

MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE

U.S. DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE
Fourth Edition

The attached pages comprise a complete copy of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, fourth edition.

Periodic revisions will be issued in the future in order to maintain the information current.

The major changes included in the fourth edition are as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
101	Paragraph added to indicate that information received from public searchers is confidential.
110	New section on confidential nature of international applications.
201.08	New paragraph added on when a determination should be made as to whether the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 120 have been met.
201.13(b)	New section on priority based on an international application.
310	New section on Government contractor license rights.
506	Includes procedure permitting cancelation of claims to lower filing fee.
605.04	Includes practice on granting filing date based on facsimile papers.
711.03(c)	Includes consideration of petition for withdrawal of a notice of abandonment with allegation that an Office action was not received.
721.01	Includes revised fraud allegation handling practice.
803	Includes revised restriction practice for Markush-type claims.
823	New section on Unity of Invention under the PCT.

- 901.05 Includes material on national foreign patent documents prepared by P.V. Federico.
- 1101.02 Includes practice for notifying patentees twice concerning copying of claims.
- 1401.08
1401.09
1401.09(a) Include additional guidelines for reissue applications.
- Chapter 1800 New chapter relating to procedures under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure









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MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE
Fourth Edition

Instructions Regarding Revision No. 1

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

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The notation "[R-1]" in the attached pages appears at the title of a section that has been revised.

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Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure

Particular attention is called to the following sections:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
605.04	Material added on execution and filing of patent applications.
609	Clarified to indicate that each prior art submitted by applicant which complies with the guidelines must be cited on PTO-892.
710.05	Holiday list corrected to indicate Veteran's Day is celebrated on November 11, each year.
721	Indication added that prior art cited by foreign offices should be submitted to the Office by the applicant.
724-725	New sections relating to submission to the Office of documents which contain trade secret, confidential or protective order materials.
803	Sentence added to encourage examiners to search and examine entire application, without requiring restriction, if it can be done without serious burden.
901.05(e) - 901.06(a)	These sections on the Scientific Library have been updated to reflect current practice.
903.03	Foreign patent classification procedures revised.
903.09	Section on International Classification has been updated and expanded.
1309.02	Deleted and material incorporated into new Chapter 1900.
Chapter 1400	Completely rewritten, renumbered and expanded to cover current reissue practice.
1805	PCT Administrative Instruction Section 317 added.

- 1820.05 List of PCT member countries updated and revised PCT Administrative Instruction Sections 201 and 203 added.
- 1827 Wording of revised PCT rules 15.5 and 96 added.
- 1885 Revised wording of PCT Rule 47.1(b) added.
- Chapter 1900 This is an entirely new chapter which has been added to cover Protest procedures.

List of replacement pages:

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>
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*84.1	1	*384.3-384.4	1-1
121	1	*384.5-384.6	1-1
125-126	1-1	*384.7-384.8	1-1
*126.1	1	*384.9	1
167-168	1-1	385-386	1-1
211-212	0-1	387-388	1-1
*212.1	1	389-390	1-1
215-216	0-1	(391	deleted)
*216.1-216.2	1-1	417-418	1-1
*216.3-216.4	1-1	*418.1	1
221-222	1-1	429-230	1-1
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269-270	1-1	*432.1	1
273-274	1-1	441-442	1-1
275-276	1-1	*442.1	1
277-278	1-1	491-492	1-1
279-280	1-1	*492.1	1
281-282	1-1	*500.1-500.2	1-1
283-284	1-1	*500.3-500.4	1-1
*284.1-284.2	1-1	*500.5-500.6	1-1
367-368	1-1	*500.7-500.8	1-1
375-376	1-1	*500.9-500.10	1-1
(377	deleted)	*500.11-500.12	1-1
379-380	1-1		

*Added page

Rev. 2, April 1980









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MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE
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Instructions Regarding Revision No. 2

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

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The notation "[R-2]" in the attached pages appears at the title of a section that has been revised.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
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Rev. 2, April 1980

Particular attention is called to the following sections:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
202.02, 202.03	Procedure added for examiner verifying prior application information printed on file wrapper label.
608.02(a)	The requirement that formal drawings be received prior to examination has been deleted.
708, 708.01	Indication added that reissue applications in which litigation has been stayed should be given top priority for examination.
721, 721.01	The material from these sections has been incorporated in new Chapter 2000.
1446	Section clarified as to handling of reissue applications without changes but with issue of fraud or violation of duty of disclosure.
1901.07(a)	Revised to include procedure for adding protestor's address to file wrapper where he has right to receive all correspondence.
Chapter 2000	Entirely new Chapter added on duty of disclosure, fraud, lack of candor and good faith, violation of duty of disclosure, and striking of applications.

