# IDEANAV

# SEARCHING MANUAL

## 1. BACKGROUND

Searching is not merely a tool for compiling a survey of prior art relating to an invention. The purpose of a search may be varied, with the strategy and tools required to perform each search being dependent on the type of search that is to be conducted.

It is important to point out that most countries require absolute novelty for an invention to be patentable, and as such no search can ever be regarded as definitive or as providing a conclusive answer regarding the patentability of an invention.

## 2. TERMINOLOGY

- Inventor (employee / contractor)/ Applicant / Patentee / Assignee

  Inventor: Typically, the employer of the inventor owns the inventions made by the inventor while acting within the course and scope of his **employment**. On the other hand **contractors** by default retain ownership of all inventions made by them

  Applicant: is the entity that applied for the patent. It need not necessarily be the current owner of the patent

  Patentee: is the current owner of the patent

  Assignee: is the entity to which the Patentee (assignor) has assigned the invention.

- Provisional Application v Complete Application

  Provisional Application: this document merely describes the invention. It does not include claims and does not in itself result in a granted patent. It merely sets the **base date** on which the patentability of a complete patent application, filed within **12 months** of the filing date of the provisional patent application, is to be tested.

  Complete Application: This document contains a set of claims and may eventually become a granted patent.

- Claiming Priority:
  Where a complete patent application is filed within 12 months of a prior patent application, the complete patent may claim priority from that patent application.

- Priority Date:
  Where priority is claimed, patentability of the complete application is determined as from the date of the prior patent application – the priority date.

- Filing Date:
  This is the “effective filing date” of the application. Generally, this is the lodgement date of the complete application at the Patent Office. However, in the case of PCT national phase applications, the filing date is the filing date of the PCT International Patent Application.

- International / US Classification:
  Each patent is classified according to the field of the invention.

- References Cited:
  These are documents cited by the examiner as being relevant to the invention.

- Patent Date / Grant Date:
  The date from which the patent is in force.

US006247920B1

(12) **United States Patent**
**Pfeil**

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,247,920 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Jun. 19, 2001**

(54) **LIQUID FUEL LIGHTER WITH FIT-UP RIB**

(75) Inventor: **Bruce Michael Pfeil**, Bradford, PA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Zippo Manufacturing Company**, Bradford, PA (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.: **09/662,087**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 14, 2000**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/193,026, filed on Mar. 29, 2000.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] ..... **F23Q 2/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **431/142**; 431/151; 431/152; 431/154; 431/344; 431/277

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 431/129, 143, 431/142, 133, 277, 151, 152, 137, 138, 154, 144, 344, 126

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,006,557 | | 10/1911 | Husson . | |
| 2,252,676 | * | 8/1941 | Zaken | 431/143 |
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| 2,571,435 | | 10/1951 | Flamm | 67/7.1 |
| 2,633,724 | * | 4/1953 | Anderson | 431/143 |
| 2,692,492 | * | 10/1954 | Hepburn | 431/143 |
| 2,774,234 | | 12/1956 | Blaisdell et al. | 67/4.1 |
| 2,803,123 | * | 8/1957 | Owen | 431/152 |
| 2,810,282 | * | 10/1957 | Mayer, Sr. | 431/142 |
| 3,315,497 | * | 4/1967 | MacDonald | 431/125 |
| 3,353,375 | * | 11/1967 | Bunyard et al. | 431/154 |
| 3,999,937 | | 12/1976 | Lacks | 431/344 |
| 4,011,040 | | 3/1977 | Lacks | 431/344 |
| 4,133,450 | | 1/1979 | Beeson et al. | 220/411 |
| 4,625,861 | | 12/1986 | Krog | 206/234 |
| 4,901,848 | | 2/1990 | Parren | 206/86 |
| 5,082,440 | | 1/1992 | Yamamoto | 431/143 |
| 5,740,905 | | 4/1998 | Kilfoy | 206/87 |
| 5,934,894 | | 8/1999 | Cigler | 431/253 |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1592729 | * | 7/1981 | (GB) | 431/253 |

