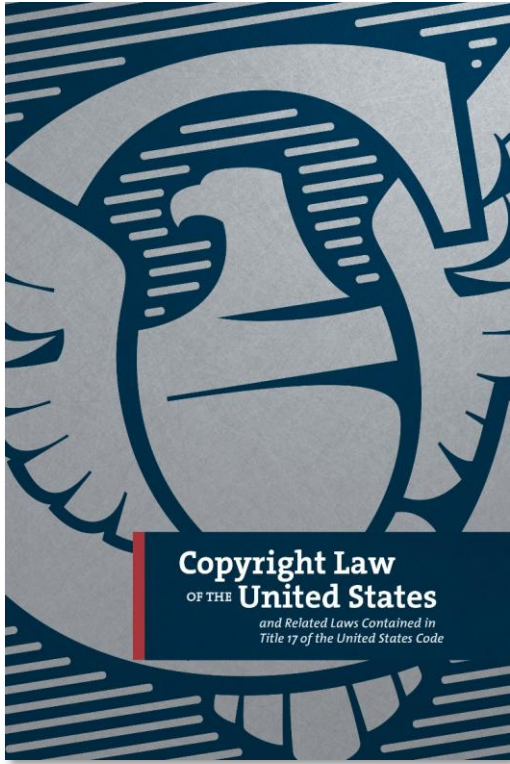


Copyright is granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works.

Bundle of exclusive rights granted to the author respecting his or her original works:

- To reproduce
- To distribute
- To prepare derivative works based upon the original
- To perform or display the work publicly
- To publicly perform digital audio transmissions of recordings

Duration of Rights



- Works today are protected for 70 years beyond the life of the author/creator.
- Works published or registered before 1978 can have a life up to 95 years.
- When the term(s) of copyright ends, the works become public domain.
- Public domain works can be freely used.

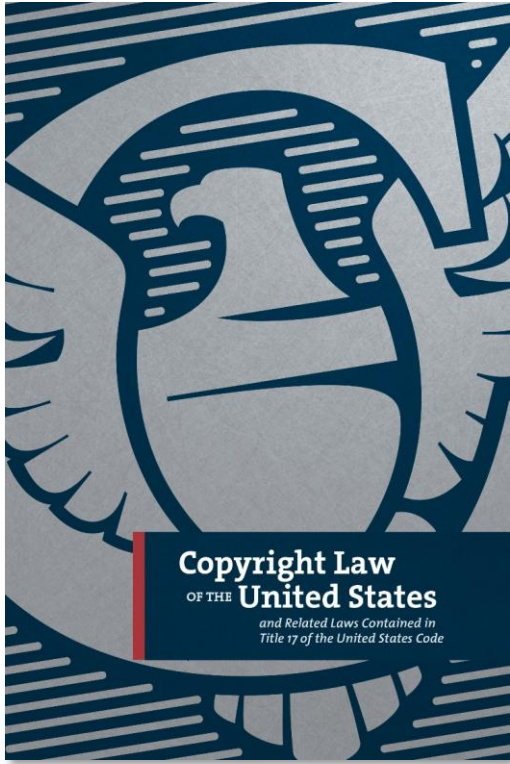
Works Not Protected



- Works that have not been fixed in tangible form
- Names, titles, short phrases, and slogans
- Familiar symbols, shapes or designs, or coloring
- Lettering, fonts, calligraphy, mere variations of typographic ornamentation
- Ideas, methods, systems, concepts, principles, and discoveries
- Devices or inventions



Automatic Protection on Fixation



17 USC 102(a)

- Copyright protection subsists, in accordance with this title, in original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or device.

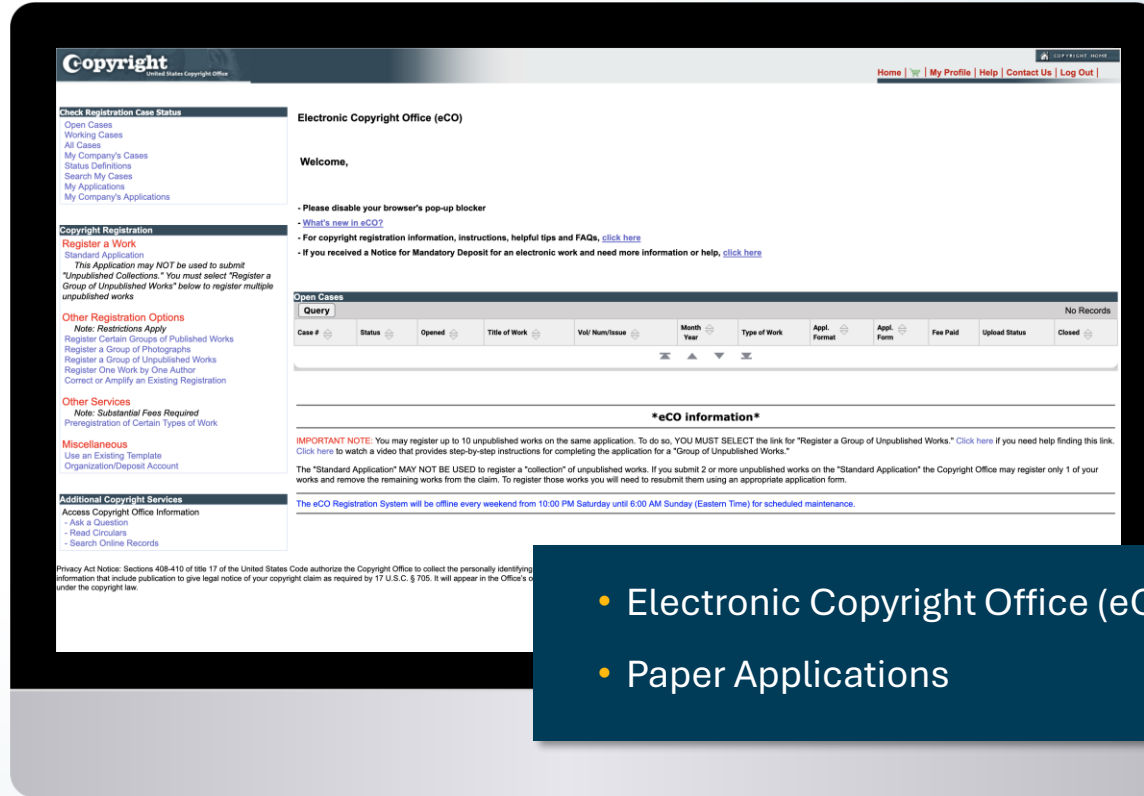
Benefits of Registration



- Public record of copyright facts
- Prerequisite to filing infringement suit (for U.S. works)
- Certificate is *prima facie* evidence of validity of copyright and facts stated on certificate
- Protect against importation of infringing copies by recording registration with U.S. Customs Service
- Statutory damages and attorney's fees



