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20	Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.,		
21	129 S. Ct. 365, 374 (2008)		
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I. INTRODUCTION

Gibson is entitled to preliminary injunction relief because it has demonstrated: 1) a likelihood of success on the merits; 2) a likelihood of irreparable injury if the preliminary injunction is not granted; 3) the balance of equities tips in favor of issuing a preliminary injunction; and 4) that granting a preliminary injunction is in the public interest. Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., 129 S. Ct. 365, 374 (2008).

II. INDISPUTABLE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON THE MERITS

To succeed on the merits of trademark infringement, including contributory trademark infringement, Gibson must show two elements: 1) a valid protectable mark; and 2) a likelihood of confusion, mistake, or deception in Defendants' use of the trademarks. 15 U.S.C. §1114(a). Gibson has met its burden in demonstrating these two elements.

A. Gibson Owns Valid, Protectable Registrations for Each Mark in Question

Gibson has provided the Court with valid, protectable trademark registrations on all of the marks in question, providing *prima facie* evidence of their validity and Gibson's exclusive incontestable rights to use these marks. 15 U.S.C. §1057(b). Therefore, the burden of proof shifts to the Defendants to prove Gibson does not own valid, protectable trademarks.

First, Defendants would have the Court believe that the Gibson Design Marks are invalid because they have not acquired a secondary meaning. A fatal flaw in this contention is that all of the authority quoted addresses only unregistered trade dress, which is only one count in the complaint. All of the Gibson Marks in question have been registered on the principal register for over twelve years, and been used exclusively by Gibson, thus making

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them incontestable.¹ Through Gibson's use of the trademarks for over half a century with hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising, Gibson has built enormous goodwill in these design marks and the purchasing public has come to expect Gibson quality when they see the Gibson Marks used in commerce, thus creating a secondary meaning.² *See* Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶7 Ex. A and ¶11 Ex. E; *See also* Wilson Decl. ¶10.

Second, Defendants claim that the Gibson Design Marks are generic and functional. Federal registration of a trademark endows it with a strong presumption of validity. "The general presumption of validity resulting from federal registration includes the specific presumption that the trademark is not generic." Coca-Cola Co. v. Overland, Inc., 692 F.2d 1250, 1254 (9th Cir. 1982). Defendants have tried to state that Gibson's Design Marks are generic and functional; however, Gibson has produced not only valid, incontestable registrations but also expert declarations confirming the iconic, non-functional and unique nature of the exclusive Gibson Design Marks. See Carter Decl. ¶¶ 9-16, See also McGuire Decl. ¶¶ 9-16 and Wilson Decl. ¶¶ 9-19. Defendant WowWee's expert has erroneous claimed that because there are guitars in the marketplace that are allegedly similar to some of the Gibson Design Marks, the Gibson Design Marks are generic; however a number of those third party marks cited by Defendant WowWee, are actually under license from Gibson. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶¶ 3-5. Moreover a number of the third party marks cited by Defendant WowWee are not comparable in design to the Gibson Design Marks. Further, Defendant

¹ See Sunrise Jewelry Mfg. Corp. v. Fred S.A., 175 F.3d 1322, 1324 (Fed. Cir. 1999)(stating an "incontestable mark cannot be challenged, for example, on the basis that the mark lacks a secondary meaning.")

² See <u>Volkswagen AG v. Verdier Microbus and Camper, Inc.</u>, 2009 WL 928130 at *6 (N.D. Cal. 2009)(finding VW trade dress had acquired a secondary meaning through "advertising, promoting, and developing the VW marks throughout the world.")

WowWee has argued that Gibson has not properly policed its marks, thereby rendering them generic; however, Gibson has been policing its rights against these third parties, thereby preserving its exclusive trademark rights. *See* Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 5. The Defendants have failed to show that Gibson Design Marks are generic or functional. *See* Carter Decl. ¶¶ 9-16, *See also* McGuire Decl. ¶¶ 9-16, Wilson Decl. ¶¶ 9-19. A few isolated incidents of somewhat similar design marks do not overcome the strong presumption of validity.

Defendants also place entirely too much emphasis on <u>Gibson Guitar Corp. v. Paul</u>

<u>Reed Smith Guitars, LP</u>, 423 F.3d 539 (6th Cir. 2005). That court conducted no analysis whatsoever on the claim of genericness or functionality. <u>Id</u> at 548. Moreover, this <u>PRS</u> court did not use the accepted confusion standard of the Ninth Circuit. So this case has no bearing.

