What does PATENT PENDING mean?

- If you are an individual using these patterns for personal use, please do so with our enthusiasm.
- If you are a group of parents using these patterns to make the materials for your band students, again, please do so!
- If you are using these patterns to sell to others to make money, this is a problem.
- If the band students are reimbursing the band boosters to pay for the supplies to make the masks or bags, no one is making money. Keep going!

What’s the difference between a design and a utility patents?
Utility patents are applicable to the invention, discovery, or improvement of any useful process, machine, device, article of manufacture, or composition of matter. Utility patents protect the structural and functional features of an item. Design patents are applicable to the invention of a new, original, and ornamental design for an article of manufacture. Design patents only protect the appearance of an item, but not an item’s structural or functional features.

Although masks have certainly existed for a long time, the utility of using a mask while playing an instrument is new. The same logic applies to the aerosol bags. Using a bag to capture the aerosols emitted from the instrument itself is a new utility for a bag. The design of a mask or bag, however similar or different it is to the ones posted here.