



www.oliveandolive.com 500 Memorial Street • Post Office Box 2049 • Durham, NC 27702-2049 | Phone (919)683-5514 • Fax (919)683-3781

COMMON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ABBREVIATIONS AND
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SYMBOLS:

The Meaning of Abbreviations and Symbols for
Patents, Trademarks, Copyrights, Mask Works, and Designs

Abbreviation or Symbol	Meaning
Patent or Pat.	Indicates an invention protected by an issued United States patent. A proper patent notice contains one of these listed terms, followed by the patent number. Sometimes the letters “U.S.” are added before one of the terms, and sometimes the abbreviation “No.” or “Number” are used after one of the terms, but they are not required. The notice should appear either on the protected article or, if that is not possible, on a label affixed to it or to its packaging. For more information about patents, refer to our Learning Center article on Patents.
Patent Pending or Pat. Pending	An application has been filed seeking to protect some aspect of the marked invention. This designation does not mean a patent has issued. It may never issue.
Reg. U.S. Pat. & TM Office or ®	Indicates a mark which has been registered with the United States Patent & Trademark Office. The owner of such a mark has greater protection than do owners of unregistered marks. For more information about trademarks, refer to our Learning Center article on Trademarks, and our short article on appropriate trademark use.
SM or SM	Stands for “service mark” and means that someone is claiming the adjacent word or symbol as their trademark to identify the services, such as restaurant services, which they are offering. Sometimes the letters are placed within a circle. This abbreviation or symbol does not mean the mark has been registered anywhere.
TM or TM	Stands for “trademark” and means that someone is claiming the adjacent word or symbol as their trademark. Sometimes the letters are placed within a circle. This abbreviation or symbol does not mean the mark has been registered anywhere.

<p>Copyright, Copr., or ©</p>	<p>Indicates that the work on which it appears is a creative work protected by copyright (but not necessarily registered). A proper copyright notice for protection not only in the U.S. and most foreign nations contains the copyright symbol ©, followed by the name of the copyright owner and the date when the work was first published, for example: © Olive & Olive, P.A. 2019. If used only in the U.S.A., the word “Copyright” or the abbreviation “Copr.” can be substituted for the symbol and, for certain works, the date can be omitted; copyrighted sound recordings should use the “P in a circle” symbol (see below). Often words such as “All rights reserved” are added to a copyright notice, but they have no particular legal status. For more information about copyrights and copyright notices, refer to our Learning Center article on Copyrights.</p>
<p>Ⓟ</p>	<p>Stands for “phonorecord” (which includes not just records but also CDs, DVDs, MP3s and other recordings)—and means that the recording to which it is affixed is protected by copyright. (The “P” symbol refers to protection of the recorded sounds, as opposed to protection of the underlying words or musical work.) A proper copyright notice for phonorecords contains the phonograph symbol, followed by the name of the copyright owner and the date when the work was first published. [Note: the P symbol is found in the webdings font on most computers.]</p>
<p>Mask Work, *M*, or the letter M in a circle</p>	<p>Indicates that the work on which it appears is a mask work (images of the pattern of material present or removed to form the layers on a semiconductor chip—i.e. the layout of the chip), or embodies a mask work, that is protected by the mask work provisions of the United States Copyright Act. A proper mask work notice consists of the term “Mask Work” or one of the mask work symbols, followed by the name of the owner of the mask work or an abbreviation by which the owner is generally known or recognized. [Note: the M in a circle symbol is not available in normal fonts. Graphic designs, or the simpler asterisk-M symbol, typically are used in typed or printed documents.] For more information about mask works, refer to our Copyrights article.</p>
<p>Protected Design, Prot’d Des., *D*, or the letter D in a circle: Ⓓ</p>	<p>Indicates that the boat hull on which the term or symbol appears embodies a design protected under the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act of 1998. A proper design notice contains one of the listed terms or symbols, together with either the name of the owner and the date when protection of the design commenced, or the registration number of the design. If there is no registration number, then the design work may not be registered. [Note: the D in a circle symbol is not available in normal fonts. Graphic designs, or one of the typed terms or the asterisk-D symbol, typically are used in typed or printed documents.]</p>