Patent Grabber 6.4.2

For Windows®

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How Patent Grabber™ Works

Patent Grabber takes a list of patent numbers, or patent application publication numbers, and downloads either the full document as a single Adobe Acrobat® (PDF) file or the individual pages of each document that are then combined into a single Adobe Acrobat® file. Whether the full document or individual page are downloaded depends upon the patent authority (USPTO, EPO or WIPO), and if the user chooses to download only specific sections of the document (e.g., only bibliographic information and claims).

Free Helper Application Is Needed!

If the full document is not available and the individual pages are downloaded instead, **Patent Grabber** combines the individual patent pages into a single PDF file through the use of a free helper application, PDFTK Server. You must have this on your PC where it can be found by Patent Grabber in order for it to do its work (see below).

PDFTK Server is the helper application that combines multiple PDF files into a single PDF file, and may be downloaded from:

http://www.pdflabs.com/tools/pdftk-server/ (click the “Windows Download” button and download the “PDFTK Server” installer file)

You can ignore all the instructions on how to use PDFTK Server! It is Patent Grabber that uses it, not you.

Once downloaded, double-click to start the installer.

You can choose where to install the PDFTK Server folder, so install it somewhere that is easy to find (e.g., your Documents folder) since you will not need most of the files and folders that are included. What you will see upon installation is a folder called “PDFTK Server.” Inside the PDFTK Server folder are several folders, one of which is called "bin." Open the bin folder and you will find two files, pdftk.exe and libiconv2.dll. Those are the only two files you will need. Just drag those two files into the folder that contains Patent Grabber and you are done. You can now delete the PDFTK Server folder.

The Downloading and Combining Process

If individual image pages are downloaded, they are initially stored in individual folders that are created inside a folder called "Patents" that will automatically be created in your Documents folder (on Windows, this folder may be called “My documents”). You can change the location of your Patents folder by selecting a different folder to contain it using **Patent Grabber**’s Preferences.

Once all the pages of a document are downloaded, **Patent Grabber** combines the individual pages into a single PDF file and saves it in the Patents folder or your selected alternative

folder. Unless you have selected the Preference to retain the folder that contains the individual pages, it is then deleted. However, if you stop the downloading of a document using the **Stop** button, you will have a folder inside the Patents folder or your alternative folder that contains the individual pages that were downloaded prior to your cancellation of the downloading process. If you start the downloading process again for the document that was partially downloaded, only the remaining pages will be downloaded.

Starting with Version 6.4.1, users have the option of combining multiple complete documents into a single PDF file. So you can, for example, download the bibliographic page(s) of multiple patents and have them automatically combined into a single PDF file. Just select the "**Single PDF**" checkbox before starting the download process.

You may also eliminate the use of the Patents folder by checking the "**Always Select Download Folder**" checkbox in **Patent Grabber**'s Preferences. Doing so will require you to select or create a folder into which patents will be downloaded every time you click one of the download buttons. Alternatively, to occasionally download patents into an alternative folder of your choice, you can check the "**Select Download Folder**" on the main **Patent Grabber** screen.

Patent Grabber can also create two types of spreadsheets of bibliographic information for U.S. patents (basic and "plus"). Patent family identifiers can be included so that the spreadsheet can be sorted by patent family. See the instructions, below, for more details.

There are also options to download just patent abstracts with bibliographic information (the "Abstract Report", or just patent claims (the "Claim Report").

The Main Screen

On the left is the field for entering patent or publication numbers. Below that field are checkboxes or radio buttons that vary depending upon whether you are downloading U.S. documents, PCT, EP or international documents, or INPADOC Legal Status reports.

On the right is the Quick Browse field that displays a list of all of the patents/applications/legal status reports in your Patents folder or in the most recently used downloads folder if you selected the “Always Select Download Folder” option in your Preferences. Displaying these documents is described below.

If you choose to view a folder full of patents with the **Select Folder** button, every subsequent download will go into that folder until you either change the folder by selecting another or you quit **Patent Grabber**.

Below the **Select Folder** button is a filtering field that allows you to filter the contents of the Quick Browse field. For example, to see only U.S. patents whose numbers start with a “7”, click in the filtering field and type “US7”. Continue typing more characters to further narrow down the list. You may like this better than scrolling through a long list of patents looking for a particular one. Click the **Reset** button to bring back the full list.

Between the two fields is the downloading ("**Get**") button. You select the type of document that you wish to download using the dropdown menu next to the **Get** button. You have the option of downloading the text of the document (if it is available) along with the images (highlight the Text "Yes" button) or downloading only the text (highlight the Text "Only" button). The text of U.S. patents and applications is downloaded in HTML format with clickable links. The text of PCT and European applications is downloaded in plain text. The INPADOC Legal Status report is in HTML format.

Why the **Get** button is disabled

Patent Grabber requires that you be connected to the Internet before you click the **Get** button. So until you tell **Patent Grabber** that you have your connection established, the **Get** button is disabled. If you are not connected to the Internet and you click the enabled **Get** button, **Patent Grabber** might hang, and you will have to restart your computer.

You can set your Preferences to "Always connected" so that when you start **Patent Grabber**, the **Get** button will be enabled right from the start.

Downloading Patents and Applications

U.S. patents (including Statutory Invention Registrations):

Enter patent numbers, one per line, select "US Patents" from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. You may enter patent numbers with or without commas, e.g., 4303651 or 4,303,651. For reissue, design and plant patents, as well as Statutory Invention Registrations (SIRs), the case of the letters does not matter. All the following will work:

Reissue patents	re32748, Re32,748, RE32,748
Design patents	D435334, d435,334
Plant patents	PP3987, pp3987
Statutory Invention Registrations	H2,158, h2158
Historical patents (whole number)	X1, x1
Historical patents (half number)	X7696H, x7696h

Basic U.S. Patent Bibliographic Information

Enter patent numbers, one per line, select "US Patent Biblio" from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. The format of the patent numbers can be the same as above. **Patent Grabber** downloads the text of each patent and extracts the bibliographic information from it.

Optionally, you can include patent family identifiers that allows you to sort the data by patent family. Patent family data is obtained by a separate set of calls to the EPO's INPADOC server, so it takes additional time to gather this data.

All of the information is then formatted as a tab-delimited text file that can be opened with a spreadsheet application such as Microsoft Excel or Sun Microsystem's OpenOffice.org spreadsheet module. The fields in the spreadsheet will be as follows:

Patent Family (optional)
Patent Number
Issue Date
Title
Abstract
Inventors
Assignee
Legal Rep
Application Number
Filing Date
Foreign Priority
Current US Class
Current International Class
Field of Search
Cited US Patents

Enhanced U.S. Patent Bibliographic Information

Choose the "US Patent Biblio **+**" dropdown to create an enhanced bibliographic spreadsheet. In addition to the basic information shown above, the "US Patent Biblio **+**" function also includes the following columns:

Patent Family ID (always included)
All INPADOC int'l. family members
INPADOC legal status
Full description of the main US class
The number of cited patents
Assignees of cited patents
Non-patent references
The number of forward citations
List of forward citations
Assignees of forward citations

Some analysts believe that the importance of a patent can be judged by how many later patents cite it. The forward citation columns of the enhanced spreadsheet provide that information. Not only does Patent Grabber count the forward citations for you, but it lists their assignees so you also learn who owns them.

A file called "Patent Grabber US Class Table.txt" provides the full description of the main US class. It must be located in the same folder as Patent Grabber.exe.

Because of the number of additional calls to the USPTO and EPO servers to gather the enhanced information, the "US Patent Biblio **+**" function takes more time than the basic "US Patent Biblio" function.

U.S. published applications:

Enter U.S. publication numbers, one per line, select "US Applications" from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. You may enter either the official USPTO eleven-digit U.S. Publication Number (four-digit year and seven digits) or the unofficial ten-digit U.S. Publication Number used by the EPO (four-digit year and six digits, since the first digit following the year in

the USPTO official numbering system has so far always been a zero). No spaces or slashes can be included, and make sure that you do not include a Kind Code.

Make sure that you select the appropriate type of document from the dropdown menu! You *cannot* mix U.S. *patent* numbers with U.S. *publication* numbers!

PCT/EP:

PCT:

Enter publication numbers, one per line, select "PCT Applications" from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. To include the text in addition to the images, or to download only the text, highlight the appropriate text radio button. You can change the default "No" text option using **Patent Grabber**'s Preferences.

Patent Grabber should successfully download PCT publications from any year using a ten-digit format of a four-digit year followed by a six-digit publication number, i.e., YYYYXXXXXX (insert lead zeros for publication numbers having less than six digits). However, you should also be aware that the format of PCT publication numbers has changed over the years in case you may see publication numbers in formats that are different from the above.

Up to publication number 02/51230 in 2002, PCT publication numbers had seven digits (two-digit year and five-digit publication number). For publications in 2002 starting from 51232 (they may have skipped 51231), PCT publication numbers had eight digits, e.g., 02/051232 (two-digit year and six-digit publication number). Then starting with the first publication of 2004, PCT publication numbers now start with a four-digit year, giving the publication number ten digits, e.g., 2004/000001. This is summarized in the following table:

Up to publication 51230 of 2002	**YYNNNNN**
From publication 51232 in 2002 through all of 2003	**YYNNNNNN**
All of 2004 to the present	**YYYYNNNNNN**

Remember **Patent Grabber** is programed so that the format of YYYYNNNNNN should always work regardless of the year the application was published. However, if you do not use that format, make sure that you have the correct number of year digits (two or four) and the correct number of publication digits (five or six). Add or delete lead zeros to or from the publication number to the right of the year digits to get the correct number of publication digits.

Whatever format you use to download the PCT publication, the downloaded filename will have the number in the actual format used by the EPO as described in the table, above.

EP-A:

Enter publication numbers, one per line, select "EP-A Applications" from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. To include the text in addition to the images, or to download only the

text, highlight the appropriate text radio button. You can change the default “No” text option using **Patent Grabber**’s Preferences.

You may enter EP numbers with or without the “EP”. Your EP numbers can have a Kind Code suffix (e.g., A1, A2), but they are irrelevant. **Patent Grabber** ignores the suffix and downloads whatever is actually available from the EPO.

> **Make sure that you select the appropriate type of document from the dropdown menu! You cannot mix EP numbers with PCT publication numbers!**

EP-B:

Enter patent numbers, one per line, select “EP-B Patents” from the dropdown menu, and click the **Get** button. EP-B patents issued starting in 1999 are different from the other documents in that the entire patent can be downloaded at once. So, if the **All Pages** checkbox is selected, you will not be downloading individual pages that need to be combined. The EP-B patents issued starting in 1999 will be downloaded as a single file. However, you still have the choice of selecting to download individual sections of EP-B patents using the checkboxes. In that case, the individual pages are downloaded and combined into a single PDF.

EP applications that are replaced by PCT applications:

The EPO sometimes (and in recent years, almost always) uses a published PCT application as a replacement for separately publishing the application as an EP application. Those applications are given an EP publication number, but when you search for them at the EPO web site, what they provide as the published EP application is actually the PCT publication.

If **Patent Grabber** detects that a PCT publication is being used as a substitute for an EP publication, **Patent Grabber** will download the PCT publication. However, the patent number of the publication will show both numbers (EP#-WO#), so that you will know that the substitution has occurred (e.g., EP11199602-WO0015741.pdf).

Downloading International Patent Documents

The EPO server contains patent documents from many countries in addition to PCT publications and its publications of EP-A and EP-B documents. It contains a large collection of U.S. patents and published applications, Canadian published applications starting with 2,000,001, and publications from a great many other countries. For example, you can obtain African Regional Intellectual Property Office (ARIPO) documents, German documents, and Czech documents. (For one of the German patents of a famous inventor, download DE1234).

To download international patent documents, select “International” from the dropdown menu. You must precede each patent or publication number with the two-letter country code.

Using the “International” dropdown allows you to mix the documents of different countries. For example you can have U.S. patents, U.S. publications, EP-A publications, PCT publications, as well as with documents of other countries all mixed together in one list. You can download U.S. publications using either the U.S. format of eleven digits or the EPO format of ten digits. **However, please note that U.S. patents downloaded in this way will not have Certificates of Correction, since those are not included on the EPO server.** You also cannot download EP-B or Canadian granted patents using the “International” dropdown.

Abstract Report:

This function downloads some basic bibliographic information and the abstract for all of the U.S., EPO, and/or PCT patents and published applications that you enter into the field on left. The report is in HTML format and so it can be opened with a web browser or MS Word.

Claim Report:

This function downloads the claims of all of the U.S. patents and published applications, and EP-A and PCT published applications, that you enter into the field on left. The report is in plain text format and so can be opened with a text editor or with a word processor such as MS Word.

Downloading INPADOC Legal Status Reports

INPADOC (**IN**ternational **PA**tent **DO**cumentation **C**enter) Legal Status information is provided by the European Patent Office. **Patent Grabber** downloads a single text file for each patent (or application) that is present in the Patents field. The downloaded file contains bibliographic information and a summary of the legal status of the patent in the various countries covered by the INPADOC database. The information is formatted as an HTML document, and so can be viewed and/or printed by any web browser.

You can mix countries when downloading INPADOC legal status files. Make sure that the **Mixed** radio button under the Patents field is selected, and that you begin each patent or publication number with the two-letter country code (e.g., US5000000, EP0101234). If you are only downloading INPADOC Legal Status files for U.S., EP or WO patents and published applications, you can click the corresponding radio button that will appear under the Patents field and leave off the country code.

INPADOC Quirks: Watch out for camouflaged U.S. serial numbers! Different sections of the INPADOC information use different formats for the U.S. serial numbers. In the INPADOC bibliographic information section, serial numbers start with the four-digit year of filing (the USPTO series code is not used). In the INPADOC legal information section, serial numbers start with the serial number but end with the two-digit year followed by the letter “A”.

