Conducting a Preliminary Patent Search

Akron PTRC
Science & Technology Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, OH 44326
Phone: (330) 643-9075
Basic Patent Information

A patent:

• is a form of intellectual property granted by the US Government to an inventor.
• allows the inventor to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the US or importing the invention into the US.
• is granted in exchange for public disclosure of the invention.
• is granted for a limited period of time.
Basic Patent Information

3 Types of Patents:

• Utility Patents
  – new and useful processes, machines, articles of manufacture, composition of matter or useful improvements thereof
  – granted for 20 years from date of application filing
  – the vast majority of patents are Utility Patents.

• Design Patents
  – new, original, and ornamental designs for an article of manufacture
  – granted for 15 years from date of application filing

• Plant Patents
  – new and distinct asexually reproduced variety of plant
  – granted for 20 years from date of application filing
Basic Patent Information

3 Types of Patents:
Not mutually exclusive – you may seek and be granted multiple patents on a single invention.
Basic Patent Information

What can be Patented:

– processes, machines, manufactured articles, compositions of matter, animals, asexually reproduced plants, ornamental designs of useful objects

– improvements of these

What cannot be Patented:

– a mere suggestion or idea, laws of nature, physical phenomena, abstract ideas, printed matter, nuclear weapons
Basic Patent Information

Utility Patents:

• invention must be novel – nothing identical can have previously existed

• invention must be non-obvious – someone skilled in the particular field would view it as an unexpected or surprising development

• invention must be useful – must provide some practical benefit or help complete real world tasks

To whom... the Patent Examiner
Prior Art

• To prove novelty you must examine the **prior art** for your invention...

• Prior Art is:
  – any body of knowledge, especially published documents, that contains a discussion or description relevant to an invention for which a patent is being sought or enforced.

• Can include, but is not limited to:
  – journal or magazine articles,
  – books, manuals, catalogs, websites,
  – conference proceedings, scientific papers
  – US or foreign patents or published applications
Classification

• To find prior art for your invention you need to examine all the similar patents

• Patents are grouped in a hierarchical category system based on their characteristics and relationships

• As of January 1, 2015 patent classification system is called the **CPC** (Cooperative Patent Classification)
Classification

• Patents from 1790-2014 used US Patent Classification System
• USPTO moved to CPC because:
  – CPC was jointly adopted by USPTO and EPO in 2013
  – CPC is jointly updated by USPTO and EPO as examiners/classifiers and technologies change
  – CPC reduces duplication of effort in classification by patent offices
  – CPC is an extension of the International Patent Classification System (IPC) used by every patent office
  – CPC offers more subdivisions for categorizing patents than all previous systems
• US Patent backfile has been reclassified to CPC (so are searchable using CPC)
Classification

- CPC Main Sections:
  A - HUMAN NECESSITIES
  B - PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING
  C - CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY
  D - TEXTILES; PAPER
  E - FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS
  F - MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING ENGINES OR PUMPS
  G - PHYSICS
  H - ELECTRICITY
  Y - GENERAL TAGGING OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS; GENERAL TAGGING OF CROSS-OVER TECHNOLOGIES SPANNING OVER SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE IPC
Classification

- CPC Classification Structure

Example: A23G 9/26

A (Section): Human Necessities
A23 (Class): Foods or Foodstuffs...
A23G (Subclass): Cocoa, Cocoa Products, e.g. Chocolate...
A23G 9/00 (Main Group): Frozen Sweets...

