

# EXPRESS SEARCH

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## Validity Research

### Validity Research Fees

- Cost: \$115 per hour
- *Recommended* hours: 24
- Scope: 20 to 60 patents
- Claims Comparison Chart included\*

### How is Validity Research Used?

Validity research is a useful weapon in an IP practitioner's arsenal.

While validity research is primarily used to determine the strength of a patent with regard to litigation or re-examination, it is also a valuable tool for evaluating elements of a patent portfolio. Validity research can assist in preparing for and succeeding in litigation.

Likewise, economic pressure has resulted in new corporate reviews of IP portfolios. Decision-makers are debating more aggressive usage of their existing IP assets or the purchase of new, key IP assets.

Validity research adds pertinent information to the formation of corporate patent valuation strategies. The fundamental requirements of these assessments dictates the greatest attention to detail and thoroughness of research.

### How is Validity Research Conducted?

Validity research is used to establish the enforceability of an issued patent in court or before the USPTO.

The claims of the subject patent are compared with prior art references published before the critical date, often the filing or priority date, of the subject patent.

A Claims Comparison Chart is provided with results to visually represent the relationship between cited prior art and the most important claimed elements.

Express Search validity research includes both detailed research results as well as legal status information for each of the cited references.

Opinion-free comments include column/line/figure and claim references to point clients directly to the most important features of the cited art. Coupled with keyword searchable electronic patent copies, clients can quickly and accurately prepare their validity arguments.

Non-patent literature may also be included to provide an additional scholarly overview of the field of technology.

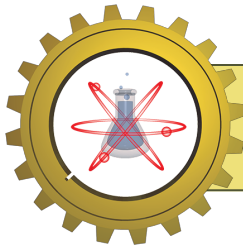
### Who Benefits from Validity Research?

The strength of a patent has shifted from issuance to enforceability. The cost to invalidate a collection of weak patents is much higher than the cost to litigate a single strong patent. Companies are able to leverage the number of patents within a portfolio to overcome the reduced strength of individual patents.

Express Search validity research benefits clients looking to manipulate intangible asset portfolios in litigation, valuation assessments and re-examination before the USPTO.

### Search Results Include:

- Claims Comparison Chart
- Opinion-free comments
- Keyword searchable patents
- Current PAIR assignments
- Current INPADOC patent family and legal status
- Electronic results
- Free shipping and free electronic patent copies
- Free research estimate and conferencing



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## Sample Claims Comparison Chart

FEATURES		CLAIM ELEMENTS					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
A	Claim 1. A filter mechanism element comprising:						
B	a ring of filter materials surrounding the						
C	first and second end caps fixed to said						
D	end caps having circular apertures adjacent to the						
E	the valve actuating portion including an cylindrical extension with an end cap including a base connected to the cylindrical extension pointing radially inward for pipe reception;						
F	and at least one key projection of radially inward disposition of surface cylindrical extensions radially away from the base;						
PATENT NUMBER		A	B	C	D	E	F
5,959,290		X	X	X	X		X
5,322,624		X	X			X	X
5,244,571		X	X	X	X		X
5,144,978		X	X	X	X	X	
5,045,192						X	-
5,035,797						X	X
4,740,299						X	
4,708,171							X
4,440,193							
4,062,307						X	X
2,533,266							X
2,524,336							X
1,456,883		X	X			X	X
GB2026536		X		X	X		X
5,203,062		X		X	X		
WO05061073		X	X			X	
JP10038480		X	X	X			X
EP0532161							X
EP0442365							X

**Claim Elements** are identified from the most important claims of the subject patent (as identified by the client) to create a custom chart that visually displays the importance of the most relevant patents cited in our results.

**Prior Art Relevance** is displayed in tabular format to provide insight into the importance of the cited prior art without rendering an opinion.

US Patent 5,322,624 has claims that relate to claim elements A, B, E, and F of the subject patent.

**Searchable Patents** by keyword allows you to quickly locate element numbers and key features in all the patents cited.