UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

TETHRD, LLC,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff/Counterdefendant,	)	Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-00076
	)	Chief Judge Campbell
v.	)	Magistrate Judge Holmes
	)	
CRÜZR SADDLES LLC,	)	JURY TRIAL DEMAND
	)	
Defendant/Counterclaimant.	)	
	)	

DEFENDANT CRÜZR SADDLES, LLC'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF TETHRD, LLC'S FIRST AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT AND FIRST AMENDED COUNTERCLAIMS

Defendant Crüzr Saddles, LLC ("Crüzr"), a Tennessee limited liability company, by and through its attorneys of record, responds to the First Amended and Supplemental Complaint (Dkt. No. 34) ("FASC") filed by Tethrd, LLC ("Tethrd"), a Delaware limited liability company, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Crüzr admits that the FASC purports to set forth an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. Title 35, but denies that Tethrd's claims are meritorious. Crüzr denies all allegations of patent infringement, and further denies that Tethrd is entitled to any relief for its allegations of patent infringement whether by award of damages, injunction, or otherwise.

2. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 2, and they are, therefore, denied.

3. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 3, and they are, therefore, denied.

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4. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 4, and they are, therefore, denied.

5. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 5, and they are, therefore, denied.

6. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 6, and they are, therefore, denied.

7. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 7, and they are, therefore, denied.

8. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 8, and they are, therefore, denied.

9. Admitted.

10. Crüzr admits that it offers saddle-hunting equipment for sale across the United States through distributors and through its Internet website. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 10.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. Crüzr admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) over actions arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 35 U.S.C., including § 271, *et seq*. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 11.

12. Crüzr admits that it is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the state of Tennessee and residing in Cookeville, Tennessee. Crüzr admits that it regularly conducts business in this judicial district. Crüzr admits that this Court has personal jurisdiction over Crüzr. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 12.

13. Crüzr admits that it has a regular and established place of business in this judicial

district court. Crüzr admits that venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b). Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 13.

TETHRD'S U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

14. Crüzr admits that, on its face, United States Patent No. 11,964,175 B2 Patent ("the '175 Patent") is entitled "Bridge Rope Assembly" with an issue date of April 23, 2024. Crüzr denies that the '175 Patent was duly and legally issued. Crüzr admits that Exhibit A to the FASC purports to be a copy of the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 14.

15. Crüzr admits that Claim 1 of the issued '175 Patent contains an error because the recital of a "min body" has no antecedent basis in the claim. Crüzr admits that Exhibit A to the FASC purports to be a copy of the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 15.

16. Crüzr admits that during the prosecution of the application that led to the '175 Patent, the claim language filed by Tethrd on January 3, 2024 recited "main body". Crüzr admits that the examiner issued a notice of allowance on January 30, 2024. Crüzr admits that Claim 1 of the issued '175 Patent contains an error because, *inter alia*, the recital of "min body" has no antecedent basis in the claim. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 16.

17. Crüzr admits that Claim 1 of the issued '175 Patent contains an error because, *inter alia*, the recital of "min body" has no antecedent basis in the claim. Crüzr admits that the error can be ascertained by an examiner reviewing the file history and claims of the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 17.

18. Crüzr admits that on October 11, 2024, Tethrd filed a document entitled "Request for Certificate of Correction of Office Mistake, 37 CFR 1.322" requesting to correct "min body"

to "main body" in Claim 1 of the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 18.

19. Crüzr admits that on November 12, 2024, the USPTO issued a Certificate of Correction which corrected "min body" to "main body" in Claim 1 of the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that Exhibit G to the FASC purports to be a copy of the Certificate of Correction for the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 19.

20. Crüzr lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 20, and they are, therefore, denied.

21. The disclosure of the '175 Patent speaks for itself. Crüzr denies that the '175 Patent includes the description contained in Paragraph 21.

22. The disclosure of the '175 Patent speaks for itself. Crüzr denies that the '175 Patent includes the description contained in Paragraph 22.

23. The disclosure of the '175 Patent speaks for itself. Crüzr denies that the '175 Patent includes the description contained in Paragraph 23.

PRIOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TETHRD AND CRÜZR

24. Crüzr admits that Exhibit B to the FASC purports to be a copy of several purported claims of an unidentified patent or patent application, which are not the claims of the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that Exhibit C to the FASC purports to be a copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated July 23, 2020, which references "U.S. Patent Application No. 16/736,345", which was purportedly a pending (unissued) patent application and which is not the application that became the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that the claims of a pending patent application cannot be infringed, and a pending patent application is not enforceable. The documents otherwise speak for themselves. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 24

25. Crüzr admits that Exhibit D to the FASC purports to be a copy of United States Patent No. 11,504,556 ("the '556 Patent"), which is not the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that Exhibit E to the FASC purports to be a copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated September 5, 2023, which references the '556 Patent, which is not the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that Exhibit N to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated September 21, 2023 which explains why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '556 Patent, which Tethrd failed to disclose in its original Complaint and its First Amended and Supplemental Complaint. The documents otherwise speak for themselves. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 25.

26. Crüzr admits that Exhibit F to the FASC purports to be a copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated June 3, 2024, which references the '175 Patent. Crüzr admits that Exhibit P to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated June 21, 2024 which explains why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '175 Patent, which Tethrd failed to disclose in its original Complaint and its First Amended and Supplemental Complaint. The documents otherwise speak for themselves. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 26.

COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '175 PATENT

27. Crüzr incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs as if restated fully herein.

28. Denied.

29. Denied.

30. Denied.

31. Denied.

32. Crüzr admits that Paragraph 32 purports to recite language from claim 1 of the '175 Patent. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 32.

33. Denied.

34. Denied.

35. Crüzr admits that it sells saddle-hunting equipment throughout the United States. Except as expressly admitted, Crüzr denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 35.

36. Denied.

37. Denied.

38. Denied.

39. Denied.

40. Denied.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Tethrd's relief requested does not require a response. To the extent a response is required, Crüzr denies that Tethrd is entitled to any relief in the instant action.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Without conceding or admitting that any of the following affirmative defenses must be pled as an affirmative defense, or that any of the following defenses is not already at issue by virtue of the foregoing denials, without assuming the burden of proof on any matter for which the burden rests upon Tethrd, and without prejudice to Crüzr's right to plead additional affirmative defenses as discovery into the facts of the instant action warrant, Crüzr asserts the following affirmative defenses:

First Affirmative Defense
(Failure to State a Claim Upon Which Relief Can Be Granted)

The FASC fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Second Affirmative Defense
(Noninfringement)

Crüzr does not infringe and has not infringed, literally, or by the doctrine of equivalents, any claim of the '175 Patent, either directly, contributorily, by inducement, jointly, willfully, or in any other matter.

Third Affirmative Defense
(Invalidity)

The claims of the '175 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with the conditions and requirements for patentability specified in, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112.

Fourth Affirmative Defense
(Unenforceability)

The '175 Patent is unenforceable due to the inequitable conduct of Tethrd's named inventors in the prosecution of the patent application that became the '175 Patent, including by their intentional failure to disclose known material and non-cumulative prior art with the intent to deceive the patent examiner.

Fifth Affirmative Defense
(Limitations on Damages)

Tethrd's ability to recover damages under 35 U.S.C. §§ 286-287 is limited. *See, e.g. Novo Indus., L.P. v. Micro Molds Corp.,* 350 F.3d 1348 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *Sw. Software, Inc. v. Harlequin Inc.*, 226 F.3d 1280 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Sixth Affirmative Defense
(Limitations on Costs)

Tethrd is precluded from recovering costs under 35 U.S.C. § 288.

Seventh Affirmative Defense
(No Entitlement to Attorneys' Fees)

Tethrd cannot prove this is an exceptional case and is therefore precluded from seeking recovery of or obtaining recovery of its attorneys' fees under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

Eighth Affirmative Defense
(Laches, Estoppel, Acquiescence, and Unclean Hands)

Tethrd's claims are barred by the doctrines of laches, estoppel, acquiescence, and/or unclean hands.

Ninth Affirmative Defense
(Prosecution History Estoppel)

Tethrd's claims are barred by the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel and/or disclaimer based on statements, representations, and admissions made during prosecution of the patent applications resulting in the asserted '175 Patent.

Tenth Affirmative Defense
(Exceptional Case)

This is an exceptional case entitling Crüzr to recovery of its attorneys' fees under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and the Court's inherent authority to award attorneys' fees. *See Octane Fitness, LLC v. ICON Health & Fitness, Inc.*, 572 U.S. 545 (2014).

Eleventh Affirmative Defense
(Reservation of Rights)

Crüzr reserves the right to allege additional affirmative defenses as they become known through the course of discovery.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Crüzr hereby demands a jury trial for all issues so triable.

CRÜZR'S FIRST AMENDED COUNTERCLAIMS AGAINST TETHRD

Defendant/Counterclaimant Crüzr Saddles, LLC ("Crüzr"), a Tennessee limited liability company, by and through its attorneys of record, counterclaims against Plaintiff/Counterdefendant Tethrd, LLC ("Tethrd"), a Delaware limited liability company, as follows:

1. This is an action for a declaratory judgment of noninfringement, invalidity, and unenforceability of U.S. Patent No. 11,964,175 Patent ("the '175 Patent"), including the original '175 Patent and the corrected '175 Patent, pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, and the United States Patent Laws, 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et seq*., and for a determination of an exceptional case and the recovery of attorneys' fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and the Court's inherent authority to award attorneys' fees.

2. Further, this is an action for antitrust violations based on *Walker Process* fraud, *Handgards* sham litigation, and Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2, as well as for intentional interference with existing and/or prospective economic advantage and unfair competition under Tennessee common law.

THE PARTIES

3. Defendant/Counterclaimant Crüzr is a Tennessee limited liability company with its principal place of business in Cookeville, Tennessee.

4. Plaintiff/Counterdefendant Tethrd is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Columbia, Tennessee.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. Venue and personal jurisdiction are proper in this District pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b) because Plaintiff Tethrd submitted to venue and to personal jurisdiction in this District by filing its initial Complaint (Dkt. No. 1) and First Amended and Supplemental Complaint (Dkt. No. 34) ("FASC") in the instant action and voluntarily appearing and consenting

to venue in this District.

6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 2201, and 2202, and the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq*.

COUNT I: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF NONINFRINGEMENT OF ORIGINAL U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

7. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

8. Tethrd has initiated a civil action in this District by filing a Complaint (Dkt. No. 1) and a FASC (Dkt. No. 24) setting forth a claim for direct patent infringement of at least one claim of the original '175 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(a) against Crüzr. Compl. Ex. A; FASC Ex. A.

9. An actual, justiciable controversy regarding the original '175 Patent exists because Tethrd asserts that Crüzr directly infringes the original '175 Patent, which Tethrd contends is valid and enforceable.

10. Crüzr has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the original '175 Patent.

11. Crüzr thus seeks a declaratory judgment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring the rights and interests of Crüzr and Tethrd in connection with noninfringement of the original '175 Patent.

12. Crüzr requests that this Court declare that Crüzr has not directly infringed any claim of the original '175 Patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

COUNT II: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF NONINFRINGEMENT OF CORRECTED U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

13. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

14. Tethrd has initiated a civil action in this District by filing a FASC setting forth a claim for direct patent infringement of at least one claim of the corrected '175 Patent under 35

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U.S.C. § 271(a) against Crüzr. *See* FASC Ex. G.

15. An actual, justiciable controversy regarding the corrected '175 Patent exists because Tethrd asserts that Crüzr directly infringes the corrected '175 Patent, which Tethrd contends is valid and enforceable.

16. Crüzr has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the corrected '175 Patent.

17. Crüzr thus seeks a declaratory judgment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring the rights and interests of Crüzr and Tethrd in connection with noninfringement of the corrected '175 Patent.

18. Crüzr requests that this Court declare that Crüzr has not directly infringed any claim of the corrected '175 Patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

COUNT III: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF INVALIDITY OF ORIGINAL U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

19. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

20. An actual, justiciable controversy regarding the original '175 Patent exists between Crüzr and Tethrd regarding whether the original '175 Patent is invalid for failing to comply with one or more provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et seq*., including but not limited to, §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

21. One or more of the claims of the original '175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated in view of prior art disclosing the limitations of one or more claims of the original '175 Patent.

22. One or more of the claims of the original '175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of prior art disclosing the limitations of one or more claims of the original '175 patent.

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23. Upon information and belief, the purported invention claimed in the original '175 Patent was in public use more than one year before the effective filing date of the original '175 Patent, rendering the original '175 Patent invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

24. One or more of the claims of the original '175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to inform a person skilled in the art about the scope of the claimed invention with "reasonable certainty."

25. Crüzr thus seeks a declaratory judgment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring the rights and interests of Crüzr and Tethrd in connection with invalidity of the original '175 Patent.

26. Crüzr requests that this Court declare that one or more claims of the original '175 Patent are invalid.

COUNT IV: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF INVALIDITY OF CORRECTED U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

27. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

28. An actual, justiciable controversy regarding the corrected '175 Patent exists between Crüzr and Tethrd regarding whether the corrected '175 Patent is invalid for failing to comply with one or more provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et seq*., including but not limited to, §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

29. One or more of the claims of the corrected '175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated in view of prior art disclosing the limitations of one or more claims of the corrected '175 Patent.

30. One or more claims of the corrected '175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of prior art disclosing the limitations of one or more claims of the corrected

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’175 Patent.

31. Upon information and belief, the purported invention claimed in the corrected ’175 Patent was in public use more than one year before the effective filing date of the corrected ’175 Patent, rendering the corrected ’175 Patent invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

32. One or more of the claims of the corrected ’175 Patent are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to inform a person skilled in the art about the scope of the claimed invention with “reasonable certainty.”

33. Crüzr thus seeks a declaratory judgment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring the rights and interests of Crüzr and Tethrd in connection with invalidity of the corrected ’175 Patent.

34. Crüzr requests that this Court declare that one or more claims of the corrected ’175 Patent are invalid.

COUNT V: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF UNENFORCEABILITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 11,964,175

35. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

36. An actual, justiciable controversy regarding the ’175 Patent exists between Crüzr and Tethrd regarding whether the ’175 Patent (both the original ’175 Patent and the corrected ’175 Patent) is unenforceable due to the inequitable conduct by Tethrd, as the applicant, and the named inventors during prosecution of the patent applications that became the ’175 Patent.

37. The ’175 Patent is unenforceable because, *inter alia*, Tethrd and the named inventors intentionally withheld and failed to disclose known material and non-cumulative non-patent prior art to the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners during prosecution of the patent applications that became the ’175 Patent, and its predecessor applications.

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38. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, every individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the USPTO, which includes a duty to disclose to the USPTO all information known to that individual to be material to the patentability of an invention. Furthermore, under the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("M.P.E.P.") § 2003.01, the duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the USPTO continues after the prosecution of a patent application.

39. The term "material to the patentability" is further defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) to include material that "establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim."

40. The M.P.E.P. § 2001.04 elaborates that "[t]he term 'information' as used in 37 CFR §1.56 means all of the kinds of information required to be disclosed and includes any information which is 'material to patentability,'" the disclosure is not limited to U.S. patents, U.S. patent publications, or foreign patents.

41. In particular, the M.P.E.P. specifically informs patent applicants that publicly available information on the Internet, including discussion groups, message forums, and YouTube videos, constitute printed publication prior art:

> **II. ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS AS PRIOR ART**
>
> ***A. Status as a "Printed Publications"***
>
> An electronic publication, including an online database or Internet publication (e.g., discussion group, forum, digital video, or social media post), is considered to be a "printed publication" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(1) and pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (b) provided the publication was accessible to persons concerned with the art to which the document relates.
>
> * * *
>
> ***B. Date of Availability***
>
> Electronic publications on the internet or on an online database are considered to be publicly available as of the date the item was publicly posted.

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* * *

F. Social Media

> Social media websites on the internet, such as YouTube®, Twitter®, Facebook®, and public forum posts, can be a source of prior art, provided the public accessibility requirements, as laid out in subsection I are met.

M.P.E.P. § 2128.

42. In connection with the filing and prosecution of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications, each of the named inventors signed an oath with the USPTO, which effectively acknowledges that they were aware of their duty of disclosure to the USPTO:

> (c) A person may not execute an oath or declaration for an application unless that person has reviewed and understands the contents of the application, including the claims, and is aware of the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in [37 C.F.R.] § 1.56.

37 C.F.R. § 1.63(c).

> 37 CFR 1.63 still requires that a person executing an oath or declaration review and understand the contents of the application, and be aware of the duty to disclose under 37 CFR 1.56.

M.P.E.P. § 602.01(a).

> [A]pplicants are reminded that they have a continuing duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56.

M.P.E.P. § 602.03.

43. Tethrd is a sophisticated patent applicant, having filed at least a dozen patent applications with the USPTO beginning in mid-2019. Tethrd and the named inventors are aware of the their individual and collective duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the USPTO.

44. Tethrd employs at least one in-house "Design and Patent Engineer" and an outside "Patent Attorney" to assist in the prosecution of Tethrd's many patent applications, including the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications. The registered patent attorney is responsible for informing and confirming with his clients, including Tethrd and each of the named inventors, about

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their duty of candor and good faith:

Sincerely,

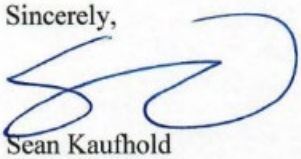


Shawn P. Chadwick, Ph.D.
Design and Patent Engineer
shawn@tethrdnation.com

cc:
greg@tethrdnation.com
ernie@tethrdnation.com

Ex. H at 4.

Sincerely,



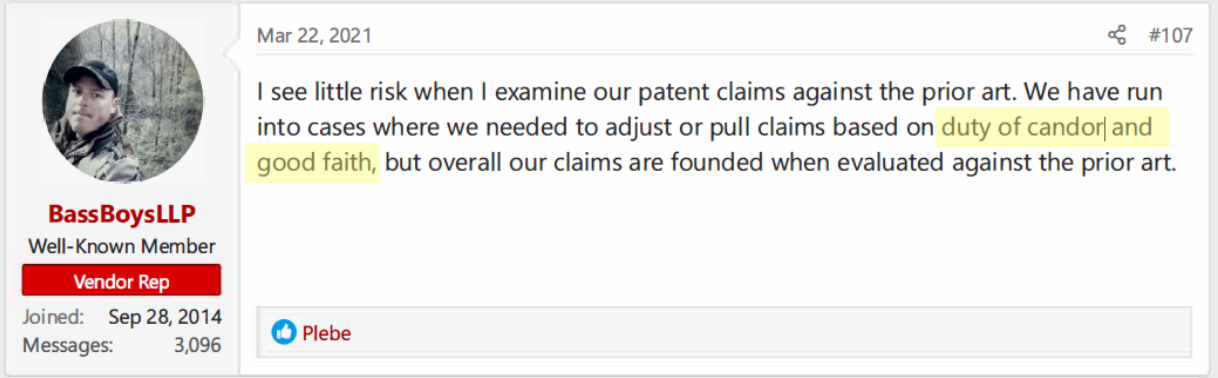
Sean Kaufhold
Patent Attorney

Direct Dial: 605-334-1571
Direct Fax: 605-334-1574
Email: sean@kaufholdlaw.com

Ex. I at 3.

45. Each of the named inventors was an active participant in Internet message forum posts, including the *SaddleHunter* message forum. Upon information and belief, alias "BassBoysLLP" corresponds to Tethrd principal Shawn Chadwick, Tethrd's "Design and Patent Engineer" referenced above. Dr. Chadwick ("BassBoysLLP") was fully aware of Tethrd's "duty of candor and good faith" owed to the USPTO, as he acknowledged in a discussion with other saddle hunters:

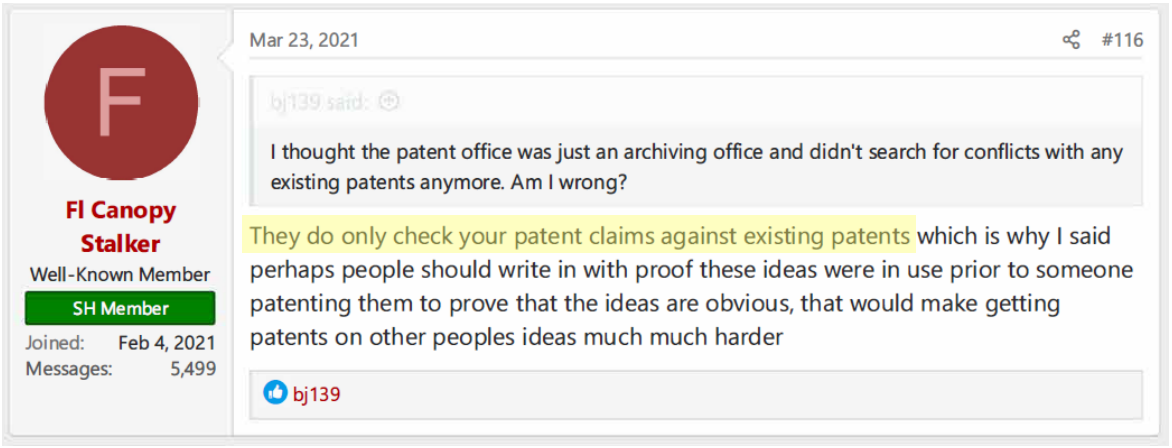
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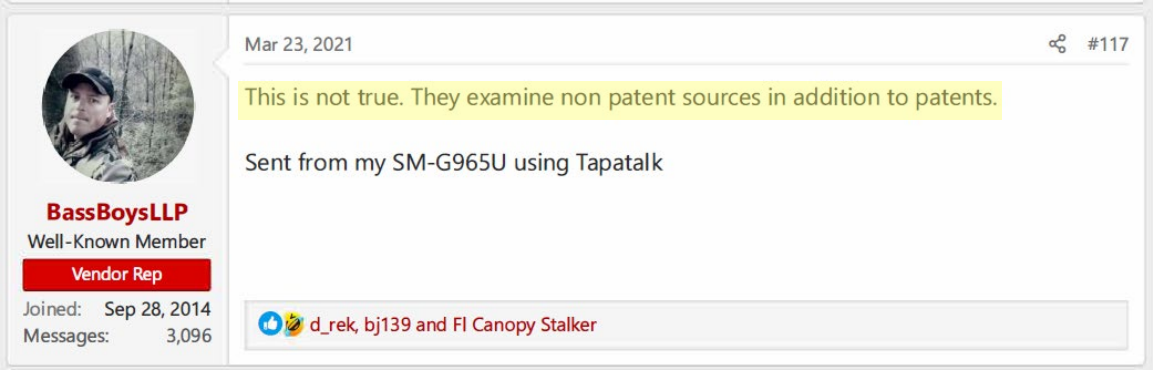
Ex. R at 41.

46. Exhibit R is a true and correct copy of a *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Patent Research - Tethrd". The message forum thread was posted on the Internet from March 18, 2021 - June 30, 2021, is a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the USPTO's rules and procedures, and was publicly available as of those dates.

47. In the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Patent Research - Tethrd" (Ex. R), Dr. Chadwick further acknowledged his understanding that prior art for purposes of USPTO patent examination is not limited to patents, but also includes non-patent information:



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Ex. R at 44.

48. As sophisticated and experienced patent applicants who retained services of a registered patent attorney, Tethrd and the named inventors were each aware of their duty of candor and good faith owed to the USPTO, including their duty to disclose all information material to patentability, including non-patent prior art, to the USPTO.

49. Despite this duty, during the prosecution of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications, Tethrd systematically withheld and failed to disclose any information obtained from the Internet that was material to the patentability of the claims of the '175 Patent.

50. Throughout the prosecution of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications, Tethrd *only* disclosed U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications to the USPTO. Tethrd intentionally withheld and failed to disclose *any* non-patent prior art of which the inventors were fully aware to the USPTO, including highly material prior art products and devices as well as highly material information from the Internet. Such Internet prior art included highly material YouTube videos (*e.g.*, from named inventor Greg Godfrey's "G2 Outdoors" YouTube channel and from Tethrd's "Tethrd Nation" YouTube channel, including those in which named inventor Greg Godfrey was an active participant) and highly material message forum posts (*e.g.*, discussion threads from the *SaddleHunter* message forum, including those in which named inventor Greg Godfrey was an active participant).

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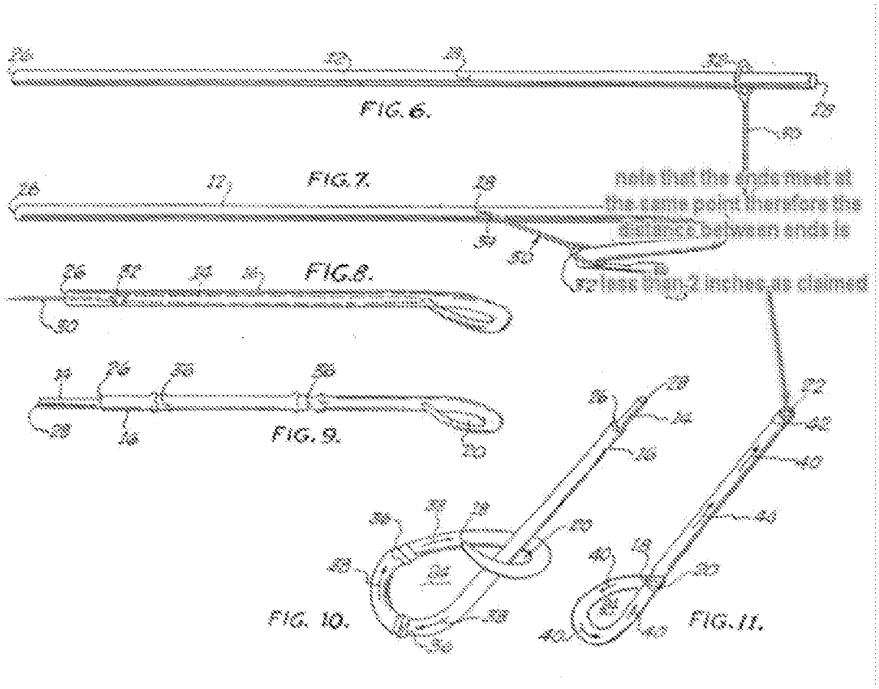
51. Tethrd and the named inventors, including Greg Godfrey, intentionally withheld this Internet non-patent prior art information from the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners. The patent examiners were not aware of this highly material prior art and, as a direct result of Tethrd and the named inventors intentionally withholding this prior art, the examiners were misled into issuing the '175 Patent, which they would not have allowed if Tethrd and the named inventors had disclosed this highly material prior art, as Tethrd and the named inventors were obligated to do under the USPTO's rules and procedures, including 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04.

52. For example, on February 24, 2022, during the prosecution of the '175 Patent's parent application (U.S. Patent Application No. 17/231,717 ("the '717 Application")), the examiner cited, *inter alia*, the combination of U.S. Patent No. 4,962,969 to Melton Jr. and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2008/0000719 to Jones. The Primary Examiner was Daniel P. Cahn and the Assistant Examiner was Candace L. Bradford.

53. The examiners issued a final rejection of the '717 Application's then-pending Claims 1-5 and 7-13, finding as follows:

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Melton teaches the utility of a rope having a splice therein to form eye loop 24, as best seen in Figures 6-11,



* * *

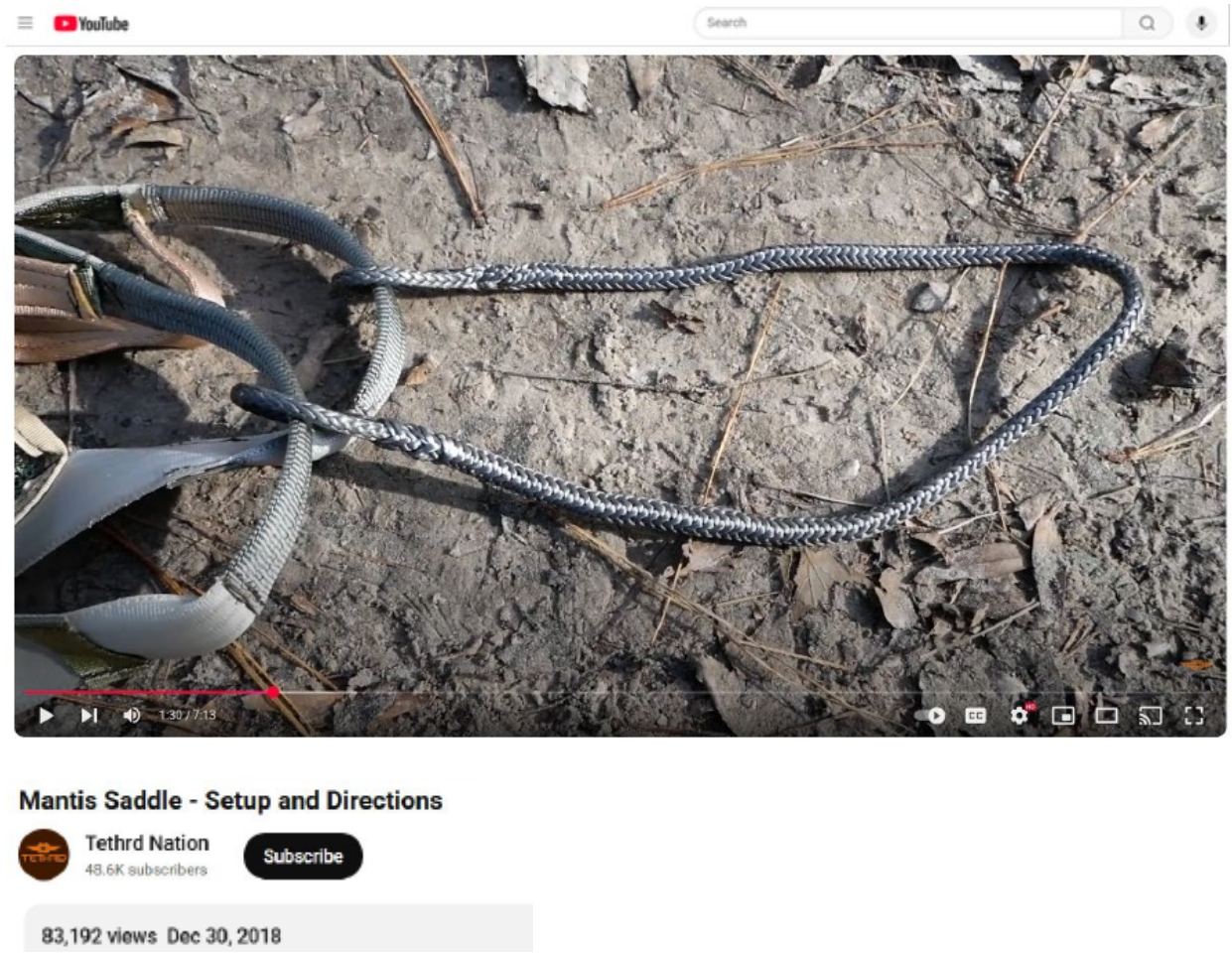
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art before the effective filing date of the claimed invention to replace the main body of Jones with a rope having a splice as taught by Melton Jr. so as to enhance the sturdiness and aesthetics of the equipment component by providing a desired color to improve the strength and appearance of the apparatus.

