

# PATENTS

## PROTECTING YOUR INVENTIONS

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*i) Intellectual Property Overview*

*ii) Patent Application Process and Patent  
Infringement*

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# Intellectual Property Types

- Intangible Good (concept, idea)
- Can be owned / Saleable
- 5 Main Types:
  - Patents
  - Trade Secrets
  - Industrial Designs
  - Copyright
  - Trade-marks

# Intellectual Property - Examples

- Drip Free Spout (Patent, Design)
- Shoe (TM, Design, Patent)
- Tiles (Copyright, Design)
- Slogan e.g. “Driver’s Wanted”  
(Copyright, TM)
- Software (Patent, Copyright)

# Types of Intellectual Property Protection

- Patents
- **Trade Secrets**
- Industrial Designs
- Copyright
- Trade-marks

# Trade Secrets

- Information of value
- Not generally known to the public
- Formula, pattern, device or collection of information
- Used in a business to gain advantage
- Must be kept secret
- Common law

# Trade secrets

- No application procedure
- Patents are for 20 years, trade secrets could be forever
- Example:
  - the formula for Coca Cola

# Patents and Trade Secrets are Mutually Exclusive

- Patents require that the invention be disclosed in sufficient detail so that anyone can practice the invention once the patent expires
- Trade secrets require that the invention not be disclosed publicly.
- Sale of Invention may prevent patent (USA)

# What constitutes secrecy?

- Processes where method is not obvious from the end product
- Steps are taken to protect the secret
- Disclosures can be made under confidentiality agreements or circumstances of confidentiality
- Public when disclosed to someone under no obligation to confidentiality

# Obligations of Recipients

- Must keep the secret
- Can use the information only for the purpose for which it was received
- Obligated by Employment, Professional Services, License Agreement, NDA
- Duty continues even after employment ends

# Remedies for Breach of Confidence

- Enforceable through Courts
- Damages, Accounting of Profits, Injunction, Imposition of a Trust, Punitive Damages
- All to restore the owner to position before recipient's wrongful conduct
- Cannot recover secret once disclosed

# Types of Intellectual Property Protection

- Patents
- Trade Secrets
- **Industrial Designs**
- Copyright
- Trade-marks

# Industrial Designs

- Protects aesthetic appearance of an article
- Must be new
  - file prior to making public
  - Grace period in Canada and USA
- Must be original
  - “Non-obvious”
- Drawings of the article, showing all six views - top, bottom, front, back, left side and right side are submitted

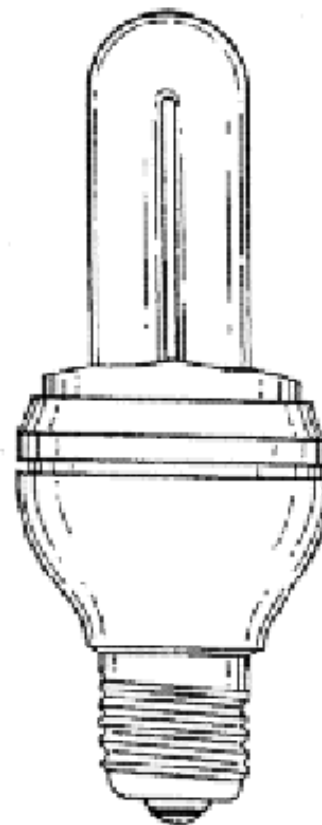
# Industrial Designs

- Commercial Items vs. Artistic Works
  - Copyright limited to 50 articles in Canada
- Term
  - Canada - 10 years
  - USA - 14 years

# Reinventing the Light Bulb



**US Design 366,706**



**US Design 366,705**

# Limits of Protection

- Protection is very limited - modifications in the appearance or shape that do not affect the function of an article will likely be sufficient to avoid infringement
- Scope related to the differences between invention and prior art
  - E.g. Shape vs. Pattern in Furniture

# Types of Intellectual Property Protection

- Patents
- Trade Secrets
- Industrial Designs
- **Copyright**
- Trade-marks

# Copyright Protection

- Protects the representation of the work but not the underlying idea
- Protects artistic works, such as paintings, drawings, computer programs and written works
- Less than 50 articles in Canada
- Term is life of the artist plus 50 years
- Federal Statute

# How Obtained

- Automatic: Artist has inherent rights to work, meaning that the copyright does not have to be registered
- USA – registration still favored
- Should indicate claim - Label material with:  
**© Year first created, Name of Owner**

# Copyright Registration

- Register by application to the Copyright Office
- Relatively quick
- More remedies for infringement

# Computer Programs

- Code protected by copyright
- Concept or method protected by a patent

# Limits of Protection

- Copyright does not protect concepts as does a patent but protects the work itself
- For infringement to have occurred, a substantial part of the work must have been copied
- Evidence of copying must be provided
- Independent Creation is not Infringement
- Subject Decision

# Moral Rights

- *Copyright Act*
- Author has the right to:
  - the integrity of the work
  - the right to be associated with the work by name (or under a pseudonym, or to remain anonymous)
- Cannot be assigned but may be waived
- Term same as for the copyright

# Copyright Enforcement

- Save and date working drafts
- Record date made public
- Register

# Remedies for Copyright Infringement

- Damages
- Accounting of Profits
- Injunction
- All to restore the owner to position before the wrongful conduct

# Types of Intellectual Property Protection

- Patents
- Trade Secrets
- Industrial Designs
- Copyright
- **Trade-marks**

# Trade-marks

- Can be a
  - word
  - symbol
  - logo
  - phrase
- Distinguish wares or services from others' on packaging, in advertising, etc.
- Example: **COKE**

# Trade-marks

- To avoid inadvertently obtaining products and services from the wrong supplier
- Does not protect product itself
- Typically limited to use with specific wares or services

# Acquiring Trade-mark Rights

- Use
- Application to the Trade-marks Office
- Country by country – Same TM can be owned by different parties in different countries
- Renewable ad infinitum (only if still in use)

# What is Use with Wares?

- Used in association with wares if
  - at the time of the transfer of title or of the wares
  - in the normal course of trade
  - it is marked on the wares (or packaging)
- Must be somehow marked so as to give notice to the transferee of the association between the wares and the trade-mark

# What is Use with Services?

- Used or displayed
  - in the performance of the services
  - in the advertising of the services

# What is Registrable?

- Almost anything
- Some restrictions
- Cannot be
  - primarily a surname
  - descriptive or deceptively misdescriptive of the wares or services (e.g. Labatt's KOLD ONE)
  - the name of the wares or services in any language
  - confusing with a registered mark (e.g. SONI)

