

# Goodlawyer

# Patent Search

# (US)

**Practice area:** Business, Startup, Intellectual Property, Patent

## What is a Patent Search (US)?

Patents are powerful legal documents that help inventors protect their hard work. But before getting a Patent, most inventors start with a Patent Search, sometimes called a Knockout Search to validate the originality of their idea and see similar inventions that are already patented. This also helps lower the chances of having a rejected patent application down the road. Once the idea has passed the Patent Search, it can move on to the [Provisional Patent](#), ending with a formal patent application in the United States. Note that if you are looking to commercialize an invention in multiple countries, you should consider an [International Patent Search](#) instead.

Patents provide substantial legal protection in the nation they are registered and are critical to the successful commercialization of new products, since they not only prevent the invention from being stolen, but also further enable the invention to be sold or licensed by the inventor. Patent applications can take up to 2-3 years before receiving an examination report from the Patent Office, so conducting a Patent Search followed by a Provisional Patent are important steps that ultimately lead to a higher chance of successfully patenting your invention.

### **Price: \$600 + Tax**

- \$ 500 Legal fee
- \$40 Service fee
- This price is based on a basic Patent Search (US) and is subject to additional fees if your matter is more complex. Your lawyer will always clarify any additional costs for your approval

### **Included**

- Project kick-off call to gather information, advise you, and answer your questions
- Patent searches in the US Patent Office databases
- A report on the searches, including similar or otherwise relevant patents

### **Not Included**

- Patent applications
- Searches in databases outside the US

## What is the process?

- 1. Book a call.** Pick a time to discuss your Patent Search with a patent lawyer.
- 2. Describe your invention.** Tell your lawyer what your invention is, providing as much detail as possible so they can conduct the search properly.
- 3. Receive your report.** Your lawyer will send you the results of their searches and advise you on how to proceed with your US patent application.

## Why book a Patent Search (US) through Goodlawyer?

**Avoid rejection.** Attempting to file a patent without conducting a search is likely to result in a costly and failed patent application. There are millions of patents filed in the USA, so it's important to make sure you're actually patenting something new.

**The easy way.** The patent database is publicly available, but there are more than 10 million patents registered and it is extremely difficult to use. Patent lawyers know how and what to search for and which existing inventions will be important to consider during your upcoming patent applications.

**The largest patent office on Earth.** Most inventions on Earth are patented in the USA. Even if they're patented in other countries, they're usually also patented in America. Having a successful patent in the USA makes it much easier to file your patent in other countries.

**Set yourself up for success.** A fast and affordable search through Goodlawyer is the first step toward registering a patent, which is often critical to commercializing your new invention.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I be able to communicate with my lawyer after the kickoff call?

Yes, absolutely. You can use the Goodlawyer platform to send messages and files. If substantially more communication is needed, your lawyer may request another call.

### How long does it take to conduct a Patent Search?

Patent Searches are relatively quick. You should expect to wait 5 - 10 business days before receiving your report. If your invention requires substantial searching, it could take longer but your lawyer will let you know.

### Is there anything I can't patent?

Patents only cover new and inventive technical ideas and improvements. This covers a wide swath of physical products and software, but will generally not include mere abstract ideas. Patents don't cover branding (this is protected by [trademark](#)) or creative expression (this is protected by [copyright](#)). Your lawyer will be able to give you a better idea on your kick off call. Additionally, for more information on intellectual property in general, you can check out our [blog](#).

### What is a Provisional Patent Application?

A Provisional Patent Application is essentially a placeholder application that can be filed to save your spot in line while you work out the granular details of your patent. It still includes things like a description and drawings, but does not include other critical parts of the application like declarations and oaths, etc. The provisional patent is NOT reviewed by the patent office and will not roll-over into an official patent application upon expiration. You must file a formal patent application before your provisional patent expires. Learn more about Provisional Patent Applications.

### **How long does a Provisional Patent Application (US) last?**

Provisional Patent Applications give the inventor 12 months to file a full patent. If they miss that window, they lose their place in line and competitors may be able to claim that they completed their application first.

### **How long does a full Patent Application (US) last?**

Successful patents last for 20 years from the date they are first filed with the office. Your patent will be publicly available for competitors to search and read, so it's important to be aware of your patent's expiration date and be ready to renew at the appropriate time.

### **Will my search uncover everything relevant to my Patent Application?**

Generally yes, but there are a couple of common areas where patents can be missed. First, patents that have been filed but not published in the database will never be uncovered. That means searches are likely to miss the last 18 months of data. Second, this search only includes US patent databases.

### **Do I need a lawyer in my province?**

No, you don't need a local lawyer to file a US patent.

“Highly recommend, the platform makes it incredibly easy to find a lawyer and communicate through the platform.

5-star Google review — Nicole, August 2020

[Book your Patent Search \(US\)](#)