54. In response to the examiner's final rejection, Tethrd canceled pending Claims 1-5 and 7-13 of the pending '717 Application, leaving only Claim 14 pending.

55. During the prosecution of the '175 Patent and each of its predecessor applications, Tethrd and each of the named inventors (*viz.*, Walter Ernest Power, II ("Ernie Power"), Gregory Alan Godfrey ("Greg Godfrey"), and Carl Eugene Kossuth, III ("Carl Kossuth")) was fully aware

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of Tethrd's Mantis saddle, as discussed for example in Tethrd's "Tethrd Nation" YouTube channel:



Ex. S at 1.

56. Exhibit S is a true and correct copy of Tethrd's "Tethrd Nation" YouTube channel Internet video, featuring named inventor Greg Godfrey, titled "Mantis Saddle - Setup and Directions". The video was posted on the Internet on December 30, 2018, is a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the USPTO's rules and procedures, and was publicly available as of that date. The YouTube video titled "Mantis Saddle - Setup and Directions" is therefore prior art to the '175 Patent. Also, Tethrd's commercial Mantis saddle product, as featured in the YouTube video, was in public use and on sale in 2018. Accordingly, Tethrd's Mantis saddle was prior art

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to the ’175 Patent and each of its predecessor applications, and Tethrd and each of the named inventors was aware that the Mantis saddle was highly material prior art to the ’175 Patent and each of its predecessor applications.

57. The Tethrd Mantis saddle included a bridge (or “main body”) made from Amsteel (an Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (“UHMWPE”) fiber), which was “a rope having a splice therein to form an eye loop”. Accordingly, while the examiner had combined the Melton Jr. and Jones references to successfully make an obvious rejection (“it would have been obvious to replace the main body of Jones with a rope having a splice as taught by Melton Jr. . . .”), those features were disclosed together in the *single* Mantis saddle bridge. Thus, the Mantis saddle bridge included *all* of the elements cited by the examiner, but in a single reference as opposed to two separate references, making the Mantis saddle bridge highly material and non-cumulative prior art.

58. In addition, as referenced above, the Mantis saddle bridge was made from a UHMWPE fiber called “Amsteel”, a lightweight and very strong material, which Tethrd claimed in the ’175 Patent (*see* Ex. A, Claims 10 & 11) and deceptively stated in the ’175 Patent’s specification was a purported advance in the art:

> ***The prior art relates to harness ropes which are generally conventional and utilize rope materials that are of inferior strength but which have a higher coefficient of friction and a higher weight to strength ratio***.
>
> * * *
>
> It has been found that ***such a construction allows high strength materials*** that are otherwise susceptible to heat/friction damage, or are of such low friction that they do not typically retain a closed loop formation under stress, ***to be used safely for harness bridge ropes***.

Ex. A, Col. 1:42-56 (emphases added).

59. Contrary to Tethrd’s public assertions in the ’175 Patent, and as Tethrd’s named inventors were fully aware, Amsteel bridges and slings were well-known in the prior art, none of which Tethrd or the named inventors disclosed to the USPTO.

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60. During the subsequent prosecution of the ’175 Patent, Tethrd (*viz.*, Tethrd’s named inventors) did not disclose Tethrd’s Mantis saddle to the USPTO in an Information Disclosure Statement or otherwise. The Primary Examiner was Amy J. Sterling.

61. Tethrd’s Mantis saddle is not listed in the “References Cited” on the cover of the ’175 Patent, and there is no indication in the file of the patent application for the corrected ’175 Patent that the examiner considered any prior art related to Tethrd’s Mantis saddle during the prosecution of the ’175 Patent.

62. Tethrd’s Mantis saddle was material and non-cumulative prior art with respect to the claims of the ’175 Patent under 35 U.S. C. § 102(a)(1).

63. The named inventors of the ’175 Patent knew of Tethrd’s Mantis saddle and intentionally failed to disclose Tethrd’s Mantis saddle to the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners during the prosecution of the patent application that became the ’175 Patent.

64. For another example, each of the named inventors was an active participant in Internet message forum posts, including the *SaddleHunter* message forum (https://SaddleHunter/community/index.php). Upon information and belief, alias “g2outdoors” corresponds to named inventor Gregory Alan Godfrey (“Greg Godfrey”), alias “Erniepower” corresponds to Walter Ernest Power, II (“Ernie Power”), and alias “ckossuth” corresponds to Carl Eugene Kossuth, III (“Carl Kossuth”). Upon information and belief, other Tethrd principals, who also participate in Tethrd’s active patent procurement and enforcement campaigns and are named inventors on other Tethrd patents, include alias “Flinginairos” corresponding to Jared Shaffer, alias “bowhunter15” corresponding to Garrett Prahl, and alias “BassBoysLLP” corresponding to Shawn Chadwick.

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65. Before January 7, 2019 (one year before the earliest possible priority date of the '175 Patent), these Tethrd principals (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent) participated in at least hundreds of discussions on the *SaddleHunter* message forum and collectively posted at least hundreds of messages on that forum. Many of those message forum threads included discussions of hunting saddles, hardware and components for hunting saddles (including ropes, splices, and knots), and modifications to hunting saddles and hardware components thereof. Such modifications were often referred to as "DIY" modifications for "Do It Yourself". The named inventors were fully aware of those discussions on the *SaddleHunter* message forum (having personally participated in many of them), including the discussions about hunting saddles, hardware and components for hunting saddles, and DIY modifications thereof. Those discussions were prior art to the '175 Patent, and many of those discussions were highly material and non-cumulative prior art to the '175 Patent.

66. During the prosecution of each and every one of Tethrd's many patent applications, including the '175 Patent at issue here, neither Tethrd nor any of the named inventors on any those applications (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) disclosed *any* of those *SaddleHunter* message forum discussions to the patent examiners at the USPTO assigned to those patent applications. Each of the named inventors (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) was aware of his duty of candor to the USPTO that obligated him to disclose all known material prior art to the USPTO, including as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04.

67. Each of the named inventors (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) was aware that the discussions on the *SaddleHunter* message forum contained highly material and non-cumulative prior art with respect to the patent applications on which they

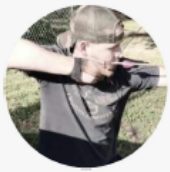
Ex. 1142
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were a named inventor (including the '175 Patent at issue here). Nevertheless, *none* of those named inventors provided *any* of that highly material and non-cumulative prior art to the USPTO during the prosecution of *any* of Tethrd's many patent applications (including the '175 Patent at issue here). Each of the named inventors (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) intentionally withheld that highly material prior art from the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners.

68. The USPTO examiners handling Tethrd's many patent applications (including the '175 Patent at issue here) were not aware of this highly material prior art and, as a direct result of Tethrd and the named inventors (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) intentionally withholding this prior art, the examiners were misled into issuing Tethrd's patents (including the '175 patent at issue here), which they would not have issued if Tethrd and the named inventors (including the three named inventors on the '175 Patent at issue here) had disclosed this highly material prior art to the USPTO, as they were obligated to do under the USPTO's rules, including 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04.

69. An example of one highly material discussion on the *SaddleHunter* message forum that neither Tethrd nor any of the named inventors on the '175 Patent disclosed to the USPTO features a discussion involving named inventor Greg Godfrey ("g2outdoors") and a DIY saddle hunter (alias "Carolina_trad_hntr") that discusses the fabrication and use of a continuous loop of Amsteel as a friction hitch (*viz.*, a Prusik knot):

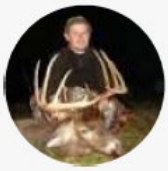
Ex. 1142
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Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #1

Anyone using 8mm accessory cord for a tether or bridge? Thinking that for tether and bridge with a 1/4" amsteel loop for prussic would be a nice compact setup. Seems to be rated fairly high, 4200lb tensile strength.



g2outdoors
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Oct 3, 2014
Messages: 7,448
Location: Savannah, GA

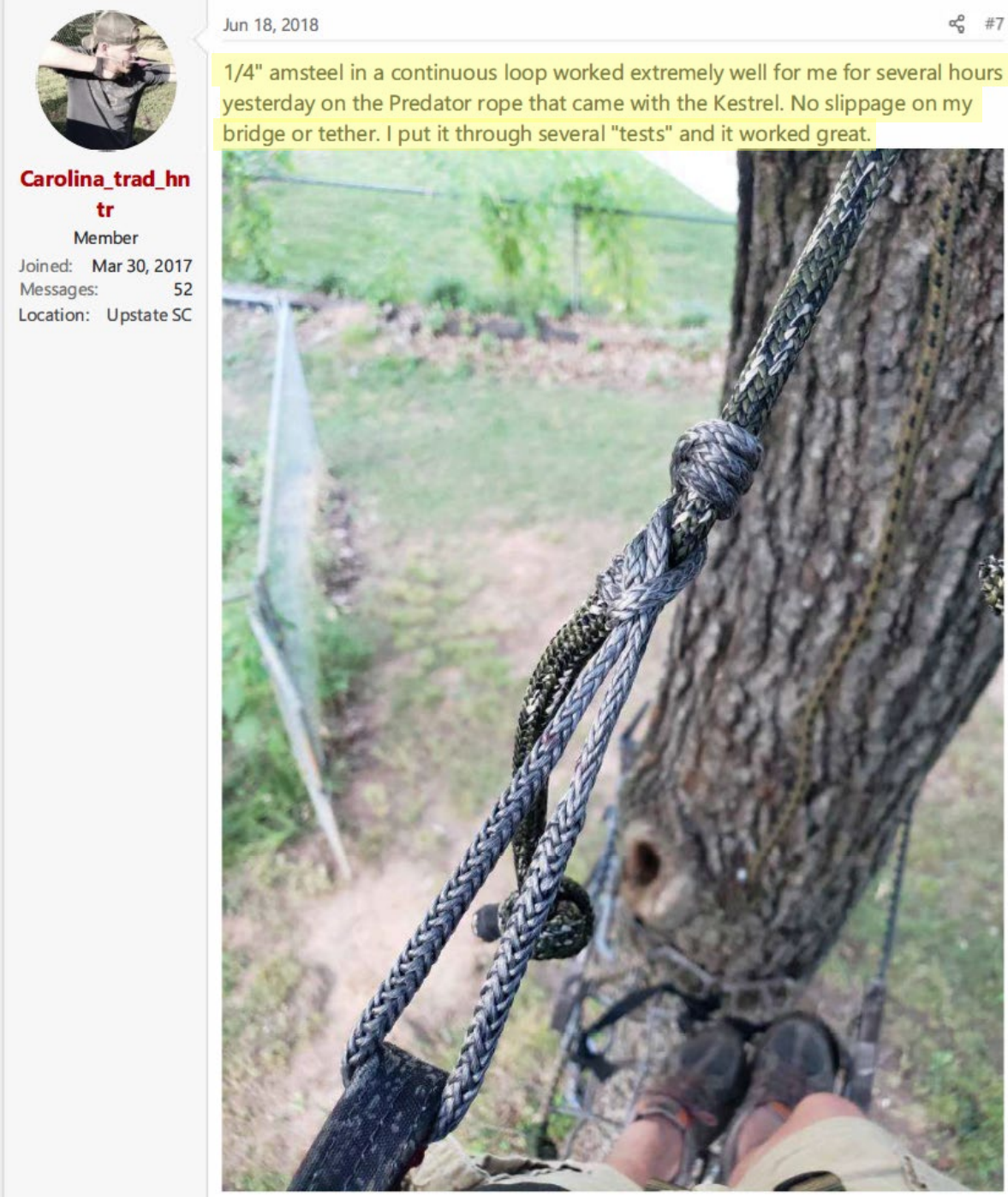
Jun 18, 2018 #3

Ultratech is nice stuff.

Sent from my Galaxy S8.

Carolina_trad_hntr

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Ex. T at 1-3.

70. Exhibit T is a true and correct copy of a *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope". The message forum thread was posted on the Internet from June 18, 2018 - June 23, 2018, is a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and

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the USPTO's rules and procedures, and was publicly available as of those dates. The *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" is therefore prior art to the '175 Patent.

71. The "Smallest diameter on tether rope" *SaddleHunter* message forum thread was highly material prior art to the '175 Patent. For example, Claim 1 (and thus all of the claims of the '175 Patent) recites:

> a friction hitch being positioned on the m[a]in body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop.

Ex. A, Col. 6:38-40.

72. As discussed above, the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" identically discloses each of the above claimed features recited in Claim 1 of the '175 Patent, and thus required by all of the claims of the '175 Patent. That prior art reference is therefore highly material to the claims of the '175 Patent.

73. Other claims to which the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" were highly material include the following:

> 4. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 3, wherein the main body includes a stop knot in the second portion adjacent to the second end.
>
> 5. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 4, further including a securing member being positioned on the main body at a juncture of the first and second ends to retain the first and second ends at a static position relative to each other.
>
> 6. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 4, wherein the closed loop comprises a single rope being formed into the closed loop.
>
> * * *
>
> 8. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 7, wherein the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.
>
> 9. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 1, wherein the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.

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> 10. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 9, wherein . . . the friction hitch [is] comprised of UMWPE.
>
> * * *
>
> 13. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 12, wherein the closed loop has a total circumference of between 20.0 inches and 30.0 inches.

Ex. A, Col. 6:29-59.

74. As discussed above, the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" identically discloses each of the above claimed features recited in Claims 4-6, 8-10, and 13 of the '175 Patent. That prior art reference is therefore highly material to the claims of the '175 Patent.

75. During the prosecution of the '175 Patent, Tethrd (*viz.*, Tethrd's named inventors) did not disclose the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" to the USPTO in an Information Disclosure Statement or otherwise. The Primary Examiner was Amy J. Sterling.

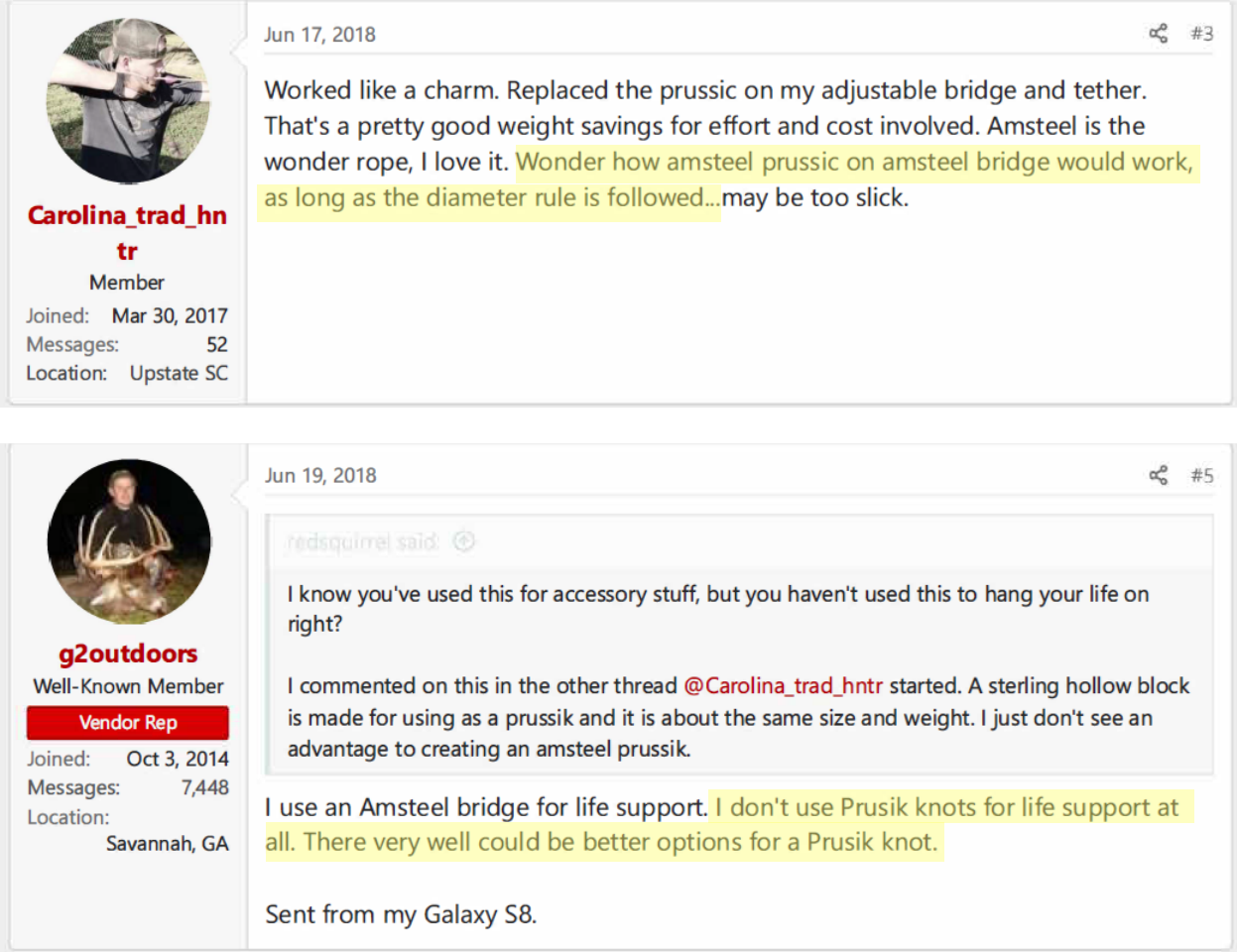
76. The *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" is not listed in the "References Cited" on the cover of the '175 Patent, and there is no indication in the file of the patent application for the '175 Patent that the examiner considered the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" during the prosecution of the '175 Patent.

77. The *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" was material and non-cumulative prior art with respect to the claims of the '175 Patent.

78. At least Greg Godfrey, one of the named inventors of the '175 Patent, knew of the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest diameter on tether rope" and intentionally failed to disclose the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Smallest

diameter on tether rope" to the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners during the prosecution of the patent application that became the '175 Patent.

79. A further example of a highly material discussion on the *SaddleHunter* message forum that neither Tethrd nor any of the named inventors on the '175 Patent disclosed to the USPTO features another discussion involving named inventor Greg Godfrey ("g2outdoors") and a DIY saddle hunter (alias "Carolina_trad_hntr") which discusses the use of an Amsteel friction hitch (*viz.*, a Prusik knot) on an Amsteel saddle bridge:



Ex. U at 2.

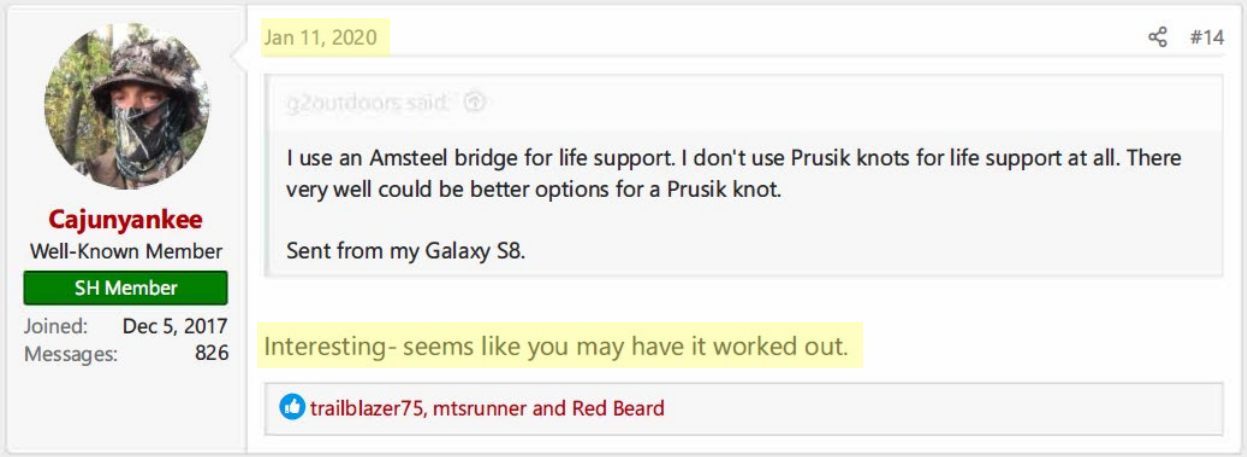
80. Exhibit U is a true and correct copy of a *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" [sic]. The original posts (#1 – #12) were posted on the Internet

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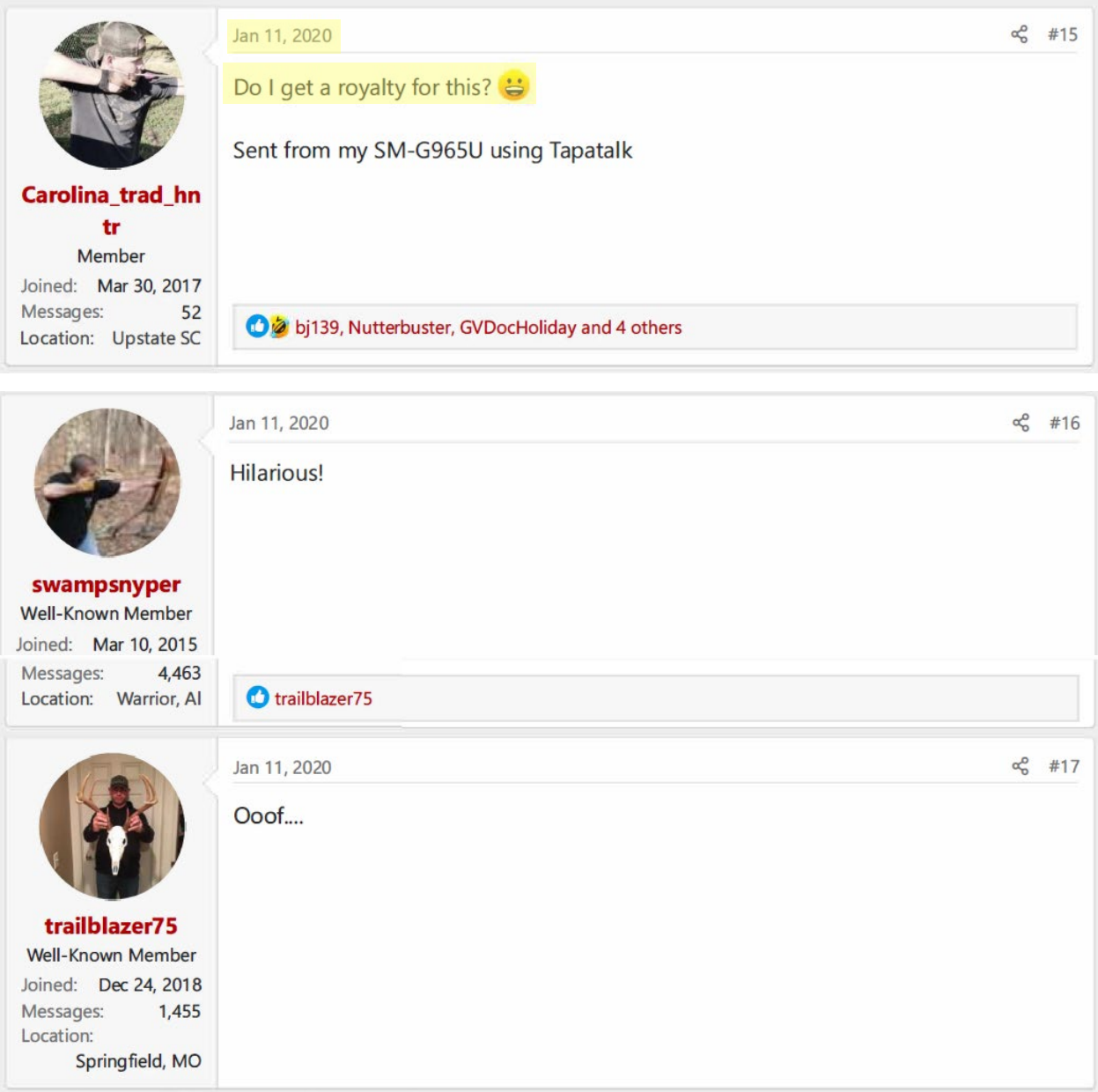
from June 17, 2018 - June 23, 2018, and those posts are thus a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the USPTO's rules and procedures, and were publicly available as of those dates. The original posts (#1 – #12) of the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" are therefore prior art to the '175 Patent.

81. Following this public discussion on the *SaddleHunter* message forum on June 17-23, 2018, about eighteen months later, Tethrd introduced its new Phantom saddle product at the Archery Trade Association (ATA) Show in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 9-11, 2020. The Tethrd Phantom saddle included an Amsteel Prusik knot on an Amsteel saddle bridge, which named inventor Greg Godfrey had publicly discouraged in 2018.

82. The fact that Tethrd had taken Carolina_trad_hntr's idea of using an Amsteel Prusik friction hitch on an Amsteel saddle bridge, and falsely represented that idea as Tethrd's own innovation at the ATA trade show, was not lost on the saddle hunting community, including on Carolina_trad_hntr himself:



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Ex. U at 5-6.

83. The "Amsteel Prussic" *SaddleHunter* message forum thread was highly material prior art to the '175 Patent. For example, Claim 1 (and thus all of the claims of the '175 Patent) recites:

> a friction hitch being positioned on the m[a]in body between the second end and the eye loop, the friction hitch being configured to engage the second bridge loop, the friction hitch comprising a closed loop.

Ex. A, Col. 6:38-40.

84. As discussed above, the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" identically discloses each of the above claimed features recited in Claim 1 of the '175 Patent, and thus required by all of the claims of the '175 Patent. That prior art reference is therefore highly material to the claims of the '175 Patent.

85. Other claims to which the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" were highly material include the following:

> 10. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 9, wherein the main body and the friction hitch each are comprised of U[H]MWPE.
>
> 11. The bridge rope assembly according to claim 1, wherein the main body is comprised of UHMWPE.

Ex. A, Col. 6:50-54.

86. As discussed above, the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" identically discloses each of the above claimed features recited in Claims 10-11 of the '175 Patent. That prior art reference is therefore highly material to the claims of the '175 Patent.

87. During the prosecution of the '175 Patent, Tethrd (*viz.*, Tethrd's named inventors) did not disclose the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" to the USPTO in an Information Disclosure Statement or otherwise. The Primary Examiner was Amy J. Sterling.

88. The *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" is not listed in the "References Cited" on the cover of the '175 Patent, and there is no indication in the file of the patent application for the '175 Patent that the examiner considered the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" during the prosecution of the '175 Patent.

89. The *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" was material and non-cumulative prior art with respect to the claims of the '175 Patent.

90. At least Greg Godfrey, one of the named inventors of the '175 Patent, knew of the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" and intentionally failed to disclose the *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Amsteel Prussic" to the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners during the prosecution of the patent application that became the '175 Patent.

91. Crüzr thus seeks a declaratory judgment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring the rights and interests of Crüzr and Tethrd in connection with unenforceability of the '175 Patent.

92. Crüzr requests that this Court declare that the '175 Patent is unenforceable.

COUNT VI: DETERMINATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CASE UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 285

93. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

94. Exhibit H to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated July 23, 2020 asserting infringement of U.S. Patent Application No. 16/736,345 ("the '345 Application") by Crüzr's products.

95. Exhibit I to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated March 2, 2021 asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 10,791,729 ("the '729 Patent") by Crüzr's products.

96. Exhibit J to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to

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Tethrd dated March 26, 2021 explaining why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '729 Patent.

97. Exhibit K to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and First Amended Supplemental Complaint and Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated April 21, 2022 asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 11,179,584 ("the '584 Patent") by Crüzr's products.

98. Exhibit L to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated May 11, 2022 explaining why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '584 Patent.

99. Exhibit M to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated September 5, 2023 asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 11,504,556 ("the '556 Patent") by Crüzr's products.

100. Exhibit N to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated September 21, 2023 explaining why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '556 Patent or the '345 Application.

101. Exhibit O to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated June 3, 2024 asserting infringement of the '175 Patent by Crüzr's products.

102. Exhibit P to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated June 21, 2024 explaining why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '175 Patent.

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103. Exhibit X to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a letter from Tethrd to Crüzr dated June 3, 2024 asserting infringement of the '584 Patent by products made by another company (Custom Gear Modifications).

104. Tethrd's pre-litigation conduct and its conduct during the course of this litigation demonstrate that Tethrd has brought and maintained this action in bad faith. This action stands out from other cases with respect to the substantive weakness of Tethrd's litigating position (considering both the governing law and the facts of this case) and the unreasonable manner in which Tethrd has brought and maintained this action.

105. Exhibit N to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated September 21, 2023 which explains why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '556 Patent, which Tethrd failed to disclose in its original Complaint and its First Amended and Supplemental Complaint.

106. Exhibit P to this Answer to Tethrd's First Amended and Supplemental Complaint and First Amended Counterclaims is a true and correct copy of a responsive letter from Crüzr to Tethrd dated June 21, 2024 which explains why none of Crüzr's products infringe the '175 Patent, which Tethrd failed to disclose in its original Complaint and its First Amended and Supplemental Complaint.

107. Non-exhaustive examples of Tethrd's bad faith pre-litigation conduct include, but are not limited to, the following unreasonable conduct:

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a. Sending repeated cease and desist letters to Crüzr without acquiring Crüzr's products or performing a good faith infringement analysis with respect to those products (*e.g.*, Exs. H, I, K, M & O);

b. Sending cease and desist letters to Crüzr asserting infringement of products made by another company (*e.g.*, Ex. X (Custom Gear Modifications)); and

c. Sending repeated cease and desist letters to Crüzr but thereafter entirely ignoring Crüzr's substantive responses to those letters (*e.g.*, Exs. J, L, N & P).

