

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

SHIPPING and TRANSIT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

Case No. _____

vs.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

AUTOZONE SOUTHEAST, LP, a/k/a
AUTOZONE.COM, INC.,

Defendant.

_____ /

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, Shipping and Transit, LLC, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendant, AUTOZONE SOUTHEAST, LP a/k/a AUTOZONE.COM, INC. (“AUTO”), and in support, alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE LAWSUIT

1. This is an action for patent infringement of United States Patent Numbers: 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 arising under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331; 28 U.S.C. § 1338; and 35 U.S.C. § 271.

3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over AUTO pursuant to, *inter alia*, Florida’s long-arm statute, § 48.193, in that AUTO: (a) operates, conducts, engages in, and/or carries on a business or business adventure(s) in Florida and/or has an office or agency in Florida; (b) has committed one or more tortious acts within Florida; (c) was and/or is engaged in substantial and not isolated activity within Florida; and/or (d) has purposely availed itself of Florida’s laws,

services and/or other benefits and therefore should reasonably anticipate being hailed into one or more of the courts within the State of Florida.

4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 and 28 U.S.C. § 1400.

THE PLAINTIFF

5. Plaintiff, Shipping and Transit, LLC, is a Florida Limited Liability Company with a principal place of business located in Boynton Beach, Florida.

THE DEFENDANT

6. Defendant, AUTO, is a Nevada Corporation with a principal place of business in Memphis, Tennessee. AUTO has locations all throughout Florida. AUTO has stores, offices and goods for sale all throughout the State including many specifically within this Judicial District, including for example in Delray Beach, Pompano Beach, West Palm Beach, Margate and Coral Springs to name just a few. It has a Registered Agent located in Plantation, Florida, and has, as is readily apparent, at a minimum, offered to provide and/or has provided to customers specifically within this Judicial District and throughout the State of Florida services and/or products that infringe claims of the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359.

THE PLAINTIFF'S PATENTS

7. Plaintiff owns all rights, titles and interests in, and/or has standing to sue for infringement of United States Patent Number 7,030,781 ("the '781 patent"), entitled "Notification System and Method that Informs a Party of Vehicle Delay", issued April 18, 2006. A copy of the '781 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

8. The '781 patent referenced in Paragraph 7 above was the subject of an Ex Parte Reexamination at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A Re-Examination Certificate was issued on July 2, 2013 and is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

9. Plaintiff owns all rights, titles and interests in, and/or has standing to sue for infringement of United States Patent Number 6,975,998 (“the ‘998 patent”), entitled “Package Delivery Notification System and Method”, issued December 13, 2005. A copy of the ‘998 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

10. Plaintiff owns all rights, titles and interests in, and/or has standing to sue for infringement of United States Patent Number 7,400,970 (“the ‘970 patent”), entitled “System and Method for an Advance Notification System for Monitoring and Reporting Proximity of a Vehicle”, issued July 15, 2008. A copy of the ‘970 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

11. Plaintiff owns all rights, titles and interests in, and/or has standing to sue for infringement of United States Patent Number 6,904,359 (“the ‘359 patent”), entitled “Notification System and Methods with User-Defineable Notifications Based Upon Occurrence of Events”, issued June 7, 2005. A copy of the ‘359 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

12. The ‘359 patent referenced in Paragraph 11 above was the subject of an Inter Partes Reexamination at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A Reexamination Certificate was issued on May 25, 2010 and is attached hereto as Exhibit 6.

COUNT I
DIRECT PATENT INFRINGEMENT

13. Plaintiff hereby incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 12 set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

14. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), AUTO has directly infringed claims of the ‘7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents through, among other activities, products, programs, applications, functions, systems and methods, the use of tracking and notification technologies within its **“ADVANCE SHIP NOTICE”** (“When your order is ready for pickup, you'll receive an e-mail notification.” www.autozone.com) and **“SHIPPING CONFIRMATION EMAIL”** (“To

check your order status, enter your e-mail address and order number and click Submit" www.autozone.com) services that are protected within the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents, as every claim limitation, or its equivalent, is found in these functions, applications, solutions, devices, programs, products, services, methods and/or systems.

