

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY, HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA,
HYUNDAI MOTOR MANUFACTURING ALABAMA, LLC,
KIA MOTORS CORPORATION, KIA MOTORS AMERICA, INC., and
KIA MOTORS MANUFACTURING GEORGIA, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2016-01477
Patent 7,489,786 B2

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

BEGLEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION

Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314(a), 37 C.F.R. § 42.108

Hyundai Motor Company, Hyundai Motor America, Hyundai Motor
Manufacturing Alabama, LLC, Kia Motors Corporation, Kia Motors
America, Inc., and Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. (collectively,

IPR2016-01477

Patent 7,489,786 B2

“Petitioner”) filed a Petition requesting *inter partes* review of claims 1, 5–8, 10, 14, 23, 24, 57, 60–62, 64, and 65 (“challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’786 patent”). Paper 1 (“Pet.”). Blitzsafe Texas, LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response to the Petition. Paper 11 (“Prelim. Resp.”).

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314(a), an *inter partes* review may not be instituted unless “the information presented in the petition . . . and any response . . . 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.” Having considered the Petition and the Preliminary Response, we determine that the information presented does not show that there is a reasonable likelihood that Petitioner would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of any of the challenged claims of the ’786 patent. Accordingly, we deny institution of an *inter partes* review.

I. BACKGROUND

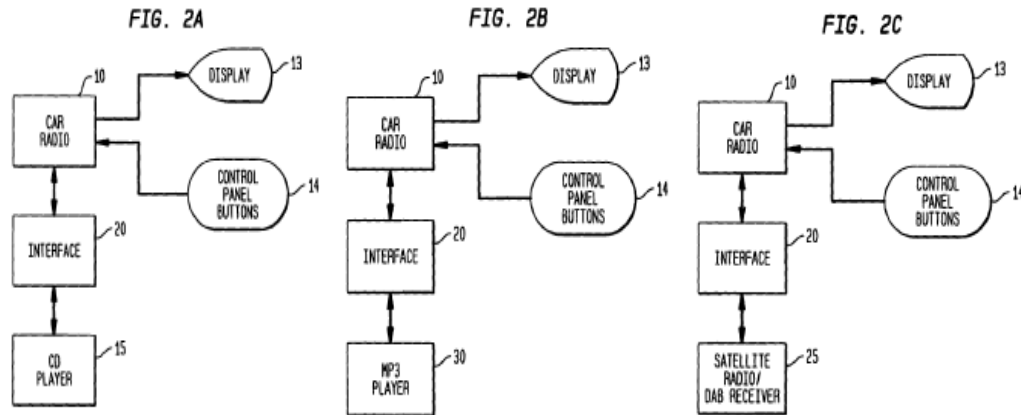
A. RELATED MATTERS

The parties represent that the ’786 patent is the subject of five ongoing infringement actions before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and was previously the subject of two infringement actions before the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Paper 8, 1–2; Pet. 2. In addition, the ’786 patent is or was previously the subject of several *inter partes* review proceedings before the Office, namely IPR2016-00421, IPR2016-00422, IPR2016-01448, and IPR2016-01472. Paper 8, 2; *see* Pet. 2. Related U.S. Patent No. 8,155,342 B2 is or was previously involved in IPR2016-00118, IPR2016-00418, IPR2016-00419, IPR2016-01445, IPR2016-01449, IPR2016-01473, IPR2016-01476, IPR2016-01533, IPR2016-01557, and IPR2016-01560. *See* Paper 8, 2.

B. THE '786 PATENT

The '786 patent explains that integrating an after-market audio system with an existing car stereo, such as a stereo from an original equipment manufacturer (“OEM”), presents a problem because signals generated by both systems are in a “proprietary format” and “are not capable of being processed” or recognized by the other system. Ex. 1001, 1:36–42; *see id.* at 2:26–29. Thus, “in order to integrate after-market systems with car stereos, it is necessary to convert signals between such systems.” *Id.* at 1:42–44.

The '786 patent is directed to an audio device integration system that allows after-market audio devices to be integrated for use with an existing car stereo system, such that control commands can be issued at the car stereo for execution by the audio device and data from the audio device can be displayed on the car stereo. *Id.* at [57], 2:12–42. More specifically, control commands generated at the car stereo are received, converted into a format recognizable by the after-market audio device, and dispatched to the device for execution. *Id.* at [57], 2:35–40. In addition, information from the audio device, such as track, channel, song, and artist information, is received, processed, converted into a format recognizable by the car stereo, and dispatched to the stereo for display. *Id.* at [57], 2:40–47. The audio device could, for example, comprise a “CD player, CD changer, MP3 player, satellite receiver, [or] digital audio broadcast (DAB) receiver.” *Id.* at 4:28–30; *see id.* at [57], 2:23–26. Figures 2A–2C are reproduced below:



Figures 2A–C illustrate embodiments in which a car stereo is integrated with a CD player (Figure 2A), an MP3 player (Figure 2B), and a satellite radio or DAB receiver (Figure 2C). *Id.* at 3:14–23.

In addition, an audio device as well as auxiliary input sources may be integrated with a car stereo. *Id.* at [57], 2:53–56. A user then “can select between the external audio device and the auxiliary input using the controls of the car stereo.” *Id.* at 2:56–57. Figure 1 is reproduced below:

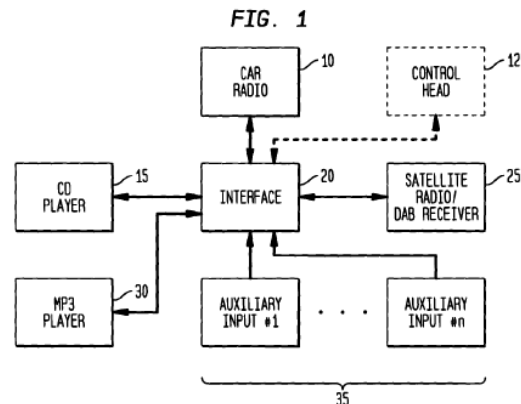


Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment integrating a car stereo with a CD player, a MP3 player, and a satellite radio or DAB receiver, as well as a number of auxiliary input sources. *Id.* at 3:12–13, 5:14–27.

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). *See, e.g., id.* at Fig. 1, 2A–C, 5:33–36. The interface

allows for the integration of the audio devices and auxiliary inputs with the OEM or after-market car stereo. *Id.* at 5:33–36.

C. ILLUSTRATIVE CLAIM

Of the challenged claims, claims 1 and 57 of the '786 patent are independent. Claim 1, reproduced below, is illustrative:

1. An audio device integration system comprising:
 - a first connector electrically connectable to a car stereo;
 - a second connector electrically connectable to an after-market audio device external to the car stereo;
 - a third connector electrically connectable to one or more auxiliary input sources external to the car stereo and the after-market audio device;an interface connected between said first and second electrical connectors for channeling audio signals to the car stereo from the after-market audio device, said interface including a microcontroller in electrical communication with said first and second electrical connectors, said microcontroller pre-programmed to execute:
 - a first pre-programmed code portion for remotely controlling the after-market audio device using the car stereo by receiving a control command from the car stereo through said first connector in a format incompatible with the after-market audio device, processing the received control command into a formatted command compatible with the after-market audio device, and transmitting the formatted command to the after-market audio device through said second connector for execution by the after-market audio device;
 - a second pre-programmed code portion for receiving data from the after-market audio device through said second connector in a format incompatible with the car stereo, processing the received data into formatted data compatible with the car stereo, and transmitting the formatted data to the car stereo through said first connector for display by the car stereo; and

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