

UNITED STATES
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A technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, possibly a camera lens or a similar optical device, shown in a cutaway view. The drawing is rendered in a light gray color and is overlaid on a white background. It features numerous numbered callouts (e.g., 28, 34, 38, 42, 46, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 82, 84, 86, 90) pointing to various components of the assembly. The drawing is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide.

Search like an examiner



UNITED STATES
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Overview

- Benefits of a complete & thorough search
- Guidelines for a complete search
- Identifying what to look for
- Formulating your search
 - Where should you look
 - What tools are available for searching
 - Conducting a search with Patent Public Search
- Evaluating the results of your search

Benefits of a complete and thorough search

- A complete search allows the best references to be found as early as possible
- The easiest Office Action to write is the one with the best references
- A complete search will help avoid allowance of unpatentable claims

Guidelines for a complete search: what should be searched?

- When determining the field of search, three reference sources must be considered:
 - Domestic patent documents (including patents and patent application publications)
 - Foreign patent documents
 - Non-patent literature (NPL)
- None of these sources can be eliminated from the search unless the examiner has and can justify a reasonable certainty that no references, more pertinent than those already identified, are likely to be found in the source(s) eliminated

See *MPEP* § 904.02



Guidelines for a complete search: what should be searched? (cont.)

- The search should cover related patents and applications
 - Both foreign and domestic patents and applications filed by applicant or the assignees of the application should be considered
 - In all continuing applications, the parent application should be reviewed by the examiner for pertinent prior art

See *MPEP § 904*

Identifying related documents

- To identify related applications, patents, or NPL, answer these questions:
 - Who is the inventor?
 - Who is the assignee?
 - Is there a family of related patents and/or applications?
 - Are any relevant copending applications and/or related patents and/or NPL identified in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) or in the Background of the Invention?

Identifying the inventor

- Once inventor's identity is determined, one can determine if the inventor:
 - Has filed any other related patent applications
 - Has published any NPL such as conference proceedings, books, articles, web pages
 - Has written a dissertation for a PhD or Master's degree

Identifying related patents or applications

- Knowledge of related patents or applications will allow you to:
 - Review references cited in applications/patents which disclose related subject matter that may also be pertinent to your application
 - Review classification information of the related applications/patents to help plan a classification search.
 - Make appropriate double-patenting rejections

One way to help plan a search...

- First, identify the problem(s) the applicant attempts to solve
- Then, identify the features of the invention, claimed or not, that solve this problem(s)*
- Construct a sentence or two that relate to these features
- Use the sentences to help determine your classification search as well as your text search

**Note, the claimed invention must always be searched but the search must also include areas relevant to the invention as it is described in the specification in order to find the best art*

