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Sometimes when an inventor invents something, the first patent application that gets filed is a PCT patent application. We call this “PCT First”.....	8
Quite often, however, what gets filed first is some application that is not a PCT application. In the US, if the first application filed is not a PCT application, then it will often be a so-called “provisional” patent application.....	8
Whatever that first application is that is not a PCT application, it will start a twelve-month time period running, a time period that you will need to docket. If any patent applications are to be filed outside of the country in which that first application was filed, they will have to be filed within twelve months. This book focuses on the choice, made by many applicants, to file a PCT application within that twelve-month period.....	8
The PCT application is filed in what is called a Receiving Office. The RO carries out an examination of the application as to various formal matters (for example page count and fee amounts) and prepares two copies of the application. The two copies are termed the Search Copy and the Record Copy. The RO sends the Search Copy to the International Searching Authority (ISA). The RO sends the Record Copy to the International Bureau (IB).....	8
The ISA carries out the international search. It establishes the International Search Report and the Written Opinion. It communicates these to the applicant and to the IB.....	8
The IB publishes the PCT application, generally 18 months after the priority date.....	8
The applicant might choose to file a Demand. If so, then the applicant will interact with an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA). The IPEA establishes the International Preliminary Report on Patentability under Chapter II of the PCT.....	8
Within 30 months after the priority date, the applicant might “enter the national phase” in one or more patent offices around the world. When this happens, the applicant is filing “national-phase-entry” papers in a Designated Office (if no Demand was filed) or in an Elected Office (if a Demand was filed). .....	8
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