

Patent Grabber™ 5.9.5 for Windows

From Blazing Dawn Software

www.blazingdawn.com

* What's New in Version 5.9.5:

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.9.5, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading and Searching:

This version is a more permanent patch to adjust for changes at the European Patent Office's "Open Patent Services" server that Patent Grabber uses for a number of its functions on both the Downloading screen and the Search screen. All users must upgrade to this version.

* Installation:

Expand the .zip archive (double-clicking it will usually start an application such as WinZip that will do that), and drag the resulting **Patent Grabber** folder to your "My Documents" or "Programs" folder. There is no need for an "installer."

Free Helper Applications Are Needed!

Patent Grabber 5.x combines patent documents into a single PDF file through the use of two free helper applications, PDFTK.exe and C42PDF.exe. You must have these on your PC where they can be found by **Patent Grabber** in order for them to do their work.

C42PDF.exe is a helper application that converts CCITT4 TIFF files (which are the type provided by the USPTO) into PDF files, and may be downloaded from:

<http://c42pdf.ffii.org/> (download the latest Windows® binary)

PDFTK.exe (called the "PDF Tool Kit") is a helper application that combines multiple PDF files into a single PDF file, and may be downloaded from:

<http://www.accesspdf.com/pdftk/> (click the "Download PDFTK" link and download the "Windows Program Download" zip file)

For both helper applications, you can ignore all the instructions on how to use them! It is *Patent Grabber* that uses them, not you.

Once you have downloaded and unzipped the helper applications, you must move them into one of two places on your PC. One place you can move them to is into a folder called "system32" that is inside a folder called either "winnt" or "windows" on your C: drive, depending upon the version of MS Windows® that you are running.

However, the simpler place to move the two helper applications is into your **Patent Grabber 5.9.5** folder, i.e. the folder that contains **Patent Grabber 5.9.5.exe**.

When you first start it, **Patent Grabber** will create a "Patents" folder in your "My Documents" folder. It will also create a "pat_grab_prefs5.txt" file in your Preferences folder.

To uninstall, drag the 1) **Patent Grabber** folder, 2) the Patents folder that is in your "My Documents" folder and 3) your "pat_grab_prefs.txt" file that is in the folder where application preferences are stored to the trash.

*** How Patent Grabber Works:**

Patents:

Patent Grabber downloads individual pages of a patent document (issued patent or published application). Those pages are then combined into a single PDF file. That extra step (over Version 4) will add additional time to the downloading of each patent document.

First, tell **Patent Grabber** that you are connected to the Internet. You will see a warning near the bottom of the screen with a "Yes" button in the lower-right corner. If you are connected to the Internet, click the "Yes" button.

Type or paste a list of patent or application numbers in the field on the left of the screen, with one number per line. For U.S. patents, it does not matter whether you have commas in the numbers or not. For U.S. published applications, you must use just numbers without any spaces or letters of any kind.

For PCT applications, you can include the "WO" and/or the slash, or not include them. It does not matter. For EPO applications, you may include the "EP" or not. Again, it does not matter.

For international patents and applications, precede the document number with the two-letter country code. You can mix any number of different documents types and countries when downloading using the "International" option.

Except when downloading international documents and INPADOC Legal Status summaries, you cannot mix the different types of patents and/or applications in the list.

Unless you select the “Always Select Downloads Folder” Preferences option, all patents are downloaded into a folder called "Patents" that will be created inside your Documents folder. If you do use the Patents folder, there is a Preferences setting that you can use to change its default location.

Basic U.S. Patent Bibliographic Information:

Patent Grabber downloads the text of each U.S. patent in your list and extracts bibliographic information from it. There is also the option of downloading patent family information to allow sorting by patent family. All of the information is then formatted as a tab-delimited text file that can be opened by most spreadsheet applications. Each row of the spreadsheet contains the bibliographic information of one patent. See the instructions for more details.

Enhanced U.S. Patent Bibliographic Information:

In addition to basic information found in the text of each patent, the “US Patent Biblio +” function adds a number of additional columns obtained from other sources. See the instructions for all of the details.

