

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case IPR2018-01142
Patent 7,489,786 B2

Before JAMESON LEE, THOMAS L. GIANNETTI, and
MIRIAM L. QUINN, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

QUINN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Denying Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314(a)

I. INTRODUCTION

BMW of North America, LLC (“Petitioner”) filed a Petition requesting *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 4–8, 10, 13, 14, 23, 24, 57, 58, 60–65, 86, and 88–91 (“the challenged claims”) of U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’786 patent”). Paper 2 (“Pet.”). Blitzsafe Texas, LLC (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 7 (“Prelim. Resp.”).

We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 314, which states that *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, and for the reasons stated below, we do not institute *inter partes* review of the ’786 patent.

A. Related Matters

The parties indicate that the ’786 patent is the subject matter of district court litigation pending in the Eastern District of Texas. Pet. 61–62; Paper 6, 1–2.

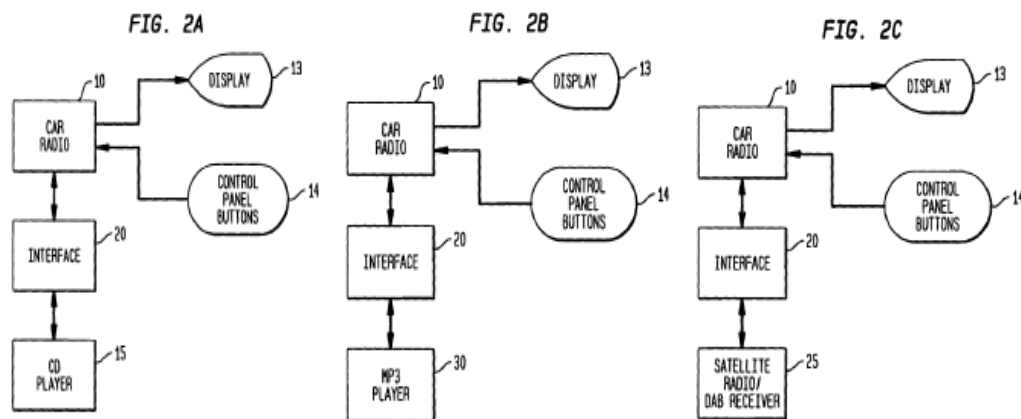
The ’786 patent has been challenged in many AIA proceedings: IPR2016-00421, IPR2016-00422, IPR2016-01448, IPR2016-01472, IPR2016-01477, IPR2018-01203, IPR2018-01204, IPR2018-01211, and IPR2018-01214. Pet. 49–50; Paper 6, 2.

B. The ’786 Patent (Ex. 1001)

The ’786 patent is entitled “Audio Device Integration System.” Ex. 1001, [54] (emphasis omitted). According to the ’786 patent, 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.” *Id.* at 1:36–39. “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 external 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:

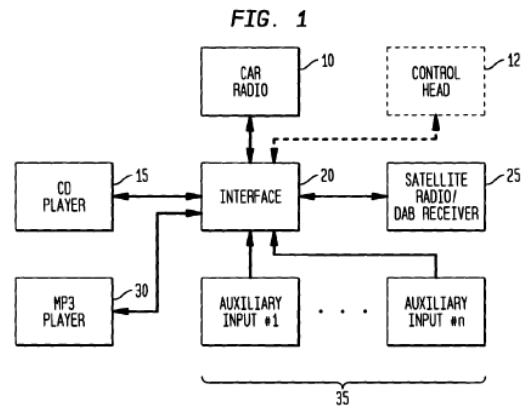


Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment integrating a car stereo with a CD player, an MP3 player, and a satellite radio or DAB receiver, as well as a number of auxiliary input sources. *Id.* at 3:12–13, 5:14–27.

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, 57, and 86 are independent. Claims 2, 4–8, 10, 13, 14, 23, 24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claims 58 and 60–65 depend directly or indirectly from claim 57. Claims 88–91 depend directly or indirectly from claim 86.

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

a third pre-programmed code portion for switching to one or more auxiliary input sources connected to said third electrical connector.

Ex. 1001, 21:31–64.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.