UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto

Design patent image quality

Karen M. Young, Director, TC 2900, Designs
Brandon Rosati, TCOM, TC 2900, Designs
May 7, 2020
Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
uspto

Agenda

- Background
- Improvements implemented in 2016
- Challenges
- Future actions

uspto

Background – file types

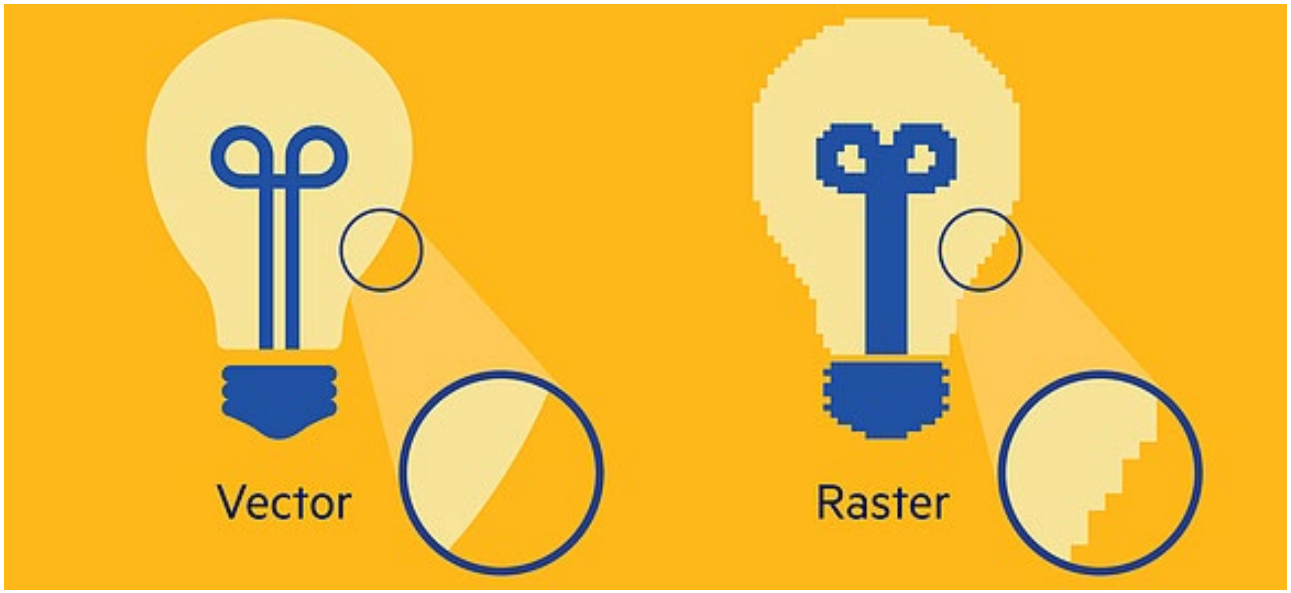


Image from Holland Print House

Background – file types

Vector	Raster
Composed of paths	Composed of pixels
Example file extensions:	Example file extensions:
.svg	.bmp
.ai	.jpg or .jpeg
.eps	.psd
.pdf	.tiff
	.png
	.gif
	.eps
	.pdf

5

Improvements implemented in 2016

- The USPTO received feedback that the images published as part of design patent grants were degraded compared to the images that applicants provided to the office with initial filings.
- After investigating this issue, the office identified a specific conversion process that was mainly responsible for the degraded quality of the images.

