Sample Software Invention Answers

These answers are for educational purposes only and are not suitable for any other use. They are meant solely to educate you as to some standard formatting and stylistic aspects of questionnaire answers. Do not use these answers as substitutes for your own.

QUESTION:

A Brief Description of Your Invention
Please provide a short description (15 words max) of your invention. Tell us what your invention is or what it does. This will be your invention's title.

Do not lead in with "It's a..." or "The invention is..." Just state what it is.

For example, if you had invented the light bulb, the title might be "A filament in a glass bulb for producing illumination." Other examples could be "A wind turbine that protects birds," "A sound-activated light switch" or "A means for determining a patient's appropriate dosage of medicine." This is not the place for your brand name--just a description of your invention.

ANSWER:

A computer-readable medium for determining whether proprietary musical content has been sampled.

QUESTION:

Purpose of Your Invention
What problem does your invention solve? Do not explain here HOW your invention solves the problem. Discuss ONLY the problem itself. Please answer in complete sentences.

ANSWER:

With the advent of hip-hop and electronic music, artists take portions of other artists' musical works and insert "samples" of them into new works, thereby potentially infringing the copyrights of the artists whose works are used in those samples.
QUESTION:
In a few sentences, please describe how your invention solves the problem described above.

ANSWER:
By allowing a user to use a computer to track two musical works side-by-side both aurally and visually and by highlighting similar passages and durations thereof, this software will improve rights-holders to identify potentially infringing works.

QUESTION:

How Your Invention is an Improvement
In a sentence or two, please describe how your invention is different from and better than anything that exists in its field.

ANSWER:
Previously, musical artists and other rights-holders had to rely on tools not directly meant for the identification of musical works that potentially infringe proprietary content. This software fills that void.

QUESTION:

How Your Invention is an Improvement (Continued)
In a sentence or two, explain the problems with the other devices or systems in the field of your invention.

ANSWER:
Past systems were for the creation of music, or the scoring thereof. The only other way to determine whether content was infringing relied upon the human ear. Both methods were inexact, to say the least: the first is directed not to the proper application, and the second is deeply fallible as is any direct human perception.

QUESTION:

In a sentence or two, explain why these devices or systems don't work well.

ANSWER:
Other devices and systems--including software--that previously existed were not directed to the identification of potentially infringing content. Using such systems, then, was an inexact, jury-rigged process.
QUESTION:

In a sentence or two, describe how your invention improves on them.

ANSWER:

This software invention maps all notes, beats and other aspects of a musical work, and compares it to those aspects of any other musical works or works, specifically for the purpose of identifying similarities for the express purpose of determining whether one song may infringe on another.

QUESTION:

Items or Steps that Make Up Your Invention

Please list the individual components or elements that make up the best version of your invention. For mechanical, electrical, and manufactured inventions, this includes all components, elements, and parts. For method, process, and software inventions, this includes all steps, decisions, and any necessary physical items.

Please be as detailed as necessary to convey an understanding of each element, but you do not need to describe each element’s function here—we will ask for that information later. For example, what is done with a particular component is not required here—only the component itself should be listed.

Please number each item according to its number on any accompanying drawing(s).

ANSWER:

1. a computer with audio-input access and audio output capability
2. digital recording device with audio-output-to-computer capability
3. audio player allowing for direct digital recording
4. audio content
5. color monitor
6. computer keyboard
7. mouse or other manually manipulable interface for controlling on-screen cursor activity
8. the subject computer-readable medium (the “software”)

QUESTION:

Relationship Between the Components

Please describe the relationship between your invention’s components, elements or steps. Please use the Item Numbers you assigned to each item on the previous page, when you listed all of them.
All computer peripherals (color monitor (5), computer keyboard (6) and mouse or other manually manipulable interface for controlling onscreen cursor activity (7), along with any necessary peripherals to enable perceptible audio output) are connected, the software (8) is installed onto the computer with audio-input access (1). The audio player (3) is connected to the digital recording device with audio-output-to-computer capability (2) and all desired audio content (4) is recorded from (3) to (2). Then, the digital recording device (2) is connected to the computer (1) and the software is activated. The audio content (4) is played and is perceptible to the software (8) and made perceptible to the user through same. The user is then able to compare given pieces of audio content (4) both aurally (through the computer's audio output) and visually (via the color monitor) to determine similarity or difference.

**QUESTION:**

Does your invention require logic (gates, if-then relationships, subroutines, etc.)?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

**QUESTION:**

Please describe the logic (gates, if-then relationships, subroutines, etc.) required to create, implement or practice your invention.

**ANSWER:**

Once all set-up is complete and audio recorded and perceptible, the user must personally choose subject pieces of music to compare to one another. The pieces of music must be played at once—although the number of pieces played at once is not limited to two—in order to accurately compare them to determine similarity and potentially infringing content. Side-by-side comparison of audio content enables a user to conduct proper comparison, as it most effectively combines the audio and video components of the software.

**QUESTION:**

How Does Your Invention Work?

How do the components, steps or elements of your invention work individually and together to cause the whole invention to perform its desired function? This section is extremely important and should be completed carefully. See Help to learn more.

**ANSWER:**
The software alters content that is initially perceptible only aurally to content that is perceptible both aurally and visually. It does this by taking multiple, recorded audio tracks and reducing them to component parts, then reproducing those parts through audio and video signals. The computer acts as the central hub for this activity, taking input from the digital recording device and allowing it to interact with the software. The user perceives the content aurally through the computer’s audio output and also visually through the color monitor's waveform depiction of the content. Through use of the keyboard and mouse or other similar device, the user can stop and start multiple tracks, segment them, match portions of one track against portions of another, overlay said portions to determine matches and non-matches and ultimately determine whether a given piece of audio content is substantially similar to another.

**QUESTION:**

**How to Make the Invention**

How would a person make the invention? Answering this question is extremely important to enable your Provisional Application to function as it should. Please answer carefully and in as much detail as possible.

**ANSWER:**

To make this invention, one must craft software that is able to complete the requisite tasks and provide the user with the useful tool described hereabove.

**QUESTION:**

Which elements are necessary? Which are optional? What elements could be added to make your invention work better? Please use complete sentences.

**ANSWER:**

In standard practice, all elements are necessary. An enhanced visually-perceptible module could be added to aid the aurally impaired user, while enhanced audio cues could be similarly added to aid the visually impaired user. Improvements in audio replay and recording devices will enhance the user experience, as improved audio clarity will allow for enhanced mapping and comparison capabilities.

**QUESTION:**

**How to Use the Invention**

How would a person use the invention to solve the problem that your invention solves? This is another very important section: Please be specific about the steps involved.
The user records his or her choice of audio content, then plays back through the computer, using the software. By using the software's audio and video outputs, the user then compares the chosen pieces of content to determine similarity or difference. By allowing the user to play multiple tracks at once and by providing a video interface geared specifically to determine and highlight similarities between portions of audio content, the user is uniquely placed to determine whether one piece of content may infringe upon another. The user can save portions of audio content within the software, can save compared pieces of content and can compare multiple sets of content to determine complex patterns not perceptible through simply listening to the content, or through content-creation software.