

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

**TECHNOLOGY PROPERTIES LIMITED,
LLC,**

Plaintiff,

v.

SABRENT,

Defendant.

CASE NO: 6:12-cv-214

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Technology Properties Limited, LLC files this Complaint against Sabrent for infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,976,623, 7,162,549, 7,295,443, and 7,522,424 (collectively, “the Patents-in-Suit”).

THE PARTIES

1. Technology Properties Limited, LLC (“TPL”) is a California limited liability company with a principal place of business at 20883 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 100, Cupertino, California 95014.

2. Defendant Sabrent (“Defendant”) has a principal place of business at 9720 Variel Avenue, Chatsworth, California 91311. Sabrent can be served at its principal place of business at 9720 Variel Avenue, Chatsworth, California 91311.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code, §§ 271 and 281, *et seq.* because Defendant has committed acts of patent infringement within the United States and this judicial district. Accordingly, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

4. Personal jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c) and 1400(b), in that Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district. At a minimum, Defendant has delivered infringing products into the stream of commerce with the expectation that they will be purchased by consumers in Texas, including consumers in the Eastern District of Texas.

COUNT I
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,976,623)

5. TPL incorporates paragraphs 1 through 4 as though fully set forth herein.

6. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States, and in particular, 35 U.S.C. § 271, *et seq.*

7. On December 20, 2005, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 6,976,623 (“the ‘623 Patent”), entitled “Flash Juke Box,” to Sreenath Mambakkam, et al. A copy of the ‘623 Patent is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A.

8. The ‘623 Patent discloses a memory card interface apparatus having more than one interface to read at least two different types of memory cards, and to provide parallel access to two cards to enable the transfer of data from one card to the other. The invention permits faster data transfer between flash cards by providing parallel access to both for transferring data between cards. The patent also discloses a method of providing parallel access to two cards to enable the transfer of data from one card to the other.

9. TPL is the exclusive licensee of the ‘623 Patent, with ownership of all substantial rights in the ‘623 patent, including the right to exclude others and to enforce, sue and recover damages for past and future infringement.

10. The '623 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

11. Without a license or permission from Plaintiff, Defendant has infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19 of the '623 Patent. Defendant did so by importing, making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling products and devices that embody and/or practice the patented invention.

12. Defendant was provided notice of the '623 Patent on November 18, 2011.

13. Defendant provided instructions to its users to use the accused products in an infringing manner with the intent to induce infringement of the '623 Patent.

14. Without limitation, an example of Defendant's infringing products is the Sabrent 7-Slot USB 2.0 Internal Card Reader CRW-UINB and other devices that have the functionality accused herein.

15. Defendant's infringement of the '623 Patent has caused substantial damage to Plaintiff.

16. Defendant's infringement of the '623 Patent has been willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees.

COUNT II
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,162,549)

17. TPL incorporates paragraphs 1 through 16 as though fully set forth herein.

18. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States, and in particular, 35 U.S.C. § 271, *et seq.*

19. On January 9, 2007, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and

legally issued U.S. Patent No. 7,162,549 (“the ‘549 Patent”) entitled “Multimode Controller For Intelligent And ‘Dumb’ Flash Cards,” to Sreenath Mambakkam, et al. A copy of the ‘549 Patent is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit B.

20. The ‘549 Patent discloses a system with a controller chip that interfaces with a flash memory card which may (or may not) have a controller for error correction. Using firmware, the disclosed controller chip conducts bad block mapping in an event that the flash memory card does not have a controller for error correction. This permits the system with the disclosed controller chip to conduct bad block mapping rather than in, for example, a host computer. The patent also discloses a method for using a controller chip to interface with a flash memory card which may (or may not) have a controller for error correction, and, in an event where the flash memory card does not have a controller for error correction, using firmware to conduct bad black mapping.

21. TPL is the exclusive licensee of the ‘549 Patent, with ownership of all substantial rights in the ‘549 Patent, including the right to exclude others and to enforce, sue and recover damages for past and future infringement.

22. The ‘549 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

23. Without a license or permission from Plaintiff, Defendant has infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 7, 11, 19 and 21 of the ‘549 Patent. Defendant did so by importing, making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling products and devices that embody and/or practice the patented invention.

24. Defendant was provided notice of the ‘549 Patent on November 18, 2011.

25. Defendant provided instructions to its users to use the accused product in an infringing manner with the intent to induce infringement of the '549 Patent.

26. Without limitation, an example of Defendant's infringing products is the Sabrent 7-Slot USB 2.0 Internal Card Reader CRW-UINB and other devices that have the functionality accused herein, including the Sabrent 6-Slot USB 2.0 External Card Reader CRW-EXT.

27. Defendant's infringement of the '549 Patent has caused substantial damage to Plaintiff.

28. Defendant's infringement of the '549 Patent has been willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees.

COUNT III
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,295,443)

29. TPL incorporates paragraphs 1 through 28 as though fully set forth herein.

30. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States, and in particular, 35 U.S.C. § 271, *et seq.*

31. On November 13, 2007, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 7,295,443 ("the '433 Patent") entitled "Smartconnect Universal Flash Media Card Adapters," to Sreenath Mambakkam, et al. A copy of the '443 Patent is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit C.

32. The '443 Patent discloses a multi-media memory adapter. The adapter has a first planar element or portion and a second planar element or portion that define a slot between them for receiving multiple types of flash memory cards. The planar elements or portions comprise molded plastic. The patent further discloses contact pins that extend or protrude from either the top or the bottom of the port (or both); these contact pins allow the port to receive electrical

signals from a flash memory card. The patent also discloses a controller chip that maps a set of signal lines to a subset of the contact pins based on the type of flash memory card inserted into the reader.

33. TPL is the exclusive licensee of the '443 Patent, with ownership of all substantial rights in the '443 Patent, including the right to exclude others and to enforce, sue and recover damages for past and future infringement.

34. The '443 Patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

35. Without a license or permission from Plaintiff, Defendant has infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 9, 11, 12 and 14 of the '443 Patent. Defendant did so by importing, making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling products and devices that embody and/or practice the patented invention.

36. Defendant was provided notice of the '443 Patent on November 18, 2011.

37. Defendant provided instructions to its users to use the accused products in an infringing manner with the intent to induce infringement of the '443 Patent.

38. Without limitation, an example of Defendant's infringing products is the Sabrent 7-Slot USB 2.0 Internal Card Reader CRW-UINB and other devices that have the functionality accused herein, including the Sabrent 6-Slot USB 2.0 External Card Reader CRW-EXT.

39. Defendant's infringement of the '443 Patent has caused substantial damage to Plaintiff.

40. Defendant's infringement of the '443 Patent has been willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees.

COUNT IV
(INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,522,424)

41. TPL incorporates paragraphs 1 through 40 as though fully set forth herein.

42. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States, and in particular, 35 U.S.C. § 271, *et seq.*

43. On April 21, 2009, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 7,522,424 (“the ‘424 Patent’”) entitled “Smartconnect Universal Flash Media Card Adapters,” to Sreenath Mambakkam, et al. A copy of the ‘424 Patent is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit D.

44. The ‘424 Patent discloses an apparatus with a port that has a number of sets of contact pins mounted at locations adapted to interface with the electrical contacts of different types of flash memory cards. The patent also discloses a set of interconnection pins. A component, such as a controller, maps power, ground and/or data signals between the interconnection pins and the proper contact pins, depending on the type of card in the slot.

45. TPL is the exclusive licensee of the ‘424 Patent, with ownership of all substantial rights in the ‘424 patent, including the right to exclude others and to enforce, sue and recover damages for past and future infringement.

46. The ‘424 patent is valid, enforceable and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

47. Without a license or permission from Plaintiff, Defendant has infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 25, 26, 28 and 29 of the ‘424 Patent. Defendant did so by importing, making, using,

offering to sell, and/or selling products and devices that embody and/or practice the patented invention.

48. Defendant was provided notice of the '424 Patent on November 18, 2011.

49. Defendant provided instructions to its users to use the accused products in an infringing manner with the intent to induce infringement of the '424 Patent.

50. Without limitation, an example of Defendant's infringing products is the Sabrent 7-Slot USB 2.0 Internal Card Reader CRW-UINB and other devices that have the functionality accused herein, including the Sabrent 6-Slot USB 2.0 External Card Reader CRW-EXT.

51. Defendant's infringement of the '424 Patent has caused substantial damage to Plaintiff.

52. Defendant's infringement of the '424 Patent has been willful and deliberate, entitling Plaintiff to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Technology Properties Limited, LLC demands a trial by jury of this action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Technology Properties Limited, LLC prays for relief as follows:

- a. Judgment that one or more claims of the Patents-in-Suit have been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by Defendant and/or by others to whose infringement Defendant has contributed and/or by others whose infringement has been induced by Defendant;
- b. Enter a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its offices, directors, agents, servants, affiliates, employees, divisions, branches, subsidiaries, parents, and all others acting in active concert or participation with them, from infringing or inducing infringement of each Patent-in-Suit, or, in the alternative, judgment that Defendant account for and pay to Plaintiff a reasonable royalty and an

ongoing post judgment royalty because of Defendant's past, present and future infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;

- c. Judgment that Defendant account for and pay to TPL all damages to and costs incurred by TPL because of Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- d. Judgment that Defendant account for and pay to TPL a reasonable, on-going, post judgment royalty because of Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- e. That Defendant's infringements be found to be willful from the time that Defendant became aware of the infringing nature of its respective products and services, which is at latest the time of filing of Plaintiff's Complaint and that the Court award treble damages for the period of such willful infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- f. That TPL be granted pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages caused by Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- g. That this Court declare this an exceptional case and award TPL its reasonable attorney's fees and costs in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
- h. That TPL be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: March 28, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

THE SIMON LAW FIRM, PC

By: /s/ Anthony G. Simon

Anthony G. Simon

Michael P. Kella

800 Market Street, Suite 1700

St. Louis, Missouri 63101

asimon@simonlawpc.com

mkella@simonlawpc.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Technology Properties Limited, LLC