















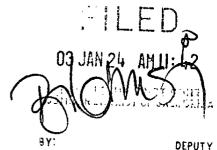
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3:03-CV-00155 POLLAK V. ALPHA IMPORTS INC

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Don E. Erickson, SBN 64056 Law Office, PMB 182 3830 Valley Center Drive #705 San Diego, CA 92130-2331 (858) 350-1308



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD D. POLLAK,

Plaintiff,

VS.

ALPHA IMPORTS (NY), Inc.; LOTUS

LAPIDARY LIMITED; PINKCITY GEM

TECHNOLOGIES; and DOES 1 to 100,

Defendants.

inclusive,

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Case No.: No

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 5,888,918

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- This action for injunctive relief and damages arises under the United States 1. Patent Laws (35 U.S.C. Section 100, et. Seq.). This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Section 1338(a).
 - 2. Venue is proper in this Judicial District under 28 U.S.C. Section 1400(b).

THE PARTIES

3. PLAINTIFF, Richard D. Pollak, is an individual residing at 3133 Via de Caballo, Encinitas, California. PLAINTIFF is the owner of United States Letters Patent No. 5,888,918 (hereinafter "the '918 patent") duly and legally issued on March 30, 1999, describing and claiming the invention of Richard D. Pollak entitled, "Method For Enhancing

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The Color Of Minerals Useful As Gemstones." A true and correct copy of the '918 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 4. On information and belief, Defendant Alpha Imports, Inc. (hereinafter "ALPHA") is a company organized under the laws of the State of New York, and has a place of business at 2 West 46th Street, Suite 1400, New York, NY 10036.
- 5. On information and belief DEFENDANT Pinkcity Gem Technologies (hereinafter "PINKCITY") is an Indian company having its principal place of business at 76, Dhuleshwar Garden, Jaipur, India.
- 6. On information and belief DEFENDANT Lotus Lapidry Limited (hereinafter "LOTUS") is a Thai company having its principal place of business at 506 KBS Building, 30-34 Mahesak soi 3, Bangkok, 10500 Thailand. LOTUS is an affilitiate of PINKCITY advertising their products through an internet website, "Coloredtopaz.com."
- 7. PLAINTIFF is ignorant of the true names and capacities of DEFENDANTS sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and therefore sues these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names. PLAINTIFF is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all times herein relevant, each of the DEFENDANTS named as DOE herein has committed acts of infringement of the '918 patent within this judicial district. PLAINTIFF will amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the DOE DEFENDANTS when the names are ascertained.
- 8. Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY have committed acts of infringement, inducement to patent infringement, and contributory infringement of the '918 patent in this judicial district by selling in this judicial district gemstones treated by the methods of the '918 patent.
 - 9. All issues of infringement will be the same among all the named defendants.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Direct Infringement of the '918 Patent)

10. PLAINTIFF incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 9 above as though fully set forth herein.

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- 11. Defendant ALPHA has imported to the United States gemstones enhanced by the methods of the '918 patent, offered such gemstones for sale, and has distributed such gemstones for sale in this judicial district.
- 12. DEFENDANT PINKCITY has imported to the United States gemstones enhanced by the methods of the '918 patent, offered such gemstones for sale, and has distributed such gemstones for sale in this judicial district.
- 13. DEFENDANT LOTUS has imported to the United States gemstones enhanced by the methods of the '918 patent, offered such gemstones for sale, and has distributed such gemstones for sale in this judicial district.
- 14. PLAINTIFF has given due and actual notice to Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY that the acts alleged above constitute infringement of the '918 patent.
- 15. PLAINTIFF has demanded that Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY cease and desist such acts of infringement or acquire a license under the '918 patent and to pay damages for infringement of the '918 patent. Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY have refused to acquire a license and to pay damages to PLAINTIFF for past infringement.
- 16. The acts described in paragraphs 10 through 13 above by Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY constitute direct infringement of the '918 patent in violation of Section 271 (a) of Title 35, United States Code.
- 17. Upon information and belief, the acts of infringement of the '918 patent under Section 271 (a) by Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY are willful, wanton and deliberate, without license and with full knowledge of PLAINTIFF's rights.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Inducement to Infringement of the '918 patent)

- 18. PLAINTIFF incorporates by reference in this claim for relief the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 17 above.
- 19. The acts of Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY described in paragraphs 10 through 17 above constitute inducement to infringement of the '918 patent in violation of Section 271 (b) of Title 35, United States Code.

