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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Successful Inventing: Researching and applying for a patent

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Notice

This content is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Please consult with appropriate sources for legal authority and guidance on these matters.

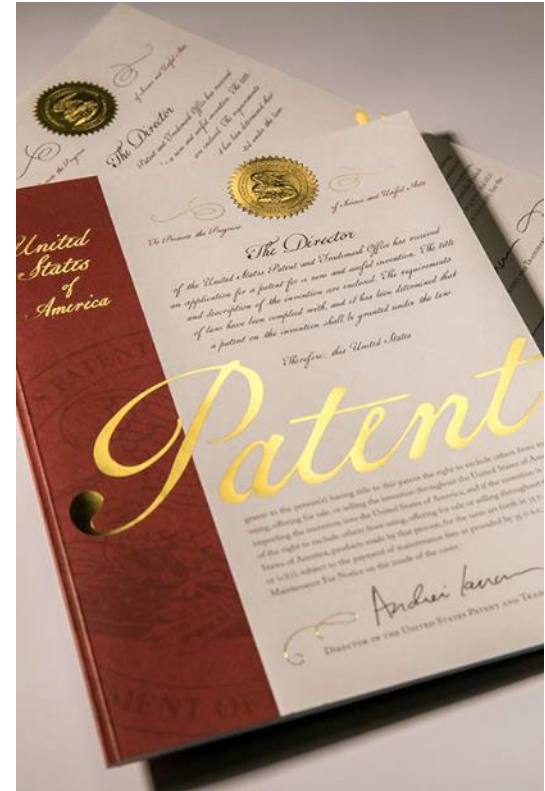
Workshop objectives

- Participants will understand:
 - Benefits of searching
 - Keyword search vs. classification search
 - What is Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)?
 - The six-step search process
 - Building a search strategy using keywords and classification scheme
 - Provisional vs. non-provisional application
 - Patent application journey

What is a patent?

A U.S. patent is

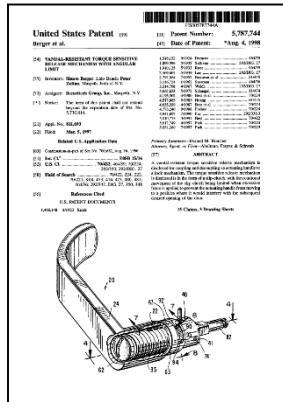
- A property right granted by the United States government to an inventor
- To **exclude others** from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States
- For a **limited time**
- In exchange for public disclosure of the invention



Types of patents

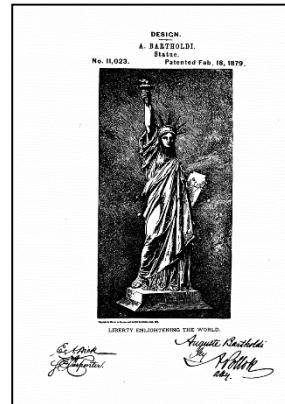
Utility

New and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof



Design

Any new, original and ornamental design; protects the way an object appears



Plant

Whoever invents or discovers and asexually produces any distinct and new variety of plant



Why search?

- Patentability
 - Inventions that are new, useful, non-obvious, and accompanied by a written description disclosing how to make and use the invention may be patented.
- But how do you know if an invention is new and non-obvious?

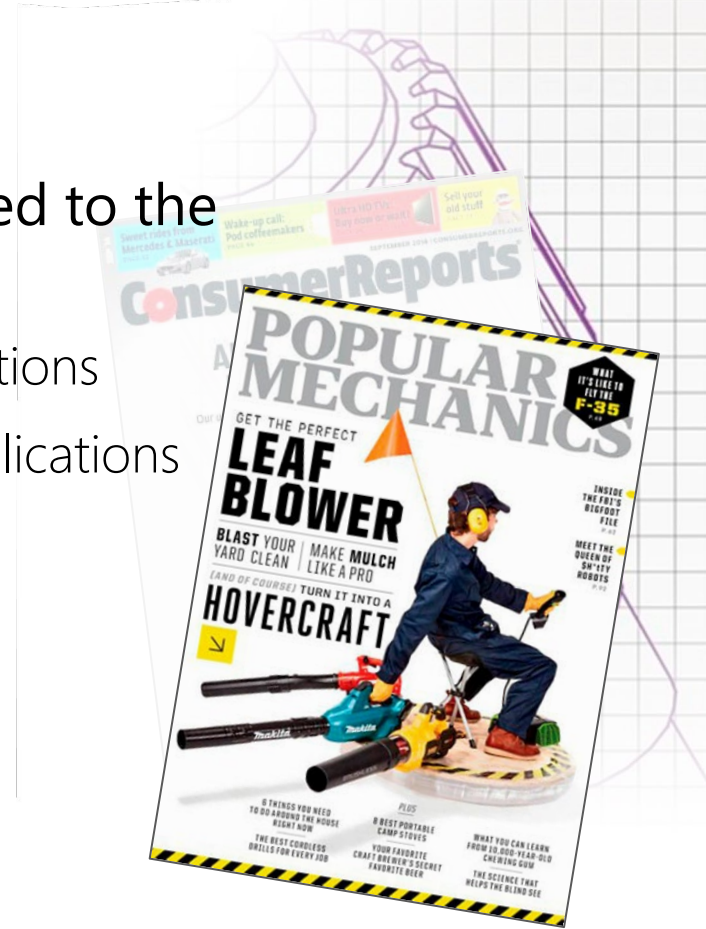
U.S. patent prior art search

- Ensure that your invention is indeed novel and non-obvious; conduct a prior art search before filing a U.S. patent application
 - Many searchers start with a preliminary prior art search of U.S. patents and published patent applications
 - Conduct a keyword search; however, note that there are pitfalls from relying only on a keyword search
 - To be as thorough as possible, a supplemental prior art search ideally includes a classification search of granted U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications, conducted to determine patentability of an invention



What is 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
- Field of your invention that have been published before your effective filing date.



Biggest challenge of keyword searching

- Text patent databases limit keyword searching to no earlier than:
 - Google Patents: 1880's
 - USPTO Patent Public Search 1830's
- Searching by classification allows access to all U.S. patents.

What is classification?

- In general, a classification system is a system of hierarchical categories used to organize like “things” by their characteristics and relationships.
- Classification systems are very useful for sorting and searching large collections of information, including inventions.



What is Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)?

- Joint partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO)
- Harmonization of the USPC and ECLA
- The CPC is divided into eight main areas, A-H:
 - A: Human Necessities
 - B: Performing Operations; Transporting
 - C: Chemistry and Metallurgy
 - D: Textiles and Paper
 - E: Fixed Construction
 - F: Mechanical Engineering; Lighting; Heating; Weapons; Blasting; Engines or Pumps
 - G: Physics
 - H: Electricity



Six-step U.S. patent search strategy

- The six-step U.S. patent search strategy is a strategy for searching U.S. patents and published patent applications to locate and evaluate relevant prior art; any previous publication that discloses an invention and would preclude issuance.
- A more comprehensive prior art search would also include foreign patent publications and non-patent literature.
- Careful recording of the search process (databases used, date and time of search, classes searched, and patents/published patent applications retrieved) is important.



Search example

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



Step 1 – Brainstorm terms describing the invention

- What is the purpose of the invention? Is it a utilitarian device or an ornamental design?
- Is the invention a process – a way of making something or performing a function – or is it a product?
- What is the invention made of? What is the structure of the invention?
- How is the invention used?
- What are keywords and technical terms that describe the nature of the invention?

Note: Consult a technical dictionary or thesaurus to help find the appropriate terms.



Step 1 – Brainstorm terms describing the invention (continued)

Purpose: Umbrella has a new rib design to eliminate an umbrella collapsing or inverting due to high winds

Invention: An improvement in umbrellas to eliminate need for frequent replacement of umbrellas

Invention components: Framework with ribs, stretchers, a main frame, securing rings, mounting brackets, joint connectors, fabric connectors, and fabric linkage bar

How used: As needed in protection from the elements

Other terms (in addition to above): parasol, sunshade, support assembly or apparatus, windproof, wind-resistant



Step 2 – Keyword search

- Use Boolean operators:
 - Use “OR” to group together synonyms.
 - Use “AND” to find the intersection of two sets of information.
- Include wildcard symbols (*) to obtain versions of words.
- Incorporate quotes to group search phrases where words are adjacent.
- Filter by selected fields, e.g., inventor name.

