

7-Step U.S. Patent Search Strategy Quick Start

Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) staff are available to provide training on U.S. patent search processes and research tools including the **Cassis DVD-ROM** system, the **PubWEST** database, and the **USPTO website**.

Classification

1. Brainstorm keywords related to the purpose, use and composition of the invention.
2. Look up the words in the *Index to the U.S. Patent Classification* (pictured at right) to find potential class/subclasses.
3. Verify the relevancy of the class/subclasses by using the Classification Schedule in the *Manual of Classification* (pictured below).
4. Read the *Classification Definitions* to verify the scope of the subclasses and note "see also" references.

Land Vehicle See Specific Types	280
Air bags	280 / 728.1+
Seat belts	280 / 801.1+
Spare tire compartment	296 / 37.2
Stub axles	280 / 124.125+
Tires and wheels resilient	152
Toilets	4 / 458+
Vertically adjustable wheels	280 / 43+
Wheel substitutes	305
Wheels and axles	301

Class 301 LAND VEHICLES: WHEELS AND AXLES	
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1	COMBINED WHEEL AND AXLE MODIFICATION
2	• Cushion lateral thrust
2.5	• With pedal crank
5.1	WHEEL
5.21	• Balancing device
5.22	• Self-operating
5.23	• With peripheral roller
5.24	• Having housing for tire inflation means
5.301	• Skate wheel
5.7	• With antifriction bearing
5.302	• Traction increasing
5.303	• Shape

Access Full-Text

5. Search the *Issued Patents* and the *Published Applications* databases by "Current US Classification" and access full-text patents and published applications.

Review & References

6. Review the claims, specifications and drawings of documents retrieved for relevancy.
7. Check all references and note the "U.S. Cl." and "Field of Search" areas for additional class/subclasses to search (pictured at right).

(52) U.S. Cl. 301/5.1; 301/5.1; 301/108.4; 280/165

(58) Field of Search 301/5.1, 37.101, 301/37.25, 37.28, 37.102, 37.371, 108.1, 108.4; 280/163, 164.1, 165

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,149,338 A	*	8/1915	Butcher	280/165
2,218,060 A	*	10/1940	Watson	280/165
3,288,488 A	*	11/1966	Shinn	280/165
3,734,534 A	*	5/1973	Brooks et al.	280/163