# An example

- Labatts **KOLD ONE** for beer
- Trade-marks Office rejected
  - descriptive or deceptively misdescriptive
- Federal Court
  - not descriptive because can buy warm beer
  - not misdescriptive because average person buying unchilled beer would not be deceived into believing it would be cold when opened

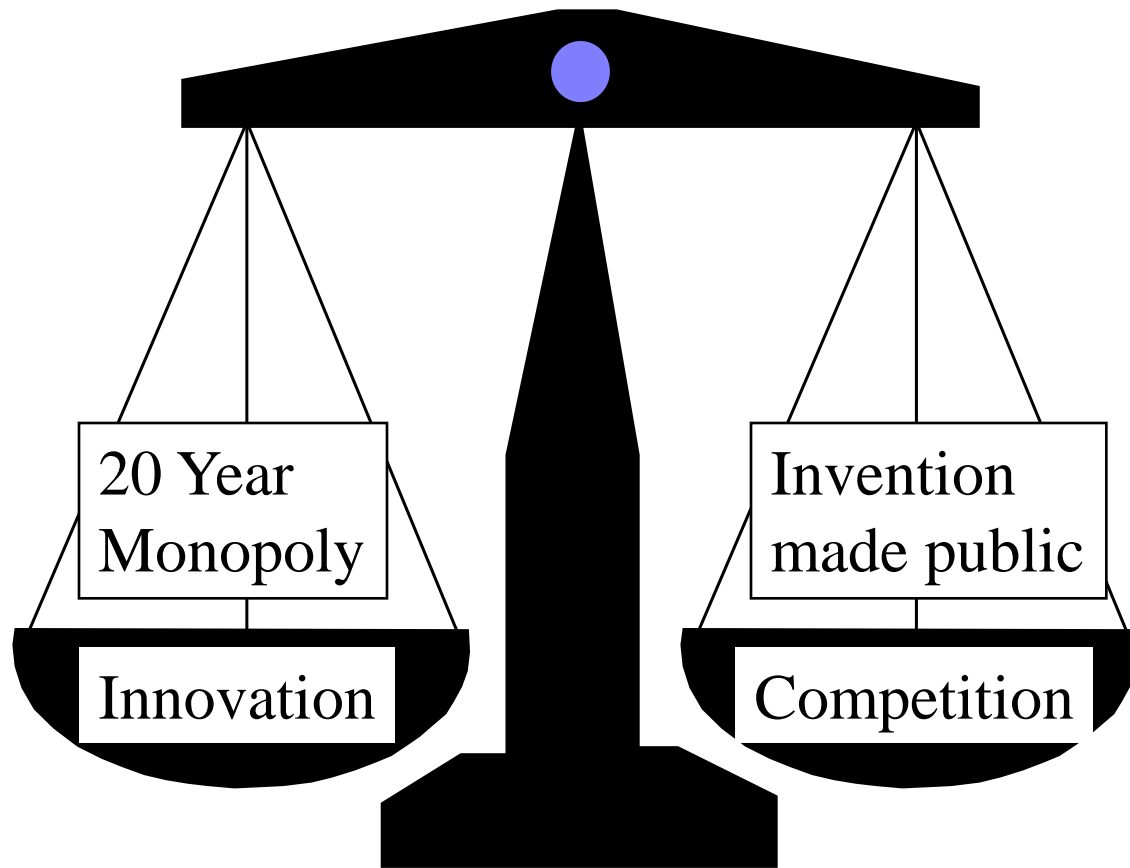
# Remedies for Trade-mark Infringement

- Damages
- Accounting of Profits
- Injunction
- All to restore the owner to position before the wrongful conduct
- Action for infringement when non-registered requires proof of “passing-off”

# **Types of Intellectual Property Protection**

- **Patents**
- Trade Secrets
- Industrial Designs
- Copyright
- Trade-marks

# Patent system is based on compromise



# What is a Patent?

- A limited monopoly granted by the government to an inventor for preventing others from practicing the invention in exchange for the inventor making the invention public in sufficient detail so that one skilled in the art could reproduce the invention after expiration of the patent.
- Term – 20 years from filing date

# IS IT PATENTABLE?

- Is it **NEW**?
- Is it **USEFUL**?
- Is it **NONOBVIOUS**?

# IS IT PATENTABLE?

- Is it **NEW**?

Invention must be novel and not have been previously disclosed in public or in prior patent application in same country

- Is it **USEFUL**?

- Is it **NONOBVIOUS**?

# What Constitutes Disclosure?

- Making the invention public occurs when you are no longer in control of who learns about the invention.
- Publication of the details of the invention.
- Showing the invention at a trade show or poster session.
- Discussions under a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement are not disclosure.

- Most countries (except USA and Canada) require absolute novelty for patent protection, meaning that the invention cannot have been previously disclosed.
- Canada and USA allow a one year grace period following disclosure for filing for patent protection with some restrictions.  
(Canada – only disclosure by inventor)

- **PRIOR ART** – the collection of all public information prior to the filing date of a patent application
- **FILING DATE** – date the application is received by the patent office in that country
- **CLAIM DATE** – earliest filing date of a related application from which an application claims some benefit

# IS IT PATENTABLE?

- Is it NEW?
- Is it USEFUL?  
Must perform a function.
- Is it NONOBVIOUS?

# Patentable Subject Matter

- Utility
  - Invention must work for intended purpose (e.g. Buoyancy Motors, Magnet Motors)
- Non-statutory subject matter
  - Rules vary by country

# IS IT PATENTABLE?

- Is it NEW?
- Is it USEFUL?
- Is it NONOBVIOUS?

Is the invention “obvious” based on what has already been done or is there a degree of “inventiveness” or “cleverness” involved?

# OBVIOUSNESS

- As determined by one skilled in the art to which the invention pertains, having access to all that has been done previously in the field but having no creativity.
- Cannot relate to mechanical equivalent
- Must be surprising rather than expected solution to a problem

- Is a combination of two items greater than the sum of their parts?
  - Combination therapies
- Is the invention capable of functions not previously considered?
  - New use for a known drug

# Determining Inventorship

- Anyone who contributed to the inventive process is an inventor.
- Inventors can be added or deleted from a patent application if necessary by filing affidavits.
- Simply suggesting that something should be done is not invention.
- Contributions related to skill in the art not inventive

# Determining ownership

- Where did the invention take place?
- Who was employing the inventors?
- In Canada, employer has rights to inventions developed during course of employment
- Wherever possible, these issues should be resolved early on.

