

My name is Colin C Patterson;

Email colincpatterson@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile no 07783704604

I invented a push in clip to secure cables in the home, office or garden.

Images on twitter here @pushinclips @colincpatterson

My journey started in 2009 when I decided to get out of the rat race. My existing large wooden garage would make a perfect workshop to start my picture framing business. The garage walls were already lined, which meant I had to run and secure cabling for phones, computers, lighting and extensions along the skirting and ceiling line.

Armed with a shopping list I went to my local large DIY retailer and left with a selection of cable clips to secure my diverse array of cables.

After securing cable along the ceiling line and hitting and damaging the ceiling more often than hitting the nail, my next job was to run the cable along the skirting. My EUREKA moment came when I was on my hands and knees holding the cable clip and cable in one hand, the hammer in the other trying to hit the nail without damaging the skirting or having to visit A&E with mangled and bruised fingers.

The design and shape literally popped into my head. A cable clip that can be pushed in and secures different diameters of cable. No tools required.

All existing methods of securing cables involve using either a hammer, screwdriver or sticky pads. I went straight to my work bench where I sketched my thoughts. The challenge was to actually make this new and innovative push in clip for securing my cables. Within an hour I had fashioned some clips. I then tried out my new clip and secured my cables with minimum effort. My design was incredibly simple but very effective. The next day I searched the internet for anything resembling my invention but could not find anything.

Not knowing much about inventing, and protecting that invention, it took me several months to decide what to do next and how to proceed. In February 2011 a patent search was completed by a product development company and nothing similar was found.

At this point I was advised to go through a " Concept Development Process " with them at a large cost to me. I was not in a position to do what they suggested so I asked only for a patent to be written. Patents were written and submitted in May 2011. In October 2011 the IPO sent back their search report which highlighted patents that would stop my application. I contacted the development company again and asked why they did not find these patents. Their answer shocked me, they did find the patents but did not think they were relevant to my idea. Now I had no trust in this company, why did they not disclose all their findings in their report? why were they asking me to spend thousands of pounds?

I then decided to find another patent lawyer. New patents were written and filed. UK patents were granted in February 2015 and US patents are pending.

My design is "push in" (like a drawing pin) with a V shaped cradle attached, each V shape cradle secures a range of diameters of cable making it unique.

My next challenge was to find a manufacturer. I spent months emailing and phoning many companies in the UK but to no avail. All the companies I contacted said they could stamp out the main body comprising the push part and V cradle but could not secure the pin. I was advised that China was the only place that had the machines and capability to manufacture my clip at a competitive price. Unfortunately due to my naivety in this market place it took me three attempts to find a trustworthy manufacturer. After paying two companies for tooling and samples which never

materialised, I contacted the third company who did produce prototypes but they were very expensive and not of the quality I wanted.

Some packs were sold on through my website but not many and some were given out for feedback. The feedback was positive.

It was at this point I knew that I needed help to take my invention to market I could not do it on my own. I approached companies that specialise in pairing inventors with business angels and venture capitalists with contacts in retail.

After two failed pairings and two years into the project I couldn't believe my good fortune when in July 2014 I was approached by a product development company maintaining they could see potential in my clip. They were looking to support a number of projects on a shared profit basis. This was exactly what I was looking for as I don't have the resources. This company claimed to have contacts in China and also have contacts with all the main distributors and buyers in the UK and beyond. A few months passed and after due diligence, and my total belief in this company I got back in touch to go into business with them. A meeting was set up for mid October. Phone calls and emails were going back and forth from us both, everything was going very well.

The day of the meeting came, I was in good spirits as this was where everything was coming together and the project would be under way. Well into the meeting, and dropped into conversation, I was informed that the market place had changed. Now business collaborators were charging for their services to provide product and preliminary marketing analysis. If I still wanted to go ahead and get my product to market the company would split the cost with me.

It was said in a way that it was of no consequence if my product was launched or not if I declined the offer.

Driving home I truly didn't know what to do, if I don't go with this company will I regret it in the future?. I then remembered something I was told a long time ago " never regret what you try but you will regret it if you don't try ". I phoned the company the next day to sign up.

It is now three years on and I have handed over a substantial amount of money to take my product to market. All I have is a lot of broken promises and still have nothing to show. Another saying comes to mind " if it sounds too good to be true it probably is ".

The last five years have been a steep learning curve for me and an expensive one too. At no point did I think this was going to be an easy journey but I had no idea how frustrating, arduous and erratic it would be to launch a new product. There is a position for this product and I think would benefit a number of markets.

I have no idea what direction my journey is going to take now. I am open minded and will consider any commercial interest, partnering, joint venture, collaboration or to licence my invention.

This is a true business opportunity.

Today I am open to offers.

Colin C Patterson. Inventor of the Push in Clips

@pushinclips @colincpatterson