List of replacement pages:

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>
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*34.1	2	500.7-500.8	2-2
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165-166	2-2	*500.15-500.16	2-2
169-170	0-2	*500.17-500.18	2-2
211-212	2-2	*500.19-500.20	2-2
212.1	(deleted)	*500.21-500.22	2-2
213-214	(deleted)	*500.23-500.24	2-2
215-216	(deleted)	*500.25-500.26	2-2
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384.5-384.6	2-2	*500.35-500.36	2-2
384.7-384.8	2-2		

*Added page

Rev. 3, July 1980

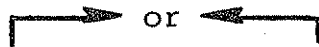
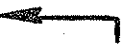
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MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE
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Instructions Regarding Revision No. 3

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

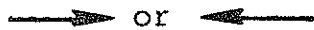

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The notation "[R-3]" in the attached pages appears at the title of a section that has been revised.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
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Rev. 3, July 1980

Particular attention is called to the following sections.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
201.13(b) and 1828	Revised PCT Rule 17 added relating to submission of priority documents in international applications.
802	Revised PCT Rule 13 added relative to unity of invention in international applications
1805	Revised PCT Rules 18.5 and 19.2 added relating to listing of applicants in international applications.
1807	Revised PCT Rule 90.3 and Administrative Instruction 106 added relating to general powers of attorney in international applications during international processing only.
1812	Revised PCT Rule 10 added relating to metric terms in international applications.
1815	Revised PCT Rule 11.1(d) and 11.10(d) and 11.13(j) added relating to using sheets sideways in international applications.
1820.05	The list of PCT member States has been updated.
1823.01	New section on reference to deposited microorganism in international applications.
1827.01	New section on new procedure under PCT Rule 16 bis in which the International Bureau will advance money for unpaid fees.
1845.04	New section on changes of certain indications on the PCT Request form.
1885	Revised PCT Rule 47.1(c) added which requires each designated Office to be informed of a communication under PCT Article 20 and that such notice shall be accepted as conclusive evidence of communication on the date specified in the notice.

- 1901.07(c) New section on filing of multiple papers relating to the same issues in protests.
- 2100 New chapter on patentability which will be expanded upon in future revisions.
- 2105 New section relating to patentable subject matter in view of the Chakrabarty decision.
- 2120-2129 New sections on the statutory bars of "Public Use" and "On Sale" under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

List of replacement pages:

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*26.1	3	*448.3	3
219-220	3-3	451-452	3-3
*220.1	3	453-454	3-0
417-418	3-3	457-458	3-3
418.1	(deleted)	*458.1	3
419-420	3-3	485-486	0-3
421-422	3-3	487-488	3-0
423-424	3-3	491-492	3-3
425-426	3-3	493-494	3-0
427-428	3-3	500.7-500.8	2-3
429-430	3-3	*500.8(1)	3
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437-438	3-3	*500.45-500.46	3-3
*438.1-438.2	3-3	*500.47-500.48	3-3
441-442	3-3	*500.49	3
443-444	3-3		

*Added page

Rev. 4, October 1980

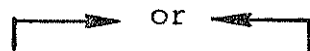
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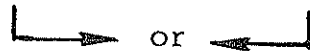
Instructions Regarding Revision No. 4

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

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Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
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Rev. 4 October 1980

Particular attention is called to the following sections:

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
Checklist of pages	Added to permit checking of pages in the Manual.
608.02(a)	Changed to give examiner disposal credit for abandonment due to not furnishing drawing timely.
609	Amended to add material on use of form PTO-1449 for submission of prior art by applicants.
1302.09	Amended to indicate that where a multiple dependent claim is selected for publication in the Official Gazette, that an entire chain of claims for one embodiment should be listed.
1827	New fees effective January 1, 1981 for the international fee portion of international applications included.
1840	PCT Rule 80.6(b) revised.
1845	PCT Rules 82.1(a) and 82.2(a) revised.
1845.01	PCT Rules 22.2(e) and 22.3 revised.
1901.07(c)	Revised section relating to filing of multiple papers relating to the same issues in protest proceedings.
Appendix I and II	Updated
Index	Updated.

