

Marks and Meanings

Decoding inscriptions on artefacts

Searching the Esp@cenet database

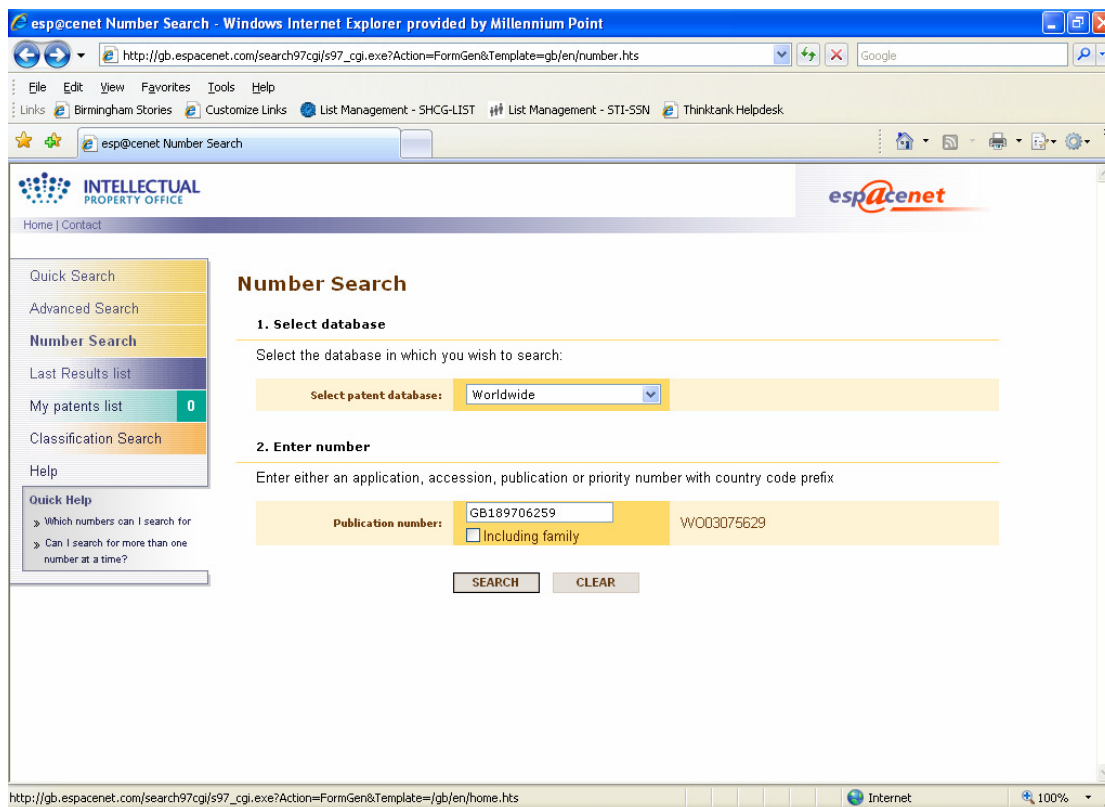
General points to remember

- UK patents dating from the 1890s onwards are included in the database
- Search the Worldwide database for historical patents – the GB database only covers patents issued from 1979 onwards

Searching by number

Numbers from c.1890s to 1915

- You will need to know the year as well as the number of the patent. For more information on how numbers relate to years, see the list supplied or the list at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-about/p-what-is/p-oldnumbers/p-oldnumbers-1852.htm>
- Choose Number Search from the left menu
- Ensure the database selected is Worldwide
- Enter (without any spaces): GB, the year of publication (4 digits) and the number (padded out to 5 digits where it is lower than 10000). For example, if your patent is number 6259 and the year is 1897, you should enter GB189706259



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "esp@cenet Number Search - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point". The address bar shows the URL: <http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97.cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/en/number.htm>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar shows various icons for navigation and printing. The main content area is titled "Number Search" and is part of the "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE" website. It features a left-hand navigation menu with options: Quick Search, Advanced Search, Number Search (highlighted), Last Results list, My patents list (showing 0), Classification Search, and Help. The "Number Search" section contains two main steps: 1. Select database, where "Worldwide" is selected in a dropdown menu, and 2. Enter number, where the "Publication number" field contains "GB189706259" and a checkbox for "Including family" is checked. The "W003075629" number is also visible. At the bottom of the form are "SEARCH" and "CLEAR" buttons. The status bar at the bottom of the browser window shows the full URL and the Internet Explorer logo.

