

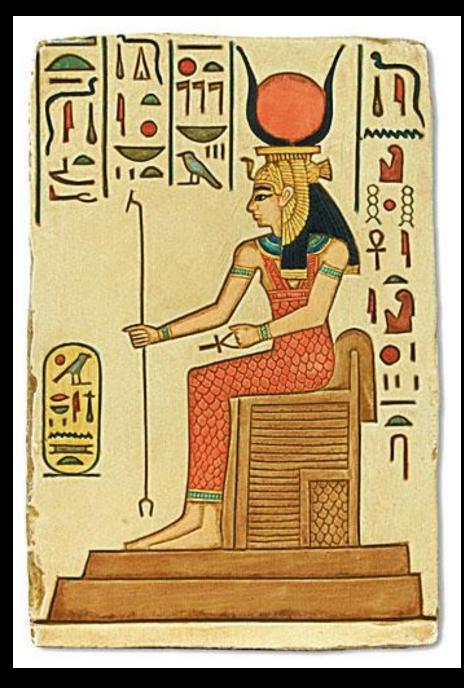
Looks Matter ...

Legally.®

EXPOSED



Florida Bar - Business Law Section Intellectual Property Committee Miami, Florida January 15, 2009



How DARE you expose me?



C6 Corvette































EXPOSED



20th Annual IP Fall CLE Seminar Williamsburg VA September 27, 2008



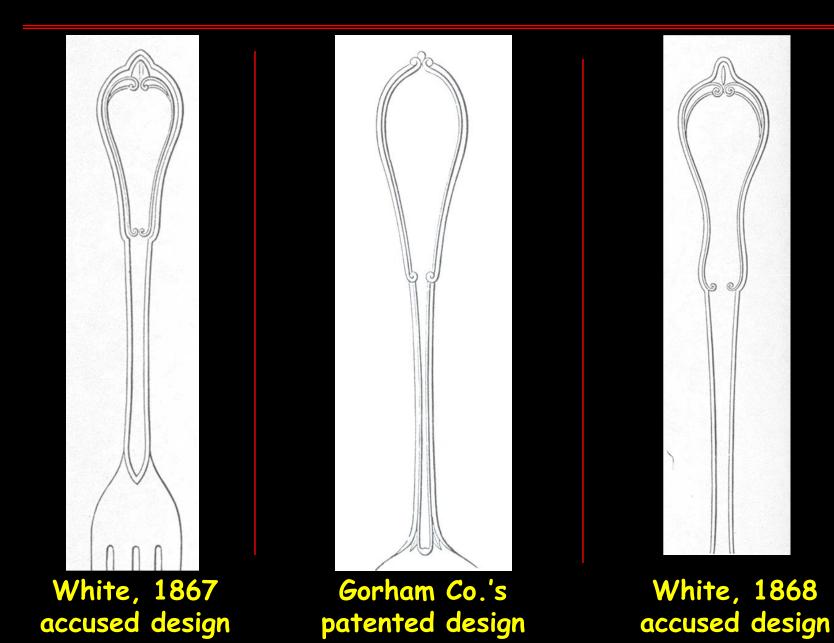


1.Point of Novelty Test2.Markman Claim Construction



What's the test for design patent infringe-ment?

Gorham v. White (1871)

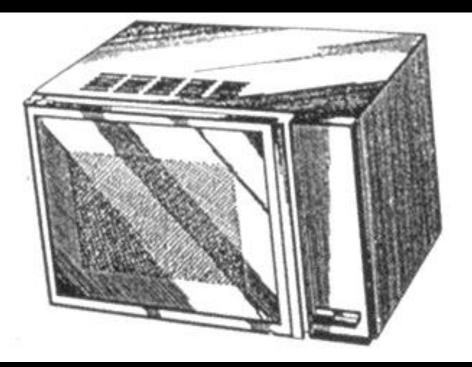


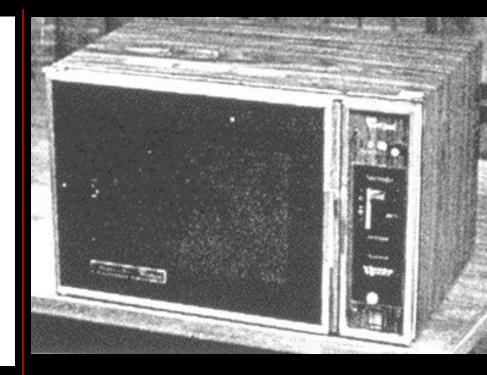
Gorham v. White (1871)

ORDINARY OBSERVER TEST:

...if, in the eye of an ordinary observer... two designs are substantially the same...[then] the ... one patented is infringed by the other.

Litton v. Whirlpool (FED. CIR. 1984)



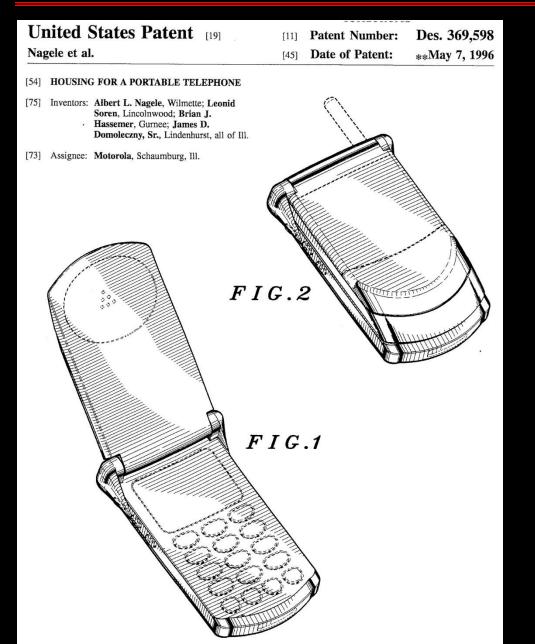


Litton's U.S. Pat No. Des. 226,990

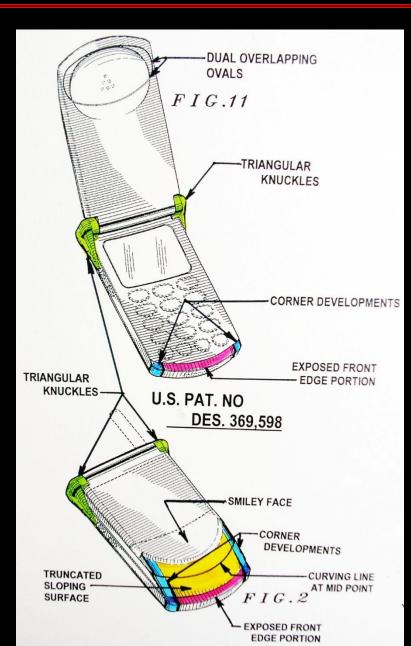
Whirlpool's Model 7600 Oven

Litton v. Whirlpool (FED. CIR. 1984)

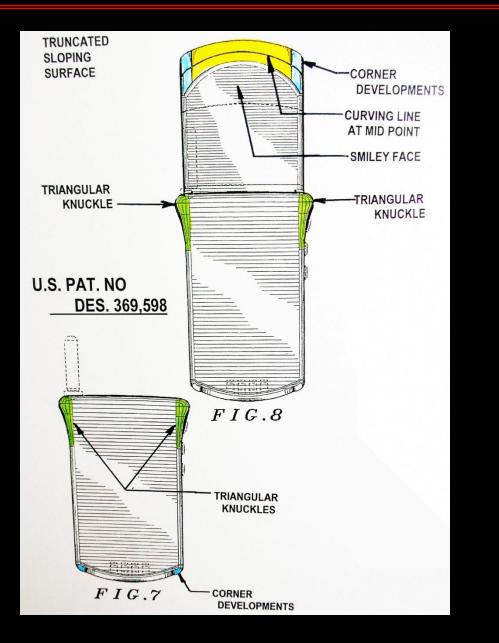
POINT OF NOVELTY TEST: The accused device must appropriate the novelty in the patented device which distinguishes it from the prior art



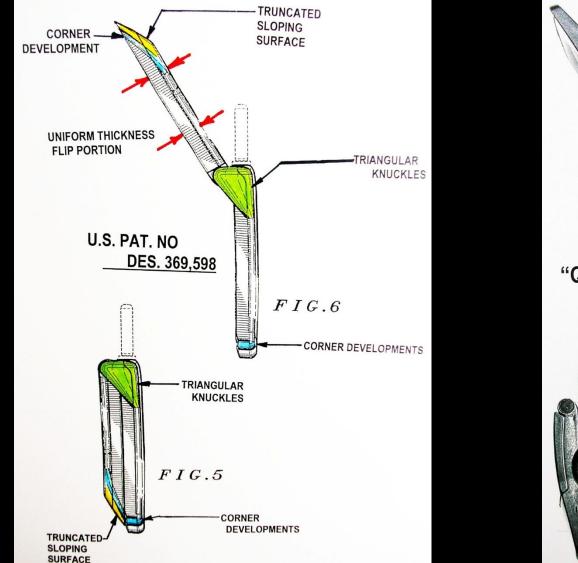




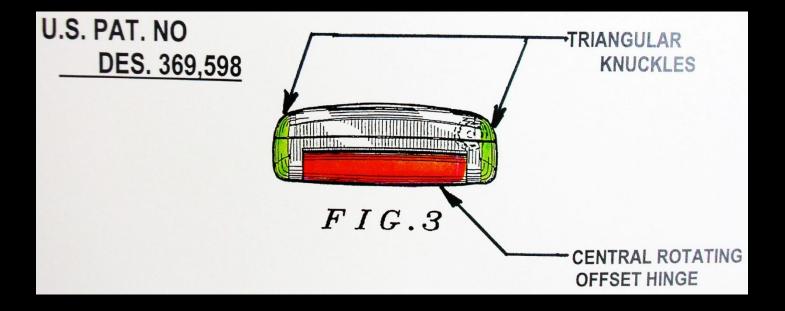








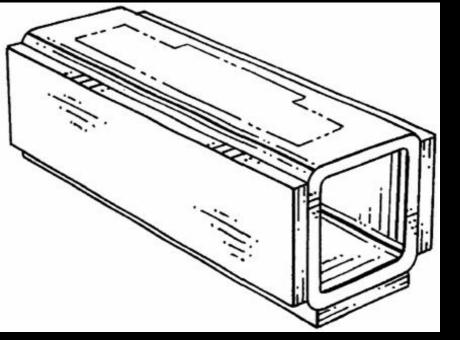








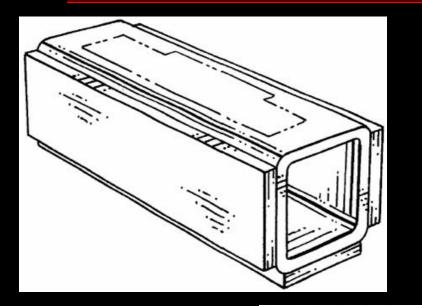
An Egyptian Goddess must, after all, take care of her nails ...





Patented Design

Accused Design





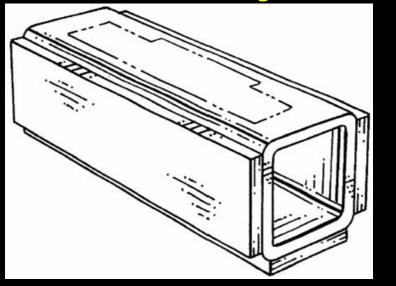
Patented Design



Accused Design

EG's Closest Prior Art = FALLEY

Patented Design



Accused Design

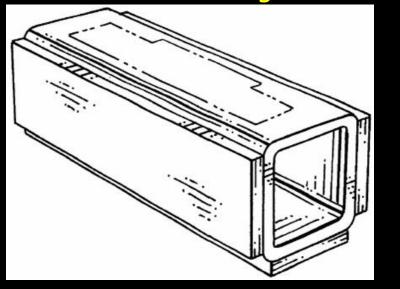




EG Point of Novelty

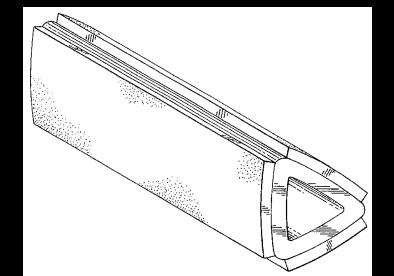
- 1. OPEN & HOLLOW BODY;
- 2. SQUARE CROSS-SECTION;
- 3. RAISED RECTANGULAR PADS; AND
- 4. EXPOSED CORNERS

Patented Design



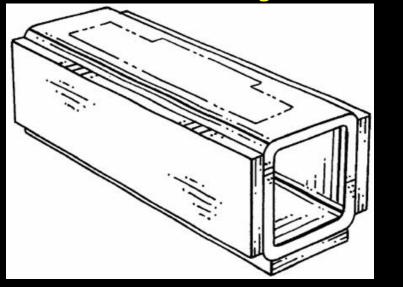
Accused Design





Swisa's Closest Prior Art = NAILCO

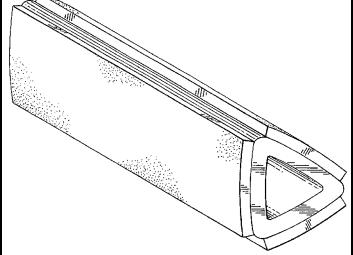
Patented Design



Accused Design



Swisa: NAILCO HAS EVERYTHING BUT IS TRIANGULAR NOT SQUARE



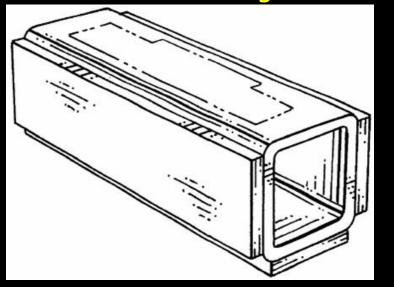
EG Point of Novelty

- . OPEN & HOLLOW BODY;
- . SQUARE CROSS-SECTION;
 - RAISED

3.

- RECTANGULAR PADS; AND
- EXPOSED CORNERS

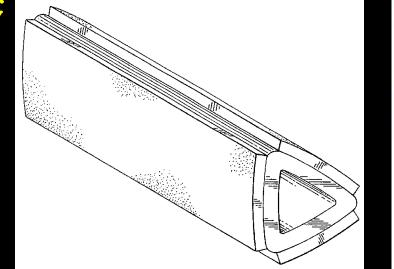
Patented Design



Accused Design

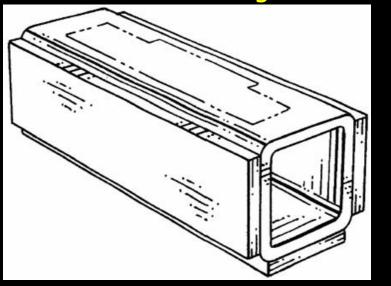


Swisa: EG ADMITS THAT SQUARE NAIL BUFFERS ARE OLD





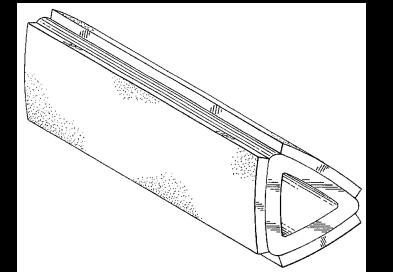
Patented Design



Accused Design

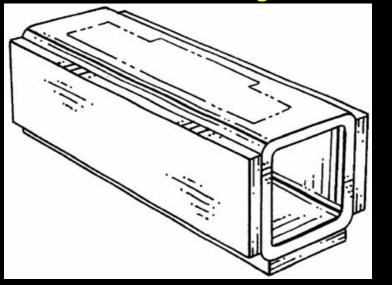


Court: SQUARE CROSS-SECTION NAIL BUFFERS ARE OLD





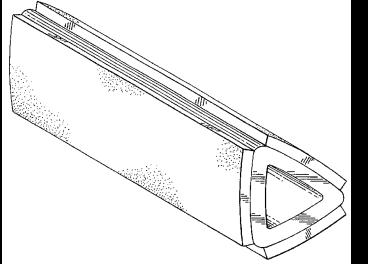
Patented Design



Accused Design

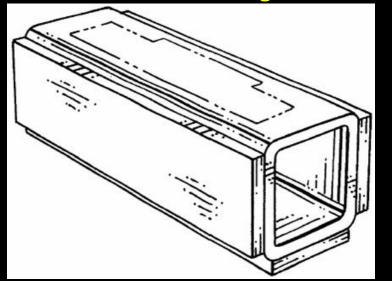


Court: EG'S POINT OF NOVELTY IS A TRIVIAL ADVANCE





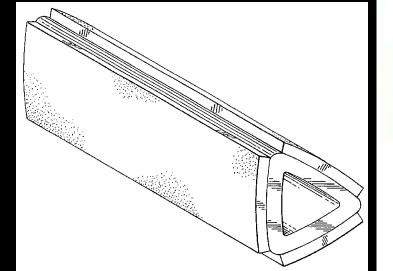
Patented Design



Accused Design

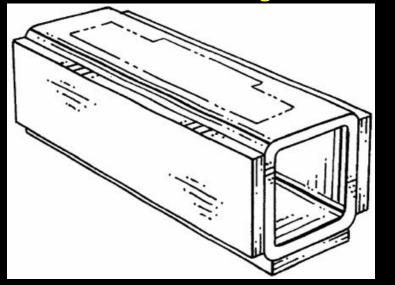


TRIVIAL ADVANCE: 1. OPEN, HOLLOW; 2. SQUARE CROSS-SECTION; 3. RAISED PADS; AND 4. EXPOSED CORNERS





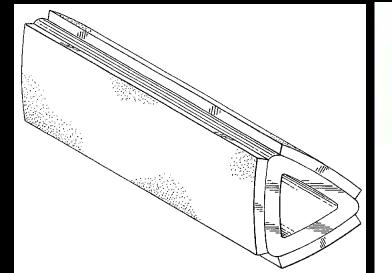
Patented Design



Accused Design

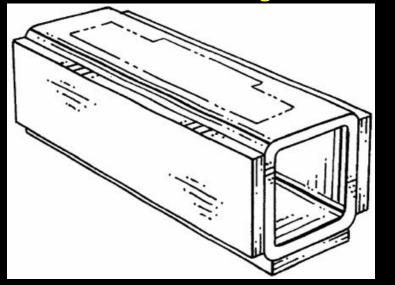


Court: ONLY IF THE POINT OF NOVELTY INCLUDES THE ABSENCE OF A PAD ON THE 4TH SIDE COULD IT BE NON-TRIVIAL





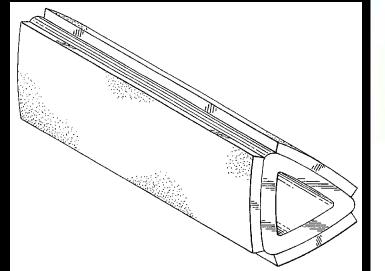
Patented Design



Accused Design

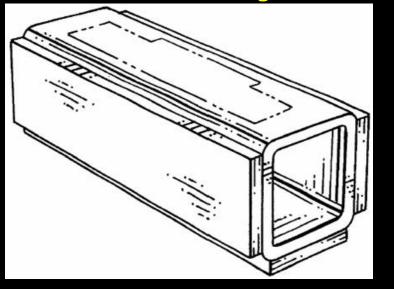


Court: SINCE THE SWISA BUFFER HAS PADS ON ALL 4 SIDES, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE POINT OF NOVELTY; NO INFRINGEMENT.



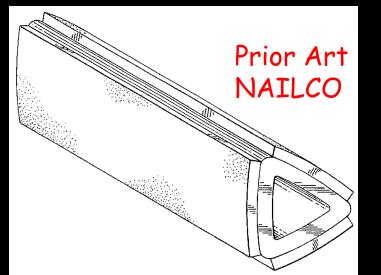


Patented Design



Accused Design







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2. (con't)

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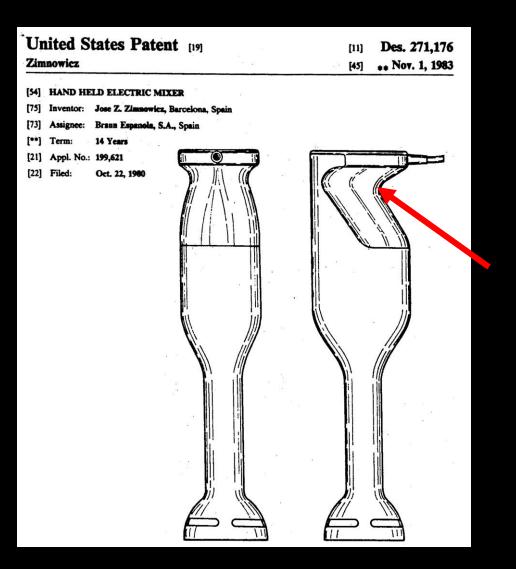
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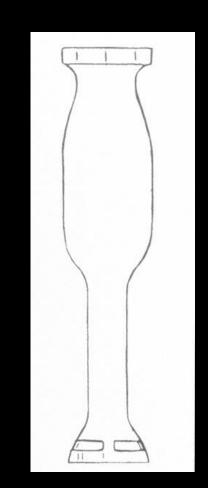
BALEDERICO

http://spaziawebinwind.it/xenographia

Did our Egyptian Goddess shed some light on Markman?

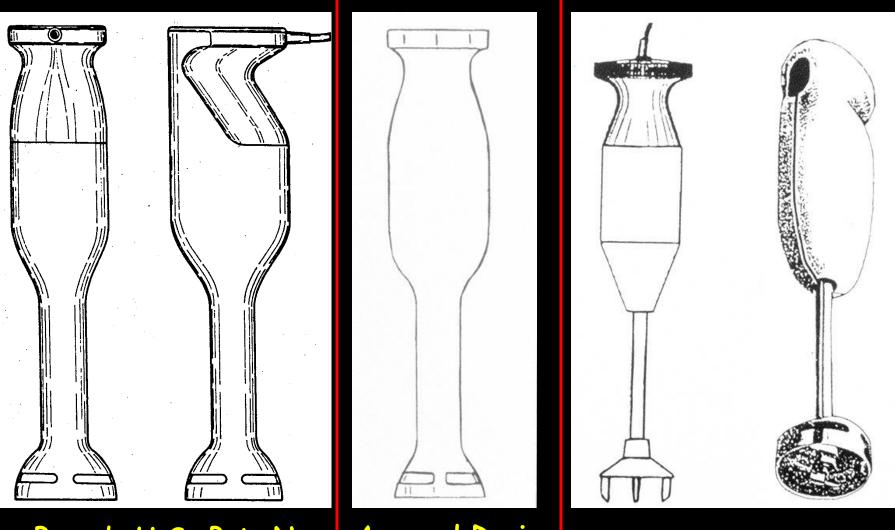


Braun's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 271,176



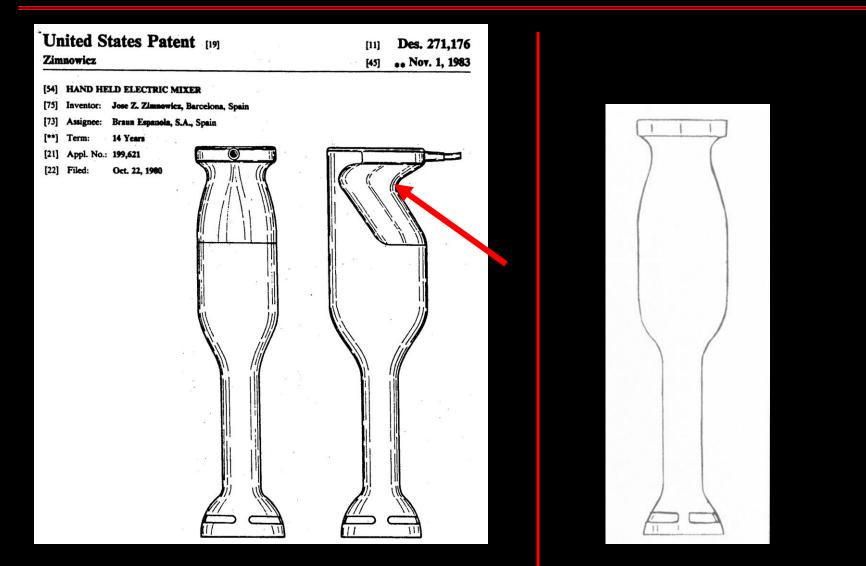
(FED. CIR. 1992)

Accused Design



Braun's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 271,176 Accused Design

Closest Prior Art



Braun's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 271,176 Accused Design

(FED. CIR. 1997)

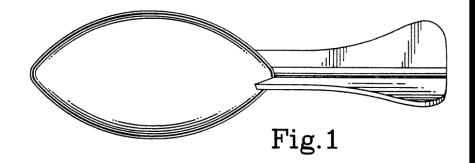
United	States	Patent	[19]
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Stillinger et al.

[11] Patent

[11] Patent Number: Des. 346,001
 [45] Date of Patent: ** Apr. 12, 1994

- [54] TOSSING BALL
- [75] Inventors: Scott H. Stillinger, Monte Sereno; Thomas H. Grimm, Menlo Park; Christopher S. Page; William A. Scott, both of Palo Alto, all of Calif.
- [73] Assignee: OddzOn Products, Inc., Campbell, Calif.
- [**] Term: 14 Years
- [21] Appl. No.: 4,428
- [22] Filed: Feb. 4, 1993



PATENTED DESIGN





ACCUSED DESIGNS

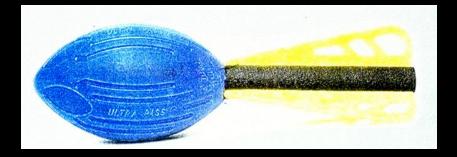
Un	ited S	tates Patent [19]	[11]	Patent Number: Des. 346,001
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[22]	Filed:	Feb. 4, 1993		
				Fig 1

OddzOn's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 346,001

Fig.1

CLAIM CONSTRUCTION : a ball shaped like a football, with a slender, straight tailshaft projecting from the rear of the football...three fins symmetrically arranged around the tailshaft, each of which has a gentle curve up and outward which creates a fin with a larger surface area at the end furthest away from the ball. The fins flare outwardly along the entire length of the tailshaft, with the front end of the fin extending slightly up along the side of the football so that the fins seemingly protrude from the inside of the football.





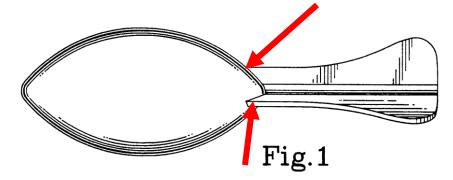
Just Toys' Accused Products CLAIM CONSTRUCTION: a ball shaped like a football, with a slender, straight tailshaft projecting from the rear of the football...three fins symmetrically arranged around the tailshaft, each of which has a gentle curve up and outward which creates a fin with a larger surface area at the end furthest away from the ball. The fins flare outwardly along the entire length of the tailshaft, with the front end of the fin extending slightly up along the side of the football so that the fins seemingly protrude from the inside of the football.

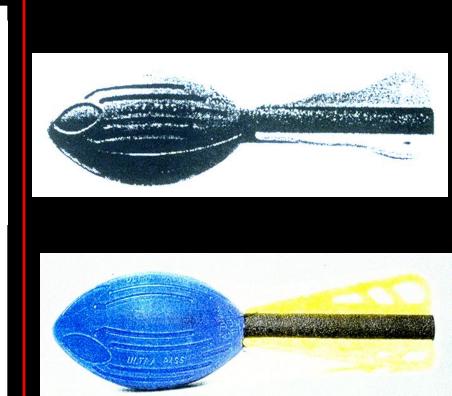
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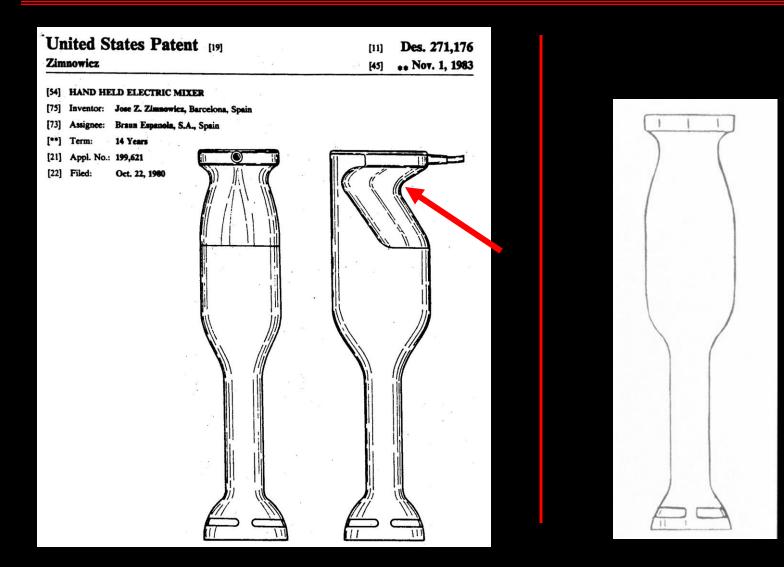
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NO INFRINGEMENT (1997)



INFRINGEMENT (1992)

Given the recognized difficulties entailed in trying to describe a design in words, the preferable course ordinarily will be for a district court not to attempt to "construe" a design patent claim by providing a detailed verbal description of the claimed design.

A trial court can usefully guide the finder of fact by:

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1. Pointing out similarities and differences between patented & claimed designs and the prior art;

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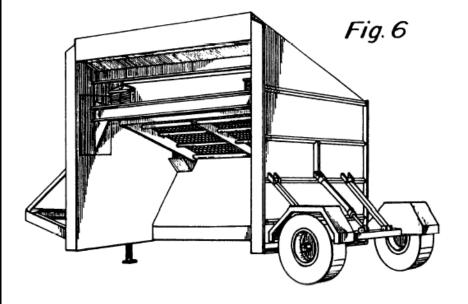
2. Describing drawing conventions;

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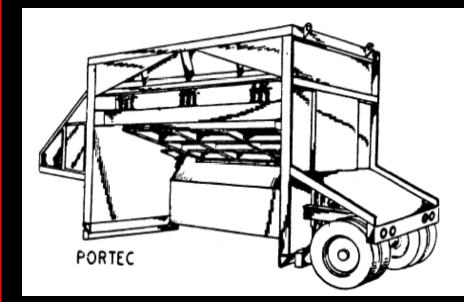
Describing drawing conventions;
 Assessing prosecution history;
 and

A trial court can usefully guide the finder of fact by:

4. Distinguishing between those features of the claimed design that are ornamental and those that are purely functional (citing OddzOn).

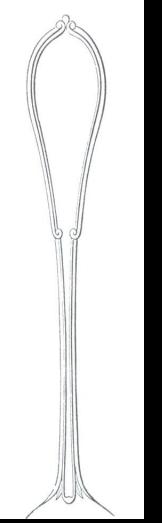


Read's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 263,836



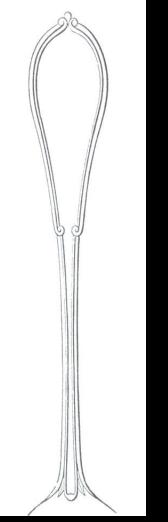
Portec's Accused Design

In *Gorham* there was no preliminary issue respecting what the ornamental features of the design in issue were. The Gorham design patent claimed only the scroll work on the handle portion of table flatware....Thus, all elements forming the claimed design were ornamental. Where this is not the case, that is, a design is composed of functional as well as ornamental features, to prove infringement a patent owner must establish that an ordinary person would be deceived by reason of the common features in the claimed and accused designs which are ornamental.



"...there was no preliminary issue respecting what the ornamental features of the design in issue were...."

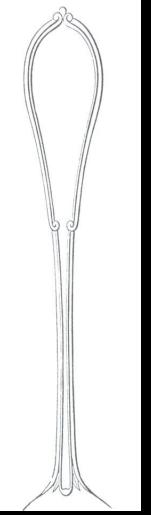




"The Gorham design patent claimed only the scroll work on the handle portion of table flatware.... Thus, all elements forming the claimed design were ornamental."



Read v. Portec (Fed. Cir. 1992)



PURELY ORNAMENTAL? NO! A HANDLE FUNCTIONS TO ENABLE A USER TO

HOLD THE

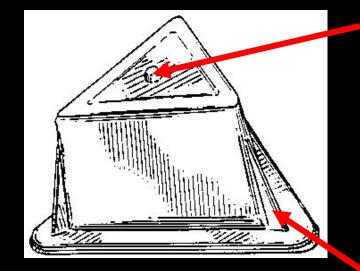
SILVERWARE

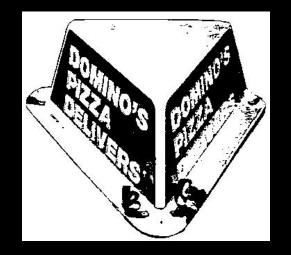


FUNDAMENTAL

ALL DESIGNS CONSIST OF FUNCTIONAL FEATURES. ALL FUNCTIONAL FEATURES ARE THEMSELVES ORNAMENTAL. UNLESS THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO DESIGN THEM SO THAT THEY WORK FOR THEIR INTENDED FUNCTION.

Elmer v. ICC (Fed. Cir. 1995)

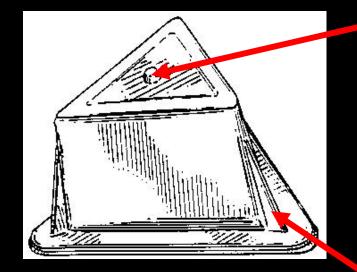


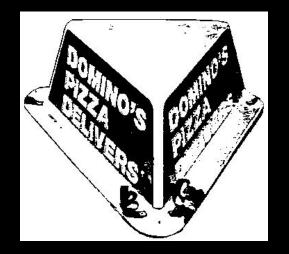


Elmer's PATENTED DESIGN

ACCUSED DESIGN

Elmer v. ICC (Fed. Cir. 1995)



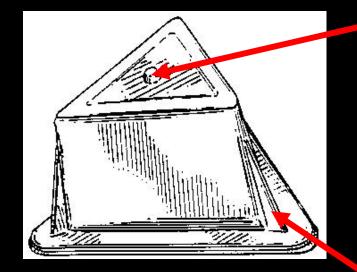


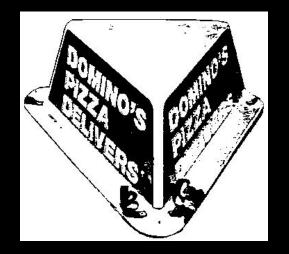
Elmer's PATENTED DESIGN

ACCUSED DESIGN

ELMER: My fins and protrusion are functional, so do not include them in the infringement analysis.

Elmer v. ICC (Fed. Cir. 1995)





Elmer's PATENTED DESIGN

ACCUSED DESIGN

COURT: Yes, the fins and protrusion perform a function, but since you showed them in solid lines in your drawings, they are included as part of the claimed design.

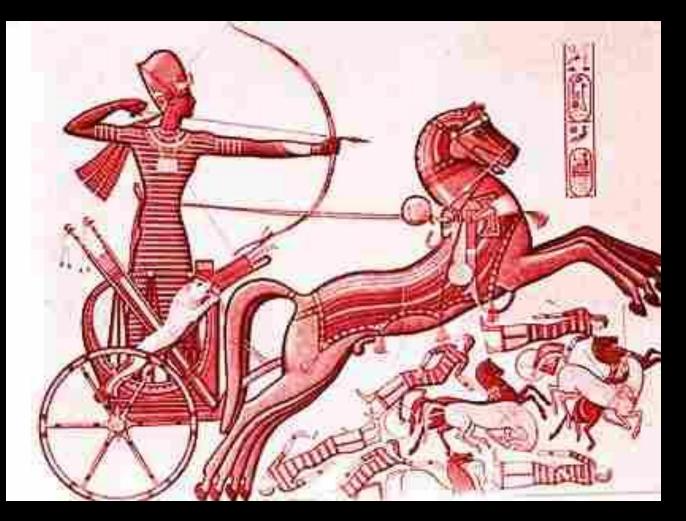
FUNCTIONALITY IN PERSPECTIVE:

FUNCTIONALITY IS AN INVALIDITY DEFENSE, NOT SOMETHING THE ABSENCE OF WHICH MUST BE PROVEN BY THE PATENTEE IN ITS CASE IN CHIEF IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH INFRINGEMENT.

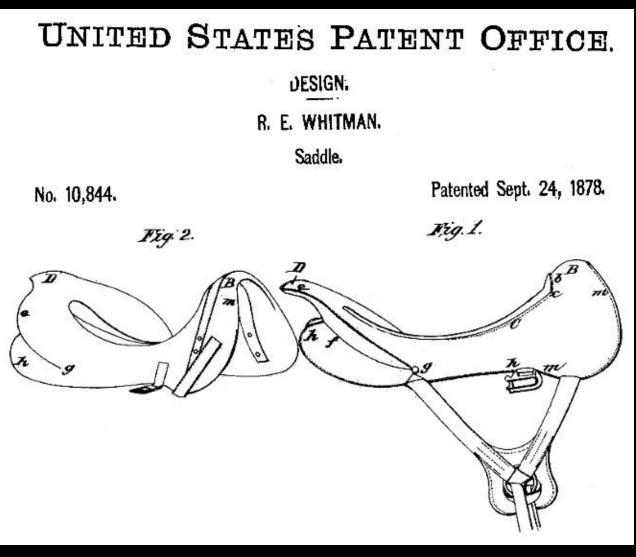
CONCLUSION: You DO NOT need Markman to define the ornamental and functional elements before applying the Gorham test... because the overall claimed design is ornamental.

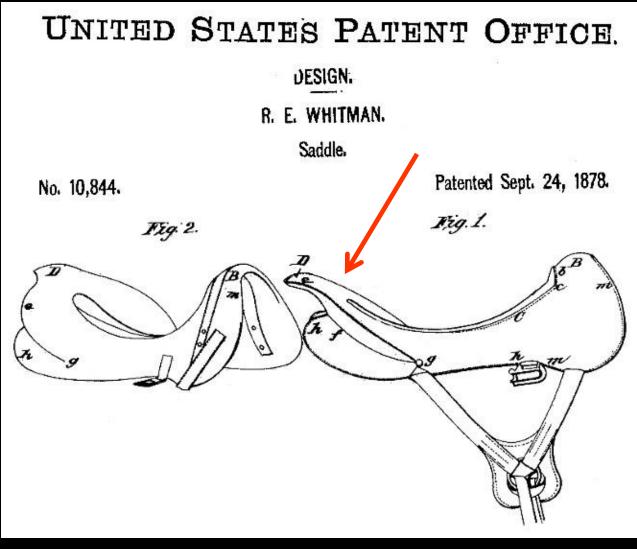


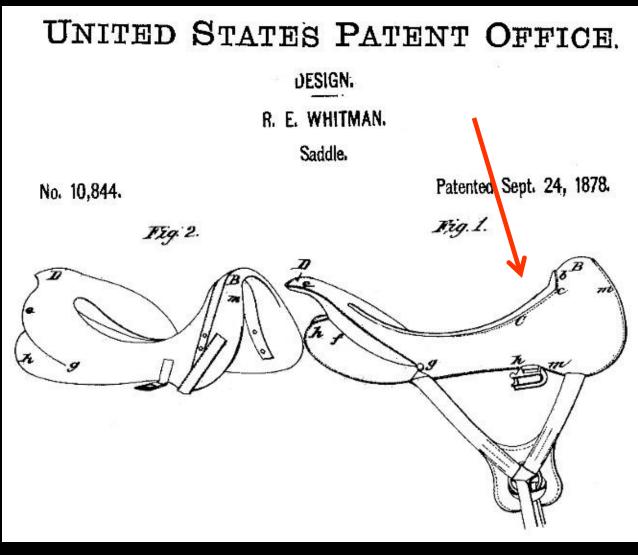
BYE BYE Point of Novelty Test

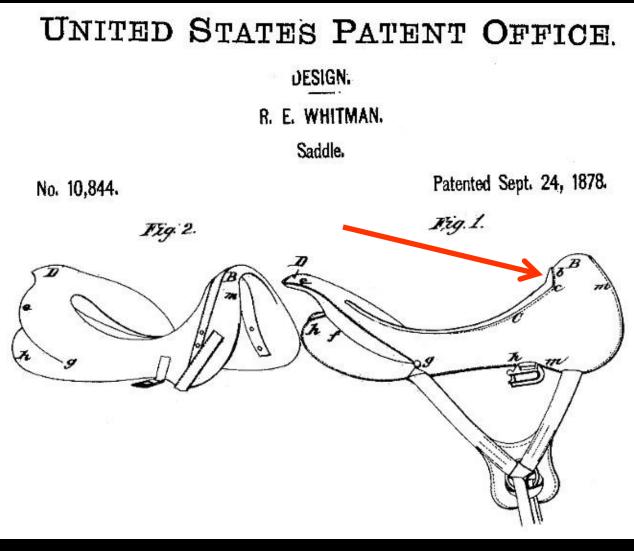


SADDLE UP!









Whitman Analysis: [V]iewed in light of similarities between the prior art and the patented design, the accused design did not contain the single feature that would have made it appear distinctively similar to the patented design rather than like the numerous prior art designs.

HELD: [T]he point of novelty test should no longer be used in the analysis of a claim of design patent infringement.

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[T]he "ordinary observer" test should be the sole test for determining whether a design patent has been infringed.

Gorham v. White (1871)

ORDINARY OBSERVER TEST:

...if, in the eye of an ordinary observer... two designs are substantially the same...[then] the ... one patented is infringed by the other.

NEW LAW: [t]he ordinary observer is deemed to view the differences between the patented design and the accused product in the context of the prior art.

If the accused infringer elects to rely on the comparison prior art as part of its defense against the claim of infringement, the burden of production of that prior art is on the accused infringer."...but the ultimate burden of proof to demonstrate infringement falls on the patentee.

GUIDELINE #1:

 When the claimed design is close to the prior art designs, small differences between the accused design and the claimed design are likely to be important to the eye of the hypothetical ordinary observer.

GUIDELINE #1 and #2:

- When the claimed design is close to the prior art designs, small differences between the accused design and the claimed design are likely to be important to the eye of the hypothetical ordinary observer.
- If the accused design has copied a particular feature of the claimed design that departs conspicuously from the prior art, the accused design is naturally more likely to be regarded as deceptively similar to the claimed design, and thus infringing.

The 3-Way Visual Test

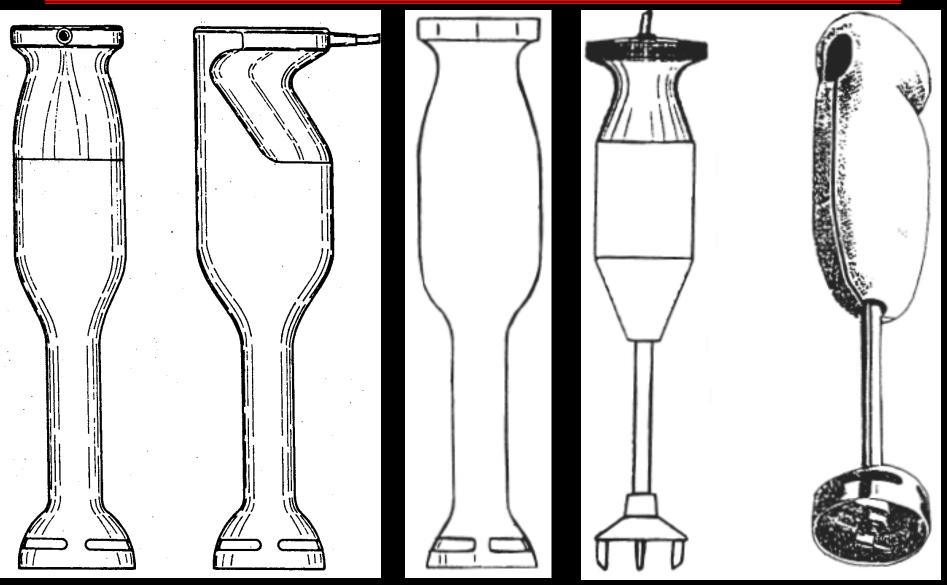
The 3-Way Visual Test

1. If claimed or accused design is closer to prior art than to each other = no likely infringement.

The 3-Way Visual Test

1. If claimed or accused design is closer to prior art than to each other = no likely infringement.

2. If claimed and accused designs are closer to each other than to prior art = infringement is more likely. Braun v. Dynamics Corp. (Fed. Cir. 1992)



Patented Design Accused Design

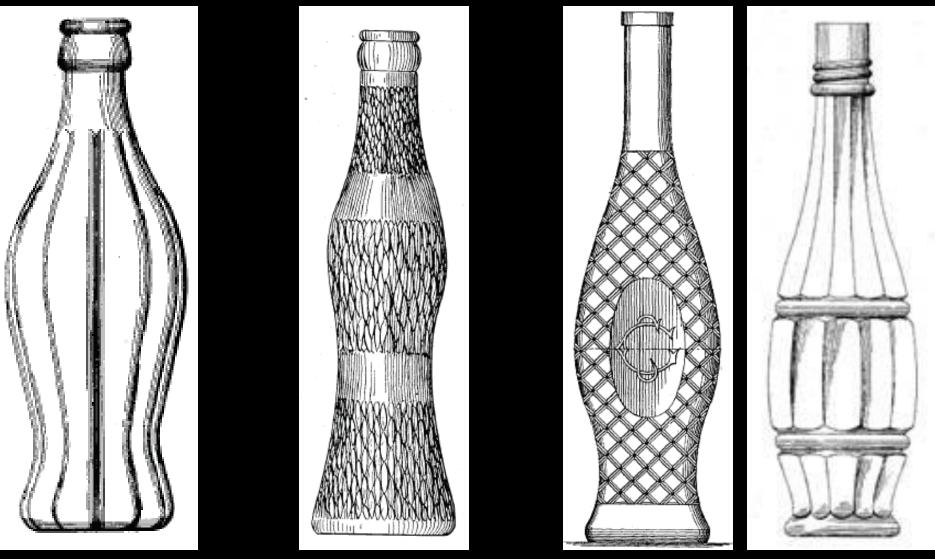
Prior Art

Braun v. Dynamics Corp.

