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- ◆ Patent images must be retrieved one page at a time.
- ◆ Patent images are only accessible from the full-text display of each patent.
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- ◆ The fact that an invention cannot be found by searching the patent database does not mean that the invention is patentable. A complete patentability search must consider all prior art, including earlier patents, foreign patents and non-patent literature. See [General Information Concerning Patents](#) for further information.

General Search Tips:

- ◆ The right truncation symbol is \$ polymer\$
Words must be at least 3 characters
- ◆ Enclose exact phrases in “ ” “intraocular lens”
(Note that it is not possible to truncate terms enclosed in quotes)
- ◆ Boolean logic:

and – to narrow retrieval	whoopee and cushion
or – to increase retrieval	heart or cardiac
andnot – contains one term and eliminates another	needle andnot sewing
- ◆ The database is not case sensitive; therefore, searching Needle or needle will retrieve the same results.
- ◆ Use the *Refine Search* box to add terms to your original search. The same dates will be searched.

Quick Search Page

1. Select a range of years to search from the *Select Years to Search* drop down menu. (Remember that keyword searching is only available for patents from 1976-date.)
2. Enter a term in the Text Entry box labeled *Term 1*.
3. Select the specific field you wish to search from the *Field 1* drop down menu.

If you have more than one term:

4. Select a Boolean operator (and, or, andnot).
5. Enter a term in the Text Entry box labeled *Term 2*.
6. Select which specific field you wish to search from the *Field 2* drop down menu.
7. Click on the *Search* button.
8. A successful search will retrieve a list of patent titles. The most recent patents (up to 50) will display first. Click on the title of interest to view the entire text of the patent.

Patent Number Page

1. Type a patent number into the search box and click on *Enter*. It is possible to search for more than one patent at a time - - separate numbers with a space. It is not necessary to include commas.
2. All patent numbers must be 7 characters in length. Any patent that has less than 7 characters must be preceded by zeros. i.e. 0077889.
3. A successful search will display the title(s) of the desired patent(s). Click on the title to view the entire text of the patent.
4. If you are searching for a patent other than a utility patent, you must include a prefix:

X	X Patent (a patent issued prior to 1836)	X007785
D	Design Patents	D321987
PP	Plant Patents	PP07514
RE	Reissued Patents	RE12345
T	Defensive Publications	T855019
H	Statutory Invention Registrations	H001234
RE	Re-Examination	RE29183
AI	Additional Improvement	AI000318

Advanced Search Page

1. Select a year or range of years to search from the *Select Years to Search* drop-down menu. You may choose from 1976-present, or 1790-present.
2. Type your query into the Text Entry box labeled *Query*. The query will take the form of a prefix for a particular field, and the term you wish to search, such as ttl/needle (to find “needle” in the title field.)
3. Click on the *Search* button.
4. A successful search will retrieve a list of patent titles. Click on the title of interest to view the full text of the patent. When viewing the full text, click on the *Images* button to retrieve the entire patent.

Advanced Search Notes:

- ◆ You can combine field searching with Boolean Searching. For example, searching TTL/(nasal or nose) retrieves the same information as ttl/nasal or ttl/nose. It is not possible to truncate within the parentheses.
- ◆ You can nest your Boolean search terms. i.e. ttl/(golf and (ball or club)). It is not possible to truncate within the parentheses.
- ◆ The Advanced Search Page depends on fielded searching. See the following page for a list of the fields, with examples of how they are used. If you have questions go to <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/help/help.htm>.
- ◆ If you get 0 results, review your search strategy. It is likely that you made a mistake.

Fields Available for Searching

<u>Field</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Example</u>
Abstract Text	ABST /golf ABST /"golf ball"	Assignee State (U.S. only)	AS /state postal code AS /SC
Application Date	APD /YYYYMMDD or APD /M-D-YYYY or APD /M/D/YYYY	Attorney or Agent (Legal Representative)	LREP /"hsia; martin e" LREP /"larsen and taylor"
Application Serial Number	APN /maximum of 6 digits -- 0 fill APN /001528	Basic Index (Searches all text fields)	fishing "fishing rod"
Application Type	APT /code for type of application APT /4 and table APT /1 and "intraocular lens"	Claims	ACL M/sugar ACL M/"artificial sweetener"
Application Type Codes	1 = Utility Patent 2 = Reissue 4 = Design 5 = Defensive Publication (T) 6 = Statutory Invention Registration (H)	Classification (current)	CCL /class/subclass CCL /518/700 CCL /518/\$ (will search entire class)
Assignee City	AC /Charleston AC /"Mt Pleasant"	Description/Specificati on	SPEC /"artificial sugar"
Assignee Country (Non-U.S. only)	ACN /code (See country code list) ACN /GB	Examiner, Primary	EXP /claffy-kathleen-\$ EXP /claffy and EXP /kathleen EXA /malos-jennifer-\$
Assignee Name	AN /clemson and AN /university AN /"clemson university" AN /"jones william"	Examiner, Assistant	
		Foreign Priority	PRIR /number; date; or country PRIR /5-039032 PRIR /19910505 PRIR /de
		Foreign References	FREF /
		Government Interest	GOVT /Army
		International Classification	ICL /G06F019/00
Inventor City	IC /Greenville IC /"Travelers Rest"	Patent Cooperation Treaty	PCT /date; PCT No.; PCT pub No. PCT /19881020 PCT /FR88/00100 PCT /WO88/06811
Inventor Country (Non-U.S. only) See Country Code List)	ICN /code ICN /de (Germany)	Patent Number	PN /5400000
Inventor Name	IN /doe-john IN /doe-\$ IN /doe-j\$ (retrieves james or jane, etc.)	<i>Note: When searching for non-utility patents, use the following prefixes:</i>	X = Patents issued prior to 1836 PN /x007785 D = Design Patents PN /d321987 PP = Plant Patents PN /pp07514

<u>Field</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Example</u>
Inventor State (U.S. only)	IS /postal code IS /SC		RE = Reissue Patents PN /re12345 T = Defensive Documents PN /t855019 H = Statutory Invention Registrations (SIRs) PN /h001234
Issue Date	ISD /YYYYMMDD ISD /M/D/YYYY ISD /1/\$/1995 (all patents from January, 1995) ISD /1/3/1995->2/14/1995 (all patents from range)		RE = Re-Examinations PN /re29183 AI = Additional Improvement PN /ai000318
Legal Representative (Attorney or Agent)	LREP /"hsia; martin e" LREP /"Larson and Taylor"	Reissue Data (from original patent)	REIS /Issue date; Application No. REIS /19771011 REIS /840646
Other References	OREF /	Related US Application Data	RLAP /Serial No.; Patent No.; Date RLAP /890402 RLAP /4764323 RLAP /19930728
Parent Case (Continuation, division of, abandoned)	PARN /08/583814 PARN /401266 (Serial Number) PARN /4539149 (Patent Number)	Specifications/Descript ion	SPEC /"artificial sugar"
Application Series Code	2 earlier than 1-1-1948 3 1-1-1948 to 12-31-1959 4 1-1-1960 to 12-31-1969 5 1-1-1970 to 12-31-1978 6 1-1-1979 to 12-31-1986 7 1-1-1987 to 12-31-1992 8 1-1-1993 to 12-31-1997 9 1-1-1998 to current 29 Designs from 1-1993	Title	TTL /sugar TTL /"artificial sugar" TTL /"artificial sweetener"
		US References (Referenced By)	REF /patent number; date; inventor REF /4567891 REF /19751000 REF /rudie