15. Furthermore, Plaintiff would argue that a means plus function claim is present. By way of example, claim 10 of the 998' Patent, "a system for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising: means for receiving a plurality of packages; means for assigning each of said packages to a vehicle; means for determining an order that said vehicle is to deliver said packages; means for determining, based on said order, a first time period that said vehicle is expected to deliver one of said packages to a recipient; means for causing a notification message to be transmitted to said recipient, said notification message indicating said first time period; means for simultaneously transporting each of said packages via said vehicle; and means for transporting said one package to a premises of said recipient via said vehicle."

16. AUTO'S direct infringement has injured and will continue to injure Plaintiff unless and until a monetary judgment is entered in favor of Plaintiff and/or the Court enters an injunction prohibiting further infringement and, specifically, enjoining further use of methods and systems that come within the scope of the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests this Court to enter judgment against AUTO and its subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees and all persons in active concert or participation with AUTO, granting the following relief:

A. An award of damages against AUTO adequate to compensate Plaintiff for the infringement that has occurred with respect to AUTO, together with prejudgment interest from the date that AUTO'S infringement of the patents at issue began;

B. Increased damages as permitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

C. A finding that this case is exceptional and award to Plaintiff its attorney's fees and costs as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 285;

D. A permanent injunction against AUTO prohibiting further infringement of the patents at issue; and,

E. All other relief as the Court or a jury may deem proper and just in this instance.

COUNT II
INDIRECT PATENT INFRINGEMENT

17. Plaintiff hereby incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 12 set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

18. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 271(b) and (c), AUTO has indirectly infringed claims of the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents through, among other activities, products, programs, applications, functions, systems and methods, the use of tracking and notification technologies within its **"ADVANCE SHIP NOTICE"** ("When your order is ready for pickup, you'll receive an e-mail notification." www.autozone.com) and **"SHIPPING CONFIRMATION EMAIL"** ("To check your order status, enter your e-mail address and order number and click Submit" www.autozone.com) services that are protected within the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents, as AUTO actively and intentionally induced infringement with knowledge that the induced acts constituted infringement, or acted with willful blindness; and/or contributed to infringement by one or more third parties as AUTO had knowledge, rather than intent, that its activity caused such infringement.

19. Furthermore, Plaintiff would argue that a means plus function claim is present. By way of example, claim 10 of the 998' Patent, "a system for reporting impending vehicle deliveries, comprising: means for receiving a plurality of packages; means for assigning each of said packages to a vehicle; means for determining an order that said vehicle is to deliver said packages; means for determining, based on said order, a first time period that said vehicle is expected to deliver one of said packages to a recipient; means for causing a notification message to be transmitted to said recipient, said notification message indicating said first time period; means for simultaneously transporting each of said packages via said vehicle; and means for transporting said one package to a premises of said recipient via said vehicle."

20. AUTO'S contributory infringement and/or inducement to infringe has injured and will continue to injure Plaintiff unless and until a monetary judgment is entered in favor of Plaintiff and/or the Court enters an injunction prohibiting further infringement and, specifically, enjoining further use of methods and systems that come within the scope of the 7,030,781, 6,975,998, 7,400,970 and 6,904,359 patents.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests this Court to enter judgment against AUTO and its subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees and all persons in active concert or participation with AUTO, granting the following relief:

A. An award of damages against AUTO adequate to compensate Plaintiff for the infringement that has occurred with respect to AUTO, together with prejudgment interest from the date that AUTO'S infringement of the patents at issue began;

B. Increased damages as permitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

C. A finding that this case is exceptional and award to Plaintiff its attorney's fees and costs as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 285;

D. A permanent injunction against AUTO prohibiting further infringement of the patents at issue; and,

E. All other relief as the Court or a jury may deem proper and just in this instance.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: May 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jason P. Dollard
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