Numbers from 1916 onwards

- Choose Number Search from the left menu
- Ensure the database selected is Worldwide
- Enter GB and the full number (no spaces or punctuation)
- Example:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "esp@cenet Number Search - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point". The address bar shows the URL "http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97.cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/en/number.htm". The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar shows various icons for navigation and printing. The page content is divided into a left sidebar and a main search area. The sidebar contains links for Quick Search, Advanced Search, Number Search (highlighted), Last Results list, My patents list (with a count of 0), Classification Search, Help, and Quick Help. The main search area is titled "Number Search" and contains two sections: "1. Select database" and "2. Enter number". In the "1. Select database" section, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Select patent database:" with "Worldwide" selected. In the "2. Enter number" section, there is a text input field labeled "Publication number:" containing "GB188297". To the right of this field is a checkbox labeled "Including family" which is unchecked, and further right is the text "W003075629". Below the input field are two buttons: "SEARCH" and "CLEAR". The footer of the browser window shows "Done" on the left and "Internet" and "100%" on the right.

esp@cenet Number Search - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point

http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97.cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/en/number.htm

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Home | Contact

esp@cenet

Quick Search

Advanced Search

Number Search

Last Results list

My patents list 0

Classification Search

Help

Quick Help

Which numbers can I search for

Can I search for more than one number at a time?

Number Search

1. Select database

Select the database in which you wish to search:

Select patent database: Worldwide

2. Enter number

Enter either an application, accession, publication or priority number with country code prefix

Publication number: GB188297 W003075629

☐ Including family

SEARCH CLEAR

Done Internet 100%

Viewing and printing the document

When a result has been found, click on the title to go through to the record:

The screenshot shows the 'esp@cenet — results view' page in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The address bar displays the URL: http://v3.espacenet.com/searchResults?locale=en_GB&PN=GB518696&compact=false&DB=EPODOC. The page header includes the 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE' logo and the 'esp@cenet 1998-2008' logo. A sidebar on the left contains search options: Quick Search, Advanced Search, Number Search, Last result list, My patents list (0), and Classification Search. The main content area shows a 'RESULT LIST' with one result found for the publication number 'GB518696'. The result title is 'Improvements in or relating to devices for closing tins and like containers'. The inventor is 'HERMANN GRABHER' and the applicant is 'HERMANN GRABHER'. The publication info is 'GB518696 (A) — 1940-03-05'. A 'Quick Help' section is visible on the left, and a 'Data supplied from the esp@cenet database — Worldwide' note is at the bottom.

When the record appears, choose the Original document tab:

The screenshot shows the 'esp@cenet — Bibliographic data' page in Internet Explorer. The address bar displays the URL: <http://v3.espacenet.com/publicationDetails/biblio?adjacent=true&KC=A&date=19400305&NR=518696A&DB=EPODOC&loca>. The page header is similar to the previous screenshot. The sidebar on the left is the same. The main content area shows the 'Bibliographic data' tab selected, displaying details for patent 'Improvements in or relating to devices for closing tins and like containers'. The patent number is 'GB518696 (A)', the publication date is '1940-03-05', and the inventor is 'HERMANN GRABHER'. The classification is 'B21D51/32; B21D51/30'. The application number is 'GB19380025819 19380903' and the priority number is 'GB19380025819 19380903'. There are links for 'View INPADOC patent family' and 'View list of citing documents'. An abstract of GB 518696 (A) is provided, along with a technical drawing labeled 'FIG. 1' showing a cross-section of a device for closing tins.