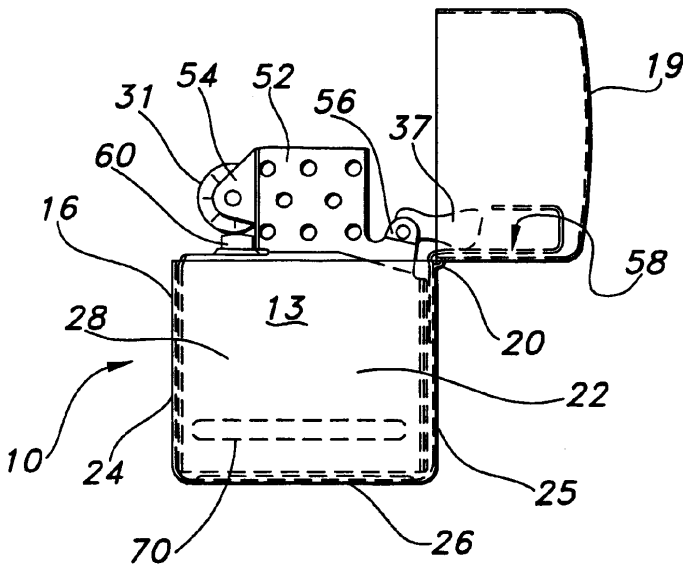
* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Carl D. Price
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hodgson Russ LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A refillable pyrophoric lighter having an outer casing with a hinged cover and having an inside unit that is received inside the casing by a frictional fit that is enhanced by at least one transverse rib integrally formed on the outside of the housing of the inside unit.

**9 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet**



## 3. THE PATENTABILITY OF AN INVENTION

Generally, for an invention to be patentable, it has to be new and involve an inventive step. In South Africa, as in most countries of the world, **absolute novelty** is required. This means that the invention may not have been made available to the public (whether in the Republic or elsewhere) by written or oral description, by use or in any other way. Further, an invention used secretly and on a commercial scale within the Republic shall also destroy the novelty of the invention in South Africa. However, disclosure as a result of a reasonable technical trial or experiment performed in the Republic does not on its own destroy the novelty of the invention in South Africa.

Third party patent applications that impact on the novelty of an invention include:

- South African applications filed with the South African Patent Office prior to the priority date of the invention;

  *The priority date is the base date from which patentability is determined. This can be the filing date of the first provisional or complete patent application in any convention country (a convention country is a country that is a signatory to the Paris Convention)*

- PCT applications, designating South Africa, that were filed prior to the priority date of the South African invention; and

- Foreign patents not filed in South Africa that became open to public inspection or that were published prior to the priority date of the invention.

Typically, for a document to anticipate an invention, it must describe every essential aspect of the invention. In determining novelty, documents may not be mosaiced.

If the invention is described by combining various documents, the patent may be held not to involve an **inventive step**. The test for determining inventiveness is whether the step would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, having regard to any matter that forms part of the state of the art immediately before the priority date of the invention.

Our Patents Act also does not permit a patent to be granted for:

(a) a discovery;
(b) a scientific theory;
(c) a mathematical method;
(d) a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work or any other aesthetic creation;
(e) a scheme, rule or method for performing a mental act, playing a game or doing business;
(f) a program for a computer;
(g) the presentation of information;
(h) any variety of animal or plant or any essentially biological process for the production of animals or plants, not being a microbiological process or the product of such a process; and
(i) a method of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy or of diagnosis practised on the human or animal body.

## 4. WHEN TO CONDUCT A SEARCH

Depending on the circumstances, a search may be performed either before or after a provisional application has been filed with the South African Patent Office. The factors to take into account in determining how to proceed, include:

- whether the trials or experiments required to evaluate or improve the invention would lead to public disclosure. Although, our Patents Act does allow for reasonable technical trials, it is best to file a provisional patent application first;

- whether the invention may become disclosed through actions of employees or contractors. Again, although our Patents Act does protect an inventor against unauthorised disclosure, it is best to file a provisional patent application first;

- whether the invention can fully be described in a document prior to searching, or whether it is anticipated that the search would materially alter the description of the invention. It should be borne in mind that multiple provisional applications may be filed and that further subject matter may always be included in the complete specification, provided that the subject matter is new at the time of filing the complete application;

- whether the technology falls within an actively evolving field. Prior to filing a patent application, any disclosure or the filing of a patent application by a third party may impact on the patentability of the invention;

- financial resources available;

- expected time required to conduct the search.