B. Defendants' Use Is Likely to Confuse, Mistake, and Deceive the Public

Analyzing the Sleekcraft factors demonstrates that a finding of consumer confusion is extremely likely.⁴

i. Gibson's Marks are Strong

Due to the arbitrary nature, distinctiveness, and commercial success of Gibson's Marks, the strength of Gibson's Marks should be given significant protection.⁵

Distinctiveness refers to "the more likely the mark is to be remembered and associated in the public mind with the mark's owner." Goto.com, Inc. v. Walt Disney Co., 202 F.3d 1199,

³ This is contrary to the Ninth Circuit precedence in <u>Dr. Seuss</u>, where initial-interest was incorporated into a likelihood of confusion analysis. <u>Dr. Seuss Enterprises</u>, <u>L.P. v. Penguin Books USA</u>, <u>Inc.</u>, 109 F.3d 1394, 1405 (9th Cir. 1997).

⁴ The eight <u>Sleekcraft</u> factors used by the Ninth Circuit in determining a likelihood of consumer confusion are 1) the strength of the mark; 2) the proximity of the goods; 3) the similarity of the marks; 4) evidence of actual confusion; 5) the marketing channels used; 6) the type of goods and the degree of care likely to be exercised by the purchaser, 7) defendant's intent on selecting the mark in question; and 8) likelihood of expansion of the product lines. <u>AMF Inc. v. Sleekcraft Boats</u>, 599 F.2d 341, 348-49 (9th Cir. 1979).

⁵ See Brookfield Commc'ns, Inc. v. West Coast Entm't Corp., 174 F.3d 1036, 1058 (9th Cir. 1999) (stating that the stronger a mark is, the more protection it will be afforded by the courts).

1207 (9th Cir. 2000). Even a weak mark "may be strengthened by such factors as extensive advertising, length of exclusive use, [and] public recognition." M2 Software, Inc. v. Madacy Entertainment, 421 F.3d 1073, 1081 (9th Cir. 2005). Gibson has spent 100s of millions of dollars in marketing its unique designs and the commercial success of Gibson's Marks attests to the strength of these marks. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 7 Ex. A, ¶ 11 Ex. E, See also Bates Decl. ¶¶9-12. The Federal Circuit has stated repeatedly that there is no excuse for even approaching the well-known trademark of a competitor inasmuch as "[a] strong mark ... casts a long shadow which competitors must avoid." Kenner Parker Toys, Inc. v. Rose Art Industries, Inc., 963 F.2d 350, 353 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Because of the strength of Gibson's Marks, this Sleekcraft factor heavily weighs in finding a likelihood of confusion.

ii. The Proximity of the Goods Favors Gibson

The test for proximity of the goods is "that the public will mistakenly assume there is an association between the producers of the related goods, though no such association exists."

Sleekcraft, 599 F.2d at 350. "Related goods are those products that 'would be reasonably thought by the buying public to come from the same source if sold under the same mark."

Moroccanoil, Inc. v. Moroccan Gold, LLC, 590 F.Supp.2d 1271, 1278 (C.D. Cal.

2008)(quoting Sleekcraft at 348 n. 10). The Defendants would have the Court believe that the goods are not related because WowWee's products are allegedly only toys. Paper Jamz guitars can and do function as an electric guitar. WowWee even includes an insert with every Paper Jamz guitar showing how to play major and minor chords that states "[use] this Paper Jamz pocket guide to play real guitar chords and create your own songs." See Mitchell Supp.

Decl. ¶ 9, Ex. C. Further, the vast majority of their advertising shows the consumer replacing

a "real" guitar with a Paper Jamz guitar. Additionally, a search of Defendant Best Buy's website of the search terms "electric guitar" results in both Gibson guitars and Paper Jamz guitars within the same search results, *consecutively*. *See* Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 10, Ex. D. Not only are Paper Jamz related to the goods in which Gibson Marks are used, they are direct competitors. Because of this, the proximity of the goods prong of <u>Sleekcraft</u> weighs heavily in finding a likelihood of confusion.

iii. The Shape of Paper Jamz Guitar Series are Identical to Gibson's Design Marks

The designs of the Paper Jamz Guitars are identical to Gibson Design Marks. See Carter Decl. \$\\ 15\$. While the WowWee and Paper Jamz word marks are displayed on the guitars, they are not prominent and should not be given significant weight in determining their appearance in the marketplace. The guitar body shape design is what the consumer will recognize and remember, as this is the major portion of the Paper Jamz guitar. See Sleekcraft, 599 F.2d at 351 (finding that the more conspicuous mark serves to indicate the source of origin to the customers.) As noted before, the body shape of Paper Jamz are identical to the Gibson Design Marks. Because of the third prong of the similarity test, which affords more weight to the similarities, the identical designs and prominence are impossible for Defendants to overcome, shifting this Sleekcraft factor towards a likelihood of confusion.

