IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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ALIMED, INC.

Plaintiff,

VS.

DIXIE USA, INC.

Defendant.

Civil Action No.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF PATENT INVALIDITY, UNENFORCEABILITY, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, AliMed, Inc. ("AliMed"), alleges:

- 1. AliMed is a Massachusetts corporation having a principal place of business at 297 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026.
- 2. On information and belief, defendant, Dixie USA, Inc.("Dixie"), is a corporation having a principle place of business at 7888 Amelia Road, Houston, Texas 77855 and transacts and does business in this district.
- 3. On information and belief, Dixie is the owner of United States Design Patent No. Des. 329,216 ('216 patent) entitled "Patient Mover or Backboard," issued September 8, 1992, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 4. This is an action for declaratory judgment under 28 U.S.C. §2201(a) and §2202 that products sold by AliMed do not infringe the '216 patent and that the '216 patent is invalid.

and unenforcable. The Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1338 (a). The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 (seventy five thousand dollars).

- 5. On February 29, 2000, Dixie, through its attorneys, sent a letter to AliMed at Dedham Massachusetts that charged AliMed with infringement of the '216 patent by sale of certain "patient shifters." Specifically, Dixie charged AliMed "patient shifters" having serial numbers #MC9-182, #MC9-076, #MC9-719, and #MC9-077 (referred to in an AliMed catalogue, see Exhibit B), which "patient shifters" have substantially the same appearance as "patient shifters" sold by AliMed at least as early as 1987, of infringing the '216 patent. As a result, an actual controversy exists between the parties with respect to the validity, enforceability and infringement of the '216 patent.
 - 6. AliMed denies that any of its products infringe any valid claim of the '216 patent.
- 7. AliMed alleges that the '216 patent is invalid as not being proper subject matter for a design patent at least because the '216 patent is functional at any possible point of novelty.
- 8. AliMed alleges that the '216 patent is invalid for failure to meet the conditions of patentability of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 at least because the alleged invention is anticipated by, taught by, suggested by, and/or obvious in view of, the prior art.
- 9. On information and belief, AliMed further alleges that the '216 patent is invalid and/or unenforceable because Dixie committed inequitable conduct in procuring the '216 patent by failing to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) material information related to Dixie's own, and others, prior commercialization, patents, sales, and use 441936.1

of the patented product more than one year before the filing date of the '216 patent application, and such information was withheld with an intent to deceive the PTO. Dixie itself sold substantially the same "patient shifters" as covered by the '216 patent more than one year before the filing of the '216 patent.

- damages, or any other relief due to laches because Dixie's delay in bringing suit on the '216 patent was unreasonable and inexcusable and AliMed will suffer material prejudice attributable to the delay. AliMed relied on a settlement with Dixie in 1993 of intellectual property rights violations alleged by Dixie against Alimed resulting in AliMed changing its marketing position but retaining rights to make "patient shifters" substantially as referred to in Paragraph 5 hereof. Laches attaches in this instance because Dixie knew or should have known of AliMed's allegedly infringing activity no later than July 1, 1993, at which time Dixie accused AliMed of infringing it's intellectual property rights.
- 11. AliMed repeats the allegations of Paragraph 10 and further alleges that Dixie is barred by the principle of equitable estoppel from enforcing the '216 patent because Dixie's prior statements and conduct more than six years ago and thereafter, on information and belief intentionally misled AliMed into reasonably believing that Dixie did not intend to ever enforce the '216 patent against AliMed "patient shifters" of the type referred to in Paragraph 5. AliMed relied on Dixie's statements or conduct beginning in at least 1993 and thereafter. Due to its reliance, AliMed will be materially prejudiced if Dixie is allowed to proceed with its claim.

-4-

12. As a result of the conduct described in the foregoing Paragraphs 5-11, Dixie has misused the '216 patent and is barred from asserting the '216 patent, which Dixie knew or should have known is invalid and/or unenforceable, under the doctrine of patent misuse.

EXCEPTIONAL CASE

13. AliMed is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that this is an exceptional case warranting an award of attorneys fees to it under 35 U.S.C. §285.

WHEREFORE, AliMed prays:

- A. For entry of judgment that AliMed does not infringe the '216 patent:
- B. For entry of judgment that the '216 patent is invalid;
- C. For entry of judgment that the '216 is invalid and unenforceable because of Dixie's inequitable conduct in procuring the '216 patent;
- D. For entry of judgment that Dixie is barred by the doctrine of patent misuse from asserting the invalid or unenforceable '216 patent;
- E. For entry of judgment that Dixie is barred by laches from recovering past damages, past profits other relief;
- F. For entry of judgment that Dixie is barred by equitable estoppel from enforcing the '216 patent against AliMed or recovering damages, profits or other relief;

- G. For entry of judgment awarding AliMed its attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285 and/or the general power of the court; and
- H. For entry of judgment granting AliMed costs and such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.

