



ADVISOR REVIEWS—STANDARD REVIEW

Canadian Patents Database

*Date of Review: November 2008***Composite Score:**

★★★★

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Price

Patent documents accessed through the Canadian Patents Database are freely available for public viewing. However, the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) requires the payment of fees to obtain and maintain a patent. The patent maintenance fees, charged only on patents issued after October 1, 1989, are used to protect intellectual property rights.

Product Description

The Canadian Patents Database <<http://patents.ic.gc.ca/cipo/cpd/welcome.html>> is produced and maintained by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO). The Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) is an agency associated with Industry Canada, a Canadian federal government department, which is responsible for the management, administration, and processing of intellectual property registered in Canada.

This database is an interactive site that allows users to search for Canadian patent information from as far back as 1869 to the present. There are more than 1,900,000 patents available in this database, however it does not provide full legal status of patents and some information may be missing; therefore the database should be searched for informational purposes only.

Library and Archives Canada also offers a patent database, Canadian Patents, 1869–1894 <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/patents/>>, which contains full patents registered in Canada by Canadian citizens or permanent residents from 1869–1894. Canadian patents granted to non-Canadian citizens or residents are not included in this database. Patents from 1895–1919 will be added to this database in the future. This database is for historical and archival purposes and is part of the Library and Archives Canada virtual exhibit “Made in Canada—Patents of Invention and the Story of Canadian Innovation,” which examines the history of patents and Canadian inventions.

Critical Evaluation

CONTENT

The Canadian Patents Database contains textual patent information including abstracts and claims from 1978 to the present. It also contains patent images from 1920 to the present and bibliographic patent information from 1869 to the present. The content of the Canadian Patents Database is not consistently updated. Patents filed directly with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) are available in the database within one week of the “open to public inspection date.” Patent Cooperation Treaty applications are available in the database

between five to nine weeks after the national entry date and old patent information is usually updated within two to four weeks. Since not all patent information is filed at the same time there may be missing information and images.

The content and coverage of the Canadian Patents Database is consistent with that of other patent databases, such as the United States of America. The United States Patent Database is updated on a weekly basis and includes full text and images from January 1976 to the present and bibliographic patent information from 1790 to December 1975. Patent applications from March 2001 to the present are also searchable in the United States Patent Database.

Canadian patent applications may be filed in either French or English. Most patents have parallel titles in both French and English, although the titles from 1960–1978 have titles only in the language of filing. This will affect the access to patent information filed from 1960 to 1978, since it is searchable in only one of the official languages.

There are six parts to the patent document image: cover page, abstract, claims, drawings, description, and representative drawings. The cover page is produced by the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO). It contains bibliographic information about the patent. Some of the more recent patents documents include an abstract and representative drawing in addition to the bibliographic information on the cover page. The abstracts are only available for patents issued after 1975. Abstracts describe the inventions, while the claims section describes original aspects of the item that is being patented. The drawing section (optional) is a set of diagrams that represent the invention. The description section is a detailed explanation of the invention. The representative drawing section is a single visual image of the invention. Representative drawings are available only for patents filed after October 1989. The Canadian Patent Classification system is used for patents registered before October 1989 and the International Patent Classification system is used after October 1989.

The Canadian Patent database is for general informational use and the content meets this intended purpose. For more detailed information it is recommended that patent documents be obtained from the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO).

SEARCHABILITY

The database can be searched by the patent application filing number (PCT filing number), by the patent classification number or by keywords searched in the following fields: inventor, inventor's country, owner, owner's country, title, abstract and claim. The search may be limited by the availability of licence. A licence allows for the sale or licensing the rights to the patent.