## 5. PURPOSES OF A SEARCH

- Novelty Search
  - To determine the patentability of an invention, thereby guarding against the unnecessary expenditure of time, money and effort in the preparation of an invalid patent application
  - To assist in revocation proceedings against a patent

- Infringement Search
  - To determine whether a patent will be infringed in a specific country

- Facilitate Preparation of the Patent
  - To ensure correct / consistent use of terminology
  - To properly determine the scope of the claims
  - To emphasise the novel features of the invention
  - To establish the prior art

- Facilitate Licensing of the Invention
  - Prior art searches provides a licensee with an indication of the scope of protection afforded by a patent

- Encourage Lateral Thought and Improvement of the Invention
  - To reveal possible alternatives and potential problems
  - To reveal new uses of the invention so as to commercialise the invention better, for instance, if there are many similar inventions which have not been commercialised, you may re-consider the wisdom of attempting to commercialise the invention yourself

- Obtain Proof that the Invention is not Obviousness

## 6. SEARCHING SOURCES

- Catalogues
- Technical books (libraries)
- Computer Database Searches

## 7. USEFUL WEB SITES

Freely Accessible Sites

- http://www.uspto.gov (http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html)
  - Contains US granted patents and US applications published after 15 March 2001
  - To obtain status information, go to http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair
  - To view the images, you may need to register with www.alternatiff.com

- http://www.delphion.com/

- http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97_cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/en/advanced.hts
  - This is the Official European Patent Office database
  - Contains over 30 million published patents world wide

- http://www.alphapatent.com/downloader.cgi
  - For quick and easy downloading of published US, PCT, EP and JP applications and patents

- http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/search-adv.jsp
  - Contains published PCT applications
  - This is the most probable site where **new inventions** will first be published

- http://pericles.ipaustralia.gov.au/aub/aub_pages_1.process_simple_search)
  - Contains published AU patents and applications

- http://www.eevl.ac.uk/eese/
  - Contains the full text of over 250 engineering, mathematics and computing journals

- http://www.patent.gov.uk/design/d-find/d-find-product.htm
  - Contains designs that can be viewed showing 128 images at a time

- http://www.mayallj.freeserve.co.uk/status.htm#top
  - Contains status information for various patents

- http://www.tip.net.au/~arhen/
  - Contains links to various Patent Office web sites

Useful links to Biotech Searching Sites:

- http://www.nal.usda.gov/bic (/Biotech_Patents/)
  - Biotech Information Center

- http://gdbwww.gdb.org/
  - The genome database

- http://www.worthington-biochem.com/

Subscriber Only Sites

- http://www.derwent.co.uk/
  - Contains DERWENT and INPADOC records

- http://www.delphion.com/
  - Contains INPADOC records

Further Databases Available to subscribers

- IdeaNav Search Tool, which searches five of the main databases simultaneously.

NOTE: WEB SITES CAPTURE PATENT INFORMATION ONLY UPON PUBLICATION.

Most countries publish applications after 18 months from the priority date. However, many countries (including South Africa) only publish patents upon grant.

## 8. DOCUMENT SOURCING

- Internet databases

- http://www.derwent.co.uk/
  - For on-line orders and delivery

- RWS Group (email: rwsinfo@rws-group.com)

- Patent law firms

## 9. TYPES OF SEARCHES

### 9.1 ON-LINE SUBJECT MATTER SEARCHES

Subject matter searches are conducted to determine the **patentability** of an invention, and are commonly referred to as **novelty searches**.

Suggested steps to follow:

1. Consider the countries in which patents for the invention would be applied for. For instance, mining patents are typically applied for in South Africa, the US, Canada and Australia.

2. Identify the web sites that contain the relevant patent information.

3. Create and implement a search strategy (*see below*).

4. View all the *hits* and print out the front pages of relevant patents.
   - Focus on the description of the invention and NOT the claims

5. View the *prior art* documents referred to by the examiner in each relevant patent.

6. Search for and view documents that reference the relevant patents.

7. View the documents referred to in and that reference the relevant patents located in steps 5 and 6.

8. Possibly, conduct a name search in the name of entities that appear most active in the field.

9. If nothing has been found, try a new, broader search strategy.

Period Searched: Search **all** periods.

