

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

SEIRUS INNOVATIVE ACCESSORIES,
INC., a Utah Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KOMBI LTD. and KOMBI SPORTS,
INC.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 10-CV-1217-H (WMC)

ORDER:

**(1) GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT REGARDING
SEIRUS’ ‘690 AND ‘804
PATENTS;**

**(2) GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT REGARDING
TRADE DRESS;**

**(3) GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT REGARDING
FALSE DESIGNATION OF
ORIGIN AND UNFAIR
COMPETITION CAUSES OF
ACTION UNDER THE
LANHAM ACT AND
CALIFORNIA LAW; AND**

**(4) GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL
NOTICE**

On December 30, 2011, Defendant Kombi Ltd. (“Kombi” or “Defendant”) filed motions for summary judgment regarding Seirus’ Patent Nos. 5,214,804 (“the ‘804 patent”), 6,272,690

1 (“the ‘690 patent”), Seirus’ trade dress claims, and requested judicial notice.¹ (Doc. Nos. 45
2 & 46.) On January 16, 2012, Seirus Innovative Accessories, Inc. (“Seirus” or “Plaintiff”) filed
3 a response in opposition to Kombi’s motions for summary judgment. (Doc. Nos. 50 & 53.)
4 On January 23, 2012, Kombi filed a reply. (Doc. Nos. 57 & 58.)

5 The Court held a hearing on January 30, 2012. Matthew Murphey and Paul McGowan
6 appeared for Seirus, and Kenneth Florek appeared for Kombi. Based on the following, the
7 Court grants Kombi’s motions for summary judgment.

8 Background

9 Seirus filed a complaint for patent infringement, trade dress infringement, and unfair
10 competition on April 4, 2010 against Kombi Ltd. and Kombi Sports, Inc. (Doc. No. 1,
11 Complaint.) Specifically, Seirus alleges infringement and inducing infringement of the ‘804
12 patent and the ‘690 patent by the Kombi accused products. (Complaint at 4-10.) The ‘804
13 patent was filed on January 27, 1992 and issued on June 1, 1993. The ‘804 claims are directed
14 to an article of clothing that includes a mask portion to be worn about a user’s mouth and nose,
15 and a scarf portion to be worn about a user’s neck. (Doc. No. 46, Ex. 1, the ‘804 patent). The
16 ‘690 patent was filed on March 18, 1996 and issued on August 14, 2001. The ‘690 patent
17 contains a single claim directed to a “combination of a sport goggle and an article of
18 protective clothing.” (Doc. No. 46, Ex. 2, the ‘690 patent).

19 Seirus also asserts claims of trade dress infringement, false designation of origin and
20 unfair competition under the Lanham Act, and unfair competition and unjust enrichment under
21 California law. (Doc. No. 1, Complaint at 4-10.)

22 **I. Motion for Summary Judgment**

23 Legal Standard

24 Summary judgment is appropriate under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil
25 Procedure if the moving party demonstrates the absence of a genuine issue of material fact and

26
27 ¹On December 30, 2011, Kombi requested that the Court take judicial notice of this Court’s
28 own files, records, and orders in the case of Seirus Innovative Accessories, Inc. v. Cabela’s Inc., No.
09-CV-102 H (WMC), 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123697, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 25, 2011). (Doc. No. 47.)
On January 16, 2012, Seirus filed a response in opposition to Kombi’s request for judicial notice.
(Doc. No. 51.) On January 23, 2012, Kombi filed a reply. (Doc. No. 59.)

1 entitlement to judgment as a matter of law. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986).
2 A fact is material when, under the governing substantive law, it could affect the outcome of
3 the case. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986); Freeman v. Arpaio, 125
4 F.3d 732, 735 (9th Cir. 1997). A dispute is genuine if a reasonable jury could return a verdict
5 for the nonmoving party. Anderson, 477 U.S. at 248.

6 A party seeking summary judgment bears the initial burden of establishing the absence
7 of a genuine issue of material fact. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 323. The moving party can satisfy
8 this burden in two ways: (1) by presenting evidence that negates an essential element of the
9 nonmoving party's case; or (2) by demonstrating that the nonmoving party failed to establish
10 an essential element of the nonmoving party's case on which the nonmoving party bears the
11 burden of proving at trial. Id. at 322-23. "Disputes over irrelevant or unnecessary facts will
12 not preclude a grant of summary judgment." T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pacific Elec. Contractors
13 Ass'n, 809 F.2d 626, 630 (9th Cir. 1987). Once the moving party establishes the absence of
14 genuine issues of material fact, the burden shifts to the nonmoving party to set forth facts
15 showing that a genuine issue of disputed fact remains. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 322. The
16 nonmoving party cannot oppose a properly supported summary judgment motion by "rest[ing]
17 on mere allegations or denials of his pleadings." Anderson, 477 U.S. at 256. "The 'opponent
18 must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material fact.'" Kennedy v. Allied Mut. Ins. Co., 952 F.2d 262, 265-66 (9th Cir. 1991) (citing Matsushita
19 Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986)). Furthermore, the
20 nonmoving party generally "cannot create an issue of fact by an affidavit contradicting his
21 prior deposition testimony." Kennedy, 952 F.2d at 266; see Foster v. Arcata Assocs., 772 F.2d
22 1453, 1462 (9th Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 475 U.S. 1048 (1986); Radobenko v. Automated
23 Equip. Corp., 520 F.2d 540, 543-44 (9th Cir. 1975).

24
25 When ruling on a summary judgment motion, the court must view all inferences drawn
26 from the underlying facts in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. Matsushita Elec.
27 Indus. Co., 475 U.S. at 587. The Court does not make credibility determinations with respect
28 to evidence offered. See T.W. Elec., 809 F.2d at 630-31 (citing Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 587).

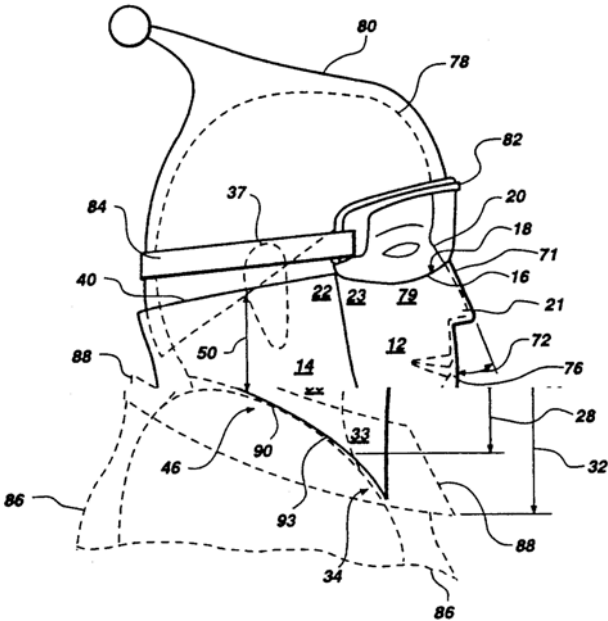
1 Summary judgment is therefore not appropriate “where contradictory inferences may
2 reasonably be drawn from undisputed evidentiary facts.” Hollingsworth Solderless Terminal
3 Co. v. Turley, 622 F.2d 1324, 1335 (9th Cir. 1980).

4 **A. Seirus’ Claims for Patent Infringement**

5 Seirus claims (i) patent infringement and (ii) inducing patent infringement of U.S.
6 Patent Nos. 5,214,804 (“the ‘804 patent”) and 6,272,690 (“the ‘690 patent”) against Kombi.
7 Kombi moves for summary judgment regarding these claims asserting that the claims of the
8 ‘804 patent are invalid and that Kombi’s products do not infringe the ‘690 patent. (Doc. No.
9 46.)

10 **1. The ‘804 Patent**

11 The ‘804 patent describes an article of clothing that combines a mask portion to be worn
12 about a user’s mouth and nose with a scarf portion to be worn about a user’s neck. Kombi
13 argues that the claims of the ‘804 patent are invalid as obvious over the prior art and, therefore,
14 cannot be infringed either directly or by inducement. (Id. at 5.)



27 ///

28 ///

1 **a. Legal Standard for Obviousness**

2 A patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) is
3 presumed to be valid. Microsoft Corp. v. i4i Ltd. P’ship, 131 S.Ct. 2238, 2242 (2011). In
4 order to overcome the presumption of validity, a party must prove invalidity by clear and
5 convincing evidence. Id.

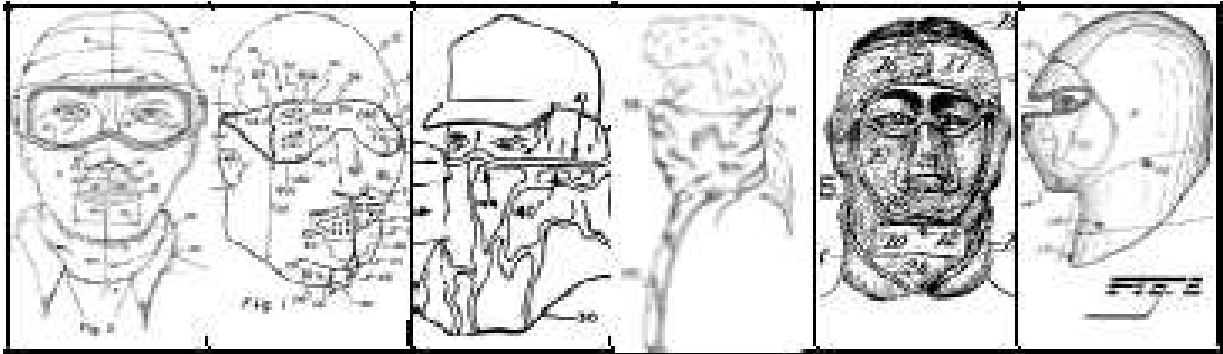
6 A claimed invention is obvious if “the differences between the subject matter sought
7 to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
8 obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art.” 35
9 U.S.C. § 103(a). Obviousness is a legal question based on underlying factual determinations.
10 Eisai Co. Ltd. v. Dr. Reddy’s Lab., Ltd., 533 F.3d 1353, 1356 (Fed. Cir. 2008). “The factual
11 determinations underpinning the legal conclusion of obviousness include 1) the scope and
12 content of the prior art, 2) the level of ordinary skill in the art, 3) the differences between the
13 claimed invention and the prior art, and 4) evidence of secondary factors.” Id. (citing Graham
14 v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966)). Secondary factors include “commercial success,
15 long felt but unsolved needs, failure of others, etc.” KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S.
16 398, 406 (2007) (quoting Graham, 353 U.S. at 17-18.) Summary judgment may be appropriate
17 if “the content of the prior art, the scope of the patent claim, and the level of ordinary skill in
18 the art are not in material dispute, and the obviousness of the claim is apparent.” KSR Int’l Co.
19 at 427.