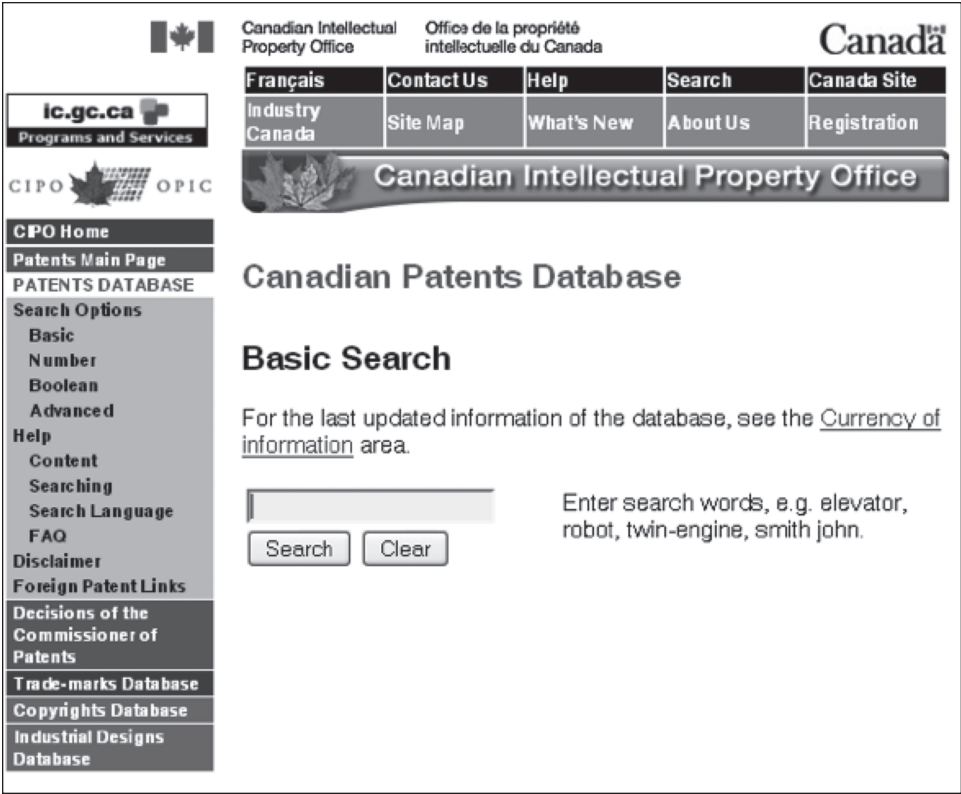


FIGURE 1 The Basic Search of the Canadian Patents Database

The Canadian Patents Database offers four search options: basic, number, Boolean and advanced. The basic search uses natural language searching to find specific words or phrases in any field. Various search language may be used in the basic search function such as Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity operators. The basic search function is displayed in Figure 1.

The number search is used to find a particular patent by the patent document number (see Figure 2). The patent document number is a unique 8-digit number that identifies individual patents.

Two separate display options are available for viewing the results of the number search: document details and administrative status, shown in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. Document details include information about the patent such as title, abstract, claims, inventor, and owner. Administrative status shows the administrative status and payment history of the patent. All the fields in both the document details and administrative status view are hyperlinked to descriptions of the fields.

The Boolean search is used to find keywords in up to three different fields connected by the Boolean logic operators (AND, OR). This search may be limited by the availability of a licence, by the patent application filing number (PCT filing number) or by date. Several different types of date may be used to limit the Boolean search: issue date, filing date, “open to public inspection” date, priority date, and national entry date. Figure 5 illustrates the Boolean search screen.

The advanced search uses natural language searching to find specific words



FIGURE 2 The Number Search

FIGURE 3 The Document Details Display from Number Search

or phrases in any of the searchable fields. Various search language may be used in the advanced search function such as Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity operators. The advanced search may be limited by availability of a license, by the patent application filing number (PCT filing number), by language, or by date. Figure 6 shows the advanced search.