Patent Public Search

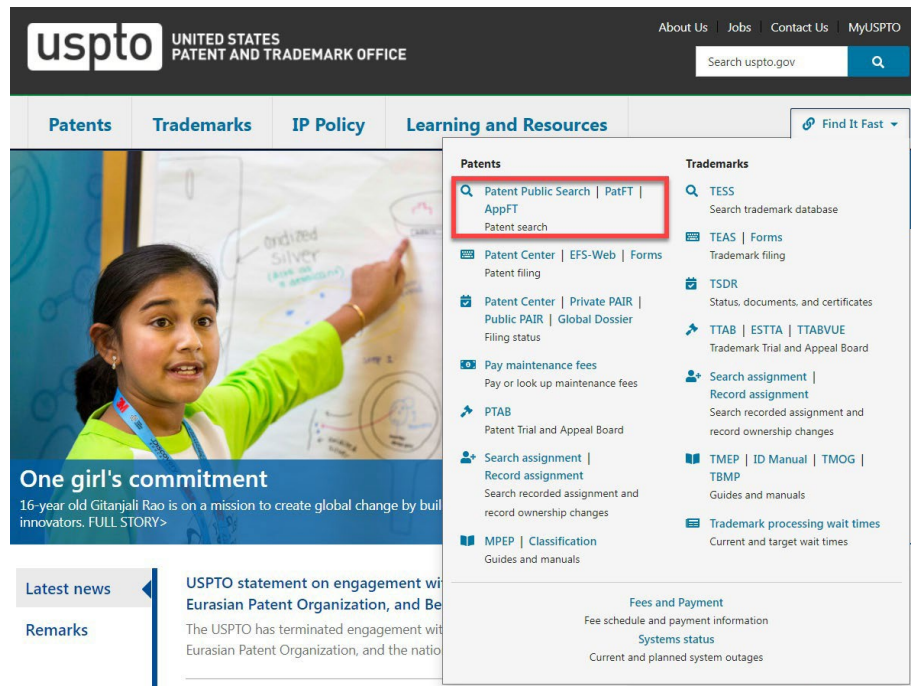
The newest patent search tool

- Patent Public Search is a new patent search tool available for free from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's website (www.uspto.gov)
- It has many new customer friendly features that help it stand out from previous patent search tools



How to access Patent Public Search

The quickest way to access Patent Public Search is from the Find It Fast menu on the USPTO home page



The screenshot displays the USPTO website interface. At the top, the logo for the United States Patent and Trademark Office is visible, along with navigation links for 'About Us', 'Jobs', 'Contact Us', and 'MyUSPTO'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'IP Policy', and 'Learning and Resources'. A 'Find It Fast' dropdown menu is open, showing a list of services. Under the 'Patents' section, 'Patent Public Search | PatFT | AppFT | Patent search' is highlighted with a red box. Other services listed include 'Patent Center | EFS-Web | Forms', 'Patent filing', 'Patent Center | Private PAIR | Public PAIR | Global Dossier', 'Filing status', 'Pay maintenance fees', 'PTAB', 'Search assignment | Record assignment', 'MPEP | Classification', 'Trademarks', 'TESS', 'TEAS | Forms', 'TSDR', 'TTAB | ESTTA | TTABVue', 'Search assignment | Record assignment', 'TMPEP | ID Manual | TMOG | TBMP', and 'Trademark processing wait times'. At the bottom of the menu, there are links for 'Fees and Payment', 'Systems status', and 'Current and planned system outages'. The main content area features a banner for 'One girl's commitment' and a 'Latest news' section with a 'Remarks' tab.



Welcome page

Resources ▾

Welcome to Patent Public Search

The Patent Public Search tool is a new web-based patent search application that will replace internal legacy search tools PubEast and PubWest and external legacy search tools PatFT and AppFT. Patent Public Search has two user selectable modern interfaces that provide enhanced access to prior art. The new, powerful, and flexible capabilities of the application will improve the overall patent searching process.

If you are **new to patent searches**, or want to use the **functionality that was available in the USPTO's PatFT/AppFT**, select 'Basic Search' to look for patents by keywords or common fields, such as inventor or publication number. Select 'Advanced Search' to use full query options as well as to further filter a patent search by database or organize documents through tagging.

Basic Search **Advanced Search**

Help
Information and support

FAQs
Answers to frequently asked questions

Training materials
Learn about Patent Public Search features and functionalities

<https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/static/pages/landing.html>

Three databases, one search tool

- Patent Public Search is a search tool used for searching up to three databases at the same time:
 - **US-PGPUB:** U.S. pre-grant publications (published patent applications) since 2001
 - **USPAT:** all issued U.S. patents since 1790
 - **USOCR:** text of issued U.S. patents from appx. 1830's to 1970 scanned by OCR (optical character recognition)



