How to Get Patents from the German Patent and Trademark Office, DEPATISnet

Hints from Friedrich Engel, Jay McKnight, and Rick Chinn

The following instructions provide an easy way to view and get good-quality printouts of patent letters from virtually all nations worldwide, at no charge.

The patents are in Adobe "Acrobat" (PDF). Therefore to view or print the patents, you must have an Adobe Reader installed on your PC system. If you don't have it already, download it from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html and install it.

Here is the procedure for getting a copy of a patent:

1. On your Internet browser, go to the DEPATIS website http://depatisnet.dpma.de/ . There is extensive ("too much") "Help" on the site, but the following instructions will suffice for most "beginners".

2. The first page says DEPATISnet at the top, with a welcome in German. If you speak English, >**click on the banner** " English user interface". This takes you to –

3. The next page, which says "Welcome to the search...", >**click on "Search"** near the upper left corner of the page. This takes you to –

4. The next page "Search". >**click on "Beginner"** (either place), since you *are* a beginner. This takes you to –

5. The next page, "Beginner's Search", which has six boxes for you to fill in what you know about the patent you're searching for. You must fill in at least one box. If you fill in more than one, they are logically "anded" (that is to say, the search is for an item that fulfills **all** of the requirements). There is "help" for what the boxes mean, by clicking on the text following each box. The boxes are –

    5.1 **Publication Number, a box that can contain nothing, or one or more of Country Code[1], Patent Number, and Document Type**.

       5.1.1 First, enter the country code, which is mandatory if you are searching for a specific patent. If you are searching for all of an inventor's patents granted in a specific country, then supply only the country. If you want to see all of an inventor's patents regardless of country, then leave this blank.

       5.1.2 Second, enter the number of the patent desired. Enter numbers only (i.e., no commas, decimal points or similar).

       5.1.3 For older patents (prior to about 1995) in some countries (e.g. Germany) you must know the country and the patent number. For other countries (e.g. US and France) you can search using any or all of the search boxes.

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[1] The Country Code is a 2-letter abbreviation (e.g. US, GB, FR, DE, JP, etc.). For a list of all of the ISO codes, see:
http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/02iso-3166-code-lists/list-en1.html

5.2 **Title**.

5.3 **Applicant/Owner/Inventor**.

5.4 **Publication date**.

5.5 **All IPC Fields**. (IPC is the International Patent Classification code, for an advanced search, explained in the "help".)

5.6 **Search in full text**. If you enter several words, the default is a logical "or". You can enter "and" , "or", or "not" if needed.

6   At the bottom of this page there is a "Configure results list". The default is to list the Publication number and Title; you can add the Inventor, Applicant/Owner, Publication date, and Application date. You can also customize the sorting of the list that will be produced, and how many results are shown per page.

7   When you have filled in one or more of the search boxes, **>click in the field "Start search"**, or simply press ENTER. This takes you to--

8   The page "Results List". If the Adobe PDF icon appears in the "Display PDF" column you can see and print the patent itself, **>click on the Adobe PDF icon**, and it takes you to --

9   The "Hitlist Entry m/n", containing the first page of the patent to see and/or print the patent one page at a time.

9.1   For "Resolution", 300 dpi (on the bar at the top) gives good results, and a fairly short printout time on a laser printer.

9.2   Selection of Page(s) of the patent is achieved by **> clicks on the inconspicuous arrows ">" and "<"** below the text "Hitlist entry"..

9.3   Navigation through the patent may also be achieved by **>clicks on the entries** "Bibliographic data" // "First page" // ... "Drawing".

9.4   To print the page you are now viewing, **>click on the printer icon** on the toolbar below the "Hitlist" bar. (In this window, you can only print the one page that you see.)

10 At the top right of the page is "Load full document". When you click on the "load full document" it takes you first to a confirmation page where you have to identify some skewed letters. This takes you to –

11   The next page, which repeats the "Hitlist Entrym/n". Here, you can navigate through and print all (!) pages of the patent. In this window, you are using the PDF plug-in that's installed in your browser, so you can do anything that it can do.

At first, the process seems very complicated, but be assured: DEPATISnet is faster than browsing through your patent file!