NOTE: Pre-1975 US patents cannot be searched using the USPTO's "advanced search facility". Accordingly, pre-1975 inventions are difficult to conduct novelty searches on unless a post-1975 patent is found that references relevant pre-1975 patents.

### 9.2 MANUAL SUBJECT MATTER SEARCHES

Manual subject matter searches are conducted through the abstracts at the South African Patent Office to check for possible patent **infringement** in South Africa.

The abstracts are sorted according to their International Patent Classification code, but are not sorted according to sub-classes.

Patents are often not properly classified, so be liberal when selecting classes to be searched.

Patent numbers of the potentially relevant abstracts should be noted and copies of the patents ordered through the Patent Office. The statuses of relevant patents may checked in the Patent Register (P2s) at the Patent Office or electronically.

Period Searched: Search records for the last **20 years**

## 9.3 APPLICANT NAME SEARCHES

Name searches are conducted to find patents belonging to a specific person or entity. This type of search is useful to keep abreast of recent developments of competitors.

The person or entity should be searched in the Applicant and the Assignee fields.

Period Searched: This depends on whether a novelty (all periods) or infringement search (last 20 years) is being conducted.

NOTE: Inventor Name Searches can also be conducted

## 9.4 EQUIVALENT SEARCHES

Equivalent searches are conducted to determine the countries in which a specific patent has corresponding patent protection. This is useful in determining where a known patent may be infringed.

- Search espacenet.com for *family* information

  *A family is a collection of corresponding patents or patent applications in various countries.*

- Search relevant databases using the name of the inventor or a combination of the inventor's name and the following fields in the search strategy:

  - Title
  - Priority number
  - Priority date
  - Applicant

- Conduct a name search through the South African Patent Office records, if necessary.

Period Searched: **Three years before and after** the priority date of the given patent.

CAUTION: When determining whether a South African provisional patent application has been completed:

a) Obtain a copy of the P2. This will indicate whether a corresponding South African complete patent has been filed.
b) Check whether the applicant is still able to file a South African complete application. Remember: There is a 3 month extension for filing ZA completes.
c) Check with the person inputting the data onto the P2 to ensure that all P2s have been fully updated up to the relevant date.
d) If no corresponding complete has been filed, the applicant may have filed a PCT application. This will only be published after 18 months from the priority date. Further, priority may be abandoned, which means that the PCT application may only be published 18 months after the PCT filing date. So, check the PCT web site after the relevant periods and ensure that the site is updated up to the relevant time.
e) If still not found, check the P2 again after 21/31 months, or conduct a name search for the inventor.
f) Also, check world wide databases for any corresponding patent applications that may link up with a possible ZA application.

## 10. CREATING A SEARCH STRATEGY

A patent specification is divided into the following sections:

- Title
- Abstract (a brief summary of the invention)
- Description of the Invention (described various or a preferred embodiment)
- Claims (determines the scope of protection provided by the patent)
- Drawings

Other fields that can typically be searched are:

- Applicant
- Assignee
- Inventor
- Priority Country / Number / Date
- Filing Date
- Class

Most of the searching databases provide for the use of prefixes to focus a search.

USPTO Prefix Table:

| Field Code | Field Name | Field Code | Field Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| PN | Patent Number | IN | Inventor Name |
| ISD | Issue Date | IC | Inventor City |
| TTL | Title | IS | Inventor State |
| ABST | Abstract | ICN | Inventor Country |
| ACLM | Claim(s) | LREP | Attorney or Agent |
| SPEC | Description/Specification | AN | Assignee Name |
| CCL | Current US Classification | AC | Assignee City |
| ICL | International Classification | AS | Assignee State |
| APN | Application Serial Number | ACN | Assignee Country |
| APD | Application Date | EXP | Primary Examiner |
| PARN | Parent Case Information | EXA | Assistant Examiner |
| RLAP | Related US App. Data | REF | Referenced By |
| REIS | Reissue Data | FREF | Foreign References |
| PRIR | Foreign Priority | OREF | Other References |
| PCT | PCT Information | GOVT | Government Interest |
| APT | Application Type | | |

