Welcome!

Welcome and thanks in advance for taking our course. Below are instructions for entering the course.

About This Course

In developing the course, we are not trying to replace professional patent searching. Instead, we want to help inventors research and refine their inventions to get them closer to introducing a successful product. Years of experience have shown that inventors will often start spending money (often money they do not have) on inventions that are not developed enough to be successful. We want to help inventors help themselves by doing the initial searching and figuring out first, what they're up against in the prior art and second, what improvements they could make to their inventions to make them both patentable and commercially viable.

Course Outline

1. Introduction
   • About The Course
   • You're Doing it Wrong (when you Google for patents)
   • What You'll Need for Your Patent Search
2. Patent Primer
   • Prior Art, References, Rejection Types
   • Looking at Patent Documents
   • Limitations and Other Caveats of Patent Searching
3. Search Tools
   • Search Tools Introduction
   • Google Patents - More than Just Google
   • Patent Classification - The Only Thing that Matters in Patent Searching
   • FreePatentsOnline and USPTO - Useful Search Tools "for special occasions"
   • Pros and Cons of Some Popular Search Services
   • Spreadsheets and Patent Research
   • Walking through the Advanced Spreadsheet
   • Spreadsheet Functions & Downloadable Templates
4. Search Tutorial
   • Patent Search Tutorial Introduction
   • Elements and Keywords for the Search
   • Broad Searching
   • Parent Class Searching
   • Subclass Searching
   • Reviewing Search Results
   • How Will I Know When I'm Done?
   • Refining the Invention
5. Advanced Search Tools & Strategies
   • Assignment and PAIR Searching
   • Determining if a Patent is In Force
   • International Patent Searching - Getting Out Into the Rest of the World
   • Citation Searching - Letting the Patent Office do Some of the Work For You
6. Conclusion