Design Patent Timelines & Costs

Date of Conception
You have a great idea! Be sure to log it into an Inventor's Notebook, preferably with witnesses sworn to secrecy.

Conduct Patent Search (optional, if you want to sleep better)

Takes 3 weeks

File US Design Patent Application ($995)

Optional, but within 6 months

6 to 18 (or more) months

Within 3 Mos.

Receive & Respond to Office Action from PTO ($200 - $1,200)

File Foreign Patents (~$2,000 - $2,500 each)

Foreign Patents Granted! Pay Issuance & Maint. Fees ($ varies), sometimes yearly

Within 3 Mos.

Receive Notice of Allowance (pay issuance fee)

4 to 6 wks.

14 Year Term

Patent Granted!

No maintenance fees with design patents.

PRICES SHOWN DO NOT INCLUDE PTO FEES, WHICH VARY BASED ON YOUR ENTITY STATUS

If you publically disclose your idea before filing your US patent, then you have one year to file your US patent and you LOSE your foreign filing rights in many countries. But remember the first inventor to file the patent gets the rights, so file ASAP is often the best advice.

If you publically disclose your idea after filing your US patent, then you have 6 months to file your foreign design applications.

Important Notes:

Believe it or not, this is a simplification of patent law! Your situation may be slightly different depnding on various factors. Please contact us to discuss your specific case.

Note that all dollar amounts are approximate and are not guaranteed to be up-to-date. Patent laws change in every country frequently, so new fees and policies may be in effect when you are going through this process.

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