

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

MERALOC, LLC

Plaintiff,

v.

APPLE INC.

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT FOR INFRINGEMENT OF PATENT

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Meraloc, LLC (“Meraloc” or Plaintiff), through the undersigned attorneys, and respectfully alleges, states, and prays as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for patent infringement under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 United States Code (“U.S.C.”) to prevent and enjoin defendant Apple Inc., (hereinafter “Defendant”) from infringing and profiting, in an illegal and unauthorized manner and without authorization and/or of the consent from Meraloc, from U.S. Patent No. 7,451,262 (the “‘262 patent”, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271, and to recover damages, attorney’s fees, and costs.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Meraloc is a Texas entity with its principal place of business at 101 E Park Blvd, Suite 600, Plano, TX 75074.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, with a principal place of business at 1 Infinite Loop,

Cupertino, CA 95014. Upon information and belief, Defendant may be served with process at C T Corporation System, 818 West Seventh St. Ste. 930, Los Angeles CA 90017.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because the action arises under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq.*

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant by virtue of its systematic and continuous contacts with this jurisdiction, as alleged herein, as well as because of the injury to Meraloc, and the cause of action Meraloc has risen, as alleged herein.

6. Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and general personal jurisdiction pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long Arm Statute, due at least to its substantial business in this forum, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and in this judicial district.

7. Defendant has conducted and does conduct business within the state of Texas, including the geographic region within the Eastern District of Texas, directly or through intermediaries, resellers or agents, or offers for sale, sells, advertises (including through the use of interactive web pages with promotional material) products or services, or uses or induces others to use services or products in Texas, including this judicial district, that infringe the '262 patent.

8. Specifically, Defendant solicits business from and markets its services to consumers within Texas, including the geographic region within the Eastern District of Texas, by selling and offering for sale removable memory storage devices having a display used for

managing files stored on the storage devices to said Texas consumers.

9. In addition to Defendant's continuously and systematically conducting business in Texas, the causes of action against Defendant are connected (but not limited) to Defendant's purposeful acts committed in the state of Texas, including the geographic region within the Eastern District of Texas, including Defendant's making, using, offering for sale, or selling removable memory storage devices having a display used for managing files stored on the storage devices that fall within the scope of at least one claim of the '262 patent.

10. Venue lies in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. On November 11, 2008, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '262 patent, entitled "Removable Memory Storage Device Having a Display" after a full and fair examination. (Exhibit A).

12. Meraloc is presently the owner of the patent, having received all right, title and interest in and to the '262 patent from the previous assignee of record. Meraloc possesses all rights of recovery under the '262 patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past infringement.

13. The '262 patent contains four independent claims and seventeen dependent claims. Defendant commercializes, *inter alia*, devices that include each and every element of at least one claim of the '262 patent.

14. The invention claimed in the '262 patent comprises a removable memory storage device having a display.

DEFENDANT'S PRODUCTS

15. Defendant's products, such as the "iPod Touch" (the "Accused Product"), includes a flash drive that can be removably connected to a computing device for storing files transferred

from the computing device. For example, the Accused Product includes flash memory and can be removably connected to a computing device for storing files, such as photos or music, transferred from the computer using the iOS sync feature.

16. The Accused Product includes at least one flash memory chip operable to store files transmitted from the computing device. For example, the Accused Product includes a data storage device of up to 128GB of storage capacity.

17. The Accused Product includes a display operable to display information related to files stored on the at least one flash memory chip. For example, the Accused Product displays the names of music files stored on the device.

18. The Accused Product includes an input device, such as a touch screen display, operable for providing input for managing files stored on the flash drive. For example, a user can use touch inputs on the Accused Product's screen to delete music files or add them to specific playlists.

19. The elements described in paragraphs 15-18 are covered by at least claims 1 and 5 of the '262 patent. Thus, Defendant's use, manufacture, sale and/or offer for sale of the Accused Product is enabled by the device described in the '262 patent.

INFRINGEMENT OF THE '262 PATENT

20. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 to 19.

21. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Defendant is now, and has been directly and indirectly infringing the '262 patent.

22. Defendant has had knowledge of infringement of the '262 patent at least as of the service of the present complaint.

23. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe at least claims 1 and 5 of the '262 patent by making, using, importing, offering for sale, and/or selling the Accused Product through its website without authority in the United States, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this Court. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's direct infringement of the '262 patent, Plaintiff has been and continues to be damaged.

24. Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe at least claims 1 and 5 of the '262 patent by actively inducing its respective customers, users, and/or licensees to directly infringe by using, selling, offering to sell and/or importing the Accused Product. Defendant engaged or will have engaged in such inducement having knowledge of the '262 patent. Furthermore, Defendant knew or should have known that its action would induce direct infringement by others and intended that its actions would induce direct infringement by others. For example, Defendant uses, sells, offers for sale and advertises the Accused Product in Texas specifically intending that its customers use it. Furthermore, the use of the Accused Product by Defendant's customers is facilitated by the system described in the '262 patent. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's indirect infringement by inducement of the '262 patent, Plaintiff has been and continues to be damaged.

25. Defendant has contributorily infringed and continues to contributorily infringe at least claims 1 and 5 of the '262 patent by selling and/or offering to sell the Accused Product, whose infringing features are not a staple article of commerce and when used by a third-party, such as a customer, can only be used in a way that infringes the '262 patent. Defendant has done this with knowledge of the '262 patent and knowledge that the Accused Product constitutes a material part of the invention claimed in the '262 patent. Defendant engaged or will have engaged in such contributory infringement having knowledge of the '262 patent. As a direct and proximate result

of Defendant's contributory infringement of the '262 patent, Plaintiff has been and continues to be damaged.

26. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Meraloc and is thus liable for infringement of the '262 patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

27. Defendant has committed these acts of infringement without license or authorization.

28. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '262 patent, Meraloc has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a monetary judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's past infringement, together with interests and costs.

29. Meraloc will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court. As such, Meraloc is entitled to compensation for any continuing and/or future infringement up until the date that Defendant is finally and permanently enjoined from further infringement.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

30. Meraloc demands a trial by jury of any and all causes of action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Meraloc prays for the following relief:

1. That Defendant be adjudged to have infringed the '262 patent, directly and/or indirectly, by way of inducement and/or contributory infringement, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents;

2. That Defendant, its officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, affiliates, divisions, branches, parents, and those persons in active concert or participation with

any of them, be permanently restrained and enjoined from directly and/or indirectly infringing the '262 patent;

3. An award of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §284 sufficient to compensate Meraloc for the Defendant's past infringement and any continuing or future infringement up until the date that Defendant is finally and permanently enjoined from further infringement, including compensatory damages;

4. An assessment of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs against Defendant, together with an award of such interest and costs, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §284;

5. That Defendant be directed to pay enhanced damages, including Meraloc's attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this lawsuit pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285; and

6. That Meraloc have such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: January 29, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/Eugenio J. Torres-Oyola

Eugenio J. Torres-Oyola

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