Patent Public Search

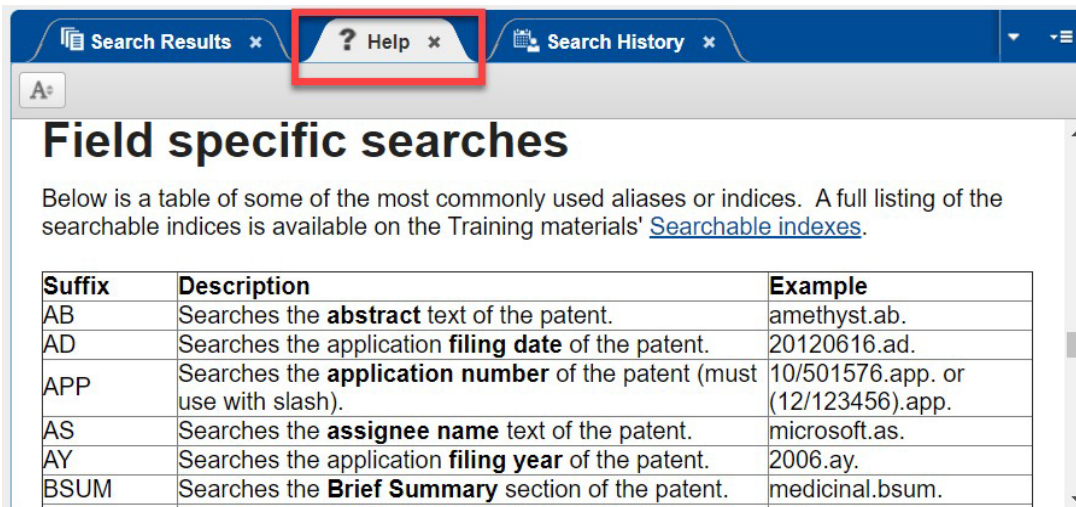
Search syntax

Search syntax used in Patent Public Search

- Just like written languages, search tools have their own syntax
- With Patent Public Search, if you want to search a number or word in a specific field index, you need to let the search tool know it. For example, the title index abbreviation is "ti". To search for the word "golf" in the title field, type: **golf.ti**
- The index abbreviation should have **a period on both sides** (an alternative is to use brackets on both sides: **golf[ti]**)

Is there a list of Searchable Index abbreviations?

A list of the most commonly used Searchable Index abbreviations is found in the Help gadget tab. It also links to a comprehensive list.



The screenshot shows a web interface with a blue header bar containing three tabs: 'Search Results', 'Help', and 'Search History'. The 'Help' tab is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below the header, the page title is 'Field specific searches'. The main content area contains a paragraph of text and a table with three columns: 'Suffix', 'Description', and 'Example'.

Below is a table of some of the most commonly used aliases or indices. A full listing of the searchable indices is available on the Training materials' [Searchable indexes](#).

Suffix	Description	Example
AB	Searches the abstract text of the patent.	amethyst.ab.
AD	Searches the application filing date of the patent.	20120616.ad.
APP	Searches the application number of the patent (must use with slash).	10/501576.app. or (12/123456).app.
AS	Searches the assignee name text of the patent.	microsoft.as.
AY	Searches the application filing year of the patent.	2006.ay.
BSUM	Searches the Brief Summary section of the patent.	medicinal.bsum.

Boolean set operators

Patent Public Search also uses Boolean set operators in its search syntax

Operator	Description	Example
AND	Two terms, joined by "AND" must occur within the same document.	photographic AND noodle
OR	Two terms, joined by "OR" means at least one of the terms must occur in the document.	dog OR cat
NOT	The first term must occur, the second term must not.	cardboard NOT box
XOR	Two terms, joined by "XOR" means at least one of the terms must occur in the document, but not both terms	pipe XOR ptfe

Proximity operators

Operator	Description	Example
ADJ	Two terms must occur directly next to each other, and in order. ADJ is the only ordered operator.	oxidizing ADJ bacteria
ADJ[n]	Two terms must occur within [n] terms of each other, in order, and within the same sentence.	wet ADJ4 silicon
NEAR	Two terms must occur directly next to each other, and in any order.	electrospray NEAR ion
NEAR[n]	Two terms must occur within [n] terms of each other within the same sentence, but order is not relevant.	cyclotron NEAR7 magnetic
WITH	Terms joined with WITH must occur within the same sentence.	detect WITH light
WITH[n]	Terms joined with WITH[n] must occur within n sentences of each other.	detect WITH10 light
SAME	Terms joined with SAME must occur within the same paragraph.	synthesizing SAME tomography
SAME[n]	Two terms must occur within n paragraphs of each other.	wheel SAME3 wood