Patent Application  
Process  
and  
Patent Infringement

# Contents of a Patent Application

- Background

Description of what has been done previously.

- Detailed Description

- Claims

# Background Section

- Not mandatory.
- Discuss what has been done before (prior art).
- Anticipate references the Patent Office is likely to cite and deal with them in advance.
- Simplify Examination

# Contents of a Patent Application

- Background

- Detailed Description

Describes the invention in sufficient detail so that one skilled in the art can duplicate it

- Claims

# Contents of the Detailed Description

- Best mode for carrying out the invention
- Functional equivalents
- Other potential uses for the invention.
- “Reasonable prediction”

# Contents of the Detailed Description

- Experimental results
- Drawings/Photographs
- Preliminary data
- Proposed experiments or tests
- Speculation

# Contents of a Patent Application

- Background
- Detailed Description
- Claims

Define the invention and the scope of protection of the patent

# Patent Claims

- Define the necessary parts of the invention.
- Used for determining infringement.
- Must be supported by the Detailed Description.
- Claims can be added, cancelled or amended during examination of the application by the Patent Office based on Description (no new matter)

# Where to file...

- Patents are generally applied for separately in each country
- International Paris Convention: reserves patent rights for one year among member countries subsequent to filing in a first country (170+ member countries)
- Examination separate in each country, and different scope of protection may occur

- PCT
  - Single application designating 130+ countries
  - International Search and Preliminary Written Opinion
  - Application process only, never becomes an international Patent
- EPO
  - Single application designating approximately 30 member countries
  - Examined through European Patent Office
  - Validation fees per country

# When to file ...

- In most countries a claim date is required before publication of the invention
- Once the time limit has passed, invention becomes part of the public domain
- Too late for others to patent also
- Patents cannot be re-applied for

# When to file ...

- As early as possible after the innovation or discovery has been made
- In most countries (except USA), the “first to file” is the inventor
  - Date of invention of little use outside of USA
- Requires that the idea be reduced to practice.

# Reduction to Practice

- Does not mean that all the details have to be worked out, but that the key inventive features have been shown to work

# Key question before proceeding:

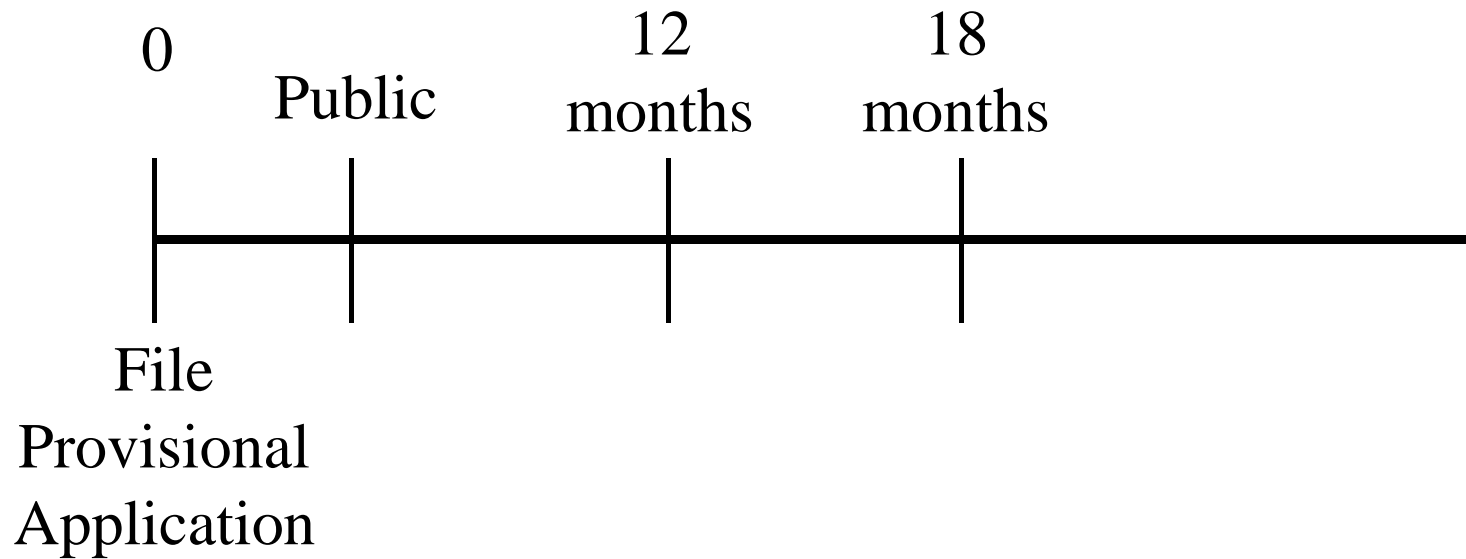
- Where will we be in one year when it is time to complete the applications?
- Paris Convention requires further applications to be filed within one year of first application to claim the benefit of the earlier filing date of the first application

# Provisional Application Filed

- Filing date
- Patent Pending status
- Material disclosed in the application is protected
- Recognized by Paris Convention
- Minimal filing requirements and government fees due

- Invention can be made public after provisional without loss of foreign patent rights
  - Offer for sale (USA)
  - Publishing a scientific paper
  - Tradeshows, etc.
- Any material not described in the patent application is not protected