PCT Prefix Table:

| Field Code | Field Name | Field Code | Field Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| ET | English Title | IN | Inventor Name |
| FT | French Title | IAD | Inventor Address |
| ABE | English Abstract | PA | Applicant Name |
| ABF | French Abstract | AAD | Applicant Address |
| WO | Publication Number | ARE | Applicant Residence |
| DP | Publication Date | ANA | Applicant Nationality |
| AN | Application Number | RP | Legal Rep. Name |
| AD | Application Date | RAD | Legal Rep. Address |
| NP | Priority Number | RCN | Legal Rep. Country |
| PD | Priority Date | IC | International Class |
| PCN | Priority Country | MC | Main International Class |
| DS | Designated States | LGF | Language of Filing |

| KI | Kind of Document. | LGP | Language of Pub. |
|---|---|---|---|

Generally, it is best to search broadly, and to limit the search to specific fields only where it is certain that the terms searched will appear therein.

To create a search strategy, it is suggested that the following steps be used:

1. Articulate the nature and essence of the invention.
2. Determine the class of the invention.
3. Create a list of synonyms and alternative terms for each word. I will refer to each collection of synonyms / alternatives as an integer.
4. Identify the core integers that would appear in the title and abstract. If in doubt, search for them in the entire specification.
5. Link your search strategy with boolean terms. Beware of using the *andnot* boolean term.
6. Refine the search strategy by including more integers or by limiting the presence of integers in a specific field, until the number of *hits* is reduced to a manageable size (usually not more than 300).
7. View a selection of patents and check for further synonyms or variants of your search terms which are used in the selected documents.

Example 1: If searching for an electric powered, three-wheeled motorvehicle where the central invention is the transverse mounting of the electric engine on polyurethane blocks, a possible search strategy for the USPTO would be:

**ttl/(motor or engine) and abst/(electric$ and (vehicle or car or motorvehicle or motorcar or car or automobile)) and (transverse and polyurethane and (three or 3) and icl/F02$**

Example 2: if searching for a device that pre-rotates the wheel of an aircraft prior to landing using wind speed:

**ttl/(airplane or aeroplane or aircraft or airborne) and abst/((tyre or tire or wheel) and (rotat$ or spin$ or turn$) and wind) and landing**

Example 3: searching for a brake indicator mounted to the front of a motor vehicle:

**ttl/(brake and (indicator or light or signal)) and abst/(automotive or automobile or vehicle or car or motorcar or motorvehicle) and (front or grill or bonnet)**

Example 4: if searching for all US Utility Patents filed in the biotech filed within the past 5 years where South Africans are listed as inventors.

**Apt/1 and icl/(enter classes) and Apd/(1/1/1997->31/12/2002) and icn/(ZA)**

TIPS

1. *Less is more* – the fewer words to define your search the broader the results.
2. *Use alternative terms.*
3. *Use Boolean connectors* (*and* and *or*, but beware of using *andnot*).
4. *Find a string of words by using inverted commas ie "high intensity frequency".*
5. *Use wild cards* – (generally *, but *$* for the USPTO).
6. *View referenced and referencing documents.*

## 11. DETERMINING THE STATUS OF A SOUTH AFRICAN PATENT APPLICATION

1) See the priority and filing dates

2) If the priority date > 15 months before the filing date, the application has gone via the PCT route. Then the first renewal fee is payable after 3 years from the filing date of the **International Patent Application**, and annually thereafter.

3) If the priority date < 15 months before the filing date, the first renewal fee is due after 3 years from the filing date of the **ZA complete application**, and annually thereafter.

NOTE: an applicant may at any stage pay all renewal fees up to term. This should be reflected in the P2.

EXAMPLE OF A P2 FOR AN APPLICATION THAT HAS GONE VIA THE PCT ROUTE (A)

(a)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA — FORM P.2

REGISTER OF PATENTS — PATENTS ACT, 1978

| OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO. | LODGING DATE: PROVISIONAL | ACCEPTANCE DATE |
|---|---|---|
| 21 01 2000070 | 22 | 47 28 JUN 2000 |
| **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** | **LODGING DATE: COMPLETE** | **GRANTED DATE** |
| 5 C03C | 23 11th January 2000 | 2000 -10- 25 |

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

71 **ISOVER SAINT-GOBAIN**, a legal body organised and existing under the laws of Courbevoie, France

