

You wish to register your design?

Perform a search to be on the safe side.

We enter your design in the register if your application does not contain formal defects. We do not examine whether a design is new and has individual character. The legal requirements for protection or a possible infringement of earlier rights will only be examined by the civil courts in case of a dispute between you and a third party.

For this reason we recommend you to search pre-existing creations and to gather information on registered designs before filing an application. You should not only consider the data pool of German national registered designs but also the Community designs and the international designs registrations. The three databases presented in this leaflet are independent registers and each of them contains designs registrations effective in Germany. You should conduct additional searches for designs within product directories and by means of Internet search engines. Designs that have not been filed for registration are automatically covered by designs rights within the European Union for three years from the first publication (non-registered Community designs).

A well-prepared search for designs provides an insight into the pool of products covered by designs rights. You will detect current trends and get an inspiration or stimulus for your own work. The individual character of your design should distinguish it clearly from the designs found.

Assistance in designs searches may be available from various service providers, in particular, from:

- patent attorneys
- lawyers
- search agents
- patent information centres

For example, they will carry out searches for identical designs and complex similarity searches or provide access to fee-based, unofficial designs databases. Furthermore, patent attorneys and lawyers will help you to interpret the search results and answer your questions about IP infringement.

For address directories and links please contact our enquiry units or go to www.dpma.de.

Contact us

We will be pleased to answer your questions and provide detailed information on designs searches.

Phone: +49 (0) 89 2195-3435

E-mail: datenbanken@dpma.de

For further information on designs searches please visit our website at <http://www.dpma.de/english/designs/search/index.html>

The main databases at a glance

- **DPMAREGISTER** <http://register.dpma.de>
- **RCD-Online** <http://oami.europa.eu>
- **Hague Express Database** <http://www.wipo.int/hague/en/services>

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German Patent
and Trade Mark Office

Design Searches

Online



DPMAregister

<http://register.dpma.de>

Search DPMAregister to find

German national designs:

- Registered designs (from 1988 onwards)
- Cancelled design registrations (from 1989 onwards)

The data available for a design is limited, if the publication of the illustration of that design was deferred and the illustration of that design has not (yet) been published subsequently.

How to search

1. Click on "Designs" on the start page (English user interface).
2. Click on "Beginner" or "Beginner's search" (Please choose the Expert mode to perform more complex queries)
3. Enter a search term in the field
 - "Description / Product(s)"

Hint: You will get more results if you use a question mark wildcard

Example:

?teppich → Teppich, Bad-, Wandteppich

Teppich? → Teppich, Teppiche, Teppichboden

?teppich? → Teppich, Badteppich, Badteppiche

and/or

 - enter the relevant class of goods (Locarno Classification)¹ in the field "Class of goods" (Example: 06-11).
4. Click on "Start search".

RCD-Online

<http://oami.europa.eu>

Search RCD-Online to find

registered Community designs (since 2003) that are effective within the European Union and thus in Germany, too.

How to search

1. Click on "Search Community designs" → on the start page under the heading "Databases".
2. Click the „Search Online“ button.
3. Choose
 - "Contains" from the drop-down menu next to "Indication of the product" and enter the search term in the right-hand field (different languages possible)
 - select the appropriate class/subclass¹ in the field "Locarno class/subclass".and/or
4. Click on "Search" to start the search.

¹ Go to <http://www.dpma.de/service/klassifikationen/locarnoklassifikation/suche/suchen.html> to determine the relevant class of goods according to the Locarno Classification.

² Explanations of country codes and codes used in the database fields are provided in WIPO Standards St. 3 and St. 80 available at http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html

Hague Express Database

<http://www.wipo.int/hague/en/services>

Search the Hague Express Database to find

international design registrations from 1999 onwards that are effective in the countries designated by the applicant.

How to search

1. Click on "Hague Express Database".
2. Either
 - enter the product name in English or French in the field "Indication of Products"

Hint: You will get more results if you use a wildcard. Example:

bed* → bed, beds, bedstead, bedsteads

and/or

 - enter the relevant class¹ in the field "Locarno Classification".
3. Click on "Search" to start the search².