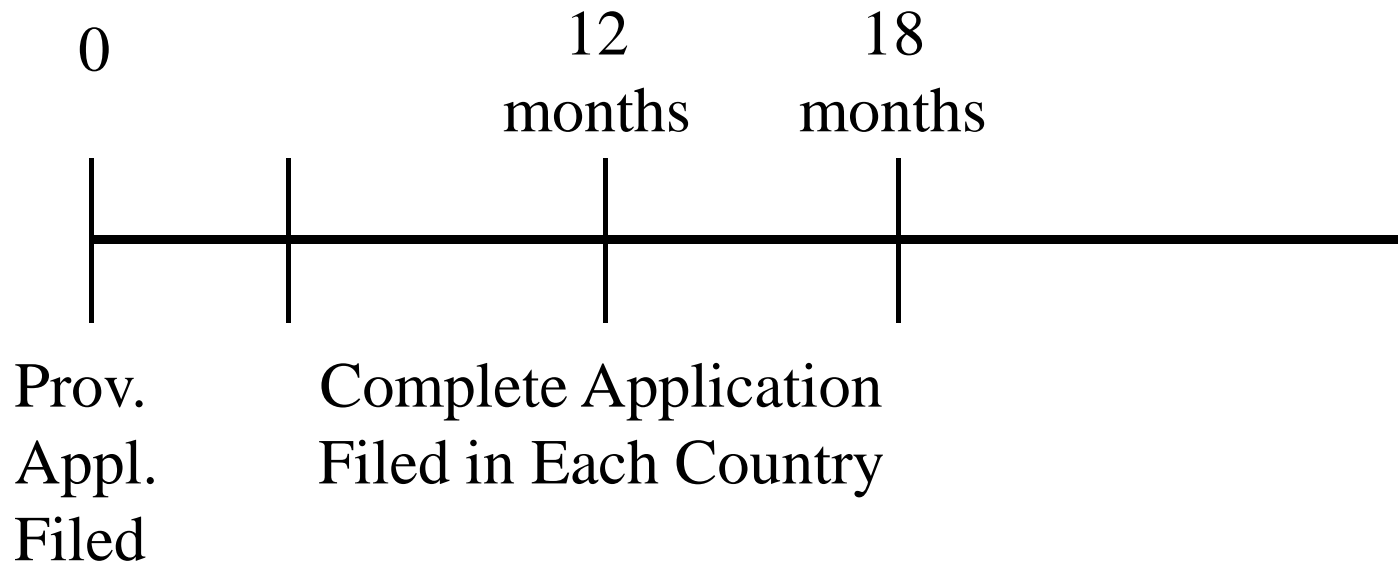
# PATENT TIME LINE



# Completing the Application

- Description can be revised and new material added
- Any new material will have a later filing date
- Decide which other countries to file in

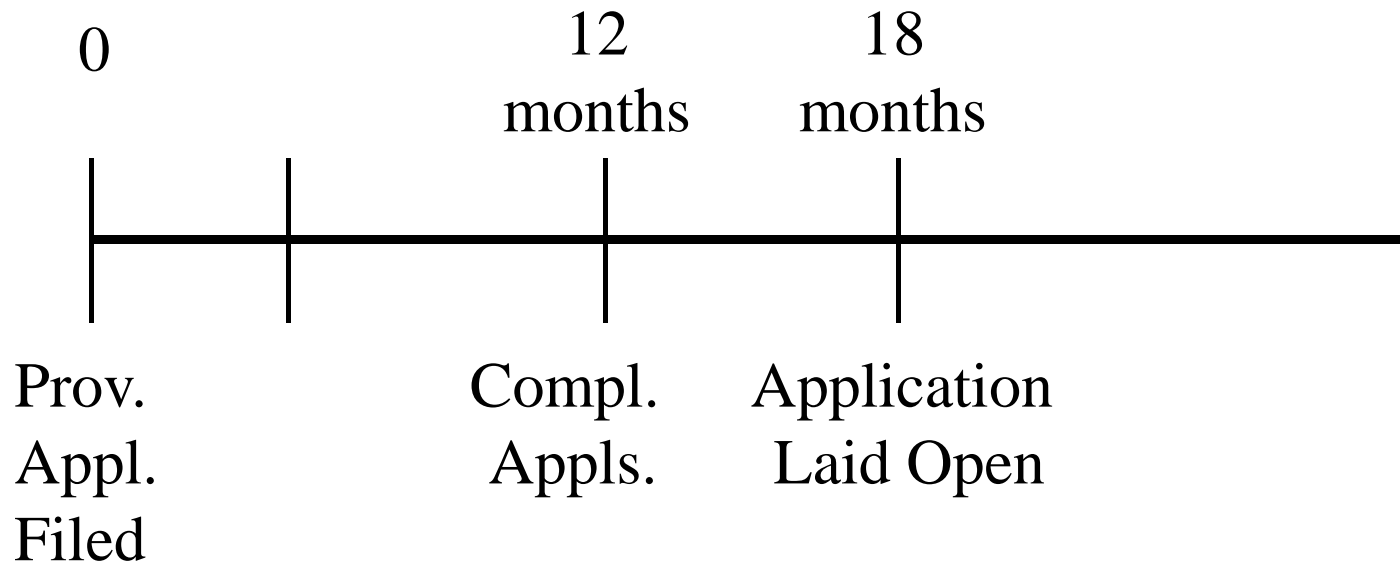
# PATENT TIME LINE



# Laid-Open Date

- Application is made public
- Informs public of articles being patented
- Final Due Date for filing non-convention foreign patent applications even if inventor has not published invention

# PATENT TIME LINE



# Prosecution of the Patent Application

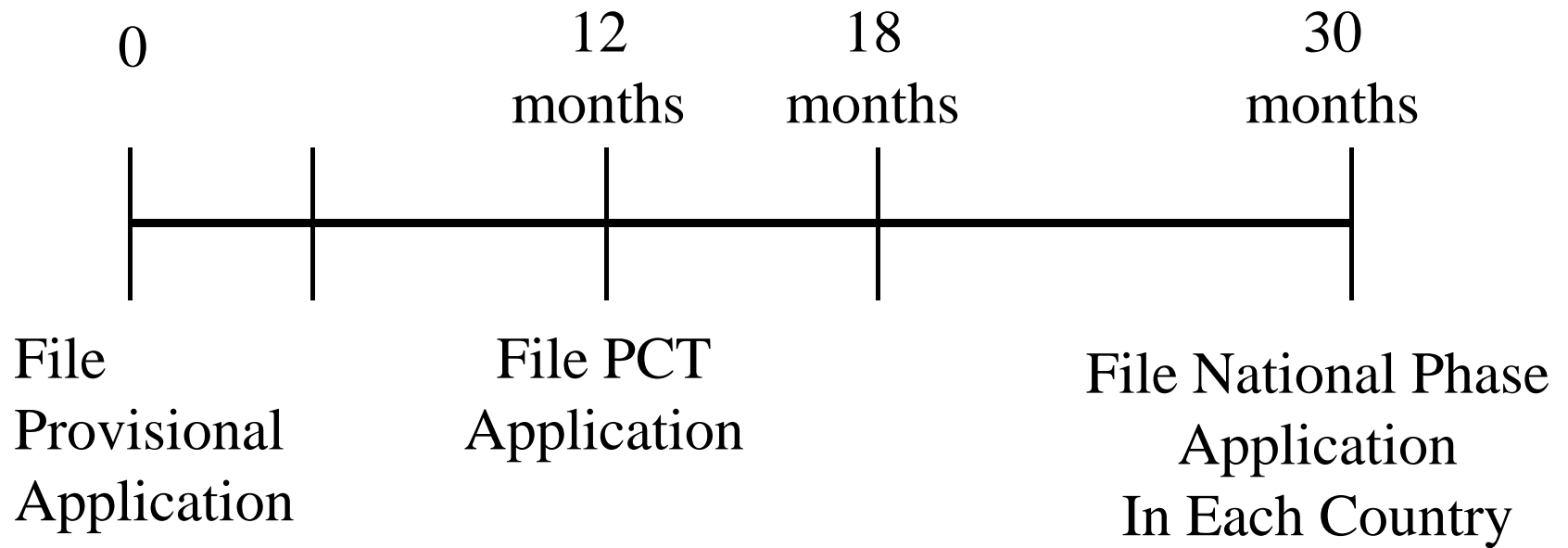
- Examiner cites prior art against the application
- Claims are amended to overcome the prior art
- Application issues as patent
- Issued Patent does not guarantee an earlier patent is not infringed