How to Register a Work

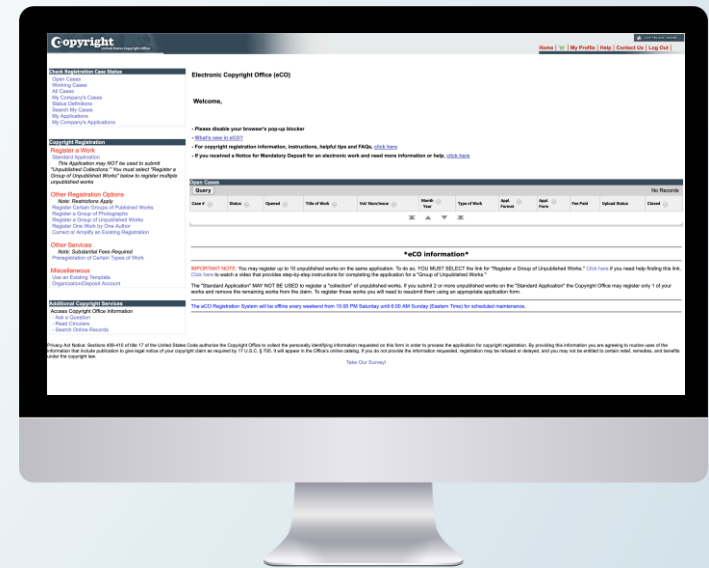


- Electronic Copyright Office (eCO)
- Paper Applications

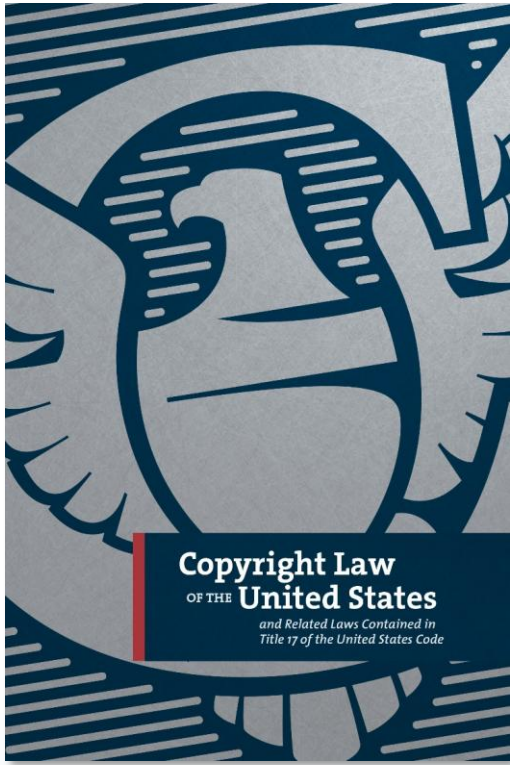
Electronic Copyright Office (eCO)



- Filing online sends information directly into our secure systems
- Lower filing fee
- Group Registration Options
- Fastest processing time
- Online status tracking
- Secure payment by credit or debit card, electronic check, or Copyright Office deposit account
- The ability to upload certain categories of deposits directly into eCO as electronic files
- Available 24 hours a day, except for routine maintenance every Sunday from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. eastern time



Limitations of Exclusive Rights

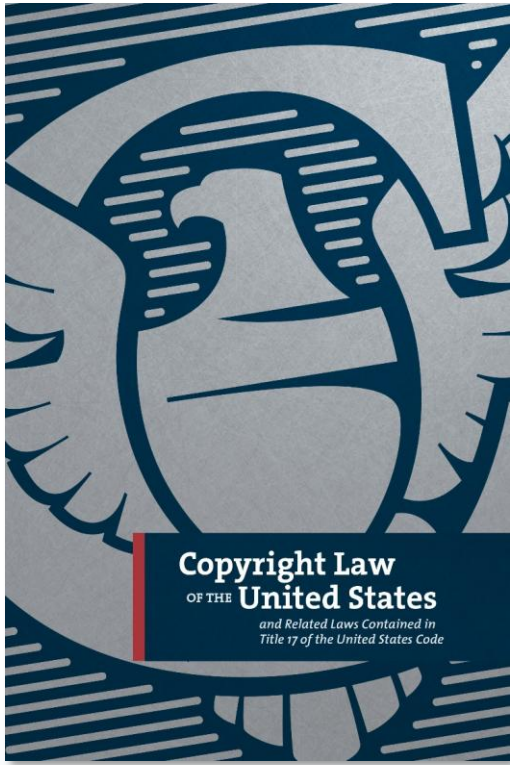


Statutory Limitations: 17 U.S.C. Sections 107-122

Examples:

- Fair Use: Section 107
- Libraries and Archives: Section 108
- First Sale: Section 109
- Certain Performances: Section 110
- Blind and Physically Handicapped: Section 122

Fair Use (Section 107)



Legal Doctrine Codified in 17 U.S.C. 107

4 Factor Analysis

- The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- The nature of the copyrighted work;
- Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.



Factor 1

Courts are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair.

- Not all nonprofit education and noncommercial uses are fair, and all commercial uses are not fair.
- Courts balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors.

Transformative uses are more likely to be considered fair.

- Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.



Factor

2

The degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression.

- Using a more creative or imaginative work (such as a novel, movie, or song) is less likely to support a claim of a fair use than using a factual work (such as a technical article or news item).

The use of an unpublished work is less likely to be considered fair.



Factor

3

Quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used.

- If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found.
- If the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely.
- But, some courts have found use of an entire work to be fair under certain circumstances. And in other contexts, using even a small amount of a copyrighted work was determined not to be fair because the selection was an important part—or the “heart”—of the work.

