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## UTILITY OR DESIGN

### LETTERS PATENT MEMORANDUM

Any Utility patent based upon an application filed on or after June 8, 1995, will have a term of protection 20 years from the filing date of the first U.S. application. This means that if you file a **Utility** patent application on or after June 8, 1995, which claims a priority of an earlier U.S. application under Sections 120, 121, or 365(c) of our Patent Laws, the 20 year period will be measured from the date of the earliest filed U.S. application.

Any **Utility** patent based upon a patent application filed prior to June 8, 1995, will have the longer term of either 17 years from date of issuance or 20 years from the first U.S. filing date.

Maintenance Fees for **Utility** Letters patent will fall due 3 ½, 7 ½ and 11 ½ years from the issue date. Unless otherwise instructed, we have placed this patent on our computerized docketing system and will endeavor to timely remind you, but suggest that you maintain a docket of these dates as a double check.

The term of any **Design** Letters Patent is 14 years from the issue date thereof. No working is required and there are no Maintenance Fees for **Design** patents.

The enclosed **Utility** or **Design** Patent provides the owner with the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, offering for sale or importing a product covered by the invention as defined by any of the Patent Claims, in the United States, territories and possessions, throughout the Patent Term.

Should the patentee desire to manufacture the invention and place it on the market, each item *should* be marked with "Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_" in order that potential infringers may be put on notice. Our law, specifically 35 USC 287, requires that in any suit for infringement, failure to so give notice may prevent recovery and collection of damages except on proof that the defendant was duly notified of infringement and continued the infringing use after such notice.

While the grant of this patent terminates the present case, except for maintenance fees for **Utility** Patents, a patent in no way prevents the patentee from inventing improvements upon the invention and protecting such improvements, if new and useful, by means of separate patents. In other words, while one cannot add any new subject matter to this patent, one may and should seek protection upon any improvements that are patentably different. The patentee may resort to reasonable mechanical/aesthetic changes without departing from the spirit of the claims of the invention already protected, but if at any time one feels that one has developed a patentable improvement, do not hesitate to call upon us for advice.

Every patentee/assignee not residing in the United States should file with the Patent and Trademark Office a written designation stating the name of a person residing in the United States on whom may be served process or notice of proceedings affecting this patent (35 USC 293). This is similar to the Appointment of Domestic Representative filed in trademarks. If the patentee/assignee desires our firm to continue to be their representative for service, please write us. Please note this has nothing to do with Maintenance Fees on this patent for which we are already the address for correspondence.

Since we are lawyers as well as engineers and scientists, please feel free to communicate with us if we can be of further service to you at any time concerning enforcement, licensing, or other commercialization of the patent rights.

This completes the prosecution of this matter, and we thank you for entrusting this case to our office.

Sincerely,

**JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC**

Enclosure: Official Letters Patent