Topic 6

November 22, 2016

Takao Matsui

Patent Attorney,
Okabe International Patent Office , (Tokyo Japan)

Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA)

- ✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims
  - Currently, all countries allow multiple claims in an application. An invention can be protected by a set of multiple claims from different perspectives.
  - The claim set using independent and dependent claims is one of the ways to protect an invention in the different levels.
  - An independent claim is a claim listing features
    without reciting other claims. A dependent claim is a
    claim depending on claims and narrower than an
    independent claim.

✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims

#### A dependent claim is an independent claim!

- 1. A vessel for dispensing a liquid comprising a hollow body adapted to be filled with a liquid and means for discharging the liquid, characterized in that the means for discharging the liquid consists of a plurality of spouts.
- 2. A vessel for dispensing a liquid comprising a hollow body adapted to be filled with a liquid and means for discharging the liquid, characterized in that the means for discharging the liquid consists of a plurality of spouts, wherein the vessel has a handle.

✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims

#### A dependent claim is an independent claim!

- 1. A vessel for dispensing a liquid comprising a hollow body adapted to be filled with a liquid and means for discharging the liquid, characterized in that the means for discharging the liquid consists of a plurality of spouts.
- 2. A vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the vessel has a handle.

- ✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims
  - Types of independent claims
    - Independent Claim X = A + B + C
       Dependent Claim X = A + B + C + D
    - Independent Claim X = A + B + C
       Dependent Claim 1 C=C1 (X = A + B + C1)
       Dependent Claim 2 C=C2 (X = A + B + C2)

- ✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims
  - An independent claim is a claim listing features
    without reciting other claims. A dependent claim is a
    claim merely reciting the features of another claim.
  - The set of claims are a cluster of claims as measure for protecting an invention.
  - For what a dependent claim is needed although an independent claim is broader?

- ✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims
  - Functions of dependent claims are:
    - 1) to show a concrete embodiment as a substitution of an abstract word of an independent Claim e.g. "vessel" in an independent claim vs "pot" or "kettle"
    - 2) to be a shield that is still valid, even if an independent claim is invalid or revoked
    - 3) to make the invention in an independent claim clear.



✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims

< Example 1>

- 1. A vehicle comprising:
  - a body frame member;
  - a turn member rotatably supported by the body frame;
  - a first wheel rotatably supported by the turn member;

and

a second wheel rotatably by the body member so that a position at which the first wheel contacts a grand is on a trace on a grand formed by a rotation of the second wheel.

2. A vehicle according to Claim 1, further comprising a saddle provided on the body frame member.

✓ Independent Claims and dependent Claims

< Example 2>

1. A vehicle comprising:

a body frame member;

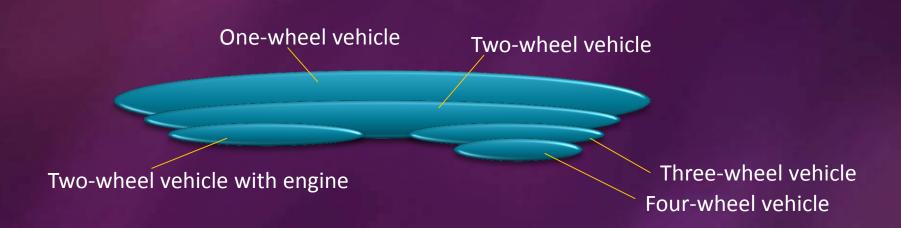
a turn member rotatably supported by the body frame;

a first wheel rotatably supported by the turn member;

and

a second wheel rotatably by the body member so that a position at which the first wheel contacts a grand is on a trace on a grand formed by a rotation of the second wheel.

2. A vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein a diameter of the first wheel is the same as a diameter of the second wheel.



- The relationship between an independent claim and dependent claim corresponds to invention layers.

- 1. A vehicle comprising:a wheel unit provided on ...
  - 2. A vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein the wheel unit has one wheel...
  - 3. A vehicle according to Claim 1, wherein the wheel unit has two wheel...

- ✓ Multiple dependent Claim
  - 1. A vehicle comprising: ....
  - 2. A vehicle according to Claim 1: ....
  - 3. A vehicle according to Claim 1 and 2: ....

Claim 3 is a multiple dependent Claim.

4. A vehicle according to any one of Claims 1 to 3: ....

Claim 4 is a multiple-multiple dependent Claim that is a multiple claim depending from the multiple dependent Claim 3.

# Thank you for your attention.

matsui@okabeintl.gr.jp