

# Lossy Compression (JPEG et al) patents

<http://swpat.ffii.org/pikta/xrani/jpeg/index.en.html>

Workgroup

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When creating, using or JPEG graphic files, you may be infringing on patents. Some extensions to JPEG are patented. Basic principles of coding used by JPEG are patented in the US and in Europe, and recently a new patent owner has started to aggressively assert his monopoly rights. The JPEG Consortium reacted quickly by delaring that JPEG is no longer a standard.

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## 1 JPEG transmission patent

US 4698672

EP 0266049

JP 63148789

Compression LABS hold about 20 EP patents but refrained from enforcing this one against the JPEG format. Now a new proprietor has changed this policy and apparently already squeezed 15 mn USD out of Sony.

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\*<http://www.ffii.org/~phm>

- EPO Patent 266049<sup>1</sup>

The EPO has granted this patent in 1994 after 7 years of examination, and it was transformed into national patents in Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. The patent claims a basic principle of coding information.

*An ordered redundancy method for coding digital signals, the digital signals taking a plurality of different values, using two types of runlength code (R,R'), the method comprising the steps of  
utilising the first type of runlength code (R) for coding a runlength of the most frequently occurring value followed by the next most frequently occurring value;  
utilising the second type of runlength code (R') for coding a runlength of the most frequently occurring value followed by any value other than the nextmost frequently occurring value; and  
when the second type of runlength code is used, following the runlength code value by a code value indicative of the amplitude of said other value.*

Texanisches Unternehmen will Geld für JPEG<sup>2</sup>

The Register: Forgent pursuing JPEG patent against Sony<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><http://12.espacenet.com/espacenet/bnsviewer?CY=ep&LG=en&DB=EPD&PN=EP0266049&ID=EP+++0266049B1+I+>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.heise.de/newsticker/data/ghi-18.07.02-001/>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/26272.html>