Example for U.S. Application No. 294657 filed in 1989:

INPADOC Bibliographic Info: US 1989**0**294657 (note the **zero** between the year and the serial number)

INPADOC Legal Info: US 29465789A

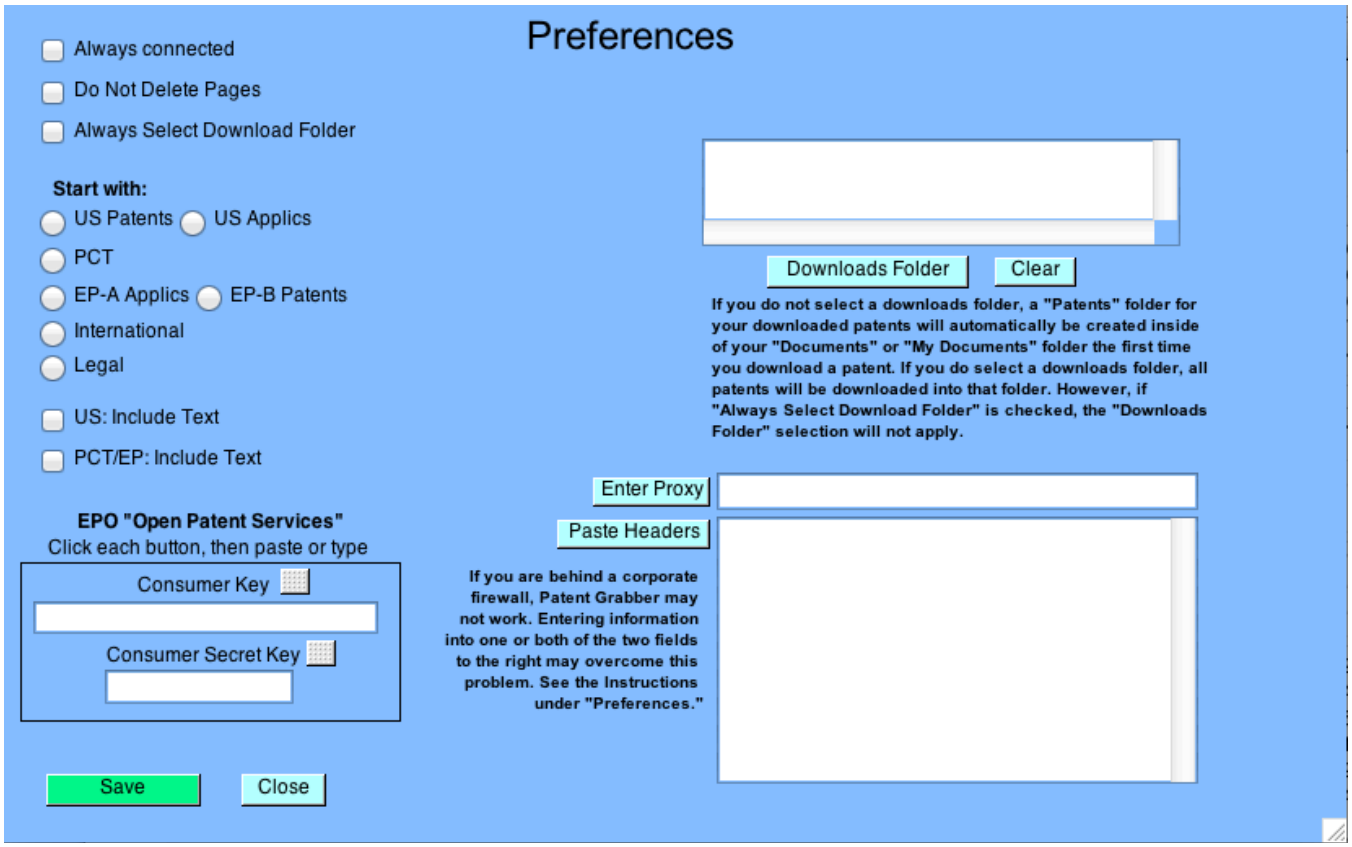
This type of inconsistent formatting may also occur in the information for other countries, so please beware. This is an INPADOC issue, not a **Patent Grabber** issue.

Starting with Version 5.1 (Mac OS X) and 4.6 (Windows and Mac Classic), the INPADOC legal status information is supplemented with additional explanations for many of the codes used by INPADOC. Country Codes are followed by the name of the country, Kind Codes are followed by the code definition (did you know that the “C” kind code in China signifies a granted patent? You no longer have to look that up separately), and many Legal Event Codes are followed by their definition (e.g., the Legal Event Code “PL” in Switzerland means that the patent has ceased).

Preferences

Basic Preference Settings:

Click the **Preferences** button to bring up the following screen:



If you have an Internet connection that is always on, check the “Always Connected” checkbox. By doing that you will not have to confirm that you are connected to the Internet every time you start **Patent Grabber**.

If you want to keep the individual downloaded pages of each patent after all of the pages have been combined into a single PDF file, check “Do Not Delete Pages.” The individual pages of each patent will be maintained in a folder having that patent number.

If you would like to place the “Patents” folder that **Patent Grabber** will create into a folder other than your Documents folder (such as a folder deeper within your Documents folder), click the **Download Folder** button and select or create a different folder.

If you would like to download your patents into a folder with a special name (e.g., “Motorcyle helmet search results”), check the **Always Select Download Folder** checkbox. By doing so, each time you click a download button, you will be asked to select (or create) the folder into which you wish to save all of the patents that are in the current download list. With this

preference selected, the **Select Download Folder** checkbox on the main screen will always be checked by default.

If you would like to always start Patent Grabber with the dropdown button set to something other than “US Patents” when you start **Patent Grabber**, click one of the other radio buttons. Even if the “US Patents” radio button is not selected, the dropdown will always show “US Patents” by default.

If you would always like to download any available text with the patent images, check one or both of the “Include Text” checkboxes.

“Enter Proxy” and “Paste Header” buttons:

If you are behind a corporate firewall, and **Patent Grabber** is not working at all, you may need to enter information into one or both of the two fields in the lower-right part of the **Preferences** panel. The top field is for your corporate proxy server. Click the **Proxy** button that is next to the field and enter either the name (e.g., proxy.companyname.com) or the IP address (e.g., 111.222.33.444) of your company’s proxy server. If your proxy server uses a port other than “80”, you need to follow the name or IP address with a colon and the port number. If you do not enter a port number, **Patent Grabber** will use the standard port “80” by default.

If you entered a proxy server name, **Patent Grabber** then automatically changes the proxy server name into the corresponding IP address, and that is what will appear in the field. However, you must be connected to your corporate network for that to happen. If you are not, **Patent Grabber** will ask you to try again once you are connected.

If after entering the proxy server information you still cannot get **Patent Grabber** to work, you may need to enter information about the web browser that you normally use into the large field below the proxy server field. This information is called your web browser’s “headers.” Your proxy server may be set up to only allow your officially sanctioned web browser to access the Web. By entering your browser’s header information into the large field, your proxy server will think that **Patent Grabber** is your web browser and allow the connection.

There are a number of sites on the web that will give you a list of the headers for your web browser. Just do a search for the phrase “browser headers.” One of the best for **Patent Grabber**’s purposes is http://pgl.yoyo.org/http/browser-headers.php, since it provides the headers in a format that you may be able to just copy and paste directly into the **Patent Grabber** field. You should have only one header statement per line, so if the headers get pasted into the field as one long line, you will need to add returns to separate the lines.

Examples of header statements are:

Accept:
Accept-Charset:
Accept-Encoding:

Accept-Language:
Connection:
Keep-Alive:
User-Agent:

If there is a line for “Host:” you should delete that line in its entirety.

Hopefully, you will now be able to download patents from behind your corporate firewall with **Patent Grabber**.

EPO “Open Patent Services” buttons:

The European Patent Office runs a service called “Open Patent Services” (OPS). OPS provides a means for people using automated downloading software (such as **Patent Grabber**) to perform substantial amounts of downloading without interfering with the EPO’s patent search service, Espace.net. Users of automated downloading software can register with OPS for ***FREE*** to get the most benefit from that system.

For a long time the EPO did not put any restrictions on the use of OPS. So **Patent Grabber** could download data, e.g., patent pages, patent family information, patent legal status information, as fast as OPS could respond. However, more recently the EPO has placed restrictions on the use of OPS. Those involve the speed at which queries are sent to OPS (queries/minute) by software like **Patent Grabber** and total bandwidth used (Gb/week) by a registered user of OPS. Registered users of OPS will be allowed up to 60 queries/minute for most Patent Grabber functions that use OPS and a total of 2.5 Gb/week of bandwidth use.

