

Claim Scope Ladder

Capture the invention at narrow, intermediate, and broad levels so each rung can support a different claim. Free worksheet for patent practitioners.

A graduated-specificity scaffold for capturing the invention at multiple levels. It mirrors the practitioner's own rungs; it does not draft claims. All scope and drafting decisions remain with the practitioner.

Scope Ladder

Linked Disclosure

Optional — the invention disclosure this ladder builds on. The disclosure usually gives the narrow rung for free.

Invention Summary

A one- or two-sentence summary to anchor the rungs.

Narrow Rung

The most specific version — closest to what was built, with the most limitations.

Intermediate Rung

A middle level — some limitations relaxed while the core remains.

Broad Rung

The broadest defensible version — the essential elements only.

Support in Disclosure

Where each rung finds written-description and enablement support. Flag any rung that outruns the disclosure.

Additional Rungs

Any further useful levels — label and description.

Commercial Anchor

The rung that best maps to the commercial embodiment you most want to cover.

Design-Around Self-Test

For each rung, how might a competitor design around it? Where the broad rung is easy to avoid, note what a narrower rung captures that it misses.

Before You Rely On This

Disclaimer. This worksheet is a practitioner work-aid for capturing an attorney's own analysis. Obviously Not is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice; this worksheet and any output are for informational and documentation purposes only, are not legal, patent, patentability, eligibility, non-obviousness, claim-scope, validity, or freedom-to-operate advice, and do not create an attorney-client relationship. All legal judgment, including whether and how to file or argue, remains with a licensed patent practitioner exercising independent professional judgment. Nothing here predicts an outcome at the USPTO or any court.

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