

Day One Answers

Patent Fundamentals Bootcamp 2021:

An Introduction to Patent Drafting, Prosecution, and Litigation

June 2, 2021

DAY 1: MODEL ANSWER

We claim:

1. An apparatus comprising:
a substantially planar surface with a first and a second surface; and
at least three elongate members, the members each having a first end and a second end, the first ends connected to the first surface of the planar surface and oriented with respect to the planar surface such that the elongate members are substantially perpendicular to the planar surface and the elongate members are substantially parallel to each other.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a support member connected to the second surface of the planar surface and oriented in a direction generally parallel to the elongate members.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising exactly three elongate members.
4. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising exactly four elongate members.
5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the planar surface and elongate members are wood.
6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the length of each of the elongate members is approximately equal to the distance between the knee and the ankle of an adult human leg.
7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the area of the planar surface is approximately equal to the area of the back surface of an adult human buttock.

SAMPLE ANSWERS TO CS PROBLEM

1. A method for tagging a digital item, the method comprising:
 - displaying a digital item to a user;
 - receiving from the user a selection of a region of the digital item;
 - receiving from the user contact information for the digital item;
 - tagging the digital item by inserting the contact information in the region; and
 - sending a tag notification to a tagee using the contact information.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital item is a digital image.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the contact information is one of:
 - an street address,
 - an email address, and
 - a hyperlink.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the tagging includes:
 - providing a border around the region, and
 - inserting the contact information within the border.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the region is received as click-and-drag information inputted by the user.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the tag notification includes a link that enables the tagee to access and view the digital item.

7. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing code that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method that comprises:

causing a digital item to be displayed on a user device;

receiving from the user device a selection of a region of the digital item;

receiving from the user device contact information for the digital item;

tagging the digital item by inserting the contact information in the region; and

sending a tag notification to a tagee using the contact information.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PATENT PROSECUTION
Clinic I - Claim Drafting
Sample Answer to Problem 3

1. A wall-mountable fruit juice squeezer, which comprises

[element (s) A]

a hollow housing adapted to be secured to a wall;

a contoured lower die member mounted in the housing and upon which a section of fruit to be squeezed may be positioned;

(element (s) B]

an oppositely contoured upper die member supported for reciprocating movement within the housing between a lower position where the upper die member squeezes the fruit section against the lower die member and an upper position spaced from the lower position; and

[element (s) C]:

An elongated handle for moving the upper die member between the upper and lower positions, the elongated handle having an inner end coupled to the upper die member, the handle extending outwardly from the housing and movable in a predetermined path outside the housing, the predetermined path being at least partially directed toward the wall to reinforce the securing of the housing to the wall when the upper die member is in the lower position.

2. A fruit juice squeezer as defined in claim 1, further comprising a toothed rack connected to the upper die member and a gear connected to the inner end of the handle, the gear being rotatably mounted in the housing in engagement with the toothed rack.

3. A fruit juice squeezer as defined in claim 1, in which the handle further has an outer end and is so contoured that, when the upper die member is in the upper position, the handle extends outward from the housing in an initially relatively steep rearward and upward path until the handle is generally parallel to the wall, and then continues in a relatively gradual forward and upward path to its outer end.

Comments on Sample Claims

As a matter of form, sample claim 1 follows the independent machine claim template as the problem requires. As a matter of substance, element(s) A, B and C of the template are “customized” to assure that the body of the claim reflects the selection of those elements necessary for the improved fruit juice squeezer. In this case the elements are those that both define a complete and operable juice squeezer of the wall mounted type AND meet the objective, set forth in the invention disclosure, of reinforcing the wall mounting of the squeezer housing at the time a fruit section is being squeezed.

Query: Are the limitations “contoured” and oppositely “contoured” necessary?

Claims 2 and 3 add different, non-necessary limitations to the arrangement of claim 1.

Specifically, claim 2 adds additional detail of the coupling of the handle to the upper handle.

Claim 3 recites a preferred handle contour which augments the reinforcing effect of the handle on the securing of the housing to the wall.

Although means plus function elements should be avoided in the broadest claim(s), advisably an application should include claims without means plus function and corresponding claim(s) using means plus function. Such a claim corresponding to claim 1 follows:

1. A wall-mountable fruit juice squeezer, which comprises

[Element (s) A]

a hollow housing;

means for securing the housing to a wall;

a contoured lower die member mounted in the housing and upon which a section of fruit to be squeezed may be positioned;

(element (s) B]

an oppositely contoured upper die member supported for reciprocating movement within the housing between a lower position where the upper die member squeezes the fruit section against the lower die member and an upper position spaced from the lower position; and

[element (s) C]:

means for moving the upper die member between the upper and lower positions, the moving means comprising an elongated handle having an inner end coupled to the upper die member, the handle extending outwardly from the housing and movable in a predetermined path outside the housing, the predetermined path being at least partially directed toward the wall to reinforce the securing means when the upper die member is in the lower position.