Patent Searching and Search Resources
Objectives

• What are the benefits of searching?

• Where can you search?

• How do you search using USPTO search tools?

• When should you search?
Inventor: John Walker
Issue Date: February 3, 1998
RADIO ATTACHABLE TO SPECTACLES

1. An assembly for releasably attaching a miniature radio to a pair of spectacles, comprising:
   a miniature radio;
   a pair of speakers positioned remote from said miniature radio;
   a pair of speaker wires extending from said miniature radio, a first speaker wire extending from said miniature radio to a first speaker and a second speaker wire extending from said miniature radio to a second speaker;
   a pair of truncate primary tubes having leading ends adapted to releasably engage trailing ends of respective ear pieces of said pair of spectacles;
   said miniature radio being clipped to a preselected truncate primary tube of said pair of truncate primary tubes;
   an elongate, flexible tube extending between respective trailing ends of said truncate primary tubes in interconnecting relationship therewith;
said elongate, flexible tube housing all but opposite ends of said speaker wires;

an opening formed in opposite ends of said elongate, flexible tube adjacent each truncate primary tube; opposite ends of said speaker wires extending through said openings so that said opposite ends are not received within said truncate primary tubes;
a truncate auxiliary tube attached to each of said truncate primary tubes;
said opposite ends of said speaker wires extending through said truncate auxiliary tubes and being attached to said respective speakers of said pair of speakers so that only said ear pieces occupy said truncate primary tubes when the assembly is attached to a pair of spectacles.
Benefits of searching?

• Helps determine if you want to file an application
• Identifies Prior Art related to your invention
• Familiarizes developments in the field
• Identifies competitor, expert and inventor in the field
• Familiarizes yourself with patent document
• Helps to determine the appropriate claim scope
Congress and the USPTO

- Congress passes the laws that govern the patent system, and the USPTO implements regulations to carry out those laws
  - 35 U.S.C. § 101—defines what is eligible to be patented
  - 35 U.S.C. § 102—must be new
  - 35 U.S.C. § 103—must be non-obvious
  - 35 U.S.C. § 112—must be sufficiently described, enabled, with best mode disclosed
Where can you search?

**USPTO resources**

- PubEAST and PubWEST
- Patent Full-text and image database (PatFT)
- Published Application Full-Text and Image Database (AppFT)
- Patent Application Image Retrieval (PAIR)
  - Complete prosecution history of patents and published applications
- Patent Assignment Database
  - USPTO record of patent ownership

Where can you search?

**USPTO resources**

- **The Public Search Facility**
  9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT Monday-Friday, except federal holidays
  207 S. Houston Street Dallas, TX 75202  469.295.9000
Where can you search?

**USPTO resources**

- **Patent & Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs)**
  - Texas – Austin; College Station; **Dallas**; Houston; Lubbock; San Antonio
Where can you search (cont.)?

Online Resources - Foreign

- espacent - European Patent Office (EPO)
- PATENTSCOPE - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- Korean Intellectual Property Rights Information Service (KIPRIS)
- State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) – China
- Other countries including Canada, Germany, Taiwan

Links to these sites all found at: www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search/
Where can you search (cont.)?

Additional Non-USPTO Resources

- Google Patent Search™ service
  - [https://patents.google.com/](https://patents.google.com/)
- Any web-based search engine
  - [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
  - Wayback Machine will show older cached versions of the webpage URL
- Think outside the box
  - Video websites
  - IEEE
  - Magazines, Newspapers, other Publications
  - Scientific Journals
  - Visit stores that may sell similar items
5,715,323
RADIO ATTACHABLE TO SPECTACLES
Search Strategies

- Use multiple different search strategies
- Forward/Backward Search on a good reference
- “Building Block” Method
  - Search various features or concepts individually
  - Combine features and concepts to get closer to the invention
- Using synonyms or multiple versions of words
  - Not everyone calls a widget a widget
  - We frequently accept British English spellings
  - We don’t always catch misspellings
Search Strategies