1/13/2020
Classification

- CPC Class Scheme is similar to an Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/00</td>
<td>Cocoa; Cocoa products, e.g. chocolate; Substitutes therefor (kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>equipment for cocoa preparation A47J, e.g. apparatus for making beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A47J 31/00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attention is drawn to the internal note after the subclass title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0003</td>
<td>{Processes of manufacture not relating to composition or compounding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ingredients}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0006</td>
<td>{Processes specially adapted for manufacture or treatment of cocoa or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cocoa products (A23G 1/002 to A23G 1/005 take precedence)}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0009</td>
<td>{Manufacture or treatment of liquid, cream, paste, granule, shred or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>powder}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0013</td>
<td>{Weighing, portioning processes}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0016</td>
<td>{Transformation of liquid, paste, cream, lump, powder, granule or shred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>into powder, granule or shred; Manufacture or treatment of powder}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/002</td>
<td>{Processes for preparing or treating cocoa beans or nibs}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A23G 1/0023</td>
<td>{Cocoa butter extraction by pressing}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Step Patent Search Strategy

1. Brainstorm terms to describe your invention based on its purpose, composition and use.
2. Use these terms to find initial relevant Cooperative Patent Classification.
3. Review the CPC Classification Definitions to verify the relevancy of CPC classification.
4. Retrieve U.S. patent documents for the CPC classification you selected.
5. Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents
6. Retrieve U.S. published patent applications with the CPC classification you selected
7. Broaden your search to find additional patent and non-patent publications
Brainstorm terms to describe your invention

• Think of as many terms as you can that describe your invention.
  – Consider the **purpose** of the invention ... Is the patent for a useful object or an ornamental design?
  – Is the invention a **process** or **product**?
  – What is the invention **made of**?
  – How is the invention **used**?
  – What keywords or technical terms describe the nature of the invention?
Brainstorm terms to describe your invention

• Example: An Improvement to Umbrellas
  – **Purpose**: this improvement has a new rib design to prevent collapse or inversion in high wind
  – **Invention**: this improvement will eliminate the need for frequent umbrella replacement
  – **Components**: a framework of ribs, stretchers and a main frame securing rings, mounting brackets, joint connectors, fabric connectors, fabric, linking bar
  – **How Used**: used to protect user from the elements
  – **Additional Terms**: parasol, sunshade, windproof, wind resistant
Use these terms to find a CPC code

- Access the CPC Classification Scheme using uspto.gov site search box in the upper right hand corner.
- Search “CPC Scheme” + your term
Use these terms to find a CPC code

- On the Search Results page, click on the entry for a Class-Subclass Scheme page
Use these terms to find a CPC code

- Scan the Class-Subclass Scheme page to find relevant classifications.
- First, scan the Main Groups (ending in “/00”) to find those that are most relevant to your invention.
- Then look at the Subgroups to see if they are pertinent.

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Use these terms to find a CPC code

- What if the Scheme is too long to scan easily
  - Use the “Find” feature on your browser window to locate pertinent terms.
  - In Chrome, use CTRL+F to initiate Find and add the term (e.g. wind), then click “v” to move to the highlighted result.
Use these terms to find a CPC code

• Look at the classification’s place in the entire class-subclass scheme (check the dot indents) and determine if this classification is specific enough for your invention.

• Look for subgroups which might be a better match.
Review the CPC Classification Definitions

- Review the Classification Definitions by clicking on the D to the left

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPC</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/143</td>
<td>(automatic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 2025/146</td>
<td>(with a crank connected to a rope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/16</td>
<td>Automatic openers, e.g. frames with spring mechanisms { (A45B 26/143 takes precedence) }</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/165</td>
<td>(with fluid or electric actuators)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/18</td>
<td>Covers (detachable A45B 15/00); Means for fastening same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 2025/183</td>
<td>(Covers with filtering or screening means for avoiding undesired radiation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 2025/186</td>
<td>(Umbrellas with two or more covers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/20</td>
<td>Windows in covers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/22</td>
<td>Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A45B 25/24</td>
<td>Protective coverings for umbrellas when closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Devices for increasing the resistance of umbrellas to wind

Definition statement

This subgroup covers:
Review the CPC Classification Definitions

- Some classes may have references designated to help you locate other relevant classes.
Review the CPC Classification Definitions

• At the top of the definition page you will also find useful searching aids

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**A45B**

**WALKING STICKS; UMBRELLAS; LADIES’ OR LIKE FANS (cane or umbrella stands or holders A47G 25/12)**

**Definition statement**

This subclass covers:
- Sticks with supporting, hanging or carrying means;
- Sticks combined with, or convertible into, other objects;
- Other sticks;
- Details of sticks;
- Umbrellas characterised by their shape or attachment;
- Special folding or telescoping of umbrellas;
- Other umbrellas;
- Details of umbrellas;
- Ladies’ fans.

