

## **HELPFUL TIPS:**

### ***DOCUMENTING YOUR CREATION***

#### **1. CONCENTRATE ON THE FUNCTION OF THE INVENTION.**

Review of the invention disclosure is focused on understanding the idea and the elements of the invention. Think of an item you may have purchased that required assembly. Inside the box was a piece of paper listing the parts and how to assemble them. This is type of information needed to understand, what it is, how it works and the name of its parts. Take time to clearly write down your idea, (use black ink) penmanship is important. Submit more than one drawing if needed to show all the parts (name the parts) of the idea and how they are situated. Keep it as simple and basic as possible. Promotional material is not beneficial to the review.

#### **2. DON'T BELIEVE IF IT'S NOT IN A STORE IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN INVENTED.**

There are numerous items for sale that don't have a patent or patent pending. You would think if you couldn't buy something like what you invented then it should be patentable. A patent search is the only way to determine if something is patentable, and that's not a guarantee. Statistically less than 2% of patented ideas become commercially successful.

#### **3. BE PREPARED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM.**

Generally a negative review means:

- a. the submitted idea was either already available,
- b. was something that is unclear as to how it works,
- c. was something which could not be understood or interpreted,

If you receive a negative review and wish to submit additional information simply put your thoughts on paper and resubmit them.

#### **4. NOT ALL IDEAS ARE PATENTABLE.**

In the area of intellectual property, there are copyrights, trademarks, as well as patents. Knowing what is best suited for your needs may save you **TIME** and **MONEY**. A logo for a T-shirt is not patentable. Recipes, art, poems and novelty items may be copyrighted, and can usually be done by most inventors. Trademarks also can be obtained and applied for on the Internet.

#### **5. REALISTIC SELF ASSESSMENT OF YOUR CONCEPT - STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!**

Log onto [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) to learn about the patent process and conduct a self patent search. Similar products? Check catalogs, consumer and trade publications as well as the internet. Request a copy of IMSI's Inventor's Self-Assessment of Invention at [www.inventit.com](http://www.inventit.com).

Note: The above information is intended as a helpful tip, and should not be considered legal advice. Such advice may come only from a Patent Attorney or Licensed Patent Agent with whom you have engaged for legal assistance.