20 A patent is likely to be obvious if it merely yields predictable results by combining
21 familiar elements according to known methods. Id. at 416. “[A] patent composed of several
22 elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was,
23 independently, known in the prior art.” Id. at 418. “If a person of ordinary skill in the art can
24 implement a predictable variation, and would see the benefit of doing so, § 103 likely bars its
25 patentability.” Id. at 417. In determining obviousness, courts do not need to find “precise
26 teachings directed to the specific subject matter of the challenged claim, for a court can take
27 account of the inferences and creative steps that a person of ordinary skill in the art would
28 employ.” Id. at 418. A person of ordinary skill interprets the prior art “using common sense

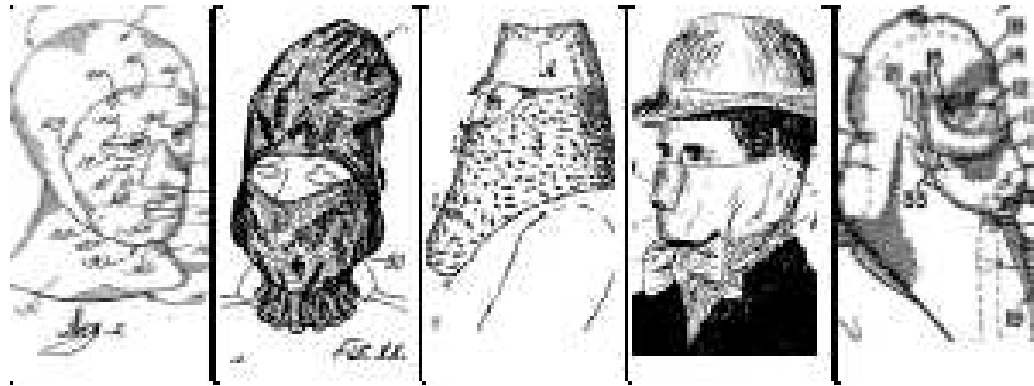
1 scarf member under the chin of the user to extend in height from the lower edge of the mask
2 member to the chest area of the user. Id. at col.7 ll.7-35.

3 Claim 5 depends from claim 4, and additionally requires that the scarf member “extends
4 from the lower edge at the temple area rearwardly about the head of the user.” Id. at col.7
5 ll.36-38. Claims 8-15 ultimately depend from claims 1 or 4, and recite various limitations
6 directed to the materials of the mask and scarf members. Id. at col.8 ll. 6-30.

7 Kombi cites a number of prior art references to demonstrate the scope and content of
8 the prior art. Kombi asserts that various combinations of these references render the ‘804
9 patent invalid for obviousness. (Doc. No. 46-1 at 7-10.) Six of the references cited by Kombi
10 were not before the USPTO when the ‘804 patent application was examined, including U.S.
11 Patent Nos. 5,025,507 (“the ‘507 patent”), 4,718,123 (“the ‘123 patent”), 2,686,317 (“the ‘317
12 patent”), 5,109,548 (“the ‘548 patent”), 202,262 (“the ‘262 patent”), and 4,768,235 (“the ‘235
13 patent”). The cited references that were before the USPTO were analyzed under pre-KSR
14 obviousness standards, and include U.S. Patent Nos. 4,300,240 (“the ‘240 patent”), 4,825,474
15 (“the ‘474 patent”), 772,148 (“the ‘148 patent”), 4,941,211 (“the ‘211 patent”), and 766,963
16 (“the ‘963 patent”). Representative figures of the prior art references are pictured below:



17
18
19
20
21
22
23 **‘240** **‘474** **‘507** **‘123** **‘148** **‘317**



'211

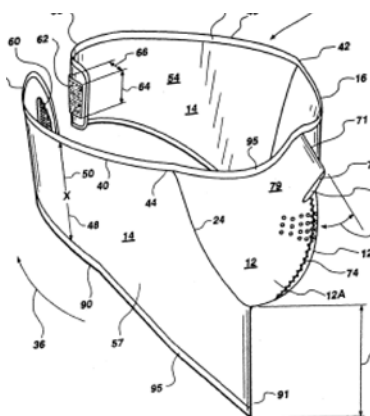
'548

'262

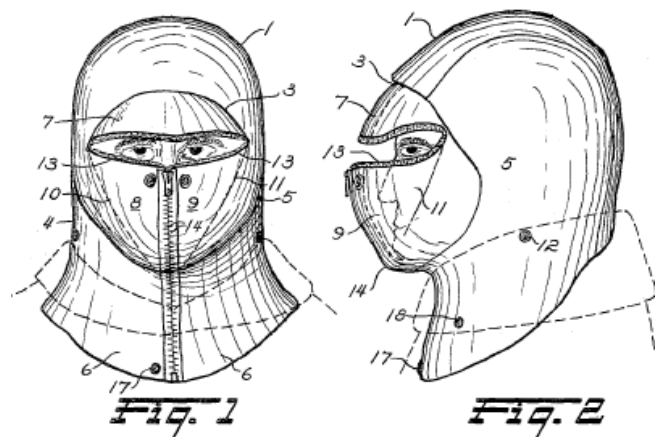
'963

'235

A patent is likely to be obvious if it merely yields predictable results by combining familiar elements according to known methods. KSR Int'l Co., 550 U.S. at 418. The claimed elements of the '804 patent are familiar elements as shown by the many prior art patents cited by Kombi. The record shows that combining the various elements using known methods, as shown in the prior art, would yield predictable results for cold weather head gear. For example, the '317 patent, which was not before the USPTO, discloses head wearing apparel for protecting a wearer against severe weather conditions. '317 patent col.1 ll.1-4. The '317 patent discloses all elements of claims 1-5 of the '804 patent except the "securing means" of claims 1 and 4. Representative figures of the '804 and '317 patents are pictured below for reference:



'804 Patent



'317 Patent

1 The '317 patent teaches a mask member as claimed in claims 1 and 4. Specifically,
2 flaps 8 and 9 make up the mask portion and extend from the opposite sides 4 and 5 of the hood.
3 '317 patent col.2 ll.52-55. The flaps are described as “namely face covering portions of
4 cupped formation and generally triangular in shape.” Id. The prior art patent further describes
5 an upper edge 13 of the mask portion that has a relatively horizontal position in front of the
6 face slightly below the eyes, and a lower edge of the mask portion that is positioned under the
7 chin that extends toward the horizontal edge. Id. at fig. 2, item 13, col.2 ll.21-31, and col.3
8 ll.33-40. The upper edge 13 extends along the lower part of the eye socket areas and over the
9 nose. The upper edge 13 also extends rearwardly to the area of the temples. Figure 2 shows
10 that the upper edge 13 intersects the lower edge of the mask portion in the area of the temples.
11 Id. at fig. 2, item 13.

12 The '317 patent teaches a scarf member as claimed in claims 1 and 4. For example
13 Figure 1 of the '317 contains a scarf portion 6 that extends from the lower edge of the mask
14 member rearwardly to surround the neck of the wearer on both sides of the head. Id. at fig. 1,
15 item 6, and col.2 ll.31-40. The scarf member 6 has left and right sides that extend to surround
16 the user's neck, as claimed by the '804 patent in claims 2 and 4. Id. at fig. 1, item 6. The scarf
17 portion 6 covers the chest of the wearer and has two sides that come together to surround the
18 neck of the wearer, as required by claims 3 and 4 of the '804 patent. Id. at fig. 1, item 6, and
19 col.2 ll.35-37. The scarf portion 6 extends from the mask portion at the wearer's temples to
20 surround the wearer's head, as claimed by the '804 patent in claim 5. Id.

21 The '317 patent describes a fastening device that operates to open or close the entire
22 mask and scarf portions in the front portion of the garment. '317 patent figs. 1 and 3, item 15.
23 Other prior art references disclose the claimed securing means of claims 1 and 4 of the '804
24 patent. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,718,123 (“the '123 patent”) teaches a garment for
25 covering the neck of a wearer that has appendages that wrap around the neck and fasten to one
26 another at the ends using a releasable fastener, such as Velcro, buttons, zippers, or snaps. '123
27 patent fig. 1, items 2-3, fig. 2, item 10, and col.1 ll.52-57. Further, U.S. Patent No. 4,300,240
28 (“the '240 patent”) discloses a mask with securing means, such as adjustable velcro strips, for

1 securing the mask around the wearer's head. '240 patent fig. 1, items 88 and 90, and col.4
2 ll.52-57.

