



Patents – an introduction

Phuentsholing, Bhutan,
August 18, 2025

Topics

- What is a patent and how can it be used?
- What can be protected by a patent?
- The parts of a patent document
- Patent protection in other countries
- Utility models





What is a patent?

Grants the holder:

- right to prevent others from making, using or offering for sale, selling or importing a product that infringes his patent without his authorisation
- right to assign, sell or license these rights
- in countries/regions for which the patent was granted
- for a limited time (up to 20 years).



In return for this protection, the holder has to disclose the invention to the public.



A social contract



Patent applicant

Reveal
invention
(disclosure)



Get
exclusivity
(patent)

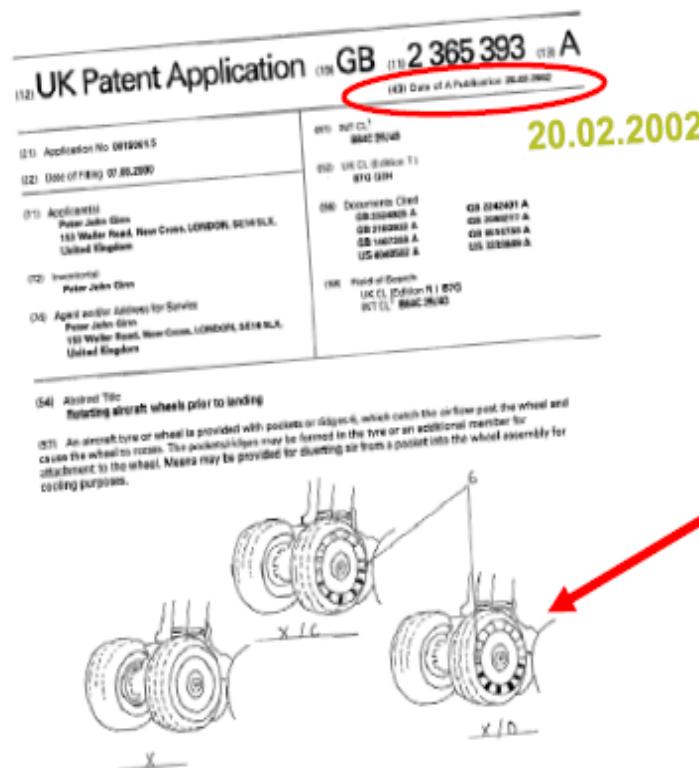


Public

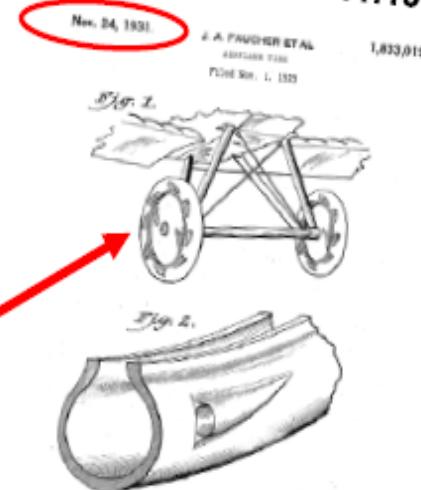


Do not re-invent the wheel

- 15-25% of all R&D efforts are wasted each year on inventions that have already been invented.



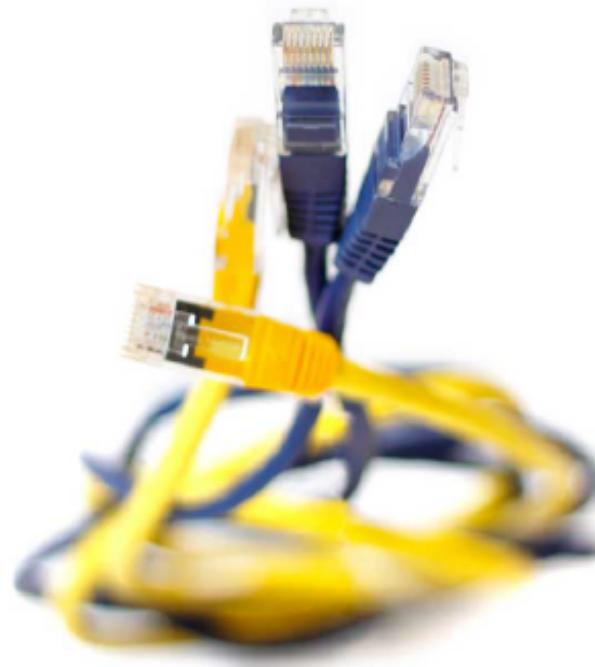
US-A-1833019 - 24.11.1931



How patents are used



- Protecting products and processes
 - increasing turnover and profits
 - attracting investors
- Licensing
- Cross-licensing
- Building reputation





