

# IP transfer question

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If I manufacture a product under license from its designer, I unavoidably learn aspects of its design which I may then, intentionally or not, use in my own subsequent designs.

Suppose that over time, I evolve the product's design, perhaps to the point that it is no longer recognizably derivative. Typically, how is the question of "when do I stop paying royalties" addressed in contracts?

That is, what contractual terms are generally used to protect the other guy from me just tweaking his design, calling it my own, and selling it without paying royalties; and, on the other hand, to protect me from him claiming that any vaguely-related product I ever subsequently design is really his and I owe royalties on it?

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