3 A patent that is merely a combination of familiar elements combined using known
4 methods that produces predictable results is likely obvious. KSR Int'l Co., 550 U.S. at 418.
5 Here, modifying the scarf portion of the '317 patent to include the fasteners of the '123 patent
6 would yield predictable results. The Supreme Court noted in KSR that, when determining
7 obviousness, "neither the particular motivation nor the avowed purpose of the patentee
8 controls." Id. at 419.

9 Moreover, during prosecution of the '804 patent application, the patent examiner noted
10 in the Notice of Allowance that, "[n]one of the cited references alone or in combination
11 disclose an article of clothing comprising a mask and an attached scarf member where the
12 mask has an upper edge and a lower edge and where the upper edge extends rearwardly to the
13 area of the wearers [sic] temples and where the lower edge is arcuate and intersects the upper
14 edge in the area of the temples." '804 patent, Notice of Allowance of Feb. 19, 1993, at 2. The
15 undisclosed '317 patent describes a lower edge and a horizontal upper edge 13 of a mask
16 portion that intersect approximately at the wearer's temples. '317 patent fig. 2, item 13.
17 Significantly, the '317 patent was not before the examiner. Therefore, the examiner's reasons
18 for allowing the '804 patent are undercut by the existence of the '317 patent.

19 The ultimate judgment of obviousness is a question of law for the Court. KSR Int'l Co.,
20 550 U.S. at 427. Considering the prior art, the scope of the patent claims, and the level of skill
21 in the art,² the Court concludes that the record demonstrates no triable issue of material fact

22
23 ²A specific finding on the level of skill in the art is not required "where the prior art itself
24 reflects an appropriate level and a need for testimony is not shown." Litton Indus. Prods., Inc. v. Solid
25 State Sys. Corp., 755 F.2d 158, 163-64 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Nevertheless, it is preferable for the court
26 to specify the level of skill it applies to the invention at issue. Okajima v. Bourdeau, 261 F.3d 1350,
27 1355 (Fed. Cir. 2001). "[E]xpert testimony is not required when the references and the invention are
28 easily understandable." Wyers v. Master Lock Co., 616 F.3d 1231, 1242 (Fed. Cir. 2010).

26 Kombi argues that the prior art reflects the level of skill in the art as that of an ordinary layman
27 because the technology associated with cold weather head gear is simple and easily understood. (Doc.
28 No. 66 at 2-3.) For example, the inventor of similar cold weather head gear was an opera singer who
had lived in very cold climates. '123 patent col.1 ll.5-6. Nevertheless, the Court has carefully
considered the technology at issue and concludes that a person of ordinary skill in the art possess a
undergraduate degree in textile, mechanical, or materials engineering for the purpose of evaluating
the '804 patent for obviousness. (See, e.g., Doc. No. 46-6 at 5.)

1 on obviousness for claims 1-5 of the '804 patent. See, e.g., Media Tech. Licensing, LLC v.
2 Upper Deck Co., 596 F.3d 1334, 1339 (Fed. Cir. 2010) (affirming a district court's summary
3 judgment of obviousness for claims directed to a piece of memorabilia attached to a trading
4 card); Rothman v. Target Corp., 556 F.3d 1310, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 2009) (affirming a jury verdict
5 of obviousness for claims directed to a nursing garment containing an invisible breast support).

6 Dependent claims 8-12 recite various limitations directed to the materials of the mask
7 and scarf members. '804 patent col.8 ll.6-18. The '804 patent indicates that materials within
8 the scope of claims 8-12 were known in the art. For example, POLAR TEC™ is a flexible,
9 stretchable, fleece-like material that was previously known in the art that falls within the
10 material of claims 8-12. Id. at col.4 ll.42-55. Additionally, stretchable mask material of claim
11 8, such as nylon covered close sponge neoprene is disclosed by the '240 patent. '240 patent
12 col.5 ll.45-50. A mask made of the fleece layer and water resistant layer of claims 9-10, such
13 as a mask made of nylon covered close cell sponge neoprene, is disclosed by the '240 patent.
14 Id. at col.5 ll.45-67. A scarf made of the soft stretchable fleece-like material of claims 11-12,
15 such as a laminated fabric made of spandex and polyurethane laminate bound to an insulating
16 fleece-knit polyester fabric, is disclosed by the '548 patent. '548 patent col.1 ll.64-68, and
17 col.4 ll.1-18, 53-58. Thus, the materials of claims 8-12 were available at the time the '804
18 patent was filed. Accordingly, the Court concludes that there is no triable issue as to whether
19 the types of materials recited in the claims were well known in cold weather apparel design.
20 As a result, the Court determines that it would have been obvious to use these materials to
21 produce the article of clothing of claims 8-12.

22 Dependent claims 13-15 recite limitations directed to a "middle edge" of the mask
23 member "for positioning under the user's nose and sized to extend substantially the width of
24 the user's nose." '804 patent col.8 ll.19-30. The '240 patent discloses all of the features of the
25 middle edge recited in claims 13-15. '240 patent fig. 3, item 32 and col. 3 ll.27-67. For
26 example, the '240 patent discloses, "a middle edge 32 in the area above the upper lip. The
27 middle edge 32 extends essentially the width 33 of the nose piece 26, as best seen in fig. 3.
28 The nose piece 26, together with the middle edge 32, form a breathing aperture 34 for the

1 nostrils.” Id. Therefore, the Court concludes that the record shows that it would have been
2 obvious to add a middle edge to a mask member. Accordingly, the Court grants Kombi’s
3 summary judgment motion with respect to the invalidity of claims 1-4 and 8-15 from the ‘804
4 patent for obviousness.

5 **c. Claims 1-4 and 8-15: Collateral Estoppel**

6 When a court has decided an issue of fact or law necessary to its judgment, collateral
7 estoppel may preclude relitigation of the issue. Hydranautics v. FilmTec Corp., 204 F.3d 880,
8 885 (9th Cir. 2000). The use of collateral estoppel is permitted to prevent relitigating the
9 validity of a patent after a court has already declared the patent to be invalid. Blonder-Tongue
10 Lab., Inc., v. Univ. of Ill. Foundation, 402 U.S. 313, 350 (1971). Collateral estoppel applies
11 only where it is established that:

- 12 (1) the issue necessarily decided at the previous proceeding is identical to the
13 one which is sought to be relitigated;
14 (2) the first proceeding ended with a final judgment on the merits; and
15 (3) the party against whom collateral estoppel is asserted was a party or in
16 privity with a party at the first proceeding.

17 Hydranautics, 204 F.3d at 885 (citations omitted).

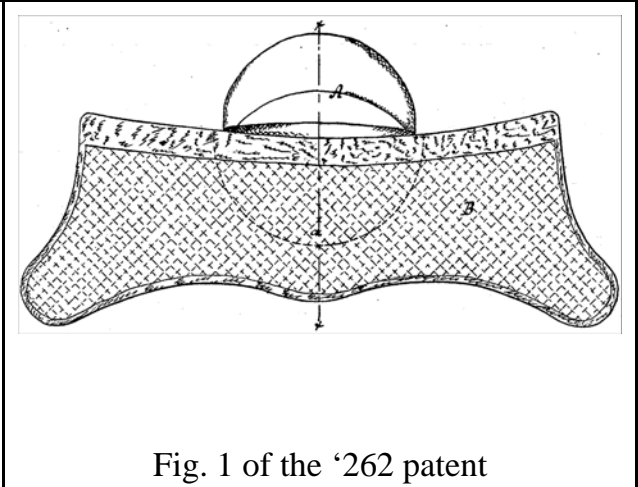
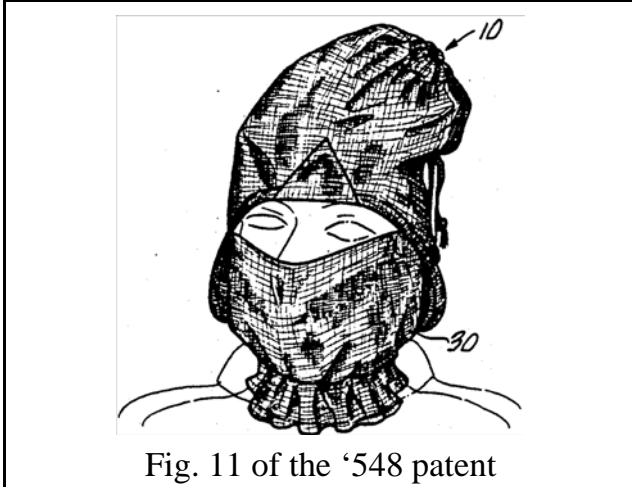
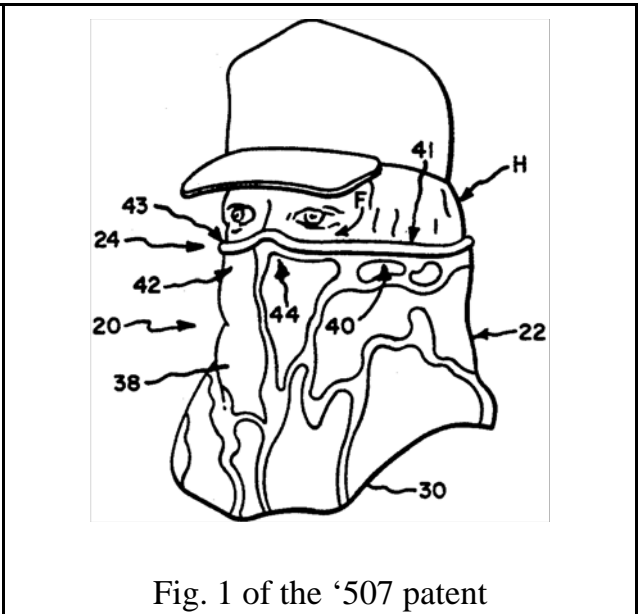
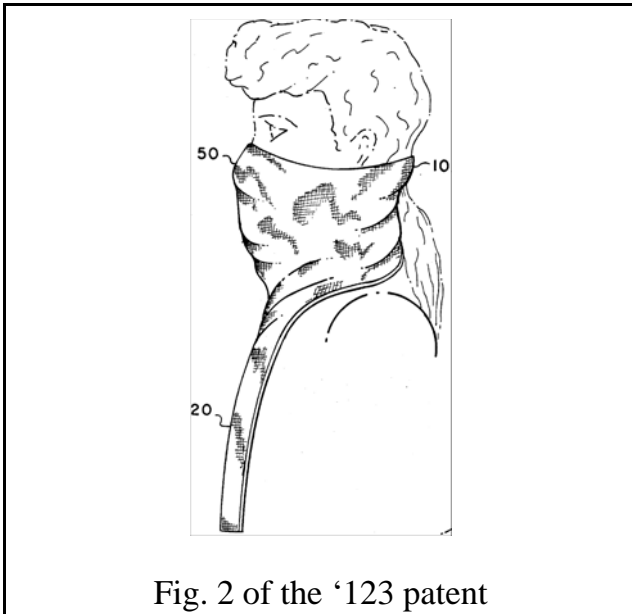
18 This Court issued a final judgment on December 12, 2011 concluding that claims 1-4
19 and 8-15 of the ‘804 patent are invalid as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). (Cabela’s, No.
20 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 493). Seirus, the plaintiff in Cabela’s, is asserting the
21 identical claims against Kombi in this case. Therefore, the Court alternatively applies the
22 doctrine of collateral estoppel and precludes Seirus from relitigating the validity of claims 1-5
23 and 8-15 in this case. Accordingly, the Court grants Kombi’s summary judgment motion with
24 respect to the invalidity of claims 1-4 and 8-15 from the ‘804 patent.

