

Inter Partes Review of Patent No. 10,330,897

Apple Inc. v. Corephotonics, LTD., Case No. IPR2020-00878

Michael Parsons
Jordan Maucotel
Haynes and Boone, LLP

Grounds for challenging the claims of the '897 pate

Ground	Challenged Claims	References	B
1	1, 4, 9-15, 17, 20, and 25-29	Ogino (Ex. 5) (undisputed)	§
2	2, 5, 6, 18, and 21-23	Ogino (Ex. 5) and Bareau	§
3	3, 8, 19, and 24	Ogino (Ex. 5), Bareau, and Kingslake	§
4	16 and 30	Chen (Ex. 1), Iwasaki, and Beich	§

Pet

Obviousness only requires a motivation to combine the
and a reasonable expectation of success in doing

- Obviousness is a question of whether a POSITA would have been:
 - “motivated to combine the teachings of the prior art references to achieve the claimed invention, and
 - that the skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of success in doing so.”

A party seeking to invalidate a patent on obviousness grounds must "demonstrate `by clear and convincing evidence that a skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the teachings of the prior art references to achieve the claimed invention, and that the skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of success in doing so." *Procter & Gamble Co. v. Teva Pharm. USA, Inc.*, 566 F.3d 989, 994 (Fed.Cir.2009) (quoting *Pfizer, Inc. v. Apotex, Inc.*, 480 F.3d 1347, 1354 (Fed.Cir.2007)). While an analysis of any teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine elements from different prior art references is useful in an obviousness analysis, the overall inquiry must be expansive and flexible. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. 398, 405 (2007).

InTouch Techs., Inc. v. VGO Comms., 751 F.3d 1327, 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2014).
Note that in IPR, the standard is a "preponderance of the evidence." 35 U.S.C. § 42(c)(2)(B).

“Motivation to combine” is whether there is an “apparent reason to combine” the prior art “in the fashion claimed” by the patent.

- The Sur-Reply argues throughout that Apple failed to provide reasons:
 - why a POSITA would have selected Chen’s Ex. 1 in the first place (see pp. 10-11, 14-15, 19-22).
 - why a POSITA would have ended up at Dr. Sasián's examples in the Petition (see pp. 3-4, 9-10, 14-15, 19-22).
- **These arguments fail to apply the proper obviousness standard:**

Inc., 550 U.S. 398, 415, 419, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 167 L.Ed.2d 705 (2007). "Often, it will be necessary for a court to look to the interrelated teachings of multiple patents; the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace; and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art, all in order to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed by the patent at issue."

InTouch Techs., Inc. v. VGO Comms., 751 F.3d 1327, 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2014).

- The claims here are directed to **five-lens miniature telephoto lens assemblies** and Ogino and Chen teach **five-lens miniature telephoto lens assemblies in Ex. 5 and Ex. 1, respectively.**
- The only relevant question here is what was presented in the Petition — **whether a POSITA would have been motivated to modify Ogino’s Ex. 5 and Chen’s Ex. 1.**

“Reasonable expectation of success” only means “reasonable probability of success,” not absolute certainty.

- The Sur-Reply argues that a POSITA modifying a lens could have made various modifications to achieve the desired goal (e.g., a reduced f-number) and that F must show why a POSITA would have chosen the specific embodiment that met the claim limitation (see pp. 13-17).
 - **These arguments fail because they require showing a certainty of success in reaching the claimed limitation).**
- A “reasonable expectation of success” is simply “*a reasonable probability of success*” in achieving the claims at issue, “*not absolute*” certainty of achievement.

conclusion of non-obviousness based on that factual finding, however, is that case law is clear that obviousness is avoided simply by a showing of some degree of unpredictability in the art so long as there was a reasonable probability of success. See *In re Corkill*, 771 F.2d 1496, 1500 (Fed.Cir.1985) (“Although [the inventor] declared that it cannot be predicted how any candidate will work in a detergent composition, but that it must be tested, this does not overcome [the] teaching that hydrated zeolites will work.”); see also *Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. v. Philip Morris Inc.*, 2000 F.2d 1125 (Fed.Cir.2000); *Merck & Co., Inc. v. Biocraft Labs., Inc.*, 874 F.2d 804, 809 (Fed.Cir.1989); *In re Merck & Co.*, 853 F.2d 1091, 1097 (Fed.Cir. 1986). Indeed, a rule of law equating unpredictability to patentability, applied in this case, would mean that any new salt — including those specifically listed in the '909 patent itself — would be separately patentable simply because the formation and properties of each salt must be verified through testing. This cannot be the standard since the expectation of success need only be reasonable, not absolute. *Merck*, 874 F.2d at 809; *In re Merck & Co.*, 853 F.2d 894, 903 (Fed.Cir. 1988).

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.