



Patent Factsheets: Abstract

The basis of a UK patent application is a legal document called a specification. Its contents determine whether a patent can be granted. You would be well advised to seek professional assistance when preparing your patent application. A patent specification includes:

- a full description of your invention, plus any drawings referred to within your description
- one or more claims.

This factsheet tells you about the abstract. An example is shown overleaf. Other factsheets in this series explain how to prepare a description, drawings, and claims.

Content

An abstract is a brief **summary** of your invention, and should include all of the most **important technical features** of your invention. It is useful to both the Intellectual Property Office and to the public searching in the particular technical field of the application.

The abstract should indicate the technical field to which the invention belongs and be drafted in a manner which allows a clear understanding of the technical problem to be solved and the solution to that problem, namely your invention.

The abstract should have a **title**, which may be the same as the title of your description. The title should be brief, specific and reflect the nature of the invention. **Do not** include expressions such as “improvements in or relating to” or “and the like”.

The Abstract **is not** part of the specification.

You should ensure that **all** the technical features mentioned in the abstract are also in the description. The information contained within the abstract cannot be relied upon as a disclosure of the invention. This means that you cannot transfer any features from the abstract to the description at a later date and you cannot claim a priority date for any matter contained solely in the abstract.

Start your abstract with the most important **essential technical features** of your invention. You may then wish to refer to some of the **non-essential features** you have mentioned in the description.

If your specification includes drawings, you should **suggest** in writing, below the abstract, which **figure** you think goes best with the abstract to illustrate your invention. **Do not** provide a separate drawing specially for the abstract.

If a feature from the figure you suggest is mentioned in your abstract, the **reference number** for that feature should be given in the abstract as well.

Style and presentation

Head your abstract page ‘ABSTRACT’.

You should type or print the abstract on **one side only** of a separate sheet of white A4 paper using no more than **150 words**.

Leave **margins** of at least 2.0cm.

The Intellectual Property Office may edit your abstract.

The abstract should be in English or Welsh. (The Office will provide a translation of any material filed in Welsh).

IMPORTANT: You must file your abstract within 12 months of your filing date (where no claim to priority is made). If a claim to priority is made, you must file your abstract by the latter of 12 months from your priority date, or two months from your filing date.

Abstract: Typical example

Page numbered to follow on
after the claim page(s)

Use A4 paper

Head the page

'ABSTRACT'

Title

A summary of your invention
(maximum of 150 words)

Suggest a figure from your
drawing sheets

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Abstract

Bicycle stabilising unit

A bicycle stabilising unit 1 includes attachment means 3,4 for attaching the unit to a bicycle, a ground engaging wheel 6 which can freely rotate about an axis, and cushioning means 7,8 such that the axis of the wheel can be displaced relative to the attachment means.

Figure 1 to accompany abstract

Enquiries: You can contact the Intellectual Property Office on: 0300 300 2000 (local call rate). Alternatively visit our website at www.gov.uk/ipo

We are keen to help all our customers as much as possible, but regret that we cannot assist with the commercial exploitation of your invention. This factsheet is not intended to be a comprehensive guide and necessarily omits details which may be relevant in particular circumstances.