Use the navigation arrows to move through the document.

The screenshot shows the esp@cenet website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home | Contact' and 'English'. The left sidebar contains search options: 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Number Search', 'Last result list', 'My patents list' (0), 'Classification Search', and 'Help'. The main content area displays the 'RESERVE COPY' of a patent specification for 'Improvements in or relating to devices for closing tins and like containers'. The document is titled 'PATENT SPECIFICATION' and includes the application number '518.696'. The text describes the invention, which relates to devices for closing tins and like containers, and includes a detailed description of the device and its operation. The document is displayed in a 'RESERVE COPY' format, which is a standard format for patent specifications. The interface also includes a 'Bibliographic data' sidebar and a 'Find' search bar.

Any drawings will normally be on the later pages of the specification:

The screenshot shows the same esp@cenet website interface, but now displaying a technical drawing of the device. The drawing is labeled 'Fig. 1' and 'Fig. 3' and shows a cross-section of a device for closing tins and like containers. The drawing includes various components labeled with numbers, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. The drawing is a detailed technical illustration of the device, showing its internal components and how they are assembled. The interface also includes a 'Bibliographic data' sidebar and a 'Find' search bar.

It can be fiddly to view specifications on screen, so you may want to save or print them. You can print individual pages, but if you want to print more than one, it's easiest to use the 'Save Full Document option' (or disk icon) to save the document as a PDF onto your computer, and then open in Adobe Reader for viewing and printing.

Searching for people

It can sometimes be possible to trace patents by a particular inventor (and sometimes company, although for a long time patents were registered only in the inventor's name – if the inventor has the same name as the company it helps!). However, quite a distinctive name is needed (as you have to search the worldwide database), and even then you may have to comb through pages of results as it's not possible to search a date range. Negative results of searching cannot be treated as proof that a person or company did not take out any patents, because its name may have been entered in a way that is difficult to pick up on the database (or in the case of a company not recorded at all).

Example:

An 1897 trade directory gives the name and address of Walter Griffiths & Co. Ltd., Highgate Square, Birmingham. Did 'Walter Griffiths' register any patents at this time?

Search:

- Choose Quick Search from the left menu
- Ensure the database selected is Worldwide
- Select the Persons or Organisations option
- Enter the simplest distinctive form of the name (omit '& Co. Ltd')

esp@cenet Quicksearch - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point

http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97.cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/en/quick.htm

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Home | Contact

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Quick Search

Advanced Search

Number Search

Last Results list

My patents list 0

Classification Search

Help

Quick Help

- Why are there only 2 databases available?
- How many terms can I enter per field?
- Can I search with a combination of words?
- How do I enter an organisation/company name?

Quick Search

1. Select database

Select the database in which you wish to search:

Select patent database: Worldwide

2. Select type of search

Select whether you wish to search with simple words in the titles and abstracts (where available) or with the name of an individual or organisation:

Select what to search: Words in the title or abstract Persons or organisations

3. Enter search terms

Enter case insensitive search terms in English:

Search term(s): walter griffiths Institut Pasteur

SEARCH CLEAR

Done Internet 100%

This example gives (at the time of writing) approximately 174 results. Using the Next button to go through the pages, eventually several patents of the right period are found:

esp@cenet — results view - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point

http://v3.espacenet.com/searchResults?page=7&IA=walter+griffiths&DB=EPODOC&locale=en_GB&compact=false silver hallmarks