Allow for variant spellings

- If the default setting for “Plurals” is ON, when a search term is entered in singular form, the plural form will automatically be searched (e.g., if “mirror” is entered the plural form “mirrors” will also be searched)
- To allow for different beginnings (or endings) for word strings, use **truncation symbols or wildcards**

Wildcard	Description	Example
?	Matches any single character, can occur at the beginning, middle or end of a word.	m?cro
\$[#]	Matches up to the given number of characters.	micro\$3
* or \$	Matches any number of characters.	micro* or micro\$

The classification search

Classification searching

- It is **rare** that a text search alone, or a classified search alone, will constitute a thorough search of patent documents. Some combination of text search with other criteria, in particular classification, would be a normal expectation in most technologies
- Browsing all patent documents in one or more classifications is important when it is difficult to express search needs in textual terms (e.g., in mechanical arts)

Classification searching (*cont.*)

- A proper field of search normally includes the classification locations in which the application would be properly classified
- Search areas should be prioritized so that the areas most likely to produce relevant prior art are searched first

See *MPEP* § 904.02(a)



Classification searching (*cont.*)

- The invention must be searched in both its classification area and all analogous arts

See *MPEP § 904.01(c)*

- Note: Search needs in some technologies (e.g., chemical structures, DNA sequences) are very specialized and can be met only through additional use of specific search tools specially maintained to respond to those needs

See *MPEP § 904.02*

Searching CPC symbols

PE2E - SEARCH - Google Chrome
pasr.uspto.gov/webapp/

PE2E SEARCH 2.28.0.3 DAV OC

Current workspace name: Planning a search Notifications (1) Imp...

Search History x Collections x

Size: Small

Find Within Q+

ID	Results	Query Name	DBs	Op...	Actions
Prior Art 6 Refresh All					
L7	446	A01M23/14.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️
L6	662	A01M23/12.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️
L5	1,442	A01M23/08.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️
L3	1,119	A01M23/04.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️
L2	1,253	A01M23/00.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️
L1	753	A01M23/02.cpc.	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	🗑️

Search x

[A01M23/14.cpc.](#)

Databases

Select all

- US-PGPUB
- USPAT
- USOCR
- FIT (19) ⚙️
- FPRS
- EPO
- JPO
- DERWENT
- IBM_TDB

Sel 1...15

Default Operator: OR Highlights: Multi-color

Show Errors Plurals British Equivalents Prior Art Interference

Options Clear Facet Search Browse List Search

Search Results x Hit Terms x Help x

Find Within Q+

Highlight: No highlight found in content below

How to access Classification Resources

The quickest way to access Classification Resources is from the Find It Fast menu on the USPTO home page

The screenshot shows the USPTO website home page. At the top, the USPTO logo and "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" are visible, along with navigation links for "About Us", "Jobs", "Contact Us", and "MyUSPTO". A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for "Patents", "Trademarks", "IP Policy", and "Learning and Resources". A "Find It Fast" button is located in the top right corner of the main content area. The "Find It Fast" menu is open, showing a list of resources. The "MPEP | Classification" link is highlighted with a red box. Other resources listed include "Patent Public Search", "Patent search", "Patent Center | Forms", "Patent filing", "Patent Center | Global Dossier", "Filing status", "Pay maintenance fees", "Pay or look up maintenance fees", "PTAB", "Patent Trial and Appeal Board", "Search assignment | Record assignment", "Search recorded assignment and record ownership changes", "Trademarks", "Trademark search", "Search trademark database", "TEAS | Forms", "Trademark filing", "TSDR", "Status, documents, and certificates", "TTAB | ESTTA | TTABVue", "Trademark Trial and Appeal Board", "Search assignment | Record assignment", "Search recorded assignment and record ownership changes", "TMEP | ID Manual | TMOG | TBMP", "Guides and manuals", and "Trademark processing wait times", "Current and target wait times". Below the menu, there is a "Fees and Payment" section with links for "Fee schedule and payment information", "Systems status", and "Current and planned system outages". The main content area features a banner for "Greatest in American innovation" with a photo of a woman in a wheelchair and a man in a yellow protective suit. Below the banner, there is a notice about system unavailability on Wednesday, May 1, and a "Latest news" section with a link to "USPTO publishes Request for Comments regarding the of AI on certain patentability determinations".