*** Patent and Application Searching**

To do a Quick search, enter one word or quoted phrase per line in the search query field. Choose whether you want those search terms to be connected by “And” or “Or”. Click the Search button.

For Advanced, Issuance or Publication searches, please read the full instructions.

From the results of your search you can see the full text, just the bibliographic information, or the INPADOC family of a patent or application by clicking on that patent or application in the search results field. Switch between text, bibliographic information and family using the Text, Biblio and Family radio buttons.

You can save your search results in four different ways. See the full instructions for details.

*** Quitting Patent Grabber:**

Click the "close box". There is no "File" menu (or any other kind of menu for that matter!).

*** Reporting problems:**

Send an e-mail to **sunspot@blazingdawn.com**. If possible, provide any specific patent or application numbers that are giving you problems.

*** Upgrading for registered users of version 4.x for Windows:**

You can upgrade to **Patent Grabber** Version 5.9.5 for only \$10. Go to the **Blazing Dawn Software** web site (www.blazingdawn.com) and click the "Online Registration" link. That will take you to the Kagi Store page for Blazing Dawn, and you will pay for a "**Patent Grabber 5 Upgrade**" license. Once you have paid, Blazing Dawn will confirm that you are eligible for the upgrade and send you a new registration code. The registration code will not be in the Kagi Store's payment confirmation message.

*** New User licenses:**

Go to the **Blazing Dawn Software** web site (www.blazingdawn.com) and click the "Online Registration" link. That will take you to the Kagi Store page for Blazing Dawn, and you will pay \$30 for a "**Patent Grabber 5 New User**" license. The registration code will be in the Kagi Store's payment confirmation message.

Changes in previous versions

* What's New in Version 5.9.4:

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.9.4, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading and Searching:

This version is a temporary patch to adjust for changes at the European Patent Office's "Open Patent Services" server that Patent Grabber uses for a number of its functions on both the Downloading screen and the Search screen. A more permanent solution is being worked on.

* What's New in Version 5.9.3:

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.9.3, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Searching:

Using "Get the Rest" to complete a long list of search results will no longer cause **Patent Grabber** to hang when it gets to search results >15,150.

* What's New in Version 5.9.2:

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.9.2, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

-- Tweaked the filtering field below the list of downloaded patents so that it works more consistently.

Searching:

Fixed PCT searching. Changes to WIPO's PatentScope search service had broken Patent Grabber's ability to search for PCT published patent applications.

*** What's New in Version 5.9.1:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.9.2, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

-- Fixed an issue that could cause **Patent Grabber** to crash when downloading the text of a PCT application if the claims section was larger than about 300 KB.

*** What's New in Version 5.9:**

Downloading:

-- Added a second US patent bibliographic information download function called "US Patent Biblio +". This exciting new function adds significant new columns to a spreadsheet of bibliographic information for US patents. One example is forward citations, i.e., later issued patents that cite the patent of interest. The spreadsheet includes columns for the number of forward citations, a list of forward citations, and the names of the assignees of those forward citations! See the instructions for all the details.

Searching:

-- Fixed and improved EP-A searching. Changes to the EPO's search site had broken **Patent Grabber's** EP-A searching function. That is fixed and EP-A searching is no longer restricted to just the first thirty hits. Now you can see all of your search results in groups of thirty. You can also use the "Get the rest" checkbox to get all of the search results onto one screen.

-- Fixed PCT searching. Changes to WIPO's search site had broken **Patent Grabber's** PCT searching function.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.6:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.6, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Made an overall change to the look of Patent Grabber. Hope that you like it!

Downloading:

-- Added a filtering field to filter the contents of the list of downloaded patents. This makes it easier to find a particular patent in long list.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.5:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.5, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

-- European (EP-B) granted patents issued starting in 1999 are once again downloading when the "All Pages" checkbox is checked. When the entire patent is desired (rather than just a particular section or two), Patent Grabber downloads the entire patent as a single PDF file from the European Publication Server. The EPO recently changed the download link for the European Publication Server, and this update addresses that change.