Keyword search strategy

((umbrella* OR parasol* OR sunshade*) AND (windproof or "wind resistant"))



Step 3 - Conduct in-depth review of patents you 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.
- Refine and repeat searches.



U.S. patent image after 2015

- Review the front page of each patent as well as other pages.
- Record the patent number of those patents similar to your invention that will merit later closer review.
- Note the classification value(s).

(12) United States Patent Rudder et al.		(10) Patent No.: US 9,585,447 B1
		(45) Date of Patent: Mar. 7, 2017

<p>(54) REVERSIBLE UMBRELLA</p> <p>(71) Applicants: Keon Rudder, Houston, TX (US); David Cossey, Houston, TX (US)</p> <p>(72) Inventors: Keon Rudder, Houston, TX (US); David Cossey, Houston, TX (US)</p> <p>(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.</p> <p>(21) Appl. No.: 14/333,955</p> <p>(22) Filed: Jul. 17, 2014</p> <p>Related U.S. Application Data</p> <p>(60) Provisional application No. 61/847,140, filed on Jul. 17, 2013.</p> <p>(51) Int. Cl. <i>A45B 19/00</i> (2006.01) <i>A45B 25/02</i> (2006.01) <i>A45B 23/00</i> (2006.01)</p> <p>(52) CPC <i>A45B 19/00</i> (2013.01); <i>A45B 23/00</i> (2013.01); <i>A45B 25/02</i> (2013.01)</p> <p>(58) Field of Classification Search CPC ... <i>A45B 23/00</i>; <i>A45B 19/00</i>; <i>A45B 2019/008</i>; <i>A45B 25/02</i> USPC 135/15.1, 20.3, 29-31, 98 See application file for complete search history.</p> <p>(56) References Cited U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS 874,648 A * 12/1907 Wolfe 135/31 2,607,362 A * 8/1952 Evans, Jr. 135/15.1</p>	<p>2,725,066 A * 11/1955 Eates et al. 135/15.1 2,788,792 A 4/1957 Koller 135/15.1 3,419,026 A * 12/1968 Evans, Jr. et al. 135/15.1 4,711,260 A * 12/1987 Wiens et al. 135/16 5,865,200 A 2/1999 Kuang et al. 135/16 5,909,746 A 6/1999 Doster et al. 135/31 7,484,518 B2 * 2/2009 Bruder 135/31 2004/0211451 A1 10/2004 Goh 135/15.1 2007/0169801 A1 * 7/2007 Bruder 135/31 2008/006313 A1 1/2008 Wang 135/15.1 2008/0163907 A1 * 7/2008 Garner 135/15.1 2009/0151760 A1 6/2009 Bruder 135/15.1 2012/0006367 A1 * 1/2012 Chang et al. 135/25.41 2014/0130836 A1 * 5/2014 Stochetti 135/20.3</p> <p>* cited by examiner</p> <p>Primary Examiner — Robert Canfield (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Egbert Law Offices, PLLC</p> <p>(57) ABSTRACT A reversible umbrella has a pole, a first handle affixed to a first end of the pole, a second handle affixed to a second end of the pole, and a plurality of ribs extending outwardly of the pole. A canopy is affixed to the ribs. The canopy has a first side facing one direction and a second side facing an opposite direction. The ribs are movable from a first position, wherein the first side of the canopy is in a generally concave configuration with respect to the first handle, to a second position, wherein the first side of the canopy is in a generally convex position with respect to the first handle. The opposing sides of the canopy preferably have different appearances or textures, such that the user can select between two designs to be exposed on the exterior of the umbrella.</p> <p>17 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets</p>
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U.S. patent image prior to 2015

- Review the front page of each patent as well as other pages.
- Record the patent number of those patents similar to your invention that will merit later closer review.
- **Note:** Only U.S. Classification, no CPC value(s).

(12) United States Patent David	(10) Patent No.: US 8,783,275 B2
	(45) Date of Patent: Jul. 22, 2014
<p>(54) COMPACT FOLDING UMBRELLA WITH HYBRID RIBS TO RESIST DAMAGE DUE TO INVERSION</p> <p>(71) Applicant: Kahng J. David, New York, NY (US)</p> <p>(72) Inventor: Kahng J. David, New York, NY (US)</p> <p>(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.</p> <p>(21) Appl. No.: 13/749,973</p> <p>(22) Filed: Jan. 25, 2013</p> <p>(65) Prior Publication Data US 2013/0228203 A1 Sep. 5, 2013</p> <p>Related U.S. Application Data</p> <p>(63) Continuation of application No. 12/962,155, filed on Dec. 7, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,360,082.</p> <p>(60) Provisional application No. 61/282,782, filed on Mar. 31, 2010.</p> <p>(51) Int. Cl. A45B 25/00 (2006.01)</p> <p>(52) U.S. CL. USPC 135/31</p> <p>(58) Field of Classification Search USPC 135/31 See application file for complete search history.</p> <p>(56) References Cited U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS RE21,492 E * 6/1940 Okun 135/25.31 2,221,289 A 11/1940 Okun 4,734,126 A 3/1988 Sweet, Jr.</p> <p>5,121,764 A 6/1992 Wu 5,502,624 A 3/1996 Tu 5,553,634 A 9/1996 Yang 5,931,175 A 8/1999 Lin et al. 6,062,242 A 5/2000 Lin 6,095,169 A 8/2000 Lin et al. 6,230,725 B1 5/2001 Ko 6,394,115 B1 5/2002 Tseng 6,497,242 B1 * 12/2002 Lin et al. 135/31 6,626,198 B2 9/2003 Tseng 6,668,845 B2 12/2003 Lin et al. 6,863,081 B2 * 3/2005 Hsieh 135/29 2002/0129843 A1 9/2002 Wang 2005/0211283 A1 9/2005 Lai 2007/0204894 A1 9/2007 Huang</p> <p>* cited by examiner</p> <p><i>Primary Examiner</i> — Noah Chandler Hawk (74) <i>Attorney, Agent, or Firm</i> — Millen, White, Zelano & Branigan, P.C.</p> <p>(57) ABSTRACT A folding umbrella and particularly one having multiple folds, includes a support frame incorporating a hybrid rib typically located intermediate a main rib and a rear or outer-most rib. The hybrid rib is formed of multiple sections composed of first and second materials which respectively provide the desired structural strength to reduce inversions of the umbrella to an acceptable minimum and provide the hybrid rib with the desired resiliency and flexibility to return the hybrid rib to its original, unstressed shape and thereby prevent permanent damage to the hybrid rib as well as adjoining frame elements of the umbrella. The thicknesses of the multiple sections and the relative sizes of the sections also significantly contribute to the capability of the hybrid rib to achieve the desired objectives of a compact, small, folding umbrella of reduced weight, and the ability to prevent permanent damage to the frame due to inversion.</p> <p>11 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets</p>	

Corresponding U.S. patent text version

- In text view, U.S. patents issued before 2015 will have both U.S. and CPC values.
- CPC values have been retrofitted to all U.S. patents.
- Since January 1, 2015, U.S. patent images have CPC values.

US-PAT-NO: [8783275](#)
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US [8783275](#) B2
TITLE: Compact folding umbrella with hybrid ribs to resist damage due to inversion
DATE-ISSUED: July 22, 2014
PRIOR-PUBLICATION-INFORMATION:
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20130228203 A1
DOCUMENT-DATE: September 5, 2013

PATENT-FAMILY-ID: [44708187](#)

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
NAME CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY
David; Kahng J. New York NY N/A US

APPLICANT INFORMATION:
NAME CITY STATE COUNTRY AUTHORITY TYPE
David; Kahng J. New York NY US

APPL-NO: [13749973](#)
DATE FILED: January 25, 2013

CONTINUITY DATA:
continuation parent-doc US 12962155 20101207 US 8360082 child-doc US 13749973
us-provisional-application US 61282782 20100331

US-CL-ISSUED: 135/31

US-CL-CURRENT: [135/31](#)

CPC-CURRENT:
TYPE CPC DATE
CPC I A 45 B 25/22 20130101
CPC I A 45 B 19/10 20130101

Step 4 - Retrieve and review published patent applications using CPC values

The screenshot displays the USPTO search interface. At the top, a search bar contains the text "A45B25/22.cpc.", which is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below the search bar, the interface shows a "Pos 20" indicator. The search parameters section includes a "Default Operator" set to "OR" and "Highlights" set to "Multi-color". There are three checked checkboxes: "Show Errors", "Plurals", and "British Equivalents". On the right side, a "Databases" panel is visible, showing "Select all" and three checked checkboxes: "US-PGPUB", "USPAT", and "USOCR". At the bottom right, there are "Clear" and "Search" buttons, with the "Search" button highlighted by a red rectangular box.

