STN® Quick Reference Card

FSEARCH for finding patent families

Use FSEARCH (Family SEARCH) to search for additional family records for patents, including equivalents and related patents such as continuations-in-part or divisions. You can use FSEARCH in the databases currently included in the PATENTS or HPATENTS clusters. After patent equivalents are found, they are automatically sorted into families.

Find the family for U.S. patent 4255431.

1 *Enter the patent databases to be searched.*

2 *Enter FSEARCH and the search terms.*

FSEARCH automatically does the following:

- *Conducts a search in each database.*
- *Extracts the patent and application numbers from answers and searches them in the current databases to find additional family members.*
- *Sorts the final answer set into patent families.*

3 *ANALYZE and display the patent numbers in the family.*

```
=> FILE USPATFULL WPINDEX CAPLUS

=> FSEARCH US4255431/PN
        •
        •
        •
FSORT L3
L4            22 FSO L3

              1 Multi-record Family     Answers 1-22

=> ANALYZE PN L4 1-
L5           ANALYZE L4 1- PN :      80 TERMS

=> D ENTIRE
L5           ANALYZE L4 1- PN :      80 TERMS

TERM #   # OCC  # DOC  % DOC  PN
------  -------  ------  ------  ---------------
    1      4       4   18.18  US4337257
    2      4       4   18.18  US4508905
    3      4       4   18.18  US6528624
    4      4       4   18.18  US7297775
    5      4       3   13.64  AU2003252758
              •
              •
              •
   80      1       1    4.55  US2006194954
********  END OF L5 ***
```

For more information

Enter HELP FSEARCH at an arrow prompt.