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Attorneys for Plaintiffs HANGZHOU ALFA TRADING CO. LTD and ZHEJIANG XINMAO PLASTIE INDUSTRY CO., LTD

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

<p>HANGZHOU ALFA TRADING CO. LTD, a foreign limited liability corporation, and ZHEJIANG XINMAO PLASTIE INDUSTRY CO., LTD, a foreign limited liability corporation,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiffs,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>DBEST PRODUCTS, INC., a California corporation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant</p>	<p>Case No. 2:25-cv-00471</p> <p>COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGE AND FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT</p> <p>1. Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 12,103,576 B2 (“576 Patent”)</p> <p>2. Patent Misuse</p> <p>3. Unfair Competition</p> <p>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</p>
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Plaintiffs HANGZHOU ALFA TRADING CO. LTD (“Alfa”) and ZHEJIANG

1 XINMAO PLASTIE INDUSTRY CO., LTD (“ZXP”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) for
2 their Complaint for Declaratory Judgement of Patent Non-Infringement and Patent
3 Misuse against DBEST PRODUCTS INC. (“Defendant”), each avers and alleges as
4 follows.

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. This is an action seeking relief from Defendant’s pattern of abuse of the
7 patent laws by using U.S. Patent Number 12,103,576 B2 (the “576 Patent”) to coerce
8 online marketplaces, like those offered by Amazon Inc. (“Amazon”), to delist online
9 listings and marketplaces from Defendant’s lawful competitors. A copy of the ‘576
10 Patent is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

11 2. Plaintiff Alfa made and sold the following products online through its
12 “SPIEEK-YK” branded Amazon store:



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23 The products above have the following Amazon Standard Identification Number
24 (“ASIN”) on Amazon, but have since been removed because of Defendant’s misuse
25 of the ‘576 Patent which caused Amazon to remove the following listings from access
26 by Plaintiff Alfa’s customers:

- B0DCG8T8L8 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCG8T8L8>);
- B0DCGCX1SJ (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCGCX1SJ>);

- B0DCG867N6 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCG867N6>);
- B0DCG41SBK (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCG41SBK>);
- B0DCF1QKKG (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCF1QKKG>);
- B0DCF54GKR (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCF54GKR>);
- B0DCDX12QS (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCDX12QS>); and
- B0DCF28B97 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCF28B97>); collectively referred to herein as “Alfa Products”.

3. On or around December 15, 2024, Defendant used the ‘576 Patent to unlawfully take down Plaintiff Alfa’s Amazon marketplace for the Alfa Products. *See Exhibit B* (Amazon Complaint Number 16796393811). Since then, Defendant’s misuse of the ‘576 Patent to disrupt Plaintiff Alfa’s Amazon sales has caused, and continues to cause, immediate and irreparable harm to Plaintiff Alfa.

4. Plaintiff ZXP sold the following products under the brand “Enhomme Direct” via Amazon:



The products above have the following ASIN on Amazon, but have since been removed because of Defendant’s misuse of the ‘567 Patent which caused Amazon to remove the following listings from access by Plaintiff ZXP’s customers:

- B0DCFKFBLS (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCFKFBLS>);
- B0DMKDTFNL (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKDTFNL>);

1 • B0DMKCFDDJ (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKCFDDJ>);
 2 • B0DMKG5DJ7 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKG5DJ7>);
 3 • B0DM9G8426 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DM9G8426>);
 4 • B0DLWQMS2C(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DLWQMS2C>);
 5 • B0DMKH7PXT(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKH7PXT>);
 6 • B0DMKDPGXC(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKDPGXC>); and
 7 B0DMKDW8P3(<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DMKDW8P3>); collectively
 8 referred to herein as “Enhomme Products”.

9 5. On or around November 21, 2024, Defendant used the ‘576 Patent to
 10 unlawfully take down Plaintiff ZXP’s Amazon marketplace for its products sold
 11 through Enhomme Direct. *See Exhibit C*. Since then, Defendant’s misuse of the ‘576
 12 Patent to disrupt Plaintiff ZXP’s Amazon sales of Enhomme Products has caused, and
 13 continues to cause, immediate and irreparable harm to Plaintiff ZXP. *See Exhibit C*
 14 (Amazon Complaint Number 16696504481).