# PCT application process

- File within one year of first application
- Extends due date for filing internationally until 30 months from the first application filing date
- Delay cost and issuance of patents in each country

# PATENT TIME LINE



# Issued Patent

- Issued patent protects against manufacture, use, OR sale by others
- Including further elements than the claims does not avoid infringement
- Omitting an element from the claims avoids infringement

# Remedies for Patent Infringement

- Damages
- Accounting of Profits
- Injunction
- Delivery up for destruction
- All to restore the owner to position before the wrongful conduct

# Importance of Patent Claims

- Claims define the scope of the invention.
- Claims are used when determining infringement.
- Claims define the minimum elements of the invention.

# Types of Claims

- Method of use
- Method of manufacture
- Article itself
- Article in combination with other elements

# Claim Structure

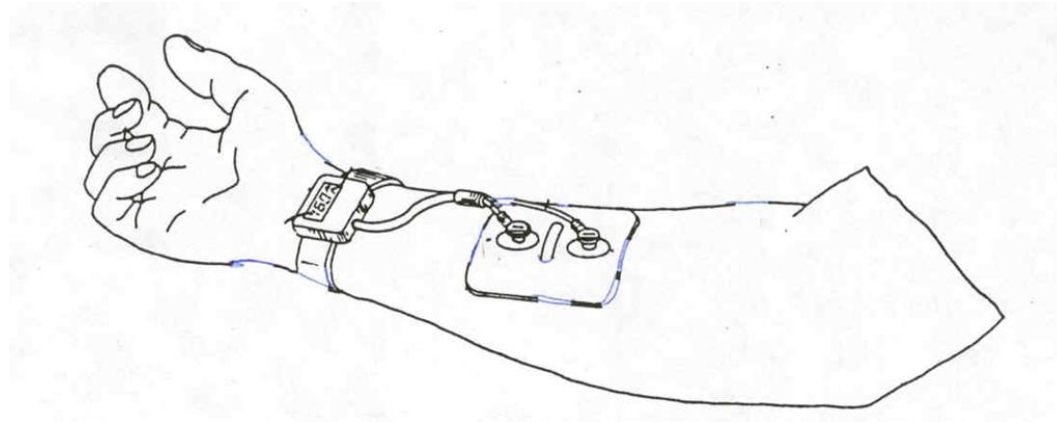
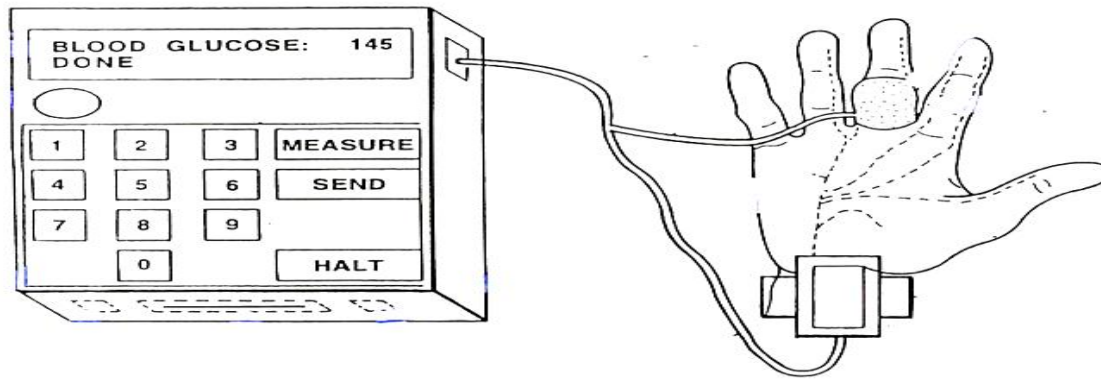
- Two types of claims:
- Independent
  1. A method of treating depression comprising administering a serotonin reuptake inhibitor to an individual in need of such treatment.
- Dependent
  2. The method of claim 1 wherein the serotonin reuptake inhibitor is fluoxetine hydrochloride.

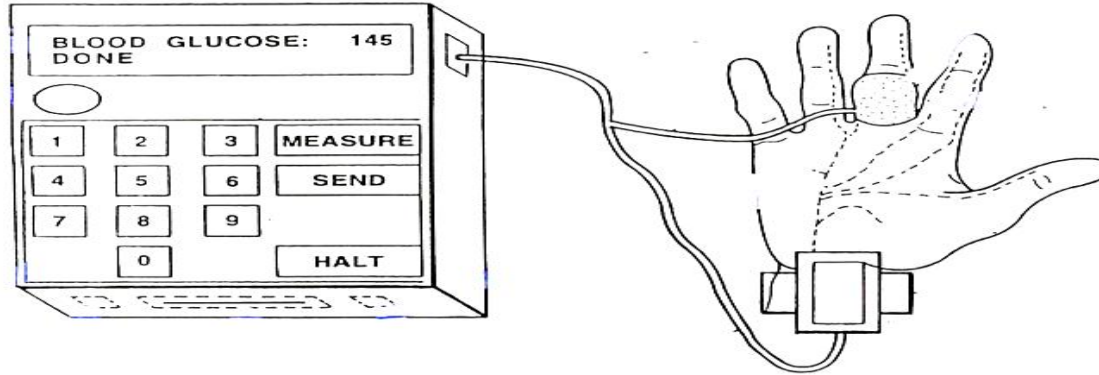
- 1. A method of treating depression comprising administering a serotonin reuptake inhibitor to an individual in need of such treatment.
- Dependent claim reads as:
- 2. A method of treating depression comprising administering a serotonin reuptake inhibitor which is fluoxetine hydrochloride to an individual in need of such treatment.