List of replacement pages:

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vii-viii	4-4	I-5-I-6	4-4
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121-122	4-4	I-9-I-10	4-4
122.1	4	I-11-I-12	4-4
325-326	4-4	I-13-I-14	4-4
367-368	4-1	I-15-I-16	4-4
441-442	3-4	I-17-I-18	4-4
442.1	4	I-19-I-20	4-4
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451-452	4-4	I-23-I-24	4-4
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500.8(1)	4	I-27-I-28	4-4
(delete pgs 501-557 and		I-29-I-30	4-4
insert the following		I-31-I-32	4-4
pages after page 500.49)		I-33-I-34	4-4
A-1-A-2	4-4	I-35-I-36	4-4
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A-5-A-6	4-4	I-39-I-40	4-4
A-7-A-8	4-4	I-41-I-42	4-4
A-9-A-10	4-4	I-43-I-44	4-4
A-11-A-12	4-4	I-45-I-46	4-4
A-13	4	I-47-I-48	4-4

Rev. 5, January 1981

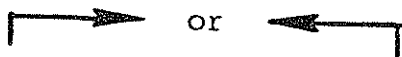
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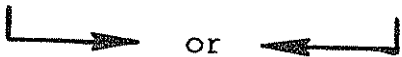
Instructions Regarding Revision No. 5

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

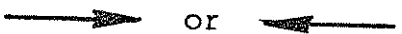
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The notation "[R-5]" in the attached pages appears at the title of a section that has been revised.

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Manual of Patent Examining
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Rev. 5, January 1981

Particular attention is called to the following sections.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
402.06	Revised to include mention of requirement that at least 30 days remain in any period for response for approval of a request to withdraw.
509	Subsection 1.21(1) included for fee for microfiche copy.
608.01(a)	Revised §1.77(c) included for reference to a "microfiche appendix".
608.01(p)	Letter headings added to subsections and new subsection on simulated or predicted tests or examples included.
608.02	Sections on drawings substantially rewritten.
608.02(b)	Substantially rewritten to delete ten dollar comparison fee for substitute drawings.
608.02(z)	New section on correction of drawings in allowable applications.
608.05	New section on deposit of computer program listings on microfiche.
707.05(e)	New examples for citation of non-patent documents included.
707.07(1)	New section on simulated or predicted tests or examples.
806.05(e)-(h)	Intent of 1978 rule changes clarified.
1302.05(a)	New section on forwarding allowed applications where the original drawings cannot be located.
1308.03	Section on Quality Review Program updated.
1827	Section revised to include revised PCT international fees.
2004 and 2011	A new subsection 8 has been added to relating to inaccurate or misleading statements in the specification.

List of replacement pages:

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101-102	5-5	291-292	5-5
103-104	5-5	365-366	5-5
*104.1	5	367-368	5-5
107-108	5-5	*368.1	5
109-110	5-5	373-374	5-5
111-112	5-5	*374.1	5
113-114	5-5	441-442	5-5
115-116	5-5	*442.1	(deleted)
117-118	5-5	521-522	5-5
119-120	5-5	(replaces pages 500.21-500.22)	
*120.1-120.2	5-5	*522.1	5
*120.3-120.4	5-5	527-528	5-5
*120.5	5	(replaces pages 500.27-500.28)	
151-152	5-5	*528.1	5
153-154	5-5	541-542	5-5
157-158	5-5	(replaces pages 500.41-500.42)	
*158.1	5	549	5
165-166	5-5	(replaces page 500.49)	

*Added page

Revision 6, June 1981

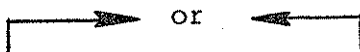
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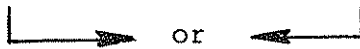
Instructions Regarding Revision No. 6