Step 5

Cited references

- Conduct a search of cited U.S. patents and patent applications.

(12) United States Patent		(10) Patent No.:	US 8,783,275 B2
David		(45) Date of Patent:	Jul. 22, 2014
(54)	COMPACT FOLDING UMBRELLA WITH HYBRID RIBS TO RESIST DAMAGE DUE TO INVERSION	5,121,764 A	6/1992 Wu
		5,502,634 A	3/1996 Tu
		5,553,634 A	9/1996 Yang
		5,931,175 A	8/1999 Lin et al.
		6,062,242 A	5/2000 Lin
		6,095,169 A	8/2000 Lin et al.
		6,236,725 B1	5/2001 Ko
		6,394,115 B1	5/2002 Tseng
		6,497,242 B1 *	12/2002 Lin et al. 135/31
		6,626,168 B2	9/2003 Tseng
		6,668,845 B2	12/2003 Lin et al.
		5,863,081 B2 *	3/2005 Hsieh 135/29
		2002/0119443 A1	9/2002 Wang
		2005/0211283 A1	9/2005 Lai
		2007/0204894 A1	9/2007 Huang
(71)	Applicant: Kahng J. David, New York, NY (US)		
(72)	Inventor: Kahng J. David, New York, NY (US)		
(*)	Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.		
(21)	Appl. No.: 13/749,973		
(22)	Filed: Jan. 25, 2013		
(65)	Prior Publication Data US 2013/0228203 A1 Sep. 5, 2013		
	Related U.S. Application Data		
(63)	Continuation of application No. 12/962,155, filed on Dec. 7, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,360,082.		
(60)	Provisional application No. 61/282,782, filed on Mar. 31, 2010.		
(51)	Int. Cl. A45B 25/00 (2006.01)		
(52)	U.S. Cl. USPC 135/31		
(58)	Field of Classification Search USPC 135/31 See application file for complete search history.		
(56)	References Cited U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS RE21,492 E * 6/1940 Okun 135/25.31 2,221,289 A 11/1940 Okun 4,734,126 A 3/1988 Sweet, Jr.		
	Primary Examiner — Noah Chandler Hawk (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Millen, White, Zelano & Brnigan, PC.		
	ABSTRACT A folding umbrella and particularly one having multiple folds, includes a support frame incorporating a hybrid rib typically located intermediate a main rib and a rear or outermost rib. The hybrid rib is formed of multiple sections composed of first and second materials which respectively provide the desired structural strength to reduce inversions of the umbrella to an acceptable minimum and provide the hybrid rib with the desired resiliency and flexibility to return the hybrid rib to its original, unstressed shape and thereby prevent permanent damage to the hybrid rib as well as adjoining frame elements of the umbrella. The thicknesses of the multiple sections and the relative sizes of the sections also significantly contribute to the capability of the hybrid rib to achieve the desired objectives of a compact, small, folding umbrella of reduced weight, and the ability to prevent permanent damage to the frame due to inversion.		
	11 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets		

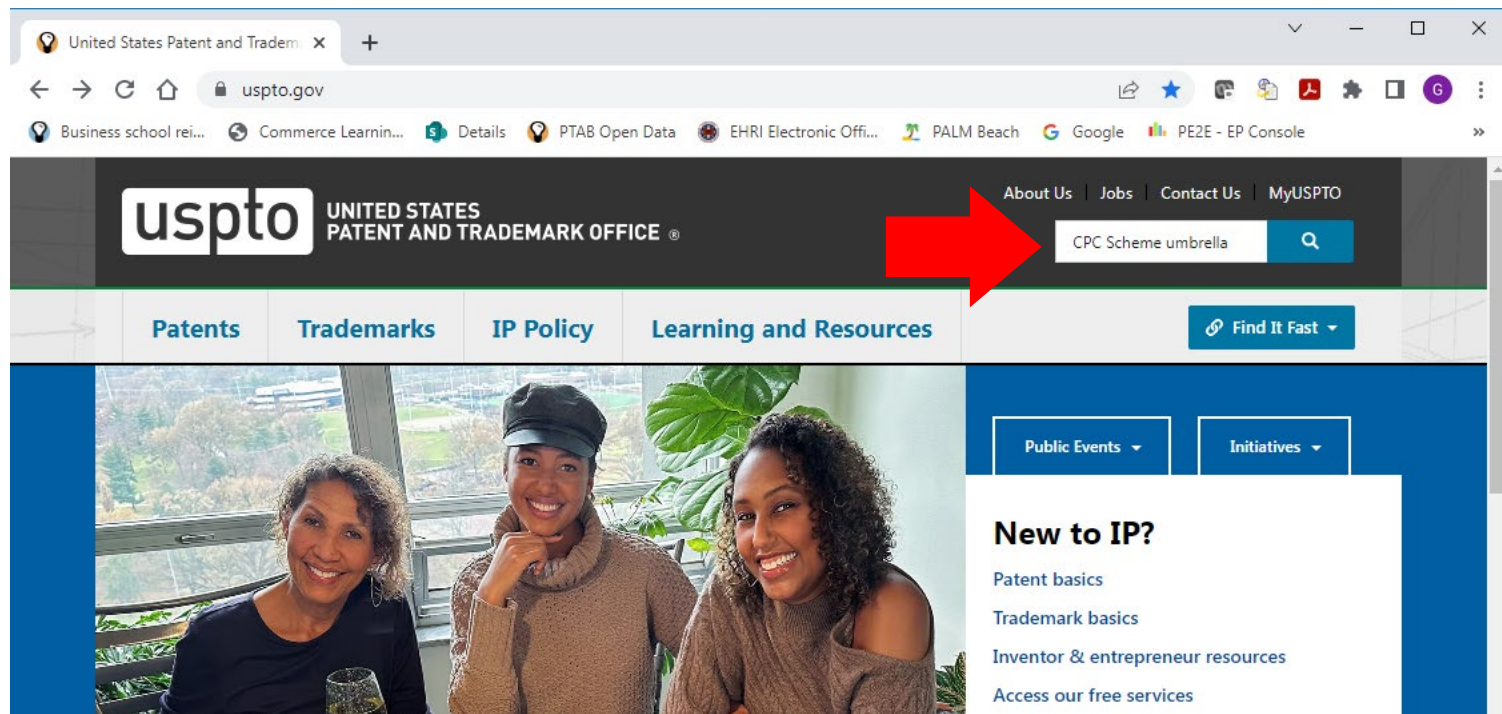
Step 6 – Broadening your search

- Extend your search to foreign patents and published patent applications using CPC classification, and re-run your search using Espacenet at <http://worldwide.espacenet.com>.
- Search non-patent print and electronic publications, e.g., books, journals, websites, technical catalogs, and conference proceedings.
- Consider hiring a registered patent attorney or patent agent to review your search and conduct a follow-up search of his/her own.

