

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

**INNOVATIVE DISPLAY
TECHNOLOGIES LLC,**

Plaintiff,

v.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY,

Defendant.

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C.A. No. _____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Innovative Display Technologies LLC, by and through its undersigned counsel, files this Original Complaint for patent infringement against Defendant Ford Motor Company.

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Innovative Display Technologies LLC (“IDT”) is a Texas limited liability company with a place of business at 2400 Dallas Parkway, Suite 200, Plano, Texas 75093.

2. Defendant Ford Motor Company (“Ford”) is a Delaware corporation having a principal place of business at 1 American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126. Ford makes and sells automobile brands including Ford and Lincoln.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action arises under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 271 *et seq.*

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case for patent infringement under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Ford. Ford is incorporated in the State of Delaware. Additionally, on information and belief, Ford, either directly or through intermediaries, regularly manufactures, imports and sells vehicles, including vehicles with infringing components, intended to be sold and in fact sold into and within this state and this judicial district.

6. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400 (b).

PATENTS IN SUIT

7. U.S. Patent No. 6,755,547 titled “Light Emitting Panel Assemblies” (“the ’547 Patent”) was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on June 29, 2004, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the ’547 Patent. IDT owns the ’547 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the ’547 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

8. U.S. Patent No. 7,300,194 titled “Light Emitting Panel Assemblies” (“the ’194 Patent”) was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on November 27, 2007, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the ’194 Patent. IDT owns the ’194 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the ’194 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

9. U.S. Patent No. 7,384,177 titled “Light Emitting Panel Assemblies” (“the ’177 Patent”) was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on June 10, 2008,

after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the '177 Patent. IDT owns the '177 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the '177 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 3**.

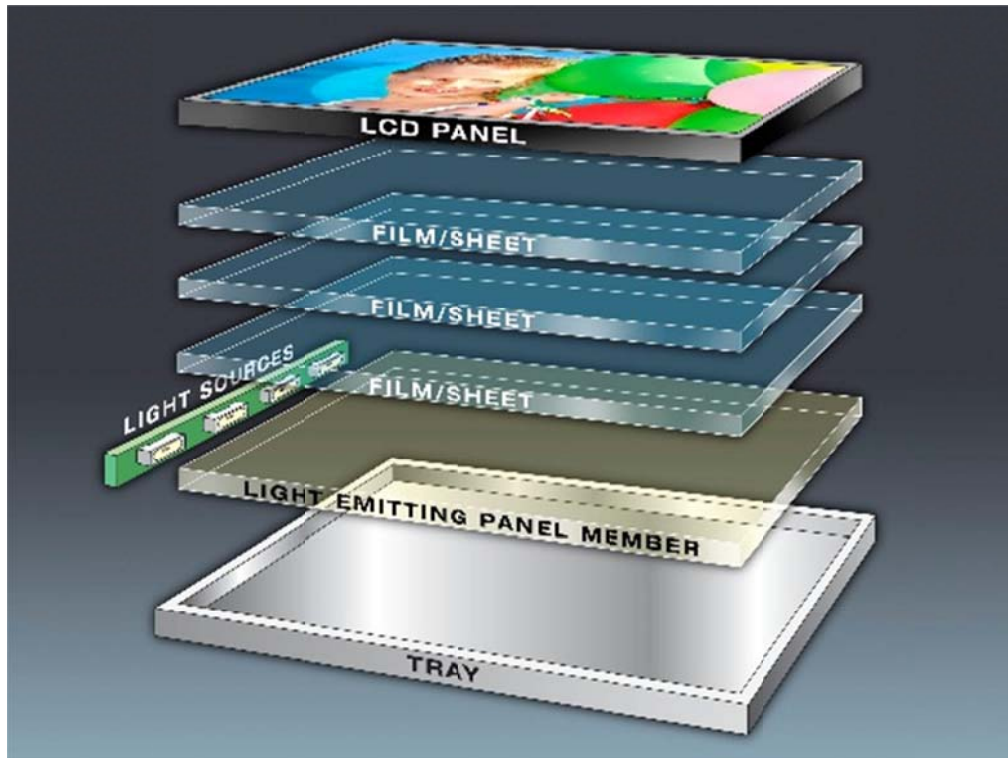
10. U.S. Patent No. 7,404,660 titled "Light Emitting Panel Assemblies" ("the '660 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on July 29, 2008, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the '660 Patent. IDT owns the '660 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the '660 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 4**.

11. U.S. Patent No. 7,434,974 titled "Light Emitting Panel Assemblies" ("the '974 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on October 14, 2008, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the '974 Patent. IDT owns the '974 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the '974 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 5**.

12. U.S. Patent No. 8,215,816 titled "Light Emitting Panel Assemblies" ("the '816 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on July 10, 2012, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R. Parker is the named inventor of the '816 Patent. IDT owns the '816 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the '816 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 6**.

13. The '547, '194, '177, '660, '974 and '816 patents relate to back-lighting assemblies as used in LCD display units. A typical LCD display unit includes a liquid crystal display, behind which is a panel assembly for back-lighting the LCD. Elements of the back-lighting assembly include a light-conducting panel that acts as a light guide; light sources located

around the perimeter of the panel; optical sheets or films placed between the light-conducting panel and the LCD screen; and a tray or housing for the assembly. Light enters the panel from a light source or sources located on the perimeter of the panel. Optical elements within the panel cause the light to be emitted outward from the panel toward and through the LCD screen overlying the panel. For illustration only, a simplified abstract representation is provided below:



14. As further detailed below, the inventions of the '547, '194, '177, '660, '974 and '816 patents are directed to several different light emitting panel assembly configurations which provide for better distribution of the light output from the panel assembly and more efficient utilization of light.

15. U.S. Patent No. 6,886,956 titled "Light Emitting Panel Assemblies for Use in Automotive Applications and the Like" ("the '956 Patent") was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on May 3, 2005, after full and fair examination. Jeffery R.

Parker, Mark D. Miller and Thomas A. Hough are the named inventors of the '956 Patent. IDT owns the '956 Patent and holds the right to sue and recover damages for infringement thereof. A true and correct copy of the '956 Patent is attached as **Exhibit 7**.

16. The '956 Patent relates to light-emitting assemblies used in exterior components of automobiles, such as head lights and tail lights.

17. As further detailed below, the invention of the '956 Patent is directed to a light-emitting assembly that includes a light guide which receives light from an LED at one end. The light guide contains optical elements that cause the light to be directed outward through the side of the light guide in a desired manner, thereby illuminating a portion of the head light or tail light.

COUNT 1: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,755,547

18. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-17 as though fully set forth herein.

19. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '547 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting assembly containing 1) a light emitting member having a light emitting area emitting light that is internally reflected, 2) a transparent sheet or film overlying the light emitting area with an air gap in between, 3) a pattern of deformities on one side of the sheet or film whose width and length are much smaller than the sheet or film. Furthermore, the deformities vary at different locations on the sheet or film to direct light from the light emitting member in different directions to produce a desired light output distribution,

such that the light passes through an LCD with low loss. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

20. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '547 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '547 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

21. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '547 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

22. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '547 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

23. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '547 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court

24. DT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '547 Patent.

COUNT 2: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,300,194

25. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-24 as though fully set forth herein.

26. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '194 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting assembly containing 1) a light emitting panel member with a light emitting surface, 2) a light source, 3) a film, sheet, plate or substrate near the light emitting surface through which light from the panel member is emitted, and 4) an air gap between the light emitting panel member and the film, sheet, plate or substrate. Furthermore, the film, sheet, plate or substrate has a reflective or refractive surface with well-defined optical elements or deformities for controlling the emitted light so that some of the light is redirected to pass through an LCD with low loss. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

27. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '194 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '194 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

28. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '194 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

29. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '194 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

30. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '194 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

31. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '194 Patent.

COUNT 3: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,384,177

32. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-31 as though fully set forth herein.

33. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '177 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting assembly containing 1) a tray with a back wall and side walls surrounding a recess formed by the back and side walls, 2) a light source in the recess, and 3) an overlying sheet, film or substrate for controlling the light emitted from the assembly to fit a particular application such as illuminating an LCD. Furthermore, the tray acts as a back, side edge or end edge reflector and has a secondary flat, angled, faceted or curved reflective or refractive surface to redirect some of the light from the light source in a predetermined manner within the recess. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

34. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '177 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things

making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '177 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

35. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '177 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

36. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '177 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

37. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '177 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

38. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '177 Patent.

COUNT 4: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,404,660

39. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-38 as though fully set forth herein.

40. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '660 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting panel assembly containing 1) a planar optical conductor with an input edge that has a cross-sectional width greater than its thickness, and 2) light sources configured to generate a light output distribution greater in width than height and

positioned adjacent to the input edge to direct light into the optical conductor. Furthermore, the optical conductor has an output region, a pattern of deformities to cause light to be emitted from the output region, and a transition region between the light source and the output region. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

41. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '660 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '660 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

42. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '660 Patent and written notice of the infringement

43. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '660 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

44. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '660 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

45. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '660 Patent.