Failure to register with OPS will restrict **Patent Grabber** to 10 queries/minute and you will have very limited (but unknown) amount of bandwidth. Once OPS sees too much usage it will lock you out (they call it a “Fair use violation”), and **Patent Grabber** will stop downloading whatever it is you are trying to retrieve. So you are strongly encouraged to register with OPS. While the downloading of US patents and published applications does not use OPS, the “U.S. Patent Biblio” function (when the family identifiers option is selected) and the “U.S. Patent Biblio +” function make use of OPS.

So here is what you need to do in order to qualify for 2.5 Gb/week of bandwidth and speeds of up to 60 queries/minute:

Go to http://www.epo.org/searching/free/ops.html and click the "New OPS user" button and apply for a free account. Once you get the account set up (you will need to wait for the EPO to approve your application for a free account), you log in as an OPS user and click on "My Apps". Then click on "Add a new app" and give the app a name (e.g., PGmatthew (if your name is Matthew) -- I think that it must not have spaces). Then click on the app name and you will see your "Consumer Key" and "Consumer Secret Key".

Next you will enter those keys into the Consumer Key and Consumer Secret Key fields in **Patent Grabber**’s Preferences pane. You do that by clicking the button for each of the

“Consumer Key” and “Consumer Secret Key” fields, type or paste the key into the dialog box that appears, and click “OK.” The key should then appear in the field for that type of key. Once both keys have been entered into their respective fields, save and close the Preferences pane. You will not have to enter the keys again.

Miscellaneous Downloading Info

Where the downloaded files are stored

All documents are stored in the Patents folder unless you select the "**Always Select Download Folder**" checkbox in your Preferences, or for an individual downloading session you check the **Select Download Folder** checkbox on the main screen. INPADOC legal status files will have the suffix "-Legal". Patent text downloads will have the suffix "-text".

Using the "Paste List" button

You can copy and paste several different types of lists directly into the Patents field using the **Paste List** button. First of all, the **Paste List** button automatically removes all duplicate numbers. So if you have a list that contains multiple occurrences of the same number, you do not need to remove the duplicates before or after pasting the list. They are removed automatically. (Unfortunately, "5,123,456" will not be considered to be a duplicate of "5123456").

For licensed users, when the **Paste List** button detects a space in the copied text it will bring up the following dialog:

You may choose to simply delete all the spaces, such as where you copied a reissue patent number that had a space between the "Re" and the number. Or you can ignore the fact that there are spaces in the text that you copied by clicking "Paste with spaces."

The "Replace spaces with returns" button provides a powerful tool by which you may copy whole paragraphs of text and let **Patent Grabber** extract the patent numbers and format the list with one patent per line.

For example, if you have two paragraphs of text that looks like this:

> We performed a search and found U.S. Patent Nos. 4,543,456, 3,454,554 and 344345. These patents were forwarded to the inventor for review.
>
> The above patents referenced U.S. Patent Nos. 3,443,234, 123,432 and 2,334,321, as well as Re12,332, RE 22,324 and D345,543.

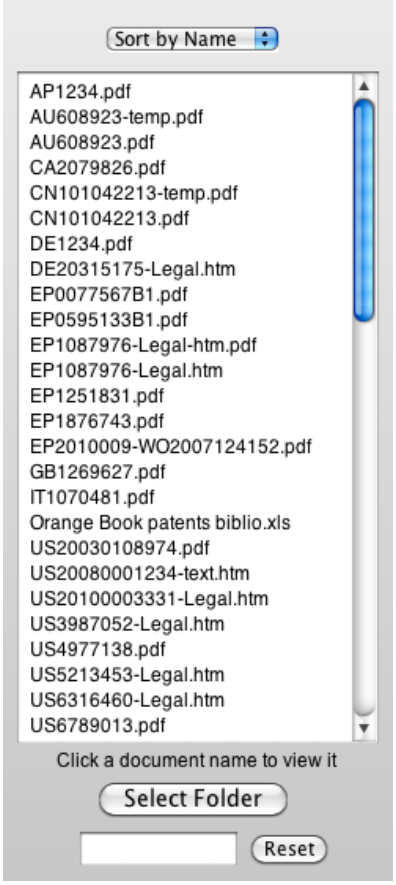
Copying the entirety of those two paragraphs, clicking the **Paste List** button, and then choosing “Replace spaces with returns” will result in this:

4,543,456
3,454,554
3,443,234
123,432
Re12,332
Re22,324
D345,543

The only thing you need to watch out for are numbers in the text that are not patent numbers.

Viewing documents with the Quick Browse field

All of your completed downloads in the currently selected download folder will be listed in the **Quick Browse** field. The list can be sorted by the file name or by download date. The **Quick Browse** field allows you to quickly look at or print some downloaded patent images, text or INPADOC files without first leaving **Patent Grabber**.



Clicking the name of a file will use the default application for that type of file to display the file. To display another file, go back to **Patent Grabber** and click on another filename.

To add a different folder of patents into the **Quick Browse** field, click the **Select Folder** button and choose a folder that contains some downloaded patent documents. Once you have selected a folder with the **Select Folder** button, all subsequent downloads will go into that folder until you either change the folder by selecting another or you quit **Patent Grabber**.

If a patent does not download or does not exist

Sometimes the systems at the USPTO or EPO will simply be down. If **Patent Grabber** is not working at all, please check to see if the problem is at their end.

Sometimes the USPTO or EPO will have a glitch and not respond for a couple of patents among a long list of patents. These problems are usually transient, and attempting to download missed patents again will be successful. If any patents are not successfully downloaded on your first attempt, **Patent Grabber** will display the patent numbers and offer to copy the numbers to the clipboard so that you can paste them into the Patents field to try again.

Sometimes the USPTO and EPO skip patent numbers. If you are repeatedly unable to download a specific patent, check at the USPTO or EPO to make sure that a typographical error did not cause you to try and download a nonexistent patent.

Missing pages

Sometimes there is a glitch at the EPO, and they send an error message instead of a patent page in PDF format. **Patent Grabber** recognizes these error messages and tries to download the page again. If after three additional attempts the page cannot be downloaded, it will skip that page and add that patent to the list of patents for which there were downloading problems.

Stopping the download

You can stop the downloading at any time by placing the cursor over the Stop Sign. (Do not click. Just leave the cursor over the Stop Sign until downloading stops). You can also stop the downloading by holding down the Command Key on a Mac (the one with the Apple logo on it) or the Control (Ctrl) key on a Windows PC, and the period key at the same time. However, neither of these methods will work if you mistakenly click an enabled download button when you are not connected to the Internet.

If you interrupt the downloading of patent images, or if the downloading is interrupted by a bad Internet connection, **Patent Grabber** will download only the remaining images for the patent when you attempt to download that patent again.

Downloading in the Background

Once you click a "Get patents" button, you can switch out of **Patent Grabber** by clicking the mouse anywhere outside of **Patent Grabber**'s window.

Downloading specific sections

Instead of downloading every image page of a patent, you can download only the sections that you want by checking the section name checkboxes under the Patents field. This feature is only available to registered users.

Downloading full text

U.S.: Full text is only available for utility patents 3930271 or higher, reissue patents Re28671 or higher, design patents D242583 or higher, and plant patents PP3987 or higher. If you have one of the "Text" radio buttons highlighted, the full text is downloaded if it is available.