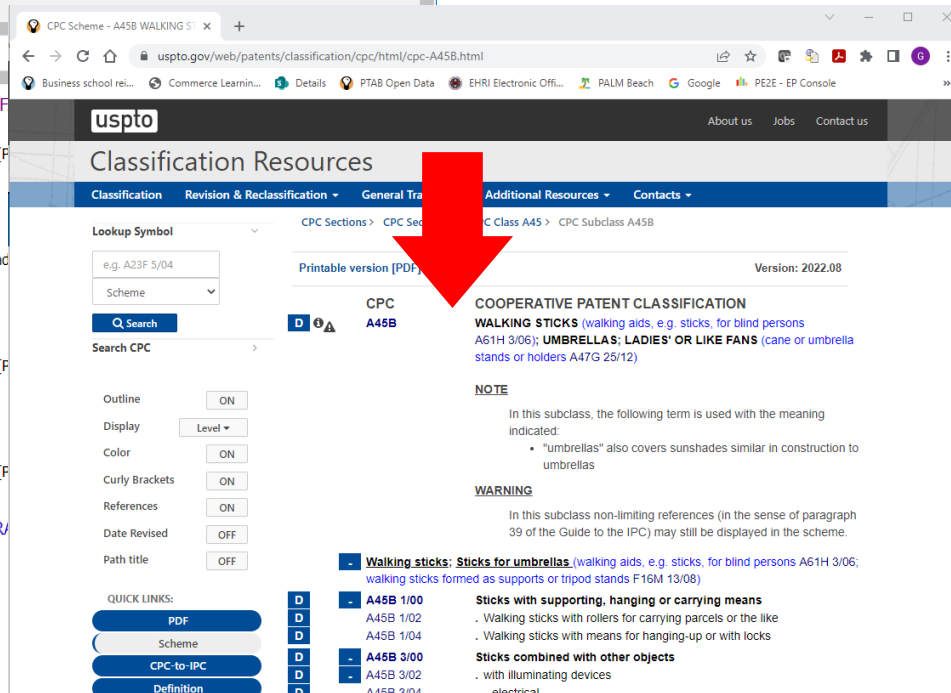
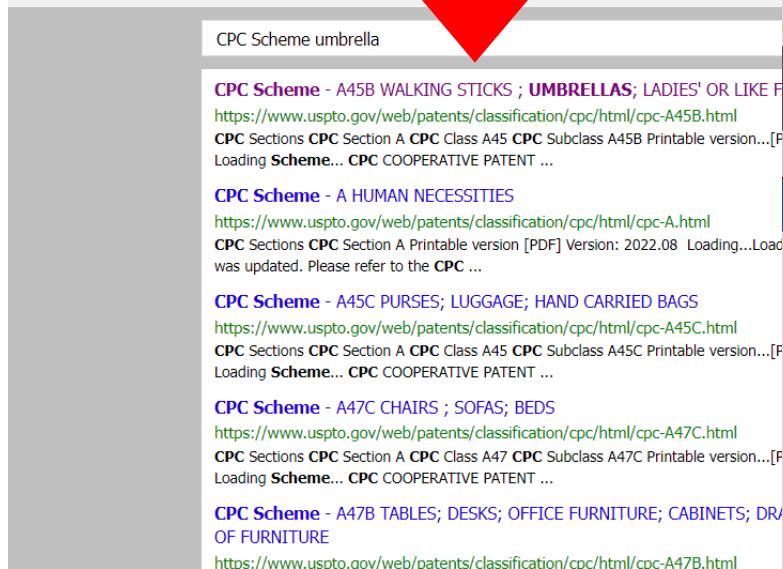
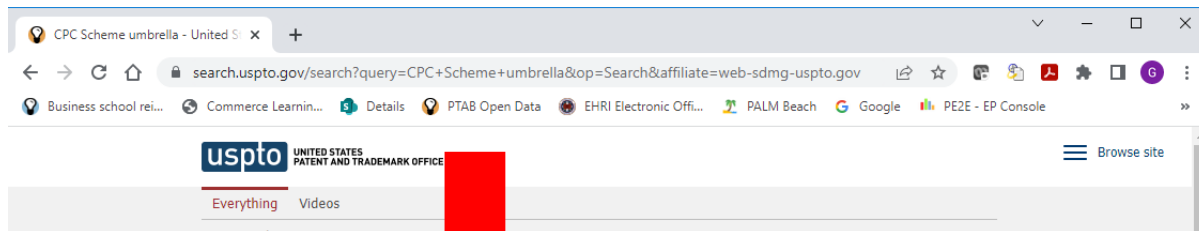
Access CPC schema

- Go to the USPTO home page at www.uspto.gov.
- Search for CPC classification schema using the search box on the home page or the search box in the top right-hand corner.
- Use specific language for your search terms:
 - CPC scheme umbrella
- From the search results page, click an entry for a Class-Subclass Scheme page.
- If you are not satisfied with your results, rerun your search using synonyms that you identified in Step 1.

I'm looking for...



Results



What is Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)?

- Joint partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO)
- Harmonization of the USPC and ECLA
- The CPC is divided into eight main areas, A-H:

A: Human Necessities

B: Performing Operations; Transporting

C: Chemistry and Metallurgy

D: Textiles and Paper

E: Fixed Construction

F: Mechanical Engineering; Lighting; Heating; Weapons; Blasting; Engines or Pumps

G: Physics

H: Electricity



A45B 25/22

A45B 2023/0087	. {having a planar opening movement wherein the struts or screen sheet rotate and spread around an axis, e.g. around the stick}
A45B 2023/0093	. {Sunshades or weather protections of other than umbrella type}
D [-] A45B 25/00	Details of umbrellas (sticks for umbrellas A45B 1/00 - A45B 9/00; illuminating devices for umbrellas A45B 3/02; {sockets or holders for poles or posts E04H 12/22})
A45B 2025/003	. {Accessories not covered by groups A45B 25/24 - A45B 25/30}
D A45B 25/006	. {Automatic closing devices (A45B 25/143 takes precedence)}
D [-] A45B 25/02	. Umbrella frames
D A45B 25/04	. . Devices for making or repairing
D [-] A45B 25/06	. Umbrella runners
D A45B 25/08	. . Devices for fastening or locking
D [-] A45B 25/10	. Umbrella crowns {(A45B 25/06 takes precedence)}
A45B 2025/105	
D A45B 25/12	
D [-] A45B 25/14	
D A45B 25/143	
A45B 2025/146	
D [-] A45B 25/16	. Automatic openers, e.g. frames with spring mechanisms {(A45B 25/143 takes precedence)}
D A45B 25/165	. . {with fluid or electric actuators}
D [-] A45B 25/18	. Covers {detachable A45B 15/00}; Means for fastening same
A45B 2025/183	. . {Covers with filtering or screening means for avoiding undesired radiation}
A45B 2025/186	. . {Umbrellas with two or more covers}
D A45B 25/20	. . Windows in covers
D A45B 25/22	. Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind
D [-] A45B 25/24	. Protective coverings for umbrellas when closed
D A45B 25/26	. . Ventilated coverings
D A45B 25/28	. Drip receptacles for umbrellas; Attaching devices therefor
D A45B 25/30	. Name-plates; Badges; Labelling or marking devices; Means for attaching same {attached to the umbrella stick A45B 9/06}
D [-] A45B 27/00	Ladies' or like fans
D A45B 27/02	. with mechanical hand-drive

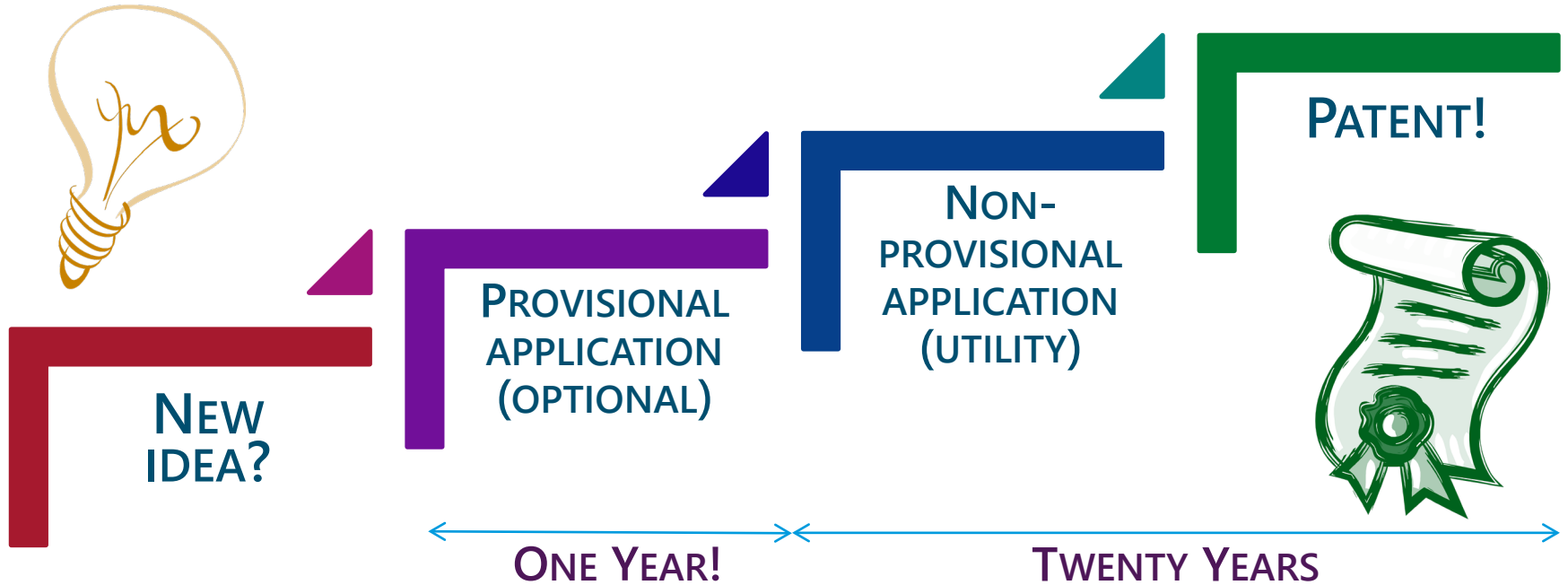
A45B 25/22: Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind

When should you file a patent application?

United States is a **first-inventor-to-file system!**

- Looking for international protection?
 - You'll want to file **before** public disclosure
- Only want U.S. protection?
 - You can file within **one year after** public disclosure

The path to a patent



Benefits of provisional utility applications

- Provides a 12-month window to file corresponding nonprovisional patent application
- Provides time to investigate market potential
- Provides time to obtain counsel if desired
- Is not required to have a formal patent claim, oath and declaration, or IDS

Provisional utility applications

- Filing requirements:
 - A detailed written description of the invention (specification), including:
 - Background of the invention
 - Summary of the invention
 - Drawings describing the invention
 - A detailed description of the invention
 - Filing fees

Provisional vs. nonprovisional

Provisional application

- Establishes a filing date
- No claims required
- Inexpensive
- Not published or examined
- One year to pursue nonprovisional

Nonprovisional application

- Statutory requirements for what has to be filed
- More expensive
- Published and examined
- Can result in a patent

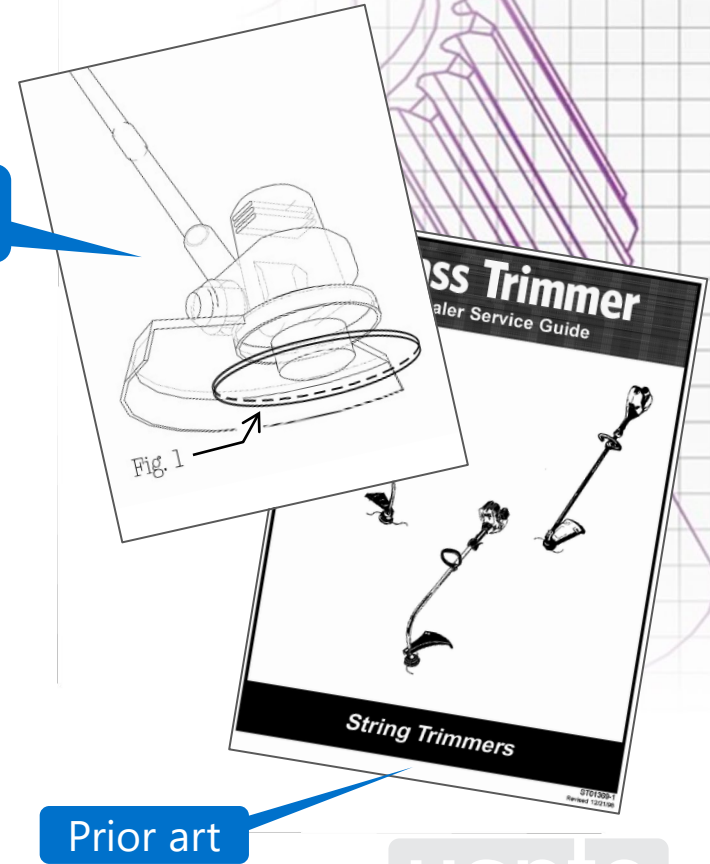
Is your idea eligible for protection?



Is your idea novel and non-obvious?

- “Novel”
e.g., your invention is new, was not described in the prior art
- “Non-obvious”
e.g., the differences between your invention and prior art would not have been obvious to someone in that field

Your invention

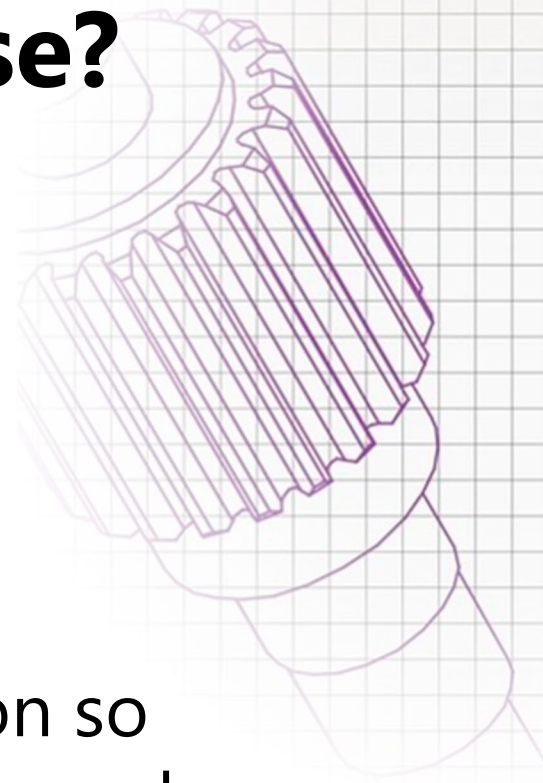


uspto®

What do I need to disclose?

A patent is a *quid pro quo*:

- In exchange for
 - The right to exclude others from making, using, importing, or selling your invention for a limited time period,
- You must fully disclose your invention so the public can benefit from it and expand on it.

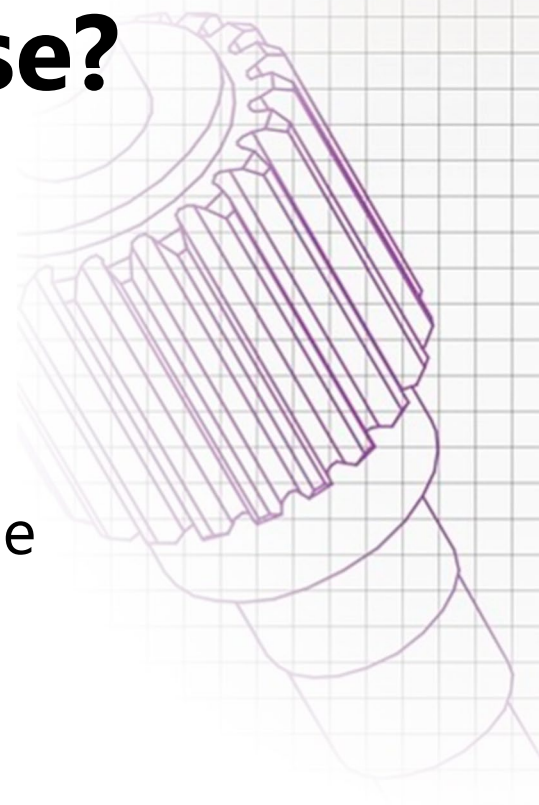


What do I need to disclose?

Does the disclosure:

- Demonstrate that the inventor was in possession of the claimed invention?
- Teach one of ordinary skill to make and use the invention without undue experimentation?
- Describe the best mode contemplated for carrying out the invention by the inventor?