Dated: 3nal 14,2000

AliMed, Inc.

Stanley Sacks, BHO No. 437,480

Matthew B. Lowrie, BBO No. 563,414

M. Brad Lawrence, BBO No. 641,400

WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.

600 Atlantic Avenue

Federal Reserve Plaza

Boston, MA 02210

Tel.: (617) 720-3500

US00D329216S

United States Patent [19]

Beeley et al.

[11] Patent Number: Des. 329,216

45] Date of Patent: ** Sep. 8, 1992

[54]	PATIENT	MOVER OR BACKBOARD
[75]	Inventors:	Robert A. Beeley; Brenda K. Oswalt, both of Tomball, Tex.
[73]	Assignee:	Dixie U.S.A., Inc., Houston, Tex.
[**]	Term:	14 Years
[21]	Appl. No.:	609,667
[22] [52] [58]	U.S. Cl	Nov. 5, 1990
[56]		References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,283,068 8/1981 Keyser 5/82 R

4,369,982 1/1983 Hein et al. 5/82 R

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

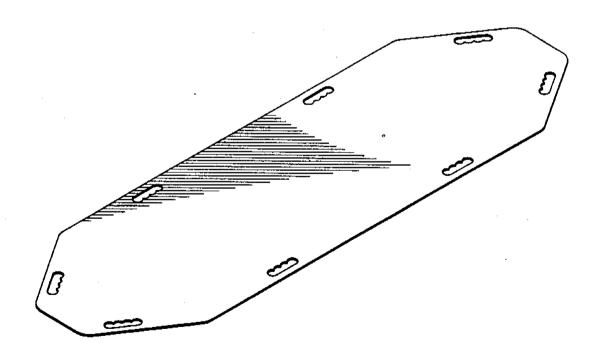
2212401 7/1989 United Kingdom 5/82 R Primary Examiner—Kay H. Chin Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Fay E. Morisseau, II; Leslie Clark

[57] CLAII

The ornamental design for a patient mover or backboard, as shown and described.

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of a patient mover or backboard showing our new design;
FIG. 2 is a top plan view thereof, the bottom plan view being a mirror image of that shown;
FIG. 3 is a front elevational view thereof, the rear elevational view being a mirror image of that shown; and, FIG. 4 is a side elevational view thereof, the opposite side elevational view being a mirror image of that shown.

