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TOP 3 QUESTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PATENT APPLICATION

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Questions/Requests:

1. Provide drawings sufficient to completely describe the invention. This will take at least three drawings: your invention's environment, your invention (detailing what specifically makes it different), and a flow-chart depicting the steps employed to use your invention. If your invention is software, provide the architecture, as well as high-level algorithms.
2. Referring to the drawings, describe how your solution works.
3. Describe the functional and/or structural differences between your solution and prior solutions.

Helpful Hints

Question:

1. Provide three drawings, your invention's environment, your invention, and a flow-chart depicting the steps employed to use your invention. If your invention is software, provide the architecture, as well as high-level algorithms.

While at least one drawing is required, make as many drawings as needed to completely define the invention. Patent Examiners love drawings! Each physical or functional element should be labeled with reference numbers, using any convenient scheme, such as 1, 2, 3, ... or 101, 102, 103, or any other scheme.

You should sketch all drawings by hand. This manual process will help you identify the key elements of your invention.

2. Referring to the drawing, describe how your solution works.
Describe each and every physical or functional element, focusing on how the elements interact with each other to solve the problem. You should provide sufficient detail to enable another inventor working on the same problem to duplicate your solution. Also, if there are other ways to achieve a feature, explain what those options are as well (for example, a rivet can often replace a tack).
3. Describe the functional and/or structural differences between your solutions and prior solutions.
These differences (there MUST be differences, or else you haven't done anything new) are legally known as "points of novelty." Furthermore, the more your solution differs from the prior solution, the more likely it is that your invention will be approved and patented. Thus, select the most important structural and/or functional differences, and discuss these differences in detail.

In summary, the burden of persuading the Patent Office of your invention's patentability rests on you, the inventor. You should provide a convincing line of reasoning why your solution is non-obvious. If you cannot do this, you must overcome the deficiency with favorable results of your solution, substantial advantages of your solution, or both.