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Paper No. 7
Filed: February 2, 2017

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01472
Patent 7,489,786 B2

Before JAMESON LEE, MIRIAM L. QUINN, and KERRY BEGLEY, *Administrative Patent Judges.*

LEE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
37 C.F.R. § 42.108

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

On July 21, 2016, Petitioner filed a Petition (Paper 1, "Pet.") to institute *inter partes* review of claims 1, 5–8, 10, 14, 57, 60–62, 64, and 65 of U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 B2 (Ex. 1001, "the '786 patent"). On November 15, 2016, Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 6, "Prelim. Resp.").

To institute an *inter partes* review, we must determine that the information presented in the Petition shows "that there is a reasonable likelihood that the petitioner would prevail with respect to at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition." 35 U.S.C. § 314(a). Having considered both the Petition and the Preliminary Response, we determine that Petitioner has not demonstrated a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of any of claims 1, 5–8, 10, 14, 57, 60–62, 64, and 65. We do not institute an *inter partes* review of any claim of the '786 patent.

B. Related Matters

Petitioner indicates that the '786 patent was asserted by Patent Owner against Petitioner in *Blitzsafe Texas, LLC v. Honda Motor Co., Ltd. et al.*, No. 2:15-cv-1274 (E.D. Tex.). Pet. 2. The parties indicate that the '786 patent is the subject of four other actions in the Eastern District of Texas. Pet. 58–59; Paper 3, 1. The parties further indicate that the '786 patent is the subject of two concluded matters in the District of New Jersey. Pet. 59; Paper 3, 2. The '786 patent also is the subject patent in these *inter partes* review proceedings: IPR2016-00421, IPR2016-00422, IPR2016-01448, and IPR2016-01477. U.S. Patent No. 8,155,342 B2 is a

related patent, and that related patent is involved in IPR2016-00118, IPR2016-00418, IPR2016-00419, IPR2016-01445, IPR2016-01449, IPR2016-01473, IPR2016-01476, IPR2016-01533, IPR2016-01557, and IPR2016-01560.

C. The ’786 Patent

The ’786 patent is titled “Audio Device Integration System.” Ex. 1001, (54). The Abstract portion of the Specification explains:

> [O]ne or more after-market audio devices, such as a CD player, CD changer, MP3 player, satellite receiver, DAB receiver, or the like, is integrated for use with an existing OEM or after-market car stereo system, wherein control commands can be issued at the car stereo and responsive data from the audio device can be displayed on the stereo.

Id. at Abstr.

In the Background of the Invention portion of the Specification, a problem with which the ’786 patent is concerned is described as follows:

> A particular problem with integrating after-market audio systems with existing car stereos is that signals generated by the car stereo is in a proprietary format, and is not capable of being processed by the after-market system. Additionally, signals generated by the after-market system are also in a proprietary format that is not recognizable by the car stereo. Thus, in order to integrate after-market systems with car stereos, it is necessary to convert signals between such systems.

Id. at 1:36–44. In the Summary of the Invention portion of the Specification, it is stated:

> The commands generated at the control panel [of a car stereo] are received by the present invention and converted into a format recognizable by the after-market audio device. The formatted commands are executed by the audio device, and audio therefrom is channeled to the car stereo. Information from the audio device is received by the present invention, converted into a format

> recognizable by the car stereo, and forwarded to the car stereo for display thereby.

Ex. 1001, 2:35–42.

The '786 patent describes:

> Control commands generated at the car stereo are received, processed, converted into a format recognizable by the audio device, and dispatched to the audio device for execution. Information from the audio device, including track, disc, song, station, time, and other information, is received, processed, converted into a format recognizable by the car stereo, and dispatched to the car stereo for display thereon.

Id. Additional auxiliary sources also may be integrated together, and "a user can select between the [audio] device or the one or more auxiliary input sources by issuing selection commands through the car stereo." *Id.*

Figures 2A–2C are reproduced below:

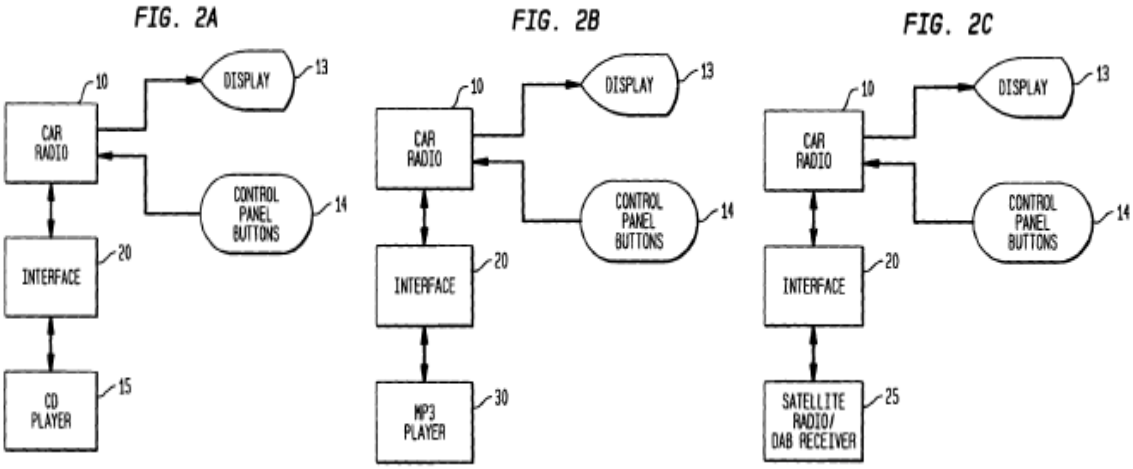

Figure 2A illustrates an embodiment integrating a CD player with the car stereo; Figure 2B illustrates an embodiment integrating a MP3 player with a car stereo; and Figure 2C illustrates an embodiment integrating a satellite or DAB receiver with a car stereo. *Id.* at 3:14–23. A more versatile embodiment is shown in Figure 1:

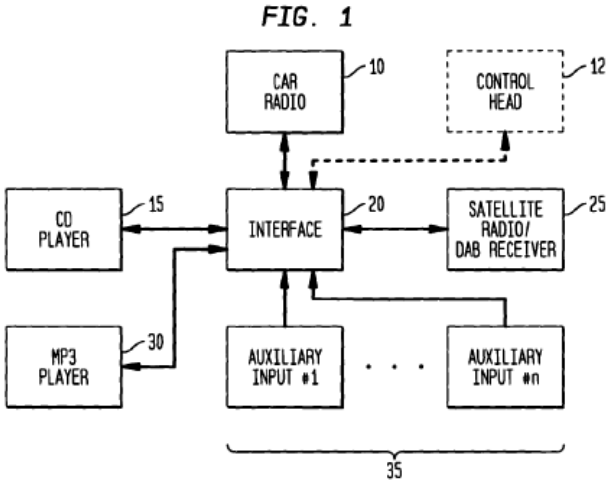

Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment integrating a CD player, a MP3 player, and a satellite radio or DAB receiver, and a number of auxiliary input sources with a car stereo. Ex. 1001, 3:12–13. As shown in the above figures, central to the '786 patent is an "interface" positioned between the car stereo and the audio device(s) and auxiliary input(s) being integrated.

> With specific regard to Figure 2B, the '786 patent describes:
>
> > The interface 20 allows data and audio signals to be exchanged between the MP3 player 30 and the car radio 10, and processes and formats signals accordingly so that instructions and data from the radio 10 are processable by the MP3 player 30, and vice versa. Operational commands, such as track selection, pause, play, stop, fast forward, rewind, and other commands, are entered via the control panel buttons 14 of car radio 10, processed by the interface 20, and formatted for execution by the MP3 player 30. Data from the MP3 player, such as track, time, and song information, is received by the interface 20, processed thereby, and sent to the radio 10 for display on display 13. Audio from MP3 player 30 is selectively forwarded by the interface 20 to the radio 10 for playing.

Id. at 6:11–24. Similar description is provided with respect to Figures 2A and 2C. *Id.* at 5:49–55, 6:35–43.

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