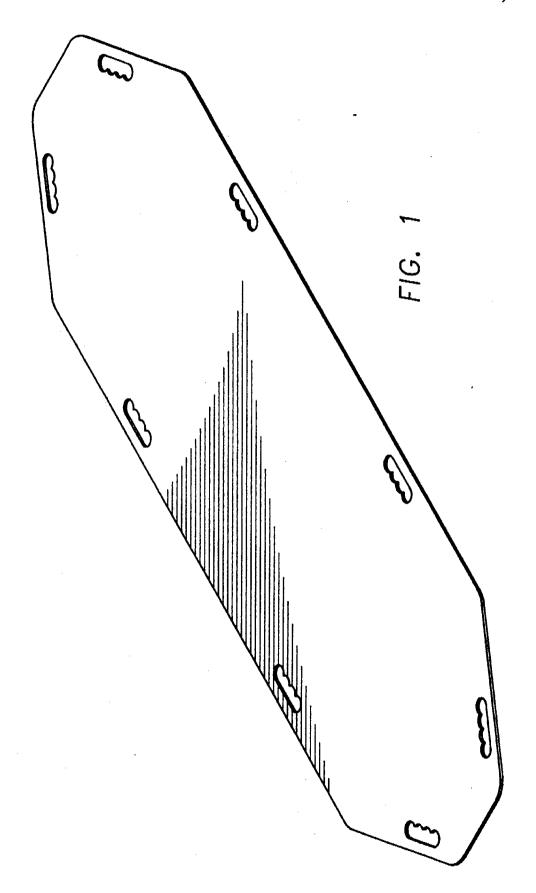


U.S. Patent

Sep. 8, 1992

Sheet 1 of 2

Des. 329,216



U.S. Patent

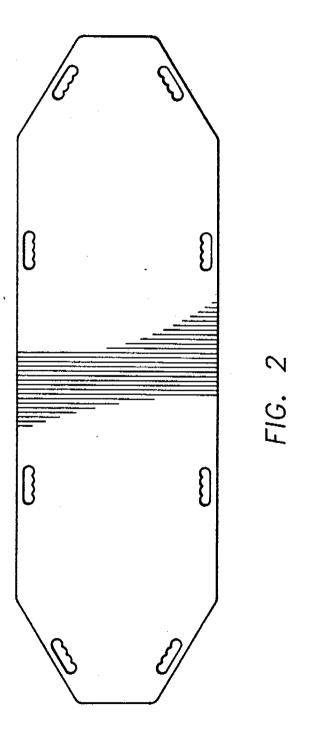
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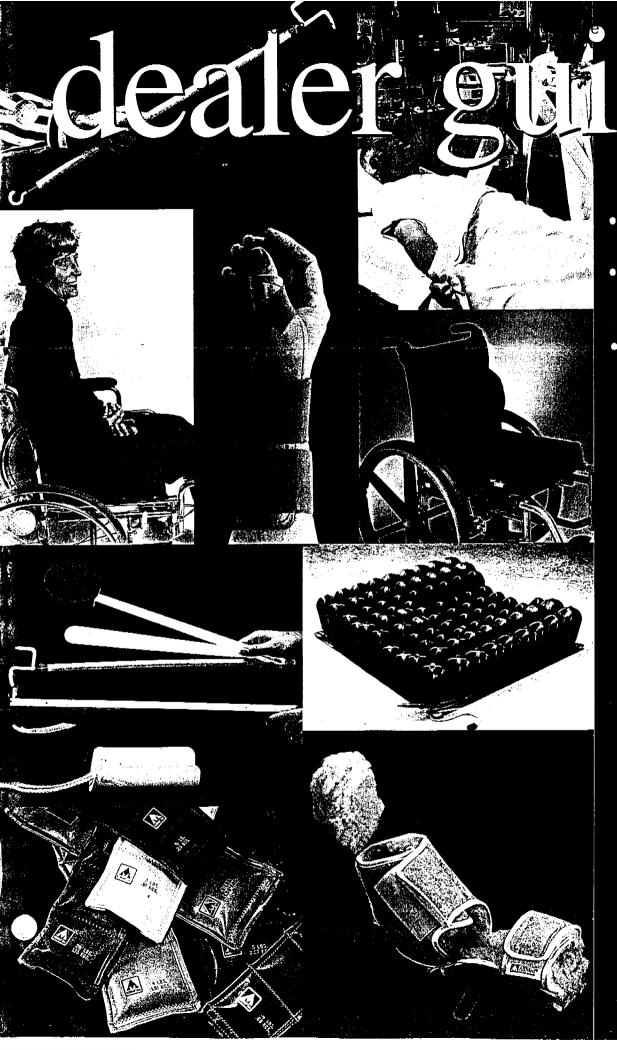
Sheet 2 of 2

Des. 329,216

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	50-99.99	9.85	24.50
]	100-149.99	11.35	28.25
	150-199.99	12.35	30.75
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Order Department 297 High St., Dedham, MA 02026-9135

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- CHARGE IT

By phone, fax or mail. Please see our new Shipping Rate Table for exact charges.

QUESTION OR RETURN?

See inside front cover for AliMed ordering information. Customer Service, ext. 6901

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Compa	ny Name _	· .			c	ust. #	
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BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE

> PAID AliMed® inc.

These cost less!▶

- · Lightweight
- Radiolucent
- · Artifact free
- Slip coating ensures easy slide
- Antistatic treated

Standard Antistat Shifter

slides easily on a bed sheet or stretcher pad, thanks to the near friction-free surface. Special

slip coating prevents the patient from sticking to the mover during transfers and results in less static buildup. No more wrenching pulls. No more back strains.

Thin, 3/16" thick, warp resistant, smooth polyethylene board has convenient hand holes for positioning. Uneven transfers are a breeze-the semirigid board bridges uneven gaps.

Radiolucent and artifact-free, the shifter can be left in place during X-ray procedures and minor surgery.

Choose 22"W Standard Width for shifting patients from bed to stretcher to table. 9 lbs.

Choose 18"W Narrow Width for close quarters. 73/4 lbs.



This can't shock!

- Simply cannot build charge
- Radiolucent
- Artifact free
- Can't affect delicate electronics

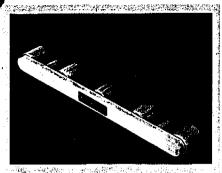
Conductive Shifters

Surprise zaps aren't just painful and dangerous for patientsthey can jeopardize and down

expensive electronic equipment.

Conductive Shifter is made from carbonfilled plastic, which actually conducts electricity. It's not simply treated with an antistat product to reduce static. Static charges can't build up on a conductive surface, so there are no more painful shocks... ever...GUARANTEED!

