

**From:** [Elizabeth Crouch](#)  
**To:** [successact](#)  
**Subject:** Patent US8708166B1  
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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Elizabeth Crouch and my patent is US8708166, known currently as The Cupcake Rack.

In 2014, I was very excited when my patent was approved...actually, I was on top of the world.

And in December 2018, I was a bit flattered when I found out that my invention had been knocked-off by an American DRTV company. After all, I had a patent, therefore I should expect to roll in the big bucks from their sales.

All that excitement came to a sudden halt when I found out that my patent would not hold up in court - it was weak and I didn't have a leg to stand on. Anybody could copy my invention and sell it, and there is not a thing I could do about it.

(My story is the featured cover story in Inventors Digest March 2019)

As a first time inventor, I did not know the ropes when my patent application was submitted.

Actually, I signed it, but really didn't understand it at all.

Now, I get it. My patent application could have been challenged a bit more by my examiner, verifying and questioning some of the claims in it. That would have helped me take a better look at the information included in the application. Perhaps, then my patent would be strong enough to fight for. As for now, it's not worth paying a lawyer for a letter to the company making the replica. Even if my patent could stand up in court, there is no way I could afford to fight for it. Seriously, I don't see any way that I could win in this situation unless some changes are made at the USPTO.

The individual inventor needs to be represented by the USPTO, they need to be protected by them.

I am so leery of sharing my ideas with anyone at this point. I don't even think I should apply for patents on my new ideas because it doesn't seem to matter anyway.

Solutions? Have help available for the independent inventors. We don't want to lose them, they make the world a better place!

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Crouch