PCT/EP: Bibliographic information is available in text format for most, if not all, PCT and EPO applications, and EPO patents. The full text is also available for some PCT and EP-A applications. **Patent Grabber** will download as much of the text as is available for a particular application if you have one of the "Text" radio buttons highlighted.

The text for U.S. patents and applications is in HTML format, and so is best viewed and/or printed with a web browser (however, you can open the file using MS Word). From the text, you can cut and paste the text into other files, such as a word processing document. The text of EP and PCT applications is in plain ASCII text, and so must be viewed in a text editor or word processing program.

Searching for U.S. patents and published U.S., EP and PCT patent applications

Patent Grabber has a search interface that can be used to search for issued U.S. patents, Statutory Invention Registrations, published U.S. patent applications, published EPO applications, published PCT applications, and the published applications of many countries that are in the EPO's library. The USPTO has made full text searching of patents available back to the early 1970's. Searching of patent titles is available back to 1920. Class/subclass searching is available back to patent X1 (July 31, 1790).

WIPO has made full text searching of PCT applications available back to the beginning of PCT publishing in 1978. The European Patent Office has made full text searching of EP applications back to the beginning of EPO publishing (apparently December 20, 1978).

PCT search results are limited to 300 hits displayed all at once. EPO and International search results can be displayed 30 at a time up to the first 2000 hits.

Patent Grabber's interface gives you the choice of searching in a manner that is similar to the USPTO's "Quick" search option and "Advanced" search options, and is similar to WIPO's "Structured" and "Advanced" search options, except that **Patent Grabber** provides the following three improvements to both options:

1) There is a dropdown list of all the search field abbreviations (this list changes slightly for issued U.S. patents, published U.S. applications, published EP applications and published PCT applications), so you do not have to find and type them individually (however, you can type them manually if you already know the ones that you wish to use);

2) If you choose a search field that involves a date, **Patent Grabber** automatically brings up a **date interface**. This interface provides information on the proper USPTO, EPO and WIPO date formats, and allows you to easily format a date range search.

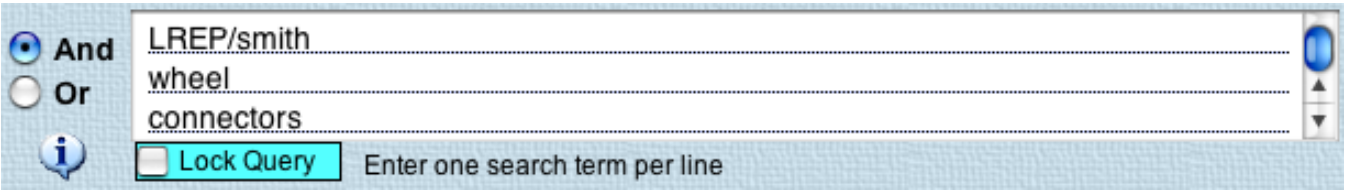
3) If you choose a search field that involves a country, **Patent Grabber** brings up a **country interface** that helps you select the correct country code for the country that you wish to search for. This interface also warns you that the USPTO does not allow you to choose "US" as a country. U.S. assignees, inventors, etc. must be searched by state.

Some words are considered by the USPTO to be "**stop words**" which their system will ignore in any search query. You can see a list of the stop words by clicking the button. WIPO's Patentscope® search service does not appear to have stop words.

For U.S. searching, if you switch from a Patents search to an Applications search, and you have a query that contains an Issue Date (ISD) term in the search query field, **Patent Grabber**

will automatically change the Issue Date search to a Publication Date search (PD). The reverse also occurs. For EP, PCT an International searching, if you switch to EP, PCT or International searching from U.S. searching, you have to manually change the date search field identifiers (e.g., publication date is "DP") and revise the date format from M/D/YYYY to D/M/YYYY.

Quick Search:
Just enter one search term per line (the graphic, below, is an example). You can choose to limit your search to only patents that contain all of the search terms (the "**And**" search), or you can choose to search for patents that contain any of the search terms (the "**Or**" search). Just select the **And** or **Or** radio button before clicking the **Search** button.



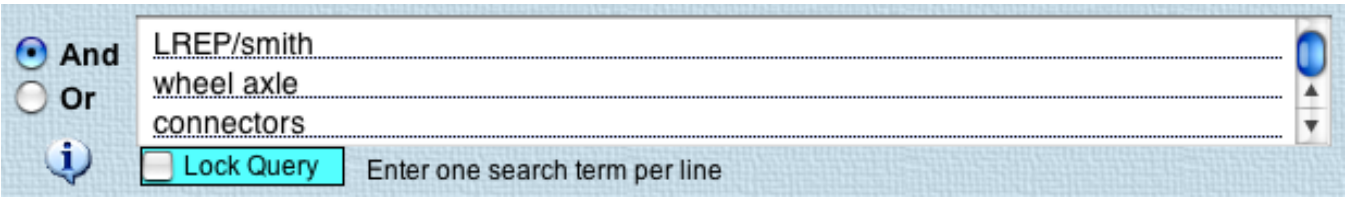
As you can see, **Patent Grabber**'s Quick search option has an additional benefit over the USPTO's "Quick" search. With **Patent Grabber**, you can have more than two search terms! So you can keep adding search terms until you reach the 256 character limit that the USPTO imposes. (The USPTO describes the limit as 256 characters in a "fully expanded" search query. They do not explain what "fully expanded" means, but it is likely that you will be limited to something a little less than 256 actual characters). **Patent Grabber** will warn you if your search query exceeds its estimate of 256 "fully expanded" characters.

A search term can be an individual word, a word combined with a search field ("LREP/" in the above graphic), a multi-word phrase in quotation marks, or a multi-word phrase in quotation marks combined with a search field. One limitation is that the USPTO system will not register a hit when a quoted phrase spans words from one line to the next (it is not known whether this is an issue with PCT searching).

In an EP search for a specific publication number (using the "&PN/" search field), the publication number must contain seven digits. Pad the number with lead zeros, if needed to get seven digits.

You can add comments to a line by separating the comment from the search term with an equal sign (=). The use of this feature is further illustrated, below, in an Issuance search.

More options: You can do a combined "**And**" and "**Or**" search by choosing the **And** radio button and putting more than one search term on a line. In that case, search terms on the same line are "**Or**", and search terms on different lines are "**And**". If you have too many **Or** search terms to fit on the line, a horizontal scroll bar will automatically appear to allow you to continue typing on the same line.

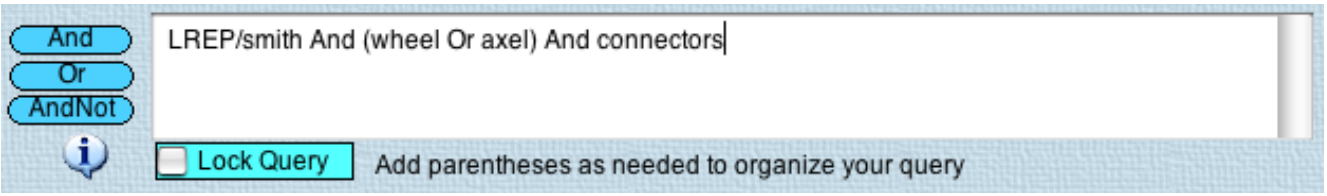


The above search is the equivalent of LREP/smith AND (wheel OR axle) AND connectors.

