IDENTIFY KEY WORD
(BE CREATIVE)
Rubber Band = Elastomeric Member

ACCESS
www.uspto.gov
and access Search Patents (under patents)

ACCESS
QUICK SEARCH
on patents (Green Side)

ENTER KEY WORDS
and use pull-down bars to restrict search, if wanted

IDENTIFY TO 10 (OR SO) PATENTS RELATED TO YOUR IDEA. THEY DON'T NEED TO BE PERFECT, JUST CLOSE.

RECORD/UPDATE TOP 10 (OR SO) LIST.

REVIEW CITED REFERENCES ON FACE OF EACH OF TOP 10. CLICKABLE LINKS ON FACE

ANY CITED REFERENCE CLOSER THAN ANY TOP 10?

ANY NEW KEY WORDS?

END OF REVERSE SEARCH

BEGIN FORWARD SEARCH

RETURN TO QUICK SEARCH PAGE (GREEN SIDE)

ENTER A PATENT NUMBER OF YOUR CURRENT TOP 10 LIST AND SEARCH (NO PULL DOWN OPTIONS)

REVIEW RESULTS

ANY REFERENCE CLOSER THAN ANY TOP 10?

SEARCHED ALL TOP 10?

ANY NEW KEY WORDS?

YES

DEAD

YES

SPECIAL NOTE
Doing your own search is all part of the process of educating yourself about your industry. It can be frustrating and it will likely be time consuming, but in the long run you'll be much better armed if you, at least, make an effort. Happy Inventing!

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