15 6. Plaintiff ZXP manufactured the products that were sold by Amazon under
 16 the brand name “VECELO”:



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26 The products above have the following ASIN on Amazon, but have since been
27 removed because of Defendant’s misuse of the ‘576 Patent which caused Amazon to
28 remove the following listings, from access by Plaintiff ZXP’s customers:

1 B0CRYXG6F4 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CRYXG6F4>);
2 B0CRYV2ZQN (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CRYV2ZQN>);
3 B0D83J4DMF (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D83J4DMF>);
4 B0D878RFPC (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D878RFPC>);
5 B0D879YPXJ (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D879YPXJ>);
6 B0D8762N2H (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D8762N2H>);
7 B0DCNRQTDV (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DCNRQTDV>);
8 B0CRY4QTLM (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CRY4QTLM>);
9 B0CRYXD631 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CRYXD631>);
10 B0D4Z2VWXH (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D4Z2VWXH>);
11 B0D4YZRYRF (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D4YZRYRF>); and
12 B0D4Z3K219 (<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D4Z3K219>), collectively
13 referred to herein as “VECELO Products”.

14 7. Defendant misused the ‘576 Patent to unlawfully take down Plaintiff
15 ZXP’s Amazon marketplace and its products sold through the Vecelo online store,
16 which Amazon continues to maintain despite Plaintiff ZXP’s appeal of that erroneous
17 decision. *See Exhibit D* (Amazon Complaint Number 16602835481).

18 8. The Amazon marketplace constitutes Plaintiffs’ primary sales channel
19 into the United States. In order to remain competitive in the United States market,
20 specifically in the folding storage boxes area, each Plaintiff needs the Alfa Products,
21 Enhomme Products, and Vecelo Products (the “Accused Products”) listed in the
22 Amazon marketplace to maintain its business by being available for purchase by
23 consumers.

24 9. The ‘576 Patent has three independent claims: Claims 1, 11, and 15. Each
25 of Claims 1-10 of Defendant’s ‘576 Patent requires, *inter alia*, “[a] collapsible cart
26 configured to transition from a closed condition where it is folded up to an open
27 condition where it is expanded for use,” and “the right sidewall and the left sidewall
28 are configured to fold inwardly in the closed condition; the right sidewall comprising

1 a first right panel rotatably coupled to a second right panel....” See **Exhibit A**, Column
2 11, line 41 – Column 12, line 57.

3 10. Each of Claims 11-14 of Defendant’s ‘576 Patent requires, *inter alia*, “the
4 right sidewall and the left sidewall are configured to fold inwardly in the closed
5 condition, the right sidewall comprising a first right panel rotatably coupled to a
6 second right panel, the right sidewall further comprising a third right panel, wherein
7 the second right panel and the third right panel conform in shape to collectively cover
8 the opening in the first right panel....” See **Exhibit A**, Column 12, line 58 – Column
9 13, line 28.

10 11. Each of Claims 15-18 of Defendant’s ‘576 Patent require, *inter alia*, “the
11 right sidewall and the left sidewall are configured to fold inwardly in the closed
12 condition, the right sidewall comprising a first right panel rotatably coupled to a
13 second right panel,” See **Exhibit A**, Column 13, line 29 – Column 14, line 41.

14 12. During prosecution of Defendant’s predecessor patent application to the
15 ‘576 Patent, U.S. Patent Application No. 17/143,116 (the “116 Application), a third
16 party presented charts to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”)
17 illustrating how CN207506081U (the CN081 Patent) met claim language in the ‘116
18 Application. See **Exhibit E**.

19 13. U.S. Patent No. 4,662,532 A issued before the earliest effective date of
20 the claims of the ‘576 Patent. See **Exhibit F**. The USPTO never considered this
21 reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

22 14. U.S. Patent No. 3,981,410 A issued before the earliest effective date of
23 the claims of the ‘576 Patent. See **Exhibit G**. The USPTO never considered this
24 reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

25 15. U.S. Patent No. 9,278,775 B2 issued before the earliest effective date of
26 the claims of the ‘576 Patent. See **Exhibit H**. The USPTO never considered this
27 reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

28 16. U.S. Patent No. 8,757,412 B2 issued before the earliest effective date of

1 the claims of the ‘576 Patent. *See Exhibit I.* The USPTO never considered this
2 reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

3 17. DE9203114 U1 published before the earliest effective date of the claims
4 of the ‘576 Patent. *See Exhibit J.* The USPTO never considered this reference during
5 prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

6 18. Finnish Patent No. 128389 published before the earliest effective date of
7 the claims of the ‘576 Patent. *See Exhibit K.* The USPTO never considered this
8 reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

9 19. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0270545 A1 published
10 before the earliest effective date of the claims of the ‘576 Patent. *See Exhibit L.* The
11 USPTO never considered this reference during prosecution of the ‘576 Patent.

12 20. Defendant’s anticompetitive use of the ‘576 Patent to dominate the
13 market for folding storage containers is both wrongful and targeted to competitively
14 harm Plaintiffs and restrict free market competition.