Similarly, you can do a combined "**Or**" and "**And**" search by choosing the **Or** radio button. Search terms on the same line will then be "**And**".

Advanced Search:

The Advanced Search is not available for EP or International searching. In **Patent Grabber**'s "Advanced" search, you construct a single "sentence" of search terms using AND, OR, and ANDNOT as connectors and use parentheses to organize the terms (see the graphic, below). You can use single words and quoted phrases, and both can be combined with search fields, just like in the Quick search. Your search query will automatically wrap around in the query field, so you will not run out of space. Since you cannot have any returns in an Advanced query, hitting the RETURN key automatically starts the search (you will see the **Search** button flash when you do that).



Issuance and Publication Searches:

An Issuance search for U.S. patents uses an issue date (or issue date range) on the first line. A Publication search for U.S. or PCT applications uses an application publication date (or publication date range) on the first line (the Publication search is not available for EP or International applications). You use the additional line or lines to contain your search terms. The query is automatically constructed as:

Issued U.S. Patents:
issue date AND (search term 1 OR search term 2 OR search term 3 OR . . .)

Published U.S. or PCT Applications:
publication date AND (search term 1 OR search term 2 OR search term 3 OR . . .)

The Issuance search is useful for learning if one or more of a list of allowed serial numbers has issued. For example, here is a search that looks for issued patents and uses the comment feature mentioned above to label each serial number:

ISD/4/12/2005
123456 = aromatic dish detergent
234567 = toothpaste for sensitive teeth

Both Issuance and Publication searches can be used to look for patents or applications in certain classifications. Here is a search that looks for all U.S. patents that issued on March 1, 2005 that have either 106/1.26 or 106/1.22 as their "Current US Classification":

ISD/3/1/2005
CCL/106/1.26
CCL/106/1.22

If you want to search for all of the patents that were issued for every subclass of a class, use the USPTO wildcard, a dollar sign ($), for the subclass: e.g., CCL/106/$.

The same type of search can be made using International Classifications. For U.S. patents and applications, however, you must be careful about the International Class format. The format of the International Class for searching is not the same as the format on the face of a patent. This is due to the design of the USPTO search system, and has nothing to do with the design of **Patent Grabber**'s search feature. The format of an International Class for U.S. searching is as follows:

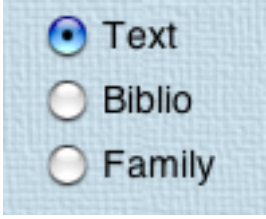
XNNXNNN/NN

In which X is a letter, N is a number and there is a slash (highlighted in yellow) before the last two numbers. Please note that there can be no space in the class. There must be three numbers following the second letter, even if the first one or two are zeros. This differs from the format on the face of a patent where there is always a space (e.g., XNNX NNN/NN) and in which there can be a single digit between the space and the slash.

You should also note that there are many International Classes in which the USPTO has inadvertently included two slashes (e.g., XNNXNNN//NN). They are aware of this problem, and are looking into whether or not to correct it. Patents that have an International Class with a double-slash will not come up in a search where the search term has only a single slash.

One more use for Issuance and Publication searches is to look for patents that were granted, or applications that were published, to specific companies each week.

Using Search Results



Once you construct your search query, click **Search** and the first fifty (U.S.), thirty (EP or International) or three-hundred (PCT) results (patent or publication number and either title or class/subclass) will be displayed in the search results field at the bottom of the screen. From that list, there are three ways to display information about each individual search result: full text, bibliographic information, and patent family (see further below for

more details about each option).

You can save the searches queries that you create by clicking the **Save** button that is next to the search query field. Clicking the **Open** button lets you select a saved search and place it into the search query field. The **Delete** button deletes the current search if it is a search that you had saved.

To add patents or applications to the Patents field for downloading, click on the patent or application, wait for the text to appear, and then click the **Add to Download List** button. Shift-Click for a contiguous list of patents or applications. Control-Click to select multiple individual patents or applications. The patents or applications that you selected will be bolded when you click the **Add to Download List** button.

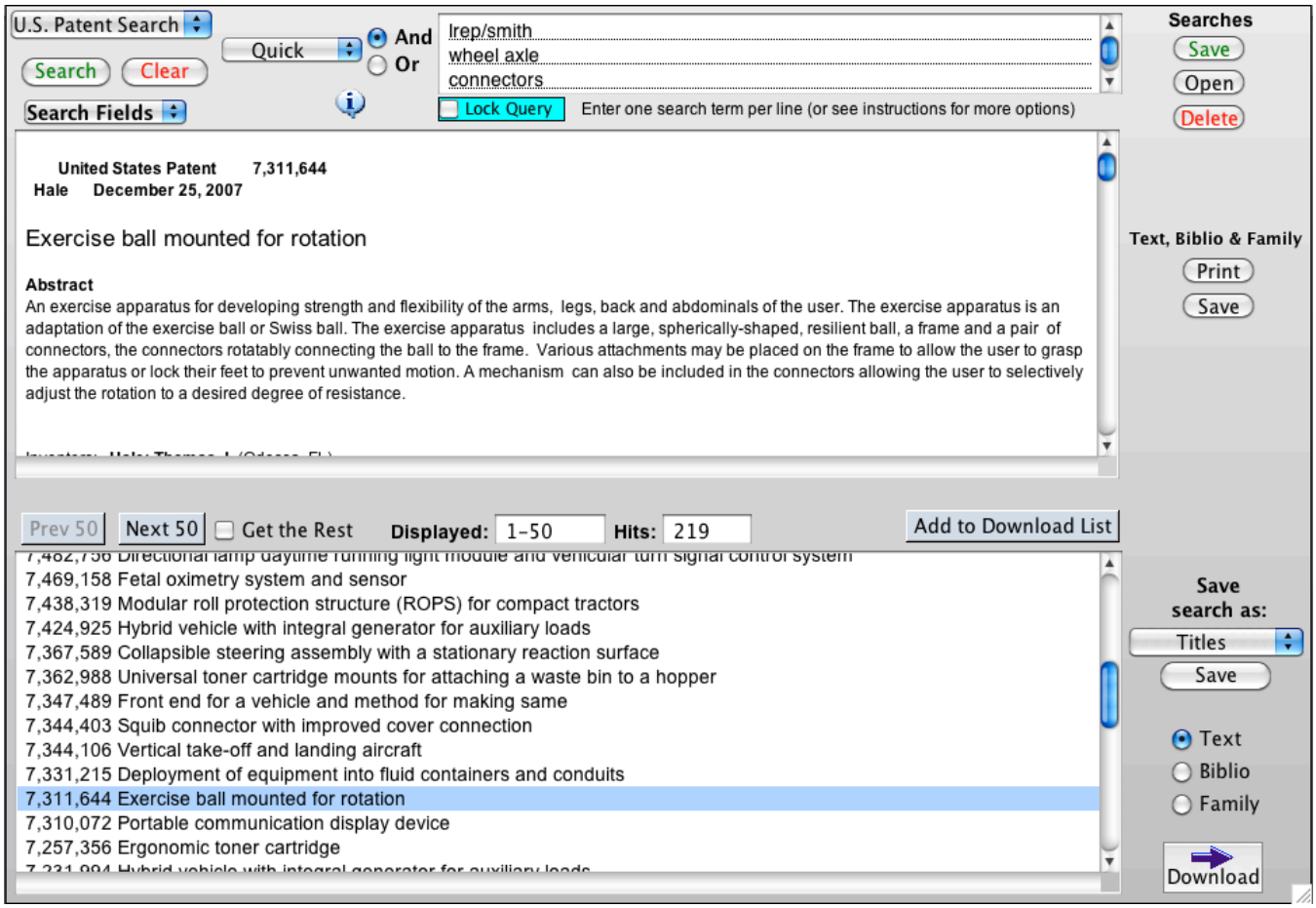
To see other groups of fifty results from U.S. searches, click the **Next 50** button (for EPO and International searches, results are in groups of thirty and the button is the **Next 30** button). If you wish to have all of the search results in one list, check the **Get the Rest** checkbox before clicking the **Next 50** (or **Next 30**) button for the first time (you can only "get the rest" if results 1-50 (or 1-30) are currently being displayed).

