

[\[ back to Help Center \]](#)

## Searching Basics

### Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Overview of Delphion search pages](#)
- [Search methods](#)
- [Summary of patent collections available at Delphion](#)
- [Cross-collection searching](#)

### Introduction:

Delphion offers you several different methods for searching. The simplest search is done from the QUICK SEARCH box on the Delphion website homepage and only requires you enter a single keyword. On the [Quick/Number](#) search page, you can search by single word, simple phrase, or patent number. More complex searches allow you to specify date ranges, Boolean operators, and a host of other search criteria.

All search forms allow you to select which collections to search and, minimally, whether to search front pages or full text including claims. The more advanced search forms offer additional options.

See also:

- [Glossary of Patent Terms](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms
- [The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries](#) for help on forming complex queries
- [First Time Visitors](#) for an overview of what the Delphion website offers
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on Searching](#) for answers to other's questions
- [Access to Patents](#) for information on getting access to the different patent collections
- [Description of Collections](#) for details on all the Delphion collections

[\[back to top\]](#)

### Overview of Delphion search pages:

The following describes the types of searches that can be performed from each of the Delphion search pages:

Use this Delphion search page...	To...
<a href="#">Quick/Number</a>	Find a specific patent by its number or to find patents containing a specific name, word, or phrase.
<a href="#">Boolean</a>	Find patents with words or phrases in up to four search fields, using Boolean connectors (AND, OR, AND NOT) to narrow or expand your search.
<a href="#">Advanced</a>	Create custom query strings in an open text box or automatically construct complex queries with terms in multiple fields.  See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.

<a href="#">Browse Codes</a>	<p>Browse through patents by International Patent Classification, US Classification, or by Derwent Manual Classification Codes. Or use keyword searching to find relevant IPCs or US classes.</p> <p>On the Browse Codes page, the following code lists are also linked for reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● US Maintenance Status Codes</li> <li>● INPADOC Legal Status Codes</li> <li>● Patent Kind Codes</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Derwent</a>	<p>Select a specific Derwent search page from the following choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Derwent Boolean Text</a> search page to use Boolean operators to search for Derwent records</li> <li>● <a href="#">Derwent Advanced Text</a> search page to search for Derwent records using advanced text search fields (like Issue Date, Inventor/Author, Assignee, Derwent Title, etc.)</li> <li>● <a href="#">Derwent Patent/Accession Numbers</a> search page to search for Derwent record by patent number or accession number</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.</p>
<a href="#">Prior Art</a>	<p>Search for prior art from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IP.com documents</li> <li>● IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins (TDBs)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">IP Listings</a>	<p>Search for patents available for licensing.</p>

[\[back to top\]](#)

### Search methods:

The following shows which Delphion search page to use based on your search strategy:

If want to search...	Then use...
By single words or phrases in any field	Quick Text Search on the <a href="#">Quick/Number</a> search page.
By patent number	Patent Number Search on the <a href="#">Quick/Number</a> search page.
By words or phrases using Boolean operators and (optionally) building multiple term queries	Boolean Text Search on the <a href="#">Boolean</a> search page.  See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.
By building a complex query string using multiple terms ANDed together	The <a href="#">Advanced</a> search page.  See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.
By International Patent Classification (IPC)	International Patent Classification Search on the <a href="#">Browse Codes</a> page.

By United States Classification	United States Classification Search on the <a href="#">Browse Codes</a> page.
For Derwent records using Boolean operators	<a href="#">Derwent Boolean Text</a> search on the Derwent Boolean Text search page.  See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.
Derwent records using advanced text search fields (like Issue Date, Inventor/Author, Assignee, Derwent Title, etc.)	Derwent Advanced Search on the <a href="#">Derwent Advanced Text</a> search page.  See <a href="#">The Basics of Creating and Refining Queries</a> for help on forming complex queries.
For Derwent record by patent number	By Patent Number Search on the <a href="#">Derwent Patent/Accession Numbers</a> search page.
For Derwent record by accession number	By Accession Number Search on the <a href="#">Derwent Patent/Accession Numbers</a> search page.
For IP.com documents	IP.com Search on the <a href="#">Prior Art</a> search page.
For IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins (TDBs) by word or phrase	TDB Text Search on the <a href="#">Prior Art</a> search page.
For patents available for licensing	IP listing Search on the <a href="#">IP Listings</a> search page.

[\[back to top\]](#)

#### Summary of patent collections available at Delphion:

The following summarizes the patent collections available on the Delphion website. See our [collection descriptions page](#) for more details on each collection.

Collection	Coverage	Data
United States Patents — Applications (US)	March 2001-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images
United States Patents — Granted (US)	1971-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images
United States Patents — Granted (US)	1790-1971	Full images
Derwent World Patents Index	1963-present	English language abstracts, enhanced titles, Derwent images
European Patents — Applications (EP-A)	1979-present	Bibliographic text, full images
European Patents — Applications (EP-A)	1987-present	Full text
European Patents — Granted (EP-B)	1980-present	Bibliographic text, full images
European Patents — Granted (EP-B)	1991-present	Full text

German Patents — Applications	1968-present	Bibliographic text, first claim, full images Full text back to 1987
German Patents — Granted	1968-present	Bibliographic text, first claim, full images Full text back to 1987
INPADOC Family and Legal Status	1968-present	Bibliographic text, most images
Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ)	October 1976-present	Bibliographic text, representative image
Switzerland (CH)	January 15, 1990-present	Images
WIPO PCT Publications (WO)	1978-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images

[\[back to top\]](#)

#### **Cross-collection searching:**

Use cross-collection searching to search multiple collections at the same time, with the same query. Allows searching across all major collections including US Applications, US Granted, European Applications (EP-A), European Granted (EP-B), German Applications, German Granted, PCT, PAJ, and INPADOC.

Data from cross-collection full text searches is presented on the Delphion Integrated View, allowing you to read the full content of the patent combined with other value-added data. The collections you have searched show up on the Result Set page under the search field ("Collections Searched").

See also: [Enhancing Your Search with the Delphion Integrated View](#) for more information about all of the components of the Delphion Integrated View.

[\[back to top\]](#)