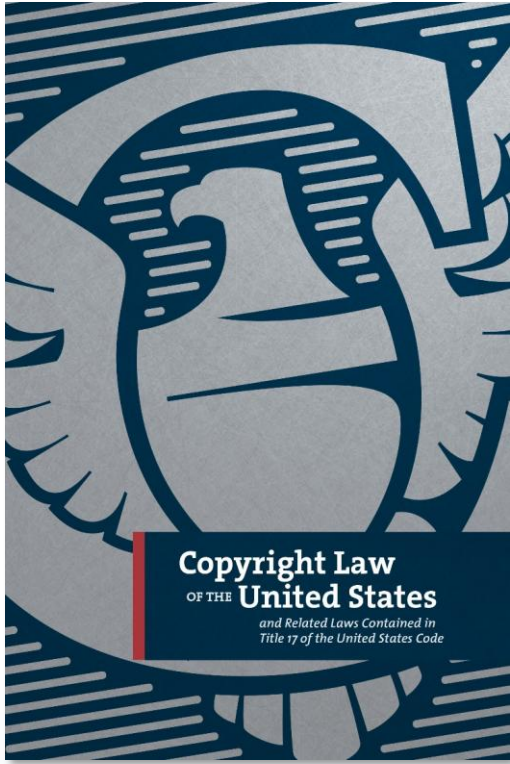
A dark blue circular graphic containing the word "Factor" in orange and the number "4" in white.

Factor
4

Courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work.

- In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread.

Fair Use (Section 107)



Other factors may also be considered by a court in weighing a fair use question, depending upon the circumstances.

Courts evaluate fair use claims on a case-by-case basis, and the outcome of any given case depends on a fact-specific inquiry.

- This means there is no formula to ensure that a predetermined percentage or amount of a work—or specific number of words, lines, pages, copies—may be used without permission.

Industry Negotiated Voluntary Guidelines Outlined in U.S. House Report



Guidelines state the minimum, not maximum, standards of Fair use. (Safe Harbor)

Single Copying for Teacher

- A Chapter from a book
- An article from newspaper or magazine
- A short story, short essay, or short poem
- A chart, graph diagram, cartoon or picture from a book, periodical, or newspaper.

Multiple Copies for Classroom Use

- Copying meets tests of brevity and spontaneity
- Copying meets the cumulative effect test
- Each copy includes a notice of copyright



The image shows the title page of a report. At the top, the text "THE CONFERENCE ON FAIR USE" is centered within a double-line rectangular border. Below this, the text "FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON FAIR USE" is centered. At the bottom, the date "NOVEMBER 1998" is centered.

THE CONFERENCE ON FAIR USE

FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER
ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE
CONFERENCE ON FAIR USE

NOVEMBER 1998

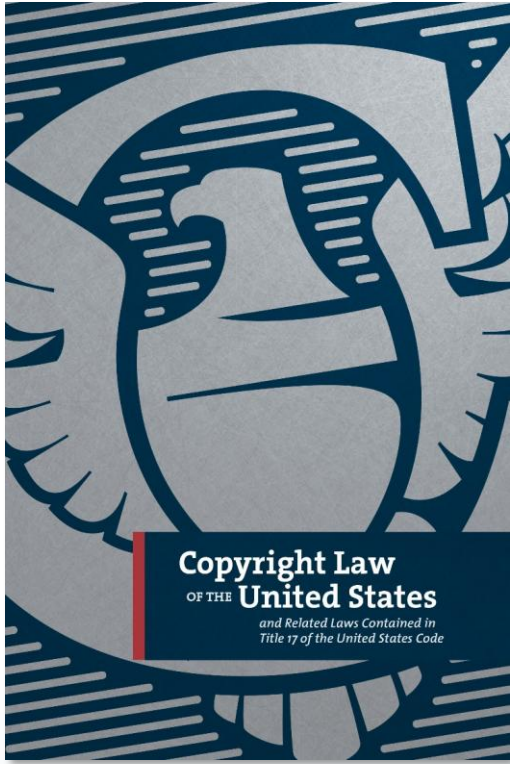
Fair Use Index



copyright.gov/fair-use



Exempted Performances and Displays (Section 110)

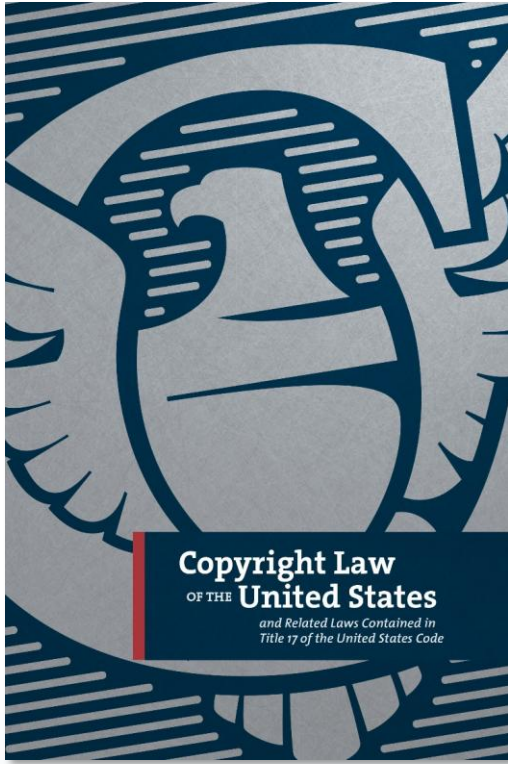


110(1)

During the course of “face-to-face teaching activities.”

