

017-019-2

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

SYMBOLGY INNOVATIONS, LLC)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	CIVIL ACTION NO.
)	
v.)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
)	
THE HOME DEPOT, INC.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT FOR INFRINGEMENT OF PATENT

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Symbology Innovations, LLC (“Symbology Innovations” 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 The Home Depot, Inc., (hereinafter “Defendant”), from infringing and profiting, in an illegal and unauthorized manner and without authorization and/or of the consent from Symbology Innovations, from U.S. Patent Nos. 8,424,752 (the “752 patent”, attached hereto as Exhibits A); 8,651,369 (the “369 patent”, attached hereto as Exhibits B); 8,936,190 (the “190 patent”, attached hereto as Exhibits C); and 7,992,773 (the “773 patent”, attached hereto as Exhibits D) (collectively the “Patents-In-Suit”) pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271, and to recover damages, attorney’s fees, and costs.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Symbology Innovations is a Texas company with its principal place of business at 1400 Preston Road, Suite 400, Plano, TX 75093.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a company organized under the laws of Delaware, having a principal place of business at 2455 Paces Ferry Rd. SE Atlanta, GA 30339-1834. Upon information and belief, Defendant may be served with process at Corporation Service Company, 2711 Centerville Rd., Suite 400, Wilmington. DE 19808.

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, including having stores and employees in Illinois, as well as because of the injury to Symbology Innovations, and the cause of action Symbology Innovations 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 Illinois 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 Illinois and in this judicial district.

7. Defendant has conducted and does conduct business within the state of Illinois, including the geographic region within the Northern District of Illinois, directly or through intermediaries, or offers and advertises (including through the use of interactive web pages with promotional material) products or services, or uses services or products in Illinois, including this judicial district, in a manner that infringes the Patents-In-Suit.

8. Specifically, Defendant solicits business from and markets its services to consumers within Illinois, including the geographic region within the Northern District of Illinois, by providing promotions or advertisements that require the use of a method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device, as described in the Patents-In-Suit.

9. In addition to Defendant's continuously and systematically conducting business in Illinois, the causes of action against Defendant are connected (but not limited) to Defendant's purposeful acts committed in the state of Illinois including Defendant's use of a method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device, as described in the Patents-In-Suit.

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

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

'752 patent

11. On April 23, 2013, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '752 patent, titled "System and method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device" after a full and fair examination.

12. Symbology Innovations is presently the owner of the patent, having received all right, title and interest in and to the '752 patent from the previous assignee of record. Symbology Innovations possesses all rights of recovery under the '752 patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past infringement.

13. The '752 patent contains three independent claims and twenty-five dependent claims. Defendant uses, inter alia, methods that perform all the steps recited in at least one claim of the '752 patent.

14. The invention claimed in the '752 patent comprises a method for enabling a portable electronic device to retrieve information about an object when the object's symbology, is detected.

'369 patent

15. On February 18, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '369 patent, titled "System and method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device" after a full and fair examination.

16. Symbology Innovations is presently the owner of the patent, having received all right, title and interest in and to the '369 patent from the previous assignee of record. Symbology Innovations possesses all rights of recovery under the '369 patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past infringement.

17. The '369 patent contains three independent claims and twenty-five dependent claims. Defendant uses, inter alia, methods that perform all the steps recited in at least one claim of the '369 patent.

18. The invention claimed in the '369 patent comprises a method for enabling a portable electronic device to retrieve information about an object when the object's symbology, is detected.

'190 patent

19. On January 20, 2015, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '190 patent, titled "System and method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device" after a full and fair examination.

20. Symbology Innovations is presently the owner of the patent, having received all right, title and interest in and to the '190 patent from the previous assignee of record. Symbology

Innovations possesses all rights of recovery under the '190 patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past infringement.

21. The '190 patent contains three independent claims and seventeen dependent claims. Defendant uses, inter alia, methods that perform all the steps recited in at least one claim of the '190 patent.

22. The invention claimed in the '190 patent comprises a method for enabling a portable electronic device to retrieve information about an object when the object's symbology, is detected.

'773 patent

23. On August 9, 2011, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '773 patent, titled "System and method for presenting information about an object on a portable electronic device" after a full and fair examination.

24. Symbology Innovations is presently the owner of the patent, having received all right, title and interest in and to the '773 patent from the previous assignee of record. Symbology Innovations possesses all rights of recovery under the '773 patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past infringement.

25. The '773 patent contains three independent claims and fifteen dependent claims. Defendant uses, inter alia, methods that perform all the steps recited in at least one claim of the '190 patent.

26. The invention claimed in the '773 patent comprises a method for enabling a portable electronic device to retrieve information about an object when the object's symbology, is detected.

COUNT I
INFRINGEMENT OF THE '752 PATENT

27. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 to 26.

28. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Defendant is now, and has been directly infringing the '752 patent

29. Defendant has had knowledge of infringement of the '752 patent at least as of the service of the present complaint.

30. On information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 1, of the '752 patent by using and/or incorporating Quick Response Codes (QR codes) in product advertising in a manner covered by one or more claims of the '752 Patent. Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe the '752 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

31. On information and belief, Defendant has, at least through internal testing, used or incorporated QR codes in product advertising, associating such QR codes with products and/or services. One specific example of Defendant's activity involves the use of QR codes on advertising associated with its products or services.

32. For example, on information and belief, Defendant has at least internally tested the functionality of its QR codes in connection with its product advertising. On information and belief, Defendant has captured a digital image of a QR code associated with advertising related to Defendant's products or services, an example of which is shown below.



33. On information and belief, at least through internal testing, Defendant has used a digital image capturing device of a portable electronic device, such as the camera component of a smart phone for example, to capture a digital image of the QR code associated with its products/services and product advertisement.

34. On information and belief, Defendant's capture of the digital image is processed by scanning technology loaded onto the portable electronic device. The scanning technology detects symbology (for example, a pattern within the QR code) associated with an object (for example, the product or service associated with the QR code). On information and belief the scanning technology is used to decode the symbology to obtain a decode string. The decode string is sent to a remote server for further processing. Based on the decode string, the remote server sends information associated with the QR code, which is received by the user of the portable electronic device and displayed on a display associated with the portable electronic device.

35. For example, if a user scans a QR code associated with Defendant's product advertising, scanning technology decodes the pattern of the QR code to obtain a decode string and sends the decode string to a remote server. The server returns information associated with the QR code. In this example, the information received by the user and displayed on the portable electronic device is information about Defendant's products and includes a website providing additional information related to the product or services as shown below.



36. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Symbology Innovations and is thus liable for infringement of the '752 patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

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

38. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '752 patent, Symbology Innovations 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.

39. Symbology Innovations will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court. As such, Symbology Innovations 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.

COUNT II
INFRINGEMENT OF THE '369 PATENT

40. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 to 39.

41. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Defendant is now, and has been directly infringing the '369 patent.

42. Defendant has had knowledge of infringement of the '369 patent at least as of the service of the present complaint.

43. On information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 1, of the '369 Patent by using and/or incorporating Quick Response Codes (QR codes) in product advertising in a manner covered by one or more claims of the '369 Patent. Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe the '369 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

44. On information and belief, Defendant has, at least through internal testing, used or incorporated QR codes in product advertising, associating such QR codes with products and/or services. One specific example of Defendant's activity involves the use of QR codes on advertising associated with its products or services.

45. For example, on information and belief, Defendant has at least internally tested the functionality of its QR codes in connection with its product advertising. On information and belief, Defendant has captured a digital image of a QR code associated with advertising related to Defendant's products or services, an example of which is shown below.



46. On information and belief, at least through internal testing, Defendant has used a digital image capturing device of a portable electronic device, such as the camera component of a smart phone for example, to capture a digital image of the QR code associated with its products/services and product advertising.

47. On information and belief, Defendant's capture of the digital image is processed by scanning technology loaded onto the portable electronic device. The scanning technology detects symbology (for example, a pattern within the QR code) associated with an object (for example, the products or service associated with the QR code). On information and belief the scanning technology is used to decode the symbology to obtain a decode string. The decode

string is sent to a remote server for further processing. Based on the decode string, the remote server sends information associated with the QR code, which is received by the user of the portable electronic device and displayed on a display associated with the portable electronic device.

48. For example, if a user scans a QR code associated with Defendant's product advertising, scanning technology decodes the pattern of the QR code to obtain a decode string and sends the decode string to a remote server. The server returns information associated with the QR code. In this example, the information received by the user and displayed on the portable electronic device is information about Defendant's products and includes a website providing information related to the products or services as shown below.



49. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Symbology Innovations and is thus liable for infringement of the '369 patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

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

51. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '369 patent, Symbology Innovations 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.

52. Symbology Innovations will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court. As such, Symbology Innovations 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.

COUNT III
INFRINGEMENT OF THE '190 PATENT

53. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 to 52.

54. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Defendant is now, and has been directly infringing the '190 patent.

55. Defendant has had knowledge of infringement of the '190 patent at least as of the service of the present complaint.

56. On information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 1, of the '190 Patent by using and/or incorporating Quick Response Codes (QR codes) in product advertising in a manner covered by one or more claims of the '190 Patent. Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe the '190 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

57. On information and belief, Defendant has, at least through internal testing, used or incorporated QR codes in product advertising, associating such QR codes with products and/or services. One specific example of Defendant's activity involves the use of QR codes on advertising associated with its products or services.

58. For example, on information and belief, Defendant has at least internally tested the functionality of its QR codes in connection with its product advertising. On information and belief, Defendant has captured a digital image of a QR code associated with advertising related to Defendant's products or services, an example of which is shown below.



59. On information and belief, at least through internal testing, Defendant has used a digital image capturing device of a portable electronic device, such as the camera component of a smart phone for example, to capture a digital image of the QR code associated with its products/services and product advertising.

60. On information and belief, Defendant's capture of the digital image is processed by scanning technology loaded onto the portable electronic device. The scanning technology detects symbology (for example, a pattern within the QR code) associated with an object (for example, the products or service associated with the QR code). On information and belief the scanning technology is used to decode the symbology to obtain a decode string. The decode string is sent to a remote server for further processing. Based on the decode string, the remote server sends information associated with the QR code, which is received by the user of the portable electronic device and displayed on a display associated with the portable electronic device.

61. For example, if a user scans a QR code associated with Defendant's product advertising, scanning technology decodes the pattern of the QR code to obtain a decode string and sends the decode string to a remote server. The server returns information associated with the QR code. In this example, the information received by the user and displayed on the portable electronic device is information about Defendant's products and includes a website providing information related to the products or services as shown below.



62. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Symbology Innovations and is thus liable for infringement of the ‘190 patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

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

64. As a result of Defendant’s infringement of the ‘190 patent, Symbology Innovations 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.

65. Symbology Innovations will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant’s infringing activities are enjoined by this Court. As such, Symbology Innovations 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.

COUNT IV
INFRINGEMENT OF THE '773 PATENT

66. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 to 65.

67. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Defendant is now, and has been directly infringing the '773 patent.

68. Defendant has had knowledge of infringement of the '773 patent at least as of the service of the present complaint.

69. On information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 1, of the '773 Patent by using and/or incorporating Quick Response Codes (QR codes) in product advertising in a manner covered by one or more claims of the '773 Patent. Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe the '773 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

70. On information and belief, Defendant has, at least through internal testing, used or incorporated QR codes in product advertising, associating such QR codes with products and/or services. One specific example of Defendant's activity involves the use of QR codes on advertising associated with its products or services.

71. For example, on information and belief, Defendant has at least internally tested the functionality of its QR codes in connection with its product advertising. On information and belief, Defendant has captured a digital image of a QR code associated with product advertising, an example of which is shown below.



72. On information and belief, at least through internal testing, Defendant has used a digital image capturing device of a portable electronic device, such as the camera component of a smart phone for example, to capture a digital image of the QR code associated with its products/services and product advertising.

73. On information and belief, Defendant's capture of the digital image is processed by scanning technology loaded onto the portable electronic device. The scanning technology detects symbology (for example, a pattern within the QR code) associated with an object (for example, the products or service associated with the QR code). On information and belief the scanning technology is used to decode the symbology to obtain a decode string. The decode string is then sent to a visual detection application residing on a portable electronic device (i.e., camera residing in the smart phone) for processing. On information and belief the portable electronic device then receives from the visual detection application a first amount of information about the object (e.g., a decode string and corresponding URL). After the first

amount of information is received, the decode string is sent to a remote server for processing and a second amount of information (e.g., website and content related to its products or services) about the object is received by the portable electronic device. On information and belief the first and second amounts of information are then combined to obtain cumulative information (e.g., a display of both the URL and the corresponding website related to its products or services) to be displayed in the portable electronic device (e.g., on the display of the smart phone).

74. For example, the cumulative information received by the user and displayed on the portable electronic device includes the URL and the corresponding website related to its products or services, as shown below.



75. Furthermore, on information and belief, the portable electronic device utilized by Defendant, at least during internal use and testing, allows for a visual detection system (e.g. the camera functionality in combination with the QR Code Scanning application) to run in the

background with respect to other systems associated with the mobile device (e.g. the QR Code scanning application and its corresponding camera functionality can run in the background in standby), the visual detection systems comprising one or more visual detection applications (e.g. QR code scanning applications) and one or more visual detection devices (e.g. the camera integrated on the smartphone), the one or more visual detection devices configured to detect the symbology associated with the object (e.g. the camera on the smartphone is configured to detect and decode QR codes via the QR code scanning application). As shown below, the visual detection systems can run in the background with respect to other systems associated with the portable electronic device.

About Multitasking on your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

With Multitasking, you can use more than one app at a time on your iOS device. You can also use features like Slide Over, Split View, and Picture in Picture on certain iPad models.

Switch between apps

You can quickly switch from one app to another on your iOS device. When you switch back, you can pick up right where you left off. Follow these steps:

1. Double-click the Home button to see recently used apps.
2. Swipe left or right to find the app that you want to use.
3. Tap the app.

If you have an iPhone 6s or later, you can use 3D Touch to switch to a previous app. Just press the left side of your screen, then swipe right. You can also view your recently used apps by pressing the left side of your screen.

On your iPad, you can see recently used apps by swiping up from the bottom of your screen with four fingers. If you have a keyboard paired to your iPad Pro, you can switch between apps by pressing Command-Tab.



76. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Symbology Innovations and is thus liable for infringement of the '773 patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

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

78. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '773 patent, Symbology Innovations 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.

79. Symbology Innovations will continue to suffer damages in the future unless Defendant's infringing activities are enjoined by this Court. As such, Symbology Innovations 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

80. Symbology Innovations demands a trial by jury of any and all causes of action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Symbology Innovations prays for the following relief:

a. That Defendant be adjudged to have directly infringed the Patents-In-Suit either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;

b. 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 infringing the 'Patents-In-Suit;

c. An award of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §284 sufficient to compensate Symbology Innovations 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;

d. 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;

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

f. That Symbology Innovations have such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: November 18, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

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