SEARCH RESULTS

The Canadian Patents Database has extensive search capabilities. It gives users several different options for accessing information. It is very intuitive to use for users who have a basic understanding of patents and the patent process. For the novice patent searcher, there are very well written Help menus that describe each of the fields in detail and describe how to use search language. The search engine is very reliable and offers consistent and reliable results. For example a basic search using the keywords "cup holder" offers a list of results that are ranked using a relevancy ranking system. This example is illustrated in Figure 7. However, the algorithm for this relevancy ranking process is not given. The default results display list is 50 items, but this may be increased to 500 items.

Conclusion

The Canadian Patents Database was created to provide patent information for the general public. Search options are suitable for both novice and advanced users. The administrative status and document details of the patents provide users with a variety of information.

Contract Provisions

The Canadian Patents Database allows users to freely access patent documents for information purposes only. There may be missing information in the database. Down-

FIGURE 4 The Administrative Status Display from Number Search

Canadian Patents Database	
(12) Patent Application:	(11) CA 21728
(54) VINYL AROMATIC RESIN COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING CONDENSATION PRODUCT OF HALOGENATED AROMATIC DIOL AND AN ALKYLENE DIHALIDE	
(54) COMPOSITION POUR RESINE AROMATIQUE VINYLQUE, RENFERMANT UN PRODUIT DE CONDENSATION D'UN DIOL AROMATIQUE HALOGENE ET D'UN DIHALOGENURE D'ALKYLENE	
View or Download Images View Administrative Status	
ABSTRACT	
<p>A flame retardant thermoplastic composition is provided containing a vinyl aromatic resin and a flame retardant. The flame retardant is an oligomeric condensation product of a halogenated aromatic diol and an alkylene dihalide composition which is preferably an admixture of an alkyl monohalide and an alkylene dihalide. The compositions are useful for making molded articles for automotive parts and for business machine housings. The composition exhibit no bloom, good thermal color stability, and good resistance to ultraviolet light.</p>	
CLAIMS Show all claims	
*** Note: Data on abstracts and claims is shown in the official language in which it was submitted.	
(72) Inventors: (Country)	KULICH, DONALD M. (United States) TERMINE, ENRICO J. (United States) CLEVELAND, THOMAS B. (United States) MACK, ARTHUR G. (United States)

Canadian Patents Database				
(12) Patent Application	(11) 2172863			
<p>For a clearer understanding of the status of the application/patent presented on this page, the site Disclaimer, as well as the definitions for Patent, Administrative Status, Maintenance Fee and Payment History should be consulted.</p>				
Administrative Status :				
Title	Date			
(22) Filed	1996-03-28			
(41) Open to Public Inspection	1996-11-12			
Examination Requested	2003-03-27			
Dead Application	2005-03-29			
Payment History :				
Fee Type	Ann Yr	Due Date	Amount Paid	Paid Date
Filing			\$0.00	1996-03-28
Registration of Documents			\$0.00	1997-02-27
Registration of Documents			\$0.00	1997-02-27
Registration of Documents			\$0.00	1997-02-27
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	2	1998-03-30	\$100.00	1998-02-12
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	3	1999-03-29	\$100.00	1999-02-11
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	4	2000-03-28	\$100.00	2000-02-22
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	5	2001-03-28	\$150.00	2001-02-09
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	6	2002-03-28	\$150.00	2002-03-14
Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act	7	2003-03-28	\$150.00	2003-03-06

Boolean Search

Type the words or phrases you want to search in one or all text entry areas. Select the patent fields to be searched with the selector to the right of each entry area. When using both areas, choose the boolean connector (OR or AND). You can get the [text field definitions](#) or you can view [example queries](#).

For the last updated information of the database, see the [Currency of information](#) area.

Any Text Field

contains

And

Any Text Field

contains

And

Any Text Field

contains

Only With Licence Available:

AND

All Documents

PCT

Non-PCT

AND

Date Search: (Optional)

To restrict your search to a specific date range, you **must** select a date field below. For the date search coverage, see [completeness of date fields](#).

