

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

VITE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

Plaintiff,

v.

SMITH & NEPHEW, INC.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 14-1507 (SLR)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Vite Technologies, LLC (“VT”), by way of this First Amended Complaint for Patent Infringement (“First Amended Complaint”) against the above-named Defendant Smith & Nephew, Inc. (“Smith & Nephew” or “Defendant”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff VT is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with a place of business at 1013 Centre Road, Suite 403S, Wilmington, Delaware, 19805.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Smith & Nephew, Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at 1450 E. Brooks Road, Memphis, Tennessee, 38116, with a registered agent for service of process at The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware, 19801.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

5. On information and belief, Defendant is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court by virtue of the fact that it is organized under the laws of the State of Delaware.

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

THE PATENT-IN-SUIT

7. On November 18, 2003, United States Patent No. 6,648,892 (the “’892 Patent”), entitled “SOFT TISSUE SECURING ANCHOR,” was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A true and correct copy of the ’892 Patent is attached as Exhibit A to this First Amended Complaint.

8. VT is the assignee and owner of the right, title and interest in and to the ’892 Patent, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under said patent and the right to any remedies for infringement of it.

9. On January 2, 2001, United States Patent No. 6,168,598 (the “’598 Patent”), entitled “SOFT TISSUE SECURING ANCHOR,” was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A true and correct copy of the ’598 Patent is attached as Exhibit A to this First Amended Complaint.

10. VT is the assignee and owner of the right, title and interest in and to the ’598 Patent, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under said patent and the right to any remedies for infringement of it.

11. The ’598 Patent and the ’892 Patent are referred to collectively herein as the “Patents-in-Suit.”

COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,648,892

12. The allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 8 are hereby realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

13. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), Smith & Nephew has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe, both literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, the '892 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and importing products (the "Accused Instrumentalities") that practice the subject matter claimed in one or more claims of the '892 Patent, including but not limited to claim 24, in the United States, without the authority of VT. The Accused Instrumentalities include, but are not limited to the Smith & Nephew Titanium TWINFIX with Ultrabraid.

14. On or around February 18, 2010, Donald Haut, Senior Vice President at Smith & Nephew received a number of patent descriptions from Dr. Jeannette Martello's attorney. On information and belief, the communication from Dr. Martello's attorney included a description of the '892 Patent.

15. On or around December 2, 2010, counsel for Dr. Jeannette Martello sent a letter to counsel for Smith & Nephew listing the '892 Patent. The letter stated: "One claim that may be of considerable interest to Smith & Nephew is claim 24 of the '892 patent."

16. Smith & Nephew has had actual knowledge of the '892 Patent and its infringement of the '892 Patent since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter.

17. On information and belief, therefore, Smith & Nephew's infringement of the '892 Patent is willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284 and attorneys' fees and non-taxable costs under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

18. Smith & Nephew is also inducing infringement of the '892 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter, by actively aiding and

abetting others (including its direct and indirect customers) whose sale, offer for sale, importation, and use of the Accused Instrumentalities constitutes direct infringement. Smith & Nephew has engaged in these actions with either the specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the infringement that it is causing. For example, Smith & Nephew's actions that actively induce its customers to directly infringe at least claim 24 of the '892 Patent include advertising and selling the Accused Instrumentalities, providing user manuals regarding use of the Accused Instrumentalities, and providing technical support regarding the use of the Accused Instrumentalities, where the use of the Accused Instrumentalities during normal operation by Smith & Nephew's customers infringe at least claim 24 of the '892 Patent. For instance, Smith & Nephew's website <http://www.smith-nephew.com/professional/products/all-products/twinfix/> advertises that: "TWINFIX Ti Suture Anchors provide secure fixation with a wide range of sizes to match various applications and bone qualities. Anchor cores are matched to the drill size to facilitate insertion while maximizing fixation strength." This same webpage contains a link to Smith & Nephew's surgeon education website.

19. Smith & Nephew is also committing contributory infringement of the '892 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter by importing and selling the Accused Instrumentalities to others, including but not limited to its customers, knowing and/or being willfully blind to the fact that these products constitute a material part of the invention, were especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '892 Patent, and have no substantial non-infringing uses. For example, the Accused Instrumentalities constitute a material part of the claimed invention at least because they contain all of the components of the surgical screw anchor as claimed in claim 24 of the '892 Patent.

The Accused Instrumentalities were made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '892 Patent and have no substantial non-infringing uses.

20. VT has been harmed by Smith & Nephew's infringing activities.

COUNT II – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,168,598

21. The allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 19 are hereby realleged and incorporated herein by reference.

22. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a), Smith & Nephew has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe, both literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, the '598 Patent by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and importing products (the "Accused Instrumentalities") that practice the subject matter claimed in one or more claims of the '598 Patent, including but not limited to claims 21, 25-27, 29-30, and 38-39, in the United States, without the authority of VT. The Accused Instrumentalities include, but are not limited to the Smith & Nephew Titanium TWINFIX with Ultrabraid.

23. On or around February 18, 2010, Donald Haut, Senior Vice President at Smith & Nephew received a number of patent descriptions from Dr. Jeannette Martello's attorney. On information and belief, the communication from Dr. Martello's attorney included a description of the '598 Patent.

24. On or around December 2, 2010, counsel for Dr. Jeannette Martello sent a letter to counsel for Smith & Nephew listing the '598 Patent.

25. Smith & Nephew has had actual knowledge of the '598 Patent and its infringement of the '598 Patent since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter.

26. On information and belief, therefore, Smith & Nephew's infringement of the '598 Patent is willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284 and attorneys' fees and non-taxable costs under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

27. Smith & Nephew is also inducing infringement of the '598 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter, by actively aiding and abetting others (including its direct and indirect customers) whose sale, offer for sale, importation, and use of the Accused Instrumentalities constitutes direct infringement. Smith & Nephew has engaged in these actions with either the specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the infringement that it is causing. For example, Smith & Nephew's actions that actively induce its customers to directly infringe at least claims 21, 25-27, 29-30, and 38-39 of the '598 Patent include advertising and selling the Accused Instrumentalities, providing user manuals regarding use of the Accused Instrumentalities, and providing technical support regarding the use of the Accused Instrumentalities, where the use of the Accused Instrumentalities during normal operation by Smith & Nephew's customers infringe at least claims 21, 25-27, 29-30, and 38-39 of the '598 Patent. For instance, Smith & Nephew's website <http://www.smith-nephew.com/professional/products/all-products/twinfix/> advertises that: "TWINFIX Ti Suture Anchors provide secure fixation with a wide range of sizes to match various applications and bone qualities. Anchor cores are matched to the drill size to facilitate insertion while maximizing fixation strength." This same webpage contains a link to Smith & Nephew's surgeon education website.

28. Smith & Nephew is also committing contributory infringement of the '598 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) since at least receipt of the December 2, 2010 letter by importing and selling the Accused Instrumentalities to others, including but not limited to its customers, knowing and/or being willfully blind to the fact that these products constitute a material part of the invention, were especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '598 Patent, and have no substantial non-infringing uses. For example, the Accused

Instrumentalities constitute a material part of the claimed invention at least because they contain all of the components of the surgical screw anchor as claimed in claims 21, 25-27, 29-30, and 38-39 of the '598 Patent. The Accused Instrumentalities were made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '598 Patent and have no substantial non-infringing uses.

29. VT has been harmed by Smith & Nephew's infringing activities.

JURY DEMAND

VT demands a jury trial on all issues and claims so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, VT prays for judgment as follows:

- a. An adjudication that Smith & Nephew has infringed the Patents-in-Suit;
- b. An award of damages to be paid by Smith & Nephew adequate to compensate VT for past infringement of the Patents-in-Suit, and any continuing or future infringement through the date such judgment is entered, including prejudgment and post-judgment interest, costs, expenses and an accounting of all infringing acts including but not limited to those acts not presented at trial;
- c. An order that Smith & Nephew pay an ongoing royalty in an amount to be determined for any continued infringement after the date judgment is entered;
- d. An award of treble damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- e. A declaration finding this to be an exceptional case, and awarding VT attorney fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
- f. Such further relief at law and in equity as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: July 10, 2015

STAMOULIS & WEINBLATT LLC

/s/ Stamatios Stamoulis

Stamatios Stamoulis #4606

stamoulis@swdelaw.com

Richard C. Weinblatt #5080

weinblatt@swdelaw.com

Two Fox Point Centre

6 Denny Road, Suite 307

Wilmington, DE 19809

Telephone: (302) 999-1540

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Vite Technologies, LLC