LAWSON & PERSSON, P.C.
RECORD OF INVENTION

INSTRUCTIONS

The attached form, and additional documentation that is requested below, are intended to provide us with sufficient information to prepare a price quotation and lead-time for the preparation of your patent application. Information provided in connection with this form is held in strict confidence and may fall within the attorney/client privilege. Therefore, any and all information pertaining to the invention should be disclosed.

While the disclosure process is somewhat time consuming, the time spent is well worth the effort. A comprehensive disclosure typically results in a more comprehensive application at a lower cost. Preparing a comprehensive disclosure often allows the inventor(s) to more fully appreciate the true scope of their invention, its strengths and limitations, and areas where further work may be worthwhile. The key to preparing a disclosure that will result in the broadest patent protection possible is a dedication to completeness.

You should note that your disclosure may be also used to document a date of conception or reduction to practice of your invention, providing evidence that may be used in later legal proceedings involving your patent application. In order to provide adequate documentation of a date of conception for your invention, lines should be drawn through any blank spaces left on any page of your disclosure and mistakes should not be erased but, rather, corrected by drawing a single line through the mistake and neatly placing the correction close to it. Finally, each page of the disclosure should be signed and dated by the inventor(s) prior to submission to our office and space should be left below this signature to allow us to sign and date each page as witnesses to your disclosure.

I. COMPLETING THE RECORD OF INVENTION FORM

The attached Record of Invention form contains a number of questions relating to the inventors, witnesses of the invention, development events leading up to the preparation of the disclosure, invention ownership issues, and known prior art inventions. Most of these questions are self-explanatory. However, if you are unclear of the proper response to any question, we invite you to contact us so that a complete form may be signed and submitted.

Please note that each inventor, and the attorney filing for a patent application, has a legal duty to disclose to the patent office any information that is material to the examination of the invention. At the time of filing the application, each applicant must attest, under oath, that the inventor has supplied all the information known at that time and, if any further information comes to light during the prosecution of the application, that such information must be subsequently discussed. Failure to perform this duty may result in your later issued patent being unenforcable. Thus, any patents, journal articles, product data sheets, catalogs, or records of prior sales that are known to you, and relate to your invention, should be disclosed and copies should be provided to us.

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II. WRITING YOUR DISCLOSURE

A full written disclosure of your invention should be prepared and submitted with the Record of Invention form. This disclosure should include the information described below, be signed and dated by the inventor(s), and witnessed by at least two non-inventors who swear that they have read and understood the disclosure.

1. Title

According to the U.S. Patent Office's Manual of Patent Examination Procedure, the title of the invention should be accurate and descriptive and should preferably be between two and six words long. However, care should be taken to avoid unnecessarily narrowing the title to one particular embodiment of the invention. Therefore, you should select the words that are most descriptive of your invention, while broadly encompassing all possible embodiments.

2. Background of the Invention

The background of the invention should include a description of the general problem that you're your invention is intended to solve, a description of any products or patents that are related to your invention, and a brief explanation of why these products or patents are not successful at solving the problem and/or why your invention is an improvement over these products.

In writing the background of the invention, you should answer the following questions:

- How is the function of the invention being done today?
- What product or patent is most similar to your invention and why?
- Is there existing products or patents that perform the same function in a different way?
- How does your invention perform its function different from, or better than, these existing products or patents?
- Are specific features of your invention found in existing products or patents and, if so, which ones?

3. Theme and Summary of Your Invention

The next step in the process of writing your disclosure is to identify the theme of your invention. The theme of the patent application is the central idea that unifies the structural parts of the application. The theme organizes and defines the cooperation of the critical elements of the invention as they provide a solution for the stated problems to be overcome. Every part of the patent application must be related to the theme so that the application exhibits a cohesiveness of thought and clear focus of purpose. Accordingly, the ideal application should not be a receptacle for every inventive idea under development, even if those ideas are related. Rather, it must be a "smart" rifle shot that leads towards the center of the bull's eye. This is the most difficult part of the disclosure. However, if well done, the remaining part of the application should flow rather effortlessly.

In developing the theme, three or four sentences should be sufficient to identify the central idea of even the most complex invention. These sentences should relate both to the primary problems inherent in other devices, and to how the invention solves these problems. By keeping the theme firmly in mind during the remaining work, the focus of your disclosure will be sharp, enabling your patent attorney, the patent examiner and, ultimately, others skilled in this art, to gain a rapid and full appreciation for the creative contribution that your invention will make.

The theme provides the introduction for the summary section and, in some cases, the theme alone may serve as the summary. The summary should include a concise statement of the technical description of the invention, including what is new to the art to which the invention pertains. If the invention is basic in nature, the entire summary may be directed to the description of the invention itself. If the invention is an improvement on an old invention, the summary should include the technical description of the improvement. If the invention is a compound or composition where the process for making and/or using is not apparent, the summary should explain the nature of use or making.

The summary should not state speculative applications of the invention nor should it compare the invention with prior inventions. Rather, it should be a factual exposition of how the invention accomplishes its intended function.

4. Aspects of the Invention

The aspects section is sometimes referred to as the "objects" or "advantages" section and includes a recitation of all of the problems solved by the invention that cannot be solved by the prior art. The aspects of the invention should be listed with the most important first. This section provides the reason why people should care about your invention and why people should want to buy it or use it.