- Nonprofit educational institution
- In a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction
- Lawfully made copies for MP/AV works

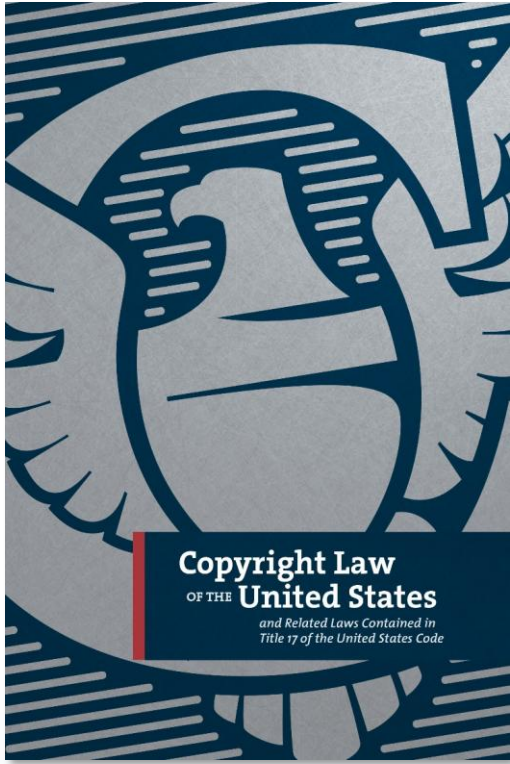
Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act



110(2)

- Applicable to accredited nonprofit educational institutions and government bodies
- Displays are for enrolled students' eyes only
- Applies to performance or display via digital transmission
- Performance of nondramatic literary works, musical works, or reasonable limited portions of other works, typical to classroom setting
- Display of work in the amount typically display in course of live classroom session

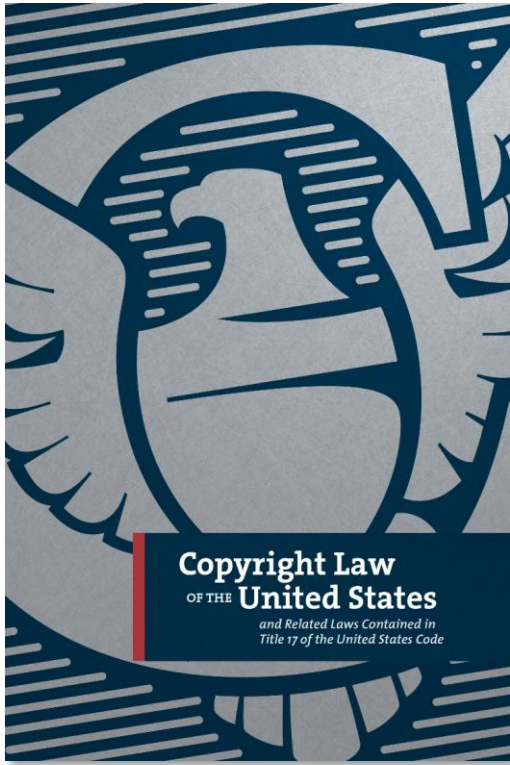
Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act



Performance or display must be

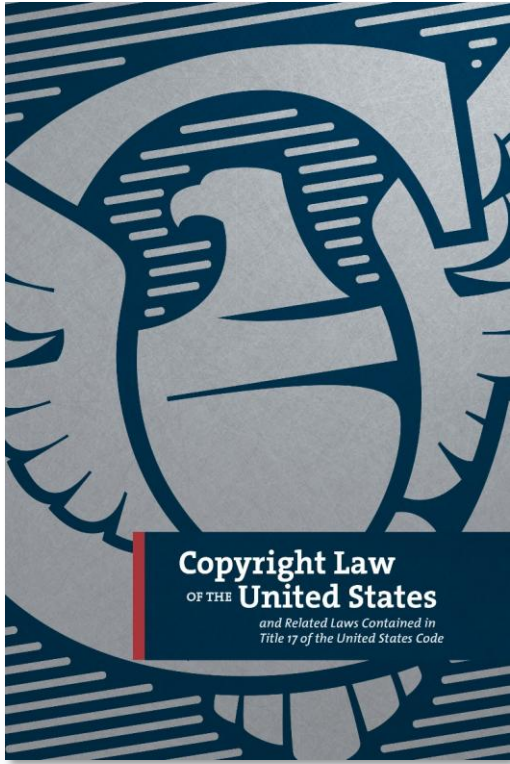
- Made by, at the direction of, or under actual supervision of an instructor
- Integral part of a class session, as regular part of the systematic “mediated instructional activities”
- Directly related and of material assistance to the teaching content
- Transmission is limited to students officially enrolled or employees of a government body

Mediated Instructional Activities



- Activities that use work as an integral part of the class experience, controlled by or under the actual supervision of the instructor and analogous to the type of performance or display that would take place in a live classroom setting
- Does not apply to activities that normally use textbooks, coursepacks, other material typically purchased by students for use and retention

Obligations of the Transmitting Body or Institution Under T.E.A.C.H.



- Institute policies that provide notice of copyright and promote compliance with law
- Implement technological measures that prevent retention by recipients for longer than class session, and further dissemination
- Cannot interfere with anticircumvention measures
- May not be stored nor maintained in a manner that would be accessible other than by anticipated recipients
- No copy may be retained on system for longer period than reasonably necessary to facilitate the transmissions

Invention Challenge

Day 2 - Groupwork

Consensus building and design thinking



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Invention challenge!

Day 2: Groupwork

Consensus building and design thinking

Invention challenge quick guide

1 Invent

Identify a problem to solve

- Work on your mini invention challenge prompt.
- Brainstorm in your group about solutions to your problem prompt.

3 Branding

Design a trademark

- Create a name for your invention.
- Draw a logo.
- Write a slogan for your brand.

2 Sketch, label, and search

Draw your invention

- Create line drawings using black ink or pencil.
- Make drawings large so that you can number the parts of your invention.
- Place numbers on the drawing that point to significant components of your invention.
- Search for similar inventions.

4 Plan the pitch

Invention Statement

- Describe the invention.
- Explain the features of the invention and how it would be used.
- Explain how the brand was created.
- Identify the forms of IP that could be applied to protect the invention.

Ideation: What bugs you?

Before tomorrow's session, **list four problems you observe or things that annoy you.**

Be sure to list problems that might be solved WITH AN INVENTION. Inventions can be products or processes.

- What problems do you encounter that you wish someone could create something to solve?
- What tasks, chores, or jobs do you dislike doing? How could they be made easier?
- What kind of invention would make life easier for you or someone else?

Mini invention challenge:

Quickly create something new!



What does it mean to invent?

To create something new and unique that has not existed before.

What is intellectual property?

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, and images used in commerce. There are four types of intellectual property: patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

What is a patent?

A patent confers the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling or importing an invention for a limited period of time in exchange for its disclosure. There are three different types of patents that the USPTO may grant:

- **Utility patents:** New and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof.
- **Design patents:** New, original ornamental design for an article of manufacture.
- **Plant patents:** New, distinct, and asexually reproduced plants.

What is a trademark?

Trademarks identify one person's product or service and distinguish those products or services from another's. They can be words, designs, or a combination, but can take many other forms.

What is copyright?














Copyright is a type of intellectual property that protects original works of authorship as soon as an author fixes the work in a tangible form of expression. There are many different types of works that can be protected by copyright, including art, literature, architecture, and movies.

What is a trade secret?

A trade secret is confidential information that can make the owner money as long as it stays a secret. The information must have value to others who cannot legitimately obtain it, and the owner of the trade secret must make efforts to ensure the information remains a secret.

Directions: Follow the steps below.

1. Select one of the problems below. Work individually or with a group. **(1 minute)**

-  Your ring fell to the bottom of the pool, but you don't know how to swim.
-  You want to eat spaghetti, but you don't have a fork.
-  There is a hole in the screen in your room and flies keep getting in, but you don't have any tape or extra screen.
-  You kicked a soccer ball over a barbed-wire fence and need to get it back.
-  Your paper airplane got caught on the ceiling fan, and you can't use anything heavy to get it down.
-  Your water bottle doesn't fit into the water dispenser, and you don't have money to buy a new one.
-  You work on a team, and everybody misses their deadlines.
-  The air conditioner in your room is too loud, and you can't sleep with the noise.
-  You hate to eat the cereal dust that always accumulates at the bottom of the cereal container.
-  Your cell phone died, and you can't remember anybody's number.
-  You have a deadline to write a community center newsletter, but don't have the necessary resources.
-  You are out with a group of friends, and they cannot decide on a restaurant.
-  You keep slipping inside your bathtub, but you don't want to buy a bath mat.
-  You have a student who never pays attention in class and it drives you crazy.

Brainstorm guidelines

- **Take turns** and share as many ideas as possible.
- **Encourage** unusual ideas.
- **Do not judge** other people's ideas.
- **Think of new ideas** based on other ideas.
- **Keep all ideas** at first.
- **Record** ideas exactly **as stated**.

Invention challenge quick guide

1 Invent

Identify a problem to solve

- Work on your mini invention challenge prompt.
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3 Branding

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4 Plan the pitch

Invention Statement

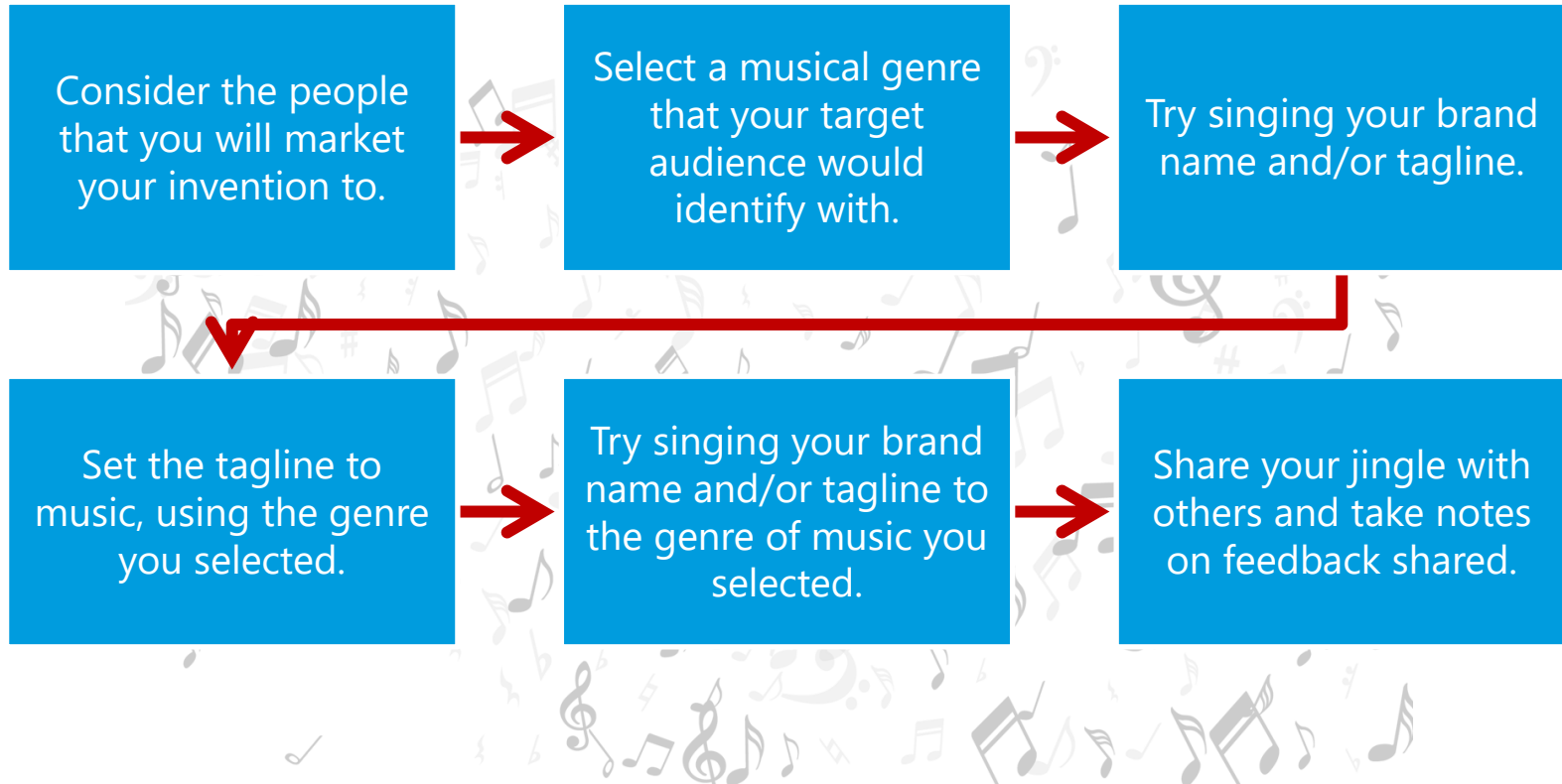
- Describe the invention.
- Explain the features of the invention and how it would be used.
- Explain how the brand was created.
- Identify the forms of IP that could be applied to protect the invention.

