

EXHIBIT 14

Today's Date: March 4, 2010

[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | [Services](#) | [Patent Attorney](#) | [Patent Search](#) | [Gene on Twitter](#) | [Renee on Twitter](#) | [Blog Search](#) | [Recommendations](#)

IPWatchdog.com Sponsors

[IP-Contingency-Lawyer.Com](#)

<p>Patent Research for Industry Professionals</p>	<p>Plastic Resource Group</p> <p>free quote</p>	<p>• Every significant event • Every patent case • One daily summary</p> <p>Try it FREE</p>	<p>ADVERTISE HERE</p> <p>125 x 125 pixels</p>			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The Top 5 Things Inventors Do Wrong



Written by **Gene Quinn**
Patent Attorney & IPWatchdog Founder
Editor of the **IPWatchdog.com Blog**
Posted: September 19, 2008 @ 5:06 pm
Page viewed 6,397 times



[CLICK HERE](#) to send this page to a friend



US Patent Searches
Patentability Opinions
US Patent Applications
[CLICK HERE](#) for info

Frequently I speak with inventors who have made mistakes as they attempt to protect their inventions and ultimately obtain patent protection. Unfortunately, these mistakes can sometimes make it impossible to obtain patent protection at all. While there are many mistakes that one can make, here is a list of those things that are the biggest mistakes that can be made. Sadly, these are mistakes that happen every day.

[Retweet](#)

1. Sold the Invention – In the United States you have 12 months from the time the invention was first sold within which to file either a **provisional patent application** or a **nonprovisional patent application**. If you wait longer than 12 months then you have forever forfeited the right to obtain a patent in the US. Many inventors know this rule and will start to sell the product before a patent application is filed. That may not present a problem in the US as long as you keep the 12 month time limit in mind, but once you sell the invention you have forever lost any foreign rights you might have been able to acquire. The US is peculiar in allowing a 12 month grace period. The rest of the world follows an absolute novelty requirement which means that if you sell the invention before a patent application has filed you forfeit the right to obtain a patent. So if you want foreign patents then apply for a patent before you sell the invention.
2. Offer to sell the invention – Not only does selling the invention have severe negative consequences, but offering to sell the invention has the same negative consequences as actually selling the invention.
3. Publicly used the invention – Public use can create the same problems as a sale or offer for sale. In the US if you use an invention publicly you have 12 months from the first public use to apply for a patent. Again, if you want foreign rights you need to apply first before you use the invention publicly.
4. Terrible provisional patent applications – A **provisional patent application** is a great tool when it is used properly, and devastating when it is not use properly. A provisional application is extremely easy to file because all you have to do is complete a cover sheet and then attach a description of your invention. There are no requirements that the description be in a particular format, and the truth is the Patent Office does not even look at the provisional application. This has lead to many unscrupulous vendors offering provisional patent

application services for under \$100. Unfortunately, the law requires that a provisional patent application describe the invention with the same level of detail as is required of a **nonprovisional patent application**. This means that while you can easily get a provisional patent application on file and have a "patent pending" if you do not describe the invention with the level of detail and sophistication required by the patent laws your provisional application is worthless. Even worse, because you may have felt that you had a patent application pending you may have done things, such as using or selling your invention. If filed a provisional application that is not specific enough and then used or sold your invention you have forever forfeited foreign rights, and the application you filed may not be able to be used later to support a filing date. Worse of all, a badly done provisional patent application could conclusively prove that as of the time that you filed the application you did not have a completed invention. So it is possible that a bad provisional patent application not only does not help you, but it could significantly and severely hurt you.

5. No professional patent search – I hear all the time from inventors who have done their own **patent search** and have found nothing similar to their invention. This is the first warning. With well over 7,000,000 US patents and counting it is virtually impossible to do a patent search and not find something relevant. Patent searching is an art more than anything and if you are not intimately familiar with how the Patent Office classifies inventions and how attorneys characterize things then you would never find what you are looking for even if there is a patent out there that covers exactly what you invented. Obtaining a patent is an expensive undertaking, and saving a few hundred dollars by doing your own patent search is just silly. Sure, look for yourself first. I even have an article explaining how to do your own search (see **Patent Searching 101**). If you find something then you save a few hundred dollars, but just because you do not find anything does not mean that there is nothing to be found. Why spend thousands of dollars seeking a patent when spending a few hundred dollars on a search would have shown you that a patent would likely not be awarded?

If you have a general question please feel free to **send it to me**. I endeavor to answer as many questions as I can and use these questions to help me know what to write for the benefit of all.

Good luck, and happy inventing.

Related Posts

- **Don't Get A Patent? Plainly Ridiculous!** (♥♥♥♥)
- **Avoiding Invent Help & Other Invention Scams** (♥♥♥♥)
- **Patents: A Most Difficult Legal Instrument to Draft** (♥♥♥♥)
- **Inventor Pitfalls: What is the Patentable Feature?** (♥♥♥♥)
- **What to Expect when Calling a Patent Attorney** (♥♥♥)
- **Should Inventors Draft Patent Applications?** (♥♥♥)
- **Inventors Beware: Yugo Prices Suggest Yugo Quality** (♥♥♥)
- **Inventors Need to Have Inventions** (♥♥♥)
- **Inventing to Solve Problems** (♥♥♥)
- **Starting the Patent Process on a Limited Budget** (♥♥♥)

Share & Enjoy With Social Networks





Tags & Categories

Tags: [independent inventor](#), [inventor mistakes](#), [patent application](#)

Posted in: [Educational Information for Inventors](#), [IPWatchdog.com Blog](#), [Inventors Information](#)



Mention IPWatchdog & Save 10%



PBR Live Program

Patent Bar Review 2010

Mar. 17 - 21, 2010

The John Marshall Law School-Chicago , IL

One comment

[Leave a comment »](#)

1. 25978 [October 5th, 2008 8:51 pm](#) [edit](#)

Is the provisional patent honored by the western European countries?

Leave Comment

[Edit](#)



Mention IPWatchdog & Save 10%



PBR Live Program

Patent Bar Review 2010

Mar. 17 - 21, 2010

The John Marshall Law School-Chicago , IL