**References relevant to classification in this subclass/group**

This subclass does not cover:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walkers</th>
<th>A61H 3/00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crutches</td>
<td>A61H 3/02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Informative references
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

• Use your classifications to locate US patents issued in that category to see if your idea has already been patented
• Remember that if your invention has previously been disclosed you cannot now get a patent on it yourself.
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

- Use the “Quick Links” tab on the uspto.gov homepage
- Select “PatFT” from the PatFT | AppFT links
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

• Enter your CPC classification in the Term1 box
• Choose “Current CPC Classification” from the Field1 menu
• Choose “1790 to present” from the “Select years” menu
• Click “Search”
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

• Click the patent number or title

Results of Search in US Patent Collection db for:
Hits 1 through 50 out of 179

Next 50 Hits

Jump To

Refine Search CPC/A45B25/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAT. NO.</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,960,210</td>
<td>Flexible umbrella systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,939,163</td>
<td>Umbrella anti-inversion apparatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,783,275</td>
<td>Compact folding umbrella with hybrid ribs to resist damage due to inversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,720,457</td>
<td>Bottom-triggering wind safety umbrella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,656,937</td>
<td>Outdoor umbrella stabilizer system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,607,808</td>
<td>Light windproof umbrella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,556,141</td>
<td>Backpack with integral umbrella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,511,327</td>
<td>Anti-wind eccentric umbrella</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

- The full text of the patent is displayed. To view the actual patent as published click “Images”

**Flexible umbrella systems**

**Abstract**

An umbrella system relating to the general protection of fixed outdoor umbrellas, especially during windy conditions. The umbrella system uses a supportive shaft equipped with a resiliently deformable region allowing omni-directional bending under wind loading. A preferred embodiment of the deformable region comprises a helical spring.

**Inventors:** Bacik; John Andrew (Scottsdale, AZ)

**Applicant:** Bacik; John Andrew Scottsdale AZ US

**Family ID:** 41162209

**Appl. No.:** 12/354,323

**Filed:** January 15, 2009
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

- You will see the front page of the patent. To see other pages use the “go to page” box, gold arrow buttons, or section links to the left.
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

• The front page of a patent contains a variety of information in a standard format:
  – Patent Number
  – Date of Patent
  – Title
  – Applicant
  – Inventor
  – Assignee
  – Abstract
  – Classification Numbers
  – Representative Drawings

• All Sections of the patent are numbered, the numbering system is consistent internationally
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

Title
Inventor
Assignee
Classification Numbers

Representative Drawings

1/13/2020
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

- Review all the patents in the classification:
  - Scan the Abstract
  - Examine the Drawing
  - If it is similar to your invention note the number for later review
Retrieve and review U.S. patent documents

- Pre-1970 Patent Records – As you move down the list you will see a change in format
- For patents issued prior to 1970 you must click on the patent number as the title does not display
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

- Review those patents you identified as relevant, paying special attention to
  - Additional Classifications
  - References Cited
  - Drawing sheets
  - Specifications
    - Field and background of the invention
    - Summary of the invention
    - Descriptions of the drawings
  - Claims
    - Define what aspects of the patent are protected by the patent
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

- Additional Classifications
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

- References Cited
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

• Drawing Sheets
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

• Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLEXIBLE UMBRELLA SYSTEMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The present application is related to and claims priority from prior provisional application Ser. No. 61/024,855, filed Jan. 30, 2008, entitled “FLEXIBLE UMBRELLA SYSTEMS”; and, this application is related to and claims priority from prior provisional application Ser. No. 61/043,105, filed Apr. 7, 2008, entitled “FLEXIBLE UMBRELLA SYSTEMS”; and, this application is related to and claims priority from prior provisional application Ser. No. 61/061,612, filed Jun. 14, 2008, entitled “FLEXIBLE UMBRELLA SYSTEMS”, the contents of all of which are incorporated herein by this reference and are not admitted to be prior art with respect to the present invention by the mention in this cross-reference section.