PCT searches will return up to a maximum of 300 hits all at once. The **Next 50** button will be disabled.

Patent and Application Text from Search Results

With the **Text** radio button highlighted, if the patent or application title is displayed, clicking on the line in the search results field will display the text of that patent or application in the field above it, as shown in the image below.

If the class/subclass of a U.S. patent is shown next to the patent number, rather than the patent title, the text of the patent is not available. This is the case for all U.S. patents issued prior to the early 1970's. You will need to add the patent to your Download List and then download it in order to read the patent.



PCT text was created by WIPO using optical character recognition (OCR), so there may be a number of errors in the text. Each PCT text that you view will have a warning about that. Also, there may be artifacts in the text if the publication language is other than English. You should use the text merely as a screening technique to see which patents you wish to download. Do not rely upon it to draw legal conclusions.

You can find your search terms in the text of a patent or application. You do this by locking the search query field using the **Lock Query** checkbox, and then clicking on any of your search terms in the query field. If your search term was combined with a field name (e.g., LREP/smith in the image above), make sure that you click on the search term itself (e.g., smith) and not the field name or the slash. Repeatedly clicking on the same search term will find all of the occurrences of that term within the patent or application text. Clicking on a different search term restarts finding the search term from the beginning of the patent or application.

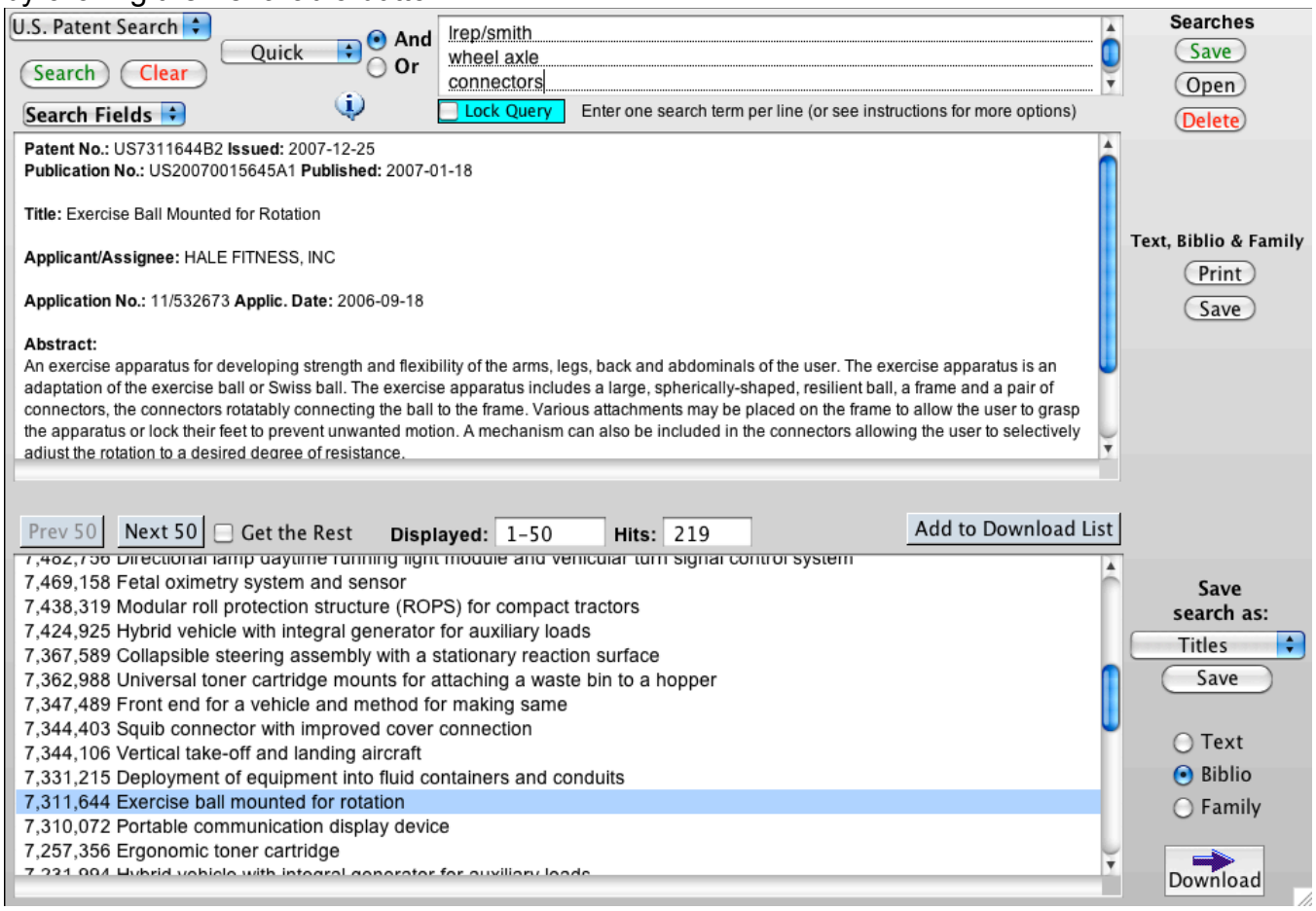
If your search query contains a quoted phrase, the phrase will be a blue link after the **Search** button is clicked. This means that **Patent Grabber** will consider the phrase to be a single search term and will find only the whole phrase within the text of a patent or application when you click on the phrase.

You can print or save the text of the patent or application that is being displayed by clicking the **Print** or **Save** buttons next to the field in which the text is being displayed.

INPADOC Bibliographic Information from Search Results

Instead of downloading the entire text of the patent (which can take some time for longer patents), you can instead quickly download just some bibliographic information. This includes the patent number and issue date, publication number and publication date, the applicant (assignee) name, application number and date, as well as an abstract and list of inventors. To see the bibliographic information, select the **Biblio** radio button (see graphic, below).

The bibliographic information is obtained from INPADOC via the EPO's "Open Patent Services" server. If you leave the **Biblio** radio button highlighted, clicking on other patents or applications will display their INPADOC bibliographic information. (Please note: the EPO generally takes about two weeks to add a newly issued U.S. patent or newly published U.S. application to the INPADOC database. Most PCT applications are added much sooner, but coverage is not 100%). You can switch back to displaying the text of patents and applications by clicking the **Text** radio button.