108. Non-exhaustive examples of Tethrd's bad faith litigation activity include, but are not limited to, the following unreasonable conduct:

a. Filing both an initial Complaint and a FASC without acquiring Crüzr's products or performing a good faith infringement analysis with respect to those products;

b. Filing an initial Complaint and a FASC alleging willful patent infringement, attaching to each of those pleadings only Tethrd's initial letters to Crüzr (*e.g.*, FASC, Exs. E & F) and intentionally omitting Crüzr's response letters to Tethrd which explain why Crüzr's accused products do not infringe any of the claims of the asserted patents (*e.g.*, Exs. N & P);

c. Serving Infringement Contentions alleging willful patent infringement, referencing only Tethrd's initial letters to Crüzr and intentionally ignoring Crüzr's response letters to Tethrd which explain why Crüzr's accused products do not infringe any of the claims of the asserted patents;

d. Asserting the '175 Patent in both the initial Complaint and the FASC without explaining how the accused products allegedly satisfy at least two specific claim limitations of each and every claim of the '175 Patent, which limitations Crüzr had

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identified to Tethrd as not being met by any of the accused products (*viz.*, "the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop" and "the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end");

e. Serving Infringement Contentions without explaining how the accused products allegedly satisfy at least one specific claim limitation of each and every claim of the '175 Patent, which limitation Crüzr had identified to Tethrd as not being met by any of the accused products (*viz.*, "the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end");

f. Asserting the '175 Patent in the initial Complaint and the FASC knowing that none of the accused products infringe any claim of the '175 Patent, or at a minimum without having a good faith basis for alleging that any of the accused products infringe any claim of the '175 Patent;

g. Maintaining the assertion of the '175 Patent in this action knowing that none of the accused products infringe any claim of the '175 Patent and that the '175 Patent is invalid and unenforceable due to the inventors' inequitable conduct, or at a minimum without having a good faith basis for alleging that any of the accused products infringe any claim of the '175 Patent and that the '175 Patent is not invalid and not unenforceable due to the inventors' inequitable conduct; and

h. Serving Tethrd's Proposed Terms for Claim Constructions and identifying no patent claim terms for construction, despite Crüzr having identified to Tethrd at least two claim limitations not being met by any of the accused products (*viz.*, "the eye loop being configured to engage the first bridge loop" and "the first end is positioned within the second portion adjacent to the second end").

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109. This is an exceptional case entitling Crüzr to recovery of its attorneys' fees under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 285 and the Court's inherent authority to award attorneys' fees. *See Octane Fitness, LLC v. ICON Health & Fitness, Inc.*, 572 U.S. 545 (2014).

110. Crüzr requests that this Court determine that this case is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

COUNT VII: ANTITRUST VIOLATIONS – *WALKER PROCESS* FRAUD

111. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

112. Throughout the prosecution of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications, Tethrd *only* disclosed U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications to the USPTO. Tethrd intentionally failed to disclose *any* non-patent prior art of which the inventors were fully aware to the USPTO, including highly material prior art products and devices as well as highly material information from the Internet. Such Internet prior art included highly material YouTube videos (*e.g.*, from named inventor Greg Godfrey's "G2 Outdoors" YouTube channel) and highly material message forum posts (*e.g.*, discussion threads from the *SaddleHunter* message forum, including those in which named inventor Greg Godfrey was an active participant). Tethrd and the named inventors, including Greg Godfrey, intentionally withheld this prior art information from the USPTO with the intent to deceive the patent examiners. The examiners were not aware of this highly material non-patent prior art and, as a direct result of Tethrd and the named inventors intentionally withholding this prior art, the examiners were misled into issuing the '175 patent, which they would not have done if Tethrd and the named inventors had disclosed this prior art, as they were obligated to do under the USPTO's rules, including 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04.

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

113. As a result of the intentional withholding and concealing of material prior art from the USPTO by Tethrd and the named inventors during the prosecution of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications, Tethrd obtained the '175 Patent by fraud on the USPTO. The patent examiners would not have issued the '175 Patent if Tethrd and the named inventors had disclosed that material prior art, as they were obligated to do under the USPTO's rules and procedures, including 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04.

114. Tethrd and the named inventors deliberately withheld and failed to disclose non-patent material prior art from the Internet with an intent to mislead or deceive the USPTO. At a minimum, their actions were so reckless as to be the same as actual intent. The failure to disclose rises to the level of inequitable conduct, which renders the resulting '175 Patent unenforceable.

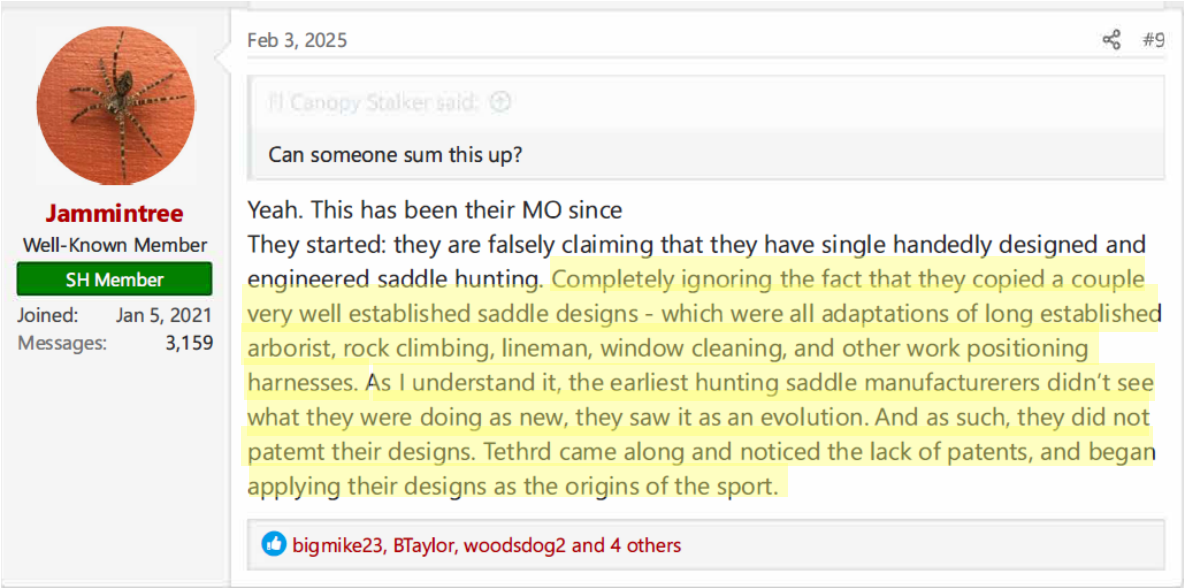
115. Here, Tethrd and the named inventors were fully aware of their duty of candor to the USPTO and the existence of non-patent Internet prior art, but systematically withheld and failed to disclose any of that information that was and remains material to patentability of the '175 Patent and its predecessor applications.

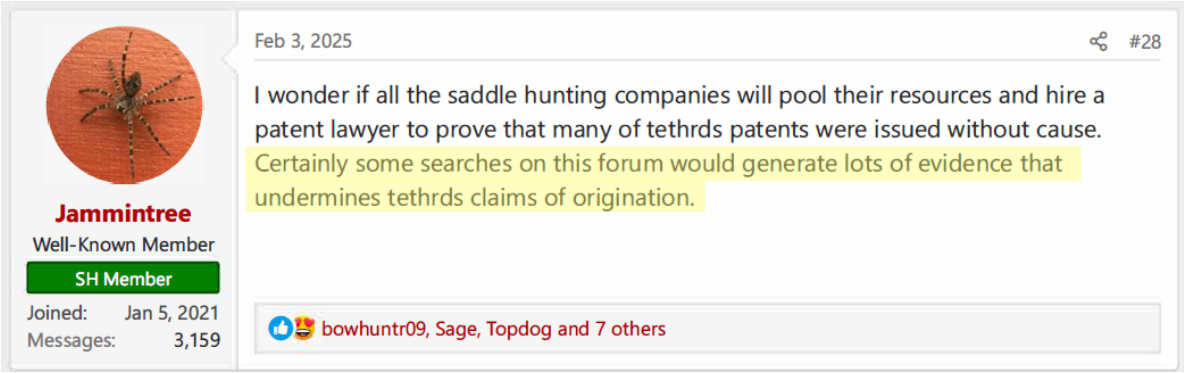
116. The USPTO justifiably relied on Tethrd's duty of candor and good faith based on the USPTO's rules and procedures, including 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and M.P.E.P. § 2001.04. Because of that reliance, the USPTO issued the '175 Patent, which the USPTO would not have but for Tethrd's intentional withholding and concealing of material prior art from the USPTO.

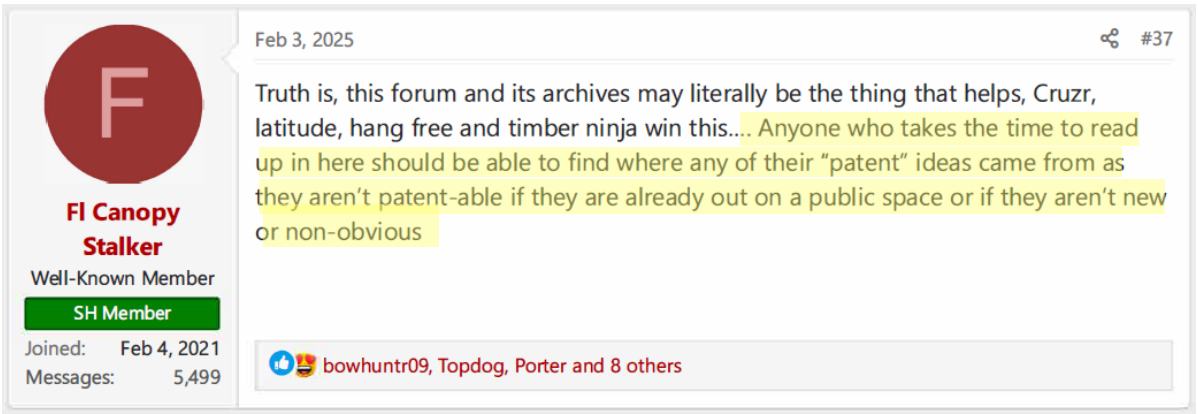
117. Members of the saddle hunting community have recognized Tethrd's misleading, dishonest, and anticompetitive conduct with regard to obtaining and enforcing fraudulently procured patents against Tethrd's competitors, including against Crüzr. One such discussion on the *SaddleHunter* message forum includes comments from well-known members of the saddle hunting community, who are not associated with Crüzr in any capacity and whose identities are

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

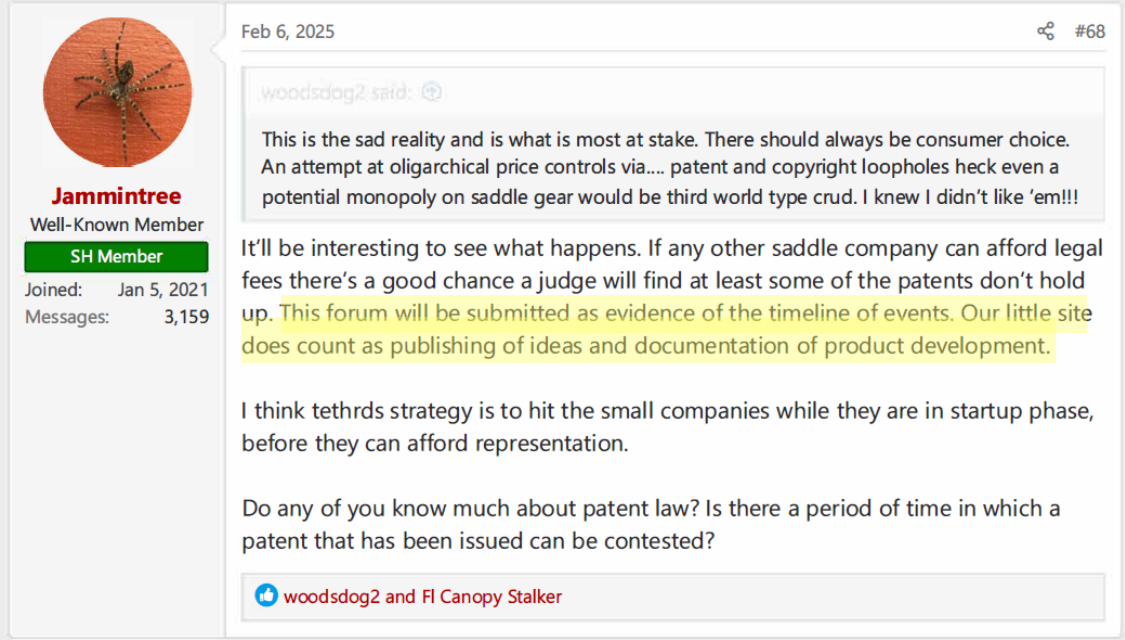
unknown to Crüzr, expressing their candid views that Tethrd acquired its patents fraudulently and inequitably, including the '175 Patent at issue here, and that Tethrd has engaged in patent infringement lawsuits solely for anticompetitive purposes:







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Ex. V at 4, 12, 14, 25. The views expressed above from well-known members of the saddle hunting community are an accurate glimpse of the competitive harm that Tethrd is intentionally and improperly inflicting upon its competitors in the saddle hunting marketplace, including Crüzr.

118. Exhibit V is a true and correct copy of a *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks". The message forum thread was posted on the Internet from February 2, 2025 – April 5, 2025, is a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the USPTO's rules and procedures, and was publicly available as of those dates.

119. Tethrd's widespread conduct of asserting patent infringement against its competitors (including this action), and Tethrd's numerous threats to sue its competitors (including Crüzr) are based on fraudulently procured patents (including the '175 Patent at issue here). Tethrd's intent in making its frequent and baseless assertions is to hinder competition, not to enforce legitimate patent rights. Tethrd's objective is to create a reasonable likelihood that its threats, lawsuits, and other anticompetitive conduct will cause its competitors' vendors, suppliers,

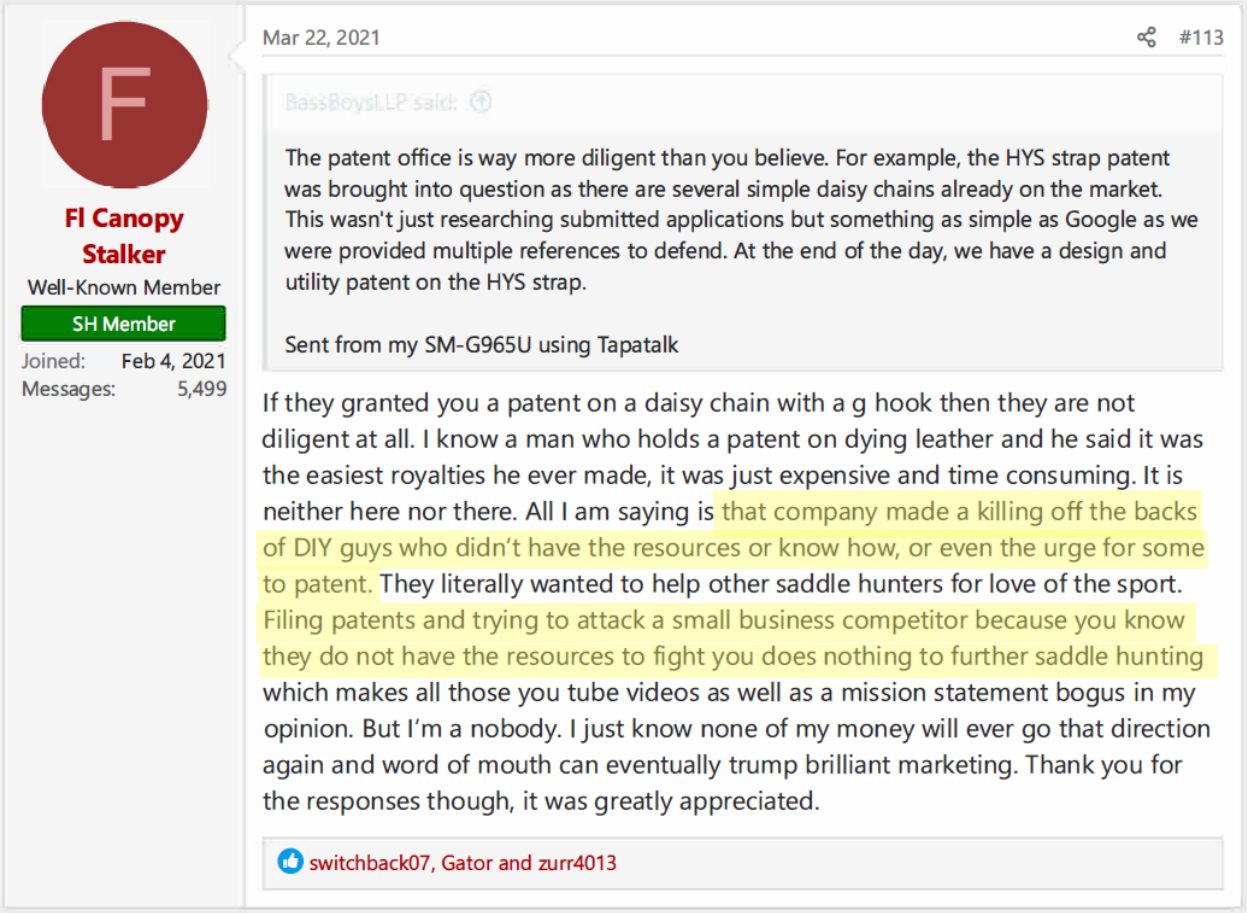
Ex. 1142
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retailers, and customers to discontinue, pause, or otherwise limit their business relationships with those Tethrd competitors. Tethrd's anticompetitive actions have resulted in such anticompetitive harm to its competitors, including Crüzr.

120. Tethrd further understands that the legal costs necessary to defend against Tethrd's barrage of baseless allegations in the marketplace is prohibitive for most of its competitors. Tethrd thus employs the cost of litigation as a competitive weapon against its competitors (particularly individuals or smaller companies with fewer resources), rather than the merits of the fraudulently procured patents. Tethrd's conduct is the kind of economic coercion that the antitrust laws are intended to prevent.

121. Members of the saddle hunting community have recognized Tethrd's anticompetitive conduct with regard to obtaining and enforcing fraudulently procured patents against Tethrd's competitors, including against Crüzr. One such discussion on the *SaddleHunter* message forum includes comments from a well-known member of the saddle hunting community expressing his candid view that Tethrd employs the cost of litigation as a competitive weapon against Tethrd's competitors for anticompetitive purposes:

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Ex. R at 43.

122. Crüzr therefor requests that this Court grant a permanent injunction barring defendant from enforcing the fraudulently obtained '175 Patent.

123. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award damages as a consequence of Tethrd's unlawful anticompetitive conduct, with an amount to be determined at trial, including but not limited to lost profits attributable to Tethrd's fraudulent assertion of the '175 Patent.

124. Crüzr requests that the Court award treble damages under Section 4 of the *Clayton Act*, 15 U.S.C. § 15(a), which permits recovery of threefold the damages sustained as a result of Tethrd's antitrust violations.

125. Crüzr requests that the Court award reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending this action.

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COUNT VIII: INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH EXISTING AND/OR PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE

126. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

127. Economic relationships exist and have existed between Crüzr and many third parties, including particularly Crüzr's vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers.

128. The economic relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers carry an economic benefit to Crüzr. For example, strong partnerships with vendors and suppliers ensure Crüzr a steady supply of goods and services at competitive prices, improving sales volumes and profit margins for Crüzr. Also, reliable retailer and customer relationships drive consistent sales and long-term revenue streams for Crüzr. Further, all of those relationships develop valuable goodwill and a positive reputation for Crüzr in the marketplace.

129. Tethrd has knowledge of the economic relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers. For example, in its First Set of Requests for Production, Tethrd requested that Crüzr produce "[d]ocuments sufficient to identify the person(s) who supply Defendant (Crüzr) with the parts Defendant uses to manufacture the [accused] Infringing Bridge and Accused Product" and "[d]ocuments sufficient to identify each retail outlet, website, distributor, trade show, or other channel of trade through which Defendant [Crüzr] has offered the Accused Products". Discovering the identity of Crüzr's suppliers, retailers, and distributors would not prove or disapprove the alleged direct patent infringement, as alleged by Tethrd in the FASC. Tethrd sought such information in this action with the express intent to improperly interfere with the relationships between Crüzr and those third parties.

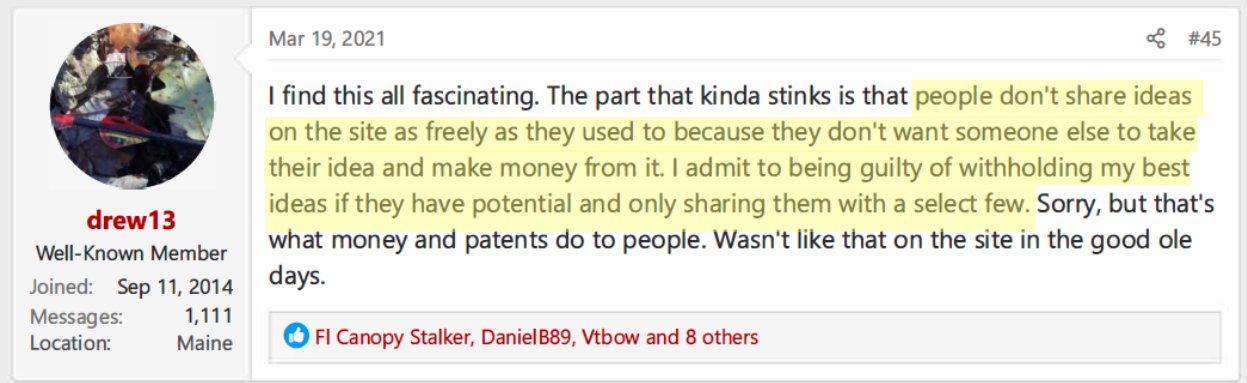
130. Tethrd's actions in bringing and maintaining this baseless patent infringement lawsuit, including asserting the fraudulently procured '175 Patent as discussed above, have

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

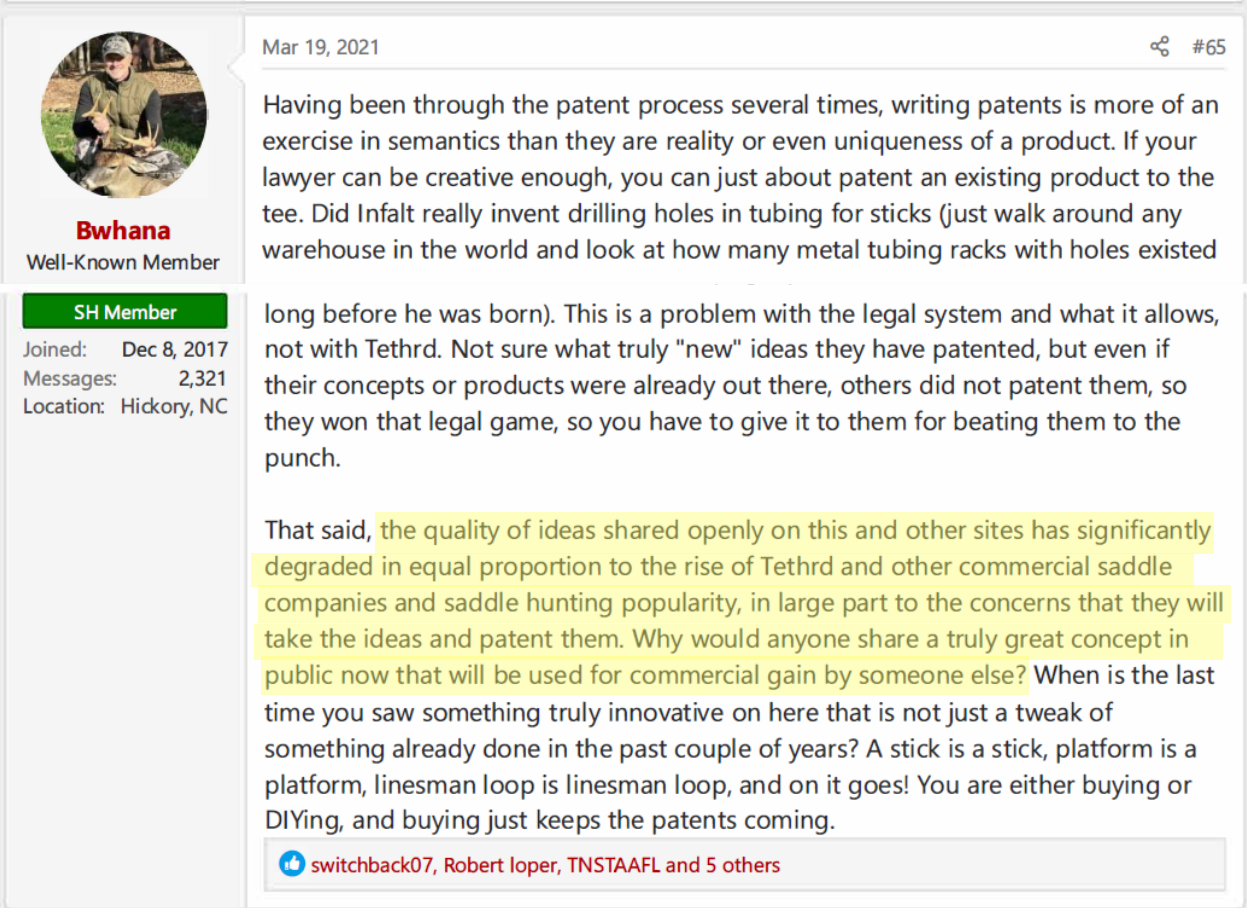
interfered with the relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers. For example, Crüzr's vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers have reached out to Crüzr to express their concerns about this patent infringement lawsuit brought by Tethrd.

131. Saddle Hunting is a relatively small and niche community within the broader sporting goods industry. Lawsuits within the saddle hunting community, and particularly lawsuits for alleged patent infringement, significantly and negatively impact vendor, supplier, retailer, and customer relationships for Crüzr, as well as for other third-party suppliers of saddle hunting equipment. The aggressive and baseless lawsuits filed by Tethrd have increased prices, reduced innovation, and created a monopoly-like environment, ultimately harming consumers. Tethrd's aggressive and baseless lawsuits will continue to cause anticompetitive injury to Crüzr and the marketplace generally unless and until those activities are enjoined by this Court.

132. Members of the saddle hunting community have recognized Tethrd's anticompetitive conduct with regard to obtaining and enforcing fraudulently procured patents against Tethrd's competitors, thereby reducing innovation and the sharing of ideas, and creating a monopoly-like environment:



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Bwhana
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 8, 2017
Messages: 2,321
Location: Hickory, NC

Mar 19, 2021 #65

Having been through the patent process several times, writing patents is more of an exercise in semantics than they are reality or even uniqueness of a product. If your lawyer can be creative enough, you can just about patent an existing product to the tee. Did Infalt really invent drilling holes in tubing for sticks (just walk around any warehouse in the world and look at how many metal tubing racks with holes existed long before he was born). This is a problem with the legal system and what it allows, not with Tethrd. Not sure what truly "new" ideas they have patented, but even if their concepts or products were already out there, others did not patent them, so they won that legal game, so you have to give it to them for beating them to the punch.

That said, the quality of ideas shared openly on this and other sites has significantly degraded in equal proportion to the rise of Tethrd and other commercial saddle companies and saddle hunting popularity, in large part to the concerns that they will take the ideas and patent them. Why would anyone share a truly great concept in public now that will be used for commercial gain by someone else? When is the last time you saw something truly innovative on here that is not just a tweak of something already done in the past couple of years? A stick is a stick, platform is a platform, linesman loop is linesman loop, and on it goes! You are either buying or DIYing, and buying just keeps the patents coming.

switchback07, Robert loper, TNSTAAFL and 5 others

Ex. R at 17, 24-25.

133. Tethrd's meritless allegations of patent infringement (particularly its allegations of willful patent infringement) are intended by Tethrd to interfere with, and cause harm to, the relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers. For example, Tethrd's baseless allegations of willful infringement, including those set forth in the FASC, have caused harm to the relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers:

> 36. Cruzr's infringement of the 175 Patent has been willful and deliberate. As discussed above, Cruzr intentionally made, sold, and continues to sell the Cruzr Products knowing that it includes a rope bridge assembly that infringes the 175 Patent.

* * *

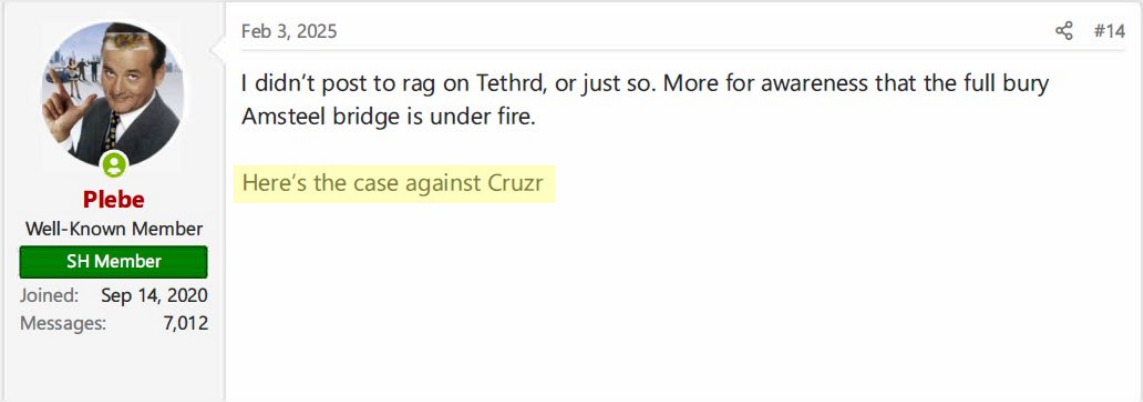
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39. Cruzr has engaged in egregious infringement behavior with respect to the 175 Patent warranting an award of enhanced damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284.