Advantages and disadvantages of getting a patent

Advantages

- Exclusivity enables investment and higher returns on investment
- Strong, enforceable legal right
- Makes invention tradable (licence, sale)

Disadvantages

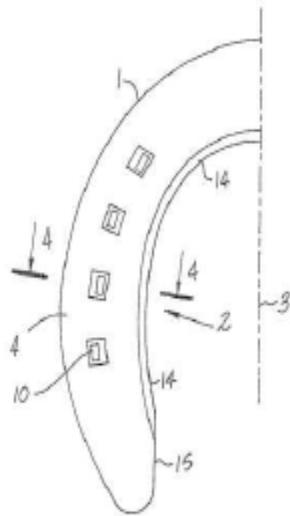
- Reveals invention to competitors (after 18 months)
- Can be expensive
- Grant may take 3-5 years
- Patent enforceable only after grant; proceedings can be costly



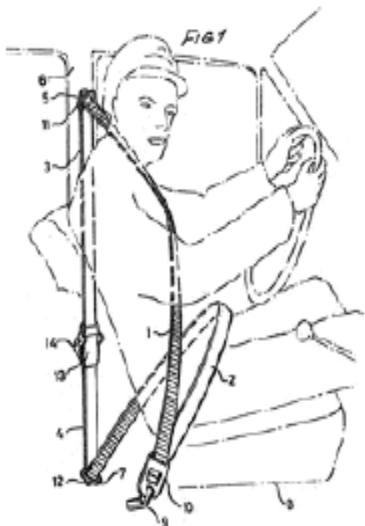
What can be patentable?

Technical inventions which solve technical problems:

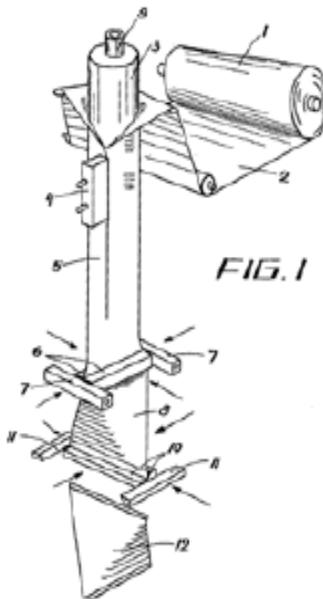
Horseshoes in rubber



Lap-diagonal belt



Tetra Pak





Example of patent



Hövding



Patentability Requirements

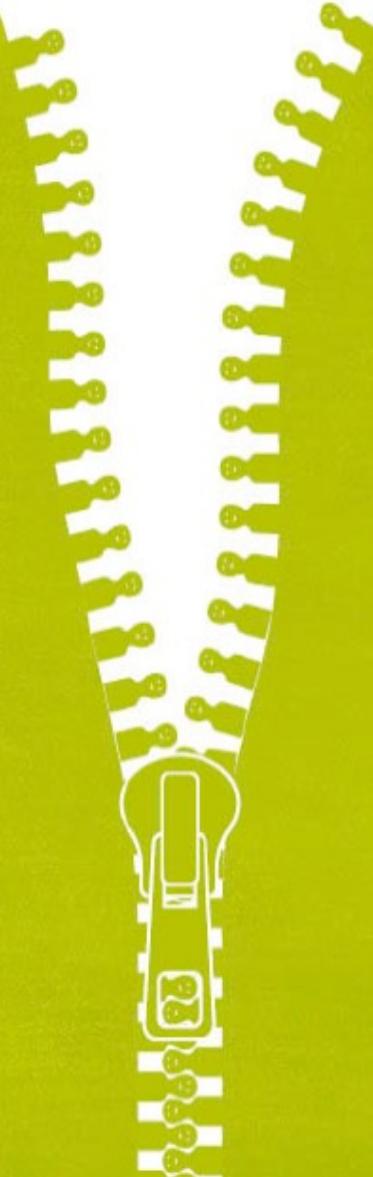
- Novelty
- Inventive step (non-obviousness)
- Industrial Applicability (utility)
- Patentable subject matter