Branding basics

3 Branding

Name the invention, create a logo, and write a slogan for the invention.

Design your own jingle



4

Plan the pitch

Invention Statement

1. Describe the invention.
2. Explain the features of the invention and how it would be used.
3. Explain how the brand was created.
4. Identify the forms of IP that could be applied to protect the invention.

Invention Challenge Work Time



Thank you!

Maggie Dressel

Reggie Duncan

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National Summer Teacher Institute 2025

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Empowering Future Innovators



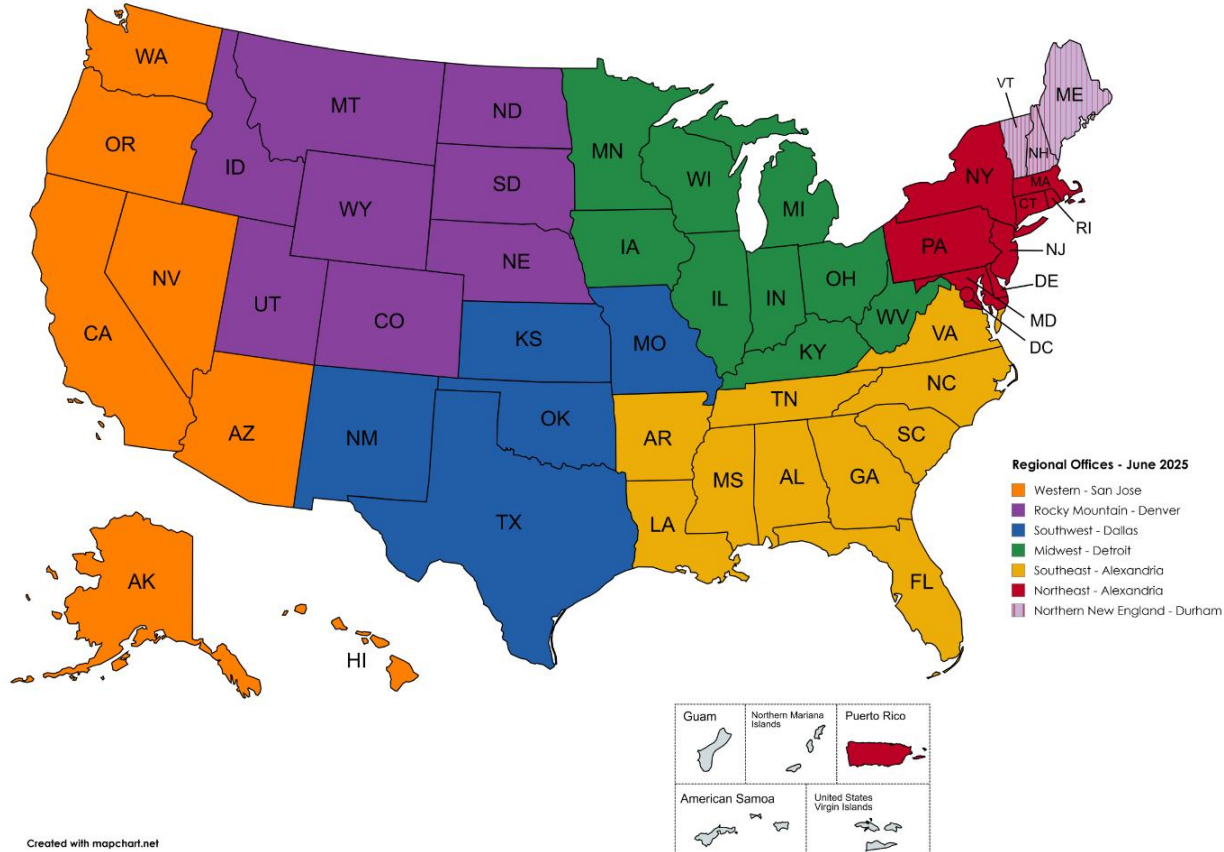
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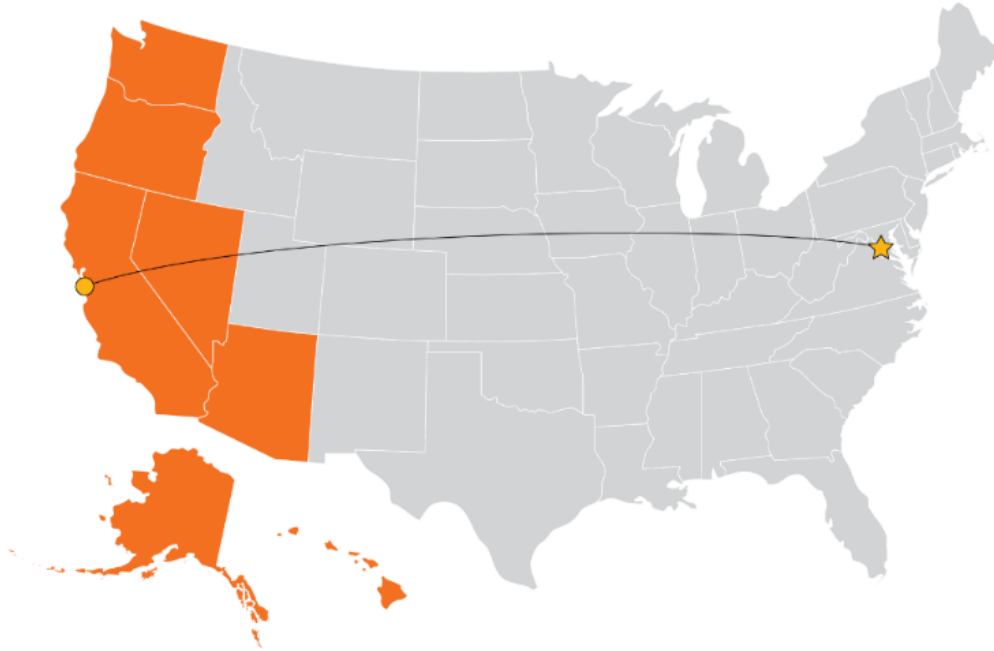
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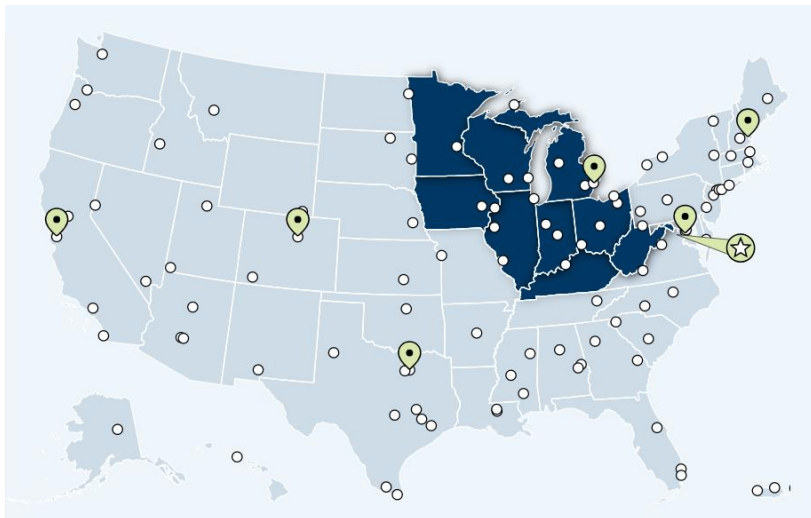
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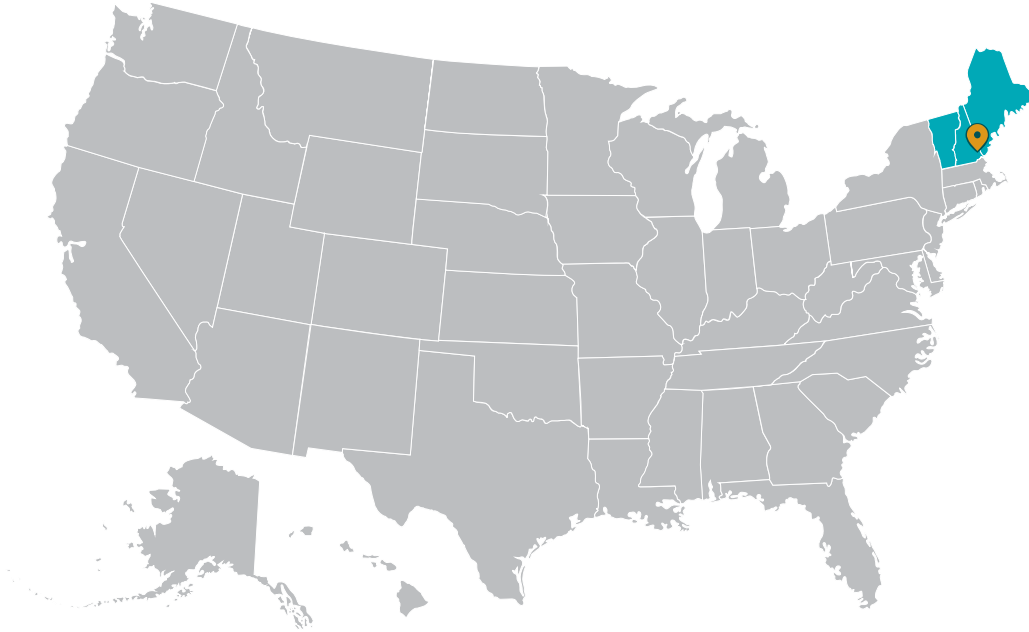
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How do I get started: USPTO resources