40. Cruzr's conduct with respect to the 175 Patent is exceptional and further warrants an award of reasonable attorney fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285.

FASC ¶¶ 36, 39-40.

134. For example, in the "Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks" discussion thread on *SaddleHunter* message forum (Exhibit V), members of the saddle hunting community discussed the patent infringement allegations that Tethrd made against Latitude Outdoors, LLC, and Crüzr:



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1 of 8

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

TETHRD, LLC,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

CRÜZR SADDLES LLC,

DEFENDANT.

Civil Action No. _____

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Tethrd, LLC ("Tethrd") files this Complaint and demands a jury trial seeking relief for patent infringement by Defendant CRÜZR Saddles LLC ("Cruzr"), as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code.

THE PARTIES

2. Tethrd is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business located at 2409 Pulaski Hwy, Columbia, TN 38401.

Ex. V at 5-6.

135. Public conversations such as the above, which highlight Tethrd's allegations of patent infringement against Crüzr, unfairly cast Crüzr in a negative light and cause harm to Crüzr's hard-earned and positive reputation in the marketplace. Such conversations further unfairly tarnish Crüzr's products and its brand.

136. Strong partnerships with vendors and suppliers ensure Crüzr a steady supply of goods and services at competitive prices, improving sales volumes and profit margins for Crüzr. Also, reliable retailer and customer relationships drive consistent sales and long-term revenue streams for Crüzr. Further, all of those relationships develop valuable goodwill and a positive reputation for Crüzr in the marketplace.

137. Tethrd has systematically employed litigation as a tool to suppress competition rather than engage in fair market competition. Specifically, Tethrd has sought to establish a monopoly by aggressively enforcing the '175 Patent, which they obtained through deliberate

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Crüzr v. Tethrd

concealment of material prior art that would have rendered the patent invalid and unenforceable.

138. As a result of Tethrd's interference with Crüzr's existing and prospective business relationships, Crüzr has suffered economic harm, including but not limited to, lost sales, canceled orders, increased operational costs, and legal expenses. The full extent of these damages will be quantified during discovery.

139. As a result of Tethrd's interference with Crüzr's existing and prospective business relationships, Crüzr has further suffered damage to its valuable goodwill and reputation in the marketplace. The full extent of these damages will be quantified during discovery.

140. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award actual damages as a consequence of Tethrd's interference with Crüzr's existing and prospective business relationships, with an amount to be determined at trial.

141. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award consequential damages, with the amount to be determined at trial, including but not limited to actual economic losses, reputational harm, and increased costs attributable to Tethrd's fraudulent enforcement of the '175 Patent.

142. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award punitive damages as a result of Tethrd's interference with Crüzr's existing and prospective business relationships.

143. Crüzr requests that the Court award reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending this action.

COUNT IX: ANTITRUST VIOLATIONS – SECTION 2 OF THE SHERMAN ACT

144. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

145. Tethrd is an industry powerhouse in the saddle hunting market that has obtained a significant market share, which has been greatly aided by its aggressive and unfair patent enforcement strategies. Tethrd has market power in the relevant market for saddle hunting

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Crüzr v. Tethrd

equipment and/or there exists a dangerous probability that Tethrd will acquire market power in the relevant market for saddle hunting equipment.

146. Tethrd has engaged in predatory or anticompetitive conduct by abusing its market power against small competitors in the saddle hunting market. For example, as stated in Tethrd's Initial Validity and Enforceability Contentions, Tethrd "resolved alleged patent infringement violations regarding 10 separate hunting saddle products sold on Amazon.com through the Amazon Patent Evaluation Express ("APEX") program."

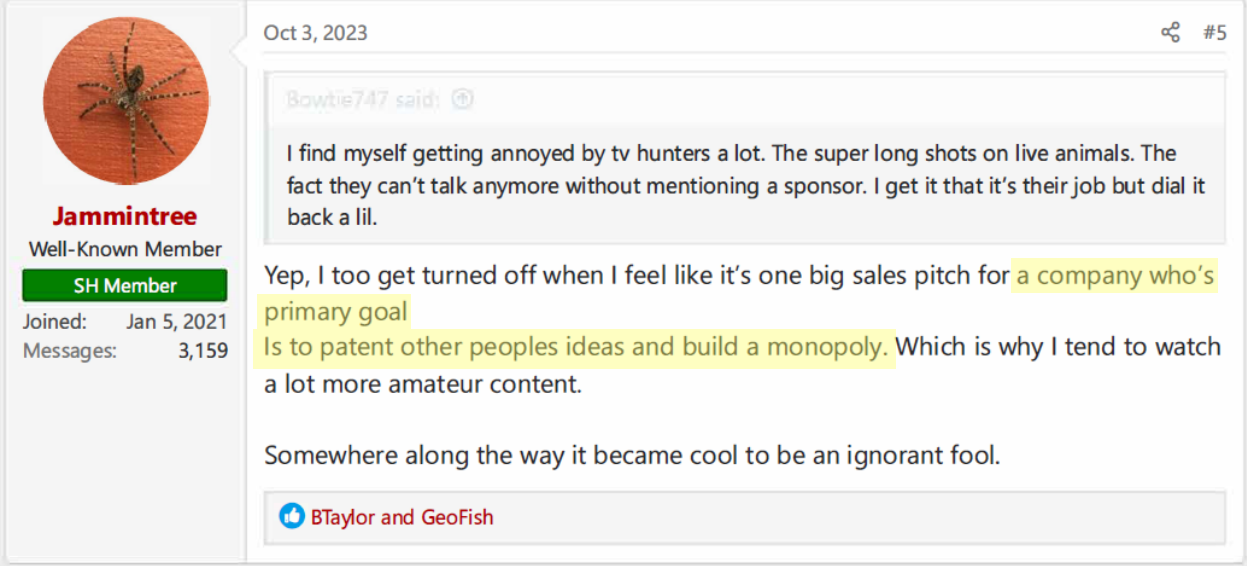
147. In addition to this lawsuit against Crüzr, Tethrd also commenced a patent infringement lawsuit against another competitor, Latitude Outdoors, LLC, in August 2024 alleging that Latitude's Method 2 and Maverick Saddles directly infringed at least claim 1 of the 175 Patent.

148. Upon information and belief, Tethrd also threatened other companies in the saddle hunting market, including Timber Ninja (https://timberninjaoutdoors.com/) and Hang Free (https://hangfree.co/) with allegations of patent infringement.

149. Tethrd has a specific intent to monopolize the market for saddle hunting equipment. Tethrd's predatory and anticompetitive conduct has created an actual or threatened injury to the saddle hunting market as a whole, not just to one or more particular companies.

150. For example, in the "Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks" discussion thread on the *SaddleHunter* message forum (Exhibit V), and a thread titled "Horns" on the *SaddleHunter* message forum (Exhibit W), members of the saddle hunting community member voiced their concerns about Tethrd's attempt to monopolize the saddle hunting market:

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Oct 3, 2023 #5

Bowtie747 said:

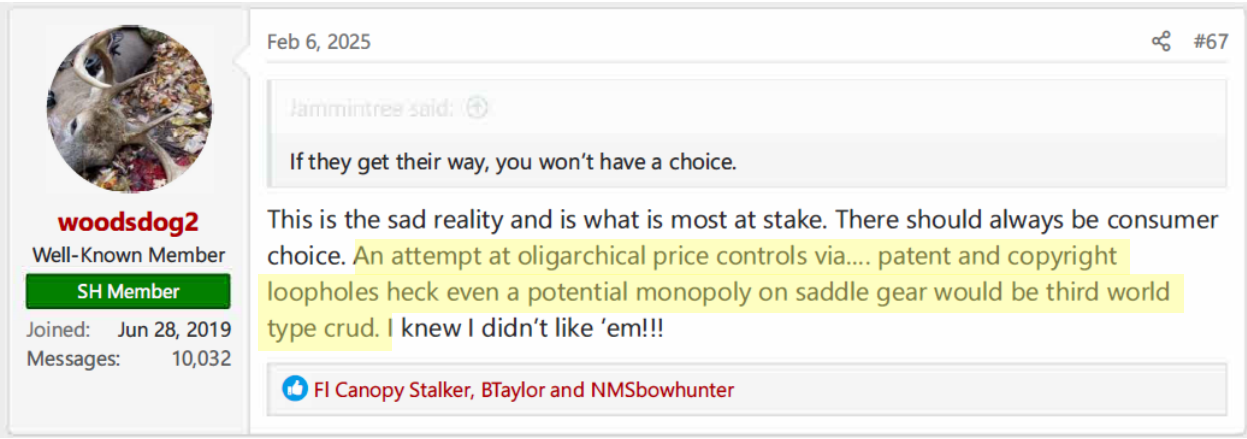
I find myself getting annoyed by tv hunters a lot. The super long shots on live animals. The fact they can't talk anymore without mentioning a sponsor. I get it that it's their job but dial it back a lil.

Yep, I too get turned off when I feel like it's one big sales pitch for a company who's primary goal
Is to patent other peoples ideas and build a monopoly. Which is why I tend to watch a lot more amateur content.

Somewhere along the way it became cool to be an ignorant fool.

BTaylor and GeoFish

Ex. W at 2.



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Feb 6, 2025 #67

Jammintree said:

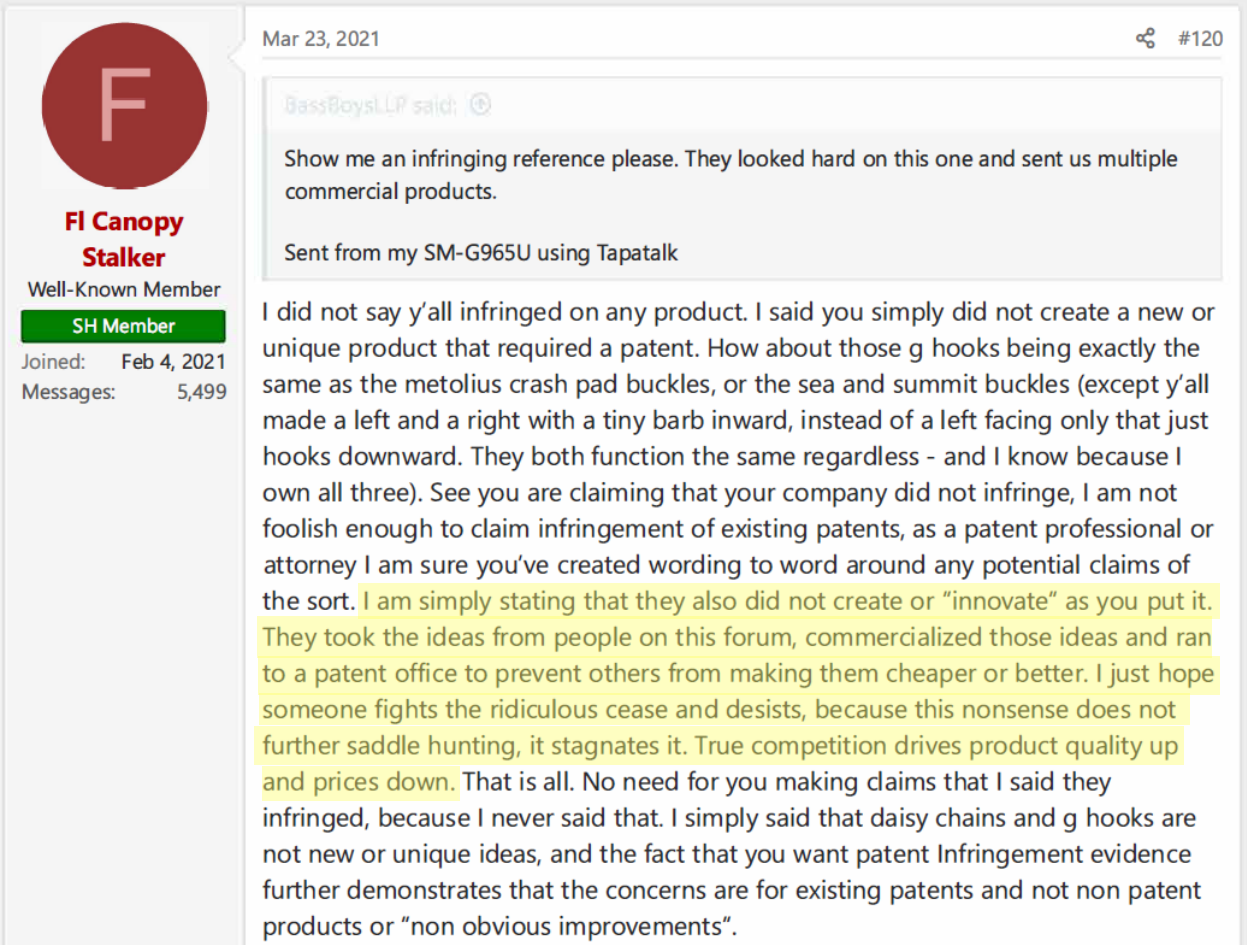
If they get their way, you won't have a choice.

This is the sad reality and is what is most at stake. There should always be consumer choice. An attempt at oligarchical price controls via.... patent and copyright loopholes heck even a potential monopoly on saddle gear would be third world type crud. I knew I didn't like 'em!!!

FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and NMSbowhunter

Ex. V at 25.

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Crüzr v. Tethrd



Ex. R at 45.

151. Exhibit W is a true and correct copy of a *SaddleHunter* Internet message forum thread titled "Horns". The message forum thread was posted on the Internet from September 30, 2023 – October 3, 2023, is a printed publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the USPTO's rules and procedures, and was publicly available as of those dates.

152. There is a dangerous probability of Tethrd achieving monopoly power in saddle hunting market. For example, as discussed above, Tethrd boasts that it has caused Amazon to remove 10 separate hunting saddle products from the marketplace. For further example, Latitude Outdoors, LLC, entered into a licensing agreement with Tethrd.

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

153. Tethrd has consistently known that the ’175 Patent was obtained by fraud on the USPTO due to Tethrd’s and its inventors’ deliberate withholding and concealing non-patent prior art from the USPTO. Tethrd brought its patent infringement action in bad faith, for an improper purpose, and as a means of directly interfering with and harming competitors’ business and to frustrate and prevent competition.

154. Crüzr requests that this Court grant a permanent injunction barring defendant from enforcing the fraudulently obtained ’175 Patent.

155. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award damages, with an amount to be determined at trial, including but not limited to lost profits attributable to Tethrd’s fraudulent enforcement of the ’175 Patent.

156. Crüzr requests that the Court award treble damages under Section 4 of the *Clayton Act*, 15 U.S.C. § 15(a), which permits recovery of threefold the damages sustained as a result of Tethrd’s antitrust violations.

157. Crüzr requests that the Court award reasonable attorney’s fees and costs incurred in defending this action.

COUNT X: ANTITRUST VIOLATIONS – *HANDGARDS* SHAM LITIGATION

158. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

159. As discussed above, Tethrd intentionally withheld material non-patent prior art from the USPTO during the patent prosecution process, with the intent to deceive the patent examiners, resulting in the wrongful issuance of the ’175 Patent.

160. The infringement suit commenced by Tethrd was objectively baseless at the time the lawsuit was filed. Tethrd maintained and enforced the ’175 Patent with knowledge of the fraudulent manner in which the ’175 Patent was obtained.

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Crüzr v. Tethrd

161. Tethrd filed this action for the express purpose of improperly harassing Crüzr in the marketplace and intimidating other market competitors, not to legitimately enforce legal rights under the '175 Patent, which Tethrd has consistently known it had fraudulently obtained. Tethrd is motivated by a subjective intent to abuse the litigation process to interfere with the business of Crüzr and other competitors, rather than a genuine desire to obtain legitimate judicial relief.

162. Tethrd's intent in bringing this action was to stifle competition rather than to enforce legitimate patent rights. Tethrd's anticompetitive conduct has caused and continues to cause harm to competition in the entire saddle hunting market, including, for example, removal from the marketplace of products embodying public domain technology, reluctance or complete abstention from entering the market by competitors or potential competitors, delayed market entry by competitors or potential competitors, and increased costs for competitors.

163. Tethrd further understands that the legal costs necessary to defend against Tethrd's barrage of baseless allegations is prohibitive for most of its competitors. Tethrd thus employs the cost of litigation as a competitive weapon against Tethrd's competitors, rather than the merits of the fraudulently procured patents. Tethrd's conduct is the kind of economic coercion that the antitrust laws are intended to prevent.

164. Crüzr requests that this Court grant a permanent injunction barring defendant from enforcing the fraudulently obtained '175 Patent.

165. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award damages, with an amount to be determined at trial, including but not limited to lost profits attributable to Tethrd's anticompetitive conduct in using meritless litigation as a guise for its anticompetitive conduct.

166. Crüzr requests that the Court award treble damages under Section 4 of the *Clayton Act*, 15 U.S.C. § 15(a), which permits recovery of threefold the damages sustained as a result of

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Tethrd's antitrust violations.

167. Crüzr requests that the Court award reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending this action.

COUNT XI: UNFAIR COMPETITION UNDER TENNESSEE COMMON LAW

168. Crüzr incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of its First Amended Counterclaims as though fully set forth herein.

169. Tennessee courts have extended the tort of unfair competition beyond the context of trademark infringement. *See B & L Corp. v. Thomas & Thorngren, Inc.*, 917 S.W.2d 674 (Tenn. Ct. App. 1995).

170. As set forth above, Tethrd has engaged in conduct that constitutes antitrust violations, intentional interference with Crüzr's existing and prospective business relationships, and fraud. Tethrd's tortious conduct has deprived, and continues to deprive, Crüzr of customers and other business prospects. As discussed previously, Tethrd's tortious conduct has caused harm to the relationships between Crüzr and its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers, and has caused harm to Crüzr's hard-earned and positive reputation in the marketplace.

171. As set forth above, Tethrd has engaged in systematic unfair competition through fraudulent procurement of the '175 Patent through intentional concealment of material prior art; bad faith enforcement of this fraudulently obtained patent against Crüzr; and predatory market conduct designed to eliminate competition.

172. Tethrd also obstructed, and continues to obstruct, the means of access to the saddle hunting market. Tethrd has unfairly threatened competitors with groundless suits, and continues to do so. Tethrd's intent is to employ a campaign of fraudulently procured patents to hinder Crüzr's access to suppliers and distributors, and to disrupt Crüzr's relationships with its vendors, suppliers, retailers, and customers.

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Crüzr v. Tethrd

173. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award actual damages and consequential damages as a consequence of Tethrd's unfair competition, with the amount to be determined at trial.

174. Crüzr respectfully requests that the Court award punitive damages as a result of Tethrd's unfair competition.

175. Crüzr requests that the Court award reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending this action.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Crüzr prays for the relief as follows:

a. That the FASC be dismissed, with prejudice, in its entirety;

b. That Tethrd take nothing by way of the FASC, and that judgment be entered against Tethrd and in favor of Crüzr;

c. A declaration that Crüzr has not infringed any claim of the '175 Patent;

d. A declaration that the '175 Patent is invalid under one or more provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 100 *et seq*., including but not limited to, §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112;

e. A declaration that the '175 Patent is unenforceable due to the inequitable conduct of Tethrd's named inventors in the prosecution of the patent application that became the '175 Patent;

f. That this case be deemed an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285;

g. A permanent injunction barring defendant from enforcing the fraudulently obtained '175 Patent;

h. That Crüzr be awarded actual damages and consequential damages, with an amount to be determined at trial;

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

i. That Crüzr be awarded treble damages under Section 4 of the *Clayton Act*, 15 U.S.C. § 15(a), which permits recovery of threefold the damages sustained as a result of Tethrd's antitrust violations;

j. That Crüzr be awarded its attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending this action; and

k. That Crüzr be granted such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: August 5, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Brenton R. Babcock*

Brenton R. Babcock (*pro hac vice*)
Yang Wang (*pro hac vice* to be requested)
Sterlington, PLLC
228 Park Avenue South #97956
New York, NY 10003
(212) 433-2993 (telephone)
brent.babcock@sterlingtonlaw.com
yang.wang@sterlingtonlaw.com

Loeb & Loeb LLP
Tim Warnock
35 Music Square East, Suite 310
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 749-8300 (telephone)
(615) 749-8308 (facsimile)
twarnock@loeb.com

Keane Barger
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 300 East
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 618-5000 (telephone)
(202) 618-5001 (facsimile)
kbarger@loeb.com

-and-

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

ROCKRIDGE LAW
Kevin Christopher
1090 Center Drive
Park City, UT 84098
kevin@rockridgelaw.com

Counsel for Crüzr Saddles LLC

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of **DEFENDANT CRÜZR SADDLES, LLC'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF TETHRD, LLC'S FIRST AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT AND FIRST AMENDED COUNTERCLAIMS** was served via ECF on August 5, 2025 upon:

Daniel Huynh (*pro hac vice*)
Georgia Bar No. 987369
Eliza del Carmen (*pro hac vice*)
Georgia Bar No. 111773
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Promenade Tower
1230 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2100
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 868-2100 (telephone)
(404) 868-2010 (facsimile)
dhuynh@bradley.com
edelcarmen@bradley.com

André J. Bahou (TN BPR 28621)
Josh Kleppin (TN BPR 039275)
1221 Broadway, Suite 2400
Nashville, TN 32703
(615) 252-2582 (telephone)
(615) 252-6380 (facsimile)
ajbahou@bradley.com
jkleppin@bradley.com

Counsel for Tethrd, LLC

/s/ *Brenton R. Babcock*
Counsel for Crüzr Saddles LLC

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

EXHIBIT R

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021

1 2 3 ... 7 Next ›



jhunter13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 6, 2020
Messages: 658

Mar 18, 2021 #1

With all the discussion in the forums today regarding cease and desist letters, frustrations with this company or that company I figured it may be worth reading the actual patent Tethrd filed to better understand if other companies were infringing on their patent or not.

I am not affiliated with tethrd or any other saddle company. Just simply sharing readily available information from the US Patent and Trademark Office website.

Link: https://uspto.report/patent/app/20200305412

Patent # 16/375378

Abstract: A tree stand platform assembly includes a platform for supporting a hunter and which has a perimeter edge. The perimeter edge includes a front edge, a rear edge, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge. The platform has a top surface, a bottom surface and an outer surface positioned between the top and bottom surfaces. The first and second lateral edges each include a front section abutting the front edge and a rear section abutting the rear edge. The rear section includes toe receiver. The toe receiver is formed by an obtuse angle formed in the outer surface of the rear section, wherein the obtuse angle is less than 160.degree.. The toe receiver provides an engagement point for a hunter's foot as the hunter rotates laterally away from the platform.

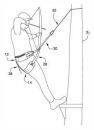
gcr0003, Plebe, Zero One Actual and 1 other person



enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

Mar 18, 2021 #2

What about this one:



Safety Harness Assembly Patent Application
U.S. Patent Application 20200398088 for Safety Harness Assembly
uspto.report

Tjraley2, Nutterbuster and onestringer



iamcorey
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 24, 2018

Mar 18, 2021 #3

> onestringer said:
>
> I might be in the minority, but I don't really care about any of this.

You're not alone. Only thing I care about is the $20 they still owe me.
They can lawyer whoever they want. A wise man once said, Mo money mo problems.

Messages: 2,720

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

woodsdog2, Jay_Disarray and Zero One Actual



CooterBrown

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 1, 2020

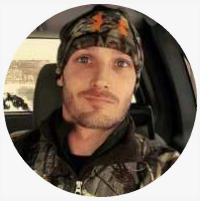
Messages: 2,324

Mar 18, 2021 #4

> onestringer said:
>
> I might be in the minority, but I don't really care about any of this. I do know this, if I had a patent on something I would fight with everything I had to protect it. That wouldn't make me a bad person, it makes me a good business person. Tethrd is getting a bad rap because they have openly discussed copying/improving things that did not have a patent, but that's the copied businesses fault. It doesn't take a law degree to see that a couple of the platform designs were born from the predator platform.

Looks like all saddles copy there safety harness assembly in some way or the other also.😱

Tjraley2



JCLINE84

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Oct 31, 2017

Messages: 921

Mar 18, 2021 #5

> enkriss said:
>
> What about this one:
>
> 
> Safety Harness Assembly Patent Application
> U.S. Patent Application 20200398088 for Safety Harness Assembly
> uspto.report

Guess I better reply to this one lol. When I came out with the Transformer Ernie called to congratulate me and order one for his museum. He then told me that they filed a patent a couple years ago on a similar design that they decided not to pursue. I asked him what that meant for me and the Transformer and he told me not to worry about it at all and to keep making it. He knew I didn't copy their design because the patent application wasn't public at the time that he called me. He said that if the patent went through someday they would reach out to me and work out a licensing deal with me, meaning I would pay a very small fee to them for every saddle I build. I never felt bullied or threatened at all. I was really appreciative of how nice they were about the whole thing and left that conversation without a care in the world about the patent. We even joked about how similar our idea was. I don't know if they will get the patent or not, but if they do I'm sure they will work with me to keep producing the Transformer because they're good guys that have always been straight forward and honest with me, so I trust them at their word and just keep moving forward. If they are awarded a patent I don't mind to pay a licensing fee to use the design since they thought of it before I did and put up the

money to patent it. It's their legal right to be rewarded for their hard work and due diligence.

Last edited: Mar 18, 2021

gcr0003, MIPublic, cdg097 and 26 others



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 18, 2021 #6

The fun starts when these patents violate older patents. Then the lawyers fight it out and make a lot of money.

gcr0003, woodsdog2 and Topdog



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 18, 2021 #7

It would be fun to see Tethrd get a cease and desist letter from some of the earlier patent filers.



jhunter13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 6, 2020
Messages: 658

Mar 18, 2021 #8

> JCLINE84 said:
>
> Guess I better reply to this one lol. When I came out with the Transformer Ernie called to congratulate me and order one for his museum. He then told me that they filed a patent a couple years ago on a similar design that they decided not to pursue. I asked him what that meant for me and the Transformer and he told me not to worry about it at all and to keep making it. He said that if the patent went through someday they would reach out to me and work out a licensing deal with me, meaning I would pay a very small fee to them for every saddle I build. I never felt bullied or threatened at all. I was really appreciative of how nice they were about the whole thing and left that conversation without a care in the world about

Thanks for sharing. Glad to hear people can still just have a discussion and work things out.

MIPublic, cdg097, woodsdog2 and 3 others

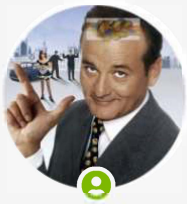


Robert loper
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 19, 2017
Messages: 1,772
Location: NJ

Mar 18, 2021 #9

Id say like i said before. Let tethered and whomever else it is work it out. Just like the stand companies need to do the same.
alot of this is bull and without factual and legal stuff is all hearsay and really before the bashings begin. Lets stop the bull.
the the big boys fight it out.

cdg097 and Squirrels



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 18, 2021 #10

> bj139 said:
>
> The fun starts when these patents violate older patents. Then the lawyers fight it out and make a lot of money.

So it looks like patents since '96 are valid for max 17-20yrs.

woodsdog2 and bj139



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 18, 2021 #11

Patents are nuts. Everyone that has seen an old Lone Wolf stand can see that all the features were present many years before the Tethrd company started. You should be able to patent NOVEL ideas, not ideas that existed many years before. A platform with a top and bottom surface and with a front and rear edge. LOL

EddieK, gcr0003, HuntNorthEast and 3 others



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 18, 2021 #12

> Plebe said:
>
> So it looks like patents since '96 are valid for max 17-20yrs.

Yes but you can't then re-patent the same idea. It becomes public domain.

woodsdog2



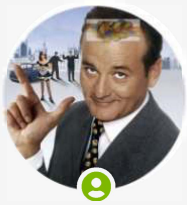
enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

Mar 18, 2021 #13

> bj139 said:
>
> Patents are nuts. Everyone that has seen an old Lone Wolf stand can see that all the features were present many years before the Tethrd company started. You should be able to patent NOVEL ideas, not ideas that existed many years before. A platform with a top and bottom surface and with a front and rear edge. LOL.

The significant things in the tethrd platform patent look to be the wings and the traction around the outer edge of the platform. But who knows it's so damn wordy. That's all I got out of it.

bj139



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

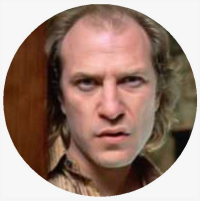
Mar 18, 2021 #14

> bj139 said:
>
> Yes but you can't then re-patent the same idea. It becomes public domain.

I was just providing a timeline, didn't see that shared elsewhere.

For those who have an idea of when stuff came out, maybe it's helpful context.

bj139



BuffaloBill
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jan 20, 2019
Messages: 1,459
Location: Indiana

Mar 18, 2021 #15

Interesting to see DIY Sportsman on the Predator patent. Makes sense though since he has an engineering background.

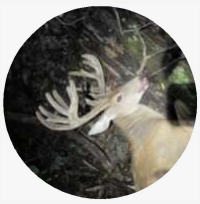
bj139

M

Maverick1
Well-Known Member
Joined: Aug 2, 2019
Messages: 1,403

Mar 19, 2021 #16

Why are you chasing this? Your options are to purchase what is available on the market, DIY, or not spend your money/spend it elsewhere.

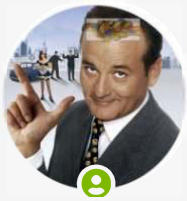


KYHunter
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jan 20, 2018
Messages: 1,113

Mar 19, 2021 #17

I'll let y'all worry about this one..... I'm gonna keep worrying about deer hunting

Hall17, cdg097, MattMan81 and 7 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #18

> Maverick1 said:
>
> Why are you chasing this? Your options are to purchase what is available on the market, DIY, or not spend your money/spend it elsewhere.

Fodder for the ambulance chasers

And just generally interesting for those who are interested for no other reason than interest.

Pretty sure OP states his purpose.

woodsdog2 and Tjraley2



jhunter13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 6, 2020
Messages: 658

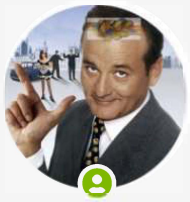
Mar 19, 2021 #19

> Plebe said:
>
> Fodder for the ambulance chasers
>
> And just generally interesting for those who are interested for no other reason than interest.
>
> Pretty sure OP states his purpose.

Not chasing anything. I am an engineer and was just curious what the patent actually said. Nothing more to it than that.

