

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MARSHALL DIVISION**

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,	§	
	§	Case No.
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	<b><u>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</u></b>
v.	§	
	§	
ALPS ALPINE CO., LTD. and ALPINE	§	
ELECTRONICS, INC.,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	
	§	

**PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff, Blitzsafe Texas, LLC (“Blitzsafe” or “Plaintiff”), files this original Complaint against Defendants Alps Alpine Co., Ltd. and Alpine Electronics, Inc. (collectively, “Alpine” or “Defendants”, for patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271 and alleges as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Blitzsafe is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas and maintains its principal place of business at 100 West Houston Street, Marshall, Texas 75670. Blitzsafe sells automotive interface products that allow the end-user to connect a third-party external audio device or multimedia device to a car stereo in order to play the content on the device through the car stereo system and speakers. Blitzsafe sells its products throughout the United States including in this Judicial District.

2. Upon information and belief, Alps Alpine Co., Ltd. is a Japanese corporation with a place of business at 1-7, Yukigaya-otsukamachi, Ota-ku, Tokyo 145-8501, Japan.

3. Upon information and belief, Alpine Electronics, Inc. is a Japanese corporation with a place of business at 1-1-8 Nishi-Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141, Japan.

### **JURISDICTION**

4. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.* This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants. Defendants conduct business and have committed acts of patent infringement and/or have induced acts of patent infringement by others in this Judicial District and/or have contributed to patent infringement by others in this Judicial District, the State of Texas, and elsewhere in the United States.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendants transact substantial business in the State of Texas and this Judicial District. Defendants have committed acts of infringement in this District by, among other things, offering to sell and selling products that infringe the asserted patents, including the accused devices as alleged herein, as well as providing service and support to their customers in this District. Upon information and belief, Defendants, directly or indirectly, participate in the stream of commerce that results in products, including the accused products, being made, used, offered for sale, and/or sold in the State of Texas and/or imported into the United States to the State of Texas.

7. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c), and 1400(b) because, among other things, Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this Judicial District, Defendants have regularly conducted business in this Judicial District, certain of the acts complained of herein occurred in this Judicial District, and Defendants not resident in the United States may be sued in any judicial district.

**PATENTS-IN-SUIT**

8. On February 10, 2009, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 (the “’786 Patent”) entitled “Audio Device Integration System.” A true and correct copy of the ’786 Patent is available at <https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?PageNum=0&docid=07489786>.

9. On April 10, 2012, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 8,155,342 (the “’342 Patent”) entitled “Multimedia Device Integration System.” A true and correct copy of the ’342 Patent is available at <https://pdfpiw.uspto.gov/.piw?PageNum=0&docid=08155342>.

10. Blitzsafe is the sole and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest to and in the ’786 Patent and the ’342 Patent (together, the “Patents-in-Suit”), and holds the exclusive right to take all actions necessary to enforce its rights to the Patents-in-Suit, including the filing of this patent infringement lawsuit. Blitzsafe also has the right to recover all damages for past, present, and future infringement of the Patents-in-Suit and to seek injunctive relief as appropriate under the law.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. The Patents-in-Suit generally cover systems for integrating third-party audio devices and multimedia devices with a car stereo.

12. Plaintiff has complied with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 287(a).

13. Defendants have been manufacturing, importing, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States audio and multimedia integration systems including, but not limited to, ILX-F409 Alpine Halo9 Multimedia Receiver 9,” and CDE-172BT Receiver, since at least as early as 2015 (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Infotainment Systems”).

14. The Infotainment Systems support the integration of third-party external audio and multimedia devices, such as MP3 players, with the car stereo. The Infotainment Systems permit an end-user to connect a third-party external audio or multimedia device to the car stereo by wire, such as through a USB port or auxiliary port, or wirelessly, such as through Bluetooth. Once connected, the end-user may control the third-party external audio or multimedia device using the car stereo's controls, and the audio from the external device may be played through the car stereo and speakers while text, pictures, visual images, and video may be displayed on the display screen of the car stereo.

**COUNT I**  
**(Infringement of the '786 Patent)**

15. Paragraphs 1 through 14 are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth in their entireties.

16. Blitzsafe has not licensed or otherwise authorized Defendants to make, use, offer for sale, sell, or import any products that embody the inventions of the '786 Patent.

17. Defendants have and continue to directly infringe one or more claims of the '786 Patent, including claim 57, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States infringing Infotainment Systems without authority and in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

18. Defendants have and continue to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '786 Patent by knowingly and intentionally inducing others to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States the infringing Infotainment Systems. For example, Defendants, with knowledge that the Infotainment Systems infringe the '786 Patent at least as of the date of this Complaint, knowingly and intentionally induced, and continue to knowingly and intentionally induce direct

infringement of the '786 Patent by providing Infotainment Systems to automotive original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") for use, sale, and importation into the United States. Defendants provide Infotainment Systems product manuals and documentation that instruct automotive OEMs and end-users how to use the Infotainment Systems, including specifically how to connect external third-party audio and multimedia devices to the car stereo. Defendants induced infringement by others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, with the intent to cause infringing acts by others or, in the alternative, with the belief that there was a high probability that others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, infringe the '786 Patent, but while remaining willfully blind to the infringement.

19. Defendants have and continue to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '786 Patent by contributing to the direct infringement, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents by others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, by offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States the infringing Infotainment Systems, with the knowledge that, at least as of the date of this Complaint, the Infotainment Systems contain components that constitute a material part of the inventions claimed in the '786 Patent. Such components include, for example, interfaces that permit an end-user to use a car stereo's controls to control an external third-party audio device and multimedia device. Defendants know that these components are especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '786 Patent and that these components are not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use. Alternatively, Defendants believed there was a high probability that others would infringe the '786 Patent but remained willfully blind to the infringing nature of others' actions.