APPLICANTS SUBSTITUTED: — DATE REGISTERED

71

ASSIGNEE(S) — DATE REGISTERED

71

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)

72 **DE MERINGO, Alain; BERNARD, Jean-Luc; LAFFON, Fabrice**

| PRIORITY CLAIMED | COUNTRY | NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| N.B. Use International abbreviation for country (See Schedule 4) | 33 FR | 31 98/05708 | 32 6th May 1998 |

TITLE OF INVENTION

54 **MINERAL WOOL COMPOSITION**

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

**Les Miroirs, 18, avenue d'Alsace, F-92400 Courbevoie, France**

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE — J & K REF:

74 JOHN & KERNICK, Waterfall Park, Midrand — AP 34444 ZA

| PATENT OF ADDITION NO. | DATE OF ANY CHANGE |
|---|---|
| 61 | |
| **FRESH APPLICATION BASED ON** | **DATE OF ANY CHANGE** |
| | |

EXAMPLE OF A P2 FOR AN APPLICATION THAT HAS GONE VIA THE PCT ROUTE (B)

(b)

FORM

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA | REGISTER OF PATENTS | PATENTS ACT, 1978

| OFFICIAL APPLICATION | LODGING DATE: PROVISIONAL | ACCEPTANCE DATE |
|---|---|---|
| 21 01 2001/0006 | 22 | 47 5.12.2002 |
| **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** | **LODGING DATE: NATIONAL PHASE** | **GRANTED DATE** |
| 51 C07D; A01N | 23 5 DEC 2001 | |

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

71 NIHON NOHYAKU CO., LTD.

APPLICANTS SUBSTITUTED: | DATE REGISTERED

71

ASSIGNEE(S) | DATE REGISTERED

71

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)

72
1. KATSUHIRA, TAKESHI
2. FURUYA, TAKASHI
3. GOTOH, MAKOTO
4. TOHNISHI, MASANORI
5. TAKAISHI, HIDEO
6. SAKATA, KAZUYUKI
7. MORIMOTO, MASAYUKI
8. SEO, AKIRA

| PRIORITY CLAIMED | COUNTRY | NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| BY INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP00/04136 FILED 23 JUNE 2000 | 33 JP | 31 11/179035 | 32 24 JUN 1999 |

TITLE OF INVENTION

54 HETEROCYCLIC DICARBOXYLIC ACID DIAMIDE DERIVATIVES, AGRICULTURAL/HORTICULTURAL INSECTICIDES AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

1-2-5, NIHONBASHI, CHUO-KU, TOKYO, JAPAN

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE | S & F REF

74 SPOOR & FISHER, SANDTON | PA132156/ZA

| PATENT OF ADDITION NO. | DATE OF ANY CHANGE |
|---|---|
| 61 | |
| **FRESH APPLICATION BASED ON** | **DATE OF ANY CHANGE** |
| | |

# EXAMPLE OF A P2 FOR A CONVENTION APPLICATION, NOT HAVING GONE VIA THE PCT ROUTE

(C)

FORM P.2

| REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA | REGISTER OF PATENTS | PATENTS ACT, 1978 |
|---|---|---|

| OFFICIAL APPLICATION | LODGING DATE: PROVISIONAL | ACCEPTANCE DATE |
|---|---|---|
| 21 01 20018287 | 22 | 47 05-06-2009 |
| **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** | **LODGING DATE: COMPLETE** | **GRANTED DATE** |
| 51 B65G | 23 9 OCT 2001 | 2002 -08- 2 8 |

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

71 THORBURN CONSULTING ENGINEERS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

| APPLICANTS SUBSTITUTED: | DATE REGISTERED |
|---|---|
| 71 | |

| ASSIGNEE(S) | DATE REGISTERED |
|---|---|
| 71 | |

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)

72 THORBURN, ANDREW GERALD

| PRIORITY CLAIMED | COUNTRY | NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| N.B. Use International abbreviation for country (see Schedule 4) | 33 ZA | 31 2000/3434 | 32 10 JUL 2000 |

TITLE OF INVENTION

54 HOPPER LOADING METHOD AND APPARATUS

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S)/PATENTEE(S)

