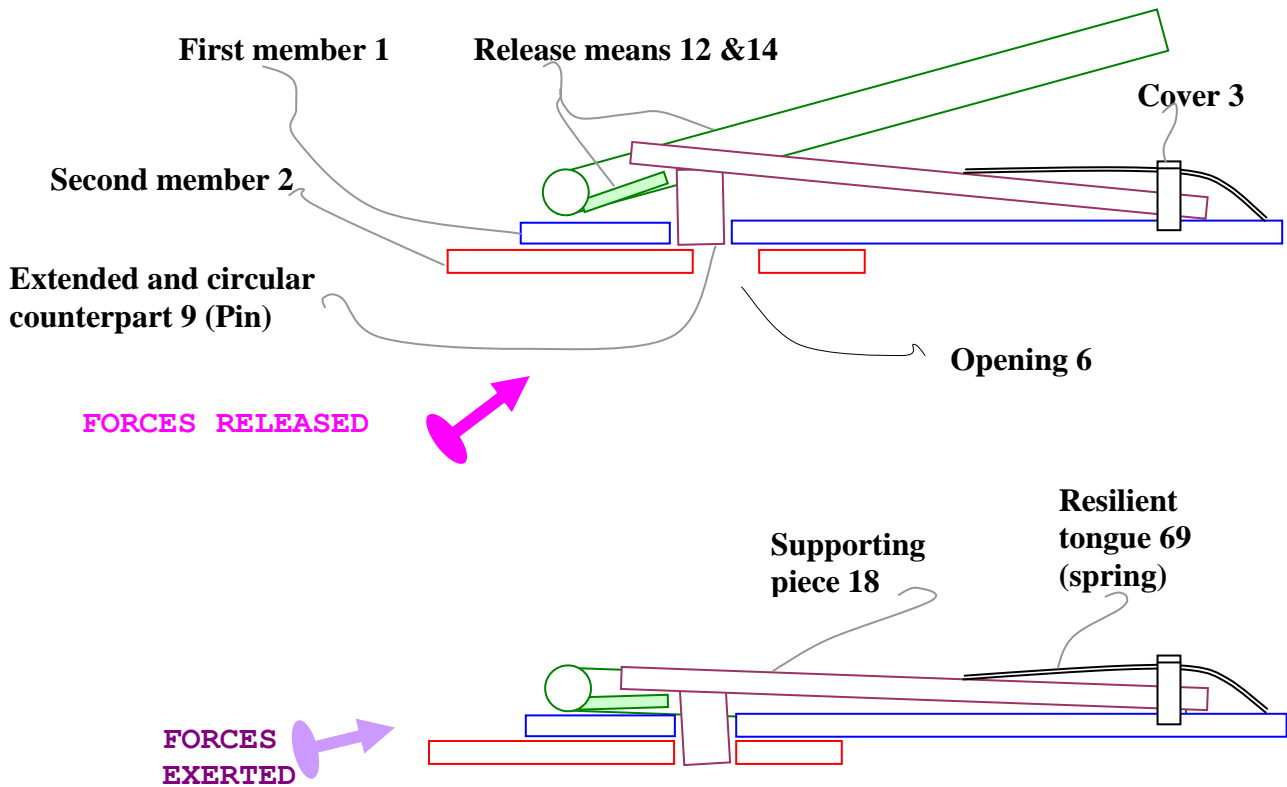


PATENT TRICKS OLD AND NEW:

I'm not a patent attorney, but; to cut down on attorney fees, make your own specs, abstract and claims; and help your attorney. The specs explain the function with #ed parts.



How it works: The pin supporting piece 18, "floats" on the outer square tube (first member 1). A cover 3, about 6" long, is a U shaped piece; it goes over the resilient tongue 69, which is a leaf spring. It also goes over the supporting piece 18, and makes it look real good, and limits pin 9 movement. Pry rod 14 & plate 12 pry the pin

The abstract explains the broad function in ordinary language. (Write the abstract as a summary first, and then write the claims, copying the abstract).

PATENT ABSTRACT

Coupling first and second members; the members define an opening for an extended and circular counterpart united with a supporting piece. A resilient tongue urges the supporting piece.

The counterpart has in-and-out movement in the opening and penetrates the opening to keep the members in position.

The members have forces and exert forces on the counterpart and the opening. Release means between and together with the supporting piece and the counterpart release the members.

In a patent one of the claims are usually the same as the abstract, just worded differently.

The claim can be the same as the abstract, but the second time a part is mentioned in a claim, it's called 'said' part. Think of said as 'the'. Or, if a part has been previously mentioned in the claim use said before it.

Claims are the hardest of all legal documents to write.

My prior art was Tunis, a man that invented a similar wind mail latch in the 1940's. He also had a leaf spring he called a 'resilient tongue'. (Thank you, sir).

His resilient tongue was long, and the pin fastened to the spring; he had no supportive piece; wasn't as sturdy. So mine was new.

Claim old and new. A coupling for coupling interacting first and second members, wherein said members define an opening for an extended and circular counterpart united with a supporting

piece, said supporting piece urged by a resilient tongue, wherein said counterpart has in-and-out movement in said opening and penetrates said opening keeping said members in position, and wherein said members have forces and exert said forces on said counterpart and said opening, and release means between and together with said supporting piece and said counterpart release said members.

The eyebolts completing the Universal-joints are another unique and patented feature, in both tow bar patents.

This patent has been modified from its earlier version and edited for content. It is now definite in the arts; the abstract arts of the preferred embodiments.

THE IMPORTANT PART: You can copy the claims of the prior art and change them to fit yours; copy the abstract; any part! The patents of the prior art is the closest patents to yours.

Claim writers vary in style. Pick the prior art in which you can best understand the claims, and then try those claims in your patent.

You don't see the prior art until after the first office action, so before you send it in you make the first broad claim(s) yourself. They don't have to be perfect and you'll likely have to do them over, to claim around the prior art.

Don't send it in without hiring a patent attorney or patent agent, unless the patent has questionable value. If you think it's a good patent, and it's either do it yourself or not do it; that's a tough call. I guess I'd do it, but don't make it public

until you send in your patent and see the prior art. Because if the patent you send in isn't good enough to establish a filing date, a year could go by and the invention becomes public domain. It can take a couple years to get a filing date. Time can be against you.

Before sending it in is where you need a patent attorney, to do at least the minimum and check your work; then you know you've established a filing date. Then you won't have to wait for allowable claims, and can begin production. Slow patent office response is on your side; less money out. Tell your attorney you'll write your own claims the first time. The claims and the specs take the money.

Your specifications are enough, and they don't have to be perfected now. You'll imitate and rewrite the claims later from the prior art! (I think any broad claim is OK; i.e. if I claimed 'a tow bar with pressure release'; that would be enough for a filing date). But, write your claims the best you can, because some inventions don't have prior art; and your claims allowed.

This way, if your invention isn't new, you won't spend much.

- Summarize:
1. Explain your invention using #'s and drawings.
 2. Make an abstract; brief explanation without #s.
 3. Make a claim the same as your abstract; in one sentence using said.
 4. Hire an attorney; only to make sure it's good enough for a filing date.
 5. After seeing the prior art, make a claim like the prior art, but show how yours is different.