# Determining Infringement

- Determining infringement is simply a matter of carefully reading the independent claims and comparing them to the potentially infringing device or method.
- If a term is unclear, consult patent for the definition of the term.

# TWO BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORS





An apparatus comprising:

- a stimulator adapted for applying an electrical or magnetic stimulus to a tissue responsive to said stimulus;
- a detector for detecting a response to said stimulus;
- a correlator adapted for correlating said detected response to a quantitative measure of an analyte concentration; and
- an indicator adapted for indicating said quantitative measure.

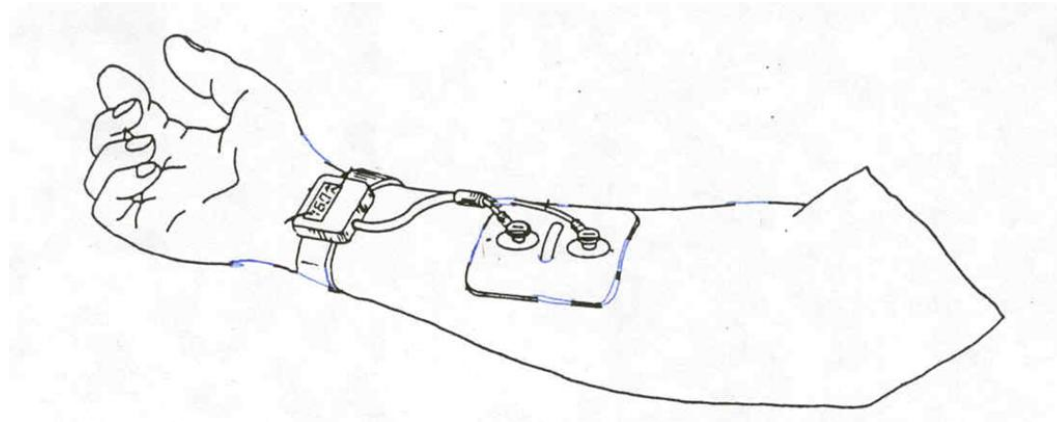
An apparatus comprising:

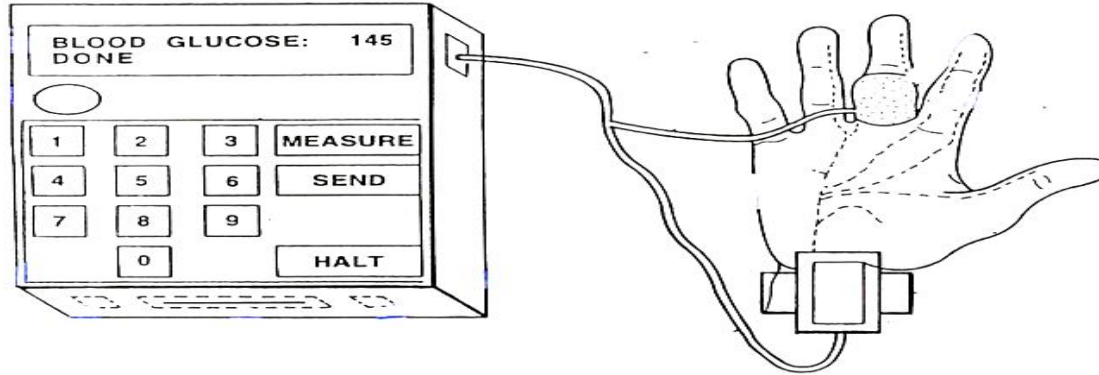
a stimulator adapted for applying an electrical or magnetic stimulus to a tissue responsive to said stimulus;

a detector for detecting a response to said stimulus;

a correlator adapted for correlating said detected response to a quantitative measure of an analyte concentration; and

an indicator adapted for indicating said quantitative measure.





An apparatus comprising:

a stimulator adapted for applying an electrical or magnetic stimulus to a finger;

a detector for detecting a response to said stimulus;

a correlator adapted for correlating said detected response to a quantitative measure of an analyte concentration; and

an indicator adapted for indicating said quantitative measure.

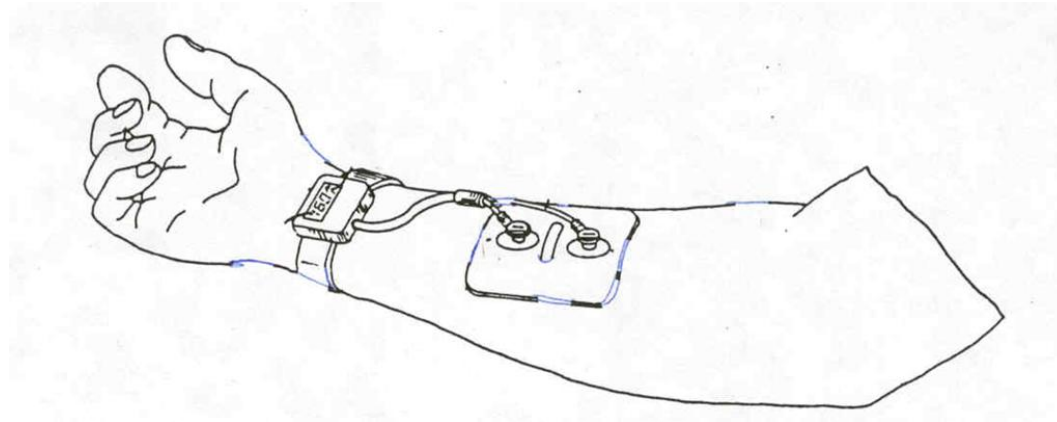
An apparatus comprising:

a stimulator adapted for applying an electrical or magnetic stimulus to a finger;

a detector for detecting a response to said stimulus;

a correlator adapted for correlating said detected response to a quantitative measure of an analyte concentration; and

an indicator adapted for indicating said quantitative measure.



- Example- Compound X is known and only in use for treating asthma.
- Claim reads:
  - A method of treating a respiratory illness comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment an effective amount of Compound X.
- Making or selling Compound X does not directly infringe this claim but does induce infringement.

# Inducement to Infringe

- Selling compound X when it can only be used to treat asthma *induces* the purchaser to infringe the claim.
- A method of treating a respiratory illness comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment an effective amount of Compound X.