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Site powered by XenForo add-ons from DragonByte™ ©2011-2025 DragonByte Technologies Ltd. (Details)
| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

gcr0003, LilBit and Tjraley2



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020

Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #20

> jhunter13 said:
>
> Not chasing anything. I am an engineer and was just curious what the patent actually said. Nothing more to it than that.

Lol, if you go back and read your own post you'll discover your purpose for posting. That's all I was saying to the individual questioning your intent.

And, the information is fodder for ambulance chasers and just generally interesting for those who are interested for no other reason than interest. I fall in that camp, lol.

Topdog

1 2 3 ... 7 Next ▸

You must log in or register to reply here.

Share:

Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021



jhunter13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 6, 2020
Messages: 658

Mar 19, 2021 #21

> Plebe said:
>
> Lol, if you go back and read your own post you'll discover your purpose for posting. That's all I was saying to the individual questioning your intent.
>
> And, the information is fodder for ambulance chasers and just generally interesting for those who are interested for no other reason than interest. I fall in that camp, lol.

Ha ha....I quoted the wrong message. Meant to quote the same one you did. Same here, just wasting time on the internet. Nothing more

Topdog and Plebe

L

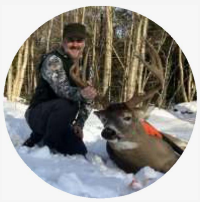
led0321
New Member
Joined: Aug 11, 2019
Messages: 26

Mar 19, 2021 #22

> bj139 said:
>
> It would be fun to see Tethrd get a cease and desist letter from some of the earlier patent filers.

From other saddle makers...

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk



Topdog
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 5, 2020
Messages: 2,099

Mar 19, 2021 #23

> jhunter13 said:
>
> Ha ha....I quoted the wrong message. Meant to quote the same one you did. Same here, just wasting time on the internet. Nothing more

I find this thread interesting, I have nothing to bring to the plate so I'm keeping my mouth shut, put me in the wasting time camp, we still have 2' snow banks here.

gcr0003, Vtbow and Plebe



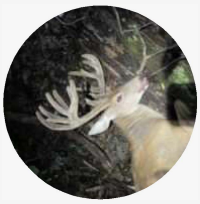
Robert loper
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 19, 2017
Messages: 1,772
Location: NJ

Mar 19, 2021 #24

> KYHunter said:
>
> I'll let y'all worry about this one..... I'm gonna keep worrying about deer hunting

Amen. This is dumb.this forum is getting bad with this stupid stuff.
My name is bob

cdg097, Squirrels, Art_Vandelay and 2 others



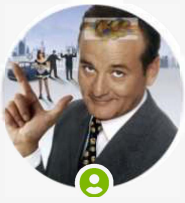
KYHunter
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jan 20, 2018
Messages: 1,113

Mar 19, 2021 #25

> Robert loper said:
>
> Amen. This is dumb.this forum is getting bad with this stupid stuff.
> My name is bob

For real tho. I miss the days before the saddle hype got started. A lot of innovation but also a lot of talk about deer hunting and tactics.

Robert loper and clint6760



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #26

> Robert loper said:
>
> Amen. This is dumb.this forum is getting bad with this stupid stuff.
> My name is bob

It's not dumb. Not everyone wants or needs a greater knowledge in this area, and it's easy enough to move on if that's where you fall.

Understanding the patents effecting the hunting industry and the gear most of us use may not interest everyone, but kindly, it's not at all dumb.

AttackMode, CarolinaDog, CooterBrown and 9 others



dlist777
Well-Known Member
Joined: May 21, 2019
Messages: 711

Mar 19, 2021 #27

If I could patent ****ting in the woods, I'd make millions. I think with hunting gear, in the long run, it's better for a companies to focus on making a higher quality product for a good value than relying on patent protection for dubious "technological enhanements".

rj2, Stykbow1, Robert loper and 3 others



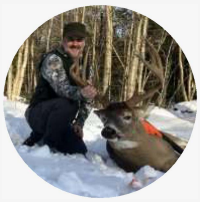
TooheyBirdie
Well-Known Member
Joined: May 22, 2020
Messages: 490
Location: Southern MN

Mar 19, 2021 #28

> BuffaloBill said:
>
> Interesting to see DIY Sportsman on the Predator patent. Makes sense though since he has an engineering background.

... he was pretty much the one who designed it..

woodsdog2, BuffaloBill and denots



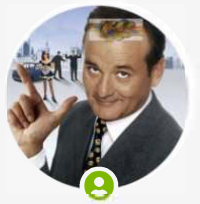
Topdog
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 5, 2020
Messages: 2,099

Mar 19, 2021 #29

> Robert loper said:
>
> Amen. This is dumb.this forum is getting bad with this stupid stuff.
> My name is bob

So the choice is real easy, don't read it, pick another thread

swampdonkey, AttackMode, LilBit and 7 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #30

> KYHunter said:
>
> For real tho. I miss the days before the saddle hype got started. A lot of innovation but also a lot of talk about deer hunting and tactics.

I'm relatively new to the sight, so I missed the good ole days I guess.

But, I have to say, the most innovative ideas I've seen from this site have been shared freely. It'd be interesting to know if patent hawks have swooped in and stolen them.

I don't think the deer hunting and tactics talk here are earth shatteringly unique, minus the innovative approaches to gear setups which increase efficiency when employing specific tactics that have been around the block.

Seems like theres pretty good folks on here who generally keep an open mind, which is what I like most.

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021

hokiehunter373, woodsdog2, KYHunter and 3 others

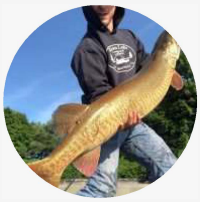


Topdog
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 5, 2020
Messages: 2,099

Mar 19, 2021 #31

^^^^ I would guarantee it..... at the end of the day unfortunately it's always about the $$$

Stykbow1, woodsdog2, dalton916 and 1 other person

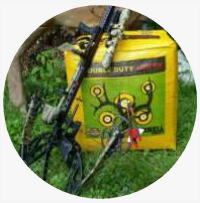


Mschmeiske
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 4, 2017
Messages: 2,095
Location: New York

Mar 19, 2021 #32

Money makes people act funny....

Stykbow1, JSEXTON23, griff and 2 others



Vtbow
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 21, 2018
Messages: 5,527

Mar 19, 2021 #33

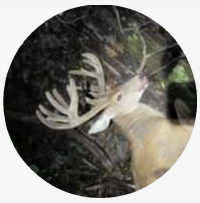
> Plebe said:
>
> I'm relatively new to the sight, so I missed the good ole days I guess.
>
> But, I have to say, the most innovative ideas I've seen from this sight have been shared freely. It'd be interesting to know if patent hawks have swooped in and stolen them.
>
> I don't think the deer hunting and tactics talk here are earth shatteringly unique, minus the innovative approaches to gear setups which increase efficiency when employing specific tactics that have been around the block.

Not sure they're patented yet...but ideas have definitely been "borrowed" and capitalized on...

Look familiar?

> **DIY sub-1lb climbing stick adventure!**
> Mig requires an expensive gun/lead but would probably be fairly easy to learn if you are good at mig. Tig is how most guys weld aluminum and that's not so easy. Lol I own a mig but no tig I am a farmer welder no pro Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro
> saddlehunter.com

onestringer, Treehopper2, dalton916 and 2 others



KYHunter
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jan 20, 2018
Messages: 1,113

Mar 19, 2021 #34

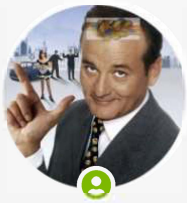
> Plebe said:

I'm relatively new to the sight, so I missed the good ole days I guess.

But, I have to say, the most innovative ideas I've seen from this sight have been shared freely. It'd be interesting to know if patent hawks have swooped in and stolen them.

I don't think the deer hunting and tactics talk here are earth shatteringly unique, minus the innovative approaches to gear setups which increase efficiency when employing specific tactics that have been around the block.

Glad you've learned a lot here. I have too.



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #35

> Vtbow said:

Not sure they're patented yet...but ideas have definitely been "borrowed" and capitalized on...
Look familiar?

> **DIY sub-1lb climbing stick adventure!**
> Mig requires an expensive gun/lead but would probably be fairly easy to learn if you are good at mig. Tig is how most guys weld aluminum and that's not so easy. Lol I own a mig but no tig I am a
> Click to expand...

Yes, to a product from a major manufacturer and yes, because I read through a bunch of the old stuff on the site too.

Vtbow



Thrifty
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 3, 2015
Messages: 3,864

Mar 19, 2021 #36

> KYHunter said:
>
> For real tho. I miss the days before the saddle hype got started. A lot of innovation but also a lot of talk about deer hunting and tactics.

Saw a throw back to Greg's sit drag videos on YouTube today. Thought the same thing... sadly I'm not even a saddle hunter just a treestand guy you all adopted

JSEXTON23, TNSTAAFL, rhagenw and 3 others



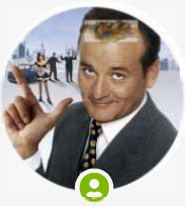
Vtbow
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 21, 2018
Messages: 5,527

Mar 19, 2021 #37

> Anobody said:
>
> Saw a throw back to Greg's sit drag videos on YouTube today. Thought the same thing... sadly I'm not even a saddle hunter just a treestand guy you all adopted

Hey, I hunted from a treestand this year again too.....

Robert loper, TNSTAAFL, KYHunter and 1 other person

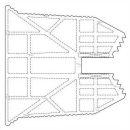


Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #38

> enkriss said:
>
> The significant things in the tethrd platform patent look to be the wings and the traction around the outer edge of the platform. But who knows it's so damn wordy. That's all I got out of it.

The ornamental design patent:



Hunting stand platform
U.S. Patent Number D0909617 for Hunting stand platform
uspto.report



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019

Mar 19, 2021 #39

> Maverick1 said:
>
> Why are you chasing this? Your options are to purchase what is available on the market, DIY, or not spend your money/spend it elsewhere.

Idle curiosity.

Messages: 10,032

S

skyjacker

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Nov 21, 2018
Messages: 1,466
Location: Oklahoma

Mar 19, 2021 #40

> Mschmeiske said:
>
> Money makes people act funny....

Yeah. Especially when you have a family and mouths to feed.

cdg097 and Mschmeiske

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| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021



Robert loper
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 19, 2017
Messages: 1,772
Location: NJ

Mar 19, 2021 #41

> Topdog said:
>
> So the choice is real easy, don't read it, pick another thread

Cant when it pops open every time i log in son.
I see how this forum is going nowadays shame cause few years ago it was one of the best but i guess when ya get people who love dramma in one spot. Drama will win over.
Seems to me the top dog needs some sort of social life rather than trying to pry rumors and bs from people.

Squirrels and TK161BOONER

S

Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Mar 19, 2021 #42

They started out this way and continue on this way. I'd like to act surprised but I can't.
I was surprised when they sent out return labels so quickly for their new stick. I though they may have seen the light....nope they saw the lawyers. Maybe the guys they pay to CTA will convince them to take back their faulty previous attempts at making products.
It is nice to dream...

Stykbow1, dalton916 and Gator



Gator
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: May 20, 2019
Messages: 2,595
Location: Virginia

Mar 19, 2021 #43

> Robert loper said:
>
> Cant when it pops open every time i log in son.
> I see how this forum is going nowadays shame cause few years ago it was one of the best but i guess when ya get people who love dramma in one spot. Drama will win over.
> Seems to me the top dog needs some sort of social life rather than trying to pry rumors and bs from people.

Just move on. Pretty easy to just ignore.

d_rek and Topdog



enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

Mar 19, 2021 #44

> Robert loper said:
>
> Cant when it pops open every time i log in son.
> I see how this forum is going nowadays shame cause few years ago it was one of the best but i guess when ya get people who love dramma in one spot. Drama will win over.
> Seems to me the top dog needs some sort of social life rather than trying to pry rumors and bs from people.

You not only click on and read but you comment and contribute to everyone of these threads. What exactly are you complaining about?

gcr0003, Fl Canopy Stalker, hokiehunter373 and 3 others



drew13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Sep 11, 2014
Messages: 1,111
Location: Maine

Mar 19, 2021 #45

I find this all fascinating. The part that kinda stinks is that people don't share ideas on the site as freely as they used to because they don't want someone else to take their idea and make money from it. I admit to being guilty of withholding my best ideas if they have potential and only sharing them with a select few. Sorry, but that's what money and patents do to people. Wasn't like that on the site in the good ole days.

Fl Canopy Stalker, DanielB89, Vtbow and 8 others



dalton916
Well-Known Member

Mar 19, 2021 #46

Agreed.

SH Member
Joined: Sep 27, 2018
Messages: 4,394

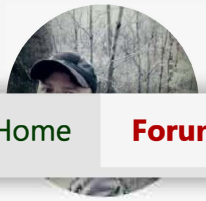


rhagenw
Well-Known Member
Joined: May 4, 2020
Messages: 1,199

Mar 19, 2021 #47



BackSpasm, Mschmeiske, scpokevin and 1 other person



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 19, 2021 #48

I am the patent engineer at Tethrd. In addition to the patents granted, we have several unpublished patent applications submitted and we continue to submit patent applications as we develop new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all. The patents are expensive and time consuming, but they are the only enforceable means to protect Tethrd's inventions. It is smart business.

gcr0003, MIPublic, d_rek and 7 others



Gator
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: May 20, 2019
Messages: 2,595
Location: Virginia

Mar 19, 2021 #49

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> I am the patent engineer at Tethrd. In addition to the patents granted, we have several unpublished patent applications submitted and we continue to submit patent applications as we develop new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all. The patents are expensive and time consuming, but they are the only enforceable means to protect Tethrd's inventions. It is smart business.

Could you elaborate on what this recent infringement is about so we can quit speculating?

FI Canopy Stalker



Gator
Well-Known Member

Mar 19, 2021 #50

> raisins said:
>
> What about the use of webbing in saddles?

Do it! Can I get some kickbacks for the encouragement?

SH Member

Joined: May 20, 2019
Messages: 2,595
Location: Virginia

S

Swingin' Free

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Mar 19, 2021 #51

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> I am the patent engineer at Tethrd. In addition to the patents granted, we have several unpublished patent applications submitted and we continue to submit patent applications as we develop new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all. The patents are expensive and time consuming, but they are the only enforceable means to protect Tethrd's inventions. It is smart business.

Save money on R&R waiting for the DIY guys to "figure it out". More money for patents and lawyers. Sound business plan, crappy morals. Maybe get some idears from Bad Dragon. Seems more tethrds style....

Stykbow1, dalton916 and rhagenw



Tjraley2

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

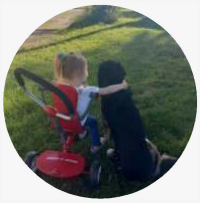
Joined: Feb 21, 2018
Messages: 815
Location: Stoughton, WI

Mar 19, 2021 #52

Probably the most upsetting thing I've read here is that @Anobody just admitted to not being a saddle hunter.

What?!

Fl Canopy Stalker and woodsdog2



rhagenw

Well-Known Member

Joined: May 4, 2020
Messages: 1,199

Mar 19, 2021 #53

Yeah I think it's pretty crappy most of tethrds products came from diy designs and then they patent them...then wants paid for people similar products I highly doubt they gave anyone kick back...And makes stuff in China instead of supporting US manufacturing...

rj2, Stykbow1, Trav2525 and 3 others



Mar 19, 2021 #54

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> I am the patent engineer at Tethrd. In addition to the patents granted, we have several unpublished patent applications submitted and we continue to submit patent applications as

drew13
Well-Known Member
Joined: Sep 11, 2014
Messages: 1,111
Location: Maine

> we develop new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all. The patents are expensive and time consuming, but they are the only enforceable means to protect Tethrd's inventions. It is smart business.

BassBoysLLP is a really good dude. Super smart and was always willing to share his knowledge on the site back in the old days. I agree that it is smart business to protect your ideas with patents and that it is a lot of work to do so. But it is undeniable that adding business and money to the mix fundamentally changed the content and tenor of the site from the free sharing of ideas. Some people profited from it. The rest of us are jealous. Myself included!

FI Canopy Stalker and Tjraley2

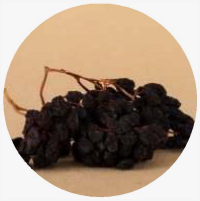


Tjraley2
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Feb 21, 2018
Messages: 815
Location: Stoughton, WI

Mar 19, 2021 #55

I'm guessing many of you that don't like the way Tethrd has done things also claim to be free market capitalists. Welcome to America.

d_rek, MIbowhunter49, TexaninSconny and 2 others



raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #56

> Tjraley2 said:
>
> I'm guessing many of you that don't like the way Tethrd has done things also claim to be free market capitalists. Welcome to America.

This is actually the free market at work.

We are exchanging not just money but "utility". Utility encompasses every plus and minus of what you have (money, usually) and what you get for it (a platform, etc). A platform is not only the object itself but your total enjoyment of it, which for some includes the emotional experience of buying USA made and/or from a company with ethics they appreciate. The utility of money is much simpler than the utility of a good or service.

Therefore, discussing this openly so as to adjust our views/utility is absolutely free market capitalism. Free market doesn't mean "everyone should be cool with whatever a company does so long as it is legal and they are just trying to make money".

I don't know if they do it, but if Tethrd scours this site for ideas and then uses them without a nod or money for the original mind, and then patents it, then that is legal but scummy behavior....and then to return here to fraternize, promote, and do it again. That is what you expect from Exxon or something. If I have a really good idea at some point, I won't post it here for them to patent and use. That behavior is exploiting people that are too trusting or don't have the money/time/infrastructure to patent something.

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021

Stykbow1, Trav2525, TNSTAAFL and 6 others

S

Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Mar 19, 2021 #57

Na, I equate tethrd to china... steals an idea and then makes it "theirs".
My beef with them is they started here, stole a community saddle idea and started a company with it. Then played the good 'Ole boys card while they sent out scrap and got called out. They have enough fan boys to drown out most of the negative press. In my eyes they left the SH community to follow the money while profiting off us with safety being less important then the mighty dollar. Definitely someone I'd like to share my beer with...

rj2, Stykbow1, Robert loper and 3 others

I

iamcorey
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 24, 2018
Messages: 2,720

Mar 19, 2021 #58

So wait, you can have a general idea of something, patent it but never produce it, then when someone makes something similar you can come in and make money on it?

Robert loper and Fl Canopy Stalker



Tjraley2
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Feb 21, 2018
Messages: 815
Location: Stoughton, WI

Mar 19, 2021 #59

raisins said:

This is actually the free market at work.

We are exchanging not just money but "utility". Utility encompasses every plus and minus of what you have (money, usually) and what you get for it (a platform, etc). A platform is not only the object itself but your total enjoyment of it, which for someone includes the emotional experience of buying USA made and/or from a company with ethics they appreciate. The utility of money is much simpler than the utility of a good or service.

Click to expand...

Totally agree. This is the free market at work. I should have been more clear in my post to say the free market has two sides. The only point I intended to get at is to say they have a right to their side just as much as we do. I think keeping that in

mind helps us frame the conversation in a more productive manner. I'm concerned the conversation will devolve into personal attacks rather than evolving into adjusting the utility we assign to their product, and thus the amount we're willing to pay or our willingness to buy at all.

woodsdog2, raisins and scpokevin



iamcorey
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 24, 2018
Messages: 2,720

Mar 19, 2021 #60

> raisins said:
>
> We all do what we do and then back rationalize it. Some people just know that they do that and try not to. They even pick this up in MRI brain studies where you make a decision and then the little logic part of your brain kicks in afterward to try to justify it! Kind of unsettling actually.
>
> The standard excuse is "if we hadn't done this, then another company would have" which is not tenable when applied to stealing purses off the sidewalk, however.

Pretty much sums up my decision process for killing every legal deer I see.

woodsdog2 and Tjraley2

Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Next

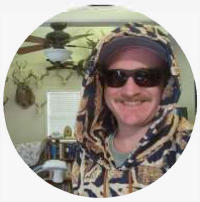
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Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021



Nutterbuster

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Oct 12, 2017
Messages: 10,354
Location: Where the skys are so blue!

Mar 19, 2021 #61

> lamcorey said:
>
> So wait, you can have a general idea of something, patent it but never produce it, then when someone makes something similar you can come in and make money on it?



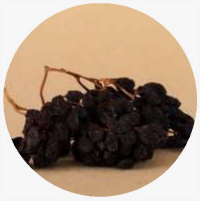
Understanding Patent Trolls

A patent troll is a derogatory term used to describe the use of patent infringement claims to win court judgments for profit or to stifle competition.

www.investopedia.com

.

griff and FI Canopy Stalker



raisins

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #62

> lamcorey said:
>
> So wait, you can have a general idea of something, patent it but never produce it, then when someone makes something similar you can come in and make money on it?

Yep. And people can patent simple stuff too. I deleted a post earlier today (don't wanna open too many worm cans), but Dan Infalt patented using machining to make aluminum tree stands. I know this is legal and part of the game, but it is just silly to me. Can I patent using a socket wrench?

Can you patent "rectangular or trapezoidal platforms when viewed overhead"? The toe thing on the Predator is so simple and common place in other items (a catch ledge) that only a lawyer would think to patent that.

Apple was in the news for patenting the gesture on the screen to "pinch" it to shrink images and also the length to width ratio of their screen.

I think patent law needs to be reformed.

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021

Stykbow1, switchback07 and Fl Canopy Stalker



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 19, 2021 #63

> lamcoray said:
>
> So wait, you can have a general idea of something, patent it but never produce it, then when someone makes something similar you can come in and make money on it?

I have seen reports where this happens a lot. Get a patent on an idea and never make anything with the idea to sue a manufacturer later for a small cut. There are places that buy up unused patents.



raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #64

> Tjraley2 said:
>
> Totally agree. This is the free market at work. I should have been more clear in my post to say the free market has two sides. The only point I intended to get at is to say they have a right to their side just as much as we do. I think keeping that in mind helps us frame the conversation in a more productive manner. I'm concerned the conversation will devolve into personal attacks rather than evolving into adjusting the utility we assign to their product, and thus the amount we're willing to pay or our willingness to buy at all.

Cool. This also answers folks that say "well, if you are mad they are making money like this, then why don't you just start doing it?". Somehow criticizing a business has been associated with being a bleeding heart.

Stykbow1 and Tjraley2



Bwhana
Well-Known Member

Mar 19, 2021 #65

Having been through the patent process several times, writing patents is more of an exercise in semantics than they are reality or even uniqueness of a product. If your lawyer can be creative enough, you can just about patent an existing product to the tee. Did Infalt really invent drilling holes in tubing for sticks (just walk around any warehouse in the world and look at how many metal tubing racks with holes existed

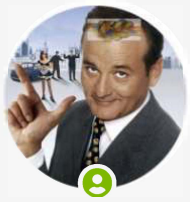
SH Member

Joined: Dec 8, 2017
Messages: 2,321
Location: Hickory, NC

long before he was born). This is a problem with the legal system and what it allows, not with Tethrd. Not sure what truly "new" ideas they have patented, but even if their concepts or products were already out there, others did not patent them, so they won that legal game, so you have to give it to them for beating them to the punch.

That said, the quality of ideas shared openly on this and other sites has significantly degraded in equal proportion to the rise of Tethrd and other commercial saddle companies and saddle hunting popularity, in large part to the concerns that they will take the ideas and patent them. Why would anyone share a truly great concept in public now that will be used for commercial gain by someone else? When is the last time you saw something truly innovative on here that is not just a tweak of something already done in the past couple of years? A stick is a stick, platform is a platform, linesman loop is linesman loop, and on it goes! You are either buying or DIYing, and buying just keeps the patents coming.

switchback07, Robert loper, TNSTAAFL and 5 others



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

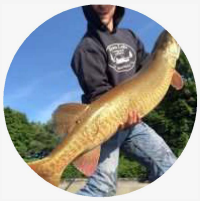
Mar 19, 2021 #66

> Gator said:
>
> Could you elaborate on what this recent infringement is about so we can quit speculating?

I doubt he can openly share that info.

But what would be really cool is if he could highlight some of the key aspects of patent design and application....how to go about it...pitfalls...you know the insider stuff that could help some of the ingenuitive folks on this site if they ever wanted to get a start up going with "new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all."

Fl Canopy Stalker



Mschmeiske

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 4, 2017
Messages: 2,095
Location: New York

Mar 19, 2021 #67

Give me AeroHunter and Eastern Woods, or give me Death!

-Tiger Woods 1867

Stykbow1, JSEXTON23, Fl Canopy Stalker and 4 others



enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

Mar 19, 2021 #68

> raisins said:
>
> Anyone know if Sandor27 got any cash for this?
>
> DIY sub-1lb climbing stick adventure!
> How are you attaching to the carbon tube? Any field tests yet? You're my hero.
> saddlehunter.com
>
> Click to expand...

@Sandor27



rhagenw
Well-Known Member
Joined: May 4, 2020
Messages: 1,199

Mar 19, 2021 #69

Is Klemz a member? He should get a kick back too

dalton916

S

Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Mar 19, 2021 #70

> rhagenw said:
>
> Is Klemz a member? He should get a kick back too

Might just be easier for tethrd to give out stock.....

dalton916



enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

Mar 19, 2021 #71

> rhagenw said:
>
> Is Klemz a member? He should get a kick back too

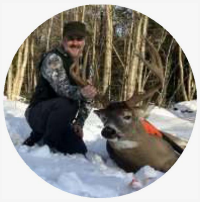
They ain't getting jack... well besides papers if they try to sell their design.



CooterBrown
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 1, 2020
Messages: 2,324

Mar 19, 2021 #72

Cant blame tethrd for trying to be the Amazon of saddles but also cant expect to get big without having some fallouts. I hope the greed doesn't take over too much tho. They have definitely put saddle hunting out in the main stream.



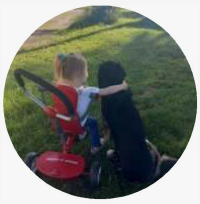
Topdog
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 5, 2020
Messages: 2,099

Mar 19, 2021 #73

> Robert loper said:
>
> Cant when it pops open every time i log in son.
> I see how this forum is going nowadays shame cause few years ago it was one of the best but i guess when ya get people who love dramma in one spot. Drama will win over.
> Seems to me the top dog needs some sort of social life rather than trying to pry rumors and bs from people.

Well Robert once again, if a thread does not interest you the choice is real easy pick another one to read, posting such comments as above with zero pertaining to the thread topic in an attempt to stir the pot is not very productive for anybody, I wish you the best of luck this coming deer season and I mean it!

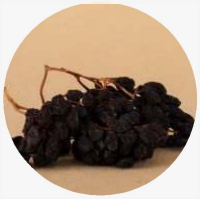
Robert loper, dalton916, woodsdog2 and 1 other person



rhagenw
Well-Known Member
Joined: May 4, 2020
Messages: 1,199

Mar 19, 2021 #74

USA made and innovative!



raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #75

Here's a free idea for Cruzr to get around the patent.

Put a small tapped hole at one or more location where you can thread a bolt in there and now you have an adjustable/removable toe grabber.

Oh...patent pending....except if you are Cruzr.

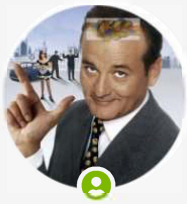
Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Mar 19, 2021 #76

> CooterBrown said:
>
> Cant blame tethrd for trying to be the Amazon of saddles but also cant expect to get big without having some fallouts. I hope the greed doesn't take over too much tho. They have definitely put saddle hunting out in the main stream.

More like Hawk than Amazon....

rj2, Mschmeiske, MIbowhunter49 and 2 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #77

> drew13 said:
>
> BassBoysLLP is a really good dude. Super smart and was always willing to share his knowledge on the site back in the old days. I agree that it is smart business to protect your ideas with patents and that it is a lot of work to do so. But it is undeniable that adding business and money to the mix fundamentally changed the content and tenor of the site from the free sharing of ideas. Some people profited from it. The rest of us are jealous. Myself included!

I like everything you are saying here, except when you project envy onto everyone. I sense frustration rather than jealousy from what many folks have posted. And, as we've seen, there are some who are completely indifferent too.

I appreciate protecting ideas.

From what I see, the primary differences between the Predator platform and earlier Assassin platform relate almost entirely to platform geometry (specifically the frontal wings) and the grip on the vertical perimiter, with the exception of utilizing a beam support rather than a tube (which doesn't appear to be strongly protected in the filed patent). Language supporting this is as follows:

1. The toe receiver is formed by an obtuse angle formed in the outer surface of the

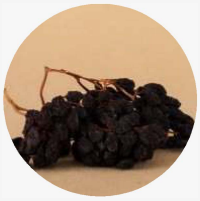
rear section, wherein the obtuse angle is less than 160.degree.. The toe receiver provides an engagement point for a hunter's foot as the hunter rotates laterally away from the platform.

7. The support assembly according to claim 6, further including a plurality of gripping protuberances extending outwardly away from the outer surface of each of the first and second lateral edges, the gripping protuberances being positioned on each of the front and rear sections.

I have absolutely no problem with Tethrd protecting these two aspects as they were unique design features so far as I know when they applied for the patent.

People should be rewarded for their ingenuity, IMO. What's tough is when ideas that aren't one's own find their way into the mix (I won't speculate on that) as well as this reality, patents can bog down continuing progress.

TNSTAAFL, woodsdog2 and drew13



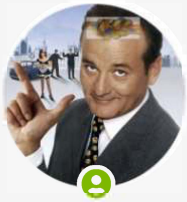
raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #78

> Plebe said:
>
> People should be rewarded for their ingenuity, IMO. What's tough is when ideas that aren't one's own find their way into the mix (I won't speculate on that) as well as this reality, patents can bog down continuing progress.

Double edged....patents also promote progress because no one would do serious R and D if their ideas would be stolen immediately.

TNSTAAFL and woodsdog2



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #79

> raisins said:
>
> Double edged....patents also promote progress because no one would do serious R and D if their ideas would be stolen immediately.

Potentially. I read that there is some protection from infringement (up to 12 months) if you sell product while working up a patent request. I might be misinterpreting what I read though.

In this instance, if true, it can be a space race. And history tells that tale.

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021



Vtbow
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 21, 2018
Messages: 5,527

Mar 19, 2021 #80

> Plebe said:
>
> I like everything you are saying here, except when you project envy onto everyone. I sense frustration rather than jealousy from what many folks have posted. And, as we've seen, there are some who are completely indifferent too.
>
> I appreciate protecting ideas.
>
> From what I see, the primary differences between the Predator platform and earlier Assassin
>
> Click to expand...

Pretty sure we have discussed this at one point...but the original Treesuit platform(before treehopper started making it) had "wings" too....probably 15 years ago? The one I sold @Nutterbuster can be seen here if you're interested...

Treesuit Platform $120

TNSTAAFL, woodsdog2, Swingin' Free and 2 others

Prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Next

You must log in or register to reply here.

Share:

Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 19, 2021 #81

How many innovative features does this old Lone Wolf stand have that are the same as the Predator? I would say this might be prior art or expired patent. Top and bottom surface, front and back edge, check, oh yeah. I-beam post - innovative.

Don't know what else might be.





Vtbow

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Mar 21, 2018
Messages: 5,527

bj139 said:

How many innovative features does this old Lone Wolf stand have that are the same as the Predator? I would say this might be prior art or expired patent. Top and bottom surface, front and back edge, check, oh yeah. I-beam post - innovative. Don't know what else might be.





Pretty sure @Huntingbob A-K-A Butler Precision came up with the original milled beam shape we see elsewhere now...

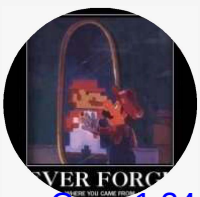
Milled platform post

I have 2 platform posts for sale ready for fast shipping. $75.00 each shipping included. Once these go it may be a delay before I have more available. Pm me for PayPal info. Thanks Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

saddlehunter.com

Plebe and bj139

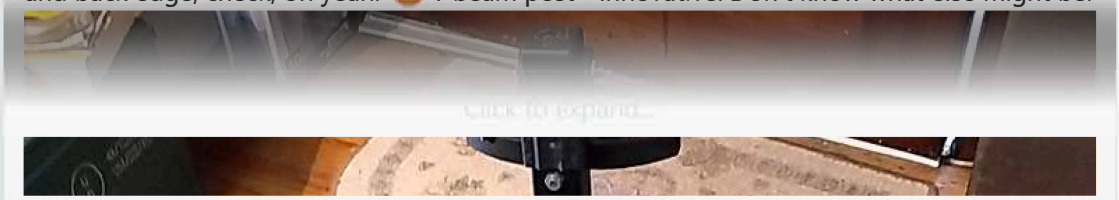
Mar 19, 2021 #83



bj139 said:

enkriss
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 13, 2018
Messages: 7,385

How many innovative features does this old Lone Wolf stand have that are the same as the Predator? I would say this might be prior art or expired patent. Top and bottom surface, front and back edge, check, oh yeah. I-beam post - innovative. Don't know what else might be.



What about this expired one:

U.S. Patent for Foot platform device Patent (Patent # 5,819,874 issued October 1...
The present invention relates to a foot platform device which is adapted to support a hunter within a tree. In use, the foot platform is first strapped to a tree. The hunter then supports himself with the aid of both a chest strap and the foot platform. In the preferred embodiment, the foot...
patents.justia.com



Thrifty
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 3, 2015
Messages: 3,864

Mar 19, 2021 #84

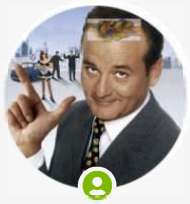
Tjraley2 said:

Probably the most upsetting thing I've read here is that @Anobody just admitted to not being a saddle hunter.

What?!

yes it's true... just not for me....ran one for a few years in the sit drag era. Just like stands better.

TNSTAAFL and Tjraley2



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #85

bj139 said:

How many innovative features does this old Lone Wolf stand have that are the same as the Predator? I would say this might be prior art or expired patent. Top and bottom surface, front and back edge, check, oh yeah. I-beam post - innovative. Don't know what else might be.



If you search D'Acquisto in the patent finder you'll fined lots of stuff, including the patent for a cam buckle attachment for stands.

Also, look at the references cited section of a patent and you can click and see other familiar hunting stand patents that were filed.

> **Cam operated holding belt for tree stand**
> U.S. Patent Number 06568505 for Cam operated holding belt for tree stand
> uspto.report

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021

bj139



Robert loper
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 19, 2017
Messages: 1,772
Location: NJ

Mar 19, 2021 #86

> Topdog said:
>
> Well Robert once again, if a thread does not interest you the choice is real easy pick another one to read, posting such comments as above with zero pertaining to the thread topic in an attempt to stir the pot is not very productive for anybody, I wish you the best of luck this coming deer season and I mean it!

And same to you. Stir the pot? I dont think so. Was trying to avoid just comments like your original one.
stirring thr pot would fuel the fire of the subject son. I was far from that.
You also i wish good luck a s i scroll on outta this place.
Keep on dramatizing and worrying about things we nor anyone here have zero to do with. To each his own i guess. Im here to learn or teach not spread cancerous gossip.
Maybe It might help in the end if your up on the dramma you seem to like.
good day to you and all.
i think its time for a long break from this forum. .

TK161BOONER



Robert loper
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 19, 2017
Messages: 1,772
Location: NJ

Mar 19, 2021 #87

> enkriss said:
>
> You not only click on and read but you comment and contribute to everyone of these threads. What exactly are you complaining about?

Nothing bro. Forget it im done. Lol

Bern381



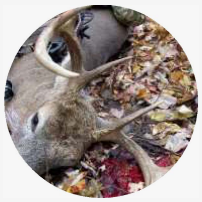
woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Mar 19, 2021 #88

> Vtbow said:
>
> Pretty sure we have discussed this at one point...but the original Treesuit platform(before treehopper started making it) had "wings" too....probably 15 years ago? The one I sold @Nutterbuster can be seen here if you're interested...
> Treesuit Platform $120

Great point, I've got one too, the original and it certainly has "wings." It actually also has a climbing stand type cable configuration with a nylon rope so you could platform climb with it. Your platform and climber all in one simple unit. Not a new idea either as I believe I bought it from the original tree suit dude in the early 2000's. It actually works ok too but its noisy for me but like anything, if you practice, wrap some parts and refine your technique, it would be pretty workable.

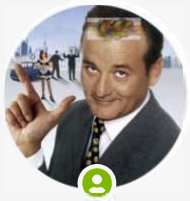
Vtbow



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Mar 19, 2021 #89

In fact, I'm wondering why nobody is fabricating an adjustable platform, much like a climber where you can adjust for tree width as you ascend like a mini summit base or what would be even more interesting is telescoping support arms that ridged click in or out to adjust for tree diameter, once at HH you collapse the rigid climbing stand supports and cam buckle the platform to the tree.



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Mar 19, 2021 #90

> woodsdog2 said:
>
> In fact, I'm wondering why nobody is fabricating an adjustable platform, much like a climber where you can adjust for tree width as you ascend like a mini summit base or what would be even more interesting is telescoping support arms that ridged click in or out to adjust for tree diameter, once at HH you collapse the rigid climbing stand supports and cam buckle the platform to the tree.

I had this crazy idea about a telescoping or folding frame that would extend and lock and which would employ a webbing net (or trampoline mat or rope net) drawn tight to create a "soft platform."

Last edited: Mar 19, 2021

woodsdog2

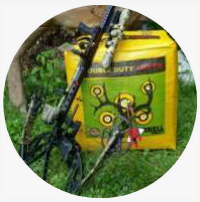


sureshotscott
Moderator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Jul 18, 2017
Messages: 2,107
Location: SE MI

Mar 19, 2021 #91

Where's my patent lawyer.....

TNSTAAFL, woodsdog2, boyne bowhunter and 1 other person



Vtbow
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 21, 2018
Messages: 5,527

Mar 19, 2021 #92

> sureshotscott said:
> Where's my patent lawyer.....

Maui?

boyne bowhunter and sureshotscott

iamcorey
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 24, 2018
Messages: 2,720

Mar 19, 2021 #93

Out of curiosity what happens if a company received a letter and told them to pound sand? Patent police or summons to court? As an LLC, couldn't you just declare bankruptcy and form another company doing the same thing? My limited understanding is the purpose of an LLC is to keep the individual and business separate.

I've seen roofing companies "go out of business" on Friday to avoid things only to be working the next Monday under a different name. Shady but it happens.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

woodsdog2



MIbowhunter49
Well-Known Member

Mar 19, 2021 #94

Cracks me up when people make BS generalized comparisons between products, in reference to a platform that could be a carbon copy.

Joined: Dec 19, 2019
Messages: 342



MIbowhunter49
Well-Known Member
Joined: Dec 19, 2019
Messages: 342

Mar 19, 2021 #95



onestringer, Mschmeiske, BassBoysLLP and 1 other person



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 19, 2021 #96

> iamcorey said:
>
> Out of curiosity what happens if a company received a letter and told them to pound sand? Patent police or summons to court? As an LLC, couldn't you just declare bankruptcy and form another company doing the same thing? My limited understanding is the purpose of an LLC is to keep the individual and business separate.
>
> I've seen roofing companies "go out of business" on Friday to avoid things only to be working the next Monday under a different name. Shady but it happens.

You don't have to comply with the letter. You could get sued but maybe not if the letterer decided their legal fees would be too much to try. No matter what happens then, the lawyers win.

woodsdog2, Plebe and raisins



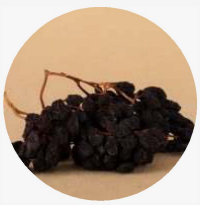
bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 19, 2021 #97

> raisins said:
>
> BJ, have you also been sued by Tethrd before?

No. I have never sold a product related to any thing they sell. I sold parts for assembly but they don't count.

raisins



Mar 19, 2021 #98

> bj139 said:
>
> No. I have never sold a product related to any thing they sell. I sold parts for assembly but they don't count.

raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

You're fast! I deleted that post because I don't wanna be a smart aleck on the weekends, but you caught it

Plebe



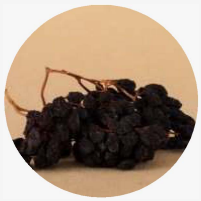
bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 19, 2021 #99

> raisins said:
>
> You're fast! I deleted that post because I don't wanna be a smart aleck on the weekends, but you caught it

I didn't detect any smart aleck so none taken. Patents are a SH** show nowadays, IMHO. Made to make the lawyers money.

Plebe and raisins



raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 19, 2021 #100

> bj139 said:
>
> I didn't detect any smart aleck so none taken. Patents are a SH** show nowadays, IMHO. Made to make the lawyers money.

Well, if Apple can patent "swiping gesture with finger on screen".....then we have an issue. Needs reform.

woodsdog2, Plebe and bj139

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Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021



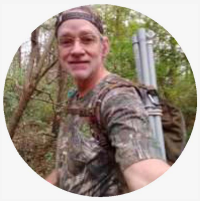
MIbowhunter49
Well-Known Member
Joined: Dec 19, 2019
Messages: 342

Mar 19, 2021 #101

raisins said:

> Well, if Apple can patent "swiping gesture with finger on screen".....then we have an issue. Needs reform.

I disagree. The time and research that goes I to ergonomics, ensuring people get a Dopamine hit, and all the other fun stuff tech companies do is not free.



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 20, 2021 #102

MIbowhunter49 said:

> I disagree. The time and research that goes I to ergonomics, ensuring people get a Dopamine hit, and all the other fun stuff tech companies do is not free.

If we can spend a lot of time and money on patenting fingers, where will it end? The patent on the universal finger gesture has long since expired, IMHO.



Mar 20, 2021 #103

Chinyrd 😂

dalton916
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 27, 2018
Messages: 4,394

woodsdog2



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

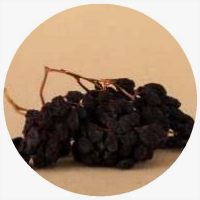
Mar 20, 2021 #104

dalton916 said:

Chinyrd

It is somewhat disappointing isn't it?? Aahhhh.....the almighty renminbi....

dalton916



raisins
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 17, 2019
Messages: 6,955

Mar 20, 2021 #105

TNSTAAFL said:

The following story is entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual historical events or people is purely coincidental. Copyright application pending.

circa 2010 Treestands are heavy, bulky, and noisy. There's got to be a better way.

circa 2011 Turns out there is this thing called a saddle, which went away as it was never very popular. You can still find some used or DIY your own. I need to find one or figure out how to

Click to expand...

Interestingly, in the 1990s (ish) before TMA, you could get lightweight tree stands (loc on limit, etc) because the things didn't have to be so overbuilt. If those still existed at a competitive price, I think saddle hunting would be less popular. Back then, you could get a 7 lbs tree stand for right around 100 bucks.

hokiehunter373, BuffaloBill, Vtbow and 1 other person

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021

Mar 22, 2021 #106

BassBoysLLP said:

I am the patent engineer at Tethrd. In addition to the patents granted, we have several unpublished patent applications submitted and we continue to submit patent applications as we develop new ideas to make saddle hunting better for all. The patents are expensive and time consuming, but they are the only enforceable means to protect Tethrd's inventions. It is smart business.

I agree from the standpoint that is the only enforceable means, and it's smart business, however for patents to be approved, it has to be a design or improvement

Messages: 5,499

that the common person cannot come up with or "non obvious". Being that most of us on this forum are working class people who are not manufacturers or engineers, come up with ideas or share them, then most of these ideas are obvious. So why patent them? What happens if people begin writing the patent office with proof that these patent pending innovations are actually just DIY ideas normal working class people came up with and we're already utilizing non commercially?

Plebe, Gator, TNSTAAFL and 1 other person



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 22, 2021 #107

I see little risk when I examine our patent claims against the prior art. We have run into cases where we needed to adjust or pull claims based on duty of candor and good faith, but overall our claims are founded when evaluated against the prior art.

Plebe

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 22, 2021 #108

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> I see little risk when I examine our patent claims against the prior art. We have run into cases where we needed to adjust or pull claims based on duty of candor and good faith, but overall our claims are founded when evaluated against the prior art.

Do those pulled patents get removed from the website though because I see patent pending on everything from daisy chain for gear hangers, to buried Amsteel which is pretty common practice in the marine industry. Just curious if all those abandoned patents remain "patent pending" on the website to try to dissuade others from utilizing the prior existing "innovation"

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 22, 2021 #109

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> I see little risk when I examine our patent claims against the prior art. We have run into cases where we needed to adjust or pull claims based on duty of candor and good faith, but overall our claims are founded when evaluated against the prior art.

And for the record lawyers rarely admit their client are in the wrong... I mean what good is a defense attorney for a murderer, if the attorney got up and said my client didn't kill this man the way these prior witnesses claim he did, he actually did it like this? Not saying the company you represent made an exact replica, I mean none of us DIY'ers throw the logo on our ideas..... I am just saying as a whole, the idea was implemented here and you run to the patent office with it, I am not against it, I just think if people here are truly bothered by what this company did, that they all take

the time to write the patent office with pictures of the concepts that have later been patent pending so that the Patent office has a true chance to do their homework free of fancy law lingo because most of these people working patents only research the paperwork submitted and have zero idea what is “non obvious” and what is not.



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 22, 2021 #110

> Fl Canopy Stalker said:
>
> And for the record lawyers rarely admit their client are in the wrong... I mean what good is a defense attorney for a murderer, if the attorney got up and said my client didn’t kill this man the way these prior witnesses claim he did, he actually did it like this? Not saying the company you represent made an exact replica, I mean none of us DIY’ers throw the logo on our ideas..... I am just saying as a whole, the idea was implemented here and you run to the patent office with it, I am not against it, I just think if people here are truly bothered by what this company did, that they all take the time to write the patent office with pictures of the concepts that have later been patent pending so that the Patent office has a true chance to

The patent office is way more diligent than you believe. For example, the HYS strap patent was brought into question as there are several simple daisy chains already on the market. This wasn't just researching submitted applications but something as simple as Google as we were provided multiple references to defend. At the end of the day, we have a design and utility patent on the HYS strap.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

MIPublic and Fl Canopy Stalker



GCTerpfan
Moderator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Aug 11, 2017
Messages: 6,997
Location: Garrett County, MD

Mar 22, 2021 #111

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> The patent office is way more diligent than you believe. For example, the HYS strap patent was brought into question as there are several simple daisy chains already on the market. This wasn't just researching submitted applications but something as simple as Google as we were provided multiple references to defend. At the end of the day, we have a design and utility patent on the HYS strap.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

@BassBoysLLP it may help if you clarify what features of the Predator you hold a patent for. It appears that the patent is limited to the traction and the wings on the edge. Is that the case? It may help clear up a lot of the confusion in this thread if can clarify that.

Fl Canopy Stalker



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 22, 2021 #112

The utility patent is written around the wings (toe hooks) and the side traction. The design patent is more ornamental and not limited to the features claimed in the utility patent. Both have provided Tethrd value in protecting our design.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

gcr0003, skell and GCTerpfan

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 22, 2021 #113

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> The patent office is way more diligent than you believe. For example, the HYS strap patent was brought into question as there are several simple daisy chains already on the market. This wasn't just researching submitted applications but something as simple as Google as we were provided multiple references to defend. At the end of the day, we have a design and utility patent on the HYS strap.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

If they granted you a patent on a daisy chain with a g hook then they are not diligent at all. I know a man who holds a patent on dying leather and he said it was the easiest royalties he ever made, it was just expensive and time consuming. It is neither here nor there. All I am saying is that company made a killing off the backs of DIY guys who didn't have the resources or know how, or even the urge for some to patent. They literally wanted to help other saddle hunters for love of the sport. Filing patents and trying to attack a small business competitor because you know they do not have the resources to fight you does nothing to further saddle hunting which makes all those you tube videos as well as a mission statement bogus in my opinion. But I'm a nobody. I just know none of my money will ever go that direction again and word of mouth can eventually trump brilliant marketing. Thank you for the responses though, it was greatly appreciated.

switchback07, Gator and zurr4013



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378

Mar 23, 2021 #114

I thought the patent office was just an archiving office and didn't search for conflicts with any existing patents anymore. Am I wrong?

Location: SE PA



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 23, 2021 #115

> bj139 said:
>
> I thought the patent office was just an archiving office and didn't search for conflicts with any existing patents anymore. Am I wrong?

They look hard. Not everything you submit makes it through. We often do or pay for a patent search before submitting anything. Otherwise it is wasted money.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

gcr0003 and bj139



Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 23, 2021 #116

> bj139 said:
>
> I thought the patent office was just an archiving office and didn't search for conflicts with any existing patents anymore. Am I wrong?

They do only check your patent claims against existing patents which is why I said perhaps people should write in with proof these ideas were in use prior to someone patenting them to prove that the ideas are obvious, that would make getting patents on other peoples ideas much much harder

bj139



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 23, 2021 #117

This is not true. They examine non patent sources in addition to patents.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

d_rek, bj139 and Fl Canopy Stalker



Fl Canopy Stalker

Mar 23, 2021 #118

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> This is not true. They examine non patent sources in addition to patents.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Again they issued you a patent for a daisy chain with an extra piece of webbing and a g hook, so they are definitely not examining non patent sources or they would see that stuff has been sold or used in military, rock climbing and tactical rescue operations for a long time

bj139



BassBoysLLP

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Mar 23, 2021 #119

> Fl Canopy Stalker said:
>
> Again they issued you a patent for a daisy chain with an extra piece of webbing and a g hook, so they are definitely not examining non patent sources or they would see that stuff has been sold or used in military, rock climbing and tactical rescue operations for a long time

Show me an infringing reference please. They looked hard on this one and sent us multiple commercial products.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

bj139

Fl Canopy Stalker

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 23, 2021 #120

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> Show me an infringing reference please. They looked hard on this one and sent us multiple commercial products.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

I did not say y'all infringed on any product. I said you simply did not create a new or unique product that required a patent. How about those g hooks being exactly the same as the metolius crash pad buckles, or the sea and summit buckles (except y'all made a left and a right with a tiny barb inward, instead of a left facing only that just hooks downward. They both function the same regardless - and I know because I own all three). See you are claiming that your company did not infringe, I am not foolish enough to claim infringement of existing patents, as a patent professional or attorney I am sure you've created wording to word around any potential claims of the sort. I am simply stating that they also did not create or "innovate" as you put it. They took the ideas from people on this forum, commercialized those ideas and ran to a patent office to prevent others from making them cheaper or better. I just hope someone fights the ridiculous cease and desists, because this nonsense does not further saddle hunting, it stagnates it. True competition drives product quality up and prices down. That is all. No need for you making claims that I said they infringed, because I never said that. I simply said that daisy chains and g hooks are not new or unique ideas, and the fact that you want patent Infringement evidence further demonstrates that the concerns are for existing patents and not non patent products or "non obvious improvements".

rj2, Stykbow1, switchback07 and 6 others

Prev 1 ... 4 5 6 7 Next

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Patent Research - Tethrd

jhunter13 · Mar 18, 2021

Prev 1 ... 5 6 7



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 23, 2021 #121

The internet should make it easier to search for existing "prior art" even if it is simply in common use by many people and not commercially produced. In the olden days it would have been more difficult. It seems today they issue patents for anything submitted and rely on the courts to decide later. They may be overworked and can not do an exhaustive search. The courts will decide eventually anyway. The picture I posted of the Lone Wolf stand has pretty much all the design features of the Predator platform only bigger. If they are patenting smallness then maybe that is novel. I read before you can DIY and use any patent for yourself and not for sale and not violate any patents but I am not sure if this is true.

FI Canopy Stalker

iamcorey
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 24, 2018
Messages: 2,720

Mar 23, 2021 #122

> bj139 said:
>
> It seems today they issue patents for anything submitted and rely on the courts to decide later. They may be overworked and can not do an exhaustive search. The courts will decide eventually anyway.

This is why I would be more inclined to ignore any cease and desist letter.



bj139
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 13, 2019
Messages: 5,378
Location: SE PA

Mar 23, 2021 #123

> bj139 said:
>
> The internet should make it easier to search for existing "prior art" even if it is simply in common use by many people and not commercially produced. In the olden days it would have been more difficult. It seems today they issue patents for anything submitted and rely on the courts to decide later. They may be overworked and can not do an exhaustive search. The courts will decide eventually anyway. The picture I posted of the Lone Wolf stand has pretty much all the design features of the Predator platform only bigger. If they are patenting smallness then maybe that is novel. I read before you can DIY and use any patent for yourself and not for sale and not violate any patents but I am not sure if this is true.

I just looked up an article and found you cannot make something DIY without violating a patent. The monetary damage on one unit would be so low as to preclude any lawsuit. Lawyers make more per minute than the damages on one unit.

Reading: Patents | Business Law
courses.lumenlearning.com

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 23, 2021 #124

> bj139 said:
>
> The internet should make it easier to search for existing "prior art" even if it is simply in common use by many people and not commercially produced. In the olden days it would have been more difficult. It seems today they issue patents for anything submitted and rely on the courts to decide later. They may be overworked and can not do an exhaustive search. The courts will decide eventually anyway. The picture I posted of the Lone Wolf stand has pretty much all the design features of the Predator platform only bigger. If they are patenting smallness then maybe that is novel. I read before you can DIY and use any patent for yourself and not for sale and not violate any patents but I am not sure if this is true.

Or the post where the guy all but created the now patent pending circular carbon tube that is “chemically welded” to metal steps. And again I know a man who got a patent for a leather dying process... call me crazy but people have been dying leather for centuries..... Which by the way epoxy or “chemical welding” is very strong but metals do something fascinating when they get hot or cold, they expand and shrink. It is why you have platforms creeping in the frozen weather (If you have a rusted nut that you can’t break loose hit it with a heat torch for a few minutes, it’ll heat and expand, once it cools your bound nut breaks loose easily)! Typical epoxies do not flex well with those materials and you end up with parts breaking loose. But what do I know because I’m not an engineer?

F

Mar 23, 2021 #125

> lamcorey said:
>
> This is why I would be more inclined to ignore any cease and desist letter.

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

They say not to ignore, respond within dead line and wait for your day in court. Lawyers are expensive but in a lot of states they now make the losing party pay for all the legal expenses. So if it were me I would fight it tooth and nail, then they would either leave you alone, settle for a small fee or if you are confident and able fight it in court. When you win, they lose out badly. I would personally then file a civil suit for sufferage against the US patent office for lack of due diligence regarding the matter. If more people did that, you can bet those ridiculous patent laws would quickly change. - that is the thing that Europe did right with their trademark and patent laws.

skell

F

Fl Canopy Stalker

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Mar 23, 2021 #126

bj139 said:

I just looked up an article and found you cannot make something DIY without violating a patent. The monetary damage on one unit would be so low as to preclude any lawsuit. Lawyers make more per minute than the damages on one unit.

Reading: Patents | Business Law
courses.lumenlearning.com

bj139 said:

I just looked up an article and found you cannot make something DIY without violating a patent. The monetary damage on one unit would be so low as to preclude any lawsuit. Lawyers make more per minute than the damages on one unit.

Reading: Patents | Business Law
courses.lumenlearning.com

I do not think he was referring to DIY, I think he is saying if he was one of the small companies that the other company is going after. If you are not selling a product, then you are not causing any financial distress to the patent holder anyway. He is saying he would ignore them because the whole process is ignorant, and designed to make it hard for the little guy and eliminate the actual principles on which true capitalism was founded. Again competition drives quality up and prices down. I could give examples of large companies that have ruined consumer markets with these same practices of running off competition. But I do not want to call out anyone or say anything derogatory. I just do not see how any of these practices spread the love of saddle hunting or help to ambassador innovative products and advancements. I mean if Aerohunter had done the same thing with the Kestrel or Kestrel flex, you wouldn't have the Cruzr Xc, the H2 slingshot or the menace saddle for that matter. Companies typically piggy back off of each other to further the market. It is how you find what works and what does not. Anyway my whole rant is over. Happy off season to everyone

Stykbow1

F

Fl Canopy Stalker

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 4, 2021

Jun 27, 2021 #127

bj139 said:

The internet should make it easier to search for existing "prior art" even if it is simply in common use by many people and not commercially produced. In the olden days it would have been more difficult. It seems today they issue patents for anything submitted and rely on the courts to decide later. They may be overworked and can not do an exhaustive search. The courts will decide eventually anyway. The picture I posted of the Lone Wolf stand has pretty much all the design features of the Predator platform only bigger. If they are patenting

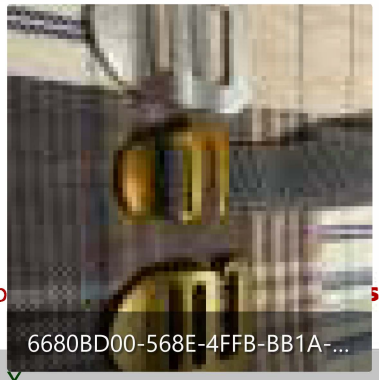
Messages: 5,499

smallness then maybe that is novel. I read before you can DIY and use any patent for yourself

USD920159S1 - Strap buckle - Google Patents

Someone liked this thread today and it made me think of this. Remember where someone said the patent office does due diligence in their searches? Check this out! None of the buckles or hooks in the citations looked anything like the sea 2 summit or the metolius crash pad buckle, even though they are virtually the same except the crash pad buckle has a tiny bit more curve on the slide bar. Definitely not different enough that it couldn't be "construed" as ornamentally a similar design. I don't think Metolius patented this buckle even though they've made it for years

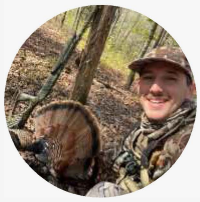
Attachments



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gcr0003
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 1, 2018
Messages: 9,496

Well this is has been a thoroughly interesting thread to read through. I am usually on the "what's new" page so I often miss the new posts in the vendor section. I thought @BassBoysLLP responded professionally. Props to him for even responding despite all the attacks. It's no wonder few if any of the Tethrd guys post on here anymore. Some of y'all are brutal. I don't have any emotional attachment to the whole patent thing, it is interesting as @jhunter13 commented previously. @enkriss I didn't enjoy the second patent you posted as much. It didn't have any pretty drawings like the other tethrd patents did.

Fl Canopy Stalker and jhunter13

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Jun 30, 2021 #129

gcr0003 said:

Well this is has been a thoroughly interesting thread to read through. I am usually on the "what's new" page so I often miss the new posts in the vendor section. I thought @BassBoysLLP responded professionally. Props to him for even responding despite all the attacks. It's no wonder few if any of the Tethrd guys post on here anymore. Some of y'all are brutal. I don't have any emotional attachment to the whole patent thing, it is interesting as @jhunter13 commented previously. @enkriss I didn't enjoy the second patent you posted as much. It didn't have any pretty drawings like the other tethrd patents did.

He definitely responded professionally. I will never deny that he was very professional with any answers he gave.

