

Legal Hacks for Creators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs

Issue 10, October 2023

Welcome back to the October 2023 edition of my very short and informal newsletter, sharing my legal hacks for inventors, creators and entrepreneurs. I publish this easy-to-engage letter every few months or so to share with you at least one idea that I think you will find both engaging and useful.

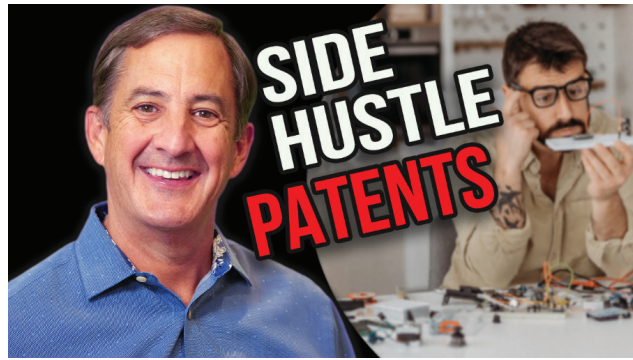


#1: Do Your Own Patent Search in Three Simple Steps

Whenever you're considering patenting an invention, there is always the nagging question of whether your invention is really new or whether someone else beat you to the production line. Patenting is a hassle and not inexpensive and before getting too invested, there are times when it just makes sense to search for prior art.

If you have been following my [YouTube channel](#) you might have noticed that there is no clear answer to whether a patent search is worthwhile. On the one hand patents can be expensive to search and many of the newest patent applications are still early days in the patent office and have not been published yet. On the other hand, aside from peace of mind, patent searching can often provide useful ideas on how to make your invention better.

In this [video](#), I'll take you through three simple, yet effective options for performing a basic prior art search. Running all three searches might take you as little as three minutes and will provide you with a lot of insight on what others have been working on and producing related to your invention. If nothing else, your searching may well give you some useful ideas on how you can improve your existing design.



#2: When Do Employers Own Your Personal Inventions?

In the professional world, when you come up with a job-related invention, the ownership of that invention often (but not always) belongs to your employer. However, things become less straightforward when it comes to inventions you create at home during your personal time. In this insightful [video](#), we look into the complexities surrounding the ownership of side hustle and hobby inventions.

***** My New Book is Available on Amazon!!! *****



PURCHASE ON AMAZON

"Provisional Patents: Inventor's Guide to Writing and Filing Your Own Application" is your comprehensive guide to navigating the complex world of provisional patent applications. This invaluable resource demystifies the process, providing step-by-step instructions to help inventors draft and file their own provisional patent applications.

Covering everything from understanding patent laws, recognizing what makes an invention patentable, to the art of articulating your invention in a way that best

positions it for protection, this book is packed with practical advice and expert tips.

New for this 16th Edition is the addition of numerous video thumbnails sprinkled throughout the book, the thumbnails complete with QR codes that can be easily scanned to open relevant videos on your smart phone or other portable device. If you are more of a watcher than a reader, this book is perfect as it will guide you through the field of patents and provisional patent applications through a series of included short videos.

Drawing on real-life case studies, the guide brings theory into practice, illuminating the path towards securing a patent. Whether you're an experienced inventor or just starting out, this book is your roadmap to protect your ideas and innovations. So, dive in and empower yourself with the knowledge and confidence to take control of your intellectual property journey.

***** End of Shameless Book Promotion *****

Finally

Thank you for reading, watching, “liking” and subscribing to my [videos](#) – it does make a difference as YouTube will then serve these videos to others who are looking for them. Have a wonderful and creative month.

Warm wishes,

-john

P.S. if you’ve missed the previous issues, [click here and read them all!](#)

John Ferrell is a founder and patent attorney at the Silicon Valley law firm of Carr & Ferrell. The author of two books and a growing YouTube channel on Intellectual Property, John’s passion for creating and protecting patent monopolies is reflected in his representation of many of the world’s most important companies and inventors - some 5,000 so far. Founded in 1992, Carr & Ferrell has filed more than 10,000 patent applications covering nearly every imaginable technology. John is admitted to practice in California; in numerous Federal jurisdictions, including before the Supreme Court of the United States; and in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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Not Legal Advice: It will make the bar association of your State or Country sublimely happy if I remind you that this newsletter is not legal advice, it is not a solicitation for

business, and it does not itself form an attorney client relationship.

Contact Info: John Ferrell, Attorney at Law, Carr & Ferrell LLP

411 Borel Ave., Ste. 603, San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone: 650.812.3408

Email: jferrell@carrferrell.com

Webpage: [Carr & Ferrell](#)