Pam Bogdan
College professor
and inventor



Doug Scott
Technology and
engineering teacher



Tom Jenkins
Educator and inventor



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US PATENT

(10) United States Patent
Storey et al.



(11) Patent No.: US 11,892,131 B2
(12) Date of Patent: Feb. 6, 2024

(14) BATTERY SWAP FLASHLIGHT

(71) Applicant: Laura E. Storey, Hopkinton, MA
(US) Brianne Nicholas, Hopkinton, MA (US)

(72) Inventor: Laura E. Storey, Hopkinton, MA
(US) Brianne Nicholas, Hopkinton, MA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the name of this patent is intended to be added under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by virtue of:

(21) Appl. No.: 18/979,111

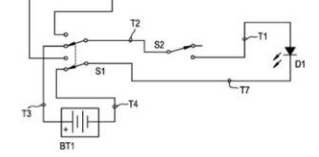
(22) Filed: Dec. 12, 2022

(45) US 2023/0184916 A1 Jan. 18, 2023

Related U.S. Application Data

(86) Provisional application No. 63/208,390, filed on Dec. 13, 2021.

(87) Int. Cl. H01L 27/00 (2006.01)
F21F 7/00 (2006.01)
F21F 2/00 (2006.01)
F21F 10/10 (2006.01)



3 Student US Utility Patents 11 Student Provisional Patents

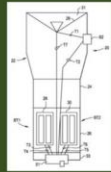


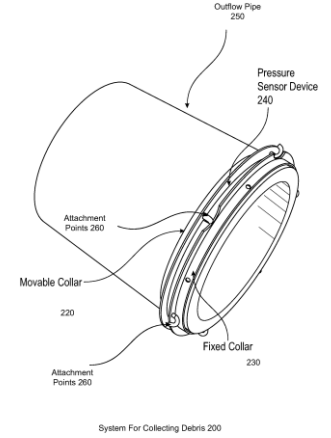
Doug Scott

- Technology and Engineering Teacher (Hopkinton, MA)
 - Grade 6-12 Department Head
- Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
- Lemelson-MIT Fellow
- USPTO Master Teacher
- PBS Invention Education Advisor
- Maker of mistakes

@mrscottbot

mrscottbot.org



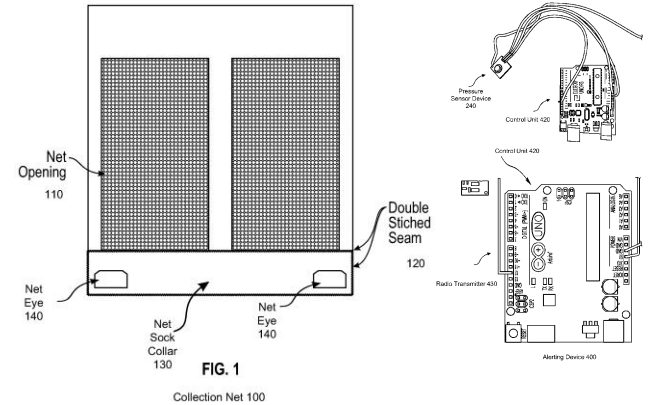


Tom Jenkins, NBCT Greenon Jr/Sr High School (Enon, Oh)

- Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
- Lemelson-MIT Excite Award
- USPTO Master Teacher
- Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow (Department of Defense)
- State of Ohio Teacher of the Year (District 10)
- National Teachers Hall of Fame (2025 Inductee)

Email: TomJenkinsSTEM@gmail.com
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-- Pamela Bogdan
College Professor & Inventor

How Do I Get Started: USPTO Resources



Pam Bogdan
College professor
and inventor



Doug Scott
Technology and
engineering teacher



Tom Jenkins
Educator and inventor



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How Do I Get Started

USPTO Resources

USPTO Resources

Portia L. Deans

Innovation Outreach Specialist

United States Patent and Trademark Office,

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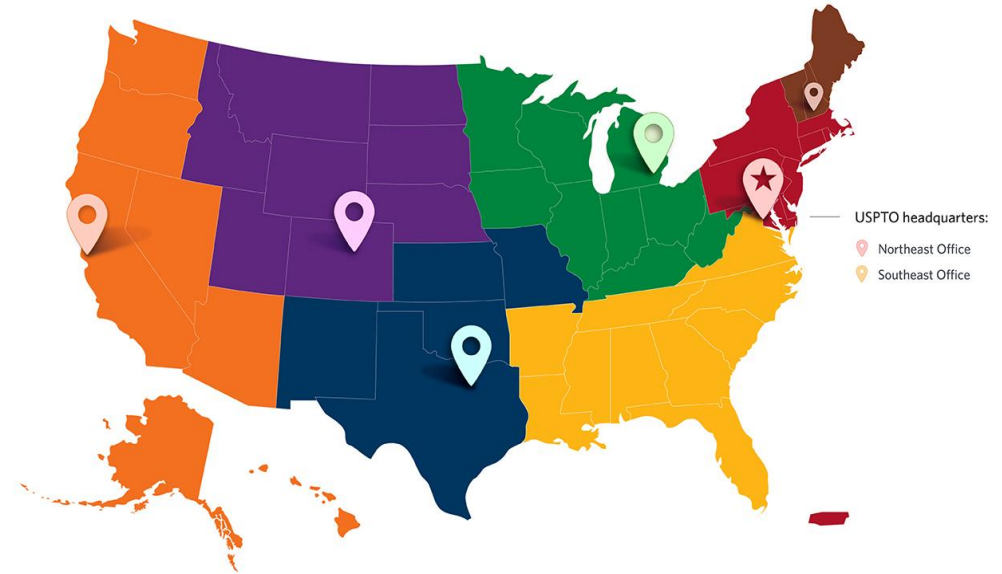
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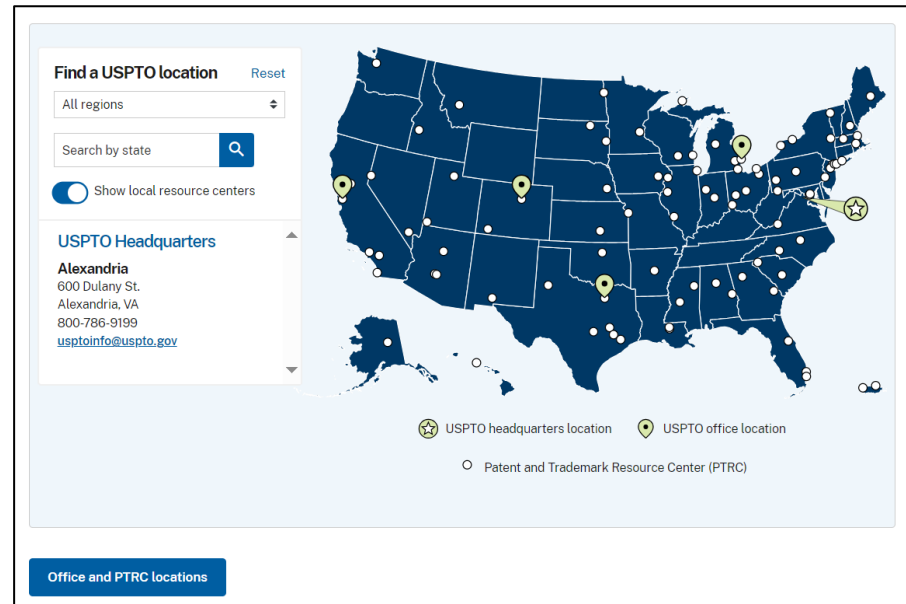
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- > Types of IP protection
- > Identify the kind of IP you have
- > Patents basics
- > Trademark basics
- > Copyright basics



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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
- > Attend a free training



Get help to apply

Set yourself up for success by learning via USPTO's free resources and find expert help.

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- > Do I need a trademark attorney?



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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



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- > Learn about trademark petitions
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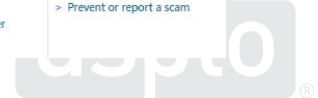
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- > License or sell your IP
- > Change patent owner
- > Change trademark owner
- > Other federal resources



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Don't be misled by false claims, scams, or companies offering services for unusually low prices.

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17	Attend DOCX filing training	Virtual	1:00 p.m. ET
17	The Path to a Patent, Part I: Intellectual property basics	Virtual	2:00 p.m. ET
21	2025 National Summer Teacher Institute	Virtual	11:00 a.m. ET
22	2025 National Summer Teacher Institute	Virtual	11:00 a.m. ET
22	Trademark Basics Boot Camp, Module 4: Application requirements	Virtual	2:00 p.m. ET
23	2025 National Summer Teacher Institute	Virtual	11:00 a.m. ET
23	USPTO Hour: Trademark "Change Address or Representation" form authorization updates	Virtual	12:00 p.m. ET
24	The Path to a Patent, Part II: Drafting provisional patent applications	Virtual	2:00 p.m. ET
25	Federal trademark searching: Overview	Virtual	3:00 p.m. ET
29	Learn to assess the strengths and weaknesses of your patent application	Virtual	9:00 a.m. ET
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