UNIT A1, CONSTANTIA PARK, ROODEPOORT, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA

| ADDRESS FOR SERVICE | S & F REF |
|---|---|
| 74 SPOOR & FISHER, SANDTON | PA128353/ZA |

| PATENT OF ADDITION NO. | DATE OF ANY CHANGE |
|---|---|
| 61 | |

| FRESH APPLICATION BASED ON | DATE OF ANY CHANGE |
|---|---|
| | |

(Continued)

AMENDMENTS AND RECTIFICATIONS, ETC.

| DOCUMENT | DATE OF APPLICATION | ADVERTISEMENT DATE | OPPOSITION DATE | ALLOWANCE OR REFUSAL | DATE OF LATTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
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PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

| Nature | Taken by: | Against | Date Commenced | Date of Order | Appeals to Supreme Court TPD/AD | Date Withdrawn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
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LICENCES, ATTACHMENTS AND HYPOTHECATIONS

| Nature | In Favour of: | Date registered | Date cancelled |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

RENEWALS

| Year | Date paid | Receipt | Penalty |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22.299 | 22.2.99 | 3819 | DoS |
| 22.3.00 | 8.3.00 | 6771 | DPG |
| 22.3.01 | 19.1.01 | 2998 | D28 |
| 22302 | 19202 | 5358 | D09 |
| 22303 | " | " | " |
| 22304 | " | " | " |
| 22305 | " | " | " |
| 22306 | " | " | " |
| 22307 | " | " | " |
| 22308 | " | " | " |
| 22309 | " | " | " |
| 22310 | " | " | " |
| 22311 | " | " | " |
| 22312 | " | " | " |
| 22313 | " | " | " |
| 22314 | " | " | " |
| 22315 | " | " | " |

RESTORATIONS

| Date Applied* for | Advertised | Opposed | Restored by | Date of restoration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
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REMARKS: (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

P16

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA | REGISTER OF PATENTS | FORM P2 | PATENTS ACT, 1978

| OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO. | LODGING DATE: PROVISIONAL | ACCEPTANCE DATE: |
|---|---|---|
| 21 01 962297 | 22 | 47 30-9-96 |
| **INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION** | **LODGING DATE: COMPLETE** | **GRANTED DATE** |
| 51 B21D; B44B | 23 1996 -03- 22 | 1996 -11- 27 |

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71
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THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

APPLICANTS SUBSTITUTED: 71 | DATE REGISTERED

ASSIGNEE(S) 71 | DATE REGISTERED

FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)
72
PETER GRAHAM HATHERLEY
KENNETH GORDON WATKINS
WILLIAM MAXWELL STEEN

| PRIORITY CLAIMED | COUNTRY | NUMBER | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| N.B. Use International abbreviation for country (See Schedule 4) | 33 GB | 31 9505920.0 | 32 1995MAR23 |

TITLE OF INVENTION
54
COINS AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING COINS

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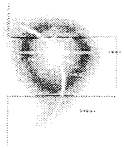
RG & CO. REF: 487014

PATENT OF ADDITION NO. 61 | DATE OF ANY CHANGE

FRESH APPLICATION BASED ON 62 | DATE OF ANY CHANGE

EXAMPLE OF A P2 FOR AN APPLICATION THAT HAS BEEN PAID UP TO TERM



# JAPANESE PATENT NUMBERS

- Search using Japanese patent numbers
- Convert Japanese patent numbers to Dialog format

## Introduction

Japanese patent numbers pose particular difficulty because of the numbering system used in Japan. The number you have may refer to any one of six types of Japanese patent documents. These are:

- Application Number
- Unexamined Published/"Laid Open" Application Number (Kokai)
- Examined Published Application Number (Kokoku)
- Granted Patent Number (Toroku)
- Utility Model Application (only searchable if a priority)
- Utility Model Patent

*Note*: To read more about searching Japanese patent numbers, check the Search Solution at Dialog's Training Web site at **http://training.dialog.com/quick/solutions**.

For each of these types of documents, the Japanese numbering system uses an annual series and begins each year with document number 1. As a result, in the same year an identical number can be assigned to different inventions that are at different levels of publication. The only exception to this rule is Granted Patent Numbers which use a continuing series starting at number 2,500,001. These documents have been added to the online files since May 29, 1996.