CPC resources

- CPC website:
www.cooperativepatentclassification.org
- CPC training materials:
www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/Training
- Guide to CPC:
www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/sites/default/files/attachments/212f75e9-e9d4-4446-ad7f-b8e943588d1b/Guide+to+the+CPC.pdf
- Classification resources webpage:
www.uspto.gov/patents/search/classification-standards-and-development
- Espacenet classification search:
<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/cpc-browser#>



CPC Essentials

computer based training

CPC Essentials I Parts A-C: Patent Classification Systems and CPC Scheme

- CPC Essentials I Part A: [Introduction to CPC Essentials and Patent Classification Systems and CPC Scheme](#)
- CPC Essentials I Part B: [CPC Scheme](#)
- CPC Essentials I Part C: [CPC Definitions](#)

CPC Essentials II Parts A-E: CPC Classification

- CPC Essentials II Part A: [Introduction](#)
- CPC Essentials II Part B: [What to Classify – Identifying Subject Matter to be Classified](#)
- CPC Essentials II Part C: [Where to Classify – Identifying Appropriate Subclasses](#)
- CPC Essentials II Part D: [Where to Classify – Identifying Appropriate Subgroups](#)
- CPC Essentials II Part E: [Good Classification Practices](#)

CPC Essentials III: CPC Search Strategies

- CPC Essentials III CBT: [CPC Search Strategies](#)



Generating a text search strategy

Generating a text search strategy

- Make a list of text search terms obtained from the description, claims, the inventive concept(s), other relevant prior art, & your technical knowledge
- Develop “synonyms” for terms, concepts, and themes
 - Note that phrases or acronyms can be used as synonyms in addition to single word synonyms
- Use proximity operators to relate these concepts

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

- There are two basic techniques for searching:
 - A. Narrow to broad approach
 - Including a home run search
 - B. Broad to narrow approach

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

A) Narrow to broad approach

- You may first decide to go for a matching 102 reference by searching for a reference that discloses the claimed invention exactly (i.e., a home run)
- Advantages:
 - Useful in arts with established buzzwords
 - May find a good primary reference in less time
- Disadvantages:
 - Limited applicability
 - Low chance of success
 - Not comprehensive

Note: While a narrow to broad search is acceptable, a complete search must still be performed

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

B) Broad to narrow approach:

- Start with a basic concept associated with the disclosed invention, with specific and generic synonyms, to capture concepts in your art as well as analogous areas
- Narrow the concept with successive **Line Numbers** (L#s), adding additional concepts and details, modifying proximity operators, and deleting synonyms
 - ADVANTAGES:
 - A comprehensive search will capture art in diverse areas
 - Will reduce the amount of searching required if applicant amends to overcome a rejection
 - DISADVANTAGES:
 - May include subject areas applicant has no intention of claiming

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

- There are several secondary search strategies usable in conjunction with either strategies A) or B):
 - i. Building blocks
 - ii. “Problem solved” environment
 - iii. Limited classification search (classification and text mix)

Generating a text search strategy (cont.)

i. Building blocks:

- Isolate important concepts in L#s, then combine in various combinations and proximities
- Identify teachings from L#s for possible 103 rejections
 - ADVANTAGES:
 - Flexible, easy to modify and correct
 - DISADVANTAGES:
 - May be slow, as each concept may produce large numbers of hits

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

ii. “Problem solved” environment:

– Use search terms related to the environment or problem solved by your applicant

- ADVANTAGES:

- Useful when concepts in claims are difficult to express
- Useful when environment is very specific

- DISADVANTAGES:

- Limited applicability
- May be unfocused

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

iii. Limited classification search

- Sometimes you may want to combine classification searches with limited numbers of key words related to a claimed feature
 - ADVANTAGES:
 - Useful to filter a large subclass
 - Useful when claims require features found in different main groups and subgroups (CPC)
 - DISADVANTAGES:
 - May miss references in a subgroup that uses different terminology
 - Will miss older references that do not have an associated full text file

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

iii. Limited classification search

- You will find that as you search, classified searches suggest new text searches and text searching suggests new classified searches.* An interactive mixing of the two techniques has proven in many cases to yield the most effective results

** You may also learn new terminology to use as search terms*

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

- **Searching is a DYNAMIC and ITERATIVE process:**
 - Most of the time all pertinent references will not be found on the first try, and certain art may point the search in a direction not previously considered
 - Technology changes and with it so do the “buzzwords” used by the industry to describe specific elements of an invention

Mouse trap example

Mouse trap example

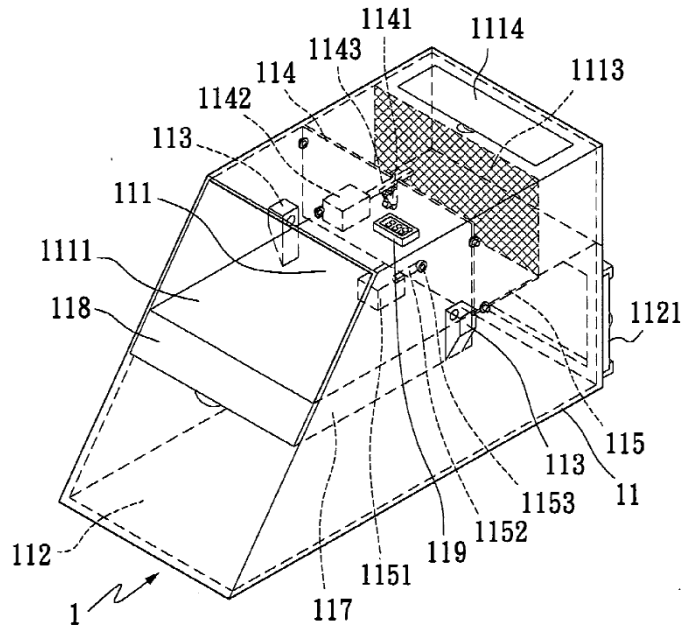


Fig. 1

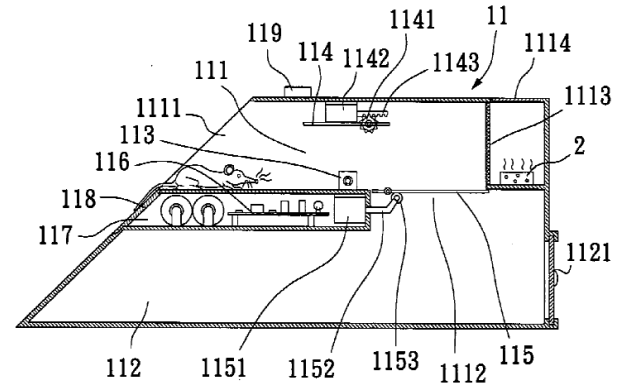


Fig. 2

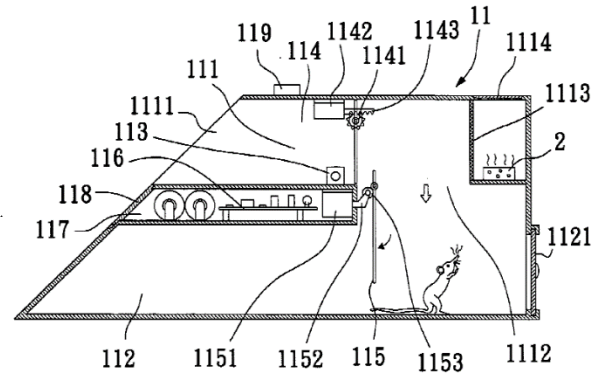


Fig. 3

Sensors open trap doors between lure and detention compartments

Applicant describes a trapping device having a first trapdoor that is pivotally turned from a horizontal to a vertical position to confine a rodent entering an upper space of the trapping device and past ultrasonic sensors provided in the upper space, and a second trapdoor that is correspondingly turned from a horizontal to a vertical position to open a lower space of the trapping device to trap the rodent in the lower space