25 **d. Claims 6 and 7**

26 Claim 6 of the ‘804 patent requires the claimed scarf member to have “an upper edge
27 which is in alignment with the said upper edge of said mask member.” ‘804 patent col.7 ll.39-
28 41. Claim 7 of the ‘804 patent depends from claim 6 and requires that the “left side and said
right side of said scarf member extend in height from their upper edge downwardly
substantially to the shoulders of the user rearwardly of the temple area.” ‘804 patent col.8 ll.1-

1 5. Kombi seeks summary judgment as to the obviousness of claims 6 and 7 in light of the
2 '123, '507, '548, '262, and '317 patents.

3 With respect to claim 6, Kombi alleges that aligning a scarf member with a mask
4 member is a familiar element known in the prior art as demonstrated by the following figures
5 that were not before the patent examiner during the prosecution of the '804 patent.



24 Kombi further argues that the addition of a scarf member in alignment with a mask
25 would yield predictable results for cold weather head gear and produces an obvious
26 combination under KSR. (Doc. No. 46-1 at 11-13.)

27 With respect to claim 7, Kombi alleges that the '548, '123, '262, and '507 patents
28 disclose a scarf member with right and left sides that extend from the temple area to the

1 shoulders. (Id.) Kombi further contends that extending the scarf member from the temple area
2 to the shoulders yields predictable results and produces an obvious combination. (Id.)

3 The Court agrees that claims 6 and 7 are obvious in light of the prior art. See KSR Int’l
4 Co., 550 U.S. at 427. For example, the ‘317 patent teaches all elements of claim 6, excepting
5 the securing means and the alignment of the upper edge of the scarf and mask members. The
6 ‘123 patent teaches the claimed securing means and a scarf member with an upper edge. ‘123
7 patent fig. 2, col.1 ll.50-57. The ‘123, ‘507, and ‘548 patents show scarf members with right
8 and left sides that extend from the temple area to the shoulders. See ‘123 patent fig. 2; ‘507
9 patent fig. 1; ‘548 patent fig. 11. In KSR, the Supreme Court held that “the results of ordinary
10 innovation are not the subject of exclusive rights under the patent laws.” KSR Int’l Co., 550
11 U.S. at 427. As a result, these claims fail to meet the requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
12 Seirus has not shown any secondary factors to dislodge the determination that claims 6 and 7
13 are obvious. Therefore, the Court concludes that the record shows that it would have been
14 obvious to align the upper edge of the scarf and mask members. The Court concludes that the
15 record shows that it would have been obvious to have a scarf member with right and left sides
16 that extend from the temple areas to the shoulders. Accordingly, the Court grants Kombi’s
17 summary judgment motion with respect to the invalidity of claims 6 and 7 from the ‘804 patent
18 for obviousness.

19 **e. Claim 16**

20 Claim 16 of the ‘804 patent depends from claim 6 and requires that the “upper edge of
21 said mask member and said scarf member have piping affixed thereto and there along.” ‘804
22 patent col.8 ll.31-33. Kombi seeks summary judgment as to the obviousness of claim 16 in
23 light of Figures 1 and 2 of the ‘507 patent and Figure 12 of the ‘548 patent. (Doc. No. 46-1
24 at 15-17.) Specifically, Kombi alleges that the figures from these patents show a piping on the
25 upper edge of cold weather headgear. (Id.)

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

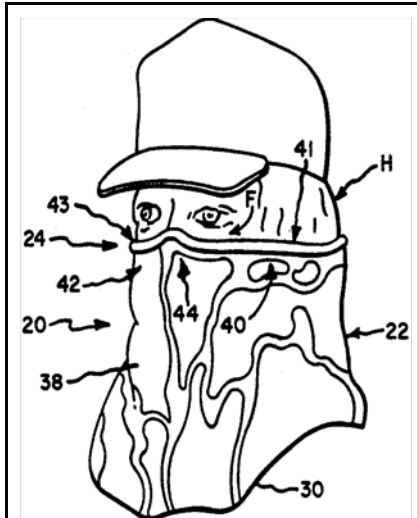


Fig. 1 of the '507 patent

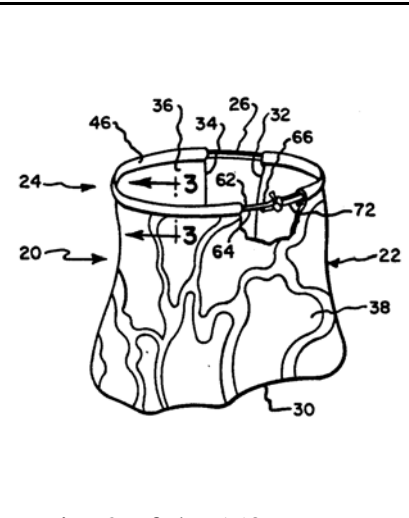


Fig. 2 of the '507 patent



Fig. 12 of the '548 patent

Kombi further contends that affixing piping to the upper edges of mask and scarf members would yield predictable results for cold weather head gear and produces an obvious combination. (*Id.*)

The Court concludes that it would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art at the time the '804 patent was filed to arrive at the piping of claim 16. The Court has construed the term “piping affixed thereto and there along” to mean that “piping is affixed to and extends along the upper edge of the mask member and scarf member.” (Doc. No. 49 (citing *Cabela's*, No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 139 at 10).) The “strip” disclosed in the '507 patent is a relatively soft material that is folded over upon itself so that the strip edges engage on another and define a sleeve. '507 patent col.4 ll.6-19. A layperson designing cold weather head gear would have been able to substitute the “strip” of the '507 patent with the “piping” of the '804 patent to arrive at the article of clothing of claim 16. *See, e.g., KSR Int'l Co.*, 550 U.S. at 418 (explaining the court “need not seek out precise teachings directed to the challenged claim’s specific subject matter, for a court can consider the inferences and creative steps a person of ordinary skill in the art would employ”). Therefore, the Court grants Kombi’s summary judgment motion with respect to the invalidity of claim 16 of the '804 patent for obviousness.

f. Claims 17 and 18

Claim 17 of the '804 patent refers to "co-acting fasteners secured to said left side and said right side of said scarf member." '804 patent col.8 ll.34-36. Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and further requires that the co-acting fasteners are "pile and hook fasteners." *Id.* at col.8 ll.37-38. Kombi seeks summary judgment as to the obviousness of claims 17 and 18 in light of the '123, '240, and '474 patents. (Doc. No. 46-1 at 17-19.) Specifically, Kombi alleges that the figures from these patents show co-acting Velcro® pile and hook fasteners that are secured to the left and right side of the scarf member.

