

Cassis Currents

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DELAYS ENCOUNTERED WITH RECENT Cassis DISCS

Due to equipment failure and loss of data, we experienced unfortunate setbacks recently with the production of Cassis discs. This has resulted in the cancellation of one product and delays in four others. The transition from CD Answer software to Cassis2 on all production discs for November and December did not go as smoothly as expected. In addition, problems arose with the data for all products. We have worked as quickly as possible to rebuild the data and the Cassis2 publishing process.

Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN 2000 November was skipped - the next issue will be published by late February with 2001 January data.

The following discs are delayed and will be published by late February:

Patents ASSIST 2000 December

Patents BIB 2000 December

Trademarks PENDING 2000 December

Trademarks REGISTERED 2000 December

We apologize for these delays and are working diligently to get production back on schedule.

Cassis PRODUCT MIGRATION NEWS

Prior to our data problems, we were nearly ready to send *Patents and Trademarks ASSIGN*, *Patents BIB*, *Trademarks PENDING*, and *Trademarks REGISTERED* for mastering. Style sheets were complete and we were just working out some of the last minute snags. We have quickly rebuilt the data and other aspects of the production process. When the next discs are issued, they will all be published using Cassis2 on DVD-ROM. We have been able to enhance all of these products during the transition process.

Patents ASSIGN and *Trademarks ASSIGN* have been merged to create one product containing both patent and trademark assignment data. When you search by a specific assignee or assignor, you will retrieve all assignment records, with patents records displayed first, followed by the trademark records. If you want to restrict your search to just patents or trademarks, it is possible to use the "Document Type" field to do so.

Trademarks PENDING has been enhanced to include *Trademarks ACE*, Bibliographic Information from Trademarks Abandoned, Cancelled, or Expired. Containing information previously not available on Cassis products, *Trademarks ACE* includes trademark applications and registrations that "died" after 1983. The specific reason for the death is given in the "Status" field. The "Attorney of Record" has been added as a searchable

field. This is the attorney listed at the time of application and may have changed subsequent to registration.

Trademarks REGISTERED now includes the "Attorney of Record" field. USAMark Volume IDs have also been added as part of the displayed record. Instructions for importing a list of numbers from Cassis2 to DocDW are included later in this issue.

In addition, all of the trademarks products have been enhanced to allow for both the searching and display of unusual or special characters that have recently become more prevalent in trademark data. As with the previous Cassis trademark discs, special characters, such as the @ sign, have been indexed in order to make them searchable. The new Cassis2 discs will also display characters which previously could not be displayed properly, such as the accent in *José*.

Product-specific User's Guides have been developed to distribute with each new disc. The online Help system has been updated to include recent changes as well.

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USAPat BACK FILE NEWS

The third set of USAPat back file discs was distributed in January. This set contained patents issued from 1938 to 1958. We are keeping up with our projected schedule and the back file project is more than one-third complete.

It is interesting to note that as time progresses and technology grows, the number of years covered with each set of 50 discs gets smaller. The first set contained patents from 1790 through 1917 (127 years), the second set from 1917 through 1938 (21 years), and this set another 20 years. With the last set, 50 discs will cover just four years.

TIP: EXPORTING DOCUMENT NUMBERS FROM Cassis2 TO USAMark OR USAPat

The Display Styles feature of Cassis2 has made it easier to export document numbers for import to USAPat or USAMark in order to display the facsimile image of the bibliographic record. Patents BIB records have displayed the USAPat Volume ID, the disc number that contains that specific patent, since 1994. The USAMark Volume ID has recently been added as a display field on Trademarks REGISTERED.

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Back issues are available on the USPTO Website at <http://www.uspto.gov/>.

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After you have performed your search, check the displayed records for USAPat or USAMark Volume IDs. If Volume IDs are given, follow the next steps to export the numbers and then import the numbers into USAPat or USAMark. For these examples, we'll use the new Cassis Sampler. The Sampler makes it a little easier to do since all of the records, bibliographic and image, are on one disc.

Cassis Sampler includes a limited number of images. All images have been given a Volume ID of USC001, whether it is USAPat or USAMark. If you were to do a search in the Patents BIB samples for *USC001* in the "All Fields" field, you would get 99 hits. Go to the Results tab to view and select the records for the images you would like to view.

To export a list of these patent numbers, you will create a custom display style. Select the *Display Styles* option from the *View* menu. From the Display Styles window, select Custom Display from the dropdown list. This will open a Display Field Selection window listing all of the available fields in the database, as shown in Figure 1. For this exercise, we are only interested in the patent numbers. Click in the box to the left of "Patent Number," click Apply, and you are returned to the Results screen.

Note that now only that single field is displayed in the document portion of the screen. To export this list, go to *File, Export, All Documents, Delimited, Pipe (/)*. (You can also export with SGML field tags, but not for importing into USAPat.) You will be prompted for a file name and location. The A: drive is the default, just click Cancel for other choices. Enter the name of the file; we will use *c:\search.txt*. Exporting may take a few seconds depending on the number of records selected.

Start the USAPat Sampler from *Start, Programs/CassisSampler/USAPat Sampler*. Once the application has opened, click on the "Import Document List" button on the Document Finder window. You will be prompted for the file name. Type in the name and location of your file, *c:\search.txt*, and press Enter. You will receive a message that the import was successful, click OK to continue. This will return you to the Document Finder window and the document numbers are displayed in the right window, as shown in Figure 2. Click on OK to begin viewing the patent images, as in Figure 3.

There are 3904 trademark images on the Sampler as well. This larger number allows for a more detailed search than with patents. For example, if you are interested in marks

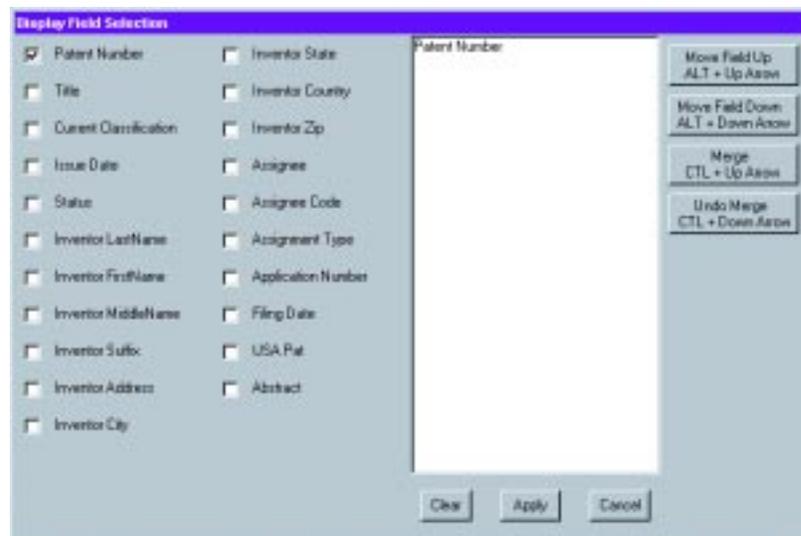


Figure 1 Display Field Selection Window

that deal with water, you could limit the results by using the AND operator. Searching for *water and USC001* in the "AllFields" field retrieves 83 records. You can follow the same steps in setting up the custom display style with just registration numbers and then export the list. You will then import the list to USAMark in the same way as with USAPat. Most of the procedures have been standardized across the applications.

There are a few more steps when you are using the actual products. Once you have retrieved a record, you will locate the appropriate disc that contains the image, retrieve that disc, insert the disc into the DVD-ROM drive, open USAMark or USAPat, and paste or type the document number into the cumulative index on the document finder window.

If you only have a few numbers, you might want to skip the Export/Import routine and just copy and paste the document numbers into the DocDW application. Be sure that you have not copied any leading spaces during this process. They will show up as small black characters and can cause erroneous results.

NEW Cassis SAMPLER DISTRIBUTED

An updated Cassis Sampler was recently distributed. The previous Sampler was published in 1997 and a lot has changed since then.

This new Sampler contains samples of the Cassis2 user interface and some of the recent changes to the Cassis product line. Samples of both USAMark and USAPat are included as well. Specific records have been selected so that it is possible to move between the bibliographic record on Patents BIB or Trademarks REGISTERED and the image on USAPat or

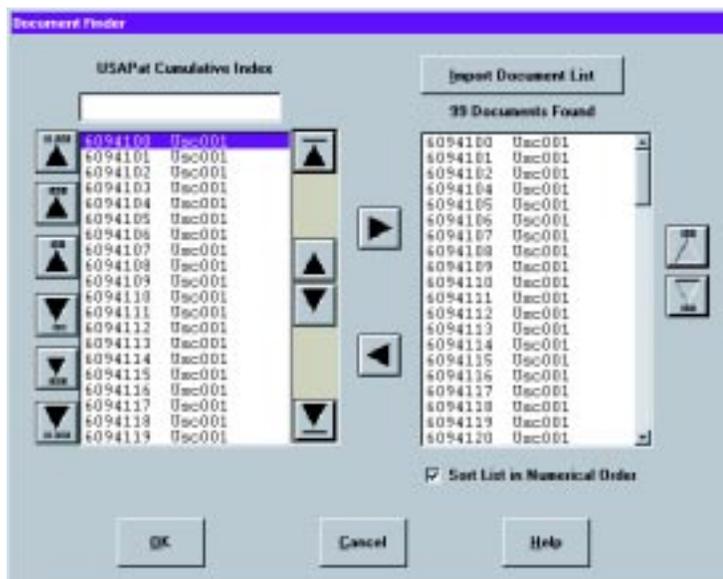


Figure 2 USAPat Document Finder Window with Imported Patent Numbers

USAMark. This technique is highlighted in an article in this issue.

A copy of the new USPTO Products and Services Catalog in a browser environment is included on the Sampler disc.

To request a copy, please call, fax, or e-mail us at cassis@uspto.gov.

SPOTLIGHT ON EPB STAFF - DONNA COOPER

This issue's spotlight is on Donna Cooper, EPB's Technical Writer/Editor, who brings you *Cassis Currents*. 2001 May will mark Donna's third year with the USPTO and EPB.

Donna was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. Following in her mother's footsteps, she began working at Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), while still in high school. In 1979, she joined the staff of LAPL's Patent and Trademark Depository Library (PTDL) and was hooked - she's worked with patent and trademark information ever since. In 1994, Donna was selected to be the 11th PTDL Fellow. She packed up her 8-

year-old daughter and they drove across the country.

Opting to stay in the Washington DC area after her year as a Fellow, she worked as a consultant to the USPTO. As an "In-Group Search Assistant," she worked with the patent examiners in then-Group 3400, assisting them with online searching and the use of their ever-growing set of automation tools. Donna also taught APS classes for new examiners at the Patent Academy. Two and a half years later, she came to the EPB.

In addition to editing *Cassis Currents*, Donna develops User's Guides, Reference Manuals, and the online help systems for the Cassis2 and DocDW products. She has also been a member of the Cassis2 development team.

Donna's interests range from reading British mysteries to quilting, collecting anything that has to do with tea, and seeing as many Gilbert & Sullivan operettas as she can. She is currently attending Johns Hopkins University, through USPTO University, working toward a degree in Legal Studies.

Cassis2 TIP

Each Cassis database has several search fields that contain dates. The Short Form Search and the Form Search offer more date searching formats than the Command Search.

The search engine is expecting to receive dates in the following format, **YYYYMMDD**, a four-digit year, a two-digit month, and a two-digit day. If there are not two digits in the month or day, you need to backfill with zeros, for example, April 5, 2000, would be entered as 20000405. Dates can also be searched using the greater than (>), less than (<), greater than or equal to (>=), less than or equal to (<=), not equal to (<>), or range (>=...<=...) operators.

The Command Search accepts complete dates or an exact date range form, but no partial dates or truncation. Some of the possible formats follow (remember that you must include field codes on the Command Search):

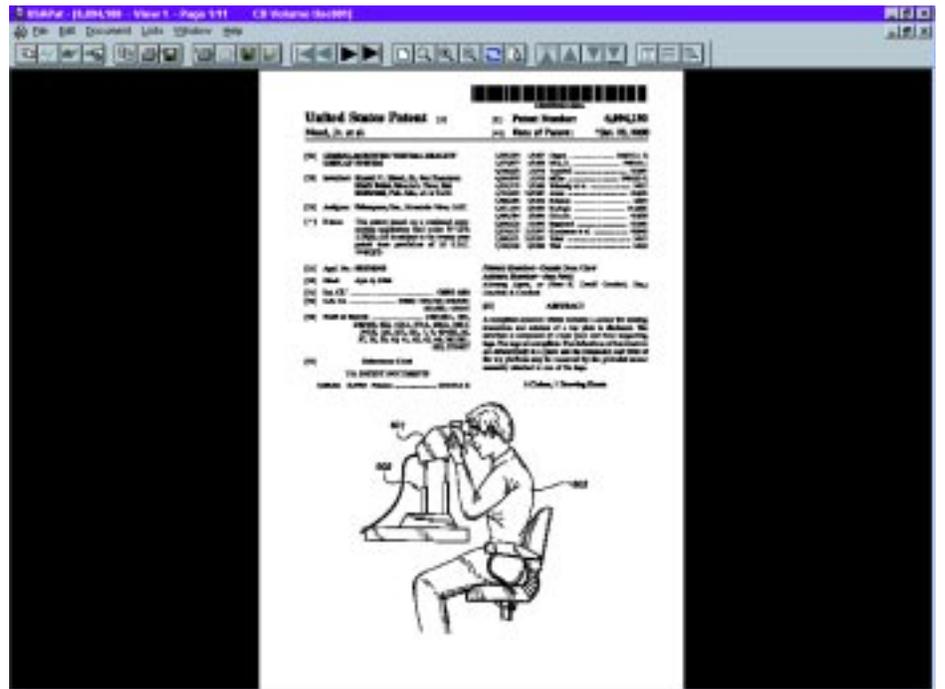


Figure 3 Patent Image from Cassis2 Search Displayed in USAPat

19981104.PD. or **@PD=19981104** -- patents issued on November 4, 1998
@DR>=19960101<=19990101- - assignments recorded after Jan.1, 1996, and before Jan.1, 1999

The Short Form Search and Form Search allow you to enter complete dates, partial dates, date ranges, and truncation using any of the following formats:

19981104 -- November 4, 1998
199811 or **199811\$** -- all dates in November 1998
1998 or **1998\$** -- all dates in 1998
1995..1997 or **1995 to 1997** -- all dates in 1995, 1996, and 1997
>1997 -- all dates greater than 1997 (1998+)