The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

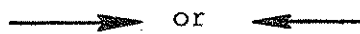
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The notation "[R-6]" in the attached pages appears at the title of each section that has been revised.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure

Rev. 6, June 1981

Particular attention is called to the following sections.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
103	New 37 CFR 1.11(c) and (d) added and indicates that reexaminations are open to the public.
201.06	Calls attention to 35 U.S.C. 120 requiring later and prior applications to be filed by "the same inventor".
402	37 CFR 1.34 revised to provide for power of attorney in reexamination cases.
402.05	37 CFR 1.36 revised to provide for revocation of powers in patents.
403	New 37 CFR 1.33(c) added to provide for correspondence address to be used in patents.
501	37 CFR 1.1 revised to provide a "Box Reexam" for reexamination requests.
509	New 37 CFR 1.21(x) and revised 1.26 added relating to reexamination fees.
602.06	Reference to looseleaf forms book added.
706	37 CFR 1.112 revised to provide for reconsideration in reexamination cases.
706.03(o)	Revised to follow In re Rasmussen on new matter rejections and objections.
706.07	37 CFR 1.113 revised relating to final rejection.
707	37 CFR 1.104 revised to relate to examination of reexamination.
707.05	37 CFR 1.107 revised to include reference to foreign published applications.
714	37 CFR 1.115 revised to include amendments in reexaminations.
714.02	37 CFR 1.111 revised to provide for reply by the patent owner in reexaminations.

- 714.12 37 CFR 1.116 revised to include amendments after final in reexaminations.
- 714.19 Item 15 added to indicate that an amendment cancelling all claims to the elected invention and adding only claims to the non-elected invention will not be entered.
- 714.22 37 CFR 1.121(f) on amendments in reexamination proceedings added.
- 1101.02(h) New section added on copying claims from a patent involved in a reexamination proceeding.
- 1105 37 CFR 1.231(a)(1) revised on motions in interference.
- 1202 Chart on channels of ex parte review revised.
- 1205 37 CFR 1.191 revised to provide for appeal in reexamination cases.
- 1206 37 CFR 1.192 revised to provide for appeal briefs in reexamination cases.
- 1214.06 37 CFR 1.197 revised relating to action following appeal decision.
- 1216.01 37 CFR 1.301 revised to provide for appeal to to CCPA in reexamination cases.
- 1216.02 37 CFR 1.303 revised to provide for civil action in reexamination case.
- 1302.14 37 CFR 1.109 revised to provide reasons for allowance in reexamination case.
- 1901 37 CFR 1.291 and 1.248 revised to restrict protests citing prior art.

Note: This revision contains numerous references to sections in Chapter 2200. This Chapter is currently not a part of this Manual but will be issued in the next revision number 7 of July 1981.

List of replacement pages:

<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Rev. No.</u>
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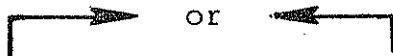
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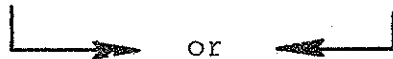
Instructions Regarding Revision No. 7

The attached revised pages are a replacement for the Title page and additional pages for a new Chapter 2200 and Supplemental Index.

Arrows are printed in the margin of pages to indicate material added by this revision.



Line on which change begins.



Line on which change ends.



Line on which change both begins and ends.

The notation "[R-7]" in the attached pages appears at the title of each section that has been added.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure

Rev. 7, July 1981

This revision adds a new Chapter 2200 entitled "Citation of Prior Art and Reexamination of Patents".

The contents of the Chapter are outlined on pages 551 and 552.

The Chapter is divided into five major categories

- I. Sections 2202-2208 relate to citation of prior art in patent files
- II. Sections 2209-2213 relate to Reexamination broadly.
- III. Sections 2214-2238 relate to the filing and content of a request for reexamination.
- IV. Sections 2240-2253 relate to the decision of the request and ordering of reexamination.
- V. Sections 2254-2293 relate to the conduct of reexamination proceedings.

The Supplemental Index relates to reexamination and will be combined with the Index on pages I-1 to I-48 in a later revision.

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Pages 551-621 and I-49 - I-52 are added pages.