15 21. An actual and justiciable case or controversy therefore exists between
16 each Plaintiff and Defendant regarding whether the Accused Products have infringed
17 the claims of ‘576 Patent. Declaratory relief is thus appropriate and necessary to
18 establish that the making, using, importation, sale, or offer of sale of the Accused
19 Products do not infringe, directly or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of
20 equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the ‘576 Patent. Each Plaintiff is
21 entitled to a judgment declaring that they have not infringed and will not infringe any
22 valid or enforceable claim of the ‘576 Patent.

23 22. Consequently, Plaintiff now seeks relief from this Court to resolve this
24 dispute and be compensated for the injury caused by Defendant’s unlawful business
25 practices, antitrust, patent misuse, and unfair competition.

26 23. This is an action for declaratory judgement of non-infringement, patent
27 misuse, and unfair competition involving the ‘576 Patent under the patent laws of the
28 United States, to wit, 35 U.S.C §§ 1 et seq., as well as findings of antitrust violations

1 and unfair competition under California law. Plaintiff brings this action because of
2 Defendant's unlawful and unfair business practices.

3 **PARTIES**

4 24. Plaintiff ALFA is now, and at all times relevant herein was, a Chinese
5 Business entity located in the People's Republic of China with an address of Room
6 1301, Building 4, No. 520, Keji Yuan Road, Baiyang Street, Qiantang District,
7 Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province.

8 25. Plaintiff ZXP is now, and at all times relevant herein was, a Chinese
9 Business entity located in the People's Republic of China with an address of No. 51,
10 Lianyu Road, Gaoqiao Street, Huangyan District, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province.

11 26. On information and belief, Defendant is California corporation with a
12 principal place of business at 7825 Somerset Blvd., Suite D, Paramount, CA 90723.

13 27. On information and belief, Defendant distributes and sells utility carts and
14 similar products, in this judicial district, including through Amazon.com.

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 28. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of
17 the United States Code §§ 101 et seq.

18 29. This action further arises under the antitrust laws of the United States,
19 including but not limited to §1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. §1) and §§4, 26 of the
20 Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. §§15, 26).

21 30. Plaintiff seeks relief under the Federal Declaratory Judgement Act.

22 31. Plaintiff has standing because Defendant has filed claims of patent
23 infringement to Amazon which has resulted in the removal of Plaintiff's Amazon
24 product listings. Product delisting from Amazon has stopped Plaintiff's Amazon sales
25 and caused significant financial loss. Defendants' actions thereby give rise to a case
26 of actual controversy under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 et. seq.

27 32. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over these claims pursuant to
28 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, 1338, 2201 and 2202.

1 33. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it is
2 incorporated in California, has a principal place of business in California, and
3 maintains substantial and continuous business operations in California.

4 34. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to at least 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as
5 Defendant is considered domiciled in this district and it is within this district that
6 Defendant has engaged in acts and omissions that have led to the fear and
7 apprehension of suit and/or the harm because of such acts against Plaintiffs.

8 **COUNT I:**

9 **Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement of the ‘576 Patent**

10 35. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference all the foregoing paragraphs as
11 if fully set forth herein.

12 36. Claims 1, 11, and 15 are the only independent claims of the ‘576 Patent.

13 37. None of the Accused Products infringe Claims 1, 11, and 15 of the ‘576
14 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, because their designs are
15 like those shown in one or more of Exhibits E-L.

16 38. There is no construction of Claims 1, 11, and 15 of the ‘576 Patent that
17 does not otherwise ensnare Exhibits E-L.

18 39. Neither Plaintiff can infringe any claim of the ‘576 Patent, either literally
19 or under the doctrine of equivalents according to the ensnarement doctrine.

20 **COUNT II:**

21 **Patent Misuse**

22 40. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference all of the foregoing paragraphs
23 as if fully set forth herein.

24 41. Defendant misused its patent rights by threatening to prevent Plaintiffs
25 from selling the non-infringing Alfa Products, Enhomme Products, and the Vecelo
26 Products on Amazon.com based upon the non-infringed ‘576 Patent.

27 42. Defendant has misused its ‘576 Patent by alleging patent infringement by
28 Plaintiffs to Amazon while knowing that the ‘576 Patent is not infringed. Defendant’s

1 actions involving the ‘576 Patent to restrain Plaintiffs’ freedom of competition using
2 an illegitimate patent right constitutes a *per se* violation of the antitrust laws.

3 1. Plaintiffs’ businesses have been and continue to be injured because of
4 Defendant’s patent misuse. Defendant’s unlawful use of the ‘576 Patent, either alone,
5 or in concert with any other party, such as Amazon, has diminished Plaintiffs’ abilities
6 to make sales of its non-infringing products.

7 2. Amazon’s removal of Plaintiffs’ listings and the threat of possible
8 deactivation of Plaintiff’s Amazon Seller Account and destruction of product have
9 caused, and continue to cause, Plaintiffs to lose substantial sales and impose
10 irreparable harm in terms of lost sales of the Alf Products, Enhomme Products, and
11 Vecelo Products to competitors or consumer dissatisfaction with being unable to
12 obtain the same when they were available prior to Defendant’s reckless bad acts.

13 3. As a result of Defendant’s willful misuse of the ‘576 Patent, each Plaintiff
14 is entitled to recover threefold the damages it has sustained, and the cost of this lawsuit,
15 including a reasonable attorney’s fee.

16 COUNT III

17 Unfair Competition Under California Law

18 4. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference all the foregoing paragraphs as
19 if fully set forth herein.

20 5. The conduct of Defendant amounts to unfair competition under Section
21 17200 et. seq. of the California Business & Professions Code, which prohibits any
22 unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.

23 6. Plaintiffs’ businesses have been and continue to be injured as a result of
24 Defendant’s unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent conduct by requesting Amazon to
25 remove Plaintiffs’ listings of the Alfa Products, Enhomme Products, and Vecelo
26 Products based on a knowingly unenforceable and non-infringed ‘576 Patent.
27 Amazon’s removal of Plaintiffs’ listings and the threat of possible deactivation of
28 Plaintiff’s Amazon Seller Account and destruction of inventory have caused, and

1 continue to cause, Plaintiffs to lose substantial sales and impose irreparable harm in
2 terms of lost sales of the Plaintiffs' products to competitors or consumer dissatisfaction
3 with being unable to obtain the Alfa Products, Enhomme Products, and Vecelo
4 Products when they were available prior to Defendant's bad acts.

5 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

6 WHEREFORE, each Plaintiff prays for judgment to be entered in its favor
7 against Defendant as follows:

- 8 A. A judgment that the Alf Products do not infringe the '576 Patent either
9 literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;
- 10 B. A judgment that the Enhomme Products do not infringe the '576 Patent
11 either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;
- 12 C. A judgment that the Vecelo Products do not infringe the '576 Patent either
13 literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;
- 14 D. A judgment that Defendant has engaged in patent misuse by causing
15 Amazon to remove the Accused Products on the basis of a non-infringed
16 '576 Patent;
- 17 E. A judgment permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant, its
18 officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons
19 acting in concert, participation or privity with it, and its successors and
20 assigns, from alleging, suggesting, or causing the Alfa Products to be
21 delisted from Amazon on the basis of infringement of the '576 Patent;
- 22 F. A judgment permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant, its
23 officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons
24 acting in concert, participation or privity with it, and its successors and
25 assigns, from alleging, suggesting, or causing the Enhomme Products to
26 be delisted from Amazon on the basis of infringement of the '576 Patent;

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- 1 G. A judgment permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant, its
- 2 officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons
- 3 acting in concert, participation or privity with it, and its successors and
- 4 assigns, from alleging, suggesting, or causing the Vecelo Products to be
- 5 delisted from Amazon on the basis of infringement of the ‘576 Patent;
- 6 H. A judgement requiring Defendant or its agents to retract or withdraw the
- 7 complaint to Amazon that has caused the removal of each of Plaintiffs’
- 8 products;
- 9 I. A judgement requiring Defendant or its agents to retract or withdraw any
- 10 asset freezes maintained on the part of Amazon as a result of Defendant’s
- 11 allegations of ‘576 Patent infringement;
- 12 J. A judgment declaring this case is exceptional in favor of Plaintiffs
- 13 entitling each Plaintiff to an award of reasonable attorney fees and the
- 14 costs incurred in prosecuting this action, together with interest, pursuant
- 15 to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- 16 K. A judgement be entered declaring the Defendant has engaged in antitrust
- 17 activity, including patent misuse, and award threefold the damages each
- 18 Plaintiff has sustained, plus the cost of this lawsuit, including a reasonable
- 19 attorney’s fee;
- 20 L. That judgement be entered declaring that Defendant violated the unfair
- 21 competition laws of California and enter appropriate permanent
- 22 injunctions; and

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1 M. A judgment awarding each Plaintiff such other and further relief as the
2 Court may deem just and proper.

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4 Dated: January 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

5 By: /s/ Randall A. Miller

Randall A. Miller, Esq.

6 Zachary Mayer, Esq.

7 Joseph Farco, Esq. (*pro hac vice* to be filed)

8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs HANGZHOU
9 ALFA TRADING CO. LTD and
10 ZHEJIANG XINMAO PLASTIE
11 INDUSTRY CO., LTD
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