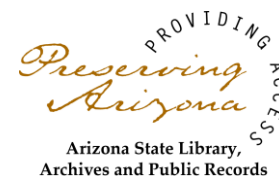




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STATE LIBRARY OF ARIZONA

JANET FISHER
Library Director



Finding Historical Patents by Inventor Name at the Arizona State Library and Archives

GOAL: find the patent number so that you can retrieve the full patent via the USPTO website.

IF...you have the **patent number** of the invention, whose patent you want to see:

Use the **United States Patent and Trademark Office website** at <http://patft.uspto.gov/> with Patent Number search

The screenshot shows the USPTO Patent Full-Text Databases website. The header includes the USPTO logo and the text "United States Patent and Trademark Office An Agency of the Department of Commerce" and "Patent Full-Text Databases". The main content area is divided into three columns:

- PatFT: Patents** (Full-Text from 1976): Includes links for Quick Search, Advanced Search, Number Search, View Full-Page Images, PatFT Help Files, PatFT Status, History, PatFT Database Contents, and Report Problems.
- Both Systems**: A central column with a status message "The databases are operating normally." and links for Notices & Policies, How to View Images, Assignment Database, Public PAIR, Searching by Class, Sequence Listings, and Attorneys and Agents.
- AppFT: Applications** (Published since March 2001): Includes links for Quick Search, Advanced Search, Number Search, View Full-Page Images, AppFT Help Files, AppFT Status, History, and Report Problems.

A blue box in the bottom left of the PatFT section contains the text "webpage as of October 2012". A "Privacy Policy" link is visible at the bottom of the central column.

You can bring up images of patents issued all the way back to **1790** and **print them**. Please see the librarian if you have difficulty viewing or printing the image.

IF...you have the inventor's name and know that he or she received a patent in **1976 or later** also use:

<http://patft.uspto.gov/> (click "Quick Search", then select Inventor Name from the pull-down menu as shown below).

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Patents from 1790
When searching for specific numbers

only by Issue Date, Patent Number, and Current US Classification.
Patent numbers must be seven characters in length, excluding commas, which are optional.

Design Patent numbers
begin with D; Plant Patent
numbers begin with PP

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 Issue Date
 Patent Number
 Application Date
 Application Serial Number
 Application Type
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 Assignee City
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Inventor Name
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 Attorney or Agent
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 Referenced By
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 Claim(s)

You can then locate and view the patent.

IF...you select only **the inventor's name** and know the U.S. Patent was issued 1836 or later, use **ESPACENET** to search by inventor at <http://worldwide.espacenet.com> (choose Advanced Search).

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Publication date: [\[i\]](#)

Enter name of one or more persons/organisations

Applicant(s): [\[i\]](#)

Inventor(s): [\[i\]](#)

CA is the abbreviation for **Canadian Patents**.

They can be retrieved online from the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) at <http://brevets-patents.ic.gc.ca/opic-cipo/cpd/eng/introduction.html> (via a Number Search)

The screenshot shows the CIPO website interface. At the top, there is a header with the Canadian flag, the text 'Canadian Intellectual Property Office' and 'Office de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada', and the 'Canada' logo. Below this is a green banner with a red maple leaf and the text 'Canadian Intellectual Property Office' and 'cipo.ic.gc.ca'. A navigation bar contains links for 'Français', 'Home', 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'Search', and 'canada.gc.ca'. The main content area is titled 'Canadian Patents Database' and includes a 'Notices' link. The 'Introduction' section welcomes users to the database, which contains over 2,120,000 patent documents. It provides links for 'Currency of information' and 'Service and Website Interruption'. The 'Search Options' section lists 'Basic', 'Number', 'Boolean', and 'Advanced' search methods. The 'Portable Document Format (PDF) readers' section notes that a PDF reader is required to access PDF versions of files.

You can also view US patents in print format via the index and Patent Gazette:

Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Patents (SuDoc number I 23.1/1)

- has the **Alphabetical List of Patentees for the Year** showing utility patents by the inventor's name.

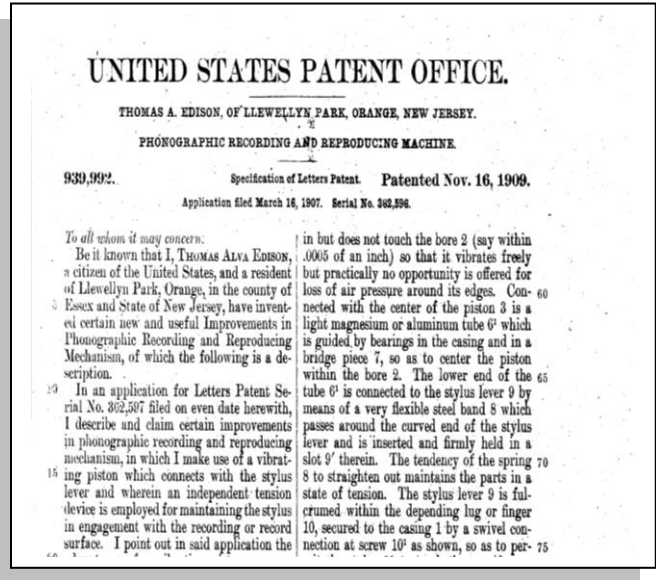
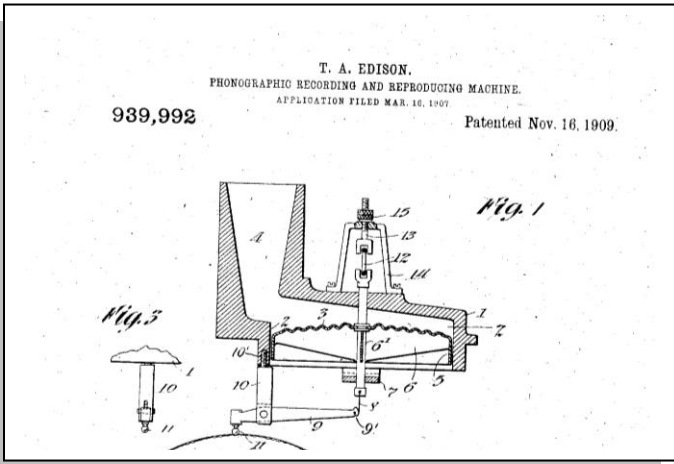
Edison, T.A., Llewellyn Park, Orange, N.J. Telegraphy. No. 909,877; Jan. 19; Sp.p. 2912; Gaz.vol. 138; p. 542.