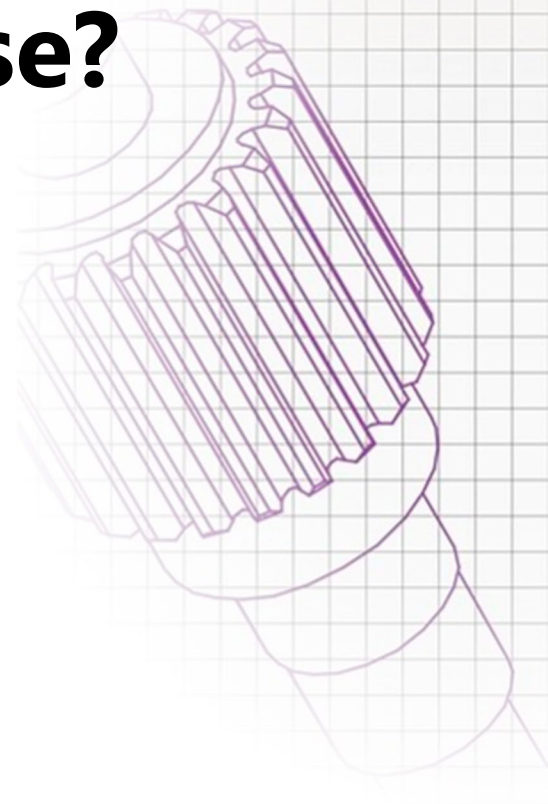
35 U.S.C. § 112 (a)



What do I need to disclose?

Are the claims clear enough that:

- The public is informed of the boundaries of your invention?
- It can be determined whether the claimed invention meets all the criteria for patentability?



Utility patent application fees

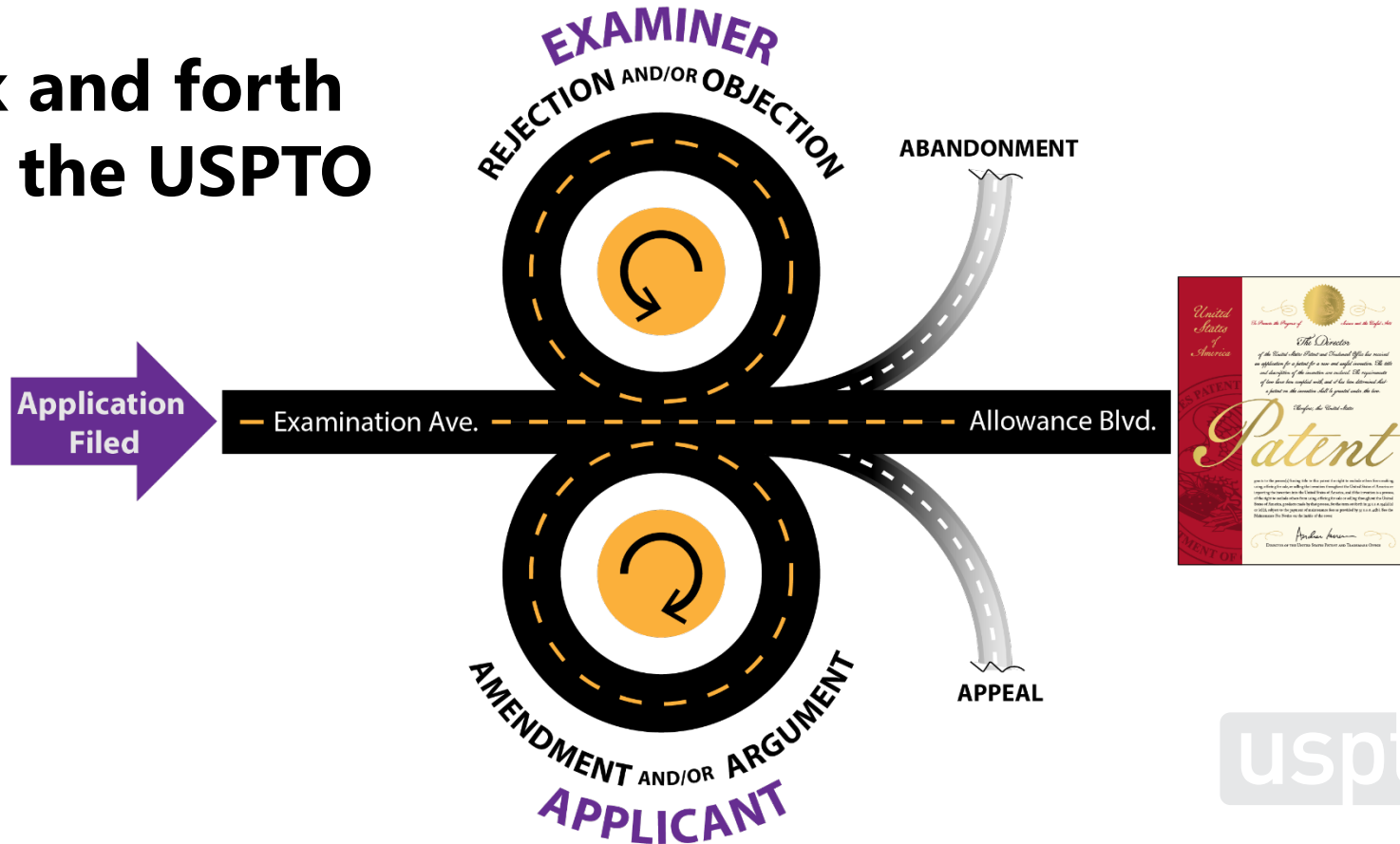
	Regular	Small entity	Micro entity
Basic filing fee	\$320	\$160	\$80
Search fee	\$700	\$350	\$175
Examination fee	\$800	\$400	\$200
Initial total cost	\$1820	\$910	\$455
Issue fee	\$1200	\$600	\$300



www.uspto.gov/Fees

The patent application roadmap

Back and forth with the USPTO



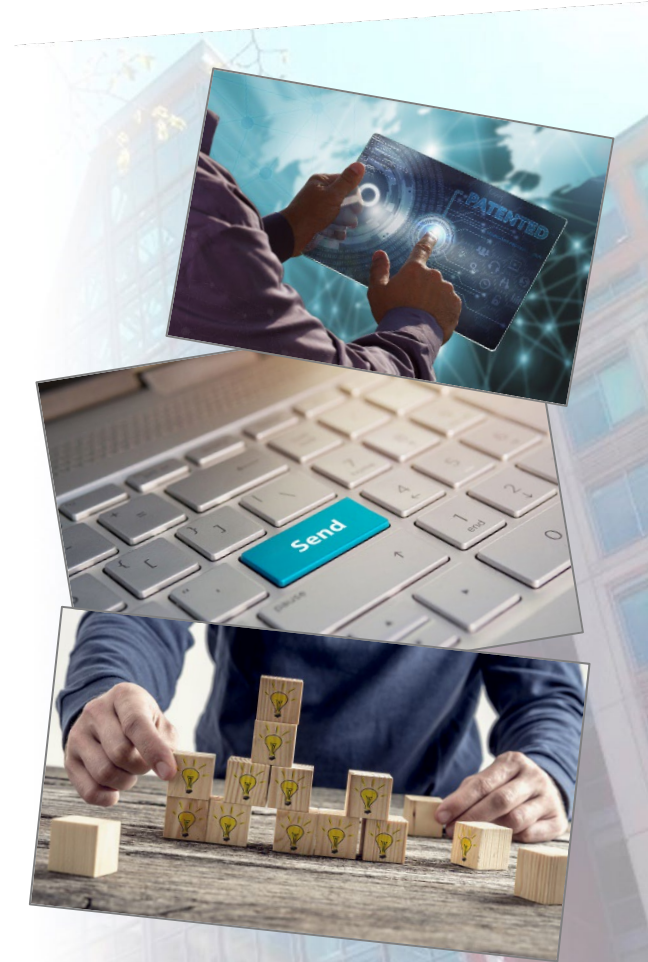
Role of the USPTO examiner

- Read and understand the application
- Search for prior art
- Evaluate the specification and claim(s)
- Respond by office action(s) describing findings
- Hold interviews, as requested



Role of the applicant

- File a complete application
- Disclose all known prior art
- In response to examiner office actions:
 - Explain your position, and/or
 - Make good faith changes to the application



What is a USPTO office action?

- An office action sets forth the basis for any objections, rejections, and allowability.

The image shows two USPTO Office Action Summary forms. The top form is titled "Office Action Summary" and contains the following information:

Application No.	Application
10621013	Pat. No.
Final	App. No.
Final	App. No.