Find patents with

Date Search not active

between

1869

Jan

1

and

2008

Dec

4

Results per list

50

Search

Clear

FIGURE 5 The Boolean Search of the Canadian Patents Database

Advanced Search

Enter search text in the following fields. View [example queries](#).

For the last updated information of the database, see the [Currency of information](#) area.

Search

Clear

Date Search

Any Text Field

Title:

Abstract:

Claims:

Inventor:

Inventor Country:

Owner:

Applicant:

IPC:

CPC:

PCT Filing Number:

Intl Publication Number:

Only With Licence Available:

WITHIN

All Documents

PCT

Non-PCT

AND

In both

For documents only issued on or after Aug. 15, 1978

FIGURE 6 The Advanced Search of the Canadian Patents Database

Canadian Patents Database

Search Results

2008-12-04 04:12:05

Search

Query:

cup holder

Query: cup holder

155 documents out of 1,972,748 matched your query. Click on its number to view the details of the document.

First

1-50 of 155

Last

1.	2358236	CUP HOLDER INSERT WITH SNACK OR COMBO CARRIER	100%
2.	1195062	END BRUSH	100%
3.	2191781	CUP HOLDER WHICH CAN RECEIVE AND SECURE CUPS OF VARIOUS SIZES	100%
4.	2533880	ADJUSTABLE CUP HOLDER	99%
5.	2403033	JUVENILE SEAT CUP HOLDER	99%
6.	2355726	CUP HOLDER	99%
7.	2301397	CUP HOLDER	99%
8.	1191661	DIRT CUP CLEANER	99%
9.	2551570	FLUID SUPPLY ASSEMBLY FOR SPRAY	99%

FIGURE 7 The Example of the Basic Search for the Keywords “Cup Holder”

loading patent information from this database is limited to 300 pages. Some patent holders are willing to sell or lease the rights to their invention and this information is contained in the patent document. The Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) should be contacted if the patent information will be used for legal purposes or if more than 300 pages need to be downloaded.

Authentication

Since this database is freely available authentication is not necessary.

Updates and New Information

Updates and new features of the database are stated on the Canadian Patents Database Web site. Notices of upgrades to the database are also available on the Web site.

Contact Information

Canadian Intellectual Property Office

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50 Victoria St., Room C-229
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9
Phone: (866)997-1936
E-mail: <cipo.contact@ic.gc.ca>
URL: <http://www.cipo.gc.ca>



Canadian Patents Database Review Scores Composite: ★★★★★

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5

Content: ★★ ★ 1/2

This database contains patent document details and administrative status; however, the content in this database is not complete and there is inconsistency as to the completeness of the patent information depending on the date or type of patent application.

Searchability: ★★★★★ 1/2

Search features are extensive, reliable, and intuitive. The database offers four different search options. The Help section describes each field and offers instruction on using search language. Search results use a relevancy ranking; however, the algorithm for this ranking process is not given.

Price: N/A

Accessing information in this database is free, but fees are charged for obtaining and maintaining patents.

Contract Provisions: N/A

Access is freely available for information purposes. Downloading is limited to 300 pages.

References

Canadian Intellectual Property Office. "Canadian patents database." CIPO. 1999. <<http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html>; <http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html>>.

Library and Archives Canada. "Canadian Patents, 1869–1894." Library and Archives Canada. 2006. <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/patents/>>.

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"Securing your investments patent maintenance fees." Canada Intellectual Property Office. 2006. <<http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/200/301/ic/cipo-opic/securing%5Finvestments-e/Iu71-4-8-2006E.pdf>>.

United States Patent and Trademark Office. "Search U.S. patents." United States Patent and Trademark Office. 1990s. <<http://patft.uspto.gov/>>.

About the Author

Marcia Salmon is a Cataloguing Librarian at the Scott Library at York University. She specializes in providing access to serials and electronic resources. She also contributes to reference services at the Steacie Science and Engineering Library at York University. She received an honours B.Sc. in Biology and Applied Educational Psychology from University of Toronto, and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Western Ontario. ■