- check the **Alphabetical List of Patentees of Designs** for design Patents (usually near the front, after the short Office Report)
- the **Design Patent** list follows the utility patent list

IF...you found the patent number and want to see the full patent in *print*...

- The patentees list also provides the volume of the weekly *Patent Gazette* and page on which the full patent appears:
- **Gaz.** refers to the weekly *Patent Gazette*
- The State Library has **Patent Gazettes** since 1872 (SuDoc **C 21.5:**).

NOTE: Since the Gazettes are currently in Remote Storage, you may have to ask in advance or expect a wait to access them.

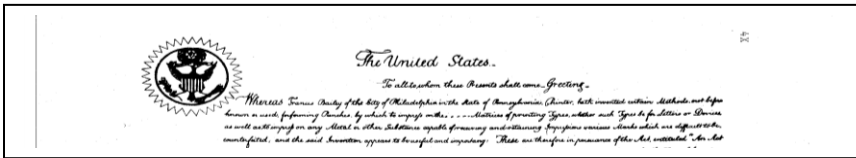


Patents issued prior to 1909, are also in the patentee indexes of the **Report of the Commissioner of Patents to Congress in the Serial Set.**

- see the **Serial Set Document table** below for which Serial Set document is the Patent Office report. (Note: the first numbered patent dates to 1836)
- ask for the appropriate fiche to be brought up.
- Locate the document on the fiche by the document number running vertically after the document's first image: 1



- use the viewer in the Reference area or the Law Collection's 2nd floor viewer/printer to view and copy list pages. Early reports have claims summaries as well.



IF... you think the patent issued prior to 1836:

- see librarian for alternate indexes to locate the very early patents.
- The earliest patent indexes may be found in the **American State Papers**; later ones are also in the **Serial Set**.
- Patents before 1836 were originally without patent numbers and were given "X Numbers". Find them online by putting in the X in front of the number: X4.
- 2/3 of early patents were lost in a December 1836 Patent Office fire.

More Information:

- a number of resources on searching patents by classification are available.
- the USPTO has produced a number of specialized patent resources focusing on women inventors, the subject of inventions, and others.
- historical and genealogical journals have published articles about inventors of specific geographic regions
- if the inventor is from a state other than Arizona, they may be listed in one of the databases of inventors compiled by researchers and librarians (time periods vary):

Alabama: <http://bpldb.bplonline.org/db/inventors>

Iowa: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/patents/>

Idaho: <http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/patents/>

Louisiana: <http://staff.lib.muohio.edu/shocker/govlaw/LAPAT/>

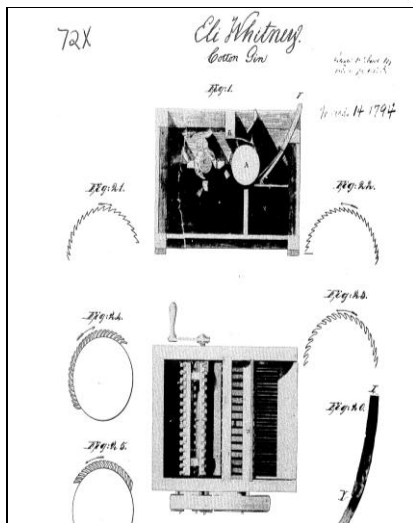
Nevada: http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu/digital_collections/unique/nevada_inventors/

Ohio: <http://staff.lib.muohio.edu/shocker/ohist/hinv.php>

Oklahoma: <http://okinventors.library.okstate.edu/>

South Carolina 1796-1896: <http://sys.lib.clemson.edu/scinventors/search.asp>

Wyoming: <http://cowgirl.state.wy.us/inventors/>



Feb. 21, 1933.

J. P. MEEHAN

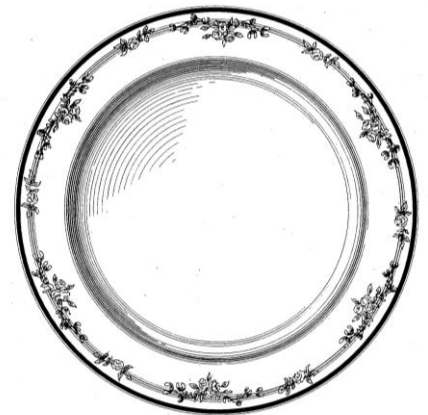
1,898,379

AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATE OR SIGN

Filed July 5, 1932



DESIGN.
T. HAVILAND.
PLATE.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 14, 1912. Patented Dec. 3, 1912.
43,307.



Witnesses
R. A. Hamway

Proprietor
Theodore Haviland

By Attorney
Mason Fawcett Lawrence