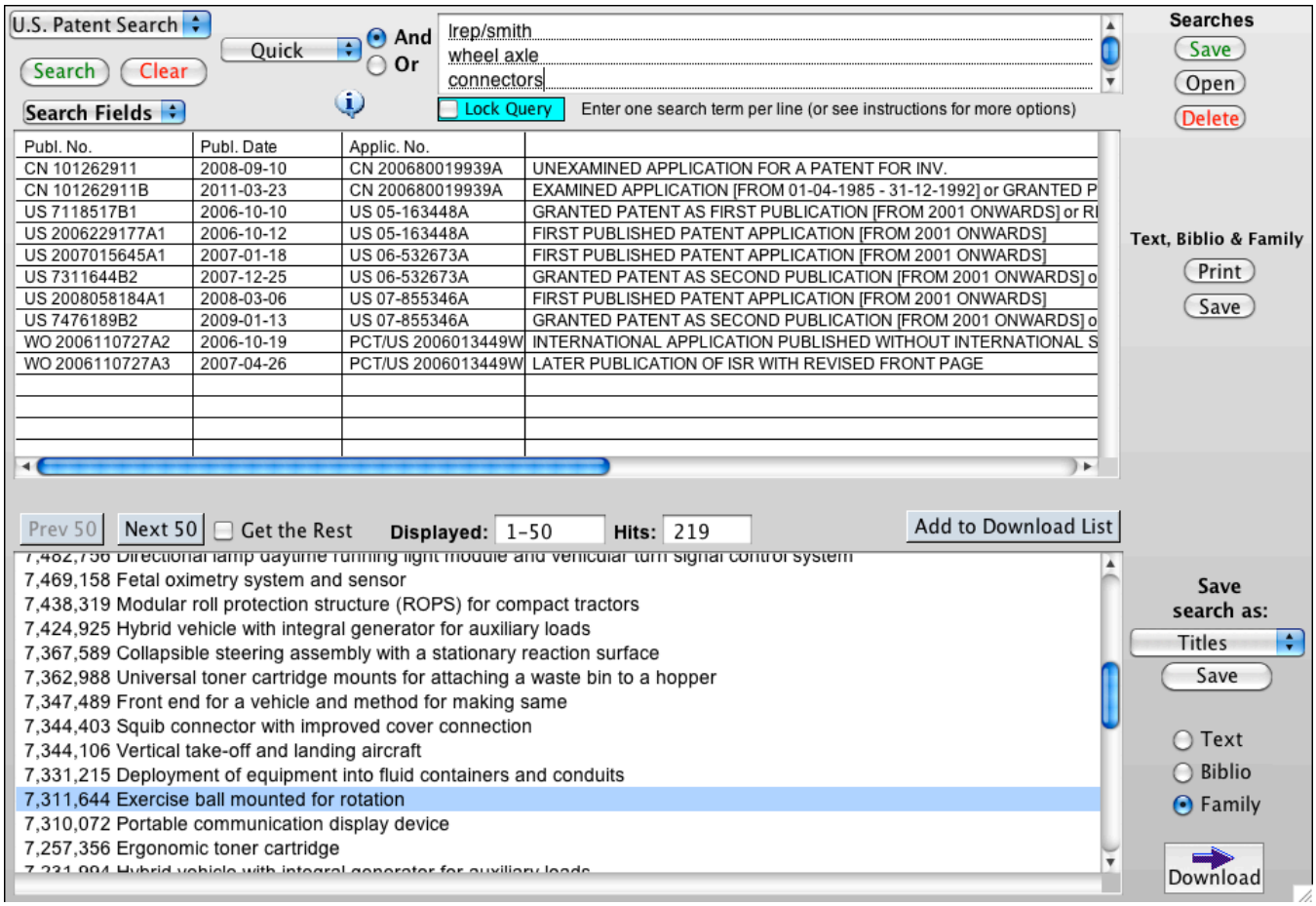


Note: the U.S. application number is not in the usual PTO format of a series code, a slash, and then the six-digit serial number. Instead, INPADOC uses the country code, the four-digit year,

and then the serial number with seven digits. For easier reading, **Patent Grabber** separates the country code and four-digit year from the serial number by inserting a hyphen.

INPADOC International Patent Family Information from Search Results

To see a list patents and published applications from the U.S. and around the world that are related to the currently highlighted patent or application, click the **Family** radio button. This queries the European Patent Office's "Open Patent Services" server and downloads the EPO's INPADOC patent family information. An example is shown in the graphic, below:



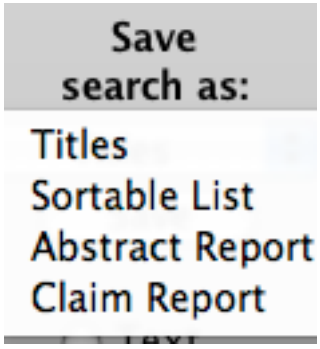
If you leave the **Family** radio button highlighted, clicking on other patents or applications will display their INPADOC family information. (Please note: the EPO generally takes about two weeks to add a newly issued U.S. patent or newly published U.S. application to the INPADOC database). You can switch back to displaying the text of patents and applications by clicking the **Text** radio button.

You can print or save the patent family information that is being displayed by clicking the **Print** or **Save** buttons next to the field in which the family information is being displayed. If you choose to save the information, it is saved in tab-delimited format so that it can be conveniently imported into a spreadsheet or converted to a table in a word processing document.

Four Ways to Save Search Results

There are four ways that you can save search results (except International searches for which only Titles can be saved):

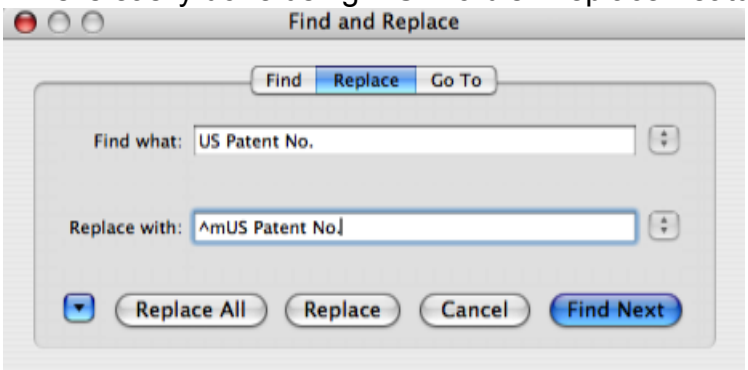
Titles:	a tab-delimited list of the patent/application numbers and the titles that can be opened by a spreadsheet program (e.g., MS Excel)
Sortable List:	a tab-delimited list of bibliographic information that can be opened by a spreadsheet program. This makes it easy to sort by assignee, inventor, or International Patent Classification
Abstract Report	an HTML file that can be opened by a web browser or MS Word that contains the abstract of each patent/application along with bibliographic information.
Claim Report	a text file that contains the patent/application number, issue/publication date, title, assignee, and all of the claims of each patent or application.



You save the search results by selecting the appropriate menuitem under the words "Save search as" to the right of the search results field. When you select **Sortable List**, **Abstract Report** or **Claim Report**, the data for the list or report is downloaded for each patent/application that is displayed in the search results field. The progress of the download will be shown in the large field above the search results field. The Claim Report will take the most time since it needs to download the text of each patent from which it extracts the claims.

If your search resulted in more than 50 hits (or more than 30 hits for EPO or International searches), use the **Get the Rest** feature to make sure that all of your search results are in the search results field before clicking any of the buttons.

One nice way of looking through a Claim Report is to have each patent start on a new page. This is easily done using MS Word's "Replace" feature under the "Edit" menu. Just put "US



Patent No." (or "US Publication No." or "PCT Publication No." for published applications) in the "Find what:" field, and put "^mUS Patent No." (or "^mUS Publication No." or "^mPCT Publication No.") in the "Replace with:" field, and then click the **Replace All** button. The ^m inserts a hard page break before each occurrence of the patent number so that each patent will start on a new page.