Pages 551-621 should be inserted following page 549.

Pages I-49 - I-52 should be inserted following page I-48.

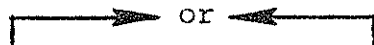
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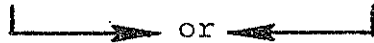
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The attached revised pages are replacements for those in the Manual having corresponding numbers.

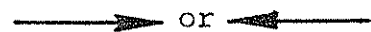
Arrows are printed in the margin of pages to indicate material changed, deleted, or added by this revision. Where insertion of new material results in shifting of unchanged material onto following pages, no arrows appear on such pages but the revision number is cited at the bottom of each page.



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Line on which change ends.



Line on which change both begins and ends.



Opposite a blank space,
indicates deletion of material.

The notation "[R-8]" in the attached pages appears at the title of a section that has been revised.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure

Particular attention is called to the following sections.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
Checklist of pages	Updated
602.04(a), 604.04 and 604.04(a)	Added material on U.S. accession to Hague "Convention Abolishing the Requirements of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents" including Apostille.
605.04	Change in date when originally signed papers are due where a facsimile copy was originally filed. Notation also added that facsimile practice may be used for oaths or declarations filed under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4).
608.01(n)	Examples of acceptable and unacceptable multiple dependent claims wording added.
608.01(p)	Wording of incorporation by reference section clarified. Also, section on simulated or predicted tests or examples substantially rewritten.
608.01(q) & 714.20	Restrictions on filing or substitute specifications relaxed.
609	Period for filing prior art statements extended until reasonable period after receiving filing receipt. Also, a third possibility added for statement accompanying prior art statement filed after prosecution has ended.
707.07(1)	Paragraph on simulated or predicted examples deleted.
1105	Amendments to 37 CFR 1.211(d) included.
1612	New section on UPOV "Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants."
1820.05	List of PCT Member Countries updated.
1827	Amounts of PCT fees updated.

1863

Search Report form example updated to show use of "Y" Category for documents which can be obviously combined, Administrative Instruction Section 505(c).

2110

New section giving guidelines for patentable subject matter in the area of mathematical algorithms or computer programs.

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* Added page

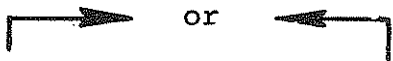
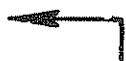
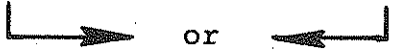

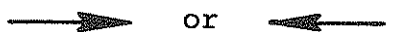



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Instructions Regarding Revision No. 9

The attached revised pages are a replacements for the Title page and those pages having corresponding numbers.

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The notation "[R-9]" in the attached pages appears at the title of each section that has been added.

Louis O. Maassel, Editor
Manual of Patent Examining
Procedure

Revision 9, Sept. 1982

Particular attention is called to the following sections:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Change</u>
103	Revised 37 CFR 1.11(c) & 1.14(e) included.
301	Revised 37 CFR 1.331(a) included
301.01	Revised 37 CFR 1.12 included
302	Revised 37 CFR 1.332 included
307	Revised 37 CFR 1.334 included
509	New 37 CFR 1.16-1.20 and revised 37 CFR 1.21, 1.24, 1.25, 1.26 and 1.445 included
608.03(a) & 715.07(d)	Handling of models and exhibits revised
706	Revised 37 CFR 1.106 included
710.01	Revised 37 CFR 1.135 included
710.02	Revised 37 CFR 1.136 included
Chapter 1000	Entire chapter revised
1208 & 1208.01	New 37 CFR 1.193(c) added.
1306	Revised in view of new issue fees
1308	Revised 37 CFR 1.313 included
1308.03	Section on Quality Review revised
1414	Revised 37 CFR 1.175 included
2001	Revised 37 CFR 1.56 included
2242	Material on consent judgement deleted
2280	Revised 37 CFR 1.555 included
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*Added page

1863

Search Report form example updated to show use of "Y" Category for documents which can be obviously combined, Administrative Instruction Section 505(c).

2110

New section giving guidelines for patentable subject matter in the area of mathematical algorithms or computer programs.

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Foreword

This Manual is published to provide Patent and Trademark Office patent examiners, applicants, attorneys, agents, and representatives of applicants with a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the Patent and Trademark Office. It contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material in the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures which the examiners are required or authorized to follow in appropriate cases in the normal examination of a patent application.

A separate manual entitled "Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure" is published by the Patent and Trademark Office as a reference work for trademark cases.

Examiners will be governed by the applicable statutes, the Rules of Practice, decisions, and orders and instructions issued by the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners. Orders and Notices still in force which relate to the subject matter included in this Manual are incorporated in the text. Orders and Notices, or portions thereof, relating to the examiners' duties and functions which have been omitted or not incorporated in the text may be considered obsolete. Interference procedure not directly involving the Primary Examiner is not included in this Manual and, therefore, Orders and Notices relating thereto remain in force.

Subsequent changes in practice and other revisions will be incorporated in the form of substitute or additional pages for the Manual.

Suggestions for improving the form and content of the Manual are always welcome. They should be addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Editor, M.P.E.P.
Washington, D.C. 20231

MANUAL OF

PATENT

EXAMINING

PROCEDURE

Original Fourth Edition, Dated June 1979

Latest Revision September 1982



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Rev. 9, Sept. 1982

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Third Edition, November 1961

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Introduction

Constitutional Basis

The Constitution of the United States provides:

"Art. 1, sec. 8. The Congress shall have power . . . To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries."

Statutes

Pursuant to the provision of the Constitution, Congress has over the years passed a number of statutes under which the Patent and Trademark Office is organized and our patent system is established. The provisions of the statutes can in no way be changed or waived by the Patent and Trademark Office.

Prior to January 1, 1953, the law relating to patents consisted of various sections of the Revised Statutes of 1874, derived from the Patent Act of 1870 and numerous amendatory and additional acts.

By an Act of Congress approved July 19, 1952, which came into effect on January 1, 1953, the patent laws were revised and codified into substantially its present form. With certain exceptions applying to applications filed and patents issued before January 1, 1953, this law governs all cases in the Patent and Trademark Office. The patent law is Title 35 of the United States Code, which contains 110 sections numbered from 1 to 376, with gaps in the numbering between various chapter of the title. In referring to a particular section of the patent code the citation is given, for example, as, 35 U.S.C. 31. The pamphlet "Patent Laws" (available from the Superintendent of Documents) reprints the patent code and some additional statutes.

35 U.S.C. 1 Establishment. The Patent and Trademark Office shall continue as an office in the Department of Commerce, where records, books, drawings, specifications, and other papers and things pertaining to patents and to trademark registrations shall be kept and preserved, except as otherwise provided by law.

Rules of Practice

One of the sections of the patent statute, namely, 35 U.S.C. 6, authorizes the Commis-

sioner of Patents and Trademarks, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, to establish regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the conduct of proceedings in the Patent and Trademark Office.

37 CFR 1.351. Amendments to rules will be published. All amendments in this part will be published in the Official Gazette and in the Federal Register.

37 CFR 1.352. Publication of notice of proposed amendments. (a) Whenever required by law, and in other cases whenever practicable, notice of proposed amendments in this part will be published in the Official Gazette and in the Federal Register. If not published with the notice, copies of the text will be furnished to any person requesting the same. All comments, suggestions, and briefs received within a time specified in the notice will be considered before adoption of the proposed amendments which may be modified in the light thereof.

(b) Oral hearings may be held at the discretion of the Commissioner.

These rules and amendments thereto are published in the Federal Register and in the Official Gazette. In the Federal Register and in the Code of Federal Regulations these rules are Part 1 of Title 37, Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights, and the individual rules, called sections, are numbered with the Part number and a decimal point prefixed to the rule number. A booklet entitled "37 Code of Federal Regulations," published by the Office of the Federal Register, contains all of the patent rules and forms, as well as trademark rules and forms and copyright rules. Persons desiring a copy of the patent rules should order a copy of "Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations" from the Superintendent of Documents.

The primary function of the Rules of Practice is to advise the public of the regulations which have been established in accordance with the statutes and which must be followed before the Office. The Rules of Practice govern the examiners, as well as applicants and their attorneys.

