

Invention Disclosure Form

Law Office of Mark Wisnosky

Invention Disclosure Form

1 Introduction

This form is provided to help document your invention to submit to an attorney for drafting and filing with a government patent office. Although this form is long, use only those portions that you do not otherwise have documented. Do not spend time re-formatting or re-writing information that you already have documented. Hopefully much of what is requested has already been written down and can simply be attached or copied and pasted into this form. You should supplement this form with any other documentation around your invention. Please error on the side of submitting more information rather than less.

Use your imagination as you describe your invention. Include not just the specific use that you are making of the invention but other possibilities. Your patent application should describe the broadest uses of your invention. Also include relevant ideas that did not work. These are important in helping to define the boundaries of your invention.

A time line and narrative of how you developed the invention is often very useful. Include a list of the problems you needed to solve to make your invention work. The problems that were the hardest to solve or took the most time to solve often represent the best claims and can be overlooked.

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2 Background Information

2.1 Inventors

An inventor is anyone who made a significant contribution to the inventive process. Who contributed ideas or solutions to the invention? An inventor is not everyone who worked on the invention. Someone who helped build a prototype following the direction of others is not an inventor. Someone who helped build a prototype and in the process contributed solutions to problems may be an inventor. Add pages as required to list all inventors. Country of Citizenship and Residency is required by the patent office.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Citizenship _____

Residency _____

Employer _____

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Citizenship _____

Residency _____

Employer _____

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2.2 Brief Description

Title of the Invention _____

Describe the Invention in general terms. What does it do? What are the key parts? How do they work?

2.3 Important Dates

For each of these questions please provide your best estimate of the date when the event in question happened. If an exact date is not know, provide a month and year. Dates are important to help establish your priority to the invention.

2.3.1 Conception:

When is the first date you conceived of the invention or when did you begin to work on the invention? _____.

2.3.2 Reduction to Practice

If you built a prototype, when did you build the first prototype? _____.

2.3.3 Disclosure

When did you first tell someone else about your invention? _____.

Have you published the invention? If so, when?

Where? _____.

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Have you used the invention anywhere the general public might see it?
If so, when? Where? _____.

2.3.4 Commercialization

Have you sold or attempted to sell the invention? If so, when? _____.

2.3.5 Other Patent Applications

Have you already filed a patent application, perhaps in another country, for your invention?

Type: _____

Date: _____

Serial Number: _____

Country: _____

Filing Attorney: _____

3 Claims of Others

It is important to understand early any claims others might make to your invention.

3.1 Employment

Did any of the inventors work on the invention as part of their employment? _____

Who is the employer? _____

What is the inventor's job? _____

Did any inventor use any facilities belonging to another company to work on the invention? If so, describe the circumstances.

Do any of the inventors have an employment agreement that assigns rights to inventions? _____

3.2 Consulting or Contracting

Was the invention made while working as a consultant or doing contract work for another? _____

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For whom? _____.

Is there an agreement regarding ownership of intellectual property? _____.

3.3 Government Funding

Did any government agency provide funding for an inventor during the development of the invention? _____

Did any inventor use any government facilities while working on the invention? _____

4 Business plans

A patent can be a significant business investment. To maximize your return on this investment it is important to know how you plan to use the patent.

4.1 Do you plan to make and sell the invention yourself?

Briefly describe the value chain. If you know it also include an estimate of the costs and value for each step in the value chain. Protection is most important at steps of highest costs or profits. Also include likely geographic locations for each step. For example is manufacturing taking place in Asia and are most customers / largest markets in the US or Europe or Asia?

Suppliers _____

Manufacturers _____

Distributors _____

Customers _____

Who is your competition? Who would likely have inventions neighboring yours?

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4.2 Do you plan to license your invention to others?

Which companies are the license candidates? _____

Why do they want your invention? _____

To which product or process would they apply your invention? _____

5 Detailed Description of Your Invention

A patent requires that the invention is new, useful and not obvious and that it is described in sufficient detail so that someone else with normal skill in the relevant field could practice the invention by reading the patent. The detailed description must supply sufficient information to meet these requirements. This will require additional pages attached to this form.

5.1 Include for Your Invention

Drawings

Flow Charts

Specifications

Test procedures

Test results

Any other relevant documents (eg marketing brochures).

Describe in as much detail as you know: the parts of the invention, what the parts do, the advantages of the parts of the invention over what has been done in the past. Describe any alternative solutions. Include both successful and unsuccessful testing of your invention.

Describe which version of the invention has worked the best thus far.

5.2 Time Line of the Invention

A time line often provides a better description and can uncover aspects of the invention that otherwise would be overlooked. Please provide a brief quarterly description of the invention process. One or two sentences will suffice. What aspect of the invention were you working on in each time period. What were the problems attacked and solved, how were they solved, who contributed to the solution.

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Conception Date: _____

Activity in 1st Quarter after Conception date:

Activity in 2nd Quarter after Conception Date:

Activity in 3rd Quarter after Conception Date:

Etc.

5.3 Research

Describe other sources for information regarding your invention. This is not a recommendation to do extensive literature research nor is it an admonition to not look at the relevant literature. Patent law requires that you disclose any known relevant patents and literature.

What are the relevant books, journals, catalogs and web pages.

If you know of other relevant patents, list them.

6 Signed and Witnessed

Sign and date the disclosure form. If you are saving the form to be submitted to an attorney later, have a trusted person who would understand the disclosure also sign and date as a witness.

Inventor _____ Date: _____

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Inventor _____ Date: _____

The following Witness has read and understands the disclosure and agrees not to disclose any of the above confidential information:

Witness _____ Date: _____

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