

Guide to Design Patent Search

I. How to Access

Visit <https://patpulse.com> in your browser, click " Log In / Sign Up," and then register using your email address. After registration, you will enjoy free membership.

II. Search Methods

(A) Text Search

1. In the text search box, you may enter a patent title, assignee name, patent number, etc.
2. When searching for a name, we recommend entering only part of the name (due to possible order variations in different countries). You can then use the filter options to quickly narrow down results, helping avoid omissions.
3. For patent number searches, do not include country codes (e.g., US, EU). Simply enter the relevant digits (or part of the number).
4. The "Cancel/Select All" button next to the Locarno Classification allows you to quickly choose desired categories or select all.

(B) Image Search

1. Uploaded images must not exceed 5 MB; otherwise, upload will fail.
2. Keep the image background as simple as possible. The subject should be the product itself, photographed from an angle that best shows the overall appearance.
3. The "Cancel/Select All" button next to the Locarno Classification lets you quickly select categories or all categories.

III. Search Results

(A) Text Search Results

1. The left filter panel lets you refine the initial results by various attributes. Click

the "Apply Filters" button to apply selections, and "Reset" to return to the original results.

2. The right area displays patent images; click on any image to view all images for that patent. To find similar patents based on a specific image, click the "Find Similar Patents" button below that image to perform an image search using that picture.

3. Next to the patent image is a brief patent information; clicking this area will open the detailed patent page.

4. Additionally, you can use the sorting options and items-per-page settings in the upper right corner.

(B) Image Search Results

1. The filter options are the same as for text search results.

2. Image search results are sorted by default from highest to lowest similarity.

3. Hover over a thumbnail to see brief patent information; click the thumbnail to open the detailed patent page.

4. Use the keyboard shortcuts Ctrl + "+" or Ctrl + "-" to zoom in or out on the thumbnails.

IV. Patent Details Page

(A) US Design Patents

1. Some US design patents include a terminal disclaimer to secure issuance. In such cases, the expiration date is not simply the publication date plus 15 years but is often shortened. Please refer to the information provided on this site for the specific expiration date.

2. Some US design patents may undergo reexamination (REX), meaning their validity has been challenged by a third party. Please check the relevant indicators on this site for the progress and outcome of such challenges.

3. Under the image section, click any image to enlarge it. To find similar patents based on a particular image, click the "Find Similar Patents" button below that

image to run an image search.

4. The priority information section relates to the initial effective date of the patent.

5. The legal information section covers all assignments and pledges related to the patent. This section may reflect changes in patent ownership, including reel/frame numbers, recording dates, assignor details (name, execution date), assignee details (name, address), and reason for change. For the most current owner of a US patent, please consult this section.

6. The patent family history section displays all parent and child applications, allowing you to trace the patent's family lineage. The current patent is highlighted in red. Scroll the mouse wheel to zoom in or out. You may also download an image of the patent family tree. For specific classifications of parent and child applications, please consult your AI assistant.

(B) EU/UK Designs

The details page for EU and UK designs is consistent in layout. Overall, it is similar to the US page, with the following differences:

1. EU/UK designs do not have terminal disclaimers.
2. EU/UK designs do not have a reexamination (REX) procedure, but they may be subject to invalidation proceedings; if applicable, this information appears in the legal information section.
3. EU/UK designs do not have separate assignment records; the applicant is always the current owner (in the event of a transfer, this site will update the applicant to the current owner promptly).

V. Usage Tips

1. For more precise image search results, after finding a similar patent, **select a patent image that best shows the overall product and run a new image search using that image** (click the "Find Similar Patents" button).
2. You can return to the search page at any time by clicking the company icon in the upper right corner of the menu or by clicking the Home button.