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to providing a system for improved umbrellas. More particularly, this invention relates to providing a system for the general protection of fixed outdoor umbrellas, especially during windy conditions.

Conventional outdoor patio umbrellas, for protection from rain or sun, typically comprise a cover portion supported by a rigid shaft. Such conventional outdoor patio umbrellas are often used to shade patio tables or other outdoor furniture. Large outdoor patio-type umbrellas are generally designed to withstand small to moderate wind loading. It is common for the supportive shafts of such umbrellas to fracture or even snap in half under heavy wind loads, especially if made out of a material prone to fracture, such as many woods, etc. Moreover, the supportive members within the fabric canopy are susceptible to impact damage should the umbrella tip, as may occur following a strong wind gust.

wind damage in outdoor umbrellas subjected to at least one wind load during use, such system comprising: at least one umbrella structured and arranged to provide umbrella-type shade protection; wherein such at least one umbrella comprises at least one umbrella shade structured and arranged to provide such umbrella-type shade protection, and coupled with such at least one umbrella shade, at least one shaft support structured and arranged to support such at least one umbrella shade in at least one operable position; wherein such at least one shaft support comprises at least one Omni-directional flexor structured and arranged to provide Omni-directional flexing of such at least one shaft support when such at least one umbrella shade is subjected to at least one wind load; wherein such Omni-directional flexing assists in reducing deflection-related failure within such at least one shaft support when such at least one shaft support is subjected to force loading.

Moreover, it provides such an umbrella system wherein such at least one shaft support further comprises: at least one first substantially rigid shaft portion comprising at least one first longitudinal axis; at least one second substantially rigid shaft portion comprising at least one second longitudinal axis; and at least one shaft-end coupler structured and arranged to structurally couple such at least one first substantially rigid shaft portion to such at least one umbrella shade portion; wherein such at least one shaft-end coupler is structured and arranged to transmit at least one non-axial force between such at least one substantially rigid shaft portion and such at least one umbrella shade portion; wherein such at least one omnidirectional flexor comprises at least one resilient member structured and arranged to provide resilient bending in response to non-axial force loading, at least one first shaft coupler structured and arranged to couple such at least one resilient member to such at least one substantially rigid shaft portion, and at least one second shaft coupler structured and arranged to couple such at least one resilient
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

- Claims

Embodiments of this invention, it will be understood that the broadest scope of this invention includes modifications such as diverse shapes, sizes, and materials. Such scope is limited only by the below claims as read in connection with the above specification. Further, many other advantages of the applicant's invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the above descriptions and the below claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An umbrella system related to reducing wind damage in outdoor umbrellas subjected to at least one wind load during use, said system comprising:
   a) at least one umbrella structured and arranged to provide a shade protection;
   b) wherein said at least one umbrella comprises
      i) at least one umbrella shade structured and arranged to provide said shade protection,
      ii) at least one shaft support being coupled with said at least one umbrella shade wherein said at least one shaft support is structured and arranged to support said at least one umbrella shade in at least one operable position, and

   at least one biaser provides a movement of said at least one first longitudinal axis and said at least one second longitudinal axis away from such at least one substantially coaxial orientation when a predetermined level of force is applied to said at least one substantially rigid shaft portion.

5. The umbrella system according to claim 4 wherein said at least one biaser comprises at least one coiled spring.

6. The umbrella system according to claim 5 wherein said at least one coiled spring is capable of storing at least one spring return force of sufficient magnitude to return said at least one first shaft portion and said at least one second shaft portion to such at least one substantially coaxial orientation when such force applied to said at least one first shaft portion is substantially absent.

