

**You wish to register your trade mark?  
Perform a search to be on the safe side.**

We enter your trade mark in the register if your application complies with the legal requirements for protection. We do not examine whether identical or similar trade marks have already been registered.

Please make sure, before filing the application, that no trade mark that is identical or similar to your trade mark has already been registered. Otherwise the proprietor of an earlier trade mark could lodge an opposition to your later trade mark. In that case, your trade mark might have to be cancelled. After your trade mark has been registered, you should check regularly if competitors have applied for or use your trade mark in an identical or similar form.

We recommend that you should not only consider the German national trade marks but also the Community trade marks and the international registrations of marks. The three databases presented in this leaflet are independent registers and each of them contains trade marks effective in Germany.

Furthermore, names and logos, used in trade, may infringe other trade mark rights even if they have not been entered in a trade mark register. For this reason, you should also look for identical or similar names in Internet search engines, telephone directories, commercial registers, publications on titles of works and/or business directories or other product directories.

Assistance in trade mark 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 trade marks and complex similarity searches or provide access to fee-based, unofficial trade mark 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](http://www.dpma.de).

**Contact us**

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

Phone: +49 (0) 89 2195-3435

E-mail: [datenbanken@dpma.de](mailto:datenbanken@dpma.de)

For further information on trade mark searches please visit our website at

[http://www.dpma.de/english/trade\\_marks/search/index.html](http://www.dpma.de/english/trade_marks/search/index.html)

The main databases at a glance

- **DPMAregister** <http://register.dpma.de>
- **CTM-Online** <http://oami.europa.eu>
- **ROMARIN** <http://www.wipo.int/romarin>

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German Patent  
and Trade Mark Office

# Trade Mark Searches

Online



## DPMAREGISTER

<http://register.dpma.de>

### Search DPMAREGISTER to find

German national trade marks, which have been registered, applied for, cancelled, withdrawn or refused.

### How to search

1. Click on “Trade marks” on the start page.
2. Select “Beginner” or “Beginner’s search”.  
(Please choose the Expert mode to perform more complex queries)
3. Now you can
  - enter a search term in the “Reproduction of the trade mark” entry field

**Hint:** Add wildcard character ? directly to the trade mark text requested – or the word stem – to find similar trade marks. This will allow you to assess the likelihood of confusion with these trade marks.

### and/or

- enter the respective numbers (code) of the Vienna Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks<sup>1</sup> in the data field “Class of the figurative elements of marks (Vienna Agreement)”, for example: 02.09.01 – if you wish to find logos depicting a heart.

4. “Start search”.

**Hint:** Please take note of any trade mark applications withdrawn or refused<sup>2</sup>, listed in the result list with file status „Registration not possible“.

## CTM-Online

<http://oami.europa.eu>

### Search CTM-Online to find

Community trade marks which have been

- registered, applied for, withdrawn, refused, rejected or cancelled or have lapsed,
- with effect in the European Union and therefore also in Germany.

### How to search

1. “Databases” → “Search Community Trade Marks”
2. Click the “Search Online” button
3. Enter the search term in the field “Trade mark name”

**Hint:** If you choose “Begins with” or “Contains” from the drop-down menu, the search result will include also similar trade marks.

4. Click on “Search”.

**Hint:** You can perform searches for trade mark applications refused<sup>2</sup> by the Office for Harmonization in the case-law database at [http://oami.europa.eu/search/legaldocs/la/EN\\_Refused\\_index.cfm](http://oami.europa.eu/search/legaldocs/la/EN_Refused_index.cfm), which has been specially provided for this purpose.

- 1 The classes for a search for figurative marks are listed in the Vienna Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks at: <http://www.dpma.de/english/service/classifications/viennaclassification/index.html>
- 2 In case of trade mark applications refused please check whether the term that you have chosen was already excluded from registration on a previous occasion on the grounds that it was not eligible for protection (for example, lacking distinctive character). If that is the case, your application too will possibly be unsuccessful.

## ROMARIN

<http://www.wipo.int/romarin>

### Search the ROMARIN Database to find

- international registrations and international applications of marks under the Madrid system that
- are effective in the countries<sup>3</sup> designated by the applicant.

### How to search

1. Open the link “ROMARIN”
2. This will take you to the “Romarin – Simple Search” screen
  - a) For configuring the result list, please click on „Preferences“ (on the left-hand side of the screen) and choose „Reproduction of the mark“ in the drop-down menu under the heading „Select your preferred column for the result list“. Confirm by hitting „Submit“.
  - b) Enter the requested trade mark name in the “Mark” field of the “Query” section

**Hint:** Use \* wildcard and add it directly to the requested name or word stem (similarity search).

3. Click on “Search”
- 3 Explanations of country codes and codes used in the database fields are provided in WIPO Standards St. 3 and St. 60 available at [http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part\\_03\\_standards.html](http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html)

