

## Frequently Asked Questions about Patents

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**Q: How can a person find the status of a patent that might have expired, and can you search by class?** [BACK TO TOP](#)

Derwent's Patent Status File, contains a cumulative list of legal changes made to patents for the current year. An EXP code mean the patent has expired. The gazette gives the same information, even a little faster, but it is not cumulative, and very tedious to use. There is also a status field in Cassis Bib, since the expired code is "E," one can search a specific class/subclass, and combine it with an E in the status field. The E means that the patent expired. An R in the status means that it expired and was reinstated. This happens for example, if someone forgets to pay their fee and then suddenly remembers. (The PTO does not send a renewal notice.) The number after the letter (1,2,3) indicates at which stage the patent expired or was renewed.

**Q: What is a digest and must it be searched as a class/subclass?** [BACK TO TOP](#)

A digest (DIG) is an unofficial collection of patents based on a concept which relates to a class but not to any particular subclass. They are unofficial categories to aid patent examiners in a new area. According to PTDL HELP, people are not expected to search them.

**Q: What does it mean when there is a "C" after a patent number?** [BACK TO TOP](#)

It means that it was assigned a certificate of correction. The inventor made minor changes to the patent. It would be more up to date than the number without the "c."

**Q: Is there an inventor's club in Albuquerque?** [BACK TO TOP](#)

Yes. Contact Al Goodman at 266-3541.

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