The bottom form is titled "Office Action Summary" and contains the following information:

Application No.	Application
10621013	Pat. No.
Final	App. No.
Final	App. No.

Both forms include sections for "Period for Reply", "Status", and "Comments". The bottom form also includes a section for "Comments" and a "Signature" line.

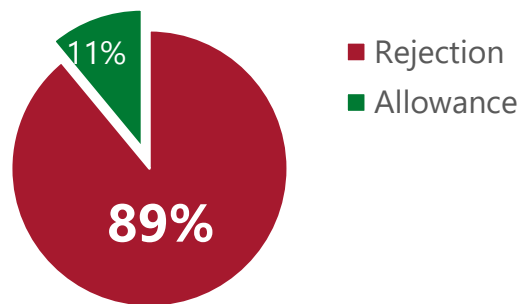
What does a rejection mean?

- Rejections are a normal part of the process.
- They help define what is patentable.
- Often due to existing prior art.
 - The examiner must have a basis to believe someone else may have come up with what you invented before you.
- Can often be overcome.

Receive a rejection? Don't give up!

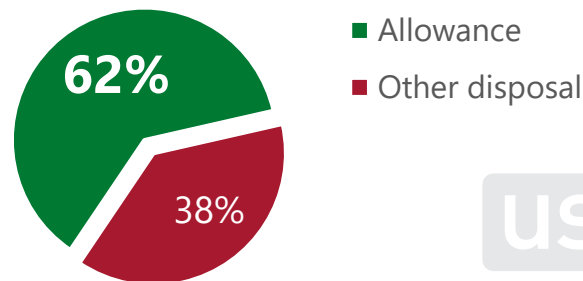
Fact: In FY 2021, 89% of original filings received a first office action containing a rejection.

FY 2021 first actions



Fact: In FY 2021, 62% of examiner disposals were allowances.

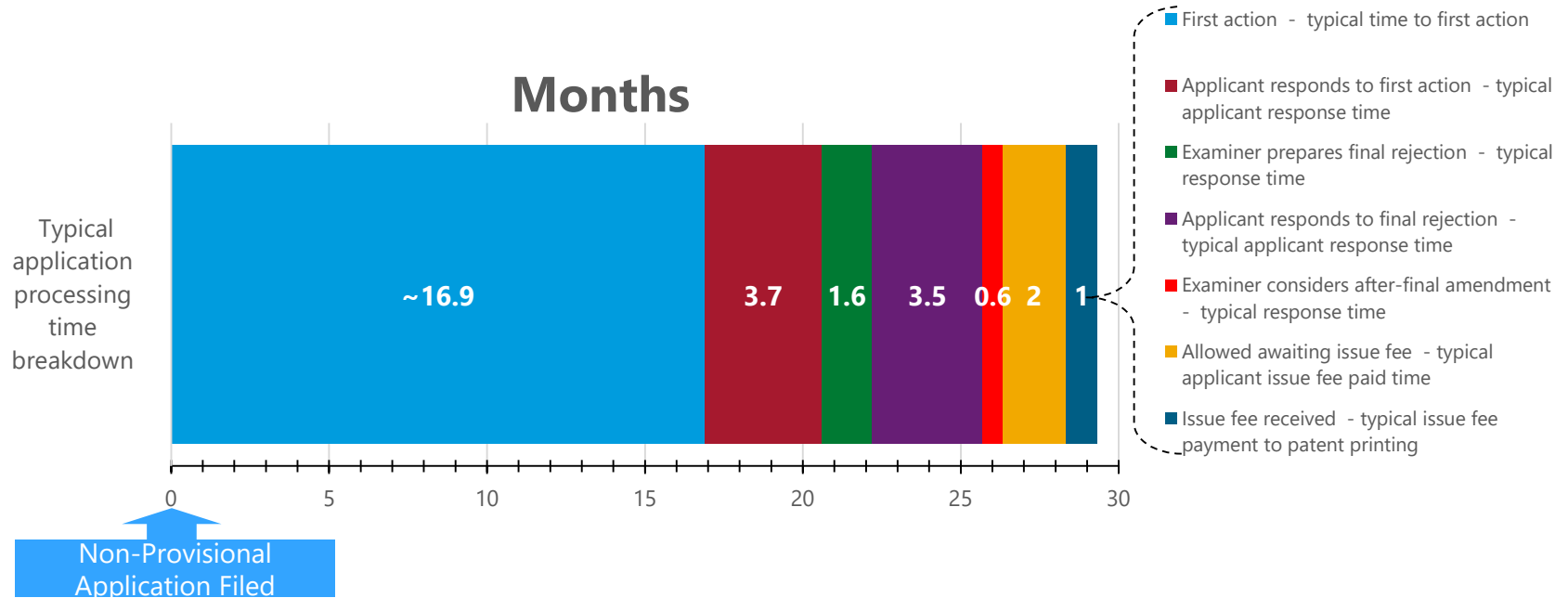
FY 2021 percentage allowed



After-final practice

- Even if you receive a final rejection, don't panic. If you still disagree, you may still have options:
 - Request for continued examination (RCE),
 - Appeal, or
 - After-final response

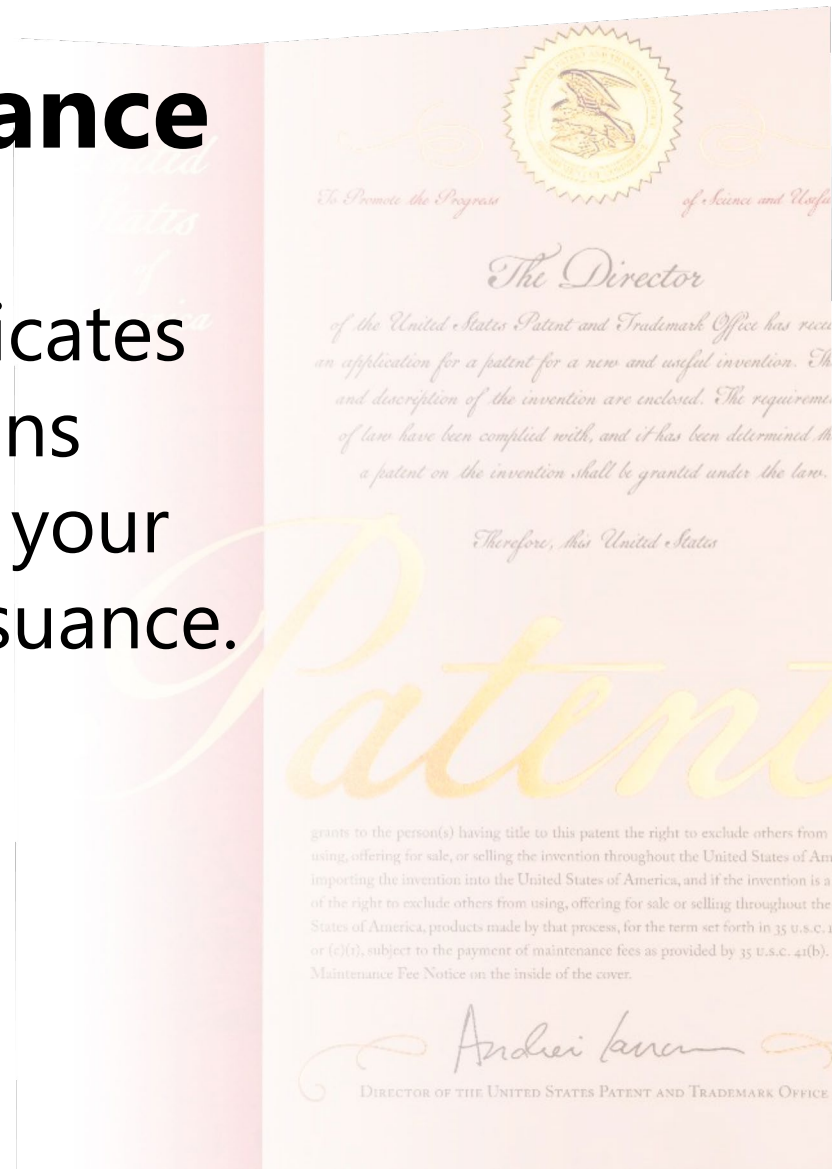
Typical processing timeline



*Based on FY 2021 data

Allowance and issuance

- A notice of allowance indicates all objections and rejections have been overcome and your application is ready for issuance.
- **Congratulations!**



USPTO Resources

Access our free services

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) offers a wide range of intellectual property (IP) resources, including application assistance, education and training, and other services that support the full spectrum of customers—from independent patent and trademark filers, to attorneys and business advisors in both the private and public sectors.