uspto

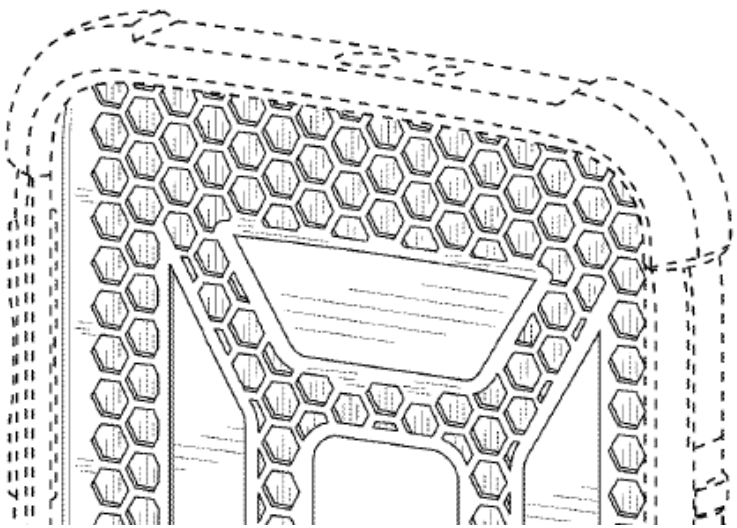
6

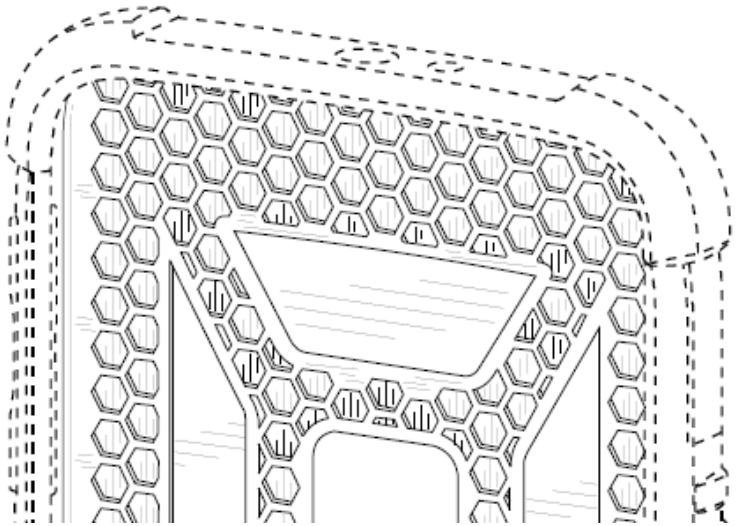
Improvements implemented in 2016

- The USPTO moved to preserving vector based drawings submitted by applicants in .pdf.
- These .pdf drawings are stored and displayed in the Supplemental Complex Repository for Examiners (SCORE).
- SCORE drawings are used in:
  - The printed design patent and
  - Loaded into the supplemental content of the electronic files of our patent application files to allow external stakeholders to download an exact, clear copy of the patent grant images.

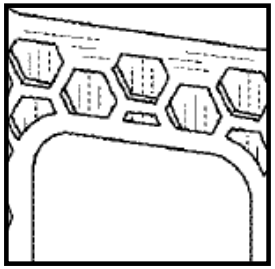
7

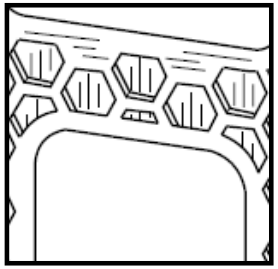
Improvements implemented in 2016





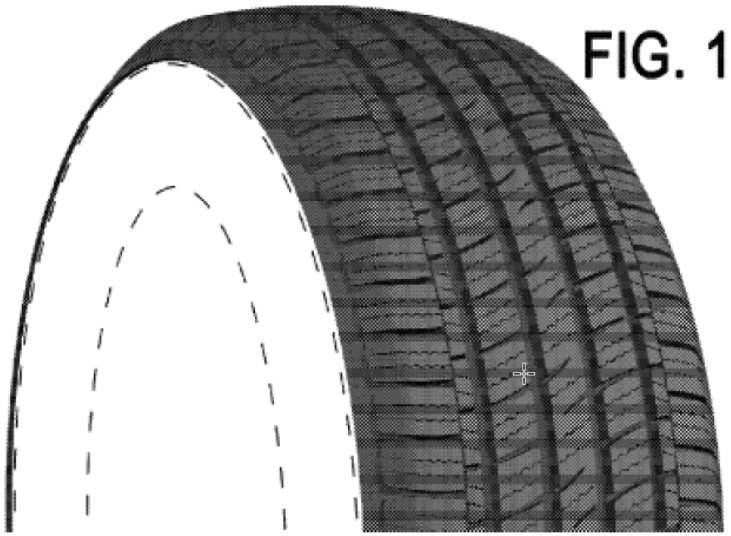
Before





After

Improvements implemented in 2016



Before

After

Challenges

- The global IP-wide standard of image publication ST. 33 is the target format for publications and all incoming drawings and images need to be converted to this output.
- These standards require raster based images in a .tiff format produced at 300 dots per inch (dpi).

Challenges - continued

- Certain .pdf drawing characteristics have shown to have conversion issues resulting in a degradation of the image during the publication process.

Future actions

- Continue discussions with our publication contractor to identify attributes of .pdf drawings that cause degradation during conversion.
- Establish a communication plan to reduce receipt of .pdf drawings with those attributes.

Future actions - continued

- Explore with the global IP community the drawing quality from receipt to publication with the thought of modifying ST .33 to make it easier for applicants to submit high quality images where the quality is maintained through prosecution, publication, and dissemination.

uspto

13

Questions and comments

- Karen M. Young
  Director, TC 2900, Designs
  Karen.Young@uspto.gov

- Brandon Rosati
  TCOM, TC 2900, Designs
  Brandon.Rosati@uspto.gov

uspto

14

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE