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## Patent Disclosure Form

The burden of persuading the Patent Office of your invention's non-obviousness rests with you, the inventor. To enable us to evaluate your invention properly, it is important that you, as the inventor, answer each of the following questions as thoroughly as possible. You should provide a convincing line of reasoning why your solution is non-obvious under Question 9. If you cannot do this, you must overcome this deficiency with favorable results of your solution under Question 10 or substantial advantages of your solution under Question 11, or both. The best approach is to provide persuasive answers to all of the following questions:

- 1. What is the technical field to which the invention applies?**  
*Be as specific as possible.*
- 2. What problem were you trying to solve when the invention was made?**  
*Start with the problem you faced from your employer or customer. Try to focus on the functional problem encountered, whether it was mechanical or electrical or thermal or labor normally required, performance needed, etc. Attach or refer to relevant technical publications discussing the problem. Define the problem in relation to cost reduction or labor saved as a start. However, you should further analyze the cost reduction or labor saved in terms of the underlying functional problem which, if solved, results in the desired savings.*
- 3. How have others tried to solve this problem in the past?**  
*How have others attempted to solve this problem before? These prior solutions to the problem are referred to as "prior art." Ask coworkers or review prior trade journals or patents you may have. Attach or refer to prior patents and other publications. The more research you do, the better will be any patent application which is prepared. Your attorney will disclose this prior art to the Patent Office to prove your invention is different from past technology and thus, legally "novel." YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE TO THE PATENT OFFICE ALL PRIOR ART OF WHICH YOU ARE PERSONALLY AWARE.*
- 4. How have the prior solutions failed to completely solve this problem?**  
*Since the prior solutions have not completely solved the problem you faced, how have they failed? What are their shortcomings? You need only describe how others have failed. There is no requirement to describe why they failed. However, if you can give your best estimate as to why they failed, please do so.*
- 5. Describe your solution in 25 words or less.**  
*By properly defining your problem above, you should be able to state your solution in a few words. Begin with the words "I have discovered... ."*
- 6. Show your solution using at least one drawing.**  
*One drawing labeled "FIG. 1" is required. However, use as many as needed. Each significant item or function should be labeled with reference numbers. It is often helpful to sketch the key elements of the invention by hand.*

**7. Referring to the drawing, describe how your solution works.**

*Describe each and every physical or functional element in the drawings, focusing on how the elements act with each other to solve the problem you described, above. Provide sufficient detail to enable another person in your field working on the same problem to duplicate what you have done. Where possible, relate your development to basic scientific principles or equations. If you know of a mode of practicing your development which you consider to be better than any other mode, provide sufficient detail to enable others to duplicate this "preferred mode," as well.*

**8. Describe the functional and/or structural differences between your solution and prior solutions to the same problem.**

*Select the most important structural and/or functional differences between your development and prior attempts to solve the same problem. Discuss these differences in detail.*

**9. Why do you believe your solution would NOT have been obvious to another inventor working on the same problem at the same time? Please list all reasons.**

*To be patentable, an invention must not have been obvious at the time it was made to another person in your field working on the same problem. Try to determine the approach taken by prior attempts to solve the problem. Compare these approaches with your new approach.*

**10. Describe all results achieved by your solution. (Start with the results achieved relative to solving your problem. But do not stop there. Give all other results, as well.)**

*List and describe both the "hard" results, such as those shown in graphs, curves or numerical values, etc. and the "soft" results which may be more subjective. If available, evidence of commercial success is helpful.*

**11. Describe the advantages of your solution over each of the prior solutions. (Compare your solution with respect to each of the prior solutions, starting with the advantages relative to solving your problem. Then give all other advantages, as well.)**

*Give all of the advantages which occur from your development, including those not directly related to the problem you are attempting to solve. Include every advantage you can think of. If you can support any advantage with analytical results, documentation, etc., include these as well.*

**Caution: Critical Time Limits When Applying for U.S. Patents and Foreign Patents**

Once an invention has been made, the U.S. law provides that the inventor shall lose the right to patent his/her invention unless a patent is applied for within one (1) year after the invention is disclosed in a publication, used in public, offered for sale or used for a commercial purpose. Each of these terms has been defined in literally hundreds of legal opinions, and these definitions are continuously evolving and require a thorough analysis of all facts.

If you desire patent protection, you should arrange to have a patent filed at an early date and before any commercial exploitation if at all possible. All prior disclosures should be under a secrecy agreement. Many other countries do not allow any non-confidential disclosure or use of the invention before filing for a patent application.