⁶ The Ninth Circuit test for conducting a similarity analysis is (1) "the marks must be considered in their entirety and as they appear in the marketplace, (2) similarity is adjudged in terms of appearance, sound, and meaning, and (3) the similarities are weighed more heavily than differences." Moroccanoil, 590 F.Supp.2d at 1278; See also Entrepreneur Media v. Smith 279 F.3d 1135, 1144 (9th Cir. 2002).

⁷ "[T]he similarity of the marks, has always been considered a critical question in the likelihood-of-confusion analysis." Planet Coffee Roasters, Inc. v. Hung Dam, 2010 WL 625343 at *2 (C.D. Cal. 2010).

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iv. Gibson has Provided Evidence of Actual Confusion

Gibson has provided the Court with evidence of actual confusion in the marketplace.8 The evidence of actual consumer confusion has been demonstrated by a video prominently displayed on WowWee's website, paperjamz.com/rockstarz-academy. See Mitchell Decl. ¶ 17 Ex. LL. WowWee has since removed this video from its website, only strengthening the evidence of actual confusion. Even if the video was intended as a joke as Defendant now claims, the video itself obviously showed consumer confusion. In addition, WowWee's own retailers and customers have been confused between Paper Jamz body designs and Gibson's Marks, using the Gibson Word Marks along with the Paper Jamz guitars bearing the Gibson Design Marks. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 8, Ex. B; See also Bates Supp. Decl. ¶¶ 6-8, See also Americana Trading Inc. v. Ross Berrie & Co, 966 F.2d 1284, 1286-87 (9th Cir. 1992) (finding retailer confusion strong evidence of actual confusion in the marketplace). Evidence of this retailer confusion is shown by the website paperjamzstore.com as well as on message boards, eBay and Amazon websites. See Mitchell Decl. ¶ 14-16, See also Mitchell Decl. Ex. GG-KK, Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 8, Ex. B. At least three websites promoting the Paper Jamz guitars clearly demonstrate that there is widespread confusion amongst the public at large as to whether or not Gibson is affiliated with the products. Bates Supp. Decl. ¶¶ 6-8, Exs. B-D. Given the incidents of actual confusion, this Sleekcraft factor supports a finding of a likelihood of confusion.

⁸ Evidence of actual confusion is strong evidence that future confusion is likely. <u>Thane Intern Inc. v. Trek Bicycle Corp.</u>, 305 F.3d 894, 902 (9th Cir. 2002).

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v. Same Marketing Channels

The Defendants claim that Gibson guitars and Paper Jamz guitars are sold through very different marketing channels and do not compete. Again, this is a false assertion. Here Gibson is arguing that the Gibson Marks are used on goods that are direct competitors of Paper Jamz and sold through identical marketing channels. In fact, the Gibson Maestro guitar is sold through Defendants Best Buy and Amazon.com. A search for "electric guitar" on bestbuy.com, actually lists a Gibson Maestro and a Paper Jamz guitar as consecutive entries. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 10 Ex. D. WowWee's weak argument that Paper Jamz guitars are not competitors because they are toys is a contention that fails as Gibson has licensed the Gibson Design Marks for toys including, Guitar Hero, Hasbro's Power Tour and J Reynolds's children's guitars, which can be purchased from Defendants Amazon.com, Target and eBay. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 6. Gibson has proved without a doubt that Gibson Marks are used and licensed on products that are sold through the identical marketing channels that distribute Paper Jamz guitars and therefore, this Sleekcraft factor heavily favors a likelihood of consumer confusion. See Bates Supp. Decl. ¶5.

vi. There is Likely a Small Degree of Purchaser Care When Purchasing These Goods

By using the Gibson Design Marks, consumers will be mistakenly deceived into thinking Gibson sponsors, supports or otherwise authorizes the Paper Jamz. See Wilson Decl. ¶ 10. Because of the inexpensive price of the Paper Jamz guitars, the public is more likely to depend on the familiar and famous trademark branding and believe that they are purchasing items that are backed by the reputation associated with Gibson quality products. See Wilson

Decl. ¶ 13, Bates Supp. Decl. ¶ 12, Ex. H. This <u>Sleekcraft</u> factor should also be weighed in finding a likelihood of consumer confusion.

