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 match them 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.