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20. Upon information and belief, the acts of infringement of the '918 patent under Section 271 (b) by Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY are willful, wanton and deliberate, without license and with full knowledge of PLAINTIFF's rights.

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THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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(Contributory Infringement of the '918 patent)

7 8 21. PLAINTIFF incorporates by reference in this claim for relief the averments contained in paragraphs 1 through 20 above.

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22. The acts of Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY described in paragraphs 10 through 20 above constitute contributory infringement of the '918 patent in

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violation of Section 271 (c) of Title 35, United States Code.

12 13 23. Upon information and belief, the acts of infringement of the '918 patent under Section 271 (c) by Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY are willful, wanton and

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deliberate, without license and with full knowledge of PLAINTIFF's rights.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

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1. That Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY be adjudged to have caused the infringement the '918 patent.

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2. An adjudication that this is an "exceptional case" in that Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY did willfully and deliberately infringe, and caused the infringement of the 1018 potent.

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of, the '918 patent.

3. That Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY, their officers, agents,

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servants, employees and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, be preliminary and permanently restrained and enjoined from further infringing, and inducing the infringement of

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permanently restrained and enjoined from further infringing, and inducing the infringement of, the '918 patent.

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4. That Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY, and their officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the order by personal service or otherwise, be preliminary and

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Case 3:03-cv-09155-L-JMA Document 1 Filed 01/24/03 Page 6 of 12

permanently restrained and enjoined from further contributing to the infringement of the '918 patent.

- 5. An accounting for damages by virtue of the infringement of the '918 patent by Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY, and for trebling of such damages, together with an award of such damages, all in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 284.
- An assessment of prejudgment and post-judgment interest and costs against 6. Defendants ALPHA, LOTUS, and PINKCITY, together with an award of such interest and costs, all in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 285 and for the award of reasonable attorney fees pursuant thereto.
 - An award of such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper. 7.

Respectfully submitted,

24/03 By: _

Don E. Erickson Attorney for PLAINTIFF Richard D. Pollak

VERIFICATION

- I, Richard D. Pollak, declare under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true:
 - 1. I am the inventor and owner of the United States Letters Patent No. 5,888,918.
 - 2. I have read the foregoing complaint.
- 3. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief founded after reasonable inquiry, this complaint is well founded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversing of existing law.
 - 4. This complaint is not being filed for any improper purpose.

Dated:	1/24/03	Khul Mak
	(Richard D. Pollak



US005888918A

United States Patent [19]

Pollak

[11] Patent Number:

5,888,918

[45] Date of Patent:

*Mar. 30, 1999

					,
[54]	METHO	D FOR ENHANCING THE COLOR	3,539,379		Mayer 117/69
	OF MINERALS USEFUL AS GEMSTONES		3,616,357		Hayes 204/157.1 H
			3,950,596		Carr et al 428/539
[76]	Inventor:	Richard Pollak, 3133 Via de Caballo,	4,399,364		Evans et al 250/492.1
		Encinitas, Calif. 92024	4,621,065		Isogami et al 501/86
			4,678,868		Kraska et al 174/152 GM
[*]	Notice:	This patent issued on a continued pros- ecution application filed under 37 CFR	4,732,867		Schnable 437/22
			4,749,869	6/1988	,
		1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year	4,793,864	•	Neumiller et al 134/1
		patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C.	4,820,562	4/1989	
		154(a)(2).	5,084,909		Pollak 378/64
	154(4)(2).	5,198,265		lacovangelo et al 427/126.2	
[3.1]	A t . NT	. 8 16 700	5,477,055		Skold et al
[21]	Appl. No.	: 845,709	5,637,878	6/1997	Herer et al 250/492.3
[22]	Filed:	Apr. 25, 1997			
[51]	Int Clo		Primary Exam	niner—SI	hrive Beck
[-11]	Int. Ci.	B05D 1/12; B05D 3/02	Assistant Exa	miner—N	Aichael Barr
(53)	H.C. CI		Attorney, Age	nt, or Fir	rm—Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich;
[52]	U.S. CI.	501/86; 427/180; 427/190;	Stephen E. Reiter		
		427/191; 427/217; 427/383.1; 427/383.3;			
		63/32; 428/426; 428/432	[57]		ABSTRACT
[58]		Search	In accordance	with the	present invention, there are provided
	42	7/191, 217, 383.1, 383.3; 501/86; 428/426,			ig the color of minerals useful as
		432, 539.5; 63/32			
		D 4 OV. 1			methods are relatively inexpensive to
[56]		References Cited	carry out, avoid the use of hazardous materials, and require		
	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		no specialized equipment.		
	1,814,219	7/1931 Jaeger et al 63/32		20 CI	aims, No Drawings

Gemstones treated according to the present invention can be used directly, or they can be subjected to further treatment and/or washing conditions. It is presently preferred that the treated gemstone be cleaned after being subjected to said conditions suitable to enhance the color of a gemstone. Such cleaning can be accomplished in a variety of ways, e.g., by washing the treated gemstones with aqueous media or with organic solvents (e.g., acetone), by wiping the gemstones with a soft cloth (e.g., a polishing cloth), by polishing the surface of the gemstones with a suitable abrasive, and the like

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided color enhanced gemstones having a color enhancing agent diffused into the outer surface thereof. Color enhancing agents contemplated include the treating agents described hereinabove.

In accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, there are provided color enhanced gemstones wherein at least the surface of said gemstone has chemically bonded thereto a color enhancing agent. Color enhancing agents contemplated include the treating agents described betreinabove.

The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLE 1

Optional Cleaning Process

It is presently preferred that gemstones treated in accordance with the present invention be cleaned as follows. First the stones are treated in gently boiling distilled water containing a small amount of detergent for at least about 12 30 hours. Once cooled, the stones are then washed with distilled water until all traces of detergent are removed.

The stones are then soaked at room temperature (or above) in a 1:1 aqueous dilution of concentrated nitric acid for about two hours, or more. The stones are then rinsed 35 thoroughly with distilled water. The stones are then rinsed with acetone, then rinsed again with distilled water, and dried.

EXAMPLE 2

General Treatment Protocol

To achieve color enhancement according to the invention, gemstones are placed in a suitable vessel which can withstand the exposure temperatures contemplated for use (e.g., a flat ceramic sheet, a crucible, and the like) and completely surrounded by the treating agent(s) of choice. The vessel is then placed in a furnace capable of reaching and accurately maintaining temperatures in the range of about 900° up to about 1800° C. The furnace is then heated to the desired temperature and maintained at that temperature for the desired length of time. Once the desired time and temperature requirements have been satisfied, the furnace is cooled down and the vessel containing the gemstones is removed therefrom.

After the treated gemstones have cooled, they are separated from the treating agent. In many instances, the treated stones need only be wiped clean with a soft cloth or tissue. In some circumstances (e.g., where the stones are subjected to particularly rigorous treating conditions or where relatively soft stones are treated), it may be desirable to subject the stone to a nitric acid bath to clean the surface of the stone. When such treatment is indicated, concentrated nitric acid solutions or various dilutions thereof can be used.

