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Mechanics of Patent Claim Drafting

METHOD, ELECTRICAL—(4:8)

METHOD FUNCTIONAL OF APPARATUS—(4:5)

METHOD OF MAKING AN ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE, OBVIOUS—(4:4)

MPEP—The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, a looseleaf booklet published by the Government Printing Office and available from the Superintendent of Documents, Box 1533, Washington, D.C. 20013. It is the EXAMINERS' "bible." (2:2) (See Appendix C3 for selected sections.)

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM—A DEPENDENT CLAIM which is DEPENDENT upon more than one other, preceding CLAIM or is dependent upon another MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM. (2:11)

MULTIPLICITY—A word connoting an indefinite number, two or more; usually a fairly large number. Often thought of as being greater than a PLURALITY. (3:8)

NARROW/NARROW CLAIM—A NARROW CLAIM covers or READS ON a restricted SCOPE of DEVICES, PROCESSES, etc., because it contains either many, or quite specific, limitations. A NARROW CLAIM is usually entitled only to a NARROW range of EQUIVALENTS. See BROAD CLAIM, OLD COMBINATION, PICTURE CLAIM (Sense (2)) and PROLIX. (2:3, 3:2, 3:3, 4:1, 5:2, 6:1, 7:1, 8:8, 8:9)

NEGATIVE LIMITATION—A claim limitation telling what an EL-EMENT is not, instead of what it is; or what is does not do, instead of what it does. (3:5, 5:1)

NEW MATTER—A term of art in Patent Law meaning any matter not "fairly" disclosed within the "four corners" (entire SPECIFICATION) of a patent application as filed. NEW MATTER may not be introduced into an application after it is filed. An ANTECEDENT for any element added to a claim after filing must be found in the original disclosure, or the claim will be, or be based upon, NEW MATTER. (6:3, 8:10)