Try AliMed's Conductive Shifter. We're sure you will be happy with it at all times. If not, just call us. We'll pick it up and refund you 100% of the purchase price. Or, if you simply feel it is no better than a standard shifter, call us and we will refund you the difference in cost and you can keep the conductive shifter. (Not a single customer has asked for either refund. We're confident in your complete satisfaction!)



Rollers transfer patients

- 1 Tilt patient
- 7 Slip roller under





7 Transfer patient

⚠ Remove roller





- Greatly reduces the risk of back injuries in hospital personnel
- Ball bearing rollers
- Durable covers

Patient Transfer Device lets one or two persons effortlessly move a dependent patient from one surface to another, even up a height of 3" (from a bed to an uneven stretcher), without lifting, pulling or disrupting sheeting. Long-lasting and troublefree aluminum rollers with steel ball bearings and a heavy-duty cover. Clean with soap and water or disinfectant.

#MC9-254 Sh., 25"L x 14"W, 5.8 lbs. Med., 30"L x 14"W, 6.3 lbs. #MC9-729 Lg., 67"L x 14"W, 13 lbs. #MC9-728

Replacement Covers fit every roller on the market (except Spenco).

#MC9-209 Short for #9-254, 25" x 15" #MC9-478 Medium for #9-729, 30" x 15" #MC9-477 Long for #9-728, 67" x 15"

Patient Transfer Device Rack

fits all models. Twopiece set screws into wall. Top bracket: 7"L x 1%" thick. Bottom bracket: 91/4"L x 13/4" thick.



AG_E

#MC9-721 Transfer Device Rack



Patients glide during transfer lightweight shifter slips easily under patient

You decide which shifter is best for you!

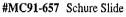
#MC9-182	Description Conductive	Color Black	Width 22"	Length
#MC9-076	Standard Antistat	Aqua	22"	72"
#MC9-719	Standard Antistat	White	22"	72"
#MC9-077	Narrow Antistat	Agua	18"	72"

Sheet transfers...sitting or supine

Sheet Transfer System transfers patients in any position-even upright, with an epidural catheter or spinal anesthetic.

- Smooth and flexible-makes clean and soiled sheet transfers effortless
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Hang a dedicated slide in every room with the convenient adhesive hook. No tools required. Latex free. White. Radiolucent. Stain resistant. Cleans with hospital-approved disinfectant.



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over slide.

Remove slide. lower patient,

JS 44 (Rev. 11/95)

_ AMOUNT _

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by large triple of the united States in September 1974, is required for the use

of the Clerk of Court for the I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ALIMED, INC	purpose of initiating the o	civil docket sheet. (s	SEE INS	DEFENDANTS DIXIE USA, IN	/ERSE OF THE FORM.)	oe, 1974, is required for the disc
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(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, STANLEY SACI WOLF, GREENI 600 Atlantic Ave Boston, Massach	KS (Bar # 437,480 FIELD & SACKS, P. nue)) (617) 720-3	3500	PATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)	0482	NG &
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION This is an action infringe U.S. Pate	DO NOT CITE JURISDIC for declaratory jud	etional statutes un Ement under 2	ILESS DIV 28 U.S		2202 that product	s sold by AliMed do not
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		S A CLASS ACT		DEMAND \$		only if demanded in complaint:
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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

TITLE	OF CASE	(NAME OF FIRST PARTY ON EACH SIDE ONLY) <u>ALIMED, INC. v. DIXIE USA, INC.</u>
		WHICH THE CASE BELONGS BASED UPON THE NUMBERED NATURE OF SUIT CODE LISTED ON THE SEET. (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(A)(1)).
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_	111.	110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
_	IV.	220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
	V.	150, 152, 153.
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(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)
ATTORNEY'S NAME__STANLEY SACKS
ADDRESS WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C. 600 ATLANTIC AVENUE, BOSTON, MA 02210
TELEPHONE NO.__617-720-3500

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OF COUNSEL MICHAEL A. ALBERT WILLIAM G. GOSZ STANLEY SACKS

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LAW CLERKA CHERYL A. CLARKIN

- NOT ADMITTED TO ANY BAR
- REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS
- ADMITTED ONLY IN MICHIGAN
- ADMITTED ONLY IN VIRGINIA
- ***ADMITTED ONLY IN CONNECTICUT

BY HAND

March 14, 2000

00cv10482 NG

Clerks Office United States District Court For the District of Massachusetts U.S. Courthouse One Courthouse Way Boston, MA 02210

Alimed, Inc. v. Dixie USA, Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a complaint to be filed in reference to the above captioned matter. I have included a \$150.00 check to cover the filing fee. Please time and date stamp the copy and return to the courier.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone me at 617-720-3500.

Very truly yours,

Eileen G. Sebestyen

Paralegal