- Compound X is known.
- New use - treating emphyzema - is found.
- Does this new use infringe?

- A method of treating a respiratory illness comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment an effective amount of Compound X.
- Claim says “respiratory illness” which may include emphyzema.
- Have to read patent to see how “respiratory illness” is defined. Is “emphyzema” specifically excluded?

- A method of treating asthma comprising administering to an individual in need of such treatment an effective amount of Compound X.
- Claim says “asthma” which is not emphyzema.
- Selling Compound X for treating emphyzema is not infringement.
- Advertising that Compound X as also useful for asthma is still inducement to infringe.

- A method of treating asthma in an adult human comprising administering to the adult in need of such treatment a 1 mM - 1 M dosage of Compound X in tablet form.
- Can still commercialize the following:
  - For children only
  - Inhaler
  - Concentrations outside the stated range
  - Capsule form may still infringe

# Doctrine of Equivalents

- Performs substantially the same function in substantially the same way to obtain the same result.
- Tablet vs Capsule
- Tablet vs Inhaler

- Determining infringement requires careful review of the claims using the patent as a guide for definitions.
- A patented invention can still infringe an earlier patent.
- Patent must be valid in order to be infringed.

# Patent Searching on the Internet

# Search Types

- Patentability Search – is invention new in this country or any other country?
- Infringement Search – is there a patent you might infringe by commercializing the invention?

# Patentability Searches

- Search largest databases (e.g. USA, Europe, PCT)
- Search databases where invention is used  
(e.g. Curling equipment in Canada)
- Search databases in Country of Origin of  
Manufacturers of related products
- Full text of patent is relevant

# Infringement Search

- Search in each country where you want to commercialize the invention
- Only the claim language is relevant to determining infringement

# Patent Databases on the Internet

- CIPO: [www.cipo.ic.gc.ca](http://www.cipo.ic.gc.ca)

- USPTO: [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

USPTO – PAIR:

<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>

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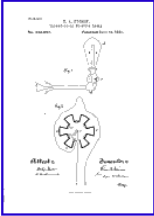
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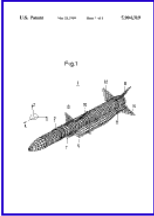
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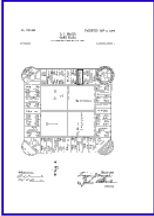
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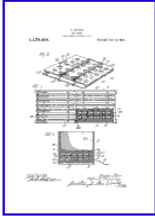
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[Alarm system for engine block heater](#)  
US Pat. 6225893 - Filed Jun 19, 2000  
The proximity detector is either a vibration switch for detecting light shivering movements in the **block heater cord** upon starting of an engine, ...

[Heater control device](#)  
US Pat. 6072152 - Filed Mar 17, 1997 - Fleetheet LLC  
A first indicator **light** 25, mounted on the casing 11, is located in front of the ... When the power **cord** 107 is connected between a **block heater** already ...

[Extension cord with integral monitoring system](#)  
US Pat. 5781015 - Filed Apr 3, 1997  
Ideally, the second **light** emitting diode cable are formed of a plastic ... The current flow monitoring round for coupling with a motor **block heater** as shown ...

[Indicating power cord system](#)  
US Pat. 5900804 - Filed Jul 11, 1997  
Description of the Prior Art The use of **block heater** monitors is known in the ... Connected to the bridge rectifier is an actuation **light** emitting diode for ...

[Engine block heater system and method of operation](#)  
US Pat. 7022943 - Filed Dec 1, 2003

Internet 100%

Extension cord with integral ... - Google Patent Search - Windows Internet Explorer

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### Extension cord with integral monitoring system

Stewart R. Duffin et al

**Overview**  
[Abstract](#)  
[Drawing](#)  
[Description](#)  
[Claims](#)

Search within this patent

**Patent number:** 5781015  
**Filing date:** Apr 3, 1997  
**Issue date:** Jul 14, 1998

An extension cord with integral monitoring system including a male connector having a pair of strip contacts. Such contacts include a neutral strip contact and a line strip contact. Further included is a female connector having a pair of receiving contacts residing within a pair of ...

**Inventors:** Stewart R. Duffin, Wade P. Dennis

**U.S. Classification**  
[324/508](#); [324/133](#); [324/510](#); [324/556](#)

**International Classification**  
 G01R 3100; G01R 1914

[View patent at USPTO](#)

**Citations**

Patent Number	Title	Issue date
<a href="#">3588861</a>	(unknown)	Jun 1971
<a href="#">3836844</a>	(unknown)	Sep 1974
<a href="#">3863150</a>	(unknown)	Jan 1975
<a href="#">4394615</a>	Apparatus for testing the quality of the ground connection and the insulation quality in an electrical hand tool or the like	Jul 19, 1983
<a href="#">5043670</a>	Block heater tester	Aug 27, 1991

**Referenced by**

Patent Number	Title	Issue date
<a href="#">6323652</a>	Electrical testing device	Nov 27, 2001
<a href="#">6538421</a>	Apparatus with separated conductors	Mar 25, 2003
<a href="#">6577115</a>	Apparatus with separated conductors	Jun 10, 2003

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. A new and improved extension cord with integral monitoring system comprising, in combination:
  - a male connector having a compact generally rectangular configuration with a top face, a bottom face, a first face, a second face, and a pair of side faces defining an interior space, the male connector having a pair of strip contacts extending from the first face thereof including a neutral strip contact and a line strip contact, the male connector further having a ground post contact extending from the first face thereof below the strip contacts, the contacts of the male connector being removably inserted within a conventional alternating current electrical receptacle in electrical communication therewith;
  - a female connector having a compact generally rectangular configuration with a top face, a bottom face, a first face, a second face, and a pair of side faces defining an

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US005781015A

**United States Patent** [19]  
**Duffin et al.**

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,781,015  
 [45] **Date of Patent:** Jul. 14, 1998

[54] **EXTENSION CORD WITH INTEGRAL MONITORING SYSTEM**

[76] **Inventors:** Stewart R. Duffin, 5 Stirling Close, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, T4N 0A8;  
 Wade P. Dennis, 23 Rich Close, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, T4P 3P1

- [21] Appl. No.: 831,898
- [22] Filed: Apr. 3, 1997
- [51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... G01R 31/00; G01R 19/14
- [52] U.S. Cl. .... 324/508; 324/133; 324/510; 324/556
- [58] Field of Search ..... 324/122, 133, 324/503, 508, 509, 510, 511, 538

