

## What are Annotated Drawings?

Patent drawings are often necessary to illustrate an invention. Reference numerals are used to refer to parts or features of the invention. In each drawing figure, parts are labelled with their corresponding numbers. A U.S. patent or published application contains a front page drawing. This is typically a drawing that most closely represents the subject of the invention, followed by one or more drawing figures on one or more pages. Without Patent Slice, the reader has a couple of choices when reading the patent document. One can flip back and forth between the specification of the patent document and the drawing figures to match a part description to a part of the drawing. The reader first needs to locate the part numbers in the specification and then flip back to the drawing figures to match them to the numbers. As a parts list is not required in a patent application, most patent documents do not come equipped with a parts list. It's then up to the reader to locate the parts first in the document and then match them to the parts in the drawing figures to facilitate understanding of the patent document. This process is not only slow but also frustrating. The reader can alternatively print out at least the drawing figures and hand label the parts description found again manually throughout the description of the patent document. This process is also slow and frustrating. Patent Slice changed all that! Patent Slice provides drawing figures that are annotated with descriptions. A parts list is provided right next to each drawing page. The reader therefore has access to the description of each part right there without the need to first find the part descriptions in the specification and then marry the part descriptions with the part numbers in the drawing figures, saving the reader time and cutting down on mistakes that can potentially arise from flipping the pages back and forth. In addition, one or more figure descriptions is included on each drawing page, except the front page drawing page. Each description is limited to the contents available in a single line. Again, this description cuts down on the need to refer back the description for the figure description. Patent Slice takes a guess on what figure description should be shown on each drawing page. In most circumstances, pertinent figure descriptions are shown.

The screenshot shows the Patent Slice web interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options: Specification, Parts List, Enhanced Parts List, Protected Parts, Annotated Claims, Claim Tree, Annotated Drawings (highlighted with a green arrow and label 'Annotated Drawings'), and Figures. The main content area is titled 'ANNOTATED DRAWINGS' and includes a sub-header 'ANNOTATED DRAWINGS - Pat. No. 9632677 at PatentSlice.com'. Below this is a parts list with 56 numbered items, such as '2 FIG. 1', '4 rotating means', '7 first', '8 suction means', '9 second end', '10 suction body', '12 positioning means', '13 FIG. 1', '14 position effector', '15 annular cavity', '16 filtering means', '17 flow path', '18 FIG. 7', '19 opening', '20 shaped filter', '21 opening', '22 filter housing', '23 relay', '24 rechargeable battery', '25 engagement surface', '26 motor', '27 return surface', '28 propeller', '29 propeller hub', '30 ledge', '31 level detector', '32 entrapa debris', '33 controlling means', '34 controller', '35 rotation', '36 eccentric shaft', '37 small screen', '38 composite screen', '39 screws 37', '40 water/tight compartment', '42 flow apertures', '43 flow deflector', '44 slant apertures', '45 detoured line', '46 plug balls', '47 environment outside', '50 screw thread', '52 housing lock', '54 inclusion', and '56 filter retainer'. To the right of the parts list is a technical drawing of a device, labeled 'FIG. 4', showing a cross-section of a cylindrical component with various internal parts and reference numerals (e.g., 16, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82).

This screenshot shows a different view of the Patent Slice interface. The navigation menu is the same, but the 'Annotated Drawings' option is not highlighted. Instead, the main content area features a 'Figure Description' section (highlighted with a green arrow) containing several paragraphs of text: 'Fig. 2 is a side orthogonal view of a cleaner system.', 'Fig. 3 is a plan view of a cleaner system.', 'Fig. 4 is a front orthogonal sagittal cross-sectional view of a cleaner system taken along line AA of 3.', 'Fig. 5 is a front orthogonal cross-sectional view of an assembled cleaner system taken along line AA of 3.', 'Fig. 6 is a front perspective cross-sectional view of an assembled cleaner system taken along line AA of 3.', 'Fig. 7 is a diagram depicting a method by which the power supply of the present cleaner system is automatically replenished.', and 'Fig. 8 to 11 are top orthogonal cross-section views of a random position effector according to the present invention, depicting the random po...'. Below the figure description is a 'Parts List' (highlighted with a green arrow) containing 104 numbered items, including '96 upper end', '98 cavity', '100 support', and '104 manual switch'. To the right of the parts list is the same technical drawing as in the previous screenshot, labeled 'FIG. 4'. A green arrow points from the drawing to a label 'Drawing Figure'.

Annotated Drawings combine parts list, figure description and drawing figures, all on one page so that you can quickly identify the parts of a drawing figure, e.g., part 38 is "composite screen" and what the drawing figure is about. Originally published patent documents do not come with a parts list or figure descriptions, making part identification difficult