

German designs

fast and simple protection not only for digital artwork



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The basics

Designs protect the two- or three-dimensional appearance of an entire or a part of a product

Products can be any items from typographic faces, over packaging, to the whole article and include as well graphic symbols

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The basics

Not protectable are product features derived exclusively from their technical function as well as “must-fit” features

“must-fit” includes, for example, interfaces between different products that have to fit together

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The registration

Only formal examination

**No examination as to novelty and
distinctive character**

Registration within few months

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Duration

25 years as of filing date

Renewals due after 5, 10, 15 and 20 years

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Novelty

12 months grace period

Only if published by the applicant

Fees

60€ application fee
(6€ / design in collective applications)
No prosecution fee
No registration fee

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Cancellation

Cancellation request before GPTO

Absolute and relative grounds

Also as a counter-claim in infringement proceedings before civil courts

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Collective designs

Up to 100 different designs can be combined into a single application

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Protecting digital assets

“NFTs” and other digital artwork can be registered as design

!! Proof of ownership and priority !!

Product category = screen displays, icons, graphic symbols, logos

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