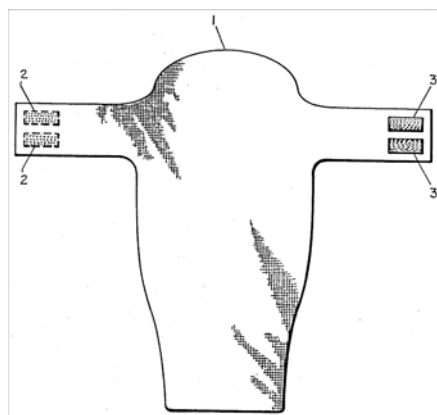


Fig. 1 of the '123 patent

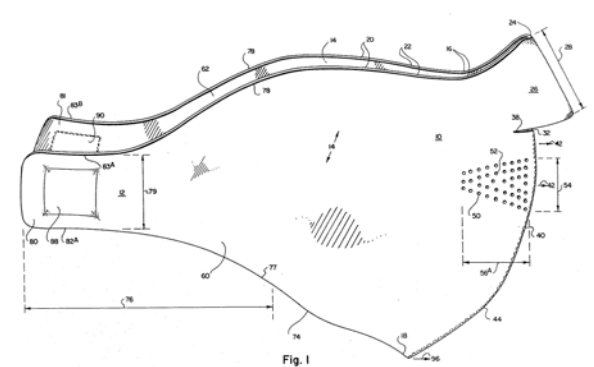


Fig. 1 of the '240 patent

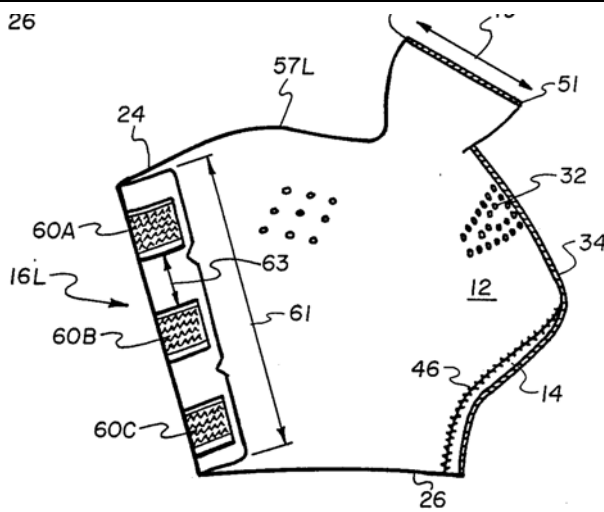


Fig. 5

Fig. 5 of the '474 patent

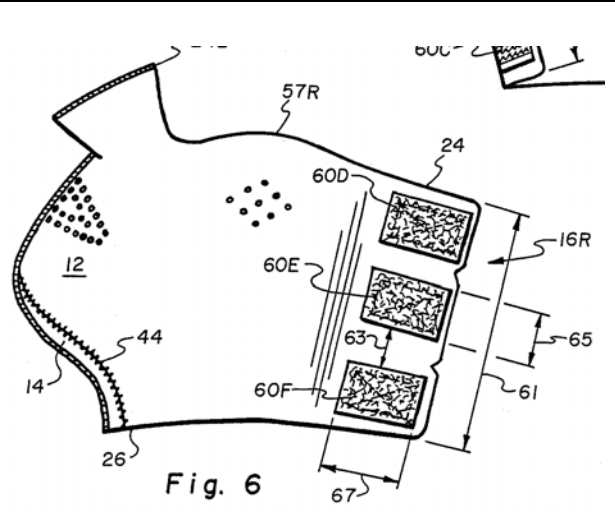


Fig. 6

Fig. 6 of the '474 patent

Kombi further argues that the addition of co-acting fasteners, such as Velcro® pile and hook fasteners, yields predictable results for cold weather head gear and produces an obvious

1 combination. (Id.)

2 Seirus does not dispute that the cited patents show Velcro® pile and hook fasteners.
3 Instead, Seirus argues that Kombi’s analysis is insufficient because it merely attempts to
4 establish that the elements of claim 17 and 18 were independently known in the prior art.
5 (Doc. No. 53 at 15.)

6 The Court concludes that summary judgment as to the invalidity of dependent claims
7 17 and 18 is appropriate. The ‘123 and ‘240 patents disclose the type of co-acting fasteners
8 recited in claims 17 and 18 of the ‘804 patent. In particular, Figure 1 of the ‘123 patent and
9 Figure 1 of the ‘240 patent disclose Velcro® pile and hook fasteners that are secured to the
10 sides of a scarf. Combining the additional element of co-acting fasteners with the other
11 obvious elements of claims 1 and 2 would yield predictable results for cold weather head gear.
12 KSR Int’l Co., 550 U.S. at 416 (“A patent is likely to be obvious if it merely yields predictable
13 results by combining familiar elements according to known methods.”). Therefore, the Court
14 concludes that the record demonstrates no triable issue of material fact on the obviousness of
15 claims 17 and 18 of the ‘804 patent. The Court grants Kombi’s summary judgment motion of
16 invalidity.

17 **g. Claim 19**

18 Claim 19 of the ‘804 patent requires the mask member to be made of a “non-stretchable
19 material.” ‘804 patent col.8 ll.39-40. Kombi seeks summary judgment as to the obviousness
20 of claim 19. (Doc. No. 46-1 at 19.) Seirus represents that it has not asserted claim 19 against
21 Kombi. (Doc. No. 53 at 16.) Seirus contends that it would be improper for the Court to
22 determine the validity of claim 19 because this claim is not part of the litigation between the
23 parties. (Id.)

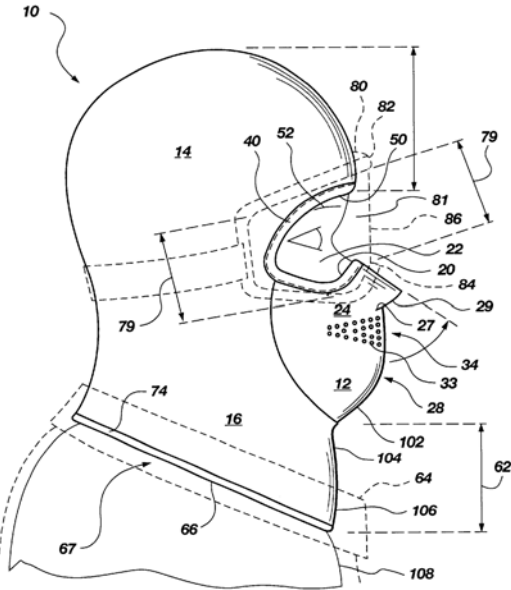
24 The moving party bears the burden of proving that “the facts alleged, under all the
25 circumstances, show that there is a substantial controversy, between the parties having adverse
26 interests, of sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance of a declaratory
27 judgment.” Benitec Austl., Ltd. v. Nucleonics. Inc., 495 F.3d 1340, 1343 (Fed. Cir. 2007)
28 (citing MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc., 549 U.S. 118, 127 (2007)). A case or controversy

1 “must be extant at all stages of review, not merely at the time the complaint [was] filed.”
2 Benitec, 495 F.3d at 1345 (citing Steffel v. Thompson, 415 U.S. 452, 459 n.10 (1974)). “[T]he
3 existence of a case or controversy must be evaluated on a claim-by-claim basis.” Jervis B.
4 Webb Co. v. S. Sys., Inc., 742 F.2d 1388, 1399 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

5 Seirus’ complaint generally alleges that Kombi infringes one or more claims of the ‘804
6 patent. But, Seirus represents that it has not asserted claim 19 against Kombi. Kombi
7 counterclaims that one or more claims of the ‘804 patent are invalid, without identifying a
8 controversy concerning claim 19. As the moving party, the burden is on Kombi to establish
9 that a case or controversy existed at the filing of its request for declaratory judgment and that
10 the case or controversy still exists concerning claim 19. Kombi has not made the requisite
11 showing. Therefore, summary judgment is not appropriate under MedImmune. 549 U.S. at
12 127.

13 **2. The ‘690 Patent**

14 The ‘690 patent contains a single claim directed to a “combination of a sport goggle and
15 an article of protective clothing.” Id. at col.6 ll.20-55. The article of clothing includes a mask
16 member for placement about a user’s mouth and nose, a head member connected to the mask
17 member for placement about a user’s head, and a scarf portion for placement about the user’s
18 neck. Id.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

a. Legal Standard for Infringement and Inducing Infringement

Literal infringement of a claim of a utility patent is established when it is determined that “every limitation in the claim is literally met by the accused device.” Kahn v. General Motors Corp., 135 F.3d 1472, 1476 (Fed. Cir. 1998). “In determining whether there has been infringement, a two step analysis is required. First, the claims must be correctly construed to determine the scope of the claims. Second, the claims must be compared to the accused device.” Id.

An accused device “that does not literally infringe upon the express terms of a patent claim may nonetheless be found to infringe if there is ‘equivalence’ between the elements of the accused product or process and the claimed elements of the patented invention.” Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chem. Co., 520 U.S. 17, 21 (1997). However, “the use of the doctrine of equivalents to establish infringement is limited by the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel.” Voda v. Cordis Corp., 536 F.3d 1311, 1324-25 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (citing Warner-Jenkinson, 520 U.S. at 30). Prosecution history estoppel operates by “barring an equivalents argument for subject matter relinquished when a patent claim is narrowed during prosecution.” Voda, 536 F.3d at 1324-25.

A patentee may prevail on a claim of infringement by inducement where it shows direct infringement and that the alleged infringer knowingly induced infringement and specifically intended to encourage another’s infringement. Broadcom Corp. v. Qualcomm, Inc., 543 F.3d 683, 697 (Fed. Cir. 2008). In other words, an accused infringer must be shown to have intended to cause the acts of direct infringement and at least should have known that its conduct would cause such direct infringement. Id. at 698.

In a motion for summary judgment of non-infringement, “[t]he movant bears the burden of demonstrating absence of all genuine issues of material fact, the district court must view the evidence in a light most favorable to the nonmovant and draw all reasonable inferences in its favor, and must resolve all doubt over factual issues in favor of the party opposing summary judgment.” SRI Int’l. v. Matsushita Elec. Corp. of Am., 775 F.2d 1107, 1116 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

///

1 In order to prevail on a claim for infringement of an unregistered trade dress, the
2 plaintiff bears the burden to prove each of the following elements: (1) the trade dress is
3 nonfunctional; (2) the plaintiff owns a protectable trade dress in a clearly articulated design or
4 combination of elements that is either inherently distinctive or has acquired distinctiveness
5 through secondary meaning; and (3) the accused mark or trade dress creates a likelihood of
6 confusion as to source, or as to sponsorship, affiliation or connection. 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(3);
7 Art Attacks Ink, LLC v. MGA Entm't Inc., 581 F.3d 1138, 1145 (9th Cir. 2009). Accordingly,
8 in order for Seirus to succeed on its trade dress claims, Seirus must first establish that it has
9 protectable trade dress rights in its products and packaging.

