

What is a Claim Tree?

Claims define the scope of protection or metes and bounds of a patent. It is not uncommon for a patent or application to have several sets of claims. Patent Slice presents claims in their own sets under the "Claim Tree" tab to facilitate a quick reference to the relationship between claims and the types of claims at a glance. How can a claim tree help me? In the following example, there are three sets of claims. All claims of this example are termed "apparatus" claims as they are drawn to an "apparatus" of the invention, instead of a "method" of doing something or "process" of doing something or another aspect of the invention. Patent Slice automatically resolves the type and tells you what type it is. You can also, at a glance, see the relationships between the claims. How is this important? For instance, you can immediately see which claim claim 2 depends from, at a glance. Claim 2 depends from claim 1. As claim 1 is the head of the set, you know that claim 1 is an "independent claim." An independent claim of a set of claims is the broadest claim of the set of claims. You can also quickly see which claim to read first. In this scenario, you'll probably want to start with claim 1 as it is often the broadest claim. In U.S. patent practice, claim 1 is often the broadest claim. Then, instead of starting to read claim 2, you may want to read claim 3 instead as it is the head of the second set of claims. Then move on to read claim 13 as it is the third independent claim of the patent. Therefore, if you simply want to get a grasp of the scope and breadth of the claims, you can go to the three independent claims instead of all 20 claims. If it is difficult to discern the differences between two claims, simply copy the two claims and paste them in the interface of the "Compare Two Claims" button and get the differences within seconds.

Claim Tree shows claim dependencies of all claims at a glance! If a claim depends from a wrong claim, you will immediately spot the problem, e.g., claim 4 depends from claim 3 and claim 10 depends from claim 9

Shows type of claim set - Apparatus, Method, Composition, etc.

Problem! This claim falls out of place as it should depend from either claim 13, 14, or 15

Annotated Claims shows color-coded claim terms at a glance! If a claim term is not introduced properly prior to its first use, you'll want to fix this antecedent basis problem. If a claim term is not shown in a from drawing, you may consider adding a part number to clarify this claim term in a drawing figure

CLAIMS

A part having support in specification means there is a part in specification having a part number that matches this part in claim

Part of this color means this "The" part was NOT introduced prior to first use and is NOT supported in specification

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Claim 1 reads an aquarium bottom cleaner system for cleaning a bottom surface of an aquarium, wherein said aquarium bottom cleaner system comprises: a suction means; (8) a powering means; a controlling means; (33) an automatic positioning means (12) comprising a random position effector (14) comprising an annular cavity; (15) a plurality of directional intake flow apertures; (42) a plurality of plug balls (46) and a plurality of substantially symmetrically disposed steer apertures (44) along an outer radial periphery of said annular cavity; (15) and a filtering means; (16) wherein said suction means (8) is powered by said powering means to move untreated water to be processed by said filtering means (16) to produce a filtered return