

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question: How much does it cost to get a patent?**

**Answer:** It depends on the complexity and the technology. Simple mechanical patents can range from \$5,000-\$8,000 [...]

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**Question: How do I find out if my invention was already out there?**

**Answer:** For an invention to be “patentable”, it must be useful, novel and nonobvious. To find [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: How long does it take to get a patent?**

**Answer:** The average prosecution of a patent application from filing to allowance or abandonment is on [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What's the difference between a patent and a trademark?**

**Answer:** A patent protects new and nonobvious inventions whereas trademarks protect branding associated with goods or [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What is a trademark?**

**Answer:** A trademark is a source identifier. It can include any word, name, symbol, device, or [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What are the benefits of U.S. trademark registration?**

**Answer:** U.S. trademark rights originate when a mark is used in commerce in association with specific [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What are the procedures for U.S. trademark registration?**

**Answer:** The USPTO offers applicants three primary options as the underlying basis for pursuing and obtaining [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What is the proper use of TM, SM, and @?**

**Answer:** The initials TM are a recognized abbreviation for trademark. The ™ symbol, which is usually [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: What is the value of trademark searches?**

**Answer:** Before filing an application for a trademark registration, it is prudent for applicants to first [...] [Read more](#)

**Question: How long does a patent last?**

**Answer:** The terms of patent protection vary from country to country and with the type of [...] [Read more](#)

**Question:** *Do patent owners have to do anything to maintain patent protection?*

**Answer:** There are two important components of maintaining patent protection. The first is routine; U.S. patent holders [...] [Read more](#)