10 **1. Seirus' Alleged Trade Dress in its Products**

11 Seirus initially identified the following trade dress: headwear including an angled beak
12 in combination with (1) logo placed proximate the cheek; (2) opening below the nose/above
13 the mouth; (3) holes proximate the user's mouth in a diamond pattern; (4) articulated chin; or
14 (5) equilateral curvature underlying the eyes, that when presented, the combination resembles
15 the contours and angles of the human face. (Doc. No. 45-3, Ex. B, Seirus' Response to
16 Interrogatory No. 5 at p. 30.) This alleged trade dress is identical to the one Seirus alleged in
17 Cabela's. (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 229, Murray Decl. ¶ 2, Ex. A at 4.)

18 Following Kombi's motion for summary judgment, Seirus tried to supplement its
19 alleged trade dress. (Doc. No. 57 at 1.) Kombi asserts that Seirus is bound by its previous
20 trade dress identification. (Id.) The Court would expect a party suing for trade dress
21 infringement to identify its trade dress in response to interrogatories. Nevertheless, the Court
22 addresses the inadequacy of Seirus' newly alleged trade dress.

23 Seirus' supplemental interrogatories allege that Seirus' product trade dress includes:
24 (1) a beak shaped nose; (2) a triangular opening below the nose and above the mouth; (3) a
25 diamond shaped set of holes in the mouth area; (4) a curved chin area; (5) an equilateral
26 concave curved opening from the top of the nose to underneath the eyes; and (6) logo placed
27 proximate the cheek bone. (Doc. No. 50, Ex. 5 to Murphey Decl., Seirus' Supplemental
28 Response to Interrogatory No. 5 at p. 4-7.) Seirus also contends that its trade dress includes

1 the color black. (Doc. No. 45 at 4.)

2 **a. Nonfunctional**

3 Trade dress protection extends only to product features that are not functional. Disc
4 Golf Ass'n v. Champion Disc, Inc., 158 F.3d 1002, 1006 (9th Cir. 1998). Trade dress is
5 functional “if it is essential to the use or purpose of the article or if it affects the cost or quality
6 of the article.” TrafFix Devices, Inc. v. Mktg. Displays, Inc., 532 U.S. 23, 33 (2001). “In
7 determining functionality, a product’s trade dress must be analyzed as a whole.” First Brands
8 Corp. v. Fred Meyer, Inc., 809 F.2d 1378, 1381 (9th Cir. 1987); see also, Stormy Clime Ltd.
9 v. ProGroup, Inc., 809 F.2d 971, 974 (2d Cir. 1985) (holding that unique arrangements of
10 purely functional features constitute a functional design and are not entitled to trade dress
11 protection). Functional features of a product are features which constitute the actual benefit
12 that the consumer wants to purchase, as distinguished from an assurance that a particular entity
13 made, sponsored, or endorsed a product. Rachel v. Banana Republic, Inc., 831 F.2d 1503,
14 1506 (9th Cir. 1987). “The fact that individual elements of the trade dress may be functional
15 does not necessarily mean that the trade dress as a whole is functional; rather, ‘functional
16 elements that are separately unprotectable can be protected together as part of a trade dress.’”
17 Clicks Billiards, Inc. v. Sixshooters Inc., 251 F.3d 1252, 1259 (9th Cir. 2001) (quoting Le
18 Sportsac, Inc. v. K Mart Corp., 754 F.2d 71, 76 (2d Cir. 1985)).

19 The Ninth Circuit weighs four factors in determining whether a product feature is
20 functional: (1) whether the design yields a utilitarian advantage; (2) whether alternative designs
21 are available; (3) whether advertising touts the utilitarian advantages of the design; and (4)
22 whether the particular design results from a comparatively simple or inexpensive method of
23 manufacture. Disc Golf, 158 F.3d at 1006. No one factor is dispositive; all should be weighed
24 collectively. Int’l Jensen, Inc. v. Metrosound U.S.A., Inc., 4 F.3d 819, 823 (9th Cir. 1993).

25 The plaintiff bears the burden of proving non-functionality – the accused need not prove
26 that the trade dress at issue is functional. Rachel, 831 F.2d at 1506. When a plaintiff fails to
27 produce evidence such that a reasonable trier of fact could find the design nonfunctional, “the
28 district court must enter summary judgment in favor of the defendant.” Cont’l Lab. Prods., Inc.

1 v. Medax Int'l, Inc., 114 F. Supp. 2d 992, 1014-15 (S.D. Cal. 2000) (citing Disc Golf, 158 F.3d
2 at 1009-10).

3 The Court concludes that Seirus' alleged product trade dress is functional. Seirus'
4 design features do not distinguish the look of the products, but rather permit the user to breathe
5 and see while wearing the product. Trade dress is functional "if it is essential to the use or
6 purpose of the article or if it affects the cost or quality of the article." TrafFix, 532 U.S. at 33.
7 Seirus' angled beak that covers the nose, the diamond shaped hole that allows users to breathe
8 through their mouth, and the opening allowing users to see are all essential to the use and
9 purpose of the article because they keep the user's face warm while allowing the user to see
10 and breathe. Further, functional features of a product are features which constitute the actual
11 benefit that the consumer wants to purchase, as distinguished from an assurance that a
12 particular entity made, sponsored, or endorsed a product. Rachel, 831 F.2d at 1506. The Court
13 concludes that the design of Seirus' products yields a utilitarian advantage.

14 Moreover, Seirus touts the utilitarian advantage and functionality in Seirus' advertising
15 materials. "If a seller advertises the utilitarian advantages of a particular feature, this
16 constitutes strong evidence of functionality." McCarthy, § 7:74 at 7-152. For example, Seirus
17 promotes the NEOFLEECE COMBO SCARF as "[o]ffering the ultimate protection from cold"
18 and having a "[v]ent at nose and vent holes at mouth [to] allow for free breathing." (Doc. No.
19 45-1 at 8 citing (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Murray Decl. ¶ 13).) The Court concludes that
20 Seirus' advertisements tout the utilitarian benefit of the products' design by promising to
21 protect a user from the cold while venting at the nose and mouth.

22 Despite Seirus' attempt to point to alternative designs, Seirus has failed to produce
23 evidence to support the non-functionality of the products' design. Further, these particular
24 designs result from a comparatively simple method of manufacture because the features are
25 based on a desire to protect the contours of a person's face from the elements while permitting
26 the user to see and breathe.

27 Additionally, the Court concludes that Seirus' utility patents are strong evidence that
28 the features of these products are functional. "A utility patent is strong evidence that the

1 features therein claimed are functional.” TraFFix, 532 U.S. at 29-30. Seirus has an expired
2 utility patent, U.S. Patent No. 4,300,240, claiming a cold weather mask sized and shaped to
3 fit about the face, an angled nose, and an arcuate chin. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 7.) Further, Seirus
4 has an expired utility patent, U.S. Patent No. 4,825,474, claiming a cold weather mask with
5 a curved upper edge contoured along the lower part of the eye socket areas. (Id.) Seirus’
6 utility patents present strong evidence that the features of these products are functional.

7 Because Seirus’ alleged trade dress in its products is not registered, Seirus bears the
8 burden of proving non-functionality. 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(3) (“In a civil action for trade dress
9 infringement under this Act for trade dress not registered on the principal register, the person
10 who asserts trade dress protection has the burden of providing that the matter sought to be
11 protected is not functional.”) Based on the record before the Court, Seirus has failed to meet
12 its burden of proof that its product design is not functional because Seirus’ design yields a
13 utilitarian advantage, Seirus’ advertising touts this utilitarian advantage, and Seirus’ utility
14 patents creates strong evidence that the features are functional. Accordingly, the Court
15 concludes that Seirus’ products are functional.

16 **b. Distinctiveness**

17 Kombi maintains that Seirus cannot meet its burden of establishing that the product
18 features have acquired distinctiveness or secondary meaning. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 9-11.) Kombi
19 relies on the Court’s record in Cabela’s, (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 350), to
20 demonstrate that Seirus has produced no evidence on secondary meaning and failed to conduct
21 surveys or produce direct evidence from individual consumers. (Id.) Seirus contend that
22 secondary meaning can be established through evidence that Kombi intentionally copied
23 Seirus’ product. (Doc. No. 50 at 19.)

24 Distinctiveness may be established through either the inherent distinctiveness of a
25 product or through evidence of acquired distinctiveness. A trade dress is inherently distinctive
26 if its “intrinsic nature serves to identify a particular source of a product.” Two Pesos, Inc. v.
27 Taco Cabana, Inc., 505 U.S. 763, 768 (1992). The Seabrook test is the predominant means for
28 evaluating the inherent distinctiveness of a trade dress. Mattel, Inc. v. MGA Entm’t, Inc., 2011

1 WL 1114250, at *63 (C.D. Cal. Jan 5, 2011). Under the Seabrook test, the court must
2 determine whether (1) the design or shape is a common, basic shape or design; (2) it is unique
3 or unusual in a particular field; and (3) it is a mere refinement of a commonly adopted and well
4 known form of ornamentation for a particular class of goods which consumers view as mere
5 ornamentation. Seabrook Foods, Inc. v. Bar-Well Foods Ltd., 568 F.2d 1342 (C.C.P.A. 1977).
6 In other words, courts look at whether the alleged trade dress is so uniquely designed that a
7 buyer will rely on it to differentiate the source of the product.