7. The umbrella system according to claim 6 wherein such resilient bending occurs substantially within said at least one coiled spring.

8. The umbrella system according to claim 7 further comprising:
   a) at least one outer cover structured and arranged to cover said at least one coiled spring;
Conduct an in-depth review of relevant patents

• Move forward?

If you find your invention was previously patented

If you find your invention was NOT previously patented

• You may be able to modify your invention and seek a patent on the improvement
Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

• Patent Applications have been published since 2001.

• Review this prior art to see if someone has applied for a patent on your invention but it has not yet been granted.
Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

- Use the “Quick Links” tab on the uspto.gov homepage
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Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

- Enter your CPC classification in the Term1 box
- Choose “Current CPC Classification” from the Field1 menu
- Click “Search”
Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

- Click the application number or title to see the full application
Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

- View the application images
- Review each application
  - Scan the Abstract
  - Examine the Drawing
  - If it is similar to your invention note the application number for later review

1/13/2020
Retrieve and review U.S. published patent applications

• Move forward?

If you find your invention was previously applied for

If you find your invention was NOT previously applied for

• You may be able to modify your invention and seek a patent on the improvement
• Search for foreign patent documents ([https://worldwide.espacenet.com/](https://worldwide.espacenet.com/))
• Search US patent using USPC (While no longer being used, there are over 100 years of patent documents using USPC)
• Search for patents using keywords* (to find patents which were poorly classified or for which classification has changed over time)
• Search in non-patent literature (books, magazines, journals, websites, catalogs)
• Consult a patent attorney or agent
Broaden your search to find additional patent and non-patent publications

- Limitations of keyword searching
  - Vague or inconsistent terminology
    “ball” vs “generally spherical object”
  - Obsolete names or terms
    “LP,” “hi-fi,” “laserdisc,” “water closet”
  - Different meanings in different fields
    “mouse” (animal) vs “mouse” (for a computer)
  - Synonyms
    “rodent extermination device”
  - PatFT keyword search is limited to patents after 1970 (so keyword searching misses anything prior to that date)
7 Step Patent Search Strategy

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7. Broaden your search to find additional patent and non-patent publications.

1/13/2020
Other useful resources on the PTO website

• Official Gazettes
  – Listing of newly granted patents published each Tuesday by the PTO
Other useful resources on the PTO website

• Forms & Fees
Other useful resources on the PTO website

• Patent Attorneys & Agents

  *We cannot recommend one person over another*

  – Can limit by geographic region
Other useful resources on the PTO website

- Inventors Resources Page
Resources & Contacts

Inventor and entrepreneur resources

- Patents for startups
  The patent process can be challenging if you are not familiar with it. Here is basic information on the patent process.
  - Patent process overview
  - Inventors Assistance Center
  - Patents FAQs
  - Patents homepage
  - Search for patents
  - Official Gazette for patents

- Trademarks for inventors and entrepreneurs
  The trademark process can be confusing for a beginner, so the links below provide useful information on registering a trademark with the USPTO.
  - Trademark basics
  - Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)
  - Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS)
  - Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR)
  - Electronic Trademark Assignment System (ETAS)
  - Assignments on the Web (AOTW)
  - Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB)
  - Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMEP)

- Inventor and entrepreneur assistance
  The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) provides patent information and services to the public. The IAC is staffed by former supervisory patent examiners and experienced primary examiners who answer general questions concerning patent examining policy and procedure. The Trademark Assistance Center can answer general questions about the trademark process or provide guidance on the type of information to include on a form, but may not provide specific legal advice.
  - Inventors Assistance Center
  - Patents Ombudsman Office
  - BusinessUSA
  - Trademark Assistance Center
  - University Outreach Program

- Education and information
  Guides and additional resources and information for inventors.
  - Scam prevention
  - Provisional Application for Patent
  - General Information Concerning Patents
  - Basic Facts About Trademarks
  - Financial Manager
  - U.S. map of state resources
  - IP Awareness Assessment
Resources & Contacts

Scam prevention
While the USPTO does not investigate complaints or participate in any legal proceedings against invention promoters/promotion firms, under the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999, the USPTO will provide a public forum for the publication of complaints concerning invention promoters/promotion firms.

