

# Goodlawyer Patent Search (International)

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

## What is a Patent Search (International)?

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 a formal patent application in the desired country. An International Patent Search covers the USA as well as the [153 countries](#) who are part of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). Note that if you are looking to commercialize an invention solely in the USA or Canada, you should consider a [US 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 respective patent office, so conducting a Patent Search is an important first step that ultimately leads to a higher chance of successfully patenting your invention.

### **Price: \$3,000 + Tax**

- \$2,500 Legal fee
- \$500 Service fee
- This price is based on a basic Copyright Registration 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 patent offices in up to three countries.
- A report on the searches, including similar or otherwise relevant patents

### **Not Included**

- Provisional Patent applications
- Formal Patent Applications

## 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.

## Why book a Patent Search (International) 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 upon millions of patents filed in the world, so it's important to make sure you're actually patenting something new.

**The easy way.** Patent databases are publicly available, but they aren't user friendly and there are more than 10 million patents registered in the US alone. Patent lawyers know how and what to search for and which existing inventions will be important to consider during your upcoming patent applications.

**Maximize the reach of your invention.** Searching in multiple countries means setting yourself up to register patents in multiple countries. Increase your ability to license, sell, protect, and otherwise commercialize your invention around the world.

**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 an International Patent Search?

International Patent Searches take some time. Depending on the number of countries you're searching, a proper search can take up to four weeks. This is a critical first step to having successful patent applications so it's important to be thorough and not rush.

### 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 (the average length it takes for a formal patent application to be reviewed and added to the database). Second, this search only includes English-language patent databases. This doesn't include non-English countries or databases of academic journals.

### 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 more simple placeholder application that can be filed to save your spot in line for 12 months while you work out the granular details of your invention and produce a formal Patent Application. It still includes things like a description and drawings, but does not require as high a level of detail or 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. Note that not all countries have a Provisional Patent process — your lawyer can determine if and where a provisional application is required.

## How long does a Patent (International) last?

Each country that a patent is filed in has its own patent laws. In most countries, patents last approximately 20 years, but you can always ask your lawyer if you have specific questions about the duration of a patent in a specific country. If successful, 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.

## Can I register a Provisional Patent in Canada?

No, although a similar mechanism exists in Canada to help inventors claim their spot in the patent application line. If you are looking to file a patent in Canada, talk to your lawyer to see if this option will work for your specific situation.

## Do I need a lawyer in my province?

You might need a local lawyer depending on which countries you decide to file patents in. Your lawyer will let you know how to proceed with your applications after the patent search.

“Communication and affordability are outstanding, wouldn't hesitate to use for any future legal service needs!

5-star Google review — Melissa, August 2020

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