• Classification searching can be extremely helpful in EAST or WEST
  
  • Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) schedule
    G02B 2027/0178 – Eyeglass type, eyeglass details
    H04R 1/10 – Earpieces; Attachments therefor
  
  • Common classifications in prior art
    Class 455 / Subclass 575.2
    Telecommunications / Headgear
    Class 381 / Subclass 183
    Electrical Audio Signal Processing Systems and Devices / Headphone
Search Strategies-
Building Block/Synonyms-USPAT

• Search Primary Concepts Separately
  • Radio as well as synonyms
  • Sunglasses as well as synonyms

• Use “and” to find the union of the two sets of information
Search Strategies-
Building Block/Synonyms-USPAT

• First Search Statement

- Radio or receiver or tuner
- Include any other synonyms as well
Search Strategies-
Building Block Synonyms-USPAT

• Second Search Statement using truncation

  - glass$ or sunglass$ or eyeglass$ or spectacl$
  - Include any other synonyms as well
Search Strategies-
Building Block/Synonyms-USPAT

• Use the union of the two statements for a more refined search
(radio or receiver or tuner) AND (sunglass$ or eyeglass$ or spectacl$)

• The same techniques can be used in EAST and Google Patents
  • Note that EAST will save your previous search queries which can save you some time
Comparing Search Results

USPTO Resources

* Public EAST Training Modules are Available on the USPTO Website

Examiner Assisted Search Tool (EAST)

The EAST patent class is a fast-paced course for users with on-line database and Boolean logic experience. Text searching using indexes and the use of the browser screen for rapid patent retrieval. This is a four-hour class given once a month.

Application for EAST Training [PDF]

You may also wish to review an introductory online training package about EAST by linking to: The EAST Training Package Page

Comparing Search Results

USPTO Resources

Searching US Patent Collection...

Results of Search in US Patent Collection db for:
(((spectacle$ OR glass$ OR eyewear) AND radio) AND speaker$) AND strap$: 978 patents.
Hits 1 through 10 out of 978

- USPTO Patent Full-Text and Image Database @ uspto.gov
- 978 hits
- US Patent documents since 1975 ONLY
Comparing Search Results

USPTO Resources

- EAST Search Tool—what many examiners use, available at PTRCs
- 2,732 hits, US Patents and PGPubs
- Can sort results by date, classification, etc.
Comparing Search Results

Additional Non-USPTO Resources

- Google Patents
- Approximately 1,379 hits
- Includes Patents as well as possibly other documentation
Audio-Adapted Eyeglass Retainer

Inventor: Jean-Pierre M. da Silva, 2093 E. Artesian Way, #31, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121

Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,367,345.

Appl. No.: 342,903
Filed: Nov. 21, 1994

Related U.S. Application Data


Foreign Application Priority Data


Int. Cl.5 ........................................ H04R 25/00
U.S. Cl. .................. 381/183; 381/68.5; 351/123
Field of Search .................. 381/25, 68.5, 183, 381/187, 188, 205; 181/129; 351/123, 156, 157, 158; 24/3.3, 3.12, 11 F; 2/209; 455/344, 350, 351, 346-349
5,034,995
Head Supported Portable Radio Assembly

Inventor: Michael J. Ciccone, 3519 Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Appl. No.: 572,885
Filed: Aug. 27, 1990

Int. Cl.  A04B 1/08
U.S. Cl. 455/344; 455/351
Field of Search 455/344, 347, 350, 351; 2/13, 452, D11; 381/25, 74, 72, 183, 187, 68, 7, 69; D14/192, 224, 205, 252; D16/103-104, 107

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When should you search?

- During development of your idea?
- Prior to filing a Provisional Application?
- Prior to filing a Non-Provisional Application?

- Search may be an ongoing process, not necessarily a point in time.
Objectives

• What are the benefits of searching?

• Where can you search?

• How do you search using USPTO search tools?

• When should you search?
Thank You!