

UTILITY PATENT

A patent application, and the utility patent that issues from the application, is comprised of several parts. While certain variations are possible, the patent application should contain the following parts:

Specification

Background/Field of Invention - point the reader in the general field of the invention (e.g., automotive technology, communication, power generation, medical apparatus, etc.)

Prior Art - describe the "old technology" and what is wrong with it (this sets the stage for your improvement)

Summary of the Invention - a brief overview of what your invention is about.

Exemplary Embodiment, Best Mode Example of the Invention - here you/we must describe at least one example of your invention with enough detail that will allow someone reading the description to make and use the invention.

Claims - the claims define what is and what is not your invention (they define the metes and bounds of your invention).

Drawing (one or more figures to accompany the description so that the reader may understand your invention more readily).

The invention is broadly described in the written **specification** and the protected invention is more narrowly defined in the **patent claims**. According to United States law, the inventor enters into a contract with the federal government, which is represented by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The federal government essentially promises to protect the exclusive rights of the inventor to his claimed invention for the duration of twenty years counted from the patent application date. The inventor, in turn, must provide an adequate description of the invention in the specification which will enable one of skill in the pertinent art to make and use the invention when the patent expires. The inventor/owner may freely commercialize his patented invention, he may block any use thereof, or he may prematurely dedicate the invention to the public.