



## Idea Submissions

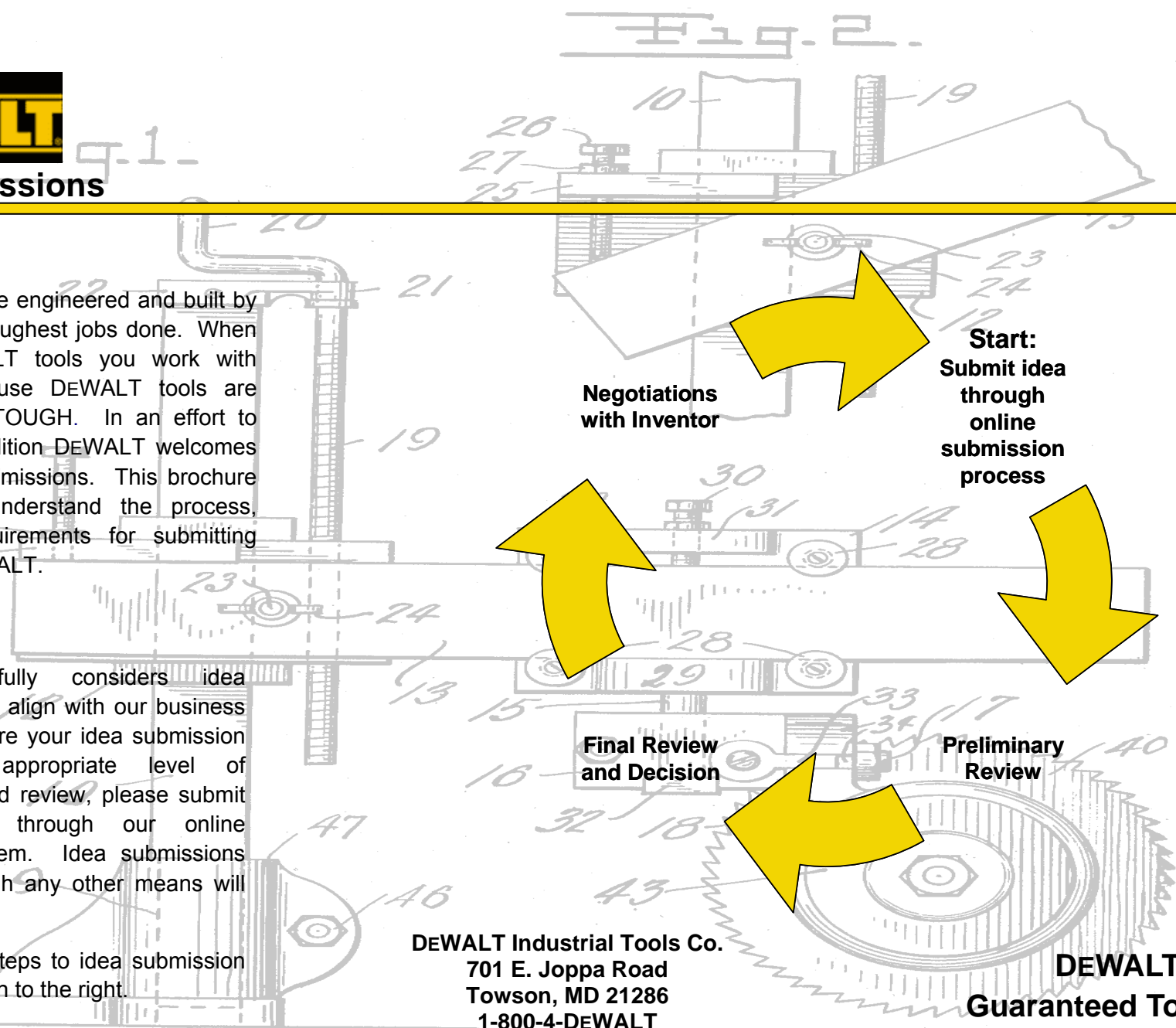
### Vision

DEWALT tools are engineered and built by pros to get the toughest jobs done. When you use DEWALT tools you work with confidence because DEWALT tools are GUARANTEED TOUGH. In an effort to continue this tradition DEWALT welcomes inventor idea submissions. This brochure will help you understand the process, vision, and requirements for submitting your idea to DEWALT.

### The Process

DEWALT carefully considers idea submissions that align with our business needs. To ensure your idea submission reaches the appropriate level of consideration and review, please submit your proposal through our online submission system. Idea submissions submitted through any other means will not be accepted.

There are four steps to idea submission process as shown to the right.



**Negotiations  
with Inventor**

**Start:  
Submit idea  
through  
online  
submission  
process**

**Final Review  
and Decision**

**Preliminary  
Review**

**DEWALT Industrial Tools Co.**  
701 E. Joppa Road  
Towson, MD 21286  
1-800-4-DEWALT  
[www.dewalt.com](http://www.dewalt.com)

**DEWALT  
Guaranteed Tough™**

*Raymond E. DeWalt  
By his Attorney  
Frank J. Hunt*

# Invention Inspection

## 1. Uniqueness of Idea

Is this idea unique – have you taken a really good look to see if someone else has already invented your idea? Here are some suggestions on how to research your idea.

- Have you looked on a general purpose internet search engine like “Google” <http://www.google.com> to see what comes up?
- Have you looked on the DEWALT global website [www.dewalt.com](http://www.dewalt.com) and [www.dewalt.eu](http://www.dewalt.eu) to see if there is a similar tool or product already offered for sale, possibly in a different part of the world?
- Have you looked on tools and hardware retailer web sites or catalogs to see if they are offering a similar tool or product for sale?
- Have you looked on internet auction sites like “eBay” to see if anyone is selling a similar tool or product – this is sometimes useful for finding old, uncommon, antique, or obsolete products?
- Have you gone to the US Patent and Trademark website <http://patft.uspto.gov> to look for similar ideas? If you do find a patent that looks similar to your idea, it is sometimes useful to also take a look at the list of older patents that are cited in that patent – under the heading *References Cited* as well as the list of more recent patents that refer back to that patent – under the heading *Referenced By*. This technique can help you find patents that may be very similar to your idea even if the words used to describe them are very different.

- Have you had a professional *Patentability Search* done for your idea?
- Have you applied for, and been granted a Patent? If you apply for a patent you will be able to communicate more freely about the details of your idea. *Utility Patents* are the most difficult to obtain and usually bring the most value to your idea, *Design Patents* are easier to obtain and are based solely on the visual appearance of the idea. Go to the US Patent and Trademark website for more information: <http://www.uspto.gov>
  - ▶ *Patents*
    - ▶ *About Patents*
    - ▶ *Basic facts about patents*
      - ▶ *Novelty and Non-Obviousness, Conditions for Obtaining a Patent*

## 2. Commercial Viability

If you believe your idea is unique and possibly patentable, have you determined if it could be manufactured and sold for a reasonable price? Here are our suggestions on determining the commercial viability of your idea.

- Are there products on the market that use similar components as your idea (electric motors, plastic housings, sheet metal pieces, metal or plastic gears, metal castings, electronic controls and sensors) that you could combine together to make your idea?
- Have you approached manufacturing or design firms to obtain cost estimates? If you decide to seek assistance from professional design or manufacturing consultants it is advisable to have a confidentiality agreement with them and ideally, to have a patent application filed with the Patent Office.

- Often a prototype is a great way of demonstrating the practicality and feasibility of an invention – have you built a prototype and documented its construction and benefits with photos and video that could be easily shared with reviewers?

## 3. Fit within DEWALT

If your idea seems to be novel and you have some understanding of what it might involve to manufacture it, as well as what it might cost at retail, have you thought about how well it would fit within the DEWALT business model? Here’s how to tell.

- Is the problem solved by your idea a problem that is experienced by a large number of consumers?
- Does the idea logically complement any of the product categories as shown on the DEWALT websites: [www.dewalt.com](http://www.dewalt.com) and [www.dewalt.eu](http://www.dewalt.eu).
- Does the idea improve upon an existing DEWALT tool in some way such as: Comfort & Ergonomics, Durability, Noise & Vibration, Efficiency in Job Completion, Environmental Impact (dust control, recycle-ability), Accuracy or Appearance of Completed Job, Complexity or Cost of actual Tool Construction, Diversity of Applications a Tool can be used for.

**\*\*This checklist does not constitute legal advice or a promise that DEWALT will purchase or license your idea even if it meets all of these criteria.\*\***