

Patent Fields and Sections

Section/Field	Description
Title	This is the name or title of the invention.
Inventor Information	This is the inventor's identifying information—that is, name and address.
Patent Number	This is the number assigned by the PTO to the issued patent.
Patent Filing Date	This is the date that the patent application was filed with the PTO.
Patent Issue Date	This is the date that the patent was issued by the PTO.
Classification	These are the categories (the class and subclass) that the PTO uses to classify or sort the various types of inventions.
Referenced Patents	These are the patent numbers of previous patents referred to in the patent application, along with their classes and subclasses.
Abstract	Usually one concise paragraph, the abstract summarizes the invention in layperson terms. The abstract appears on the front page of the patent and is the most frequently referenced section.
Drawings	These are black-and-white drawings of the invention as seen from different perspectives.
Background of the Invention	This is a discussion of any previous inventions that were related to this invention (known as prior art).
Summary of the Invention	Here is a discussion of the invention that captures its essential functions and features.
Brief Description of Drawings	These are one-sentence descriptions of each patent drawing figure.
Detailed Description of the Preferred Version of the Invention	This is an in-depth discussion of the various aspects of the invention and in which painstaking references to the patent drawings are made.
Claims	This section defines the legal scope of the patent (in the way that a deed describes the boundaries of real estate).