How to Prepare Patent Drawings

An Online Continuing Education Course for Engineers

Course Number: BS-2024

Credit: 2 Hours / 2 PDH / 2 CPD

How to Prepare Patent Drawings

Professional Engineers in all disciplines: a technical course in drafting rules for Patents.

Professional Development Course Materials
2.0 PDH credits

Course Instructors
Tracy P. Jong, Esq., Patent and Trademark Attorney
Cheng–Ning Jong, P.E., B.S., M.E., Registered Patent Agent
(Rochester, NY)
www.RochesterPatents.com

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THIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE, YOU WILL:

- Learn how to prepare formal patent drawings
- Learn about the role and purpose of patent drawings in the patent application
- Learn what media and paper size must be used
- Learn about proper margins to avoid rejection for informalities
- Learn about proper labeling and identification
- Learn about acceptable and desirable views
- Lear about proper shading
- Learn about the use of color drawings
- Learn about copyright notices
- Learn about the use of symbols
- Learn about numbering the drawings and views
- Learn about the use of flow diagrams and charts
- Learn about the specific requirements of design patent drawings

INTRODUCTION

At some point in your career, you may be required to produce patent drawings. This is true for both in-house engineers and those in private practice. The rules for patent drawings are fairly detailed, but once you have mastered the basics, you can easily produce patent drawings of all types. It can also be a great source of "side income" if your job permits moonlighting and you are careful about conflicts of interest with respect to the technologies you work with. Working with inventors can be fun work – the personalities and state of the art technology are rarely boring.

Drawings will be required for most inventions. This may be surprising to engineers, but engineering drawings are not acceptable as patent drawings. It may also be surprising that color drawings are not preferred, despite the technology available to produce them with ease. Patent drawings have specific standards that must be adhered to, and are generally not the same as the standards for engineering drawings. Engineering drawings, however, may be used as informal drawings in some cases.

In general, there are three types of patent drawings: utility patent drawings, design patent drawings and plant patent drawings. This PDH course will focus primarily on utility and design patent drawings since these are the most commonly encountered drawings for most engineers.

Utility patent drawings are used with inventions such as machines, equipment, articles of manufacture, compositions of matter (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biological agents, for example) and new uses of existing devices. The drawings support the written description of the invention and form part of the disclosure.

Design patent drawings are used for unique ornamental designs. Ornamental designs may comprise surface ornamentation and/or novel configurations of parts that add to their esthetics. In design patents, the drawings are the "meat" of the specification and are used to describe and claim the patented features.

Plant patent drawings are used for patents on asexually reproduced plants (e.g. hybrids formed by grafting and cutting). In these drawings, the distinguishing characteristics of the plant are depicted. These are one of the rare cases when color drawings are used.

Formal drawings meeting patent guidelines will be required for utility and design patent applications prior to issuance. It may be permissible to use informal drawings at the early stages, however, it is preferable to do a formal set in all cases when engaged. It rarely takes more effort. Informal drawings should be the province of non-engineer scientists or inventor laypersons. Experienced patent draftsmen claim that the Patent Office is relaxing its strict stance on drawing requirements, however, it certainly is best to avoid drawing rejections for informalities. Issues as to who should

be responsible for the cost of the corrections and any filing fees associated with the refiling of corrected drawings are less than comfortable situations.

Informal drawings may be used for provisional applications and, in some cases, for utility applications when not rejected by the US Patent Office. Informal drawings are essentially drawings that do not meet the Patent Office guidelines.

In process inventions or software patents, drawings may consist of standard industry flowcharts or block diagrams describing the steps. The appropriate industry standard designations should be used whenever possible. This introduction of ambiguity or confusion in the patent prosecu

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