Commissioner's Orders and Notices

From time to time, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks has issued Orders and Notices relating to various specific situations that have arisen in operating the Patent and Trademark Office. Notices and circulars of information or instructions have also been issued

by other Office Officials under authority of the Commissioner. Orders and Notices have served various purposes including directions to the examiners giving them instruction, information, interpretations and the like. Some may be for the information of the public, advising what the Office will do under specified circumstances.

Decisions

In addition to the statutory regulations, the actions taken by the examiner in the examination of applications for patents are to a great extent governed by decisions on prior cases. Applicants dissatisfied with an examiner's action may have it reviewed. In general, that portion of the examiner's action pertaining to objections on formal matters may be reviewed by petition to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks (see § 1002) and that portion of the examiner's action pertaining to the rejection of claims on the merits, may be reviewed by appeal to the Board of Appeals (see § 1201). The distinction is set forth in 37 CFR 1.181 and 1.191. In citing decisions as authority for his actions, the examiner should cite the decision in the manner set forth in § 707.06.

Publications Available from Superintendent of Documents

Orders should be addressed and remittances made payable to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Patent Official Gazette. The official journal of the Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents. Issued each Tuesday, simultaneously with the weekly issuance of patents, it contains a selected figure of the drawings and a claim of each patent granted, indexes of patents, list of patents available for license or sale, and general information such as orders, notices, changes in rules, and changes in classification.

Annual Indexes. An index of the patents issued each year is published in two volumes, one an alphabetical index of patentees and the other an index by subject matter of inventions. The two parts are sold separately. Price varies from year to year, depending upon size of the publication. An annual Index of Trademarks contains an alphabetical index of trademark registrants, registration numbers, dates published, classification of goods for which registered, and decisions published during the calendar year. Price varies from year to year, depending upon size of the publication.

Guide for Patent Draftsmen. Patent and Trademark Office requirements for patent drawings with illustrations.

Manual of Classification. A loose-leaf volume listing the numbers and descriptive titles of the more than 300 classes and 95,000 subclasses used in the subject classification of patents, with an index to the classifications. Substitute and additional pages, which are included in the subscription service, are issued from time to time.

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. A loose-leaf manual which serves primarily as a detailed reference work on patent examining practice and procedure for the Patent and Trademark Office's Examining Corps. Subscription service includes basic manual, quarterly revisions, and change notices.

Patents and Inventions—An Information Aid to Inventors. The purpose of this publication is to aid inventors in deciding whether to apply for patents, in obtaining patent protection, and in promoting their inventions.

Patents: Spur to American Progress. Focuses on the functioning of the patent system, outlining its purpose and practices and charting the "how-to" path to patents. It illustrates how the system nurtures discovery of data and devices on which the American partnership of inventor, industry, and the public builds prosperity. This publication is one of the U.S. Department of Commerce's "Know Your Economic ABC's" series.

The Story of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Cites important events in the development of the United States patent system and lists chronologically inventions having important effects on the economy.

Patent Laws. Compilation of patent laws in force.

Patent Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. An alphabetically and a geographically arranged listing of patent attorneys and agents registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Title 37—Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights. Compilation rules of practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Publications Available From the Patent and Trademark Office

Orders should be addressed to Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. Remittances should be made payable to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Postage stamps, Superintendent of Documents coupons or other Government coupons are not acceptable in payment of Patent and Trademark Office fees.

Q & A About Patents. Brief, non-technical answers to questions most frequently asked about patents. Free.

Q & A About Plant Patents. Same as above for plant patents. Free.

General Information Concerning Patents. Contains a vast amount of general information concerning the application for and granting of patents, expressed in non-technical language for the layman. Single copy free. Multiple copies available from Superintendent of Documents.

Patents. Copies of the specification and drawings of all patents are available at 50 cents each, except design patents. Design patents are 20 cents each. When ordering, identify the patent by the patent number, or give full name of the inventor and approximate date of issuance of the patent.

Classification Definitions. Contain the changes in classification of patents as well as definitions of new and revised classes and sub-classes. Price is based upon size of publication, minimum price 10 cents.

Weekly Class Sheets. Lists showing classification of each patent in the weekly issue of the *Patent Official Gazette*.

Patent Cooperation Treaty. Free.