8 Trade dress in product configurations such as those at issue in this case, can never be
9 inherently distinctive. Wal-Mart, 529 U.S. at 213 (product design almost always serves a
10 purpose other than source identification thus a consumer’s disposition to equate the feature
11 with the source does not exist). Instead, the proponent of the trade dress must show that the
12 product configuration has acquired distinctiveness – or secondary meaning. Id. at 216 (holding
13 that “a product’s design is distinctive, and therefore protectable, only upon a showing of
14 secondary meaning”). Secondary meaning, or acquired distinctiveness, is the “mental
15 association by a substantial segment of consumers and potential customers between the alleged
16 trade dress and a single source of the product.” Levi Strauss & Co. v. Blue Bell, Inc., 778 F.2d
17 1352, 1354 (9th Cir. 1985) (en banc) (internal quotation omitted).

18 Secondary meaning may be established either through direct or circumstantial evidence.
19 See, e.g., Express, LLC v. Forever 21, Inc., 2010 WL 3489308 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 2, 2010);
20 Cont’l Lab., 114 F. Supp. 2d at 999. Direct evidence includes results of an expert survey or
21 direct consumer testimony. Walker & Zanger, Inc. v. Paragon Indus., Inc., 549 F. Supp. 2d
22 1168 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (“An expert survey of purchasers typically provides the most persuasive
23 evidence of secondary meaning”); Yankee Candle Co. v. Bridgewater Candle Co., 259 F.3d
24 25, 43 (1st Cir. 2001). Alternatively, a plaintiff “may also establish secondary meaning
25 through circumstantial evidence, such as: exclusivity, manner, and length of use, amount and
26 manner of advertising, amount of sales and the number of customers, and plaintiff’s established
27 place in the market.” Clamp Mfg. Co. v. Enco Mfg. Co., 870 F.2d 512, 517 (9th Cir. 1989);
28 Cont’l Lab., 114 F. Supp. 2d 992, 1000 (S.D. Cal. 2000) (citing Filipino Yellow Pages v. Asian

1 Journal Publ'ns, 198 F.3d 1143, 1151 (9th Cir. 1999)).

2 Evidence of deliberate copying may, in appropriate cases, support an inference of
3 secondary meaning. Fuddruckers, Inc. v. Doc's B.R. Others, Inc., 826 F.2d 837, 844-45 (9th
4 Cir. 1987). Evidence of deliberate copying does not always support an inference of secondary
5 meaning because “[c]ompetitors may intentionally copy product features for a variety of
6 reasons. Competitors may, for example, choose to copy wholly functional features that they
7 perceive as lacking any secondary meaning because of those features’ intrinsic economic
8 benefits.” Id.

9 Seirus offers an exhibit that displays images of Seirus’ products and Kombi’s products,
10 side-by-side, as evidence of intentional copying. (See Doc. No. 50, Ex. 9 to Edwards Decl.)
11 The exhibit does not raise a triable issue of fact of secondary meaning. Competitors may copy
12 features that are wholly functional that they perceive lack secondary meaning. The Court
13 concludes that Seirus has not met its burden of proof that its products are nonfunctional.

14 Following the Court’s ruling in Cabela’s, (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 350),
15 the Court has permitted Seirus an opportunity to show secondary meaning in this case.
16 Significantly lacking from Seirus’ record is any evidence of consumer surveys or proof of
17 secondary meaning. Seirus’ marketing and media evidence does not prove that Seirus’
18 products acquired secondary meaning. See Levi Strauss & Co., 778 F.2d at 1354 (noting that
19 secondary meaning, or acquired distinctiveness, is the “mental association by a substantial
20 segment of consumers and potential customers between the alleged trade dress and a single
21 source of the product”). Seirus’ evidence does not suggest that a substantial segment of
22 consumers and potential consumers have a mental association between the alleged trade dress,
23 a beak shaped nose, a triangular opening below the nose and above the mouth, a diamond
24 shaped set of holes in the mouth area, or logo placed proximate the cheek bone with the Seirus
25 brand. In fact, Seirus does not cite any evidence from consumer surveys or consumer
26 testimony. Instead, Seirus cites testimony from a Seirus representative who states that Seirus’
27 evidence of secondary meaning comes from the representative’s “general communication with
28 consumers I see, people I see, buyers I see, reps I see and talk to.” (Doc. No. 50, Ex. 10 at 71

1 to Murphey Decl.) This evidence does not demonstrate that Seirus' trade dress has acquired
2 secondary meaning.

3 The nonmoving party cannot oppose a properly supported summary judgment motion
4 by "rest[ing] on mere allegations or denials of his pleadings." Anderson, 477 U.S. at 256.
5 "The 'opponent must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to
6 the material fact.'" Kennedy, 952 F.2d at 265-66 (citing Matsushita Elec., 475 U.S. at 586).
7 Once Kombi filed a summary judgment motion, Seirus had to come forward with evidence and
8 cannot merely oppose Kombi's motion. Seirus cannot wait until designation of experts to
9 demonstrate secondary meaning. Because Seirus must come forward with evidence and failed
10 to do so, the Court concludes that Seirus has failed to demonstrate secondary meaning.

11 "Consumers should not be deprived of the benefits of competition with regard to the
12 utilitarian and esthetic purposes that product design ordinarily serves by a rule of law that
13 facilitates plausible threats of suit against new entrants based upon alleged inherent
14 distinctiveness." Wal-Mart, 529 U.S. at 213. The Supreme Court further stated, "[i]n the case
15 of product design, as in the case of color, we think consumer predisposition to equate the
16 feature with the source does not exist." Id. Therefore, proof of secondary meaning requires
17 Seirus to provide evidence that a substantial segment of consumers have a mental association
18 between Seirus' alleged trade dress and Seirus as the source of the product. Levi Strauss &
19 Co., 778 F.2d at 1354. Seirus has not met its burden. Accordingly, the Court concludes that
20 Seirus' alleged trade dress claims in its products fails for distinctiveness.

21 **c. Likelihood of Confusion**

22 The Ninth Circuit's test for a likelihood of confusion in a trademark infringement case
23 is set forth in AMF, Inc. v. Sleekcraft Boats, 599 F.2d 341 (9th Cir. 1979). The Ninth Circuit
24 considers eight factors: (1) strength of the plaintiff's mark; (2) relatedness or proximity of the
25 goods or services; (3) similarity of the marks; (4) evidence of actual confusion; (5) marketing
26 channels used; (6) likely degree of purchaser care; (7) defendant's intent in selecting the mark;
27 and (8) likelihood of expansion of the product lines. These factors are equally applicable to
28 a trade dress infringement case. Mattel, 2011WL 1114250, at *67 (applying Sleekcraft factors

1 in trade dress infringement analysis).

2 Because Seirus' products are functional and lack distinctiveness, Seirus' products are
3 not protectable as trade dress. Accordingly, the Court need not address the parties' remaining
4 arguments pertaining to likelihood of confusion. Rachel, 831 F.2d at 1507 n.2 ("Because we
5 find that the district court directed a verdict on functionality, we need not decide whether
6 Rachel submitted sufficient evidence on the issues of secondary meaning and consumer
7 confusion."); Autodesk, Inc. v. Dassault Sys. Soldiworks Corp., 685 F. Supp. 2d 1001, 1016
8 n.3 (N.D. Cal. 2009) ("Since defendant has shown that plaintiff cannot meet its burden
9 concerning distinctiveness, arguments concerning functionality and likelihood of confusion
10 need not be addressed."); Walker & Zanger, 549 F. Supp. 2d at 1181 (granting summary
11 judgment after finding trade dress was not protectable); Cont'l Lab., 114 F. Supp. 2d at 1016
12 n.22 ("Having found that Continental cannot show two essential elements of trade dress
13 infringement (distinctiveness or nonfunctionality), the Court need not reach the parties
14 remaining arguments pertaining to likelihood of confusion."). The Court need not reach the
15 parties' remaining arguments pertaining to likelihood of confusion because the Court
16 concludes that Seirus' trade dress claim fails because Seirus' products are functional and lack
17 distinctiveness. Accordingly, the Court grants Defendant's motion for summary adjudication
18 of Seirus' trade dress claims in its products.

19 **2. Seirus' Alleged Trade Dress in its Packaging**

20 Seirus claims trade dress in its packaging. (Doc. No. 1 at ¶¶ 12-13.) Seirus identifies
21 the packaging trade dress as the alleged product trade dress, that "when packaged, is mounted
22 in or appears in profile." (Doc. No. 45-3, Ex. B, Response to Interrogatory No. 5, p. 9.) This
23 alleged trade dress is identical to the one Seirus alleged in Cabela's. (No. 09-CV-102-H
24 (WMC), Doc. No. 229, Murray Decl. ¶ 2, Ex. A at 4.) Seirus did not supplement the record
25 to oppose Kombi's motion regarding Seirus' alleged packaging trade dress.

26 Similar to Seirus' alleged product trade dress, Seirus' alleged packaging trade dress is
27 also not registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Therefore, in order
28 to prevail on a claim for infringement of an unregistered trade dress, Seirus bears the burden

1 to prove each of the following elements: (1) that the trade dress is nonfunctional; (2) that the
2 plaintiff owns a protectable trade dress in a clearly articulated design or combination of
3 elements that is either inherently distinctive or has acquired distinctiveness through secondary
4 meaning; and (3) the accused mark or trade dress creates a likelihood of confusion as to source,
5 or as to sponsorship, affiliation or connection. 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(3); Art Attacks Ink, 581
6 F.3d at 1145. Accordingly, in order for Seirus to succeed on its trade dress claims, Seirus must
7 first establish that it has protectable trade dress rights in its packaging.

