

# Patent Searches on the Internet

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## Legal Disclaimer

- The legal information contained in this presentation is offered for patent law educational purposes.
- It is suggested that a patent attorney be consulted if you want professional assurance that any actions taken as a result of this presentation are appropriate for your particular situation.
- The patent law changes frequently. Before relying upon any information contained in this presentation, you may want to consult with a patent attorney regarding the current state of the law.

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## Patent Searches

- Independent Inventors
  - Patentability search
    - Is my invention patentable?
- Businesses
  - Clearance or Non-Infringement search
    - Will my product infringe someone's patent?
  - Right to Use search
    - Is my product in the public domain?

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## Value of Patentability Searches

- Determine patentability of an invention
  - What is risk of rejection by PTO?
- Helps in preparing patent application
  - Aids preparer - more info, easier to draft app
  - Makes for a stronger patent
- Helps the PTO examiner
  - Guides the examiner to right technology

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## Patentability (Prior Art) Searches

- Look for identical or similar devices
  - on the Internet
  - in publications and catalogs
  - in patents and published applications
- Look for evidence that invention is
  - Not new or
  - Obvious when multiple references are combined

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## Searching Techniques

- **Word search**
  - Key words that describe invention or product
  - Good for starting a patent search
- **Classification search**
  - 436 utility classes, 100-500 sub-classes per class
  - PTO index: [www.uspto.gov/go/classification](http://www.uspto.gov/go/classification)
- **Cross-Reference search**
  - When a similar patent is found:
    - Review **cited** patents
    - Review **Referenced By** patents

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## Where to Search: PTO

- **PTO web site:** [www.uspto.gov/patft](http://www.uspto.gov/patft)
  - Complex, but used by PTO examiners
  - View images
    - Need viewer to see images: [www.alternatiff.com](http://www.alternatiff.com)
    - Cannot download pdf files
  - Word searches from early 1970 to last Tuesday
  - Classification searches for all patents
  - Easy to navigate Cross-References

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## PTO Patent Search

Query [\[help\]](#)  
[www/ptftsearch/ptft/ptftsearch.html] and www/ptft/ptft/ptft

Select Years [\[help\]](#)  
[1975 to present][All time]

Field Code	Field Name	Field Code	Field Name
PN	Patent Number	AN	Assignee Name
SPEC	Descr/Specification	AS	Assignee State
CCL	Current Class	IN	Inventor Name
REF	Referenced By	IS	Inventor State

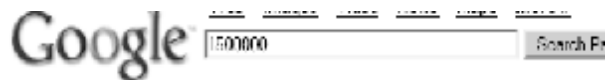
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## Where to Search: Google

- **Google Patents:** [www.google.com/patents](http://www.google.com/patents)
  - Easy to use
    - Search like Google to quickly search
    - Advanced options for more power
  - No downloads
  - Limited
    - missing recent patents - nothing after mid-2006
    - Word search of patent text same as PTO
    - Word search only titles of old patents
    - Typos in text conversion of titles of old patents
  - Not ready for prime time!

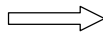
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## Google Word Search Issues



Patent Search

Patents 1 - 50 of



SUBMERSIBLE VESSEL FOR NAVIGATION UNDER ICE

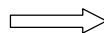
US Pat. 1500000

1500000 that there will be no obstruction projecting above the upper deck of the vessel or its superstructure upon which such a projection on the under...

July 1, 1924.

S. LAKE

1,500,000



SUBMERSIBLE VESSEL FOR NAVIGATION UNDER ICE

Filed Sept. 10, 1920



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## Where to Search: FreePatentsOnline

- **FreePatentsOnLine.com**
  - Download pdf copies of patents
  - Easy to use and flexible search options
    - Easy to get incomplete/wrong results
  - Can save searches - nice feature
  - Great for viewing specific patents
  - Need to sign up, but still free

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## Where to Search: Others

- **Pat2pdf: [www.pat2pdf.org](http://www.pat2pdf.org)**
  - Download patents to pdf files
  - No searching capability
- **Patent Storm: [www.patentstorm.us](http://www.patentstorm.us)**
  - Limited - only goes back to 1990
- **PatentMatic: [www.patentmatic.com](http://www.patentmatic.com)**
  - Download pdf files only

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## Search Tools

- **Aspator** for Firefox browser
  - Allows viewing of abstract, drawings, and pdf from PTO search results
  - New beta versions works with Google Patents
- **PatDL:** [www.chemdocs.net](http://www.chemdocs.net)
  - \$59/\$119 Shareware
  - Good interface for searching and downloading
- **PatentTools:** [www.pattools.com](http://www.pattools.com)
  - \$39 download patents as pdf

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## Word Search

- Word searches work only for patents issued after 1970
  - Google searches titles of older patents
  - FreePatentsOnLines same as PTO
- When a close patent is found:
  - Search the US classification of the patent
  - Check the **references** and **referenced by** patents

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## Classification Search

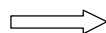
- Determine PTO classification for invention
  - Search PTO site: [www.uspto.gov/go/classification](http://www.uspto.gov/go/classification)
  - Use Classification from patent of similar device
- Search patents under that class/subclass
- If the patents don't seem right, look for another classification

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## PTO Classifications

PTO Search Page

### Related USPTO Services



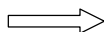
Tools to Help In Searching by Patent Classification

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR)

Patent Assignment Database

Downloadable Published Sequence Listings

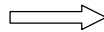
Text Version of Patent



Current U.S. Class:

Current International Class:

Field of Search:



244/158.1 ; 244/171.1; 244/171.7

D64G 1/40 (20060101); D64G 1/22 (20060101);  
B64G 1/54 (20060101)

244/158R,158A,159,54,160,162,172,2,173

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## Cross-Reference Search

- When a patent is located that is similar or related to the invention:
  - Look at the patents in the **Referenced By** list
  - Look at the **referenced** patents

	References Cited	<u>Referenced By</u>
	<hr/>	
	U.S. Patent Documents	
→	<u>3818700</u>	June 1974 Kralowicz et al.
	<u>3868072</u>	February 1975 Poparty
	<u>4557444</u>	December 1985 Jackson et al.
	<u>4614818</u>	September 1986 Dreader

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