20. Blitzsafe has suffered damages as a result of Defendants' direct and indirect infringement of the '786 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

21. Blitzsafe has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of Defendants' infringement of the '786 Patent for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless Defendants' infringement is enjoined by this Court.

22. Defendants have committed and continue to commit acts of infringement that Defendants actually knew or should have known constituted an unjustifiably high risk of infringement of at least one valid and enforceable claim of the '786 Patent. Upon information and belief, Defendants had actual knowledge of the '786 Patent from prior litigations accusing Defendants' customers of infringement based on products supplied to those customers by Defendants. Defendants' infringement of the '786 Patent has been and continues to be willful, entitling Blitzsafe to an award of treble damages, reasonable attorney fees, and costs in bringing this action.

**COUNT II**  
**(Infringement of the '342 Patent)**

23. Paragraphs 1 through 14 are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth in their entireties.

24. Blitzsafe has not licensed or otherwise authorized Defendants to make, use, offer for sale, sell, or import any products that embody the inventions of the '342 Patent.

25. Defendants have and continue to directly infringe one or more claims of the '342 Patent, including claim 49, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States infringing Infotainment Systems without authority and in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271.

26. Defendants have and continue to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '342 Patent by knowingly and intentionally inducing others to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the

United States the infringing Infotainment Systems. For example, Defendants, with knowledge that the Infotainment Systems infringe the '342 Patent, at least as of the date of this Complaint, knowingly and intentionally induced, and continue to knowingly and intentionally induce direct infringement of the '342 Patent by providing Infotainment Systems units to automotive OEMs for use, sale, and importation into the United States. Defendants provide Infotainment Systems product manuals and documentation that instruct automotive OEMs and end-users how to use the Infotainment Systems, including specifically how to connect external third-party audio and multimedia devices to the car stereo. Defendants induced infringement by others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, with the intent to cause infringing acts by others or, in the alternative, with the belief that there was a high probability that others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, infringe the '342 Patent, but while remaining willfully blind to the infringement.

27. Defendants have and continue to indirectly infringe one or more claims of the '342 Patent by contributing to the direct infringement, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents by others, including automotive OEMs and end-users, by offering to sell, selling, and/or importing into the United States infringing Infotainment Systems, with the knowledge that, at least as of the date of this Complaint, the Infotainment Systems contain components that constitute a material part of the inventions claimed in the '342 Patent. Such components include, for example, interfaces that permit an end-user to use a car stereo's controls to control an external third-party audio device. Defendants know that these components are especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the '342 Patent and that these components are not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

Alternatively, Defendants believed there was a high probability that others would infringe the '342 Patent but remained willfully blind to the infringing nature of others' actions.

28. Blitzsafe has suffered damages as a result of Defendants' direct and indirect infringement of the '342 Patent in an amount to be proved at trial.

29. Blitzsafe has suffered, and will continue to suffer, irreparable harm as a result of Defendants' infringement of the '342 Patent for which there is no adequate remedy at law, unless Defendants' infringement is enjoined by this Court.

30. Defendants have committed and continue to commit acts of infringement that Defendants actually knew or should have known constituted an unjustifiably high risk of infringement of at least one valid and enforceable claim of the '342 Patent. Upon information and belief, Defendants had actual knowledge of the '342 Patent from prior litigations accusing Defendants' customers of infringement based on products supplied to those customers by Defendants. Defendants' infringement of the '342 Patent has been and continues to be willful, entitling Blitzsafe to an award of treble damages, reasonable attorney fees, and costs in bringing this action.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all issues so triable.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Blitzsafe prays for relief against Defendants as follows:

a. Entry of judgment declaring that Defendants have directly and/or indirectly infringed one or more claims of each of the Patents-in-Suit;

b. Entry of judgment declaring that Defendants' infringement of the Patents-in-Suit has been willful and deliberate;



c. An order pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283 permanently enjoining Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, from further acts of infringement of the Patents-in-suit;

d. An order awarding damages sufficient to compensate Blitzsafe for Defendants' infringement of the Patents-in-Suit, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs;

e. An order awarding Blitzsafe treble damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284 as a result of Defendants' willful and deliberate infringement of the Patents-in-Suit;

f. Entry of judgment declaring that this case is exceptional and awarding Blitzsafe its costs and reasonable attorney fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285; and

g. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: August 3, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alfred R. Fabricant

Alfred R. Fabricant

NY Bar No. 2219392

Email: [ffabricant@fabricantllp.com](mailto:ffabricant@fabricantllp.com)

Peter Lambrianakos

NY Bar No. 2894392

Email: [plambrianakos@fabricantllp.com](mailto:plambrianakos@fabricantllp.com)

Vincent J. Rubino, III

NY Bar No. 4557435

Email: [vrubino@fabricantllp.com](mailto:vrubino@fabricantllp.com)

**FABRICANT LLP**

411 Theodore Fremd Avenue,

Suite 206 South

Rye, New York 10580

Telephone: (212) 257-5797

Facsimile: (212) 257-5796

Samuel F. Baxter

Texas State Bar No. 01938000

Email: [sbaxter@mckoolsmith.com](mailto:sbaxter@mckoolsmith.com)

Jennifer L. Truelove

Texas State Bar No. 24012906  
Email: [jtruelove@mckoolsmith.com](mailto:jtruelove@mckoolsmith.com)  
**MCKOOL SMITH, P.C.**  
104 E. Houston Street, Suite 300  
Marshall, Texas 75670  
Telephone: (903) 923-9000  
Facsimile: (903) 923-9099

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF,  
BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC**