

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. AND SAMSUNG
ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

GUI GLOBAL PRODUCTS, LTD., D/B/A GWEE,
Patent Owner.

IPR2021-00337
Patent 10,562,077 B2

Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, BRYAN F. MOORE, and
SHEILA F. McSHANE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

MEDLEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Granting Institution of *Inter Partes* Review
35 U.S.C. § 314

I. INTRODUCTION

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. and Samsung Electronics America, Inc. (collectively “Petitioner”) filed a Petition for *inter partes* review of claims 1–13 of U.S. Patent No. 10,562,077 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’077 patent”). Paper 3 (“Pet.”). GUI Global Products, Ltd., D/B/A Gwee (“Patent Owner”) filed a Preliminary Response. Paper 10 (“Prelim. Resp.”). Institution of an *inter partes* review is authorized by statute when “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.” 35 U.S.C. § 314(a). Upon consideration of the Petition, the Preliminary Response, and the evidence of record, we determine that Petitioner has established a reasonable likelihood of prevailing with respect to the unpatentability of at least one claim of the ’077 patent. Accordingly, for the reasons that follow, we institute an *inter partes* review of claims 1–13 of the ’077 patent.

A. Related Matters

The parties indicate that related district court litigations are *GUI Global Prods., Ltd. d/b/a Gwee v. Samsung Elecs. Co., Ltd.*, No. 4:20-cv-02624 (S.D. Tex.) and *GUI Global Prods., Ltd. d/b/a Gwee v. Apple, Inc.*, No. 4:20-cv-02652 (S.D. Tex.). Pet. 76; Papers 8, 9. The parties also indicate that the ’077 patent is the subject of a petition filed by Apple, Inc. in IPR2021-00472. Papers 8, 9.¹

¹ Petitioner inadvertently refers to the listed “IPR” cases as “IPR2020” rather than “IPR2021.” Paper 9, 3.

B. The '077 Patent

The Specification of the '077 patent describes how an apparatus may be used for cleaning view screens of electrical devices. Ex. 1001, 1:38–40. The '077 patent aims to address the lack of convenient cleaning materials faced by users portable electronic devices. *Id.* at 1:60–2:14.

In one embodiment, a cleaning component for cleaning a view screen of an electronic device is coupled to a first case of the electronic device using magnetic attractive force. *Id.* at 2:19–24, Fig. 1B.

Figure 1B is illustrative and is reproduced below.

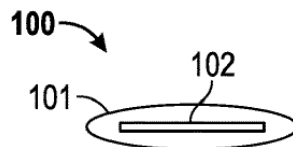


FIG. 1B

Figure 1B shows a side view of a cleaning component. *Id.* at 4:37–38. Cleaning component 100 includes ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substrate 102 covered by cleaning material 101, such as a fabric or a cloth. *Id.* at 6:29–49.

In another embodiment, a second case receives the cleaning component and also “functions to protect an electronic device’s primary case.” *Id.* at 2:47–60; Fig. 3.

Figure 3 is illustrative and is reproduced below.

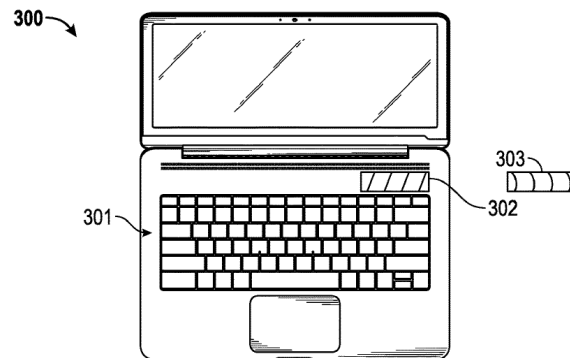


FIG. 3

Figure 3 shows a computer case configured to receive a cleaning component. *Id.* at 4:45–46. Laptop 300 has rectangular indentation 302 dimensioned for receiving cleaning component 303 which has a magnet. *Id.* at 8:62–9:2.

Figure 5A is also illustrative and is reproduced below.

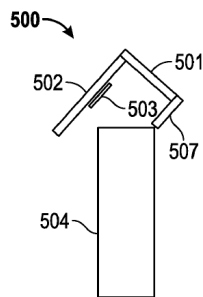


FIG. 5A

Figure 5A shows “a lateral type phone case configured to receive a cleaning component.” *Id.* at 4:49–50. Case 500 includes body 504 “which functions to hold a smart phone” and lid having tip 501, side 502, hinge 507, and cleaning component 503. *Id.* at 10:13–18.

The cleaning component is secured and adhered to a case via “dimensional stability to increase the security with which the clean components are adhered to the case.” *Id.* at 11:44–55; Fig. 9.

Figure 9 is illustrative and is reproduced below.

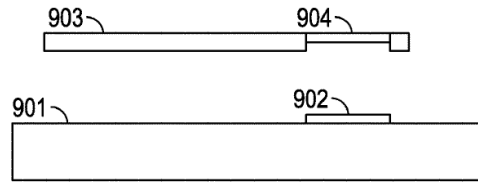


FIG. 9

Figure 9 shows a cleaning component “employing a structural feature to enhance adhesion.” *Id.* at 4:60–61. Device 901 has raised section 902 that is configured to fit within recess 904 of cleaning component 903. *Id.* at 11:49–51.

Still in another embodiment, the cleaning component has a magnetic element that activates or deactivates a magnetic switch. *Id.* at 3:6–8. The ’077 patent describes “activating or deactivating a device having a magnetic switch” as a “secondary application[.]” and that “cleaning devices” “may also be manufactured without a cleaning component for use with the secondary application.” *Id.* at code (57); *see also id.* at 11:63–66. Thus, a device “may or may not include cleaning capabilities but will include a rare earth magnet or magnets” for “additional functionality.” *Id.* at 16:31–33, 41–43.

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.