Claim

1. A trapping device for trapping an animal or insect, comprising:

a main body divided into at least an upper compartment and a lower compartment, the upper compartment being connected to the lower compartment through an opening, the upper compartment having a front side with an entrance that allows an animal or insect to enter the main body;

a bait compartment opposite to the front side;

a first trapdoor for trapping the animal or insect in the upper compartment;

a second trapdoor positioned in the opening between the upper compartment and the lower compartment;

a control circuit; and

a sensor for sending a signal to the control circuit

wherein the control circuit receives said signal to control opening or closing movements of the second trapdoor

The classification search

Searching CPC symbols

The screenshot displays the PE2E SEARCH interface in Google Chrome. The browser address bar shows 'pasr.uspto.gov/webapp/'. The interface includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a results table. A red arrow points to the highlighted result 'A01M23/14.cpc' in the table.

ID	Results	Query Name	DBs	Op...	Actions
Prior Art 6 Refresh All					
L7	446	A01M23/14.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑
L6	662	A01M23/12.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑
L5	1,442	A01M23/08.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑
L3	1,119	A01M23/04.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑
L2	1,253	A01M23/00.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑
L1	753	A01M23/02.cpc	US-PGPUB USPAT USOCR F...	OR	▢ 🗑

The search results table shows a list of results with columns for ID, Results, Query Name, DBs, Op..., and Actions. The results are sorted by ID (L7 to L1). The 'Query Name' column contains CPC symbols, and the 'DBs' column lists the databases used for the search. The 'Op...' column shows the operator used for the search (OR). The 'Actions' column contains icons for selecting and deleting results.

The search interface also includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a results table. A red arrow points to the highlighted result 'A01M23/14.cpc' in the table.

The search interface includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a results table. A red arrow points to the highlighted result 'A01M23/14.cpc' in the table.

The search interface includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a results table. A red arrow points to the highlighted result 'A01M23/14.cpc' in the table.

Selecting subgroups to search

- D - A01M 23/00
 - A01M 23/005
 - A01M 23/02
 - A01M 23/04
 - A01M 23/06
 - A01M 23/08
 - A01M 23/10
 - A01M 23/12
 - A01M 23/14
 - A01M 23/16
 - A01M 23/18
 - A01M 23/20
 - A01M 23/22
 - A01M 23/24
 - A01M 23/245
 - A01M 23/26
 - A01M 23/265
 - A01M 23/28

Traps for animals

- . {with sticky surfaces (for insects A01M 1/14)}
- . Collecting-traps
- . . with tipping platforms
- . . . with locking mechanism for the tipping platform
- . . with approaches permitting entry only
- . . with rotating cylinders or turnstiles
- . . with devices for throwing the animal to a collecting chamber
- . . Other traps automatically reset
- . Box traps
- . . with pivoted closure flaps
- . . with dropping doors or slides
- . . with dropping covers
- . {Spring traps, e.g.} jaw or like spring traps
- . . {Auxiliary devices for spring traps, e.g. attaching systems}
- . . of the double-jaw or pincer type
- . . . {of the pincer type}
- . . . Jaw trap setting-devices

