

Accessing Search Guides on the PTO Web Site

To access the Index to the Manual of Classification:

- 1) go to www.uspto.gov
- 2) click on “How To Guides” at the top of the screen.
- 3) Click on “Classification”
- 4) Select “Index to USPC System”.

To access the Manual of Classification:

- 1) Follow steps 1 through 3 above.
- 2) Select link for “Class Numbers & Titles” or “Class Numbers Only”

Using the Classification Definitions

Definition of a class: click on the class number at the top of the page for that class. To return to the class schedule, click on the class number at the top of the definition page.

Definition of a subclass: click on the subclass number in the list of subclasses in any class. To return to the list of subclasses, click on the subclass number in the definition.

Viewing the full text of patents and the patent images

After performing a search:

- 1) click on the patent number or title (titles will only show for patents issued after 1975)
- 2) if the patent was issued after 1975, the full text of the patent will appear. If the patent was issued prior to 1976, only the patent number and classification codes will appear.
- 3) To view the scanned image of the actual patent, click on the “Images” icon located at the top of the page. (Note: your computer must have a TIFF viewer installed on it in order to view the scanned patent image).
- 4) Use the arrow buttons on the left of the screen to browse through the patent.

To return to the list of patents in your search:

- 1) if you are viewing the text of the patent, just click on the “Hit List” icon located at the top of the page.
- 2) if you are viewing a scanned patent image, click on the words “Full Text” located at the top left of the screen. This will return you to the text section with the icons at the top of the page. Then click on the “Hit List” icon to return to the list of patents.

Remember that you can retrieve all of the patents for any particular subclass by clicking on the red “P” next to the subclass number in the Manual of Classification.