Court:

In contrast to [the prior art blenders], which had a utilitarian, mechanical appearance, both [defendant's] blender and Braun's blender share a fluid, ornamental, aerodynamic overall design.

Coca-Cola v. Whistle Co. (D. Del. 1927)



Patented Design Accused Design

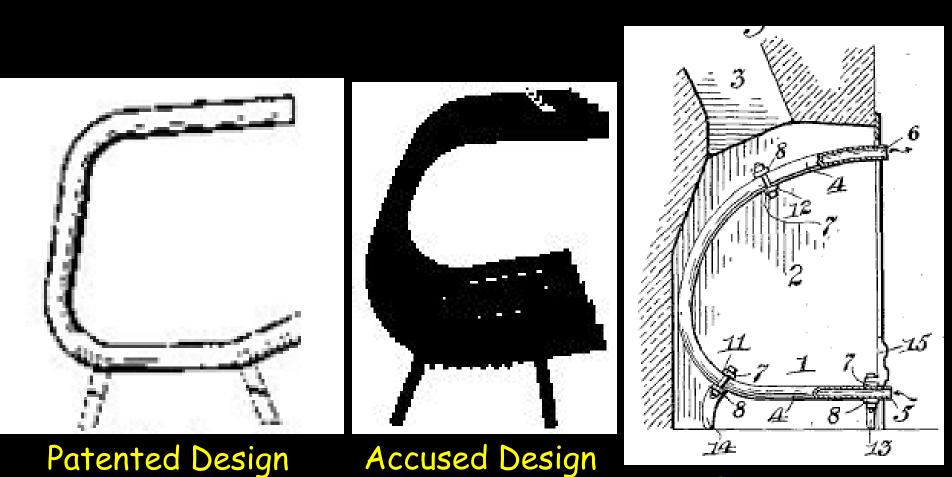
Prior Art

Coca-Cola v. Whistle Co

Court:

Save for such similarity as results from the common use of the prior art ogee curve, the most casual observer would find no difficulty in distinguishing [the patented] bottle from the [accused bottle].

Bergstrom v. Sears (D. Minn. 1980)



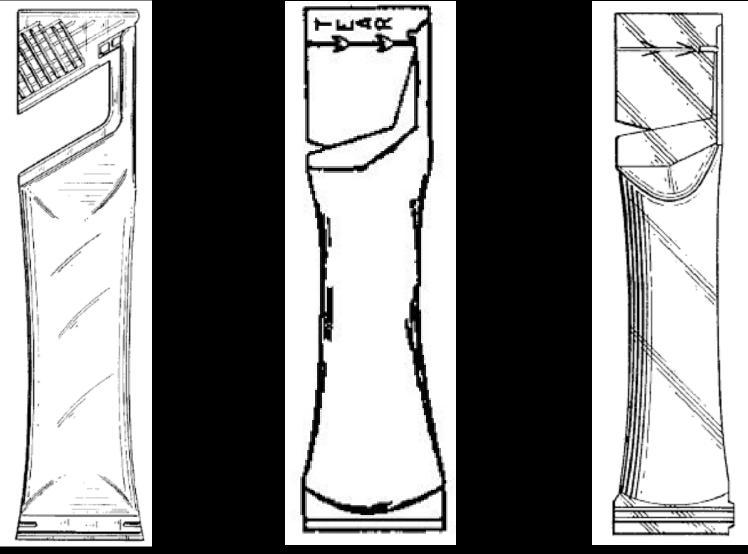
Prior Art

Bergstrom v. Sears

Court:

The [accused device] bore the closest resemblance to the [patented design] out of all the prior art.

Unette v. Unit Pack (D.N.J. 1985)



Patented Design Accused Design

Prior Art

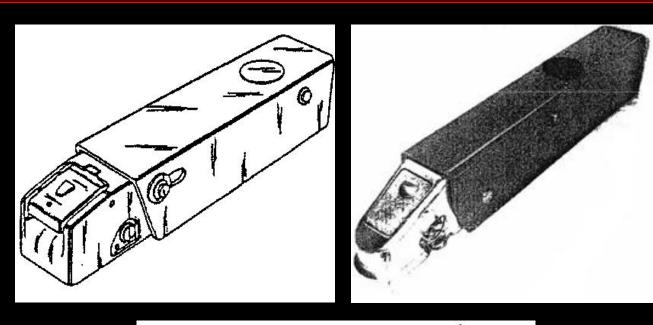
Unette v. Unit Pack

Court:

To the extent that defendant's design is derived not from plaintiff's, but from the prior art, infringement cannot be said to have occurred.

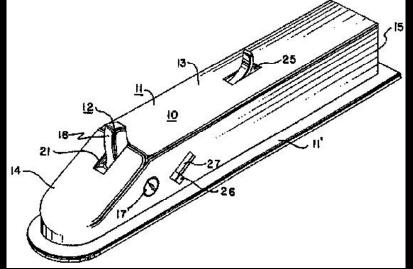
Unique v. Mastercraft Boat (Fed. Cir. 1993)

Patented Design



Accused Design

Prior Art

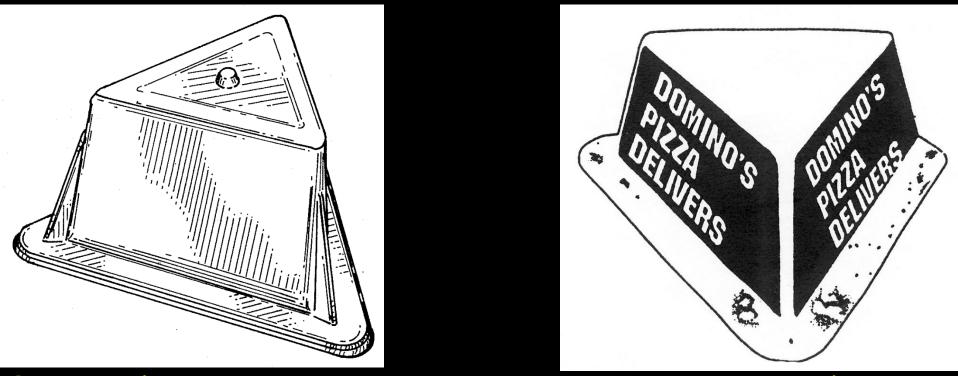


Unique v. Mastercraft Boat

Court:

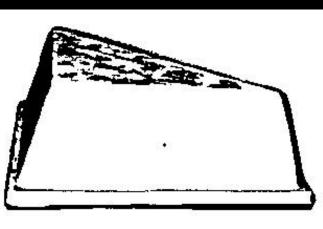
The accused design is dissimilar from the patented design and, indeed, much more closely resembles the design disclosed in the prior art...

Elmer v. ICC Fabricating (Fed. Cir. 1995)



Patented Design

Prior Art



Accused Design

Elmer v. ICC Fabricating

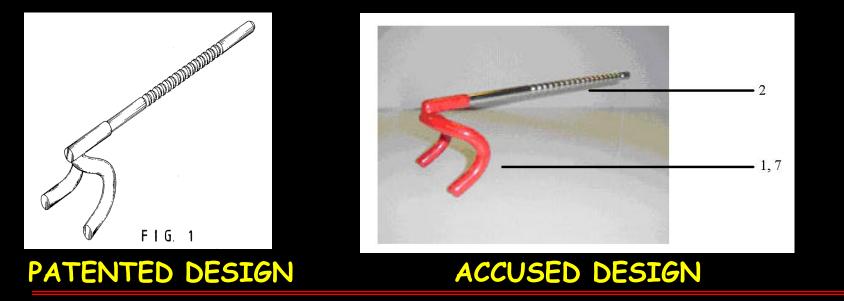
Court:

...the ...patented design differs from the prior art *and* the accused design in two respects: the protrusion that extends above the upper surface... and the triangular vertical ribs...

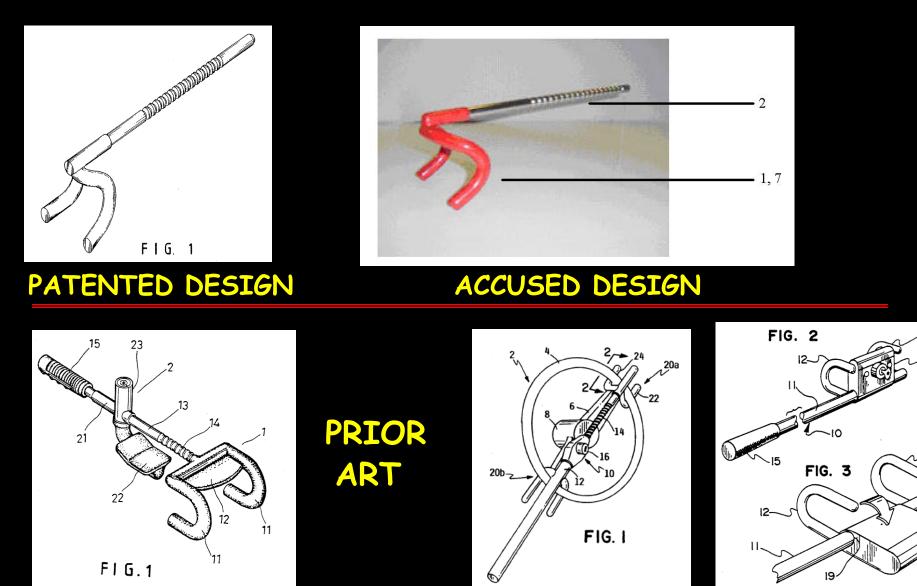
GUIDELINE #3:

3. If the claimed design consists of a combination of old features that creates an appearance deceptively similar to the accused design, even to an observer familiar with similar prior art designs, a finding of infringement would be justified.

