

7 Step Patent Search Strategy

4. Search for related patents and applications by classification and sub-classification. Record all relevant patent numbers

Advanced search

Select the collection you want to search in

Enter your search terms - CTRL-ENTER expands the field you are in

Enter one or more classification symbols

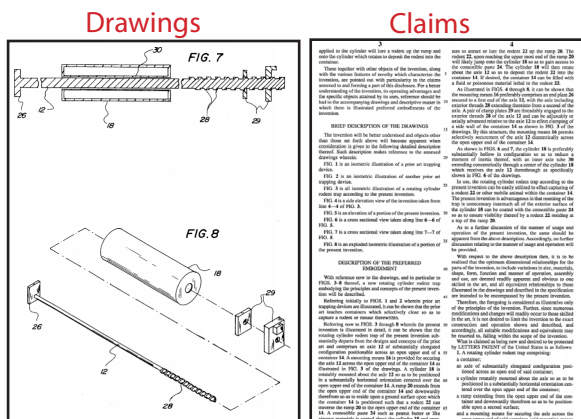
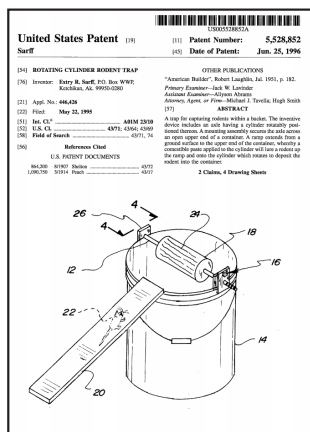
CPC

IPC

5. Access patents and applications by clicking on the 'Original document' tab on the left toolbar. Review all relevant patents and applications, including:

- Claims
- Specifications
- Drawings

Cover page of patent document



7 Step Patent Search Strategy

6. When reviewing patents, look for the 'also published as' heading

Also published as: [GB2481247 \(B\)](#)

This heading only appears in the Bibliographic data tab for inventions that have patents and/or applications in different countries

7. To find other relevant patents, review:

- Cited documents
- Citing documents
- International Patent Documentation Center (INPADOC) patent family

Look at all of the documents in the left toolbar

US5782034 (A)
Bibliographic data
Description
Claims
Mosaics
Original document
Cited documents
Citing documents
INPADOC legal status
INPADOC patent family

Note: This example only shows one keyword search and one CPC search. You should plan to go through many iterations of keyword and classification searches.

For more assistance:

1. Visit our complete patent research guide: guides.lib.umich.edu/patents

2. Contact your patent librarians:
Leena Lalwani
 734-936-2332 llalwani@umich.edu

Paul Grochowski
 734-647-5738 grocho@umich.edu



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A Quick Guide to Patent Research

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University of Michigan
 North Campus ~ Duderstadt Center
 2281 Bonisteel Boulevard
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2094

Starting a Patent Search

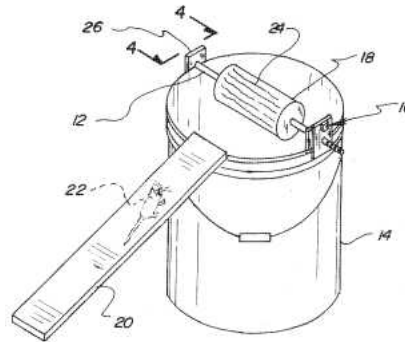
- **Patent searching is complex and time consuming.** Plan accordingly to spend several hours to learn the search process and evaluate results
- **When searching for patents, keep a detailed record of:**
 - » Keywords, classifications and sub-classifications searched
 - » Document numbers of patents and applications examined
- **Tools available at the Art, Architecture and Engineering Library (AAEL):**
 - » PUBWest and PUBEast databases
 - » Patent related books
- **Espacenet:** free online patent search service from the European Patent Office (EPO)
 - » worldwide.espacenet.com
 - ◊ Click 'Advanced Search'
 - » International coverage of over 80 million patents with complete cooperative patent classification (CPC)
- **Disadvantages of other patent search services:**
 - » United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO)
 - ◊ Only covers US patents
 - » Google Patents
 - ◊ Patent coverage unknown
 - ◊ Refers CPC searches to Espacenet or USPTO

7 Step Patent Search Strategy

1. **Brainstorm keywords related to invention**
 - Describe function and features of invention
 - Generate broad and narrow terms

Keywords for 'Rotating cylinder rodent trap':

- **Rodent**
mouse, mice, rodent, vermin, pest, mammal
- **Trap**
trap, trapping, capturing
- **Container**
bin, box, bucket, pail, receptacle
- **Rotating cylinder**
axle, pipe, platform, rod, bobbin, spindle
- **Ramp**
ladder, steps, inclined plane



2. Perform a keyword search in Espacenet (worldwide.espacenet.com)

Advanced search

Select the collection you want to search in

Worldwide - collection of published applications from 90+ countries

Enter your search terms - CTRL-ENTER expands the field you are in

Enter keywords in English

Title: plastic and bicycle

Rodent trap

Title or abstract: hair

7 Step Patent Search Strategy

3. In search results, look for patents and patent applications similar to your invention

- Look at the cooperative patent classifications (CPC)
- Record all relevant classification and sub-classification numbers

1. Rotating cylinder rodent trap
★ Inventor: SARFF, EXTRY R [US]
Applicant: SARFF, EXTRY R
CPC: A01M23/10

Look for relevant results

Bibliographic data: US5528852 (A) — 1996-06-25

★ In my patents list EP Register Report data error

Rotating cylinder rodent trap

Page bookmark	US5528852 (A) - Rotating cylinder rodent trap
Inventor(s):	SARFF, EXTRY R [US] ±
Applicant(s):	SARFF, EXTRY R
Classification:	- International: A01M23/10; (IPC1-7): A01M23/10
	- cooperative: A01M23/10
Application number:	US 19950446426 19950522
Priority number(s):	US 19950446426 19950522

Click on a CPC # to get more information

Symbol	Classification and description
A	HUMAN NECESSITIES
	Agriculture
A01	AGRICULTURE; FORESTRY; ANIMAL HUSBANDRY; HUNTING; TRAPPING; FISHING
A01M	CATCHING OR TRAPPING OF ANIMALS (apiculture A01K 47/00 to A01K 59/00; fishing A01K 69/00 to A01K 97/00; pesticides A01N); APPARATUS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS ANIMALS OR NOXIOUS PLANTS (equipment fitted in or to aircraft for dropping or releasing powdered, liquid or gaseous matter, e.g. pesticides, herbicides, B64D 1/16)

Icons
S subclassifications D definitions
i notes ! warnings