



**Invention Disclosure Form**

TITLE OF INVENTION: \_\_\_\_\_

INVENTOR(S):

	Full Name (LAST, First)	Citizenship	Home Address
(1)			_____ _____ _____
(2)			_____ _____ _____
(3)			_____ _____ _____
(4)			_____ _____ _____

U.S. Protection

\*\*\*Please note that under U.S. patent laws, a patent application must be filed within **one (1) year** of the earliest date of disclosure or offer for sale.\*\*\*

Foreign Protection

\*\*\*Please note that under the patent laws of most foreign countries, we must file a patent application **before** any public disclosure or offer for sale. **Please contact us immediately if you desire foreign protection for this invention and you are soon about to offer it for sale or disclose it publicly.**\*\*\*

**Planned Date of Earliest Public Disclosure of Invention:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note this date will be removed in the final draft to be filed with the USPTO)

## **INVENTION DETAILS**

1. Technical field:

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2. General statement of what the invention is:

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3. What problem were you trying to solve?

*Comment:* To begin, consider that there must have been a problem. Try to focus on the functional problem encountered, whether mechanical, electrical, thermal, labor required, performance needed, etc.

Also, if you can locate relevant technical publications discussing the problem, attach copies here. Or at least give reference citations, so your attorney can obtain copies.

A special case is the problem of cost reduction. If you want to define the problem in terms of cost reduction, you're on the right track, but don't give this as your answer here. Instead, further analyze the cost problem in terms of the underlying functional problem which, if solved, will translate into the desired cost savings.

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4. Closest known prior art:

(i.e., How have others tried to solve this problem in the past?). Describe the disadvantages or shortcomings associated with each prior art listed.

*Comment:* We do not exist in a vacuum. There is generally no absolutely new problem-only variations of old problems. Thus, how has this problem been solved before? These prior solutions to your problem are known as prior art.

While only one (1) example of a prior solution is required, the more examples, the better. Also, while you are not required to search for prior art, you ARE required to disclose to the Patent Office all prior art that you are personally aware of.

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5. Complete this sentence. This invention is the first ....

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6. Details of the invention:

- Please list the main components or steps of your invention, and describe each thoroughly. Make sure to name each part or step, and describe how each works.
- How do these components or steps work together?
- How is the invention used?

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7. Purpose of the invention:

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8. Circumstances of conception:

- How did you come up with this idea?

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9. Describe the problems associated with the prior art that are solved by your invention:

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10. Depict your invention using at least one drawing, photograph, or other visual. Referring to the visual, describe how your invention works and point out the novel features, including functional and/or structural differences between your invention and the prior art (with explicit reference to attached drawing and photographs if available):

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11. Why do you believe your solution would NOT have been obvious to another inventor working on the same problem at the same time? (List all reasons.)

*Comment:* To be patentable, your invention must be non-obvious. This means the invention would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to another inventor working on the same problem.

The Patent Office considers the information provided in response to this question as *direct* (or primary) evidence of your invention's non-obviousness. As a result, give any and all reasons, regardless of how significant you personally believe them to be. No reasons should be considered as trivial or silly. (In practice, some answers given here later prove to be legally valid reasons that prove the patent's validity!)

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12. Describe all results achieved by your solution. (What happened? Start with results achieved relative to solving your problem. But don't stop there; give all other results as well.)

*Comment:* There must be at least some results relative to solving the problem, or else there would be no solution to the problem. So give these results first. Then list all other results, including those not directly related to the problem.

- List all possible answers here, both hard results--such as numerical values, graphs, curves, plots, charts, etc.--and soft results--such as worked better, improved error rate, or made customer happy. Also, give sales results, if available, or any other evidence of commercial success.

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13. Describe the advantages of your solution over the prior solution. (Compare your solution versus the prior solution. As above, start with advantages relative to your problem. Then give all other advantages, also.)

*Comment:* Your solution must have at least some advantages over the prior solution relative to solving the problem, or else you would not prefer your solution over the prior solution! So give these advantages first. Then list all other advantages, including those not directly related to the problem.

Include every advantage you can think of. Also, if you can support any advantage with analytical results, documentation, or other evidence, then include these items, too.

Examples:

- Reduces cost by 10% (or whatever) per unit.
- Reduces power by 10% (or whatever) per unit.
- Improves reliability by 10% (or whatever), thus decreasing annual maintenance costs by 10% (or whatever) per unit.
- Improves response time (or other measure of performance) by 10% (or whatever).
- Reduces number of integrated circuits (or other component parts) required by 10% (or whatever) per unit.

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14. Variants or alternative approaches of the invention:

- Please explain how your invention may be used differently.
- Please explain how your invention may be structured differently.

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15. Identify laboratory notebook numbers and pages where experimental data is recorded: (Please make copies and attach to this form)

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