Stykbow1

Prev 1 ... 5 6 7

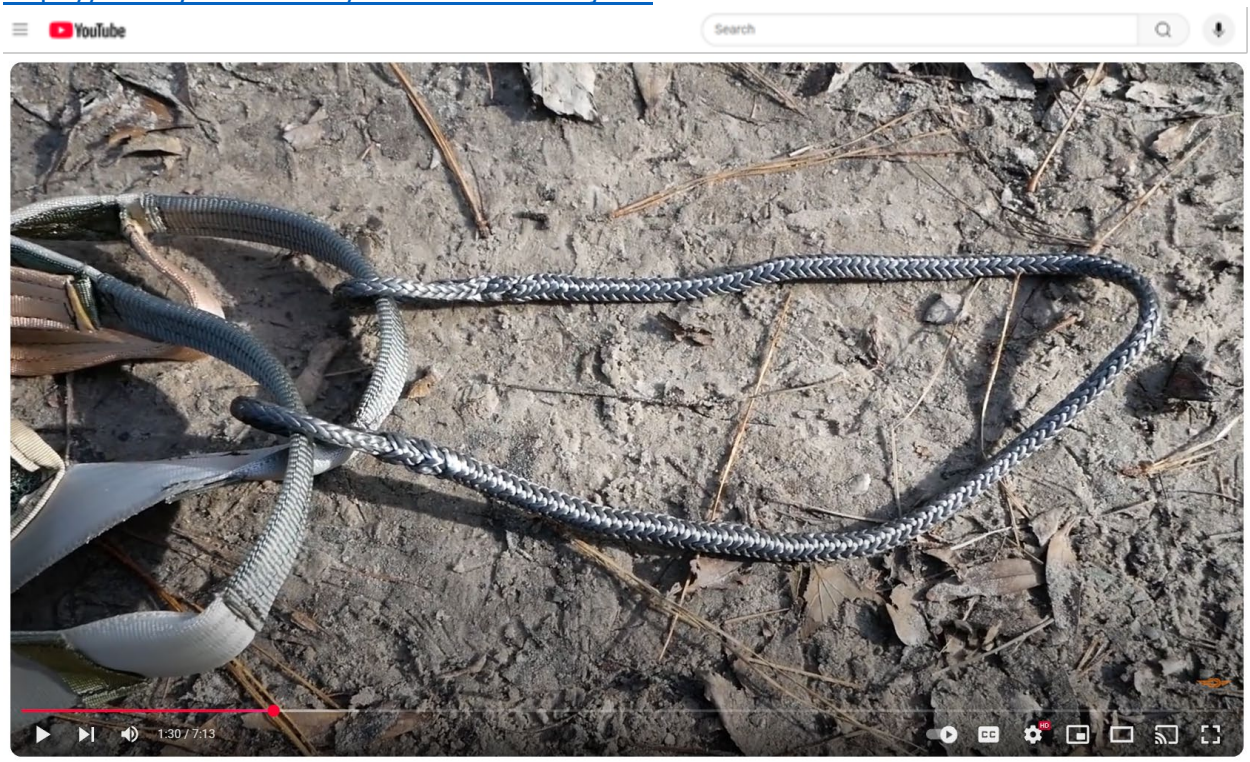
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EXHIBIT S

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NLafE7jLNU



Mantis Saddle - Setup and Directions

Tethrd Nation
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83,192 views Dec 30, 2018
This video goes over everything you need to know about putting on the Mantis saddle, leg loops, the bridge, how to use your lineman belt and tether, as well as some of the safety features of the Mantis.

The Mantis is the ultimate saddle hunting tool. No matter if you are new to tree saddles, or you're a long time saddle hunter, there are some tips and tricks in this video to help you get the most out of your Tethrd Mantis Saddle

You can pick up your Tethrd Mantis and accessories here:
www.TethrdNation.com

Key moments View all



0:48 Waist Belt
0:59 Leg Loops
1:14 Bridge Loops
2:02 Molle Webbing
3:29 Tethered Accessories

Transcript

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0:00
what's up to either nation my name is
0:01
Greg and today I'm going to show you
0:03
exactly how to wear and set up your
0:05
Mantis saddle before we get into all
0:15
that let's go over the different parts
0:17
of the saddle since this is new to most
0:20
hunters it's kind of important that you
0:21
understand what you're dealing with if
0:23
you were learning how to drive a car it
0:25
would be pretty important to know what
0:27
the accelerator was what the brake was
0:29
what just steering wheel was so we're
0:31
gonna define all the pieces of the
0:33
saddle so you know exactly what I'm
0:35
talking about when I refer to different
0:37
setup procedures first of all this is
0:39
the main body of the saddle it's made up
0:41
of milspec mesh
0:42
it's got two-way stretch for comfort
0:44
it's very strong very durable in ultra
0:47
light this is the waist belt this is a

0:50
load-bearing waist belt the buckle is
0:52
rated for a fall it will hold you in the
0:54
event if you flipped upside down if you
0:57
slipped the waist belt will stay in
0:59
place these are the leg loops these are
1:01
non-load-bearing all they do is serve to
1:04
keep the saddle in place around your
1:06
butt to keep it from sliding up and down
1:08
while you're climbing all of the heavy
1:10
lifting is done by the main structure in
1:13
the body of the saddle these are your
1:15
bridge loops these are made of 6,000
1:17
pound rated webbing they're incredibly
1:20
strong incredibly durable
1:22
we even wrapped them in a second layer
1:24
of webbing for extra durability the
1:26
bridge loops is where your bridge
1:28
connects your bridge is made of AM steel
1:30
blue 1/4 inch it's very strong almost
1:34
8,000 pound breaking strength it also
1:36
has a benefit of being ultra light
1:38
weather resistant and it slides very

1:41
easily in and out of our climbing
1:42
carabiners these are your lineman loops
1:44
this is what you attach to the tree
1:46
while you're on the ground and during
1:48
your climb hook one end of your lineman
1:50
belt to your left or right hip and then
1:52
use a carabiner and a prusik knot or a
1:54
rope man to your other hip so you can
1:56
adjust as you climb that way you're
1:58
connected to the tree from ground all
2:00
the way up to hunting height this is the
2:02
molle webbing we designed for quick easy
2:05
attachment of accessories you can attach
2:07
anything you want to your Mantis saddle
2:09
we have the SIS hollers and the SBW
2:12
heater that attached
2:13
to the molle loops there are a ton of
2:15
different ways you can use the Molly
2:17
attachment system quickly and
2:18
efficiently putting on the mana saddle
2:21
is very easy I like to hold the bridge
2:23
in one end of the belt in one hand and

2:25
then step through the bridge grab the
2:28
other end of the belt and buckle the
2:29
belt immediately that's my process I
2:32
like to tighten the belt down hold it
2:34
right around my waist I always walk in
2:36
with the mantas saddle around my waist
2:38
I don't pack it in some guys pack it in
2:41
I don't after you've got the waist belt
2:43
attached you want to reach down through
2:46
your legs grab your leg loops and pull
2:48
them up make sure you don't capture your
2:51
bridge loops while you're attaching the
2:52
leg loops the leg loops have two
2:55
attachment points you can hook them up
2:57
on your waist belt or you can hook them
3:00
up on the main body of the saddle on the
3:02
bottom webbing strap after you've
3:04
attached your leg loops snug them down
3:06
to keep them in place when you have the
3:08
waist belt on sometimes the bridge loops
3:10
can flop I take that bridge run it
3:13
through my waist belt and pull it tight

3:14
that keeps the mantas tight to my hips
3:17
tight around my way so I can walk in and
3:19
I'm not worried about it snagging on
3:20
brush or anything like that
3:22
once the belt is tight the leg loops are
3:24
in place and snug and your bridge is
3:26
tucked into your waist belt you are
3:28
ready to go now here's where some of the
3:30
tethered accessories really come in here
3:32
this is how I set up in the tree with my
3:35
version of the mantas I like to run a
3:37
Cisco Lori S on my right hip and a
3:40
standard sis holler on my left hip on my
3:43
left hip I keep my lineman belt and my
3:46
tether my tether goes in first
3:48
and my lineman belt goes in on top of
3:50
that I keep one end of my lineman belt
3:53
girth hitched to my lineman loops that
3:56
eliminates one of the carabiners you
3:58
don't have to do that our lineman bail
4:00
ship with - climbing carabiners so you
4:02
can take your belt on and off completely

4:04
if that's how you want to use it I like
4:06
to save weight and bulk wherever
4:08
possible so I want to eliminate that
4:10
second carabiner on my right hip I keep
4:13
my a few accessories a pull-up rope and
4:15
I also keep my mantas recliner on my
4:18
right hip that goes with me on every
4:20
hunt when I get to the base of the tree
4:22
the first thing I do is hook up my
4:23
weapon and prep
4:24
pack and I'm ready for the climb now to
4:26
ascend the tree run your lineman belt
4:29
around the tree and hook up to your
4:31
other lineman belt on your opposite hip
4:33
if you have a prusik knot adjust the
4:36
loop so it's nice and snug so you're
4:38
able to climb and use the lineman belt
4:40
to lean back in so you have connection
4:43
to the tree the entire time plus it
4:44
allows you to use your hands as you
4:47
climb so you can attach your climbing
4:48
sticks or you're climbing spurs or

4:50
whatever method you it is you're using
4:51
to climb it's important that the Mantis
4:54
stay around your waist that's why the
4:56
waist belt is so important and it's
4:58
important to keep those leg loops snug
4:59
once you get to the top of your climbing
5:01
method and you're ready to hunt before
5:03
you climb on to a platform whether
5:05
that's a ring style platform with a ring
5:07
of steps or a pivot style platform with
5:10
the predator always attach your tether
5:12
before you climb onto the platform that
5:15
way if the worst case scenario happens
5:18
the platform breaks a step gives out you
5:20
slip now you're connected to the tree
5:22
with a tether and a lineman belt so you
5:25
have a double backup safety once I'm
5:27
hooked in with my tether and I'm ready
5:29
to hunt that's when I'll remove my
5:31
lineman belt again it stays Girish on
5:34
one side so the Lyman belt goes into
5:36
that sis holler on my left hip and it

5:39
stays there for the entire hunt when I'm
5:41
ready to climb down I do the opposite
5:42
process I take out the Lyman belt
5:45
attached it to my opposite hip so I'm
5:47
connected to the tree then I can safely
5:50
remove my tether and pack it away and
5:52
ready to climb down the tree when I'm at
5:54
hunting height
5:55
I'll also loosen my belt a little bit
5:57
and I'll slide it down I don't like to
5:59
wear my Mantis as high as some folks
6:01
like to do some folks like to do it up
6:03
around their waistline
6:04
I actually prefer to run the top of my
6:06
Mantis down below my waistline and move
6:09
the bottom strap of the Mantis body down
6:11
well underneath my butt if you have the
6:14
micro fit adjusters now you can adjust
6:16
that position to get even more support
6:18
exactly where you need it you should now
6:20
have an understanding of how to set up
6:21
your Mantis saddle where you should wear

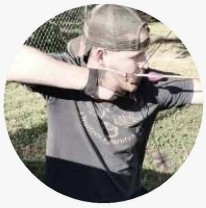
6:23
what the different parts of the saddle
6:25
are and how it's incredibly safe the am
6:28
steel bridge is rated at many thousands
6:30
of pounds it could hold a jeep the
6:32
saddle body is rated for many thousands
6:34
of pounds it could hold a
6:36
this thing is incredibly strong and then
6:39
when you throw in extra features like
6:40
lineman's loops and Molly it's Molly
6:43
straps then you really have the ultimate
6:45
elevated hunting tool that's why we're
6:48
such big fans of the Mantis we think it
6:50
does everything that you need if you
6:52
have a question about how to wear it or
6:53
how to get more comfortable or how to be
6:56
a more efficient saddle hunter reach out
6:58
to us on our social media or send us an
6:59
email and we will happily respond and
7:02
give you everything that we know about
7:04
saddle hunter

EXHIBIT T

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Smallest diameter on tether rope

Carolina_trad_hntr · Jun 18, 2018



Carolina_trad_hntr

Member

Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #1

Anyone using 8mm accessory cord for a tether or bridge? Thinking that for tether and bridge with a 1/4" amsteel loop for prussic would be a nice compact setup. Seems to be rated fairly high, 4200lb tensile strength.



BCHunter

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

Joined: Mar 10, 2016
Messages: 1,635

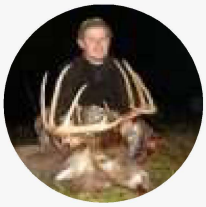
Jun 18, 2018 #2

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> Anyone using 8mm accessory cord for a tether or bridge? Thinking that for tether and bridge with a 1/4" amsteel loop for prussic would be a nice compact setup. Seems to be rated fairly high, 4200lb tensile strength.

I'll be using Samson ultra-tech 8mm for my linesman and tether. 7800lb rating

Sent from my XT1575 using Tapatalk

Carolina_trad_hntr



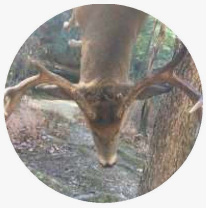
g2outdoors
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Oct 3, 2014
Messages: 7,448
Location: Savannah, GA

Jun 18, 2018 #3

Ultratech is nice stuff.

Sent from my Galaxy S8.

Carolina_trad_hntr



bongo
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 26, 2015
Messages: 1,102
Location: N Ft Myers, Florida

Jun 18, 2018 #4

I'm using 8mm tether but am not sure what it is. It's paired with a Kong Duck. I think I'm going to try the amsteel prussik and see if I like it. But I definitely like the 8mm better than the bigger ones I've used in the past.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro

Carolina_trad_hntr

Ontariofarmer
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 25, 2015
Messages: 5,261

Jun 18, 2018 #5

I have used 8 mm Samson ultra tech with a kong or ct roll and lock or a ropeman 2

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro

Stickem



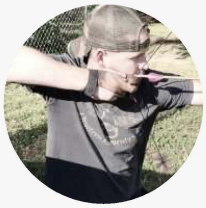
redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member

Jun 18, 2018 #6

A prussik loop is not an appropriate use of amsteel. Amsteel is slick and won't grab well and is not made for that use. There are plenty of other options out there. I am using these when I want to use a friction hitch and they work pretty good. https://www.amazon.com/Sterling-Rope-6-8mm-Hollow-Block/dp/B01253J7LM

Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,417
Location: NJ

TheTracker and elk yinzer



Carolina_trad_hntr

Member

Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #7

1/4" amsteel in a continuous loop worked extremely well for me for several hours yesterday on the Predator rope that came with the Kestrel. No slippage on my bridge or tether. I put it through several "tests" and it worked great.





Jun 18, 2018 #8

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

A hollow block is small light and designed to be used as a prussic and can be used on a very wide variety of rope widths. It slides easy and locks well. For the cost I would agree with Red it is the better option. I have used the hollow block and they work well. That said I have never used amsteel that way.

Ontariofarmer

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Dec 25, 2015

Messages: 5,261

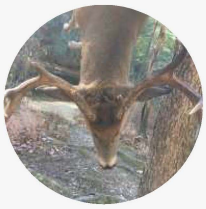


Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #9

Redsquirrel certainly has more knowledge and experience than I. I do know it worked well for me yesterday, but if I go to 8mm rope it may not have such a mechanical advantage. 1/4" prussic on 11mm vs 1/4 on 8mm may be pushing it.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk



bongo
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 26, 2015
Messages: 1,102
Location: N Ft Myers, Florida

Jun 18, 2018 #10

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> Redsquirrel certainly has more knowledge and experience than I. I do know it worked well for me yesterday, but if I go to 8mm rope it may not have such a mechanical advantage. 1/4" prussic on 11mm vs 1/4 on 8mm may be pushing it.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

I was thinking 7/16 is what I need. I like to tinker with different setups and I'll try it and see if I like it.

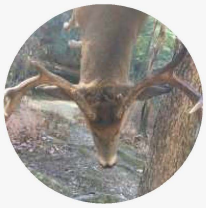
Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro

JakeB
Active Member
Joined: Apr 30, 2017
Messages: 112

Jun 18, 2018 #11

I would be extremely cautious using amsteel for a prussik. Even though a continuous loop with a prussik is technically not a "knot", they're several knot like bends being made. It will work great, until it doesn't.

pesqimon



bongo
Well-Known Member

Jun 18, 2018 #12

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> Redsquirrel certainly has more knowledge and experience than I. I do know it worked well for me yesterday, but if I go to 8mm rope it may not have such a mechanical advantage. 1/4" prussic on 11mm vs 1/4 on 8mm may be pushing it.
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

SH Member

Joined: Jan 26, 2015
Messages: 1,102
Location: N Ft Myers, Florida

I was thinking 7/16 is what I need. I like to tinker with different setups and I'll try it and see if I like it.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro



Carolina_trad_hntr

Member

Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #13

I wish yall wouldve said something about concerns in my "Amsteel prussic" thread I started yesterday. I've went and got excited now!

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk



redsquirrel

Administrator

Staff member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,417
Location: NJ

Jun 18, 2018 #14

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> 1/4" amsteel in a continuous loop worked extremely well for me for several hours yesterday on the Predator rope that came with the Kestrel. No slippage on my bridge or tether. I put it through several "tests" and it worked great.
>
> 
>
> Click to expand...

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> I wish yall wouldve said something about concerns in my "Amsteel prussic" thread I started yesterday. I've went and got excited now!
>
> Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

Sorry I'm just catching up on all the threads now lol.
You just don't gain anything by using amsteel here. The hollowblock is probably the same size if not smaller and very light. It will definitely work on 8mm rope. You just may need to give it another twist to get it to bite.

Stickem and Carolina_trad_hntr



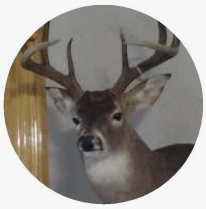
Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 18, 2018 #15

Thanks red, I will definitely be going that way. Probably going to a fixed bridge eventually anyway too.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

Stickem



10essee
Well-Known Member
Joined: Feb 16, 2018
Messages: 1,048
Location: Florida

Jun 19, 2018 #16

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> 1/4" amsteel in a continuous loop worked extremely well for me for several hours yesterday on the Predator rope that came with the Kestrel. No slippage on my bridge or tether. I put it through several "tests" and it worked great.
>
> 
>
> Click to expand...

Another thing I would do is flip that bridge to tether biner so the gate is pointed out and the opening to the bottom

Carolina_trad_hntr and noxninja

C

cedar paul
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 14, 2014
Messages: 1,451

Jun 30, 2018 #17

I am using Teufelberger Reep Schnur 10mm for everything on my customized Web . I use it for my primary bridge,my secondary bridge for climbing, my linesman/lanyard setup and my tree tether with the Rockman. Lightweight, knots well and is a cool green to boot.

Carolina_trad_hntr

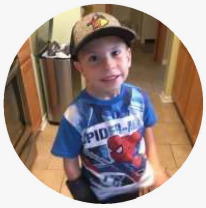
O

Jun 30, 2018 #18

I have used 8 mm ultra tech with a kong or CT roll and lock or a ropeman 2.

I have also used the above for a linemans belt. It is significantly lighter and still very strong.

Ontariofarmer
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 25, 2015
Messages: 5,261



TheTracker
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 30, 2016
Messages: 496

Jul 23, 2018 #19

I'd use a 28" 8mm ocean eye to eye over amsteel for a hitch.

Sent from my SM-G930V using Tapatalk

You must log in or register to reply here.

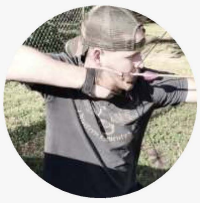
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| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

EXHIBIT U

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Amsteel Prussic

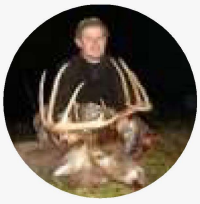
Carolina_trad_hntr · Jun 17, 2018



Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 17, 2018 #1

Anyone using 1/4" Amsteel (continuous loop)to make a prussic? I've tried one up and played around pulling on it in the living room, no slippage on the Predator rope I've tried pulling across. Obviously a double fisherman's knot or any other tied knot to make a loop is probably a bad idea with Amsteel but continuous loop shouldn't give any problems. Thoughts?



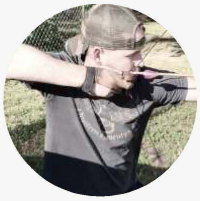
g2outdoors
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Oct 3, 2014
Messages: 7,448
Location: Savannah, GA

Jun 17, 2018 #2

They work great. Amsteel is the wonder rope. Splice the continuous loop and you'll be golden.

Sent from my Galaxy S8.

Ted Otten and Carolina_trad_hntr



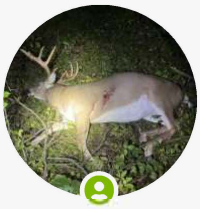
Carolina_trad_hntr

Member

Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jun 17, 2018 #3

Worked like a charm. Replaced the prussic on my adjustable bridge and tether. That's a pretty good weight savings for effort and cost involved. Amsteel is the wonder rope, I love it. Wonder how amsteel prussic on amsteel bridge would work, as long as the diameter rule is followed...may be too slick.



redsquirrel

Administrator

Staff member

SH Member

Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,417
Location: NJ

Jun 19, 2018 #4

> g2outdoors said:
>
> They work great. Amsteel is the wonder rope. Splice the continuous loop and you'll be golden.
>
> Sent from my Galaxy S8.

I know you've used this for accessory stuff, but you haven't used this to hang your life on right?

I commented on this in the other thread @Carolina_trad_hntr started. A sterling hollow block is made for using as a prussik and it is about the same size and weight. I just don't see an advantage to creating an amsteel prussik.



g2outdoors

Well-Known Member

Vendor Rep

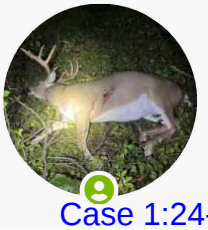
Joined: Oct 3, 2014
Messages: 7,448
Location: Savannah, GA

Jun 19, 2018 #5

> redsquirrel said:
>
> I know you've used this for accessory stuff, but you haven't used this to hang your life on right?
>
> I commented on this in the other thread @Carolina_trad_hntr started. A sterling hollow block is made for using as a prussik and it is about the same size and weight. I just don't see an advantage to creating an amsteel prussik.

I use an Amsteel bridge for life support. I don't use Prusik knots for life support at all. There very well could be better options for a Prusik knot.

Sent from my Galaxy S8.



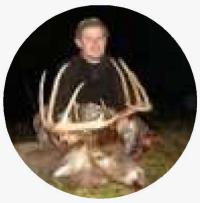
Jun 19, 2018 #6

> g2outdoors said:
>
> I use an Amsteel bridge for life support. I don't use Prusik knots for life support at all. There very well could be better options for a Prusik knot.

redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,417
Location: NJ

Sent from my Galaxy S8.

Lol... I know you use an amsteel bridge. In this post he was asking about making an amsteel prussik and using it on a piece of predator rope to hang on.



g2outdoors
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Oct 3, 2014
Messages: 7,448
Location: Savannah, GA

Jun 19, 2018 #7

> redsquirrel said:
>
> Lol... I know you use an amsteel bridge. In this post he was asking about making an amsteel prussik and using it on a piece of predator rope to hang on.

Ha! I don't see why am amsteel prusik wouldn't work, but there might be better options. I'm not positive on that part.

Sent from my Galaxy S8.



BassBoysLLP
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Sep 28, 2014
Messages: 3,096

Jun 19, 2018 #8

> g2outdoors said:
>
> Ha! I don't see why am amsteel prusik wouldn't work, but there might be better options. I'm not positive on that part.
>
> Sent from my Galaxy S8.

The issue is the slip.

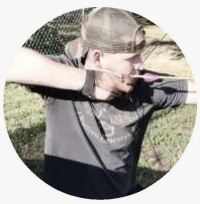
Slip = Heat
Heat = Failure

There are cases on TreeBuzz of failure. 1/4" can melt through on a good slip.

Bottom line. There are better materials for prussics.

Sent from my SM-G900V using Tapatalk

Ontariofarmer and redsquirrel



Jun 20, 2018 #9

I did in fact trust my life with it, for one evening playing around. It worked well, but given the feedback I received in my other thread for tether diameter, i decided to go with the sterling hollow block as redsquirrel suggested. Not worth the risk, for anyone viewing this thread in the future.

Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC



Wirrex
Moderator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Oct 8, 2016
Messages: 2,319
Location: Wisconsin

Jul 23, 2018 #10

> Carolina_trad_hntr said:
>
> I did in fact trust my life with it, for one evening playing around. It worked well, but given the feedback I received in my other thread for tether diameter, i decided to go with the sterling hollow block as redsquirrel suggested. Not worth the risk, for anyone viewing this thread in the future.

The Sterling Hollow Block is not listed to be used as the only means of support. Are you guys just thinking that in our use it should never see the forces they are talking about?



Carolina_trad_hntr
Member
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Jul 23, 2018 #11

I read that too, and while I do believe it's fine after going down this prussic rabbit hole, I'm trying 2 different other ropes. The Beal Jammy is a prussic loop I've played with, but I'm primarily using Bluewater Titan. Sterling HB works the best of the 3, it may be what I go with.

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

Ontariofarmer
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 25, 2015
Messages: 5,261

Jul 23, 2018 #12

> BassBoysLLP said:
>
> The issue is the slip.
>
> Slip = Heat
> Heat = Failure
>
> There are cases on TreeBuzz of failure. 1/4" can melt through on a good slip.
>
> Click to expand...

Learn something new everyday. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Pro

Oct 9, 2019 #13



As in a sling

Member

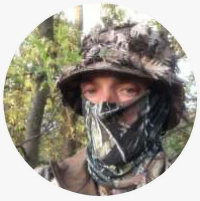
Joined: Sep 23, 2017
Messages: 90

> g2outdoors said:
>
> I use an Amsteel bridge for life support. I don't use Prusik knots for life support at all. There very well could be better options for a Prusik knot.
>
> Sent from my Galaxy S8.

This is an old thread, but I'm confused, what do you use to attach the bridge to the tether if you're not using a prusik knot ?

millerma271987 and G17Jumpseat

Jan 11, 2020 #14



Cajunyankee

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Dec 5, 2017
Messages: 826

> g2outdoors said:
>
> I use an Amsteel bridge for life support. I don't use Prusik knots for life support at all. There very well could be better options for a Prusik knot.
>
> Sent from my Galaxy S8.

Interesting- seems like you may have it worked out.

trailblazer75, mtsrunner and Red Beard

Jan 11, 2020 #15



Carolina_trad_hntr

Member

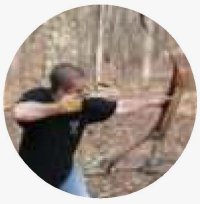
Joined: Mar 30, 2017
Messages: 52
Location: Upstate SC

Do I get a royalty for this? 😀

Sent from my SM-G965U using Tapatalk

bj139, Nutterbuster, GVDocHoliday and 4 others

Jan 11, 2020 #16



swampsnyper

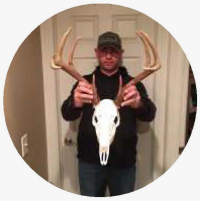
Well-Known Member

Joined: Mar 10, 2015

Hilarious!

Messages: 4,463
Location: Warrior, Al

trailblazer75



trailblazer75
Well-Known Member
Joined: Dec 24, 2018
Messages: 1,455
Location: Springfield, MO

Jan 11, 2020 #17

Ooof....

You must log in or register to reply here.

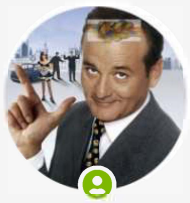
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Parts of this site powered by XenForo add-ons from DragonByte™ ©2011-2025 DragonByte Technologies Ltd. (Details)
| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

EXHIBIT V

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks

Plebe · Feb 2, 2025



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 2, 2025 #1

https://insight.rpxcorp.com/litigation_documents/15800938



BTaylor, gcr0003, Fl Canopy Stalker and 1 other person



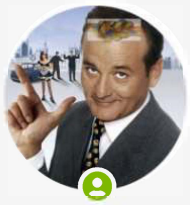
Red Beard
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 3, 2019
Messages: 6,067
Location: in my skin

Feb 2, 2025 #2

Lawyers use such drama queen language.

"irreparably harmed"
"egregious infringement"

millz, Fireprojectile, Sbrammer and 7 others

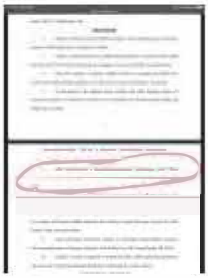


Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

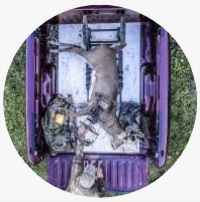
Feb 3, 2025 #3

> Red Beard said:
>
> Lawyers use such drama queen language.
>
> "irreparably harmed"
> "egregious infringement"

Replete with erroneous pontification



Tim0712, NMSbowhunter, woodsdog2 and 3 others



huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #4

They surely aren't going to win any new friends that way.

FI Canopy Stalker and Plebe



huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #5

> Plebe said:
>
> Replete with erroneous pontification
>
> View attachment 114292

#3 Is interesting too.

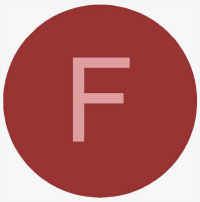
NMSbowhunter and Plebe



Porter
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: May 10, 2020
Messages: 449
Location: Grand Rapids, MI

Feb 3, 2025 #6

Can someone sum this up?



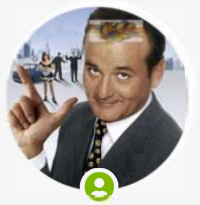
Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #7

> Plebe said:
>
> Replete with erroneous pontification
>
> View attachment 114292

The world's first outdoor and sports company focused on ultralight hunting. I wonder what Aerohunter, and Lonewolf think of that claim? I personally hope that Latitude wins this lawsuit and I would even be willing to testify as a subject matter expert against their claim on this patent. If I am not mistaken, HangFree is fighting this same lawsuit and I think Trophyline will be dealing with it as well since they also launched an amsteel adjustable bridge.

thatjoshuadude, Chrighton, BTaylor and 7 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #8

> huntin_addict said:
>
> #3 Is interesting too.

> Fl Canopy Stalker said:
>
> The world's first outdoor and sports company focused on ultralight hunting. I wonder what Aerohunter, and Lonewolf think of that claim?



Last edited: Feb 3, 2025

BTaylor, huntin_addict and Fl Canopy Stalker



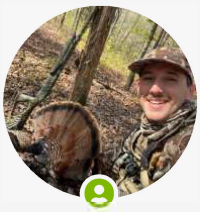
Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 3, 2025 #9

> Fl Canopy Stalker said:
>
> Can someone sum this up?