The parts of a patent document

pp_illustrationer7.jpg





Information on the cover sheet

Date of publication



Date of filing

(43) Date of publication:
06.04.2005 Bulletin 2005/14



EP 1 520 497 A2

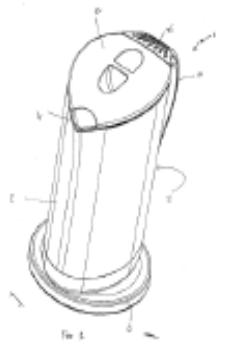
Applicant

(43) Designating Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CZ DE DK ES FI GR IE IS
HU IT PT SI SI SP TR
Designated Examiner States:
NL HR LT PL MK
(01) Priority: 05-10-2003 GB 0502037
27.02.2004 GB 0402038

(01) Applicant: RAYPIE LIMITED
Residential, Vale of Man M80 2PQ (GB)
Designated Contracting States:
BG FR IE

(54) Water Storage Apparatus

(57) A water treatment unit storage vessel has a reservoir 20 for untreated water and has means 21 to fluid communicate with the reservoir 20. A main treated portion



EP 1 520 497 A2

Title

Application number
Technical class
Inventor

The parts of a patent document



Description

- Field of the invention (the technical area to which the invention relates)
- Background of the invention (details of the prior art)
- Problem to be solved
- Solution to the problem
- Technical effects of the invention
- Brief description of the drawings
- Detailed description of at least one way of carrying out the invention (embodiment of the invention)





The parts of a patent document

Claims

- Define the scope of protection
- Allow people who read the patent document to understand what is being claimed
- May relate to a product, an apparatus or entity, or a process, use or activity
- Independent claims - the invention at its broadest scope





Utility models

(19)



Deutsches
Patent- und Markenamt



(10) DE 20 2012 006 551 U1 2012.09.27

(12)

Gebrauchsmusterschrift

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(43) Bekanntmachungstag im Patentblatt: 27.09.2012

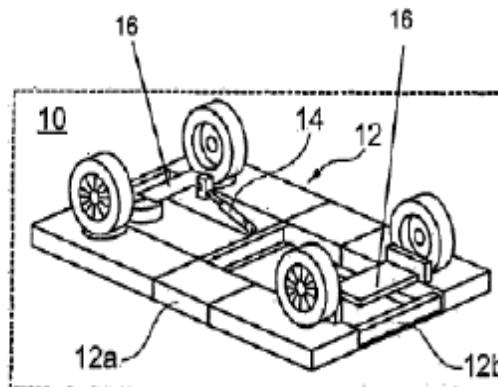
(73) Name und Wohnsitz des Inhabers:

AUDI AG, 85045, Ingolstadt, DE

Die folgenden Angaben sind den vom Anmelder eingereichten Unterlagen entnommen

(54) Bezeichnung: Fahrsimulator zur Bewegungssimulation eines Kraftfahrzeugs

(57) Hauptanspruch: Fahrsimulator (10) zur Bewegungssimulation eines Kraftfahrzeugs, umfassend eine Bodenplatte (12) auf der ein Versuchskraftfahrzeug abstellbar ist, sowie mehrere an der Bodenplatte (12) angeordnete und mit dem Versuchskraftfahrzeug in Wirkverbindung stehende Aktoren (14) zur Simulation von Vertikal- und/oder Längs- und/oder Querbeschleunigung und/oder Nick- und/oder Rollwinkel des Versuchskraftfahrzeugs, wobei die Aktoren (14) über mindestens eine am Unterboden des Versuchskraftfahrzeugs befestigbare Adapterplatte (16) mit dem Versuchskraftfahrzeug in Wirkverbindung stehen.





Utility models compared with patents

Utility models

- Available in limited number of countries
- No central filing in Europe
- Protection for usually up to 10 years
- Registered and published after a few months
- Generally no substantive examination (novelty, inventiveness, industrial applicability)
- Reviewed only in invalidation or infringement proceedings
- Often lower requirement of “inventive step”

Patents

- Available in most countries
- Central filing possible (e.g. EPO for Europe)
- Protection for up to 20 years
- Application published after 18 months
- Substantive examination (novelty, inventive step, industrial applicability)
- Grant or refusal after substantive examination procedure
- Requirement of “inventive step”

QUESTION?



Thank you