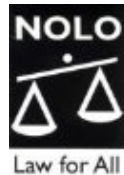


## The Inventor's Notebook

Fred E. Grissom, David Pressman, Fred Grissom  
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agent can advise you as to the current state of the law with regard to your specific invention. Also, to better understand and appreciate its purpose, you should also read and study a good up-to-date guide to patent law, such as David Pressman's Patent It Yourself. In addition to providing the means to prove you are legally the first to invent, the Inventor's Notebook provides you with guidelines for making decisions regarding patentability, commerciality, and whether other paths could be taken -- e.g., keeping your invention a trade secret. The book is divided into four main parts -- a work diary, legal protection, marketing and financing. The work diary section gives you examples of how to record your invention with regard to its conception, purpose, description, operation, novelty, prior art and what the advantages of your invention are. It stresses the importance of drawing a line through blank sections to prevent others from later claiming material was added after the page was prepared, dated and witnessed. Entries must be made in ink and pencil sketches should be photocopied. The proper method for adding photos is also given. The legal section explains the importance of and how to make a prior art search. The term, "prior art", in patent law means any material that can be found that was on record before the date you conceived your invention and that might be used to deny your right to a patent. This includes prior patents, magazine articles, technical journals, books, catalogs, etc. The legal section includes pages for the recording of contacts made while developing your invention with emphasis on securing confidentiality agreements to protect your invention. It also stresses the extreme importance of the "one year rule", which requires that you must file your patent application within one year of the date on which you first publish, publicly use, sell or offer your invention, or any product that embodies same, for sale. The marketing section notes that you should avoid the trap many first-time inventors fall into -- namely, spending vast amounts of time, energy and money on your invention before checking out its commercial potential. It also warns of the very common trap of paying money to an "invention developer" who, quite often, cannot even furnish the names of any successful clients. The book provides a list of 34 positive factors and 21 negative factors for evaluating your invention. The marketing section also contains "Potential User Survey" forms and some recommendations for doing market researching. Also, it contains forms for recording your own study of "Relevant Market Trends" and a list of questions you should ask yourself regarding forming a decision as to manufacturing it yourself, distributing it yourself or selecting companies to do it for you. In addition, four pages of information regarding Internet Web pages useful to inventors are provided. This includes "A Cyberpreneur's Guide to the Internet". Today the Internet not only provides vast amounts of information but it also can be used to promote your invention. The financial section contains guides and checklists for your budget estimates and for selling your invention or for seeking capital. The back of the book contains lists of publications about patenting, business and books of interest to inventors. Also in the back of the book are tear-out copies of a "Consultants Work Agreement", "Proprietary Materials Agreement", "Positive and Negative Factor Evaluation Form" and a "Universal License Agreement Form". In addition, a six-page glossary is included covering 13 functions such as springs, shape, optics and fluid flow. This can be a great aid when you are at a loss of words to describe the parts and functioning of your invention. It clues you in on the terms patent examiners most often see. Using these terms will also make your invention more understandable to your patent attorney or agent. This is a superb book. Every serious inventor should own a copy. The price is very low and its value to you is very high. It is simple to understand and is without the "legalese" some authors use to impress readers.

This book is especially designed to help document key steps in the invention process--conceiving, building and testing the invention, legally protecting it, marketing and financing. It helps inventors organize all the necessary information in one location, so that the completed notes serve as the foundation for the legal protection of the idea. Includes worksheets, checklists and sample agreements.

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