Searching:

-- If a U.S. patent search result included a Design Patent (ornamental designs whose patent number starts with the letter "D") issued prior to January 16, 2001, using the "Biblio" radio button returned gibberish. Those Design Patents will now return a message saying that the bibliographic information is not available. The "Biblio" radio button queries the European Patent Office server which does not have U.S. Design Patent bibliographic information prior to January 16, 2001.

-- The "Search Fields" dropdown menu for EP application searching will now widen to completely show the full length of each line of the menu.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.4:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.4, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Searching:

-- U.S. patent search results saved as a "Sortable List" had inconsistencies in the Issue Date column. If a patent was granted from a published application (patent Kind Code = B2), the issue date that was shown was actually the publication date of the application. That has been fixed. A similar problem in the Abstract Report has also been fixed.

– If a search result includes a design patent, clicking on the design patent in the search results list in order to see its text will no longer result in an error message.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.3:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.3, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

– Most of the obscure Legal Event Codes for EP publications in an INPADOC Legal Status report will now be followed its explanation.

Searching:

– When looking at the patent family of a patent found in a search, an explanation of the Kind Code of each family member is now included in the table.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.2:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.2, it should automatically open up in its registered state (unless you did not install Ver. 5.8.1. See the “Changes in previous versions” section for more details). If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

– Made an adjustment for changes at the European Patent Office that prevented the downloading of EP, PCT and International patent images.

*** What's New in Version 5.8.1:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8.1, you may need to enter your Version 5 username and registration code. If you have lost your username and registration code, please contact the author at the e-mail address shown on the Blazing Dawn Software web site.

Start up:

- Preferences and registration code info will no longer be stored in the root directory of the users hard drive. Those files will be stored in a directory that meant for the storage of such files, and will differ depending upon which version of Windows that the user is running. This change is due to the root directory on Windows 7 being write-protected for many users. **Users will likely be asked to**

enter their username and registration code the first time they start Ver. 5.8.1.

Downloading:

- U.S. patent documents that start with a letter (e.g., reissue patents (RE), plant patents (PP), historical patents (X) and statutory invention registrations (H)) can once again be downloaded using lower or upper case letters without an error.
- The “Check for Updates” button will now work when using a proxy server.

*** What’s New in Version 5.8:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.8, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading – fixed multiple issues caused by changes made at the European Patent Office that prevented **Patent Grabber** from being able to download EP-A, PCT and International documents. The “family” option of the U.S. Biblio download feature is now working again.

Searching – added full-text EP-A searching, but it is unfortunately limited to 30 hits at the present time. Fixed all the issues with “Sortable List”, “Abstract Report” and “Claim Report” that had been adversely effected by the changes at the EPO.

*** What’s New in Version 5.7.4:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.7.4, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

INPADOC Legal Status Downloading – fixed an issue that prevented the downloading of legal status information for documents that had multiple “kind codes” under the same publication number.

*** What’s New in Version 5.7.3:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.7.3, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

EP, PCT, International and INPADOC Downloading – maintenance release to respond to changes made by the European Patent Office to its Open Patent Services server.

*** What's New in Version 5.7.2:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.7.2, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

EP, PCT, International and INPADOC Downloading – maintenance release to respond to changes made by the European Patent Office to its Open Patent Services server.

*** What's New in Version 5.7.1:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.7.1, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

U.S. Patents and Applications – fixed a problem with downloading only specific parts of a patent or published application that was caused by changes at the USPTO web site.

*** What's New in Version 5.7:**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.7, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

U.S. Patent Biblio – now offers the option of including patent family identifiers so that the spreadsheet of bibliographic information can be sorted by patent family. Great help in analyzing the patent portfolio of a company.

*** What's New in Version 5.6.2:**

This is a free upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.6.2, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

Eliminated duplicate pages that were being downloaded for some international patents.

Searching:

Text field no longer shows run-on words in the claims of PCT publications.

*** What's New in Version 5.6.1:**

This is a free upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.6.1, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading and Searching:

Provides a more accurate rendition of text for PCT publications in non-English languages that use diacritical marks (e.g., French, German, Italian, etc.).

*** What's New in Version 5.6:**

This is a free upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.6, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

Added the ability to create a spreadsheet of bibliographic information for U.S. patents. Simply select "US Patent Biblio" from the downloading dropdown list.

*** What's New in Version 5.5:**

This is a free upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.5, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Downloading:

Revised the interface (the black background should alert you that this is really different!). The multiple downloading buttons have been replaced by a dropdown menu and a single "Get" button.

Added "International" as a download choice. This allows the downloading of documents from any country that is in the EPO's library. Just be sure to precede the publication number with the two-letter country code.

Reestablished the ability to download PCT and EP-A published applications, and EP-B granted patents. EP-B patents issued starting in 1999 will be downloaded as a single file (rather than being combined from individual pages) when the "All Pages" checkbox is selected.

Provides text of EP and PCT documents in a more readable format.

Searching:

Fixed the “Sortable List” option for saving search results.

*** What’s New in Version 5.4**

This is a FREE upgrade for registered users of Version 5.x. When you start Ver. 5.4, it should automatically open up in its registered state. If that does not happen, enter your Version 5 username and registration code.

Searching:

Full text PCT searching has been added. It is limited to 500 hits, but if you get more than 500 hits from a search it is time to narrow it!

Fixed a bug where the U.S. patent text would not be displayed when a search that included a date range only returned one hit.

Downloading:

Adding a few descriptive words to the file name of a patent will no longer make Patent Grabber seem unresponsive when attempting further downloads.

*** What’s New in Version 5.3**

Patent Grabber can now combine individual patent pages into a single PDF file under Windows 2000 or higher through its use of two free helper applications. See the “Installation” section, below, for more information.

All PCT publications regardless of the format of their actual publication number can be downloaded using the current 10-digit format of a four-digit year and six-digit publication number: YYYYNNNNNN. This can also include the “WO” prefix and a slash between the year and the rest of the number.

U.S. published applications can be downloaded using either the USPTO’s 11-digit format or the EPO’s 10-digit format.

After selecting a folder using the “Select Folder” button, all subsequent downloads will go into the selected folder until a new folder is selected or the user quits Patent Grabber.

A variety of minor fixes.

*** What's new in Ver. 5.0-5.2**

Versions 5.0 to 5.2 were not available for **Windows**

*** What's new in Ver. 4.4:**

Downloading:

Can now download US patents back to No. 1 (issued in 1836) in Adobe Acrobat format. Can now download US historical patents (patents issued between 1790 and 1836 whose numbers start with "X"). Can download US Statutory Invention Registration (SIR) documents (these have patent numbers that start with "H").

Searching:

Title searches (or non-specific searches where all the search terms are in a single title) will now return results back to 1920. Class/subclass searches will now return results back to patent X1 (issued July 31, 1790).

*** What's new in Ver. 4.3:**

Downloading:

Fixed problems caused by changes at the USPTO that prevented downloading of US patents and published applications in TIFF format and PDF format. Modified the downloading of US patents in PDF format so that all of the PDF pages for every patent are downloaded before **Patent Grabber** checks for any Certificates of Correction on the USPTO server. So a lack of response by the USPTO server will no longer prevent PDF pages from downloading.

*** What's new in Ver. 4.2:**

Searching

Fixed a problem caused by changes at the USPTO that prevented search results from being listed in a usable manner.

When a search found only a single patent, the "Add to Download List" button did not work. That has also been fixed.

*** What's new in Ver. 4.1:**

Downloading:

Updated the INPADOC downloads to include the newly added IPC8 (Intl. Patent Classification Ver. 8) codes.

Updated the text download programming to keep up with changes at the European Patent Office patent server. So will now more consistently download the text of EP and PCT published applications.

For EP applications, now more consistently identifies applications which use a PCT as the publication.

Patent Searching:

Fixed an issue that was caused by changes at the European Patent Office which prevented the INPADOC international patent family from being displayed.