

5. General layout of drawings

If various figures are presented on the same sheet of drawings, they must be laid out according to the requirements for page-setting and numbering, and figures divided into several parts must comply with the requirements described in the subsections below.

5.1 Page-setting

The figures must be arranged on a sheet or sheets without wasting space, preferably in an upright position and clearly separated from one another. Where a figure cannot be presented satisfactorily in an upright position, it may be placed sideways with the top of the figure at the left side of the sheet. Thus, a figure which is broader than it is high may be set out so that the bottom of the figure lies parallel to and along the right-hand side of the sheet. In this case, if other figures are drawn on the same sheet, they should be set out in the same way, so that all the figures on a single sheet lie in the same position.

R. 11.13(j)

PCT AG I 5.135

5.2 Numbering of figures

The figures on the sheets of drawings must be numbered in Arabic numerals, consecutively, independently of the numbering of the sheets and, if possible, in the order in which they appear. The numbers of the figures should be preceded by "Fig.", irrespective of the language of the international application. Where a single figure is sufficient to illustrate the claimed invention, it should not be numbered and "Fig." should not appear. Numbers and letters identifying the figures must be simple and clear and may not be used in association with brackets, circles or inverted commas, except in the case of partial figures intended to form one complete figure, irrespective of whether they appear on one or several sheets. In this case the complete figure may be identified by the same number followed by a capital letter (for example: Fig. 7B).

*R. 11.13(k) and
49.5(f)*

AI 207(b)

*PCT AG I 5.141 and
5.142*

The figures should preferably be set out, as far as possible, on each sheet in ascending numerical order from left to right and from top to bottom. If one of two figures illustrates on a larger scale a detail from the other, each figure should be numbered separately and, if possible, consecutively.

5.3 Whole figure

One sheet of drawings may contain several figures. Where figures on two or more sheets form in effect a single complete figure, the figures on the several sheets must be so arranged that the complete figure can be assembled without concealing any part of any of the figures appearing on the various sheets.

R. 11.13(i)

PCT AG I 5.139

Partial figures drawn on separate sheets must always be capable of being linked edge to edge, that is to say, no partial figure may contain parts of another partial figure. A very long figure may be divided into several parts placed one above the other on a single sheet. However, the relationship between the different parts must be clear and unambiguous. It is therefore recommended that a smaller scale figure be included showing the whole formed by the partial figures and indicating the positions of the parts shown.