8 **a. Nonfunctional**

9 The Ninth Circuit weighs four factors in determining whether a product feature is
10 functional: (1) whether the design yields a utilitarian advantage; (2) whether alternative designs
11 are available; (3) whether advertising touts the utilitarian advantages of the design; and (4)
12 whether the particular design results from a comparatively simple or inexpensive method of
13 manufacture. Disc Golf, 158 F.3d at 1006. Importantly, the plaintiff bears the burden of
14 proving non-functionality – the accused need not prove that the trade dress at issue is
15 functional. Rachel, 831 F.2d at 1506.

16 Kombi relies on the evidence from Cabela's, (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No.
17 350), to demonstrate that Seirus' packaging is functional. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 13-14.)
18 Specifically, Kombi argues that Seirus' Co-President, Carey, testified that the profile display
19 of its packaging aids consumers in viewing the product. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 13 (citing Cabela's,
20 No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 229, Murray Decl. ¶ 5, Ex. D (Carey Dep. Tr. at 102:3-
21 8)).) Further, Kombi cites evidence that when Carey was asked whether there were alternative
22 methods of packaging the Seirus products which would not infringe the alleged trade dress,
23 Carey stated that the product could be placed in a box. (Id.) However, Carey then
24 acknowledged that the consumer would be unable to view the product without taking it out of
25 the box. (Id.) Based on the record, the Court concludes that Seirus' packaging serves a
26 utilitarian advantage because it permits the purchaser to view the product. Disc Golf, 158 F.3d
27 at 1006. Seirus bears the burden of proving non-functionality – the accused need not prove
28 that the trade dress at issue is functional, and Seirus has failed to meet that burden. Rachel,

1 831 F.2d at 1506. The Court concludes that Seirus has not met its burden of proving non-
2 functionality of its packaging.

3 **b. Distinctiveness**

4 Kombi maintains that Seirus' packaging has not acquired distinctiveness or secondary
5 meaning. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 14-15.) Specifically, Kombi contends that Seirus has produced
6 no evidence to support a finding of inherent distinctiveness. (Id.) The Court agrees.

7 Distinctiveness may be established through either the inherent distinctiveness of a
8 product or through evidence of acquired distinctiveness. A trade dress is inherently distinctive
9 if its "intrinsic nature serves to identify a particular source of a product." Two Pesos, Inc., 505
10 U.S. at 768. The Seabrook test is the predominant means for evaluating the inherent
11 distinctiveness of a trade dress. Mattel, 2011 WL 1114250, at *63. Under the Seabrook test,
12 the court must determine whether (1) the design or shape is a common, basic shape or design;
13 (2) it is unique or unusual in a particular field; and (3) it is a mere refinement of a commonly
14 adopted and well known form of ornamentation for a particular class of goods which
15 consumers view as mere ornamentation. Seabrook, 568 F.2d 1342. In other words, courts look
16 at whether the alleged trade dress is so uniquely designed that a buyer will rely on it to
17 differentiate the source of the product.

18 Kombi cites evidence from Cabela's that Seirus' packaging is a reproduction of
19 packaging commonly used in the clothing industry. (Doc. No. 45-1 at 15 (citing Cabela's, No.
20 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No. 229, Murray Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. E (Marcovitch Dep. Tr. at 90:14-
21 91:5)) ("There were quite a number of people that were using side profile packaging. I
22 remember people like Turtle Fur were using it quite extensively. There were just a number of
23 companies selling all sorts of accessories, you know, within our marketplace, mostly
24 Balaclavas. If you went outside of our market, there were people selling scarves in the fashion
25 market. It wasn't necessarily something that unique to put a face cardboard, you know,
26 attached to a product. People in the Halloween mask business have been doing it for quite a
27 while.") Seirus fails to cite evidence that its packaging is so uniquely designed that a buyer
28 would rely on it to differentiate the source of the product. In fact, Seirus does not cite any

1 packaging is functional and lacks distinctiveness. Therefore, the Court grants Kombi’s motion
2 for summary adjudication of Seirus’ trade dress claims pertaining to Seirus’ products and
3 packaging.

4 **C. Seirus’ False Designation of Origin and Unfair Competition Causes of Action**

5 Kombi moves for summary adjudication on Seirus’ causes of action for false
6 designation of origin and unfair competition under the Lanham Act and California law. (Doc.
7 No. 45-1 at 15-16.) These causes of action are based on Seirus’ alleged product and packaging
8 trade dress. Because Seirus has no protectable product or packaging trade dress, these causes
9 of action also fail. (Id.)

10 Seirus’ false designation of origin and unfair competition causes of action under the
11 Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), both require that Seirus have an underlying trade dress
12 protection. The only way a copied product design – or configuration – can confuse as to its
13 source is if the product design that was copied is by itself, without any other source indicators
14 such as trademarks, packaging or symbols, an indicator of a single source or origin; meaning
15 it has become protectable configuration trade dress. See, e.g., Wal-Mart, 529 U.S. at 210
16 (“[W]ithout distinctiveness the trade dress would not cause confusion . . . as to the origin,
17 sponsorship, or approval of [the] goods as section [43a] requires.”); Yankee Candle, 259 F.3d
18 at 41-42 (affirming summary judgment of no unfair competition under Lanham Act and stating
19 “the relevant intent is not just intent to copy, but to ‘pass off one’s goods as those of another”).
20 Based on the foregoing, the Court concludes that Seirus’ products and packaging do not “cause
21 confusion . . . as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of [the] goods as section [43a]
22 requires.” Wal-Mart, 529 U.S. at 210. Therefore, the Court concludes that Seirus’ false
23 designation of origin and unfair competition causes of action under the Lanham Act fail
24 because Seirus does not have the requisite trade dress protection. Accordingly, the Court
25 grants Kombi’s motion for summary adjudication of Seirus’ false designation of origin and
26 unfair competition causes of action under the Lanham Act.

27 Finally, Seirus’ California unfair competition cause of action alleges that Defendant’s
28 acts of intentional and willful trade dress infringement constitute unfair competition actionable

1 under the laws of the State of California. (Doc. No. 1, Complaint, at ¶ 47.) Because the Court
2 concluded that Seirus does not have protectable trade dress in its products and packaging,
3 Seirus' claim for unfair competition based on trade dress infringement fails. Based on the
4 foregoing, the Court grants Kombi's motion for summary adjudication of Seirus' false
5 designation of origin and unfair competition causes of action under the Lanham Act and
6 California law.

7 **D. Seirus' Unjust Enrichment Cause of Action**

8 Kombi argues that because Seirus' alleged product and packaging trade dress fail,
9 Kombi cannot be unjustly enriched by use, if any, of Seirus' alleged trade dress. (Doc. No. 45-
10 1 at 17.) The Court agrees. Accordingly, the Court grants Kombi's motion for summary
11 adjudication of Seirus' unjust enrichment cause of action.

12 **II. Request for Judicial Notice**

13 Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid., Rule 201 and Cal. Evid. C., § 452(d)(1), Kombi requests that
14 this Court take judicial notice of the Court's own files, records, and orders from the case
15 Cabela's, No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC). (Doc. No.47.) After reviewing Kombi's request, the
16 Court takes judicial notice that Seirus already litigated these identical products and the Court
17 determined that Seirus' products are functional and lack distinctiveness, meaning Seirus'
18 claims based on alleged trade dress protection fail. (No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), Doc. No.
19 350.) Additionally, the Court already granted summary judgment in favor of a Defendant in
20 Cabela's, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123697, at *1, on the issue of the noninfringement of Seirus'
21 '690 patent and invalidity of claims 1-5, 8-12, and 13-15 of Seirus' '804 patent.

22 Federal Rule of Evidence 201 permits judicial notice of adjudicative facts, which are
23 defined as facts "not subject to reasonable dispute." Fed. R. Evid. 201(b). A judicially noticed
24 fact must be one that is not subject to reasonable dispute in that it is either: (1) generally known
25 within the territorial jurisdiction of the trial court or (2) capable of accurate and ready
26 determination by resort to sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned. Fed. R.
27 Evid. 201(b). As to matters for which collateral estoppel applies, the court takes judicial notice
28 of the filings, records, and orders from Cabela's, No. 09-CV-102-H (WMC), and recognizes

1 that it has previously construed these patents and issues. As to matters for which collateral
2 estoppel does not apply, the Court recognizes that these records, filings, and orders are not
3 binding in the present case.

4 **Conclusion**

5 Based on the foregoing, the Court:

6 (1) GRANTS Kombi's motion for summary adjudication as to the invalidity of claims
7 1-18 of the '804 patent for obviousness;

8 (2) DENIES Kombi's motion for summary adjudication on jurisdictional grounds as to
9 the invalidity of claim 19 of the '804 patent for obviousness;

10 (3) GRANTS Kombi's motion for summary adjudication as to noninfringement of claim
11 1 of the '690 patent;

12 (4) GRANTS Kombi's motion for summary adjudication of Seirus' trade dress claims
13 pertaining to Seirus' products and packaging;

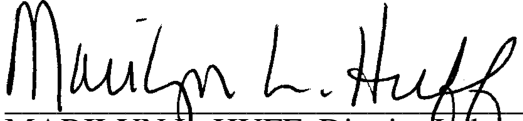
14 (5) GRANTS Kombi's motion for summary adjudication of Seirus' false designation
15 of origin and unfair competition causes of action under the Lanham Act and California law;

16 (6) GRANTS Kombi's motion for summary adjudication of Seirus' unjust enrichment
17 cause of action; and

18 (7) GRANTS Kombi's request for judicial notice.

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 DATED: February 3, 2012

21 
22 _____
23 MARILYN L. HUFF, District Judge
24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
25
26
27
28