CPC: Maingroup G08B - Signaling or Calling Systems;...Alarm Systems

- D
 - G08B 13/16 . Actuation by interference with mechanical vibrations in air or other fluid
 - G08B 13/1609 . . {using active vibration detection systems (active detection systems per se G01S)}
 - G08B 13/1618 . . . {using ultrasonic detection means}
 - G08B 13/1627 {using Doppler shift detection circuits}
 - G08B 13/1636 {using pulse-type detection circuits}
 - G08B 13/1645 . . . {using ultrasonic detection means and other detection means, e.g. microwave or infra-red radiation}
 - G08B 13/1654 . . {using passive vibration detection systems}
 - G08B 13/1663 . . . {using seismic sensing means}
 - G08B 13/1672 . . . {using sonic detecting means, e.g. a microphone operating in the audio frequency range}
 - G08B 13/1681 . . . {using infrasonic detecting means, e.g. a microphone operating below the audible frequency range}
 - G08B 13/169 . . . {using cable transducer means}
 - G08B 13/18 . Actuation by interference with heat, light or radiation of shorter wavelength; Actuation by intruding sources of heat, light or radiation of shorter wavelength {(signalling devices using photo-electric devices in general G09F)}
 - G08B 13/181 . . using active radiation detection systems

CPC: Definitions

D	G08B 13/16	. Actuation by interference with mechanical means
-	G08B 13/1609	. . {using active vibration detection systems}
-	G08B 13/1618	. . . {using ultrasonic detection means}
	G08B 13/1627 {using Doppler shift detection circuits}
	G08B 13/1636 {using pulse-type detection circuits}
	G08B 13/1645	. . . {using ultrasonic detection means and means for detecting the presence of a target}
-	G08B 13/1654	. . {using passive vibration detection systems}
	G08B 13/1663	. . . {using seismic sensing means}
	G08B 13/1672	. . . {using sonic detecting means, e.g. acoustic means}
	G08B 13/1681	. . . {using infrasonic detecting means, e.g. seismic means}
	G08B 13/169	. . . {using cable transducer means}
-	G08B 13/18	. Actuation by interference with heat, light or radiation of shorter wavelength {(signaling means)}
-	G08B 13/181	. . using active radiation detection systems

- Provides information for clarifying the scope of subclasses, main groups, or subgroups.
- Provides instructions on classification and searches in specialized technical areas.
- May provide additional information as to what is, or is not, included in the CPC area.

**Generating a text search strategy
for the mousetrap example**

Generating a text search strategy

- Make a list of text search terms obtained from the description, claims, the inventive concept(s), other relevant prior art, and your technical knowledge
- Develop “synonyms” for terms, concepts, and themes
 - Note that phrases or acronyms can be used as synonyms in addition to single word synonyms.
- Use proximity operators to relate these concepts

Generating a text search strategy (cont.)

- “Synonyms” should include:
 - Words which have the same or nearly the same meaning;
 - More specific examples of a broad term; or
 - Phrases should be considered as well as single words.
- For the Mousetrap application:
 - Rodent(s), or insect(s), or mouse, or mouselike, or “mouse-like”, or mice, or cockroach(es) or critter(s), or vermin
 - Trap, or cage, or mousetrap, or “mouse trap”
 - Trapdoor(s), or “trap door(s)”, or “false floor”
 - Sensor(s), or ultrasonic, or “ultra sonic”

Can you think of other synonyms?

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

- Examples of proximity operators:
 - OR; AND; SAME; WITH; NEAR; ADJ
- For synonyms use the “OR” operator
 - L1: mouse or “mouse-like” or mice
 - L2: trapdoor\$1 or trap ADJ door\$1
- Other operators are used as necessary
 - L1 ADJ\$ L2
 - L1 NEAR\$ L2
 - L1 WITH L2
 - L1 SAME L2
 - L1 AND L2

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

A) Narrow to broad approach – mouse trap

- Use sensors and trapdoors to trap mice or cockroaches
 - When going for the matching 102 reference, search for the specific manner in which the applicant solves the problem
 - In this example that would be: *A rodent or insect trap utilizing bait with a plurality of trapdoors that confine the vermin in a lower space which are actuated by ultrasonic sensors*

Generating a text search strategy (*cont.*)

B) Broad to narrow approach:

- Instead of limiting the search to a rodent or insect trap, search for other traps for a variety of animals. The type of animal disclosed in the preamble of claim 1 only sets forth a minimum size for the trap, not a maximum



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