

Sample Method/Process 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 means for detecting counterfeit twenty-dollar bills from between the year 2003 and the present.

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:

Counterfeiting is rife throughout the world, and no currency is more counterfeited than the US dollar. Counterfeit dollars hurt merchants and any unwary citizen who may come into contact with it, exposing all to legal risk and financial loss.

QUESTION:

In a few sentences, please describe how your invention solves the problem described above.

ANSWER:

This invention allows individuals to detect counterfeit twenty-dollar bills issued from the year 2003 to the present, and avoid accepting them.

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:

Other detection methods rely on special equipment, which can be costly and unwieldy. This invention requires no equipment at all, and can be implemented by any individual on the spot.

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:

Currently, detection of counterfeit bills requires a highlighter, an infrared or blacklight scanner or other special equipment. Such equipment is not always at the ready when dollars are exchanged.

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

Other methods require bulky, conspicuous and sometimes expensive equipment. They are also more prone to human error than the method disclosed here.

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

This invention relies on tactile and purely physical evidence of legitimacy of each bill inherent in that bill itself. The criteria contain built-in redundancy and are therefore surer than other, individual means of detection.

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. United States paper currency in the denomination of twenty dollars, issued between the year 2003 and the present (9/14/2011, as of this application)
2. Hold bill in two hands
3. Feel bill to determine if it feels like money
4. If needed, compare against feel of another US twenty-dollar bill issued between the year 2003 and the present (9/14/2011 as of this application)
5. If satisfied that bill is genuine, accept and stop
6. If satisfied that bill is not genuine, reject and stop
7. If not satisfied that bill is genuine or counterfeit, proceed to next step
8. Measure exactly 1.5 centimeters horizontally along the bill from its left-most edge
9. Hold bill up to light
10. Search at point 1.5 centimeters from left-most edge of bill for appearance of security strip
11. If no strip is located, or if strip measures any other width than 1 millimeter horizontally, reject bill

12. If strip is apparent and appears to measure exactly 1 millimeter horizontally in width, tear bill from top from immediate left of strip, down 2 millimeters, across to right 2 millimeters and finally up to top 2 millimeters, being sure that sides of tear exceed sides of apparent strip
13. using torn portion as tab, grasp both sides of tab firmly and pull slowly upwards, being sure not to tear any strip that may reside inside bill
14. If no strip resides in bill, reject as counterfeit
15. If strip pulls out, is lightweight plastic and measures exactly 1 millimeter in width, accept bill as genuine

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.

ANSWER:

The initial "feel" test (steps 1-4) is the simplest method of ascertaining whether a bill is genuine. It is the least conspicuous and fastest and, to the seasoned person, quite effective. If that method fails, the "tear" test (steps 8-15) is, while more involved, quite effective as well, since the insertion of bogus security strips into bills is exceedingly difficult. If step one is failed, the bill is rejected. If step one is passed, step two may or may not be necessary, depending on the experience and assuredness of the bill's recipient. If step two is necessitated and failed, the bill is rejected. If step two is passed, the bill is accepted as genuine.

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:

By beginning the “feel” test, the person performing the method begins with the simplest, least conspicuous means of testing a bill of the requisite denomination and period for authenticity. If this test is sufficient, the tester has satisfied him or herself as to the bill’s authenticity at no cost and with no attention being drawn to the process. Simple tactile testing is, in the hands of an experienced tester, quite effective, and can often root out counterfeit bills that may appear genuine—sometimes, the eye of even the most experienced handler can be fooled, while the tactile sense is more difficult to fool. If this test is insufficient, the second, more involved “tear” test is necessitated, and then must be followed to completion. Whether one or both tests are implemented, all steps undertaken must be seen through to completion, or efficacy will be greatly reduced.

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:

By following the above-listed steps, in the order listed, a bill’s authenticity can be judged by the handler.

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:

The means disclosed herein consists of the above-listed steps.

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

Either the "feel" test or the "tear" test or both must be performed in their entirety for the means disclosed here to succeed. If the recipient of a bill is satisfied at the conclusion of one of the tests, the other need not be performed, although performing both can increase certainty for even the most seasoned bill handler. Other tests can be added, such as questioning the deliverer of the currency about its provenance, but any test that requires equipment reduces the cost-effectiveness and casual, inconspicuous nature of the invention.

QUESTION:

How can the components or elements be shuffled, interchanged, or reconfigured to cause the invention to perform an identical or similar function? (This is optional, but answering can potentially give you more protection in the future.) Please use complete sentences.

ANSWER:

The tests can be reversed, so that the "tear" test begins the inquiry as to the bill's authenticity. If that test were to render inconclusive results, test one could follow easily.

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.

ANSWER:

By following the above-listed steps, the authenticity of a bill of the listed denomination and period can be determined by the recipient of such a bill.