EXAMPLE 3

Treatment of Topaz

Topaz can be treated with powdered cobalt metal or cobalt oxide to achieve a variety of enhanced colors. For example,

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treatment at 900° C. for about 24 hours results in very light blue stones. Treatment at higher temperature (e.g., 1046° C.) for about 24 hours results in much darker blue or blue-green stones. Thus, it is seen that the final color of the treated stone can be controlled by proper selection of treating conditions.

Once topaz is treated with powdered cobalt metal or cobalt oxide as described above to achieve a green-blue or blue-green stone, the color imparted to the stone can be further modified by subjecting the stones to additional furnace heating as described above, but in the absence of treating agent. In this way, the color of the stone can be shifted to blue.

EXAMPLE 4

15 Treatment of Chrysoberyl

Chrysoberyl is subjected to the same process as described in Example 3. Since the most common color for chrysoberyl is light yellow, the color of the treated stone tends to be yellow-green to blue-green, depending upon the time and temperature of exposure. If a colorless chrysoberyl is used in the process, the enhanced color imparted by treatment with powdered cobalt metal or cobalt oxide is blue.

EXAMPLE 5

Treatment of Sapphire

Sapphire is subjected to the same process as described in Example 3. Care should be taken in selecting the temperature to which the stones are heated, as sapphires tend to develop surface damage when subjected to excessive temperatures. In the event surface damage does occur, the treated stones can be repolished, producing an intensely colored finished product.

The color of the treated stone can vary substantially. For example, a colorless sapphire produces a light blue to dark blue treated stone, depending upon the original color of the sapphire. A yellow saphire will produce a green, yellow-green to blue-green stone, depending upon the time and temperature of exposure. If a colorless chrysoberyl is used in the process, the enhanced color imparted by treatment with powdered cobalt metal or cobalt oxide is blue.

EXAMPLE 6

Treatment of Quartz

Quartz is subjected to the same process as described in Example 3. Care should be taken in selecting the temperature to which the stones are heated, as quartz tends to develop surface damage when subjected to excessive temperatures. In the event surface damage does occur, the treated stones can be repolished, producing a smooth, colored finished product.

The color of the treated stone can vary substantially, with the invention process typically producing stones which are light to dark pink.

EXAMPLE 7

55 Treatment of Garnet

Garnet is subjected to the same process as described in Example 3. The color of the treated stone can vary substantially, with the invention process typically producing stones which are green to blue-green when light yellow grossular garnet is used.

While the invention has been described in detail with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that modifications and variations are within the spirit and scope of that which is described and claimed.

That which is claimed is:

1. A method for enhancing the color of gemstone(s), said method comprising: subjecting a combination of a gemstone

AO 120 (3/85)

TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT

In compliance with the Act of July 19, 1952 (66 Stat. 814; 35 U.S.C. 290) you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed on the following patent(s) in the U.S. District Court:

that a co	ourt action has been filed o	n the following patent(s) in the U.S. District Court:			
DOCKET NO.	DATE FILED	U.S. DISTRICT COURT			
03cv155L(NLS) 1/24/03		United States District Court, Southern District of California			
PLAINTIFF		DEFENDANT			
Richard D. Pollak,		Alpha Imports (NY), Inc. Et al.			
PATENT NO.	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
1 5,888,918	3/30/99	Richard Pollak			
2					
3					
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5	<u> </u>				
In the above-entitled case, the following patent(s) have been included:					
DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY Amendment	Answer Cross Bill Other Pleading			
PATENT NO.	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
PATENT NO.	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
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1	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
2	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
2 3	DATE OF PATENT	PATENTEE			
1 2 3 4 5	•	PATENTEE ving decision has been rendered or judgment issued:			
1 2 3 4 5	•				
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1 2 3 4 5 In the abo	•	ving decision has been rendered or judgment issued:			

Copy 1 - Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Commissioner Copy 3 - Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Commissioner Copy 2 - Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Commissioner Copy 4 - Case file copy

7*19* amoun <u>150</u> APPLYING IFP JUDGE _

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