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Birmingham Stories Customize Links List Management - SHCG-LIST List Management - STI-SSN Thinktank Helpdesk

esp@cenet — results view

116	Publication info: GB189801911 (A) — 1899-01-21 Improvements in Cabinets, Drawers, and Pigeon Holes, and in the Manufacture of the same. Inventor: GRIFFITHS WALTER EC: Publication info: GB189725873 (A) — 1898-10-29	Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC:	in my patents list <input type="checkbox"/>
117	Publication info: GB189720505 (A) — 1898-08-27 Improvements in Tea or Coffee Urns. Inventor: GRIFFITHS WALTER EC: Publication info: GB189716119 (A) — 1897-08-28	Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC:	in my patents list <input type="checkbox"/>
118	Publication info: GB189716118 (A) — 1898-05-20 Improvements in Lubricators for Cycle Hubs and other purposes. Inventor: GRIFFITHS WALTER EC: Publication info: GB189706259 (A) — 1898-03-05	Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC:	in my patents list <input type="checkbox"/>
119	Publication info: GB189706259 (A) — 1898-03-05 Improvements in Cycle Pedals. Inventor: GRIFFITHS WALTER EC: Publication info: GB189706259 (A) — 1898-03-05	Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC:	in my patents list <input type="checkbox"/>
120	Publication info: GB189706259 (A) — 1898-03-05 Improvements in Cycles. Inventor: GRIFFITHS WALTER EC: Publication info: GB189706259 (A) — 1898-03-05	Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC: Applicant: GRIFFITHS WALTER IPC:	in my patents list <input type="checkbox"/>

Data supplied from the esp@cenet database — Worldwide

☐ Compact | Print | Export Refine search | previous 1 ... 5 6 7 8 next

Internet 100%

Checking the patents, they have the correct address:

esp@cenet — Original document - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Millennium Point

http://v3.espacenet.com/publicationDetails/originalDocument?CC=GB&NR=189716119A&C=A&FT=D&date=18970828&DB silver hallmarks

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Birmingham Stories Customize Links List Management - SHCG-LIST List Management - STI-SSN Thinktank Helpdesk

esp@cenet — Original document

Number Search

Last result list

My patents list 0

Classification Search

Help

Quick Help

- How can I maximise the page view?
- How can I print?
- How can I save a document?

Bibliographic data Description Claims Mosaiscs Original document INPADOC LEGAL status

1 / 3 66.7% Find

Bookmarks

- Bibliographic data
- Claims
- Description
- Drawings

N° 16,119 A.D. 1897

Date of Application, 7th July, 1897—Accepted, 28th Aug., 1897

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Lubricators for Cycle Hubs and other purposes.

I WALTER GRIFFITHS of Highgate Square Birmingham in the County of Warwick Manufacturer do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

My invention has for its object improvements in lubricators, and refers more particularly to those for cycle hubs by which I obviate the necessity of removing the dust protector from the lubricating hole during the process of lubrication while at the same time my device is perfectly dust proof and can be attached to any existing machine with as much ease as an ordinary dust protector. It is also cheap and simple to manufacture, and free from any liability to get out of order.

In order that my invention may be clearly understood, I have appended a sheet of drawings upon which

Figure 1 is an enlarged view of my guard.

Figure 2 is a section through same.

Figure 3 is a side elevation and

Figure 4 is a plan.

In carrying my invention into effect, I have shown my improvement applied to the lubrication of a cycle hub from which its application to any other purposes will be readily understood. The spring clip A having the usual ends a^1 is provided with the projection a^2 which is stamped or pressed out of the metal of the clip A and is provided with the aperture a^3 at its end. Within this projection the cup D is fixed the ball B and spring E being first inserted within the cup so that the ball finds a seat against the edge of the aperture a^2 of the projection at the lower end of the cup being perforated at d^1 with a projecting nose, which enters the lubricating hole formed in the hub being retained therein by the spring of the clip A.

It will thus be seen that while the ball B prevents the entrance of any dust to the

Done

Internet 100%

What this doesn't tell us is whether the inventor put his/her ideas into production. In this case, the search was prompted by an enquiry about a camera marked 'Griffiths Camera Co., Highgate Square, Birmingham and there are also patents relating to cameras.