

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
DETROIT DIVISION**

VDPP, LLC,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Civil Action No. 2:23-cv-11462
v.)	
)	
FORD MOTOR COMPANY)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.)	

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff VDPP, LLC (“VDPP”) files this First Amended Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 10,951,881 (“the ‘881 patent”); U.S. Patent No. 11,039,123 (“the ‘123 patent”); and, U.S. Patent No. 9,426,452 (“the ‘452 patent”), (collectively referred to as the “Patents-in-Suit”) by Ford Motor Company (“Defendant” or “Ford”).

I. THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff VDPP is a company organized under the laws of Oregon with a principal place of business located in Corvallis, Oregon.

2. On information and belief, Defendant is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a regular and established place of business located at One American Road, Dearborn, Michigan. On information and belief, Defendant sells and offers to sell products and services throughout Michigan, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services that perform infringing methods or processes into the stream of commerce knowing that they would be sold in Michigan and this judicial district. Defendant can be served with process through their registered agent, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust

Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, at its place of business, or anywhere else it may be found.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Michigan and this judicial district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Michigan and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the State of Michigan and in this judicial district.

5. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b). Defendant has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this forum, directly or through intermediaries, 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 Michigan and this District.

III. INFRINGEMENT

A. Infringement of the '881 Patent

6. On March 16, 2021, U.S. Patent No. 10,951,881 (“the ‘881 patent”, included as Exhibit A and part of this complaint) entitled “Faster State Transitioning for Continuous Adjustable 3Deeps Filter Spectacles Using Multi-Layered Variable Tint Materials” was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the ‘881 patent by assignment.

7. The ‘881 patent relates to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame.

8. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services in the field of automotive manufacture that infringes one or more of claims of the ‘881 patent, including one or more of claims 1-2, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the ‘881 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant’s actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant’s products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant’s acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant’s procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

9. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the preliminary exemplary table attached as Exhibit B. These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.

10. Defendant has and continues to induce infringement. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others ((e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-2 of the ‘881 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the ‘881 patent and the technology

underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.¹ For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

11. Defendant has and continues to contributorily infringe. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-2 of the ‘881 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the ‘881 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.² For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

12. Defendant has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the ‘881 patent.

B. Infringement of the ‘123 Patent

13. On June 15, 2021, U.S. Patent No. 11,039,123 (“the ‘123 patent”, included as Exhibit C and part of this complaint) entitled “Faster State Transitioning for Continuous Adjustable 3Deeps Filter Spectacles Using Multi-Layered Variable Tint Materials” was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the ‘123 patent by assignment.

14. The ‘123 patent relates to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame.

15. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services in the field of motion pictures that infringes one or more of claims of the ‘123 patent, including one or more of claims 1-2, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions

¹ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

² Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

claimed by the '123 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant's actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant's products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant's acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant's procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

16. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the preliminary exemplary table attached as Exhibit D. These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.

17. Defendant has and continues to induce infringement. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-2 of the '123 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '123 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.³ For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

18. Defendant has and continues to contributorily infringe. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-2 of the '123 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the

³ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

‘123 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.⁴ For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

19. Defendant has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the ‘123 patent.

C. Infringement of the ‘452 Patent

20. On August 23, 2016, U.S. Patent No. 9,426,452 (“the ‘452 patent”, included as Exhibit E and part of this complaint) entitled “Faster State Transitioning for Continuous Adjustable 3Deeps Filter Spectacles Using Multi-Layered Variable Tint Materials” was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the ‘452 patent by assignment.

21. The ‘452 patent relates to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame.

22. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services in the field of motion pictures that infringes one or more of claims of the ‘452 patent, including one or more of claims 1-4, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the ‘452 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant’s actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant’s products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant’s acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant’s procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

23. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the preliminary exemplary table attached as Exhibit F. These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.

⁴ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

24. Defendant has and continues to induce infringement. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-4 of the '452 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '452 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.⁵ For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

25. Defendant has and continues to contributorily infringe. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., a system related to an electrically controlled spectacle frame and optoelectronic lenses housed in the frame) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-4 of the '452 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '452 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.⁶ For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

26. Defendant has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the '123 patent.

IV. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

⁵ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

⁶ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the Patents-in-Suit;
- b. award Plaintiff damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant's infringement of the Patents-in-Suit in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- c. award Plaintiff an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;
- d. declare this case to be "exceptional" under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award Plaintiff its attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;
- e. declare Defendant's infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage award pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- f. a decree addressing future infringement that either (i) awards a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and subsidiaries, and those in association with Defendant from infringing the claims of the Patents-in-Suit, or (ii) awards damages for future infringement in lieu of an injunction in an amount consistent with the fact that for future infringement the Defendant will be an adjudicated infringer of a valid patent, and trebles that amount in view of the fact that the future infringement will be willful as a matter of law; and
- g. award Plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramey LLP

/s/ William P. Ramey, III
William P. Ramey, III
Texas Bar No. 24027643
wramey@rameyfirm.com

5020 Montrose Blvd., Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 426-3923 (telephone)
(832) 900-4941 (fax)

Attorneys for VDPP, LLC