Lawman Armor Corp. v. Winner Int'l (Fed. Cir. 2006)



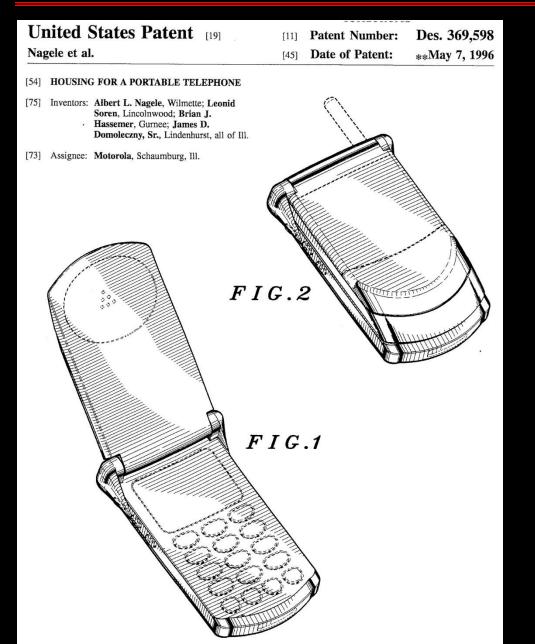
Lawman Armor Corp. v. Winner Int'l (Fed. Cir. 2006)



GUIDELINE #4:

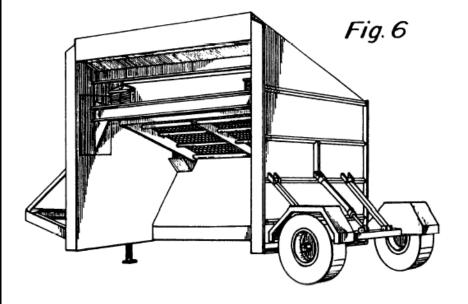
4. In some instances, the claimed design and the accused design will be sufficiently distinct that it will be clear without more that the patentee has not met its burden of proving the two designs would appear "substantially the same" to the ordinary observer.

Motorola v. Qualcomm

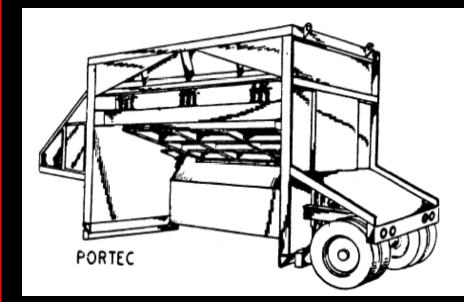




Read v. Portec (Fed. Cir. 1992)



Read's U.S. Pat. No. Des. 263,836

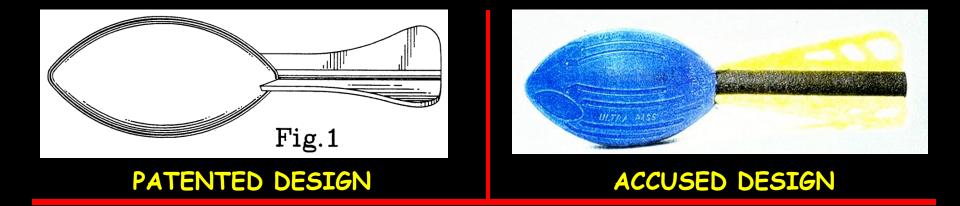


Portec's Accused Design

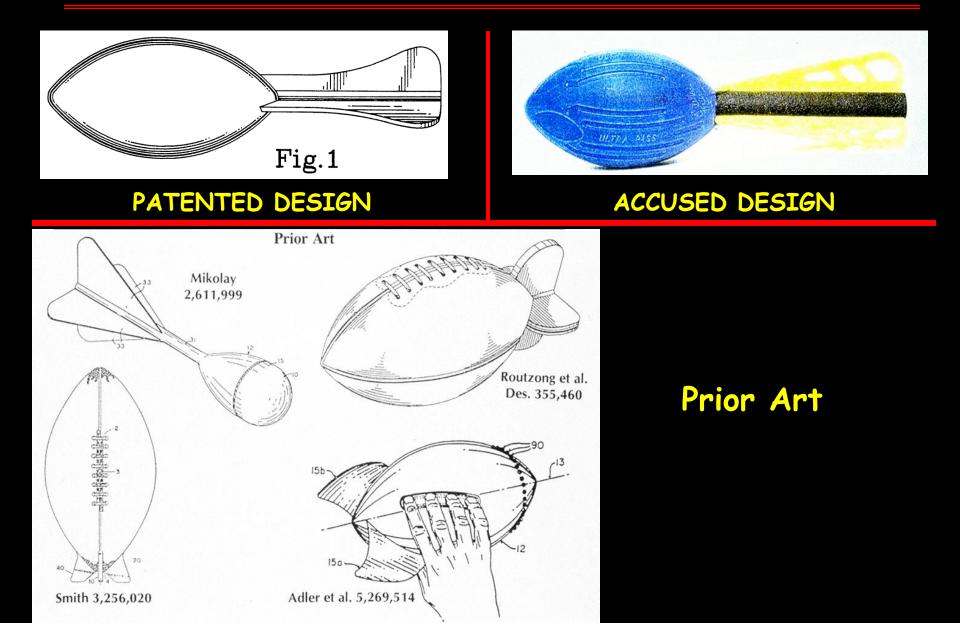
GUIDELINE #5:

5. [W] hen the claimed and accused designs are not plainly dissimilar, resolution of the question...will benefit from a comparison of the claimed and accused designs with the prior art.

OddzOn Products v. Just Toys

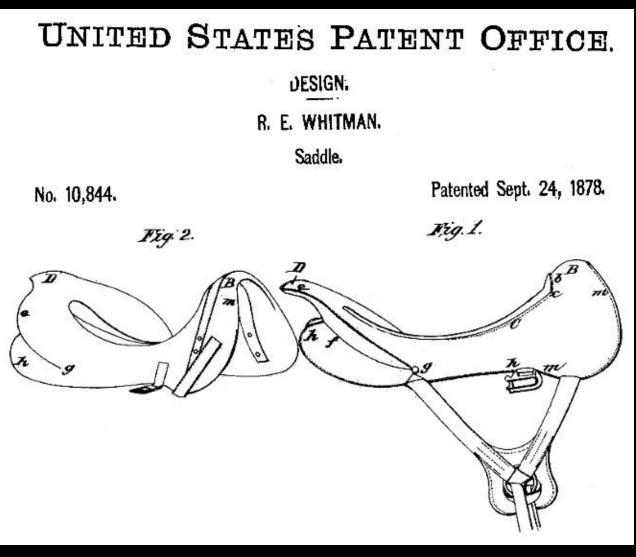


OddzOn Products v. Just Toys

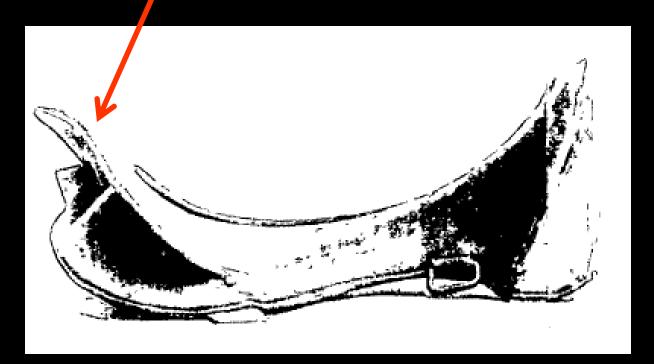


GUIDELINE #6:

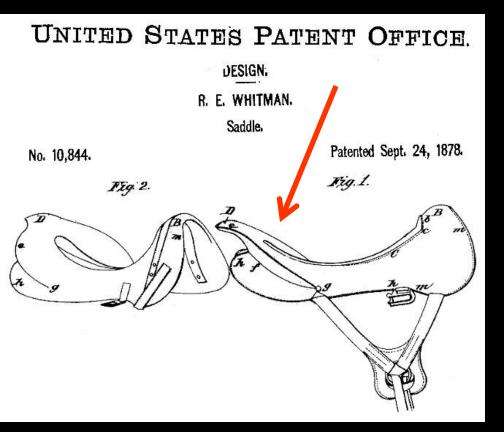
6. Where there are many examples of similar prior art designs, as in a case such as Whitman Saddle, differences between the claimed and accused designs that might not be **noticeable** in the abstract can become significant to the hypothetical ordinary observer who is conversant with the prior art.

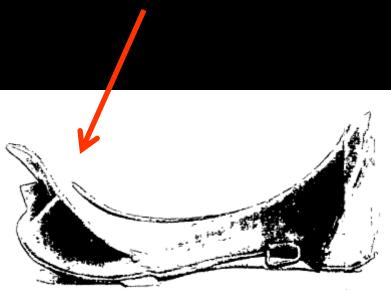


U.S. Pat. No. D10,844

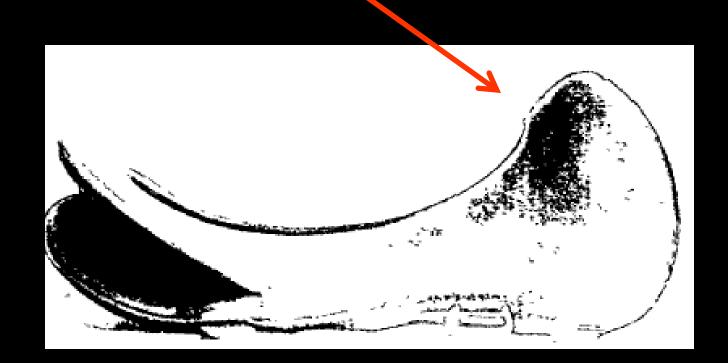


Jenifer Cantle

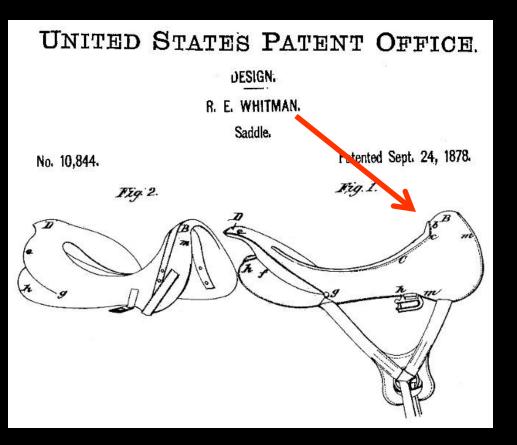


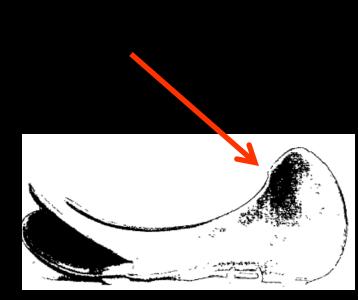


Comparison of Patented Design & Jenifer Prior Art

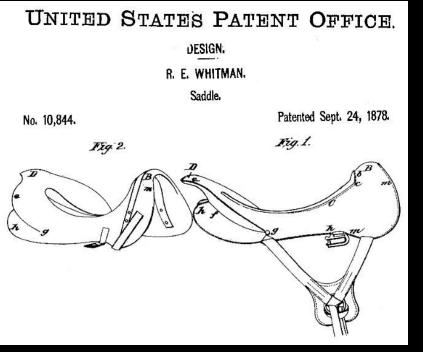


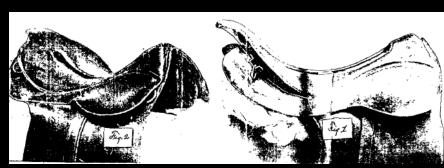
Granger Saddle





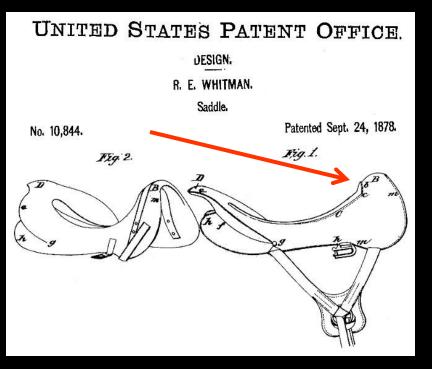
Comparison of Patented Design & Granger Prior Art





Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN

Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN

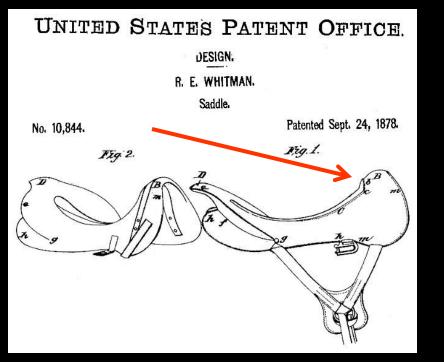




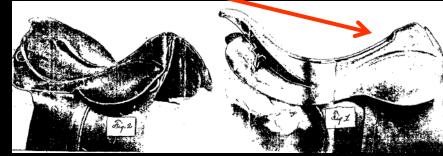
Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN

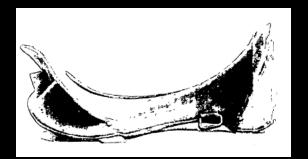
Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN

Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN



Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





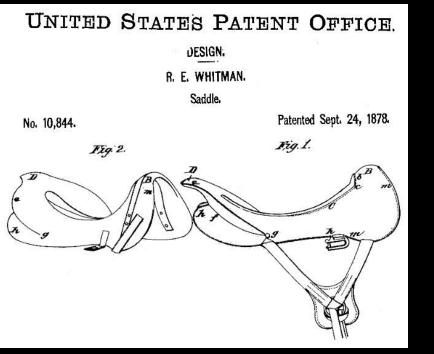
JENNIFER PRIOR ART



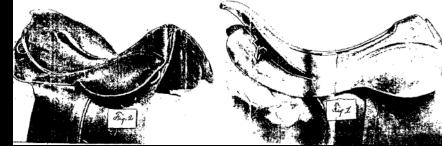
GRANGER PRIOR ART

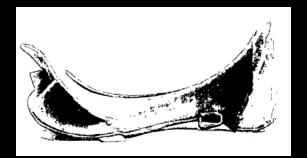
Whitman Analysis: [V]iewed in light of similarities between the prior art and the patented design, the accused design did not contain the single feature that would have made it appear distinctively similar to the patented design rather than like the numerous prior art designs.

Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN

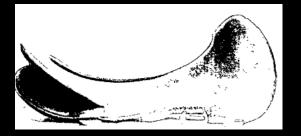


Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





JENNIFER PRIOR ART



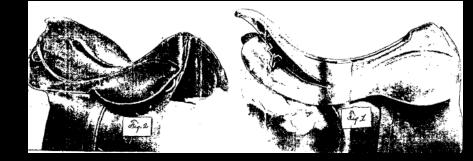
GRANGER PRIOR ART

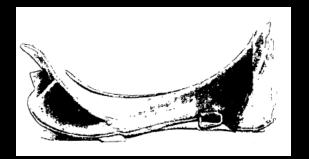
Whitman Analysis: To an observer familiar with the multitude of prior art saddle designs....the sharp drop at the rear of the pommel would be important to the overall appearance of the designs, and would serve to distinguish the accused design, which did not possess that feature, from the claimed design.

Whitman's CLAIMED DESIGN

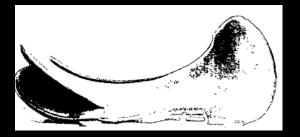
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, UESIGN. R. E. WHITMAN. Saddle. No. 10,844. Patented Sept. 24, 1878. Fig. 1. Description of the sept. 24, 1878. Patented Sept. 24, 1878.

Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





JENNIFER PRIOR ART



GRANGER PRIOR ART

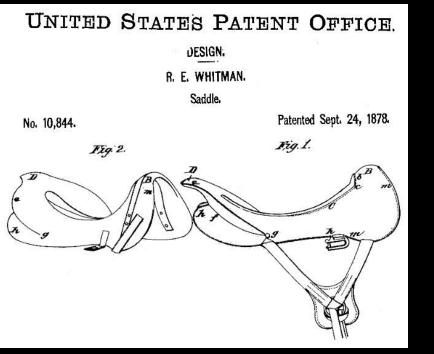
GUIDELINE #7:

7. ...examining the novel features of the claimed design can be an important component of the comparison of the claimed design with the accused design and the prior art. But the comparison of the designs, including the examination of any novel features, must be conducted as part of the ordinary observer test, not as part of a separate test focusing on particular points of novelty that are designated only in the course of litigation.

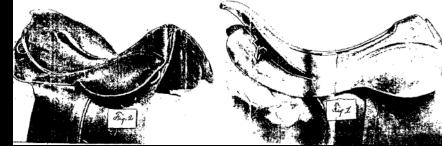
Novel Features

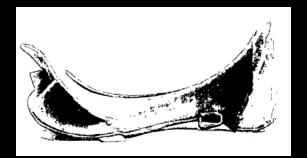
Jenifer cantle
 Granger saddle
 Open slot
 Pommel drop

Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN

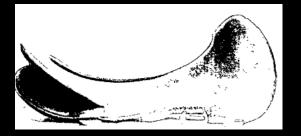


Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





JENNIFER PRIOR ART



GRANGER PRIOR ART

Novel Features

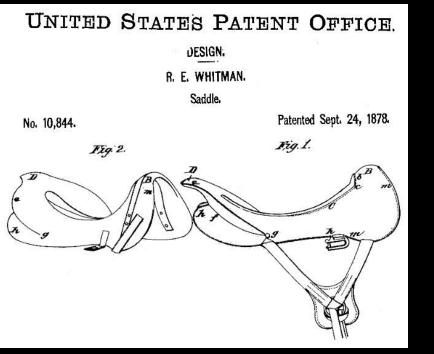
Jenifer cantle
 Granger saddle
 Open slot
 Pommel drop

Novel Features

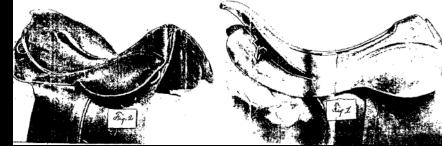
1. Jenifer cantle 2. Granger saddle 3. Open slot

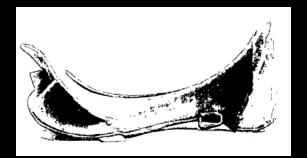


Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN

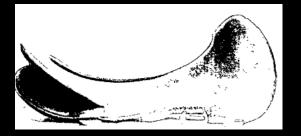


Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





JENNIFER PRIOR ART

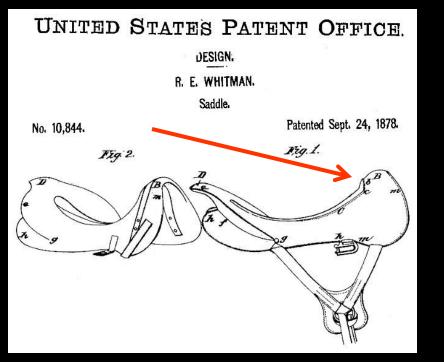


GRANGER PRIOR ART

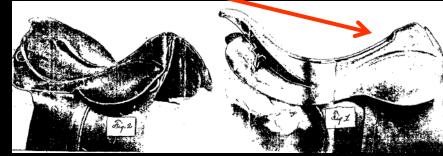
FED. CIR.:

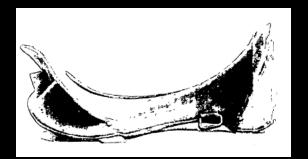
... unlike the point of novelty test, the ordinary observer test does not present the risk of assigning exaggerated importance to small differences between the claimed and accused designs relating to an insignificant feature...

Whitman's PATENTED DESIGN



Smith's ACCUSED DESIGN





JENNIFER PRIOR ART



GRANGER PRIOR ART



Is There Anything To Crow About?

HELD: No reasonable fact-finder could find that EG met its burden of showing...that an ordinary observer, taking into account the prior art, would believe the accused design to be the same as the patented design.

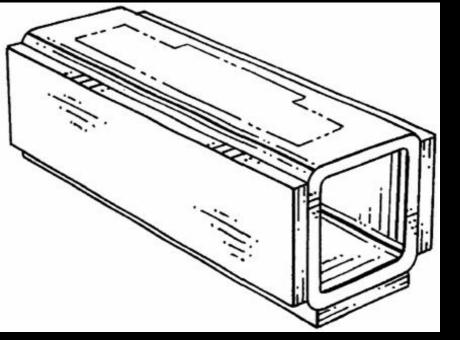
FED. CIR.

The question before this court under the standard we have set forth above is whether an ordinary observer, familiar with the prior art Falley and Nailco designs, would be deceived into believing the Swisa buffer is the same as the patented buffer.

FED. CIR.

The problem with Ms. Eaton's declaration is that she characterized the accused and patented designs as similar because they both have square cross sections and "multiple" raised buffer pads, without directly acknowledging that the patented design has three pads while the accused design has four, one on each side.

Egyptian Goddess v. Swisa (Fed. Cir. 2006-1562)





Patented Design

Accused Design

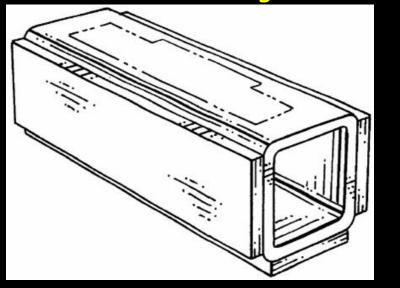
EATON DECLARATION (para. 7):

"I understand that the accused nail buffer has one more buffer pad than the patented design."

FED. CIR.

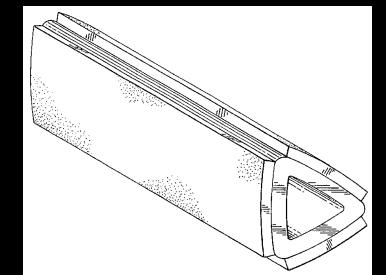
She also failed to address the fact that the design of the Nailco patent is identical to the accused device except that the Nailco design has three sides rather than four.

Patented Design



Accused Design

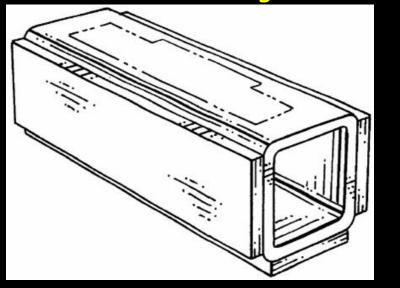




FED. CIR.

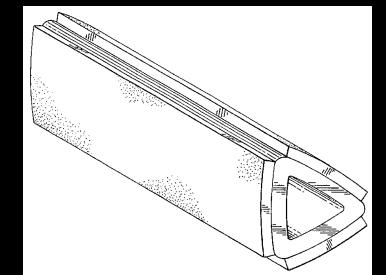
Thus, she could as easily have said that the Nailco buffer design "is like the accused design because both designs have a hollow tube, have multiple rectangular sides with raised rectangular pads mounted on each side that do not cover the corners of the tube," in which case the Nailco prior art buffer would be seen to closely resemble the accused design.

Patented Design



Accused Design





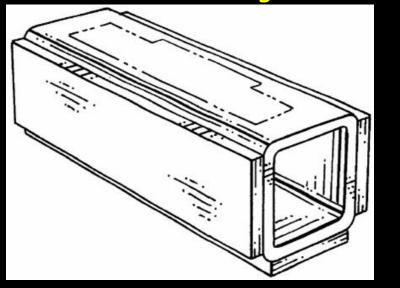
FED. CIR.

Nothing about Ms. Eaton's declaration explains why an ordinary observer would regard the accused design as being closer to the claimed design than to the Nailco prior art patent.

EATON DECLARATION (para. 7):

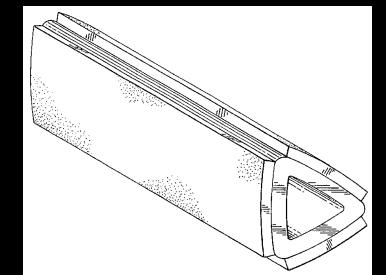
"In my opinion an ordinary observer and purchaser of nail buffers would consider that the patented design and the accused nail buffer have a substantially similar appearance in overall design, particularly in light of other nail buffers, such as a solid block buffer and the hollow triangular Nailco buffer. In my opinion, the substantially similar appearance in overall design results from both designs having a hollow tube, square in cross section and rectangular in length, with multiple raised rectangular pads mounted on the sides, and that do not cover the corners of the tube."

Patented Design



Accused Design





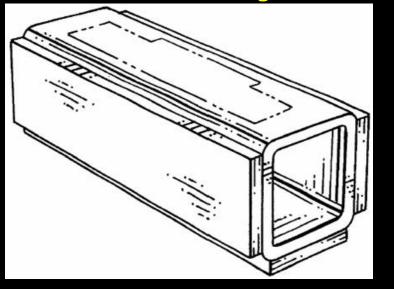
FED. CIR.

While the district court focused on the differences in the particular feature at issue rather than the effect of those differences on the appearance of the design as a whole, we are satisfied that the difference on which the district court focused is important, viewed in the context of the prior art.

GUIDELINE #7:

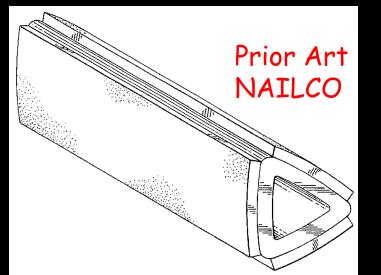
7. ...examining the novel features of the claimed design can be an important component of the comparison of the claimed design with the accused design and the prior art.

Patented Design



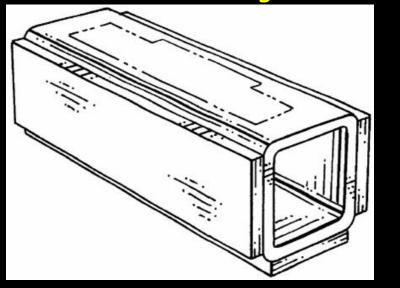
Accused Design





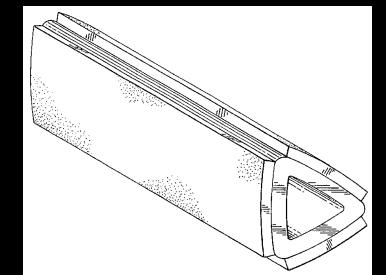


Patented Design



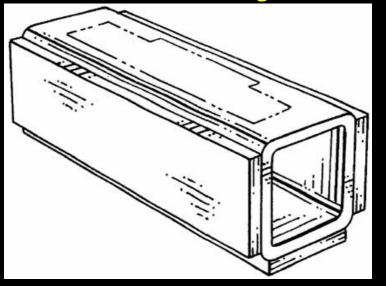
Accused Design

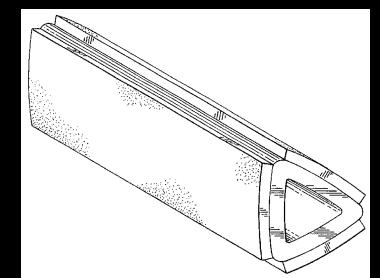




PATENTED DESIGN IS NON-OBVIOUS OVER NAILCO

Patented Design



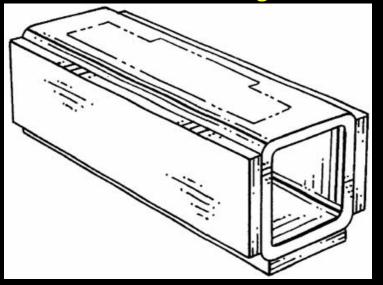


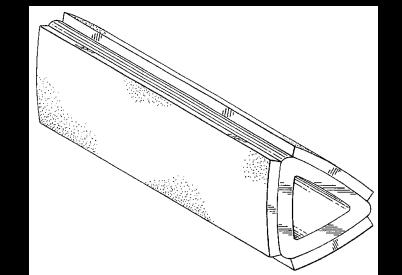
Test for *Prima Facie* Obviousness of A Design

... one must first find a single prior art reference, "a something in existence, the design characteristics of which are *basically the same* as the claimed design." *In re Rosen*, 673 F.2d 388, 391 (CCPA 1982).

PATENTED DESIGN IS NON-OBVIOUS OVER NAILCO

Patented Design

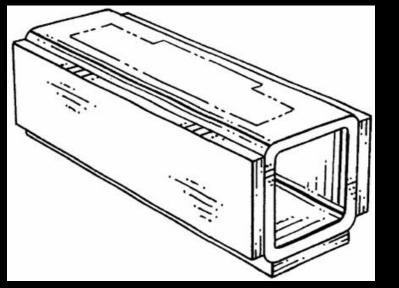




Prior Art NAILCO = NOT BASICALLY THE SAME AS PATENTED ESIGN

Hypothetical

Prior Art



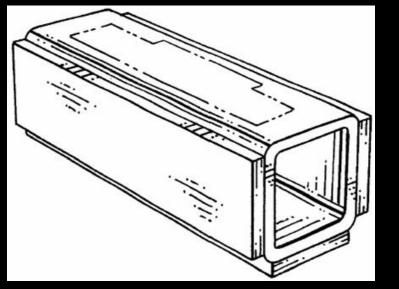
Claimed Design



Is the Prior Art (Egyptian Goddess) buffer a "Rosen reference" against the hypothetically claimed Swisa buffer?

Hypothetical

Prior Art



Claimed Design



Egyptian's buffer and Swisa's buffer would be deemed "basically the same"

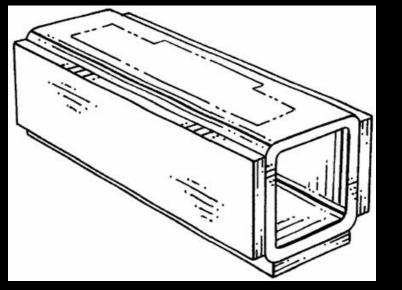
Gorham v. White (1871)

ORDINARY OBSERVER TEST:

...if, in the eye of an ordinary observer... two designs are substantially the same...[then] the ... one patented is infringed by the other.

Hypothetical

Prior Art

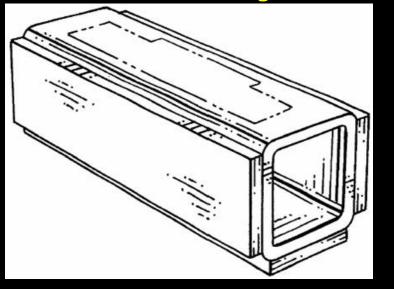


Claimed Design



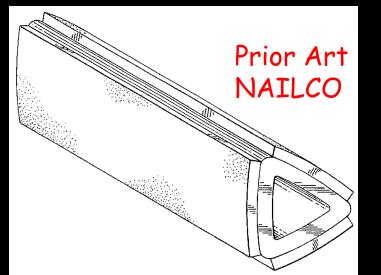
If Egyptian's buffer and Swisa's buffer are *"basically the same"* to a designer of ordinary skill, they must be *"substantially the same"* to an ordinary observer.

Patented Design



Accused Design





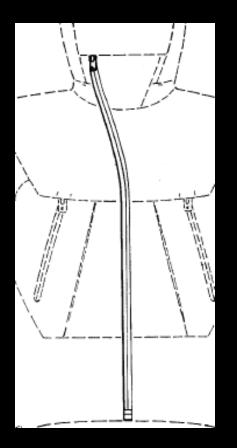








715 Patented Design Accused Design Lowe Alpine DE356 Prior Art



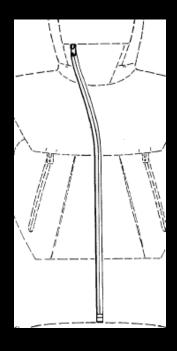
715 Patented Design

Court: An ordinary observer would be left with the impression that the 715 patent contains only two sections - straight and diagonal.



Accused Design

Court: An ordinary observer of [the accused design] on the other hand would be left with the impression that the jacket contains three sections straight, diagonal, and straight.





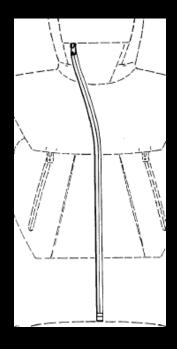
715 Patented Design

Accused Design



Lowe Alpine DE356
Prior Art

Court: The 715 patent is *much closer to* the Lowe Alpine jacket ... they both contain one straight and one diagonal section. The accused design *is similar to* the DE356 patent in that both contain a straight section, curving into a diagonal section, which curves into a 2nd straight section.



715 Patented

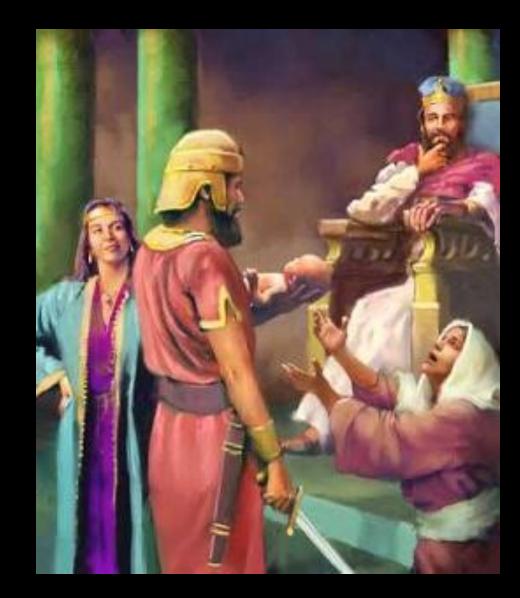
Design



Lowe Alpine DE356 Prior Art

3-way Visual Test: Both the patented design and the accused design were closer to the prior art than to each other, resulting in a holding on summary judgment of non-infringement.

Accused Design





Looks Matter ...

Legally.®