Using the icons below, select a category to filter the list by your area of interest.



All Resources



Patents



Trademarks

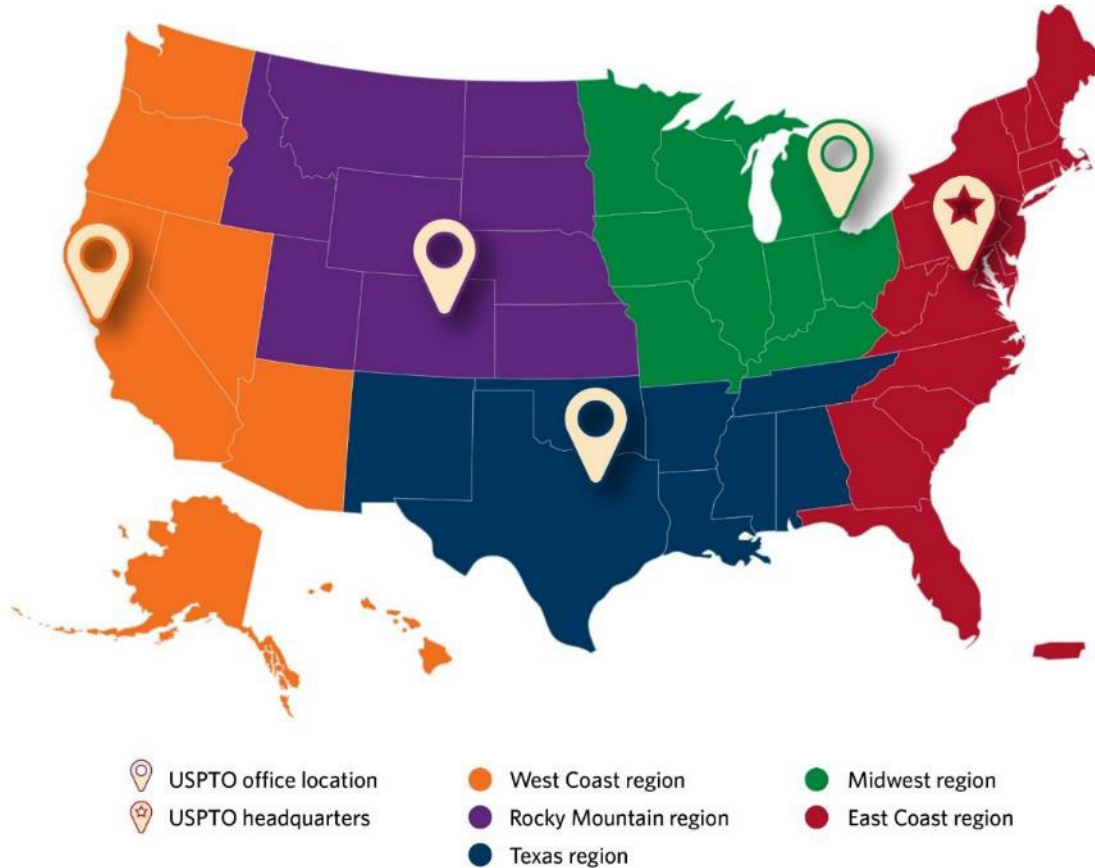


Attorneys and
Business Advisors

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Find help in your area



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Headquarters:

- Alexandria, VA

Regional offices:

- Detroit
- Denver
- Silicon Valley
- Dallas

Additional resources:

- Inventors Assistance Center
- Patent Pro Bono Program
- Law school clinics
- Patent and Trademark Resource Centers
- Pro Se Assistance Program



Inventors Assistance Center (IAC)

The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) provides patent information and services to the public. The IAC is staffed by former supervisory patent examiners and experienced former primary examiners who answer general questions concerning patent examining policy and procedure.

Monday – Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET,
except federal holidays

- 800-PTO-9199
(800-786-9199)
- 571-272-1000

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USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program

A nationwide network that assists financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses

- Program participants must have income below 300% federal poverty guidelines



For more information, visit www.uspto.gov/probonopatents.



Law school clinics

The USPTO's Law School Clinic Certification Program allows law students enrolled in a participating law school's clinic program to practice before the USPTO under the guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor.



For more information, visit www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic.

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC)

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

For more information, visit
www.uspto.gov/ptrc.



Pro Se Assistance Program

- Educates applicants who file without a registered patent attorney or agent
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 - Forms
 - Increase quality of applications
 - Help applicants make informed decisions regarding applications
- Provides one-on-one assistance via video conference or telephone
- <https://www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents>
- Email: ProSeAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov



Pro Se Assistance Program

The screenshot shows the USPTO website with the 'Patents' tab highlighted. The 'Legal assistance and resources' link is also highlighted. The page is organized into three main columns: 'Getting started', 'Application process', and 'Maintaining a patent'. A 'Tools & links' section is located on the right side of the page.

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Getting started

- Patent basics
- Process overview
- **Legal assistance and resources**
- Inventor and entrepreneur resources
- International cooperation
- Patent FAQs

Application process

- Search for patents
- Learn about patent classification
- Filing online
- Checking application status
- Responding to Office actions
- Petitions
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board

Maintaining a patent

- Maintenance fees
- Correcting your patent
- Transferring ownership
- Ordering certified documents

Tools & links

About EFS-Web
File a patent application online with EFS-web

Check application status
Check patent application status with Patent Center and Private PAIR

Patent Trial & Appeal Board
Resolve disputes regarding patents with PTAB

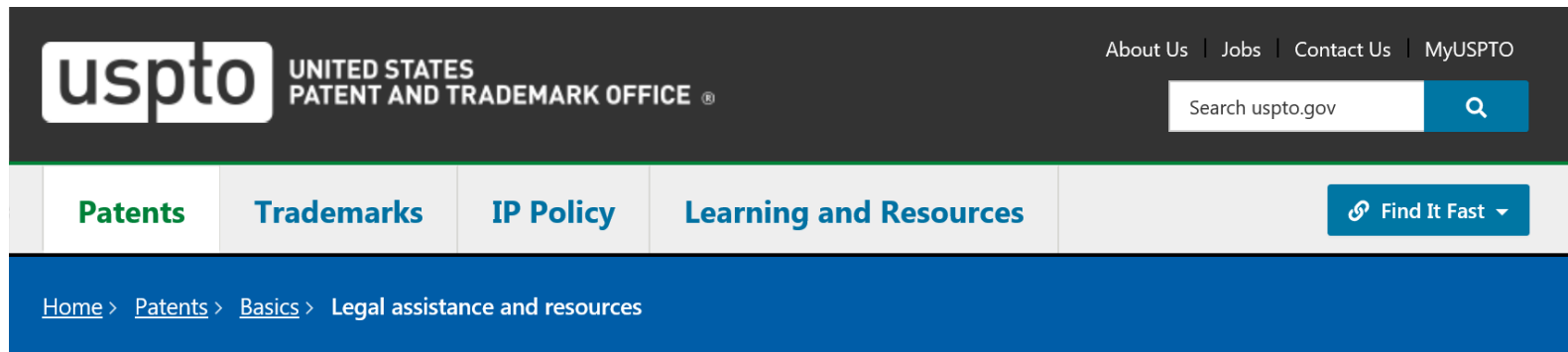
More tools & links

Patent Center
Single interface replacement for EFS-Web, Private PAIR and Public PAIR

Fees and payment
Pay maintenance fees and learn more about filing fees and other payments

Global Dossier
View international patent filings

Pro Se Assistance Program



Legal assistance and resources

Find resources and programs for inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses seeking assistance with legal matters, including application filing, locating a registered patent or trademark practitioner, and avoiding scams.

Patent Pro Bono Program for independent inventors and small businesses

The Program provides free legal assistance to under-resourced inventors interested in securing patent protection for their inventions.

Filing a patent application on your own

Assistance and resources for inventors filing for a patent without the help of an attorney or agent

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Thank You

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