Further complicating the search process is the Japanese Year of the Emperor. The table on the next page provides the formula for calculating the Imperial Year.

| Emperor | Western Year | Imperial Year |
|---|---|---|
| | Used for Applications and Published Examined Applications (Kokoku) – B documents online | Used for Unexamined Published Applications Kokai – A documents online |
| Hirohito | 1926 – First year of reign<br>1986 – Sixty-first year of reign<br>1988 – Sixty-third year of reign | Year 1 – Not online<br>Year 61 (+25 = 1986)<br>Year 63 (+25 = 1988) |
| Akihito<br>(Heisei Era) | 1989 – First year of reign*<br>1997 – Ninth year of reign | Year 1 (+88 = 1989)<br>Year 9 (+88 = 1997) |

**Table 4-1: Calculating the Imperial Year**

*Note*: *Since Hirohito died in January 1989, the first 3,200 unexamined applications in 1989 (approximately one percent of the 1989 document total) use Year 64.

The table below outlines the formats used for Japanese patents at different levels of prosecution.

| Action | Annual Serial Numbers | Japanese Format | Dialog Standard Format |
|---|---|---|---|
| Application Filed | Use 2-digit Western Year | 2-31147 | AN=JP YYNNNNN<br><br>S AN=JP 9031147<br><br>*Note:* Do not zero fill. |
| Utility Model Filed | Use 2-digit Western Year | 4-10035 | S AN=JP YYUNNNNN<br>(Application)<br><br>S AN=JP 92U10035<br>*Note:* Insert the U, but do not zero fill. |
| Unexamined Published Application (Kokai) | Use Year of the Emperor (1- or 2-digit Imperial Year) | 2-182090<br>62-062987 | S PN=JP YNNNNNN<br>S PN=JP YYNNNNNN<br><br>S PN=JP 2182090<br>S PN=JP 62062987<br><br>*Note:* Zero fill to six digits. |
| Published Examined Application (Kokoku) | Use 2-digit Western Year | 2-182090 | S PN=JP YYNNNNNN<br>(Examined Yr)<br>S PN=JP 90182090<br>*Note:* Zero fill to six digits. |
| Granted Patent (Toroku) | Use number as given, and include 2-digit Western Year of publication using PD= | 2500016 | S PN=NNNNNNN(S)PD=96<br>S PN=2500016(S)PD=96 |

**Table 4-2: Formats for Japanese Patents**

## Searching Japanese Application and Publication Numbers

If you are having trouble finding a Japanese patent number, try the following:

1. EXPAND on the number as an Application Number using the Western Year and the number without zero filling.

   **Format:** AN=JP YYNNNNNN
   **Example:** AN=JP 9031147

   If you have a copy of the Japanese patent, the Patent Application Number will appear in the INID (Internationally Agreed Number for the Identification of Data) number 21.1 It will appear in the format 59-1111 (1984). Search this number as shown above, using the Western Year with no zero fill, e.g., AN=JP 841111. See Appendix B (page A-6) for a complete list of INID numbers.

2. Try the number as an Unexamined Patent Application (Kokai) using the Year of the Emperor (Western Year minus 25 for documents prior to 1/8/89 or Western Year minus 88 if on or after 1/9/89). Zero fill to make the number six digits.

   **Format:** PN=JP YYNNNNNN
   **Example:** PN=JP 60311447 (2-digit Imperial Year + 6-digit number)
   PN=JP 4000006 (1-digit Imperial Year + zero fill to 6-digit number.

3. Try the number as an Examined Published Application Number (Kokoku) using the Western Year plus number which is zero filled to make a 6-digit number.

   **Format:** PN=JP YYNNNNNN
   **Example:** PN=JP 93049396 (Western Year, zero fill to 6-digit number)

   Remember to try the three formats in *Derwent World Patents Index* (File 351), *INPADOC* (File 345), and *Japio* (File 347). In *Japio* only Application numbers and Unexamined Published Application numbers (Kokai) are indexed.

4. If you cannot find the number, the reason could be:

   - It is not in the time period covered by the file you are searching.
   - Comprehensive coverage of Japanese patents does not begin in WPI until January 1996. Prior to that date there are no mechanical patents. Electrical patent coverage begins in 1982 in WPI.
   - It may be a Granted Patent (Toroku) that issued before the Japanese laws changed on May 29, 1996.