- Scam prevention basics
- Non-USPTO trademark solicitations
- American Inventors Protection Act of 1999
- Federal Trade Commission
- Consumer protection

Pro Se and Pro Bono
Are you an inventor or small business who has limited resources and needs help applying for a patent on an invention? If so, you may be eligible to receive pro bono (“for free”) attorney representation through the Nationwide Pro Bono Program.

- Pro Se
- Pro Bono
- Patent and Trademark Resource Centers
- Law School Clinics

Current Events
Information about conferences and conventions.

- Upcoming events

Other federal resources
Helpful resources for inventors and entrepreneurs from other federal agencies.

- myRA: a retirement savings account from the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury
- Small Business Innovation Research Program

1/13/2020
Provisional Application for a Patent

• Is entirely optional
• Allows you to establish an earlier filing date
• Allows you to use the term “Patent Pending”
• Lasts for one year from date of provisional application (does not become a full patent application)
• You must file a full patent application to proceed
• Are not published, there is no way to search these
Q: I’ve decided I want to apply for a patent… what do I do now?

A: Begin or continue an **inventor’s notebook**

- Use a bound notebook (spiral or sewn in binding)
- Make notes in ink about each step of your inventing or research process, sign and date them
- Include
  - Your idea and how you got it
  - Problems you have and how you solve them
  - Add sketches and drawings to make things clear
  - List all parts, sources, and costs of materials
  - steps and results of your preliminary patent search
Resources & Contacts

• Local Inventors Clubs

• **Akron Inventors Club**
  Meets the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Thursday of the month at Main Library
  President: Craig Miloscia
  craigmiloscia@gmail.com
  (330) 247-2182

• **Inventors Network, Inc.**
  1275 Kinnear Road
  Columbus, OH 43212
  Tel: (614) 470-0144
  www.inventorscolumbus.com
Resources & Contacts

• Producing a Prototype

• Akron Makerspace
  540 S Main St Suite 951
  Akron, OH 44311
  330-597-3111
  akronmakerspace.org

• TechZone@Main
  Akron-Summit County Public Library
  60 S High Street Akron, OH 44326
  330-643-9145
• Making Money with your Invention

**Licensing vs. Venturing:** sell your patent rights to someone else to produce, or manufacture and sell yourself?

Inventors often do not have the skills needed to be an entrepreneur. Some things to research before starting a business are the need for your product, the technical feasibility of producing your product, and your competition. You need to considering marketing and promotion, including second opinions, test markets, surveys, industry consultants, current trends, and trade shows. The Library’s Business & Government division, 330-643-9020, can provide information on starting a business.

• Some sources for local assistance are:

  • BOUNCE Innovation Hub
    [https://bouncehub.org/](https://bouncehub.org/)

  • Akron Score Chapter 81
    [www.akronscore.org](http://www.akronscore.org)

  • Inventors Assistance Center
    on the USPTO website [uspto.gov](http://uspto.gov)

  • Microbusiness Center
    Akron-Summit County Public Library
    330-802-0839
Resources & Contacts

• Additional Resources

  - U.S. Patent & Trademark Help Line 1-800-PTO-9199
  - NOLO (publisher of self-help legal manuals, great website) www.nolo.com
  - Inventor’s Digest Magazine www.inventorsdigest.com
  - United States Small Business Administration www.sba.gov
  - Google Patents patents.google.com
  - And, of course, us! Patent & Trademark Resource Center, Science & Technology Division. 330-643-9075 email: stdiv@akronlibrary.org
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