This Inventor’s Notebook
Belongs to:

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What is your invention?

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What problem does it solve?

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Is your invention practical?

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What does it look like?

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DID YOU KNOW… There are three types of patents. Utility Patents (protect machines, articles of manufacture, or compositions of matter), Design Patents (protect any new, original, and ornamental design), and Plant Patents (protect new and distinct varieties of plants that can be asexually reproduced).
DID YOU KNOW…Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC) are a network of public, state, and academic libraries designated by the USPTO to support the public with trademark and patent information and access to search databases.
Is your invention new?

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How will you protect your new invention?

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Did you conduct a patent search using www.uspto.gov/patents or another on-line database?

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Did you find any patents for inventions similar to your invention? If so, list the patent #s:
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DID YOU KNOW… IP protection is in the Constitution. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 - The Congress shall have the power… to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.
Imagine that you have been granted a patent on your invention, what name/logo (Trademark) will you use to market your invention? How will you identify and distinguish your products from similar products made by others?

Did you conduct a trademark search at www.uspto.gov/trademarks? Did you search other sources?

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DID YOU KNOW... The first U.S. patent was issued in 1790 for a process of making potash, an ingredient used in fertilizer. Since that time the USPTO has issued over 10 million patents.
Is your invention an improvement on an existing product or service?

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If your invention is not an improvement on an existing product or service, how would you improve your invention?

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Do you have a prototype?

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Make a prototype of your invention using available resources or materials (e.g., paper, cardboard, tape, recyclables, 3-D printers, computer-aided design (CAD), Maker spaces, TechLabs, etc.)

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DID YOU KNOW… The USPTO has four regional offices throughout the United States: San Jose, CA; Denver, CO; Dallas, TX; and Detroit, MI. The USPTO headquarters is in Alexandria, VA.
DID YOU KNOW… Patents grant inventors the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, or offering for sale their claimed invention for a limited period of time. (Utility patents for 20 years from date of file; Design patents for 15 years from date of issuance).
INSPIRE

How will your invention change the world?

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Is your invention marketable?

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Create a catchy jingle for your invention.

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How/Where will you advertise your invention? Will you have a commercial?

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DID YOU KNOW… Unlike copyrights and patents, trademark rights can last indefinitely if the registration is properly maintained and the mark is continually used in commerce to identify and distinguish the source of the goods and services.
DID YOU KNOW... A Trademark can be almost anything. Words, phrases, symbols designs, sounds, colors, and even scents can function as trademarks so long as they are capable of identifying and distinguishing the source of the goods or services of one party from those of others.
To learn more about inventors and intellectual property, including patents and trademarks, visit uspto.gov/kids or contact us at education@uspto.gov.

United States Patent and Trademark Office
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