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

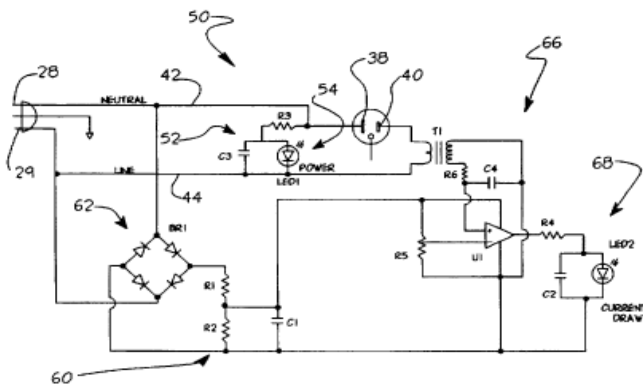
3,588,861	6/1971	Meyer	324/508
3,836,844	9/1974	Prugh	324/508
3,863,150	1/1975	Cebulak et al.	324/133
4,394,615	7/1983	Rocci, Jr.	324/510
5,043,670	8/1991	Iseld et al.	324/508

Primary Examiner—Diep N. Do

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An extension cord with integral monitoring system including a male connector having a pair of strip contacts. Such contacts include a neutral strip contact and a line strip contact. Further included is a female connector having a pair of receiving contacts residing within a pair of apertures formed therein. The contacts include a neutral receiving contact and a line receiving contact. Further included is a cable coupled between the male connector and the female connector. The cable has a neutral wire electrically connected between the neutral strip contact of the male connector and the neutral receiving contact of the female connector and a line wire electrically connected between the line strip contact of the male connector and the line receiving contact of the female connector. Next provided is a voltage monitor for indicating the presence of a voltage at the contacts of the female connector thereby signaling that the male connector is in proper electrical communication with the electrical receptacle. Lastly, a current flow monitor is included for indicating the flow of current through the contacts of the female connector thereby signaling that the female connector is in proper electrical communication with the appliance.

1 Claim, 3 Drawing Sheets



U.S. Patent

Jul. 14, 1998

Sheet 2 of 3

5,781,015

FIG. 3

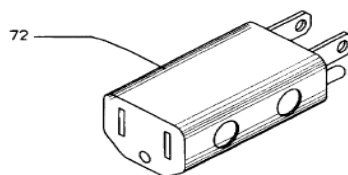
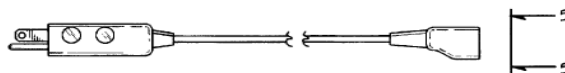


FIG. 4



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**Extension cord with integral monitoring system** Stewart R. Duffin et al

**Overview**  
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**Patent number:** 5781015  
**Filing date:** Apr 3, 1997  
**Issue date:** Jul 14, 1998

An extension cord with integral monitoring system including a male connector having a pair of strip contacts. Such contacts include a neutral strip contact and a line strip contact. Further included is a female connector having a pair of receiving contacts residing within a pair of ...  
**Inventors:** Stewart R. Duffin, Wade P. Dennis

**U.S. Classification**  
[324/508](#); [324/133](#); [324/510](#); [324/556](#)

**International Classification**  
G01R 3100; G01R 1914

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**Citations**

Patent Number	Title	Issue date
<a href="#">3588861</a>	(unknown)	Jun 1971
<a href="#">3836844</a>	(unknown)	Sep 1974
<a href="#">3863150</a>	(unknown)	Jan 1975
<a href="#">4394615</a>	Apparatus for testing the quality of the ground connection and the insulation quality in an electrical hand tool or the like	Jul 19, 1983
<a href="#">5043670</a>	Block heater tester	Aug 27, 1991

**Referenced by**

Patent Number	Title	Issue date
<a href="#">6323652</a>	Electrical testing device	Nov 27, 2001
<a href="#">6538421</a>	Apparatus with separated conductors	Mar 25, 2003
<a href="#">6577115</a>	Apparatus with separated conductors	Jun 10, 2003

**Claims**  
What is claimed is:

1. A new and improved extension cord with integral monitoring system comprising, in combination:  
a male connector having a compact generally rectangular configuration with a top face, a bottom face, a first face, a second face, and a pair of side faces defining an interior space, the male connector having a pair of strip contacts extending from the first face thereof including a neutral strip contact and a line strip contact, the male connector further having a ground post contact extending from the first face thereof below the strip contacts, the contacts of the male connector being removably inserted within a conventional alternating current electrical receptacle in electrical communication therewith;  
a female connector having a compact generally rectangular configuration with a top face, a bottom face, a first face, a second face, and a pair of side faces defining an

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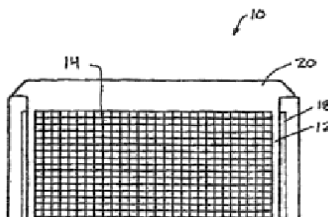
(12) Patent Application: (11) CA 2450305

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Title	Date
<a href="#">(22) Filed</a>	2003-11-20
<a href="#">(41) Open to Public Inspection</a>	2005-05-20
<a href="#">Examination Requested</a>	2008-05-22

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<a href="#">Request for Examination</a>			\$400.00	2008-05-22
<a href="#">Maintenance Fee - Application - New Act</a>	5	2008-11-20	\$100.00	2008-10-07
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Application Number:	08/831,898	Customer Number:	-
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Application Type:	Utility	Status Date:	08-13-2002
Examiner Name:	DO, DIEP N	Location:	FILE REPOSITORY (FRANCONIA)
Group Art Unit:	2858	Location Date:	07-10-1998
Confirmation Number:	9190	Earliest Publication No:	-
Attorney Docket Number:	-	Earliest Publication Date:	-
Class / Subclass:	324/508	Patent Number:	5,781,015
First Named Inventor:	STEWART R. DUFFIN , RED DEER, (CA)	Issue Date of Patent:	07-14-1998

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03-15-2005	SRNT	<a href="#">Examiner's search strategy and results</a>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
03-09-2005	SRNT	<a href="#">Examiner's search strategy and results</a>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
03-08-2005	SRNT	<a href="#">Examiner's search strategy and results</a>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-15-2004	A...	<a href="#">Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject</a>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-15-2004	CLM	<a href="#">Claims</a>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-15-2004	REM	<a href="#">Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment</a>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-15-2004	WFFF	<a href="#">Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)</a>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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