This section should mirror the deficiencies found in present or past attempts to solve the problems now solved by your invention. If other devices are too expensive, it is an aspect of your invention to be lower in cost. If other devices take up too much space, it is an aspect of your invention to be smaller. In addition, if your invention provides additional advantages that aren't necessarily drawbacks or deficiencies in the prior art, these advantages should also be listed.

5. Drawings

Drawing figures should be provided in order to explain the invention and the relationships between the various elements of the invention. The first drawing figure should be the most basic embodiment of the invention. In order to develop this basic embodiment, try to visualize the essence of your invention, as provided by the theme, and draw a figure that most clearly illustrates the critical elements. All bells and whistles and other non-essential parts should be eliminated. Other views, if necessary, should proceed in a logical manner, i.e., from the broad to the specific.

Do not try to show everything in a single view. Rather, a set of views should be presented to provide a complete understanding of the basic embodiment of the invention. Alternative embodiments should be presented in separate figures. Drawings of prior inventions, if needed for

comparison to the invention, should also be presented. If a prototype exists, a photograph is perfectly acceptable if it clearly shows the invention. The idea is to develop the drawings using the least amount of effort, yet still provide sufficient detail to fully illustrate the salient parts of the invention.

Please note that, if you are able to prepare your drawings electronically, we prefer that these drawings be provided to us in hard copy form and electronically in either DWG or DXF file format so that we may edit them as needed when we prepare your patent application..

6. Detailed Description Of The Invention

This section is the heart of the disclosure and should have sufficient detail to allow us to describe your invention in a manner that permits others to practice your invention and to identify what you consider to be the best mode of practicing your invention. This is important, as the failure to provide a proper level of detail will increase the cost of your patent application and may result in the omission of important details. This does not mean that the invention must have been built at the time that you submit your disclosure, or that you must conduct extensive technical research or engineering that would be sufficient to allow you build the invention. However, you should attempt to provide as much technical information as you have in your possession at the time the disclosure is prepared.

Each of the elements of the invention should be identified in the text and on the drawings. This is preferably done by the use of numerals, starting with number 10 and proceeding using only even numbers. All elements should be listed in logical order with a line inserted to point to the referenced part. Where the use of sub-elements is required, the parts should be listed from the broadest to the specific, e.g., gear 26, cog 28, keyway 30. Key elements, i.e., those essential for the invention to function as intended, should have an asterisk placed on the element number. Numbering the drawings in this manner reduces the time that it takes for us to prepare your application and, consequently, will reduce your overall cost. However, you may choose to label the drawings in any manner that you feel will best describe the elements shown.

The detailled description should include a list of elements that contains the names of each element and corresponding reference numerals. Element names should use standard terminology wherever possible and abbreviations or acronyms should be avoided. Where applicable, the source for parts manufactured by others should be listed, e.g., Motorola Part No. 1234. If alternatives could be used, these alternatives should also be listed. For example, if urethane plastic is preferred, but polypropylene could also be used, indicate that fact in the list of elements. Finally, every figure in which the element is referenced should be cited in order to prevent listing parts that are not shown in a drawing.

This detailed description section also serves as the dictionary for the claims. Therefore, each element of each drawing figure, its interconnection with other elements, its purpose, and any other relevant physical characteristics such as materials, dimensions, etc. should be provided. You should also provide a detailed explanation of the operation of the invention, if it is not apparent from the previous description.

In writing the detailed description of the invention, you should answer the following questions:

- What parts (steps, if a method) make up the invention, in its best or preferred form?
- What does each contribute to the invention?
- Which parts are new to this invention, either in form or usage, and which are old?
- In what way do the parts interact to make the invention work?
- For each part, indicate if the part, its form or interconnection were ESSENTIAL to the invention i.e. would the invention still work if this part were not included?
- In what ways could the parts or steps be changed or equivalent parts substituted without changing the basic invention?
- Is there a generic description for any of the parts you listed?
- Could the functions of any of the parts be changed, combined, eliminated?
- What could be added to make the invention work better?
- What could be left out?
- Can your invention be used for anything other than its preferred use?
- What possible modifications to the invention would prevent it from working?
- Are there any critical ranges of size, weight, pressure, etc. for any of the parts of your invention?
- Must some parts be made of specific substances?

7. Claims

Patent claims constitute the legal description of your invention and define its enforceable scope. Accordingly, patent claims require the use of precise legal language. For this reason, we do not recommend that you attempt to write claims to your invention. However, we do ask that you provide an outline of the what you hope the claims will cover and a list of those features that, when combined with the basic features of your invention, are not used in the prior art. This will assist us in understanding your goals and in preparing our initial set of claims.

III. SUBMITTING YOUR RECORD OF INVENTION

Once you have completed your Record of Invention, you should forward a copy to our office along with a CD or other electronic media onto which the text of your disclosure is saved, a completed Record of Invention Form, and copies of the information requested on the form. We will review the information that you have provided, render a preliminary patentability opinion based upon this information, prepare a fixed fee quotation and estimated lead-time for completion of your patent application, and forward an authorization to begin work on the application.