

Krouzer IP Invention Description Guide

This guide is to assist you in providing us with the necessary information to help us understand your invention so that we may be able to prepare draft a patent specification and file a patent application for you. It also seeks information relating to the ownership and commercialisation of the invention, which may assist us in advising you on relevant issues prior to filing the application and commercially exploiting the invention.

To assist you in understanding the context of the information we require, an invention is generally an apparatus/device, process/method, system, or substance which is both new and inventive or innovative.

It can be:

- computer related, such as software or a networked system using processes,
- chemical, such as a pharmaceutical or chemical engineering process
- medical, biological or biotechnological
- mechanical
- scientific
- business method related

This is not an exhaustive list as new types of inventions continue to be invented. The patent system is intended to be flexible enough to protect these, subject to the extent that the law allows, which can be quite complex to determine.

Most inventions involve a solution to a problem, but sometimes they just might involve a new way of doing something already known. If the invention has commercial value, then it may be appropriate to patent.

Filing Details

Applicant/Client

Please provide the full name and address (not PO Box) of the company or the individual(s) in whose name the application is to be made. If the applicant is a company, please also provide the ABN.

Is this the same person who is/will be our client?

YES / NO (Please circle)

If yes, please also provide the address for correspondence, which may be a PO Box, if this is different from given address.

CORRESPONDENCE:

If no, please provide the full name and address (not PO Box) of the company or the individual(s) who is to be our client and indicate the nature of the relationship existing between them and the intended applicant. Please also provide the address for correspondence, which may be a PO Box, if this is different from the given address. If the client is a company, please also provide the ABN.

Inventor

Who is/are the inventor/s? An inventor must be an individual and not a company or business. An inventor is someone who has made a contribution to the inventive aspects of the invention, in either coming up with one or more ideas behind the invention and/or devising how the broad idea of the invention is to be implemented. This must be more than just applying common general knowledge, but can be as little as making a suggestion as to how the invention might work better. It is better to err on the side of caution by including everyone who you think might be an inventor, and then discussing this with us to determine whether they are an inventor or not. Incorrect naming of inventors can lead to invalidation of a subsequently granted patent.

Please provide the full name, address and nationality of each of the individual inventors. Please also identify their relationship to the applicant, e.g. employee, contractor, assignor, etc.

Entitlement

Was the invention developed entirely by the applicant(s)? If there has there been co-operation, collaboration or other involvement with or by organisations and/or individuals outside of the applicant, indicate NO.

YES / NO (Please circle)

If NO, then please provide full details of this involvement. Please also provide the full name and contact details of these other organisations and/or individuals.

Commercialisation and Prior Disclosure

Has there been any commercialisation or disclosure of the invention in terms of:

- sales,
- offers for sale,
- use in public,
- use in secret for commercial purposes
- public disclosure in a publication, document or any kind of visual or printed media in either printed or electronic form
- being submitted for such?

YES / NO (Please circle)

If YES, please provide details of this and whether there was any confidentiality undertaking entered into by the recipient of this disclosure.

Description

1. Specifically, what do you think the invention is?

2. What was the purpose of making the invention? For example, was there a previous problem or difficulty that made you think of the invention? If so, please describe the purpose, problem or difficulty in as much detail as possible.

3. What attempts have been made before by you or others to solve the problem or overcome the difficulty? Also include why you think the problem has not been solved or the difficulty overcome by these previous attempts?

4. What is the technical field of the invention and the present state of the art in this field? Please include any technical articles or papers that might help us to understand the present state of the art as it would be understood by a person skilled in the art. Please also identify what aspects of this art would be common general knowledge, and what would be special knowledge that would not be commonly known.

5. Are there other fields where the invention might have use or application? Please list these and how the invention would need to be modified in order to be used in these fields.

6. What are the essential features, components and/or steps that make up the invention? What are preferred features, components and/or steps that support these essential elements, which whilst important, are not essential?

7. Please completely describe the best way known to you of making the invention work. This should be sufficient to enable someone with average skill in the field of the invention to make the invention or perform the method or process.

Please use drawings that clearly show all of the important technical features, components and/or steps of the invention as well as other features or aspects that would teach someone how to make and/or use the invention. In a patent specification, the level of disclosure typically is the same as that given in a scientific paper or technical publication, so more information should be provided rather than less. Where acronyms or industry-specific abbreviations, or references are used, an explanation of these should also be given. Any schematic diagrams or formula that may assist in understanding how the invention works as well as unmarked drawings should also be provided.

For electronic and computer related inventions, please provide functional block diagrams of the hardware or circuit diagrams that are involved.

For software or computer related inventions, please provide block diagrams of any hardware structures involved, data flow or sequence diagrams or logic flow charts. The use of UML in describing this may be helpful. Whilst it is not necessary to supply source or object code, details of algorithms and/or data structures should be provided.

Types of drawings that are useful are:

- a. flowcharts,
- b. entity relationship diagrams,
- c. pseudocode,
- d. class/object diagrams
- e. data structure diagrams.

Types of flow charts that are useful are:

- a. program flow – illustrates flow of control program
- b. data flow – illustrates flow of data from process to process
- c. system flow – illustrates functional components of system
- d. program network – illustrates relationships between processes and data
- e. system resource – illustrates how system resources (process and data) are interrelated
- f. pseudocode guidelines

For business method inventions, the steps carried out in the business method should be clearly set out and explained. If any parts of the business method are carried out by a computer system/network or otherwise automated, then this should be identified and appropriate algorithms and operating steps be detailed as described above in relation to software inventions. You will need to describe how all of the parties involved in the business method interact with each other, and how your business method impacts on the interaction. If there are any parts of your business method (or the interactions between the parties) that you feel are particularly innovative, please highlight them in your description and include an explanation of why you feel they are innovative.

8. Which of the features, components and/or steps that make up the invention are new and innovative in your opinion?

9. What are the advantages or benefits of the invention compared with what is already known?

Prepared by:

Date: