

# IP knowledge hacks: European Patent Office Register – a goldmine of FREE information and tools

**This is a brief guide for US Paralegals and Patent Attorneys on how to access FREE information and tools which are available by using the EPO Official Register. Barker Brettell also has a brief downloadable podcast walking through some of the main features which you can listen to by clicking here.**

## Getting Started

First of all, access the EPO register by clicking the link below or typing 'EPO Register' in your internet search engine.

<https://register.epo.org/advancedSearch?lng=en>

## Once you have accessed the EPO Register

If you have clicked on our hyperlink, you should now be looking at the 'Advanced Search' page on the EPO Register website. It should look like this:

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Europäisches Patentamt  
 European Patent Office  
 Office européen des brevets

# European Patent Register

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## Advanced search

Enter numbers with or without country code
 

Publication number  e.g. EP1883031

Application number  e.g. EP07010825

Priority number  e.g. US20030423700

Enter one or more dates (and/or date range for publication date)
 

Filing date  e.g. 20070919

Publication date  e.g. 20070919

Priority date  e.g. 20070919

Date of grant  e.g. 20070919

Enter the name of one or more persons or organisations
 

Applicant(s)  e.g. IBM

## How to use the EPO Register

It is possible under the advanced search tab to search by application or patent number, applicant, inventor, representative, date ranges, International Patent classification, opponent, keywords in the title – a wide range of things. Information concerning the format for search terms is given on the search page.

## How to search for granted patents How to use the EPO Register

For granted patents the most useful button is the Federated Register which pulls information from the National patent offices of the member countries such as the UK, Germany etc. and provides a useful single location for relevant data including whether the EPO patent was validated in a particular country, the renewal status, and the registered proprietor. This is useful when conducting due diligence in an assignment transaction. Checking out that the patent is in force and what name it stands in are basic steps readily facilitated by the Federated Register.

An example is below.

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### Federated register: EP2704232

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**SYSTEM FOR THE STORAGE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY FOR A VEHICLE WITH ELECTRIC PROPULSION**

| Application No. | Publication No. | Applicant      | IPC                                        |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| EP13183037      | EP2704232       | FERRARI S.p.A. | H01M2/10<br>H01M2/12<br>H01M10/613<br>(+2) |

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Only designated contracting states and extension states providing the Federated Register Service are listed below.

|                         | Status                                                         | Application No. | Publication No. | Proprietor              | Invalidation date | Not in force since | Renewal fees last paid | Record last updated |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| → <a href="#">AT</a>    | Patent not validated                                           | EP13183037      | EP2704232       | FERRARI S.p.A.          | 13.07.2015        | 01.04.2015         | ---                    | ---                 |
| → <a href="#">BE</a>    | Patent not validated                                           | EP13183037      | EP2704232       | FERRARI S.p.A.          | ---               | 04.09.2013         | ---                    | 18.10.2020          |
| → <a href="#">BG</a>    | No data provided by the national patent office for this patent |                 |                 |                         |                   |                    |                        |                     |
| → <a href="#">CH/LI</a> | Patent not in force                                            | EP13183037      | EP2704232       | FERRARI S.p.A.          | ---               | 30.09.2016         | ---                    | 19.04.2017          |
| → <a href="#">CZ</a>    | Unknown                                                        | CZ2013-183037   | EP2704232       | FERRARI S.p.A.          | ---               | ---                | ---                    | 05.08.2018          |
| → <a href="#">DE</a>    | Patent in force                                                | EP13183037      | EP2704232       | Ferrari S.p.A., Modena, | ---               | ---                | ---                    | 06.10.2020          |

There are direct links to the national register entries, which provide definitive information about whether each national patent is in force or not.

## What can you do if you need to widen your search?

The EPO register includes a link to Espacenet (highlighted above), which is a wider patent database maintained by the EPO. It includes a list of related family members (listed under 'published as'). In the example case, highlighted below, there is a US equivalent, and the file wrapper for the US case can be viewed via the Global Dossier link near the top of the page after having selected the US case (by clicking the highlighted patent number).

## Searching for Japanese and Chinese cases

For Japanese cases, the EPO global dossier will also hold machine translations of office actions, which can save time and money. The same is meant to be true of Chinese cases, but in Barker Brettell's experience the global dossier for Chinese cases is less likely to be up to date.

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☆ **EP2704232A1** System for the storage of electrical energy for a vehicle with electric propulsion

Available in ▼

Patent Translate ▼



## Bibliographic data ▼

## Register ↗ Global Dossier ↗

**Applicants** FERRARI SPA [IT] +  
**Inventors** FAVARETTO FABRIZIO [IT] +

## Classifications

**IPC** H01M10/613; H01M10/625;  
 H01M10/6567; H01M2/10; H01M2/12;

## CPC

H01M10/0481 (EP,US);  
 H01M10/613 (EP,US);  
 H01M10/6554 (EP,US);  
 H01M2/1077 (EP,US); H01M2/12 (EP,US);  
 H01M2/1252 (US); H01M10/625 (EP,US);

**Priorities** ITBO20120466A 2012-09-04

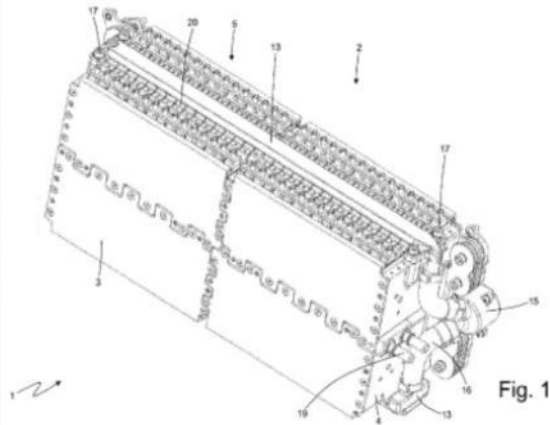
**Application** EP13183037A 2013-09-04

**Publication** EP2704232A1 2014-03-05

**Published as** EP2704232A1; **EP2704232B1**;  
 ITBO20120466A1; US2014072840A1;  
**US9397324B2**



Front-page drawing from EP2704232A1



The Register entry for a European patent or application shows the citations made and any third party comments. These features are useful when assessing the validity of a patent. An example is below.

EP2704232

European procedure

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| Date       | Document type                                            | Procedure            | Number of pages |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 05.02.2016 | Communication regarding the expiry of opposition period  | Search / examination | 1               |
| 02.04.2015 | Transmission of the certificate                          | Search / examination | 1               |
| 05.03.2015 | Decision to grant a European patent                      | Search / examination | 2               |
| 19.02.2015 | (Electronic) Receipt                                     | Search / examination | 1               |
| 19.02.2015 | Filing of the translations of the claims                 | Search / examination | 1               |
| 19.02.2015 | French translation of claims                             | Search / examination | 3               |
| 19.02.2015 | German translation of the claims                         | Search / examination | 3               |
| 19.02.2015 | Letter accompanying subsequently filed items             | Search / examination | 2               |
| 15.10.2014 | Bibliographic data of the European patent application    | Search / examination | 1               |
| 15.10.2014 | Communication about intention to grant a European patent | Search / examination | 5               |
| 15.10.2014 | Intention to grant (signatures)                          | Search / examination | 1               |
| 15.10.2014 | Text intended for grant                                  | Search / examination | 24              |

## Free patent watching alerts

It is possible to watch a patent or application by signing up for a free register alert email that alerts you to a change in the register, whether that be the issuing of an office action or the lapsing of a patent due to non-payment of a renewal fee.

It is also possible to submit anonymous observations on-line during prosecution of an application via the Register.

The Register is normally available 24/7, with occasional downtime for maintenance.

Attorneys use the EPO Register all of the time – for checking out the portfolio of a competitor company; for watching the prosecution history of patents of interest; in an acquisition to check on the patent portfolio; to check renewal status and ownership, and if any patent is opposed, to search for prior art and family members (via Espacenet). It is also useful to check the current status of the prosecution of attorney's own files.

For more information on any of the points raised in this guide, please contact your normal Barker Brettell attorney or [email.info@barkerbrettell.co.uk](mailto:email.info@barkerbrettell.co.uk).

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