UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION,
Petitioner,

v.

BLITZSAFE TEXAS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

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Case IPR2015-00421
Patent 7,489,786 B2

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Before JAMESON LEE, THOMAS L. GIANNETTI, and HUNG H. BUI,
Administrative Patent Judges.

LEE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

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

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Background*

On December 30, 2015, Petitioner filed a Corrected Petition (Paper 3, "Pet.") to institute *inter partes* review of claims 1, 2, 4–8, 10, 13, 14, 23, 24, 44, 47, 57, 58, 60–65, 86, 88–92, 94, 97, and 98 of U.S. Patent No. 7,489,786 (Ex. 1101, "the '786 patent"). On April 22, 2016, Patent Owner filed a Preliminary Response (Paper 10, "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 demonstrated a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in establishing the unpatentability of claims 44 and 47. Petitioner has not, however, shown a reasonable likelihood that it would prevail in establishing the unpatentability any other claim. We institute an *inter partes* review of claims 44 and 47 of the '786 patent.

B. *Related Matters*

The parties indicate that the '786 patent was asserted in five infringement actions before the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Texas and two infringement actions before the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Pet. 1–2, Paper 5, 1–2. The '786 patent also is involved in IPR2016-00422. Related Patent 8,155,342 B2 is involved in IPR2016-00118, IPR2016-00418, and IPR2016-00419.

> C.   The '786 Patent

The '786 patent is titled "Audio Device Integration System." Ex. 1001 (54). "One 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. 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.* A docking station for docking a portable audio or video device for integration with the car stereo. *Id.* Figures 2A–2C are reproduced below:
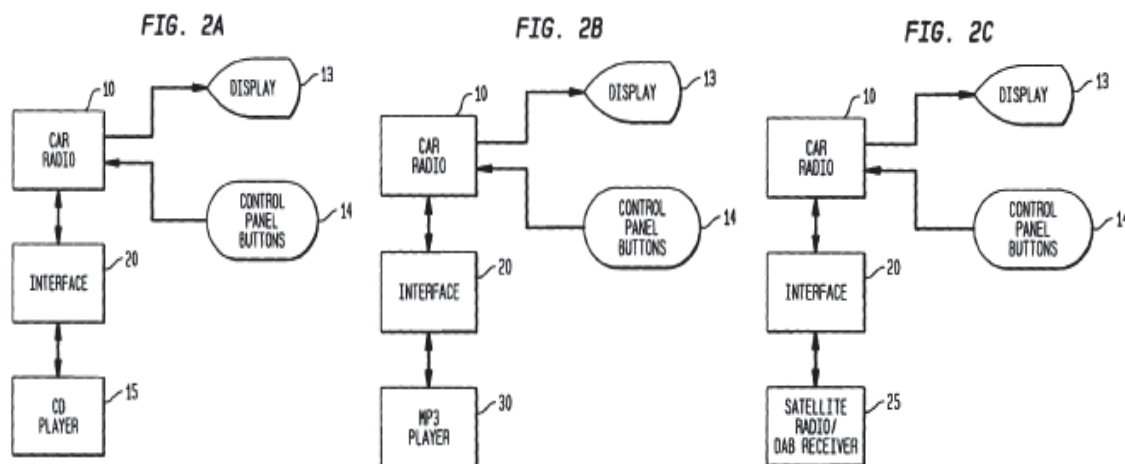
Figure 2A illustrates an embodiment integrating a CD player with the car stereo; Figure 2B illustrates an embodiment integrating a MP3 player with a car stereo; and Figure 2C illustrates an embodiment integrating a satellite or DAB receiver with a car stereo. *Id.* at 3:14–23. A more versatile embodiment is shown in Figure 1:
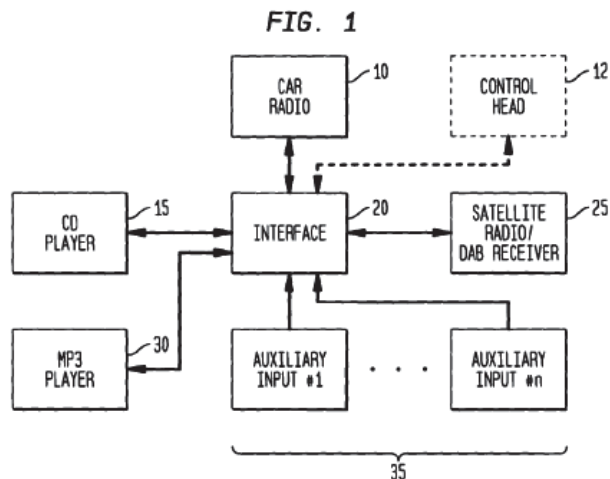

FIG. 1

Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment integrating a CD player, a MP3 player, a satellite radio or DAB receiver, and a number of auxiliary input sources with a car stereo. *Id.* at 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 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.

Claims 1, 44, 57, 86, and 92 are independent. Claim 1 is directed to a system that connects an after-market audio device as well as one or more auxiliary input sources to a car stereo. In particular, claim 1 recites a first connector electrically connectable to a car stereo, a second connector electrically connectable to an after-market device, and a third connector electrically connectable to one or more auxiliary input sources. *Id.* at 21:33–38. Claim 1 also recites an interface connected between the first and second electrical connectors, and that the interface includes a 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.

Id. at 21:44–64.

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