



How to search USPTO trademarks, free (2026)

TESS is gone. Here is how to search the US federal trademark register for free at tmsearch.uspto.gov: the knockout search, why the Nice class matters more than the word, and what a quick search misses.

- **TESS retired in 2023.** The register now lives at tmsearch.uspto.gov. It is free and needs no login to search.
- **Start with a knockout search.** A fast first pass for the exact name plus close and phonetic spellings, to rule out the obvious conflicts.
- **The class matters more than the word.** The USPTO uses 45 Nice classes. The same word can coexist across unrelated ones, so search the classes you actually sell in.
- **A knockout search does not catch everything.** Sound-alikes, merely related goods, common-law (unregistered) marks, and state registrations all need a fuller clearance search.
- **A clear search is not a clearance.** In the USPTO's own words, a search cannot tell you a mark is safe to register. It is not legal advice.
- **Filing, in 2026.** You file through Trademark Center at a base fee of \$350 per class; foreign-domiciled applicants must use a US-licensed attorney.

Screen any name against the US register, free.

Read the full guide, then run an automated US (USPTO) trademark check on any name in seconds, no login.

startupnamegenerator.com/how-to-search-uspto-trademark-database