

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

INTERFACE LINX, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ONKYO U.S.A. CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-01099-LPS-  
CJB

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT  
FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Jury Trial Demanded

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

For its First Amended Complaint against Onkyo U.S.A. Corporation, Plaintiff Interface Linx, LLC alleges as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Interface Linx, LLC (“Interface” or “Plaintiff”) is a California limited liability company having a principal place of business at 35 Hugus Alley, Suite 210, Pasadena, California 91103.

2. On information and belief, Onkyo U.S.A. Corporation (“Onkyo” or “Defendant”) is a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and has its principal place of business at 18 Park Way, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458 and has appointed Corporation Service Company, at 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808, as its agent for service of process.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Act of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq.* This court has subject matter jurisdiction of such federal question claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant in this action due to the Defendant's incorporation in Delaware. Defendant has committed acts within this district giving rise to this action and has established minimum contacts with this forum and has purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the state of Delaware, such that the exercise of jurisdiction would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

5. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c) and 1400(b) because Defendant is incorporated in Delaware.

**INTERFACE'S PATENT-IN-SUIT**

6. On January 21, 2003, the United States Patent & Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Letters Patent No. 6,508,678 ("the '678 Patent"), entitled "Electrical Connector Assembly."

7. The '678 Patent is owned by Interface.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**AGAINST DEFENDANT FOR DIRECT, INDUCING, AND CONTRIBUTORY**  
**INFRINGEMENT**

8. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-7 of the Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

9. A true and correct copy of the '678 Patent is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

10. Defendant has been and now are infringing at least claim 1 of the '678 Patent in this district, and elsewhere in the United States by using (upon information and belief via testing, use at trade shows including the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association ("CEDIA") Expo and the Consumer Electronics Show ("CES"), or for quality assurance) products that infringe the '678 Patent.

11. Defendant's Accused Products include, for example and without limitation, Onkyo A/V Receivers including the Onkyo TX products; Onkyo Preamplifiers including the Onkyo PR and Onkyo TR products; Onkyo Home Theater Systems including the Onkyo HT and Onkyo AVX products; Onkyo Blu-Ray Players including the Onkyo BD and Onkyo DV products; and Onkyo Sound bars including the Onkyo SBT products.

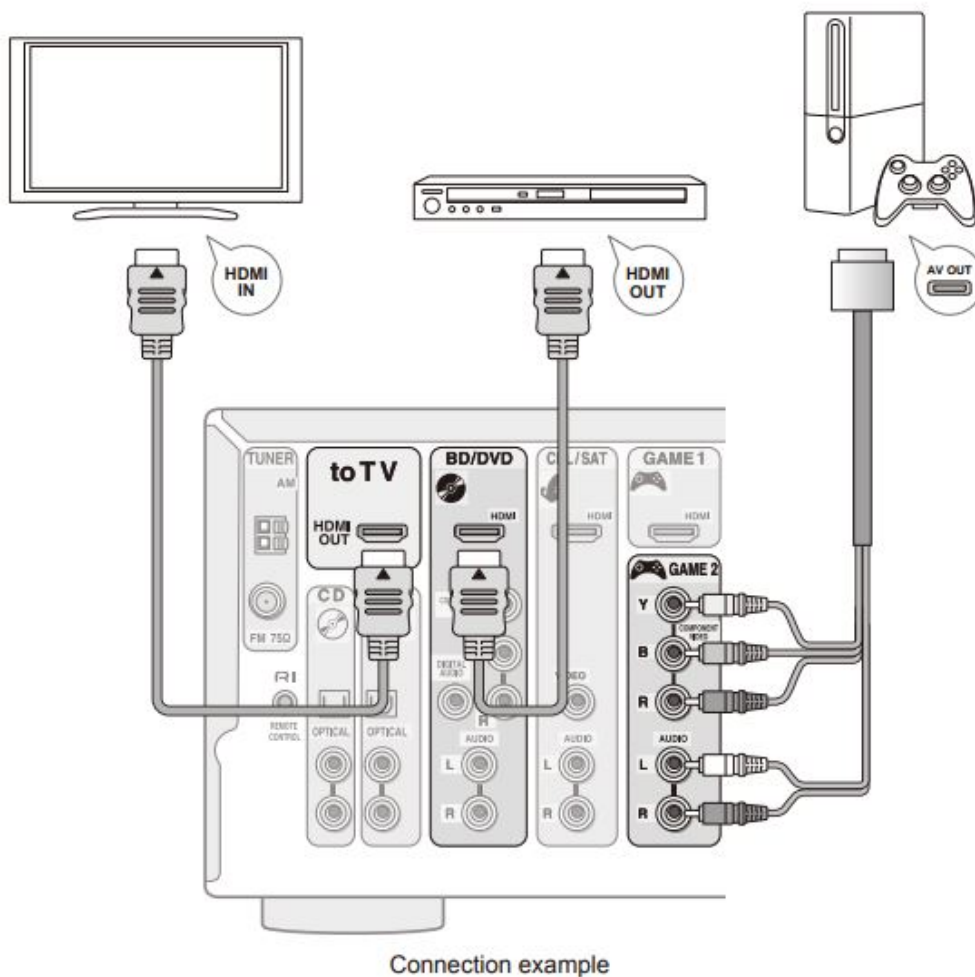
12. These products all contain a HDMI receptacle. Defendant's use of a HDMI plug with an Accused Product constitutes direct infringement of the patented invention.

13. Defendant uses, within the United States, the Accused Products with a HDMI plug (collectively referred to hereinafter as "Accused Systems") that infringe the '678 Patent, and which are designed to the specifications of HDMI Type A.

14. The electrical connector assembly of Claim 1 offers significant improvements in plug and receptacle design, a benefit to Defendant's customers by greatly improving ease of connectivity and the potential for data transfer once the connection is made. The physical design, envisioned with great specificity by the '678 Patent, offered such improvements over the prior art that the HDMI standards utilized this design to create the Type A plug and receptacle found on the vast majority of electronic devices today.

15. Defendant's Accused Systems are designed with the first element of claim 1. Specifically, Defendant's Accused Systems require both plugs and receptacles to form the electrical

connector assembly and transfer data, including audio and video, over the HDMI connection. This plug must include plug housing with the mating portion within, the mating portion defined by a multi-sided confining wall. Defendant has represented that it does not sell and has not sold an HDMI plug. An example of this plug that can be used with Defendants' Accused Systems can be found at Onkyo's website [http://filedepot.onkyousa.com/Files/own\\_manuals/TX-SR444\\_BAS\\_ADV\\_En\\_web.pdf](http://filedepot.onkyousa.com/Files/own_manuals/TX-SR444_BAS_ADV_En_web.pdf), as shown below:



16. Defendant's Accused Systems are further designed with the second element of claim 2. Specifically, Defendant's Accused Systems require both plugs and receptacles to form the electrical connector assembly and transfer data, including audio and video, over the HDMI

connection. This receptacle must include a mating portion with terminals mounted inside within, the mating portion defined by a multi-sided confining wall.

17. Another example of this receptacle can be found at Onkyo's website

<http://www.onkyousa.com/Products/model.php?m=TX->

[RZ810&class=Receiver&source=prodClass](http://www.onkyousa.com/Products/model.php?m=TX-RZ810&class=Receiver&source=prodClass), as shown below:

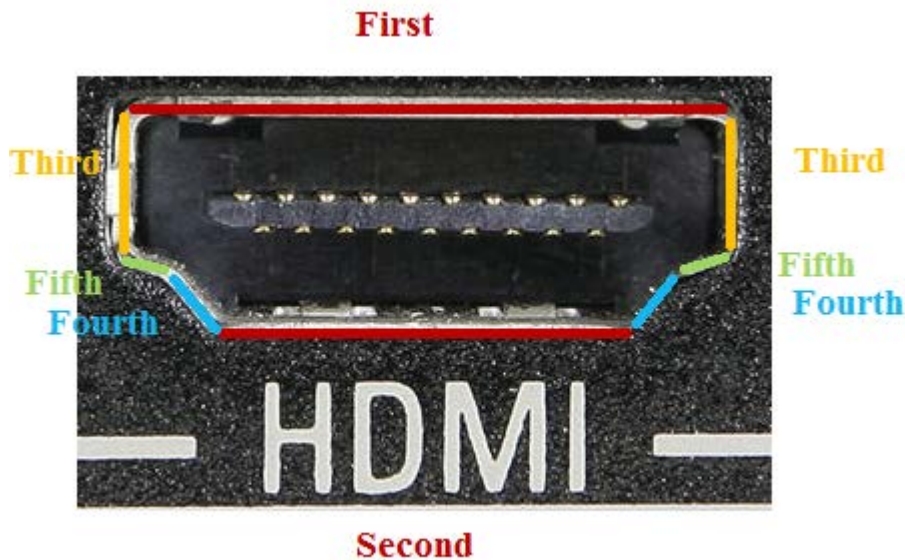
- 8 HDMI In (1 Front/7 Rear)
- 2 HDMI Out (Main & Zone 2/Sub)



18. Defendant's Accused Systems are further designed with the third element of claim

1. HDMI Type A plugs and receptacles, like those used by Defendant in its Accused Systems, are designed with a plurality of confining walls that are specifically designed and oriented. In order for a plug and receptacle to be used together, their confining walls must utilize the same shape, with the plug being sized smaller in order to fit within the receptacle.

19. In HDMI Type A connectors, like those designed into Defendant's Accused Systems, the first and second sides are found opposite of each other and the first side is longer than the second side. A pair of third sides are then connected to the opposite ends of the first side, each of the pair being shorter than either the first or second side. A pair of fourth sides are then connected to the opposite ends of the second side, but the width between the two fourth sides must be less than that between the two third sides. Finally, a pair of fifth sides are then connected between to connect the third and fourth side of their respective sides, the fifth sides must be angled away from each other while extending from the fourth sides to the third sides that they connect to. This is illustrated by the following diagram, which has been color coded to follow the claim language and has had each of the sides of the receptacle labeled in accordance with the claim language.



20. Defendant's Accused Systems are further designed with the fourth element of claim 1. As shown in the figure above, in HDMI Type A connectors, like those designed into

Defendant's Accused Systems, the first and second sides run substantially parallel to each other. Further, the third sides are substantially perpendicular to the first side.

21. Defendant's Accused Systems are further designed with the final element of claim 1. As shown in the figure above, in HDMI Type A connectors, like those designed into Defendant's Accused Systems, the fourth sides extend obliquely from each end of the second side.

22. The '678 Patent has been cited by over 50 issued patents and published patent applications as relevant prior art.

23. By using the Accused Systems, Defendants have infringed and continue to infringe the '678 Patent, including at least Claim 1.

24. On information and belief, Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continue to indirectly infringe the '678 Patent by actively inducing direct infringement by other persons, such as their customers and end users, who operate systems that embody or otherwise practice one or more of the claims of the '678 Patent, when Defendant had knowledge (or willful blindness thereto) of the '678 Patent and that the activities they were inducing would result in direct infringement by others and intended that their actions would induce direct infringement by others. Defendant intended and was aware that the normal and customary use of the Accused Systems would infringe the '678 Patent.

25. Defendant, including through its employees or agents, intended to induce other persons, such as their customers and end users, to directly infringe the '678 Patent by (1) advising or directing them to make, use, sell, or import the Accused Systems, (2) advertising and promoting the use of the Accused Systems, and (3) distributing instructions for using the Accused Systems, all in an infringing manner; including specifically, as examples, Onkyo's statements that "We train Onkyo Authorized Dealers to properly demonstrate, give guidance on proper installation and

provide after-sale support for our products.” (*see* <https://www.onkyousa.com/Support/servicecenterlocator.php>) and product videos published by Onkyo on YouTube (*see* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEISSQk-Tfk>) On information and belief, Defendant engaged in such inducement to promote the sales of the Accused Systems, e.g., through user manuals, product support, and marketing materials to actively induce the users of the accused products to infringe the '678 Patent.

26. On information and belief, Defendant has and continues to contribute to infringement other persons, such as their customers and end users, to directly infringe at least claim 1 of the '678 Patent. Defendant contributes to infringement by offering to sell, selling, or importing into the United States materials and apparatus for use that practice at least Claim 1 of the '678 Patent. Specifically, on information and belief, Defendant knows that its products with a HDMI receptacle, for example, and materials and apparatus designed for use with this receptacle, constitutes a material and component part of the invention of the '678 Patent, and is infringing, and that the HDMI receptacle is not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use, and it has no use apart from infringing the '678 Patent, all to the benefit of Defendant and its customers.

27. On information and belief, Defendant has had knowledge of the '678 Patent since at least the filing of the original action on April 27, 2017. Despite the knowledge gleaned from the complaint, Defendant has continued their infringing conduct. Interface's claim of indirect infringement is based on activities that post-date the filing of the original action on April 27, 2017, subject to amendment based on information uncovered during discovery.

28. On information and belief, Defendant will continue to infringe the '678 Patent unless enjoined by this Court.



29. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's infringement of the '678 Patent, Interface has been and continues to be, damaged in an amount yet to be determined, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use made of the invention by Defendant, together with interest and costs as fixed by the Court.

30. Unless a preliminary and permanent injunction are issued enjoining Defendant and their officers, agents, servants and employees, and all others acting on their behalf or in concert with Defendant, from infringing the '678 Patent, Interface will be greatly and irreparably harmed.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Interface prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

(1) For a judicial decree that Defendant has infringed, and continue to infringe, the '678 Patent;

(2) For a judicial decree that Defendant, its respective subsidiaries, officers, agents, servants, employees, licensees, and all other persons or entities acting or attempting to act in active concert or participation with it or acting on their behalf, be preliminarily and permanently enjoined from further infringement of the '678 Patent;

(3) For a judicial decree that order Defendant to account for and pay to Interface all damages caused to Interface by reason of Defendant's infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

(4) For a judicial decree finding that this is an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding to Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees;

(5) For a judicial decree that Defendant pay an ongoing royalty in an amount to be determined for continued infringement after the date of judgment;

(6) For a judicial decree awarding to Interface pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages caused to it by Defendant's infringement; and

(7) For any such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Date: May 21, 2018

DEVLIN LAW FIRM LLC

/s/Timothy Devlin

Timothy Devlin, Esquire  
1306 N. Broom Street, 1st Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
Tel: (302) 449-9010  
tdevlin@devlinlawfirm.com

ONE LLP

/s/ John E. Lord

John E. Lord  
Oscar M. Orozco-Botello  
9301 Wilshire Boulevard  
Penthouse Suite  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
(310) 954-9497  
jlord@onellp.com  
oobotello@onellp.com

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Interface hereby demands trial by jury in this action.

Date: May 21, 2018

DEVLIN LAW FIRM LLC

/s/Timothy Devlin

Timothy Devlin, Esquire  
1306 N. Broom Street, 1st Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
Tel: (302) 449-9010  
tdevlin@devlinlawfirm.com

ONE LLP

/s/ John E. Lord

John E. Lord  
Oscar M. Orozco-Botello  
9301 Wilshire Boulevard  
Penthouse Suite  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
(310) 954-9497  
jlord@onellp.com  
oobotello@onellp.com