vii. WowWee Intended to Appropriate the Goodwill

Defendant WowWee has created an entire line of electric guitars that are primarily made up of the Gibson Design Marks, in fact 4 of the 6 guitars available are *identical* to Gibson's famous guitars. Based on this fact alone, it's clear that the choice in guitar designs was made with great forethought. Further, on the websites of Defendants Amazon, WowWee and eBay, THE FLYING V® word mark is seen along with Paper Jamz guitar bearing the FLYING V Design Mark. *See* Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 8 Ex. B. This clearly shows intentional use of the Gibson trademarks. When an alleged infringer knowingly adopts a mark similar to another's, courts will presume an intent to deceive the public." Moroccanoil 590 F. Supp.2d at 1280 (quoting Official Airline Guides, Inc. v. Goss, 6 F.3d 1385, 1394 (9th Cir. 1993)). Therefore, this Sleekcraft factor weighs heavily towards a likelihood of confusion.

viii. Paper Jamz is a Direct Competitor With Goods Displaying the Gibson Marks

Gibson has shown that WowWee's Paper Jamz guitars compete directly with goods bearing the Gibson Marks. The Defendants are selling Paper Jamz guitars while Gibson sells guitars, therefore the products compete. Moreover, even if the court were to accept that Paper Jamz guitars were only toys and not guitars, the licensing of the Gibson Design Marks to Hasbro, J Reynolds and Guitar Hero is *prima facie* evidence that an expansion by Gibson Marks into "toys" is not only likely but has already occurred. *See* Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 6. This <u>Sleekcraft</u> factor also weighs heavily towards a likelihood of consumer confusion.

III. LIKELIHOOD OF IRREPARABLE INJURY WILL OCCUR

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Gibson will suffer irreparable harm if a preliminary injunction is not ordered. The goodwill, brand and over-all business of Gibson is at stake. Gibson's most famous trademarks are being used across the US without license or ability to apply quality control. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 12. Every day consumers are buying these Paper Jamz guitars assuming they meet Gibson's quality standards and they do not. See Mitchell Supp. Decl. ¶ 12. If these unauthorized products are not immediately taken off the marketplace, Gibson will suffer irreparable harm. Defendants call into question whether there is a presumption of irreparable harm in trademark infringement cases in light of the Winter requirement that a plaintiff show that irreparable harm is likely, not merely possible. Interestingly, the Defendants quote Moroccanoil, a case in which the presumption was invoked concurrently with the Winter test. Gibson contends this presumption of irreparable injury is not inconsistent with the Winter requirement when a trademark with a significant amount of established goodwill is at issue and/or where Plaintiff has shown (as it has done here) that there is likelihood of success in the trademark infringement action. Further, Gibson has shown that it will be irreparably harmed, without relying on the presumption.

IV. THE BALANCE OF THE EQUITIES IS CLEARLY IN GIBSON'S FAVOR

As stated above, allowing Defendants the continued unlicensed use of Gibson's Marks through the pendency of a trial will irreparably harm Gibson. Juszkiewicz Decl. ¶ 28.

⁹ See Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma, 571 F.3d 873 (9th Cir. 2009)(a case in which the district court was found to have not abused its discretion by presuming irreparable injury in a trademark case); Moroccanoil, 590 F.Supp.2d at 1281(invoking the presumption of irreparable harm in a trademark infringement case after finding a likelihood of success on the merits to satisfy the Winter requirement that irreparable harm is likely); Fiji Water Co, LLC v. Fiji Mineral Water USA, LLC, 2010 WL 3835673 at 10 (C.D. Ca. Sept. 30, 2010)(questioning the presumption of irreparable harm but ruling that Fiji's investment to build substantial reputation and goodwill in its trademark was enough to show a likelihood of irreparable injury).

Enjoining the sale of Paper Jamz products through a preliminary injunction will cease this irreparable harm to Gibson. Gibson does not want its name and goodwill associated with an electric guitar over which it has no quality control.

V. THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS CLEARLY IN GIBSON'S FAVOR

As this Court has pointed out when a trademark holder has proven a success on the merits, as Gibson has, "the public has a right not to be deceived or confused, the public interest and goals of the Lanham Act favor an injunction." Moroccanoil, 590 F.Supp.2d at 1282. Gibson does not deny that the public also has an interest in free competition. The Defendants just fail to understand that this only includes legal and legitimate competition. Paper Jamz guitars are neither legal nor legitimate and as such, public interest would be furthered by granting a preliminary injunction.

VI. CONCLUSION

Given the bad intent WowWee had when adopting Gibson's Marks, the grossly negligent business conduct of mortgaging its company in an investment into infringing products, and the strong likelihood that Paper Jamz guitars will confuse consumers as to an affiliation with Gibson's Marks, a \$10,000 bond is not "patently absurd" but rather very reasonable.

DATED: December <u>13</u>, 2010

BATES & BATES, LLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

ANDREA E. BATES MICHAEL A. BOSWELL

∠, ;

Exhibit 6

Case	2:10-cv-08884-RGK -RZ Document 41	Filed 12/13/10 Page 1 of 4 Page ID #:1265	
1	ANDREA E. BATES, ESQ, SBN 192491 Abates@Bates-Bates.com MICHAEL A. BOSWELL, ESQ. SBN 198994 MBoswell@Bates-Bates.com BATES & BATES, LLC 964 DeKalb Avenue, Suite 101 Atlanta, Georgia 30307 Phone (866)701-0404 and (562) 360-2097 Fax (404)963-6231		
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7	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
8	GIBSON GUITAR CORP.,	*	
9			
10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
11	GIBSON GUITAR CORP., a Delaware corporation,) Case No. CV10-8884 RGK (RZx)	
13	Plaintiff,) SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF) ANDREA E, BATES IN SUPPORT OF	
14	VS.) PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR A	
15	WOWWEE USA, INC., et. al. Defendants Judge: R. Gary Klausner) PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION)	
16		Judge: R. Gary Klausner	
17			
18		}	
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26)	
27			
28	- 1 - SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF ANDREA E, BATES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION		

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DECLARATION OF ANDREA E, BATES

I, Andrea E. Bates, declare as follows:

- 1. Unless otherwise stated as based upon information and belief, he facts set forth in this declaration are personally known to me and I have first knowledge of these facts. If called upon to testify during court of this action, I could, and I would competently testify thereto under oath. I am over 18 and a party to this action.
- 2. I am an attorney licensed to practice law before the courts in the State of California and the federal Central District of California. I am a partner in the law firm of Bates & Bates, LLC, which is counsel of record for Plaintiff GIBSON GUITAR CORP, (hereinafter "Gibson"), a Delaware corporation. As one of the attorneys in this case, I participate in the filing and retrieval of documents for this case. I also supervise associate attorneys and staff in those activities,
- 3. As an attorney for Gibson, I have met with personnel of the company as well as reviewing records of the company in regards to trademark issues, among others. I, or personnel of my firm who are under my supervision, have also reviewed and obtained records from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in regards to Gibson's Registered Trademarks.
- 4. I have reviewed the Defendant WowWee's Memorandum in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction along with the accompanying Declarations and Exhibits.
- 5. Attached hereto as Exhibit A, is a screen print of Defendant Amazon.com's website which includes the Hasbro Power Tour guitar and the J Reynolds 1/2 size LP guitar under the "Toys and Games" category, both displaying the a trademark design in question that has been licensed by Gibson.

- 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit B, are screen shots of paperjamzstore.com which is still active, despite supposed efforts of WowWee to have it "shut down," and using Gibson word marks to describe the Paper Jamz guitars. The "Amazon.com associate" website now links the advertisements to Defendant Kmart.
- 7. Attached hereto as Exhibit C, are screen shots of paperguitar.co.uk., previously unmentioned, that contains use of Gibson® word marks to describe the Paper Jamz guitars. The website contains links to Defendants' Amazon, com and Toys"R"Us European websites. Upon information and belief, the Paper Jamz guitars can be purchased on the European websites and shipped to the United States. I have been unable to locate the owner of this website and, at this time, am unable to prove an affiliation with Defendant WowWee other than the obvious benefit WowWee receives from the advertising using the Gibson® word marks.
- 8. Attached hereto as Exhibit D, are screen shots of www.wow-wee-paper-jamzguitar.com which is still active, despite supposed efforts of WowWee to have it "shut down," and using Gibson® word marks to describe the Paper Jamz guitars. The link to Amazon.com has been removed. WowWee obviously benefits from this advertising in the form of more Paper Jamz guitar sales.
- 9. Attached hereto as Exhibit E, are print advertisements from the Gibson Pure® advertising campaign, specifically designed to create an association with the consumer between the famous body shape designs and Gibson. These advertisements were run in musician magazines as well as magazines targeted towards the general public.
- 10. Attached hereto as Exhibit F, are print advertisements specifically designed to create an association with the consumer between the famous Les Paul Headstock Design® and the Bell-Shaped Truss Rod Cover®.

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EXHIBIT A