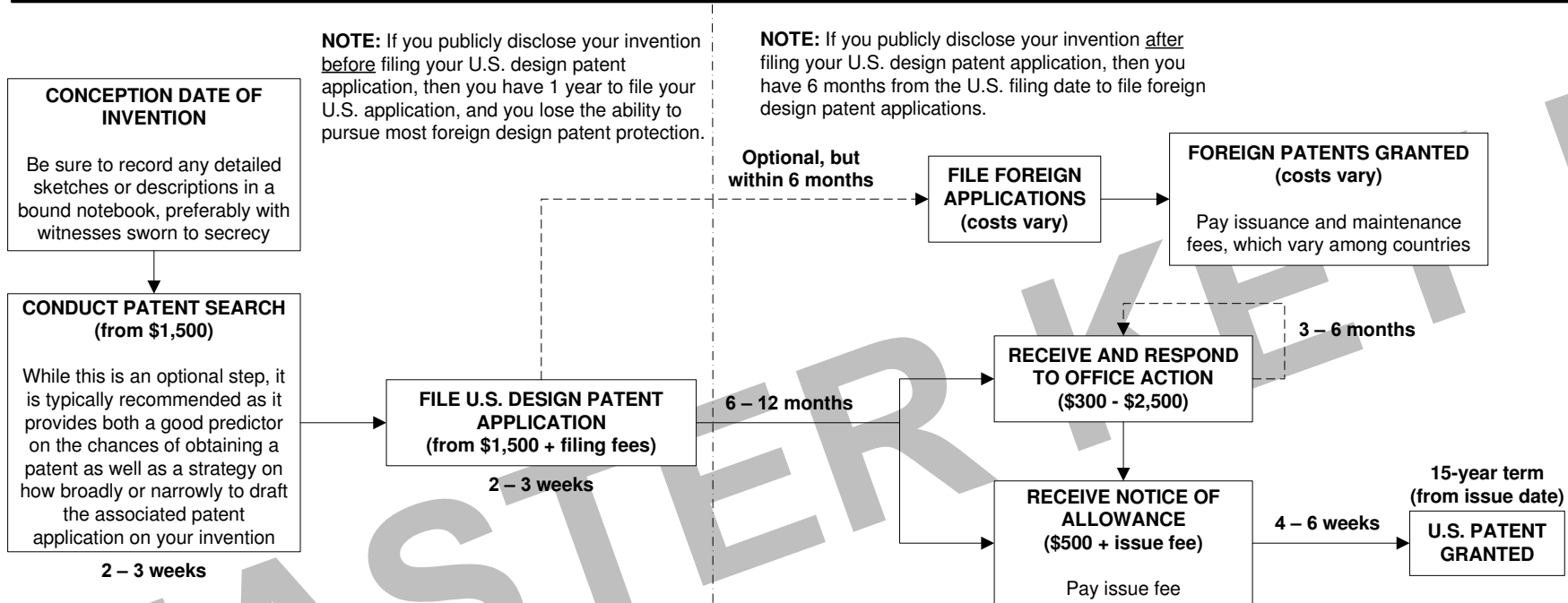




DESIGN PATENT – TIMELINE AND COSTS



NOTE: If you publicly disclose your invention before filing your U.S. design patent application, then you have 1 year to file your U.S. application, and you lose the ability to pursue most foreign design patent protection.

NOTE: If you publicly disclose your invention after filing your U.S. design patent application, then you have 6 months from the U.S. filing date to file foreign design patent applications.

NOTE: Because the U.S. is on a “first-inventor-to-file” patent system, you cannot rely upon the conception date of your invention as against any third parties that may independently conceive a similar invention. Instead, it essentially comes down to who files their application first.

With that in mind, your patent philosophy should be, “**file early and file often.**” In other words, for any new invention (or improvement on an existing invention) you might conceive, you should strive to file a design patent application as soon as possible so as to lock in the earliest filing date possible as against all third parties. The longer you wait, the greater the likelihood becomes that a third party might beat you to the Patent Office (or even simply publicly disclose information that could count as prior art against your own invention).

IMPORTANT: The above timeline is a simplification of the design patent process. Your own patent pursuit may differ depending on a number of factors. Please contact us to discuss your specific case. Additionally, all dollar amounts are approximate and are not guaranteed to be current. Patent laws change frequently in every country. As such, new fees and policies may be in effect when you are going through this process.