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What is a design patent?

How long does it take for a design patent to be issued?

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## Design Patent Questions

### [What is a design patent?](#)

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A United States design patent protects the shape and surface ornamentation of a useful article. For example, the shape of a table or the surface ornamentation on the handle of a spoon.

### [How long does it take for a design patent to be issued?](#)

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In most cases, a design patent will be granted between one and three years from the filing date. As in the case of utility patents, procedures are available for expediting the processing of a design patent application.

### [What is the duration of a design patent?](#)

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A design patent has a 14 year term beginning on the date on which the

design patent issues. U.S. design patents are not renewable and there are no maintenance fees for design patents. However, U.S. design patents for applications filed on or after December 18, 2013 will have a 15 year term from the issue date of the patent.

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