Patent Drafting for Beginners Prof. Feroz Ali Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Lecture - 01 What are Inventions?

What are inventions?

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Inventions

Something that has never be made before



A process of creating something that has never been made before





Inventions when we refer to invention, we refer to something that has never been made before or a process of creating something that has never been made before. Inventions are things that appear at some point in time for the first time. Now inventions as per this definition could either manifest as a product or it could manifest as a process.

So, inventions are broadly used to refer to products and processes that have never been made before in the sense that; they appear at a particular point for the first time in human history.

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Inventions = Patents



"If you don't patent your invention, other people may make all the profit out of it"



Inventions have also been used synonymously with patents; in the sense that if you look at a usage of the word invention in one of the popular dictionaries you will find that one of the usages is if you do not patent your inventions other people may make all the profit out of it.

Now, this is how Cambridge dictionary defines an invention. So, invention and patents are used together to convey the message of what inventions are.

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Some Examples:

Structure of the Wheel

US 808,765



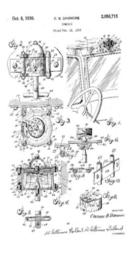
Let us look at some examples of inventions that have crossed human history. Structure of the wheel covered by a patent in the United States, now you I have just presented the diagram of the structure of the wheel, its an old patent 1906.

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Some Examples:

The Compass

US 2,056,715





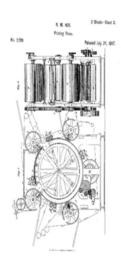
The compass again covered by a patent and this is again a patent which was filed in 1934 and granted in 1936.

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Some Examples:

The Printing Press

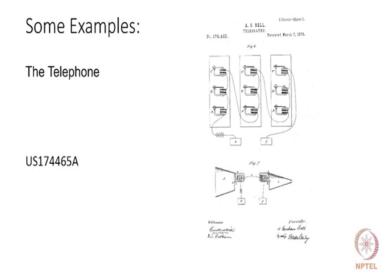
US5199 A





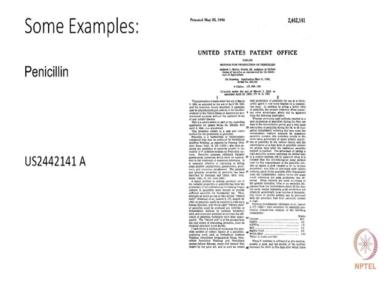
The printing press covered by a very early US patent in the year 1847.

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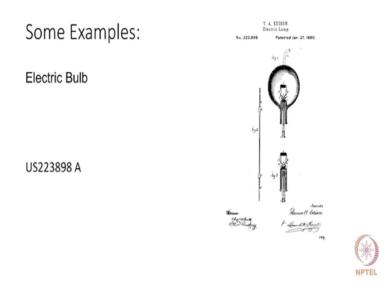
The telephone again covered by US patent, ag bell you can find the inventors name on top on top, again granted a patent in 1876.

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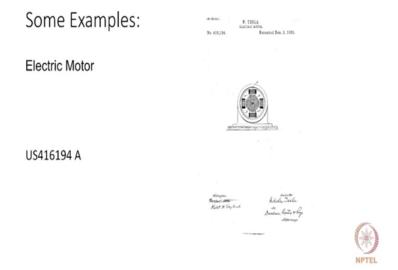
Penicillin covered by a US patent, and this is how the first page of the patent looks.

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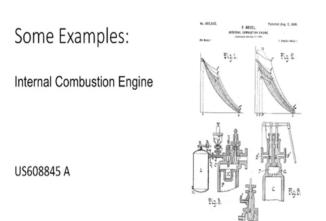
Electric bulb again covered by a US patent and you can find Edison's name on top.

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Electric motor covered by a patent and this is the diagram of the electric motor and you can find Teslas name on top, as the inventors name.

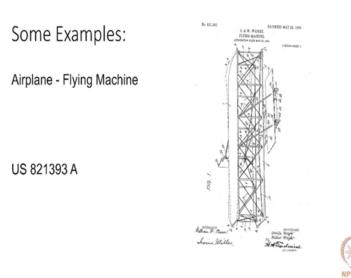
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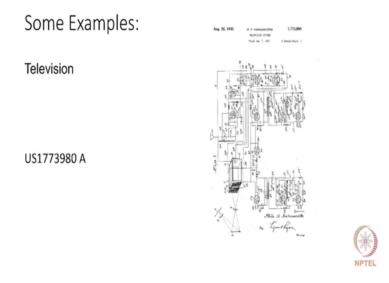
Internal combustion engine again covered by a patent and you will find the inventors name as Rudolf diesel.

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Airplane the first flying machine, was again covered by a US patent and the wright brothers were the inventors.

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Television again covered by US patent and this patent was filed in 1927.

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Thing to Note:

Invention has to be in some technology

Field of Invention



Now the thing to note is that invention has to be in some technology. So, invention should fall within some technology if there is no technology we do not regard that as an invention under patent law. So, invention should be something that is related to a technology and that is what we called a field of invention.