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From: Bob Stayton [mailto:bobs@sagehill.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 7:12 PM

To: AB94Comments

Subject: don't limit the number of claims

As an independent inventor, I am very dismayed to hear that you are limiting the number of claims to 10 on a patent application. This is an arbitrary limit that says nothing about the merits or extent of the invention. Some inventions don't fit into 10 claims. This will require me to file multiple patents to cover the same idea, which will *add* to your workload, not reduce it. This will also require a great deal of additional expense up front, which small inventors like me have a hard time putting up.

This rule change will stack the deck in favor of big corporations with lots of money and lawyers, and against the little guys like me. It is unfair, and contradicts the original goals and purposes of the patent office. I would urge you to reject this change.

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