COUNT 5: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,434,974

46. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-45 as though fully set forth herein.

47. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '974 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting panel assembly containing 1) a light emitting panel member with a light entrance surface and a light emitting surface, 2) an LED light source near or against the light entrance surface, 3) a tray or housing with a recess containing the panel member, 4) a pattern of light extracting deformities on or in a surface of the panel member to cause light to be emitted from the panel member's light emitting surface, and 5) end walls and side walls of the tray that act as end edge reflectors and side edge reflectors to reflect light that would otherwise exit the panel member back into the panel member, to cause additional light to be emitted from the light emitting surface. Furthermore, the tray or housing has posts, tabs or other components that provide a mount or structural support for another component, and also provides structural support to the panel member. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

48. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '974 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '974 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

49. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '974 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

50. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '974 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

51. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '974 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

52. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '974 Patent.

COUNT 6: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,215,816

53. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-52 as though fully set forth herein.

54. On information and belief, LCD navigation display units found in Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '816 Patent. In particular, infringing Ford LCD navigation display units include a light emitting assembly containing (1) a light source, (2) a light emitting panel member with an input edge for receiving light from the light source and a light emitting surface, (3) a tray or housing with a recess containing the panel member, (4) end edge and side edge reflectors, and (5) an additional component overlying the panel member. Furthermore, the panel member has a pattern of light extracting deformities that cause light to be emitted from the light emitting surface. The panel member further has a greater width than

height, and the input edge of the panel member has a refractive surface that redirects light from the light source more in the width direction than in the height direction as the light enters the panel member. These infringing display units include, for example, the DS7Z-10D885-FA navigation system display found in various model years of the Ford Fusion Hybrid, and similar LCD display units.

55. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '816 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '816 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

56. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '816 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

57. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '816 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

58. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '816 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

59. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '816 Patent.

COUNT 7: Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,886,956

60. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of paragraphs 1-66 as though fully set forth herein.

61. On information and belief, tail lights found in certain Ford automobiles practice one or more claims of the '956 Patent. The infringing Ford tail lights include a light emitting assembly for vehicle illumination containing 1) a light guide having opposite sides and a light input surface along one edge, 2) a light emitting diode along the light input surface, 3) light extracting deformities on at least one side of the light guide, and 4) a transparent substrate overlying one side of the light guide and providing an exterior portion of the vehicle. Furthermore, the deformities have shapes for controlling the output distribution of emitted light to suit a particular application, such as illuminating a portion of the tail light. These infringing tail lights include, for example, the DE9Z-13A565A center liftgate tail light assembly found in various model years of the Lincoln MKS, and similar tail light assemblies.

62. Ford has been and is now directly infringing the '956 Patent in the State of Delaware, in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things making, using, offering for sale and selling Ford automobiles containing navigation display units that infringe the '956 Patent, including at least the aforementioned models. Ford is liable for such infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

63. At least as early as its receipt of this Original Complaint, Ford has had knowledge of the '956 Patent and written notice of the infringement.

64. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '956 Patent, Ford has damaged IDT. Ford is liable to IDT in an amount to be determined at trial that adequately compensates IDT for the infringement, which by law can be no less than a reasonable royalty.

65. As a result of Ford's infringement of the '956 Patent, IDT has suffered and will continue to suffer loss and injury unless Ford is enjoined by this Court.

66. IDT is not presently asserting willful infringement; however, IDT intends to seek discovery on the issue of willfulness and reserves the right to seek amendment of its complaint and a finding of willfulness relative to pre-suit and/or post-suit infringement of the '956 Patent.

JURY DEMAND

67. IDT hereby requests a trial by jury pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

68. IDT respectfully requests that the Court find in its favor and against Ford, and that the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief:

- A. A judgment that Ford has infringed the patents-in-suit as alleged herein;
- B. A judgment for an accounting of all damages sustained by IDT as a result of the acts of infringement by Ford;
- C. A judgment and order requiring Ford to pay IDT damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284, including interest (both pre-judgment and post-judgment), costs and disbursements as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- D. A permanent injunction enjoining Ford and its officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, branches, subsidiaries, parents and all others

acting in concert or privity with them from infringement of the patents-in-suit pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283; and

E. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: June 30, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

FARNAN LLP

/s/ Brian E. Farnan

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