

### Patent Search Template

1. Identify the inventive concept(s) underlying the invention by drafting several simple problem statements : ‘the *problem x is solved by y*’. View in invention from different perspectives (the manufacturer, the vendor, the buyer, the object try to write problem solving statements from each view).
2. Consider who would use or license the invention and can the patent if obtained be enforced. (direct infringement; joint infringement, contributory infringement; Manufacturing and Use of the invention outside the U.S. vs Manufacturing or Use of invention inside the U.S.).
3. Identify the invention and identify three keywords that describe or associated with your invention. At least one or more of these keywords must be a word that identifies the inventive concept from Step 1.
4. Go to USPTO’s Full-Text and Full Patent Images webpage. (<http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-adv.htm>). Under “Issued Patents” Box, click on “Advanced Search”. (Note we strongly recommend that you download the TIF viewer from the USPTO website, see ‘How to View Patent Images’ link).
5. In the Advanced Search Box, type in various combinations of the three keywords identified in Step 3. (example: ABST/keyword 1 and ABST/keyword 2; ABST/Keyword 1 and ABST/Keyword 3; and ABST/Keyword 2 and ABST/Keyword 3).
6. Review Results of each Advance Search Results produced in Step 5. Look for titles of patents that are closest to your invention. Select those patents and then review their Abstracts and Drawings. Note closely their Classes and subclasses.
7. Next, visit the Manual of Classification Page at:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/classification/index.htm>
8. Type in the Class and subclass numbers of identified in Step 6. Review Classification definitions to determine if they relate to your invention. Review other subclasses around them to see if they are more relevant.
9. On those subclasses determined to relate to your invention, click on the “P” symbol adjacent to the subclass number to review all patents issued that were assigned this Class and subclass.
10. For each patent determine to relate to your invention, you must ‘vertically’ check all the references (The term ‘vertically’ means you must check all patent references cited in the patent and all later issued patents that cite the patent).
11. Repeat Steps 3-10, until a clear understanding of how patents in this technological area is broken down and are classified. Once you understand how the invention is classified, then it is must easier to search using Abstract and Title keyword searches combinations with classification/subclass search terms. If it is still unclear how the invention would be classified, this normally indicates that the original keywords selected where incorrect. Select new keyword and start over.
12. Once the Classification and subclasses have been identified, then conduct a Classification and subclass search in the “Published Applications” database. (<http://appft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-adv.html>) and follow steps 3-11.