Yeah. This has been their MO since
They started: they are falsely claiming that they have single handedly designed and engineered saddle hunting. Completely ignoring the fact that they copied a couple very well established saddle designs - which were all adaptations of long established arborist, rock climbing, lineman, window cleaning, and other work positioning harnesses. As I understand it, the earliest hunting saddle manufacturerers didn't see what they were doing as new, they saw it as an evolution. And as such, they did not patemt their designs. Tethrd came along and noticed the lack of patents, and began applying their designs as the origins of the sport.

bigmike23, BTaylor, woodsdog2 and 4 others



gcr0003
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 1, 2018
Messages: 9,496

Feb 3, 2025 #10

@Plebe do you have this all saved in a folder structure or are you just that good? Never ceases to amaze me the stuff you know and the old stuff you dig up 😂

If I ever design anything meaningful I'm going to file a patent with you first so you can verify I didn't copy anyone 😅

krub6b, BTaylor, MattMan81 and 5 others

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #11

> Plebe said:
>
> View attachment 114293

I remember the assassin being around 18 by 14 and weighing around 6lbs. Which was pretty light and definitely folded flat. Add in that the old ameristeps and cranford steps were "ultralight" as well.... The kestrel was heavier than the mantis but the kite was pretty ultralight and both were more comfortable. Everything about these claims can be debunked... comfort is subjective but I bet if someone did any sort of meaningful polling, they would not be voted most comfortable or safest... While they were the first commercial saddle to use amsteel, they couldn't patent it. And if memory serves me, quite a few DIY guys on here had publicly used amsteel Whoopi slings as bridges prior to the phantom being released. They weren't the first company to make an adjustable rope bridge. So the scope of their patent boils down to the length of the bury. By full burying the splice, it creates a double braided

rope. This allows better holding for knots and hitches which is common practice in the rope world as a whole. Samson literally has splicing instructions on their website for amsteel with an eye. They list a minimum length of bury, however they do not have a maximum bury suggestion. So the patent office literally gave them a patent for splicing a rope. Which never should have happened. To me it just further shows the lack of "due diligence" performed by the USPO... without sounding political here; It's one of the government organizations that if DOGE cut, I wouldn't be the least bit upset about 😅

Last edited: Feb 3, 2025

millz, Bwhana, BTaylor and 3 others

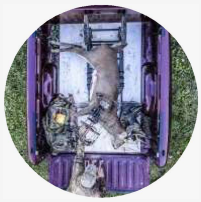
S

Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Feb 3, 2025 #12

Sorry to hear this, but not surprised.
Could Tethrd be a little worried about the tariffs on all their China junk?

millz, Ben C, bigmike23 and 7 others



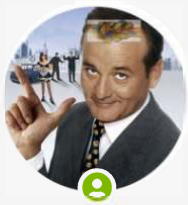
huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #13

As I was reading the lawsuit, I immediately thought Lone Wolf and Aerohunter may have something to say about their claims.

I had the opportunity to meet some of these guys a couple of years ago. Told them I thought Tethrd got a little bit of a bad rap on the forum. With that said, the opinion of the company is of their own doing, and this certainly won't enamor them to anyone.

FI Canopy Stalker and Plebe



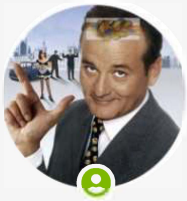
Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #14

I didn't post to rag on Tethrd, or just so. More for awareness that the full bury Amsteel bridge is under fire.

Here's the case against Cruzr





Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #15

https://insight.rpxcorp.com/litigation_documents/15801145

> Swingin' Free said:
>
> Sorry to hear this, but not surprised.
> Could Tethrd be a little worried about the tariffs on all their China junk?

Ironically, Tethrd is on record with a "Let's Go Brandon" sale. (not a political statement, just observation). But I don't think the driver is the recent tariff increase, since the cease and desist letters went out before the current administration took office.

FI Canopy Stalker and woodsdog2



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Feb 3, 2025 #16

> Jammintree said:
>
> Yeah. This has been their MO since
> They started: they are falsely claiming that they have single handedly designed and engineered saddle hunting. Completely ignoring the fact that they copied a couple very well established saddle designs - which were all adaptations of long established arborist, rock climbing, lineman, window cleaning, and other work positioning harnesses. As I understand it, the earliest hunting saddle manufacturerers didn't see what they were doing as new, they saw it as an evolution. And as such, they did not patemt their designs. Tethrd came along and noticed the lack of patents, and began applying their designs as the origins of the sport.

Exactly, and this is what CEO's do now. They sniff out potential litigation opportunities instead of true product diversification and development. It's about market saturation now to gain market share. Budge in line to get the hot fresh food first don't ya know. I'm sure besides these product related suits they're also filing claims for real estate tax certiorari locally as well. It's the lame new game..... I wonder if the turkey vest/ bird bag folks of yesterday shouldn't file infringement suits for the M2 copy cat system..... it's really unfortunate.

FI Canopy Stalker, AttackMode, Topdog and 2 others



woodsdog2

Feb 3, 2025 #17

> Plebe said:
>
> I didn't post to rag on Tethrd, or just so. More for awareness that the full bury Amsteel bridge is under fire.

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Here's the case against Cruzr

View attachment 114297

https://insight.rpxcorp.com/litigation_documents/15801145

I think that's crap I swear Cruzr went to that bridge before tethrd. Maybe not.



huntin_addict

Well-Known Member

Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #18

Tethrds first bridge iteration was terrible. I had a Mantis, the bridge positioning was a nightmare, and I DIY'd a temporary fix to lock in place. I was questioned about it when mentioned, and could probably find the posts if I wanted to. Somewhere along the line, someone (I don't remember who was first, maybe H2?) came up with an adjustable amsteel bridge that locked in on the bridge loops. The way Tethrd "locked" in place on the loops was with those Delryn balls on the Phantom.

So these guys, who have knowingly and willfully copied others ideas DIRECTLY from this site (exhibit A. - Tethrd ONE sticks) and profited immensely from doing so, are now crying about others using the adjustable amsteel bridge, and suing them to boot? Kind of hypocritical, and does indeed affect my opinion.

DroptineKrazy, AttackMode, BTaylor and 3 others

HuumanCreed

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Aug 21, 2020
Messages: 3,309
Location: Westminster Maryland

Feb 3, 2025 #19

Only thing i know about court law is from TV. So do they have a certain $$$ they are asking for when they file this or is that something a judge/jury decide after the verdict is given? Obviously things can change via compromise at any given point.

But yeah.....not sure how this will play out to the public since they have so many competitors now and people have choices. Tethrd selling turkey vests now too right? And coming out with 3-5 different packs?

I can guess what the overall business goal is. Kinda of like how Amazon used to only sell used books for college kids, but they use their initial capital to expand to everything. Can't fault them for the ambitious, business either grow/expand or be left behind.



GeoFish

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: May 5, 2021

Feb 3, 2025 #20

Tethrd invented the G Hook?

USD920159S1 - Strap buckle - Google Patents

Messages: 2,966
Location: Kentucky

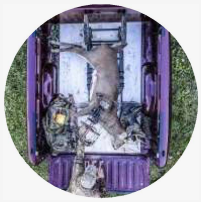
DroptineKrazy, woodsdog2, Red Beard and 2 others

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| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks

Plebe · Feb 2, 2025



huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #21

> HuumanCreed said:
>
> Can't fault them for the ambitious, business either grow/expand or be left behind.

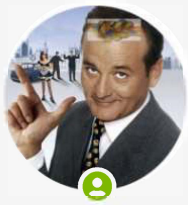
I don't fault them for wanting to grow, American dream and all that. However, there is a trend here. They've clearly copy catted many ideas here for financial gain.

A little sideways here, but I remember when they promised to keep manufacturing of all the gear they made here on our shores. That verbal commitment was pretty short lived. Maybe we could all sue them for breach of contract?

How about multiple "less than stellar" products that have required several generations due to either little to no QC, or little to no product testing prior to release, while relying on John Q. Public to be field testers. That started as far back as the Gen 1 Predator. No recall, no warnings, just a new "generation". The Saddle Hunting community gave them a pass, wanting them to succeed.

Tough to swallow them now wanting to sue some other entities for copying.

HardwoodsFanatic, DroptineKrazy, rambotogo and 7 others

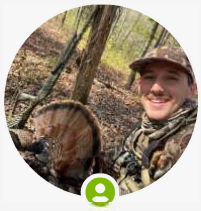


Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #22

> HuumanCreed said:
>
> Only thing i know about court law is from TV. So do they have a certain $$$ they are asking for when they file this or is that something a judge/jury decide after the verdict is given? Obviously things can change via compromise at any given point.





gcr0003
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 1, 2018
Messages: 9,496

Feb 3, 2025 #23

Can always rely on a Tethrd thread to bring hunting addict out of the wood work to get fired up 😂

bigmike23 and MattMan81



huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

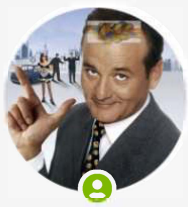
Feb 3, 2025 #24

> gcr0003 said:
>
> Can always rely on a Tethrd thread to bring hunting addict out of the wood work to get fired up 😂

Ha, not really man. I bought and used quite a bit of their stuff, and didn't consider myself a "hater". I would like to think I tried to be relatively neutral, but I think this is dirty.

Last edited: Feb 3, 2025

HardwoodsFanatic, rambotogo, Jenksy and 3 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member

Feb 3, 2025 #25

> Ft Canopy Stalker said:
>
> I remember the assassin being around 18 by 14 and weighing around 6lbs. Which was pretty light and definitely folded flat.

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Clearly Tethrd Gregg is delusional and self-aggrandizing: "I think it did" (fold flat re/ the Lone Wolf Ambush). What a joke. Like he'd have to think on it to remember.

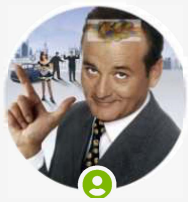
I guess they just pulled the idea for the Predator out of thin air. lol.

No LW, No Klemz = No Predator platform. Period.

Heck Ernie's cottage industry was selling platforms from LW and XOP parts for goodness sake.



eard, Fl Canopy Stalker and 1 other person



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #26

Jury trial set for 12/8/2026



Tethrd, LLC v. CRUZR Saddles LLC (1:24-cv-00076), Tennessee Middle ...

Tethrd, LLC v. CRUZR Saddles LLC (1:24-cv-00076), Tennessee Middle District Court, Filed: 08/12/2024

www.pacermonitor.com

Topdog, Fl Canopy Stalker and gcr0003



elk yinzer

Well-Known Member

Joined: Oct 23, 2017

Feb 3, 2025 #27

JUSTICE FOR KLEMZ they done ripped off a forum idea, started theyselves a business, and now they lawyering up and suing the world because they think they created this cottage industry? FOOLS I tell you. Frickin tethrd (they can't even spell, there's your sign) did a couple innovative things, but their lawsuits are self aggandizing, foolish drivel. Whelp that's the view from my throne, and time to clean

Messages: 3,249
Location: State College, PA

up and get back to work, that's where my patent attorney role ends for the day, w[illegible] to pseno the bill.

Sage, goodly94, Porter and 9 others

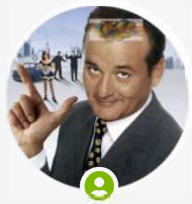


Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 3, 2025 #28

I wonder if all the saddle hunting companies will pool their resources and hire a patent lawyer to prove that many of tethrds patents were issued without cause. Certainly some searches on this forum would generate lots of evidence that undermines tethrds claims of origination.

bowhuntr09, Sage, Topdog and 7 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #29

> elk yinzer said:
>
> JUSTICE FOR KLEMZ they done ripped off a forum idea, started theyselves a business, and now they lawyering up and suing the world because they think they created this cottage industry? FOOLS I tell you. Frickin tethrd (they can't even spell, there's your sign) did a couple innovative things, but their lawsuits are self aggandizing, foolish drivel. Whelp that's the view from my throne, and time to clean up and get back to work, that's where my patent attorney role ends for the day, where do I send the bill.

Even the patented trapezoid is baloney, as you well know.



HardwoodsFanatic, Topdog, FI Canopy Stalker and 3 others



elk yinzer
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2017
Messages: 3,249
Location: State College, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #30

I did learn an imporant business lesson or three as an interested ovserver in the saga. I was sorta kinda considering doing some things myself in the dawn of the saddle fad. I dragged my nuts and I should just done it. Just do it. Being first to the punch in something like that has a lot of value. Also learned a lot about the value of marketing in consumer markets. All flash, no bang can work if you push the messaging hard enough.

Red Beard, FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 1 other person



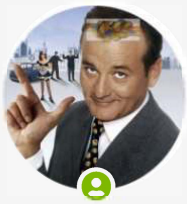
elk yinzer
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2017
Messages: 3,249
Location: State College, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #31

Hey that's my yard and my dog even, and my beautiful, freshly painted Tethrd prototype! We've done put some scratches on that thing since!

The funny thing is I went out and bought a Predator and promtly Enkrissed it. The pre-production proto was better LOL.

goody94, Red Beard, FI Canopy Stalker and 3 others



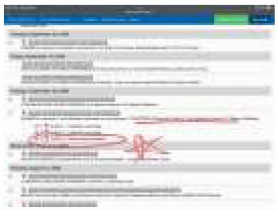
Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 3, 2025 #32

> Jammintree said:
>
> I wonder if all the saddle hunting companies will pool their resources and hire a patent lawyer to prove that many of tethrds patents were issued without cause. Certainly some searches on this forum would generate lots of evidence that undermines tethrds claims of origination.

That would surprise me, but who knows.

I find this interesting:



Sage, mathhunter, Topdog and 3 others



Weldabeast
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: May 23, 2019
Messages: 13,914
Location: Northeast Florida

Feb 3, 2025 #33

I have a sneaky suspicion that all the companies making saddles have received letters from lawyers/tethrd

> Jammintree said:
>
> I wonder if all the saddle hunting companies will pool their resources and hire a patent lawyer to prove that many of tethrds patents were issued without cause.

Red Beard, FI Canopy Stalker, woodsdog2 and 3 others



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Feb 3, 2025 #34

> Weldabeast said:
>
> I have a sneaky suspicion that all the companies making saddles have received letters from lawyers/tethrd

My calm and cool Dad who has now long since passed would have shouted... rhymes with: "Slockpuckers!!!!"

Topdog, NMSbowhunter, Mschmeiske and 1 other person



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019
Messages: 10,032

Feb 3, 2025 #35

Can someone do up a meme burning up tethered stuff and we all make it our avatar for 2025????? I don't know why I'm so upset about this it just ticks me off.

Last edited: Feb 3, 2025

Topdog, Porter, rambotogo and 7 others

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #36

> woodsdog2 said:
>
> I think that's crap I swear Cruzr went to that bridge before tethrd. Maybe not.

No. The phantom came out with it first, then H2 launched their amsteel tri-bridge, I believe Cruzr was third. They sent us a letter too about a week after we announced we were closing however our bridge in no way at all violated their patent.

huntin_addict, Mschmeiske, Red Beard and 3 others

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 3, 2025 #37

Truth is, this forum and its archives may literally be the thing that helps, Cruzr, latitude, hang free and timber ninja win this.... Anyone who takes the time to read up in here should be able to find where any of their "patent" ideas came from as they aren't patent-able if they are already out on a public space or if they aren't new or non-obvious

bowhuntr09, Topdog, Porter and 8 others



Bwhana
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 8, 2017
Messages: 2,321
Location: Hickory, NC

Feb 3, 2025 #38

Only in 'Merica! Funny to see a company whose real claim to fame is taking existing ideas and products and getting patents for them. They rarely have come up with anything significant new or different and have even commented on public videos as doing such. They have changed the game from a marketing standpoint compare to everyone else and I give credit for that.

It really is no different than Beast sticks getting a patent for drilling holes in sticks. Walk in any hardware store or warehouse in the world - they are all full of square metal tubes with holes!

The real solution to this is for folks to stop purchasing their gear and speak with their $, especially if you buy the Chinese copies of their stuff on Amazon, which are probably made in the same factories as theirs and others.

Porter, rambotogo, NMSbowhunter and 8 others



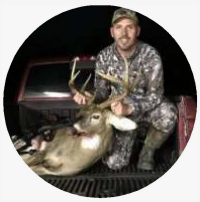
Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 3, 2025 #39

> Bwhana said:
>
> The real solution to this is for folks to stop purchasing their gear and speak with their $, especially if you buy the Chinese copies of their stuff on Amazon, which are probably made in the same factories as theirs and others.

Easier said than done. Most people are introduced to saddle hunting via internet product placement, ahem, I mean hunting videos on you tube.

woodsdog2, BTaylor, Fl Canopy Stalker and 2 others



BTaylor
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2019
Messages: 9,927
Location: Central Arkansas

Feb 3, 2025 #40

> Jammintree said:
>
> Easier said than done. Most people are introduced to saddle hunting via internet product placement, ahem, I mean hunting videos on you tube.

It also says plenty about the "celebrities" in those videos.

thing saddle related ›

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| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

Share:

Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks

Plebe · Feb 2, 2025



OSUTodd
Well-Known Member
Joined: Mar 8, 2023
Messages: 319
Location: OK

Feb 3, 2025 #41

I'm so confused! I feel dirty putting my old Tetherd dump pouches on my new Latitude saddle. Do I need to go over to the New Gear for Me post and add that I'm buying new pouches too?

Fl Canopy Stalker, BTaylor, Red Beard and 1 other person



Tim0712
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 18, 2021
Messages: 969

Feb 3, 2025 #42

Sounds like Greg's upset that lattitude puts out a better product and out sells the Chinese garbage he puts out there. Maybe next he'll sue the inventor of prusic knots because it's conflictive of HIS industry

woodsdog2, Fl Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 3 others



Rutman
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 11, 2021
Messages: 1,190
Location: NW Georgia

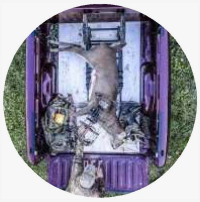
Feb 3, 2025 #43

> OSUTodd said:
>
> I'm so confused! I feel dirty putting my old Tetherd dump pouches on my new Latitude saddle. Do I need to go over to the New Gear for Me post and add that I'm buying new pouches too?

Huntin' Dirty.... I'm getting a patent.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

woodsdog2, DroptineKrazy, Fl Canopy Stalker and 2 others



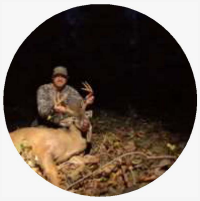
huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018
Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

Feb 3, 2025 #44

> Rutman said:
>
> Huntin' Dirty.... I'm getting a patent.
>
> Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Don't forget to trademark it too.

woodsdog2, Fl Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 1 other person



thedutchtouch
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Oct 22, 2020
Messages: 4,125
Location: Maryland

Feb 3, 2025 #45

We need a sticky that keeps the whole list of shady things tehTURD has done over the years between things and the various repeated recalls, that way curmudgeons like me can more easily beat our drums when newbies come asking about them. But I'm sure some (paid?) apologists will be a long shortly to back them up

woodsdog2, Fl Canopy Stalker, Maverick1 and 2 others



Horn
Well-Known Member
SH Member

Feb 3, 2025 #46

> Rutman said:
>
> Huntin' Dirty.... I'm getting a patent.
>
> Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Joined: Mar 8, 2022
Messages: 4,180

Not if'n I beets ya-uhs to-in-it!

a poor and offensive attempt at humor.

woodsdog2, FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 1 other person



HuumanCreed
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Aug 21, 2020
Messages: 3,309
Location: Westminster Maryland

Feb 4, 2025 #47

If I had the power. I would put Tethrd and Latitiude booths across from each other at every conventions from this point on. I would go to GAOS just to see that.....

woodsdog2, FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 3 others

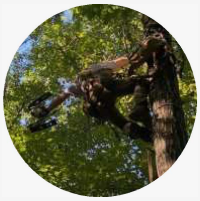
cibor
Active Member
SH Member
Joined: Mar 24, 2019
Messages: 199

Feb 4, 2025 #48

> HuumanCreed said:
> If I had the power. I would put Tethrd and Latitiude booths across from each other at every conventions from this point on. I would go to GAOS just to see that.....

lol, on the side of the aisle, we have tethrd and on the other side of the aisle we have everyone they're suing

woodsdog2, FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 4 others



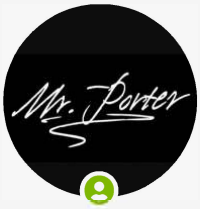
GreginPA
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Apr 10, 2020
Messages: 929

Feb 4, 2025 #49

> HuumanCreed said:
> If I had the power. I would put Tethrd and Latitiude booths across from each other at every conventions from this point on. I would go to GAOS just to see that.....

They are pretty close to each other at GAOS this year. One row apart.

woodsdog2, FI Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 1 other person



Feb 4, 2025 #50

I literally just purchased a new V XL platform 5 days ago. Looks like I may have to send that trash back and look elsewhere. The TURDS at tethrd done pissed me off lol

Porter
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: May 10, 2020
Messages: 449
Location: Grand Rapids, MI

millz, BigB, woodsdog2 and 8 others



BTaylor
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2019
Messages: 9,927
Location: Central Arkansas

Feb 4, 2025 #51

> cibor said:
>
> lol, on the side of the aisle, we have tethrd and on the other side of the aisle we have everyone they're suing

It was definitely different back in the day. Years back when I spent some time in the game call business, we were at a big show in Birmingham. There was a vendor who was making as close as he could a direct copy of our turkey strikers. My buddy's dad and I went down there to tell him face to face to cease and desist. Never thought to have an atty do it. It went something along the lines of "you had best stop copying what we do and come up with your own design" Guy got mouthy and my buddy's Dad grabbed him by the throat and said "the next time I see you selling a copy of our striker, you're getting a a** whoopin." Cuz and the guys from Mossy Oak thought it was hilarious. The Drury's seemed to be a little shocked by such old school tactics. The guy pulled the strikers from his display though and last we knew, didnt offer them again.

woodsdog2, Cbigbear, Topdog and 8 others

Sunshine
Active Member
Joined: Dec 19, 2023
Messages: 185
Location: Central Florida

Feb 4, 2025 #52

I was shopping a platform this morning and ruled tetherd off the list because of this thread. Appreciate the information for sure, definitely don't want to support that type of crap.

woodsdog2, bowhuntr09, Fl Canopy Stalker and 4 others



MattMan81
Well-Known Member

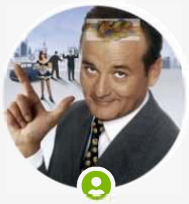
Feb 5, 2025 #53

@Plebe did you see anything about both using the word GRIT? Or is that one coming next?
Who was first? The Latitude series Grit? Or the T. Grit Products?
Did anyone Patent the name Grit? Can I say that word? Or should we not say it anymore....

SH Member

Joined: Jan 13, 2020
Messages: 6,082
Location: The Mitten

woodsdog2, Jenksy and FI Canopy Stalker



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 5, 2025 #54

> MattMan81 said:
>
> @Plebe did you see anything about both using the word GRIT? Or is that one coming next?
> Who was first? The Latitude series Grit? Or the T. Grit Products?
> Did anyone Patent the name Grit? Can I say that word? Or should we not say it anymore....

Latitude's Grit series came first. I don't know about TM and C.

FI Canopy Stalker



NMSbowhunter

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jan 3, 2022
Messages: 5,983

Feb 5, 2025 #55

> MattMan81 said:
>
> @Plebe did you see anything about both using the word GRIT? Or is that one coming next?
> Who was first? The Latitude series Grit? Or the T. Grit Products?
> Did anyone Patent the name Grit? Can I say that word? Or should we not say it anymore....

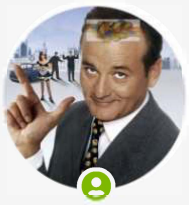
These guys probably beat them all....been around for decades.

Attachments



grits.jpg

woodsdog2, goody94, FI Canopy Stalker and 7 others



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Feb 5, 2025 #56

Latitude published their first Grit video to YouTube in June 2023. Youtube was saturated with adds for Grit well before that, given they had filmed and produced the series the previous hunting season.

Tethrd announced GriT on Jan 11, 2024.

Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

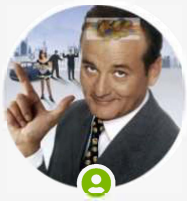
It's seems unlikely enough to rule out the coincidence of them both selecting "grit" by happenstance.

Was it a dig by Tethrd or possibly an attempt at creating consumer confusion in their favor?

Or did Latitude catch wind that Tethrd had GriT up their sleeve and beat them to the punch? Seems unlikely.

Last edited: Feb 5, 2025

woodsdog2, Fl Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and 1 other person



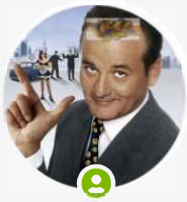
Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 5, 2025 #57

> NMSbowhunter said:
>
> These guys probably beat them all....been around for decades.

https://memes.getyarn.io/yarn-clip/8afa3ca4-81d5-46e8-aaed-6f0254ac1491

krub6b, gcr0003 and NMSbowhunter

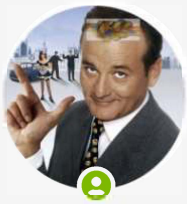


Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 5, 2025 #58



woodsdog2, drew13, bowhuntr09 and 9 others



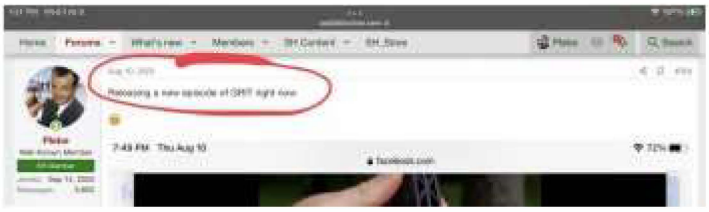
Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

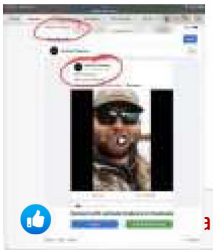
Feb 5, 2025 #59

> MattMan81 said:
>
> @Plebe did you see anything about both using the word GRIT? Or is that one coming next?
> Who was first? The Latitude series Grit? Or the T. Grit Products?
> Did anyone Patent the name Grit? Can I say that word? Or should we not say it anymore....

Filed November 2023. Well after Latitude's series kicked off it seems.

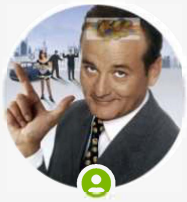






and Fl Canopy Stalker

Last edited: Feb 5, 2025



Plebe

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Sep 14, 2020

Messages: 7,012

Feb 5, 2025 #60

clearly a response....



HardwoodsFanatic, woodsdog2, Jenksy and 5 others

thing saddle related ›

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Water under the Bridge? Tethrd v. Latitude mavericks

Plebe · Feb 2, 2025



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 5, 2025 #61

> NMSbowhunter said:
>
> These guys probably beat them all....been around for decades.

Several millenium actually.

woodsdog2 and NMSbowhunter

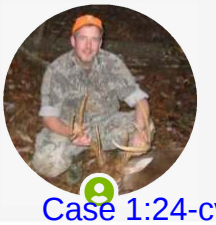
M

Maverick1
Well-Known Member
Joined: Aug 2, 2019
Messages: 1,403

Feb 5, 2025 #62

@Plebe - you seem to have poked your nose into this quite deep....

FI Canopy Stalker

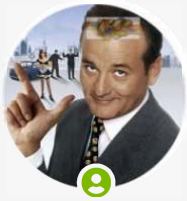


Feb 5, 2025 #63

Honestly stuff like this from Tethrd makes me want to not buy any products they sell.

bowhuntr09
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jul 28, 2018
Messages: 2,519
Location: Midlothian, VA

woodsdog2, scpokevin, Porter and 4 others



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 6, 2025 #64

> Maverick1 said:
>
> @Plebe - you seem to have poked your nose into this quite deep....

Not really. I think you can pay to access some of the legal stuff and whatnot. Haven't done that sort of thing. Though it interests me whats going on behind the scenes here. You?

In fact I came across it all rather aimlessly to begin with. Someone was asking about something Latitude vs something Tethrd. Can't recollect the specifics but I chanced upon the information from a simple google search related to that. I'm sure many search queries call it up. E.g.:



Anyway, seeing it piqued my curiosity and some nonspecific rummaging thereafter pulled the thread. But it's really just a handful of google searches altogether. And then some sidebars here and there as we banter on.

So no, there hasn't been any real investigative work.

krub6b, woodsdog2, BTaylor and 6 others

Maverick1
Well-Known Member
Joined: Aug 2, 2019

Feb 6, 2025 #65

> Plebe said:
>
> Though it interests me whats going on behind the scenes here. You?

Not in the least. Respect your interest, though. Ostrich-like here. I just buy whatever is available when I happen to need something. As long as it's high quality, performs

Messages: 1,403

well, been on the market for a while and proven itself, and is from a reputable company. So, basically not Chinesium.....or Tethrd.....

krypto, woodsdog2, BTaylor and 3 others



Jammintree

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jan 5, 2021

Messages: 3,159

Feb 6, 2025 #66

> Maverick1 said:
>
> Not in the least. Respect your interest, though. Ostrich-like here. I just buy whatever is available when I happen to need something. As long as it's high quality, performs well, been on the market for a while and proven itself, and is from a reputable company. So, basically not Chinesium.....or Tethrd.....

If they get their way, you won't have a choice.

woodsdog2, bowhuntr09, BTaylor and 2 others



woodsdog2

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jun 28, 2019

Messages: 10,032

Feb 6, 2025 #67

> Jammintree said:
>
> If they get their way, you won't have a choice.

This is the sad reality and is what is most at stake. There should always be consumer choice. An attempt at oligarchical price controls via.... patent and copyright loopholes heck even a potential monopoly on saddle gear would be third world type crud. I knew I didn't like 'em!!!

Fl Canopy Stalker, BTaylor and NMSbowhunter



Jammintree

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: Jan 5, 2021

Messages: 3,159

Feb 6, 2025 #68

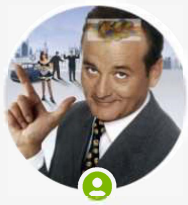
> woodsdog2 said:
>
> This is the sad reality and is what is most at stake. There should always be consumer choice. An attempt at oligarchical price controls via.... patent and copyright loopholes heck even a potential monopoly on saddle gear would be third world type crud. I knew I didn't like 'em!!!

It'll be interesting to see what happens. If any other saddle company can afford legal fees there's a good chance a judge will find at least some of the patents don't hold up. This forum will be submitted as evidence of the timeline of events. Our little site does count as publishing of ideas and documentation of product development.

I think tethrds strategy is to hit the small companies while they are in startup phase, before they can afford representation.

Do any of you know much about patent law? Is there a period of time in which a patent that has been issued can be contested?

woodsdog2 and Fl Canopy Stalker



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Feb 6, 2025 #69



Topdog, Fl Canopy Stalker, gcr0003 and 2 others



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 6, 2025 #70

> Plebe said:
>
> View attachment 114412

"History is written by the winners"

Fl Canopy Stalker, Red Beard, gcr0003 and 2 others

Swingin' Free
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Nov 6, 2018
Messages: 656
Location: Central NY

Feb 6, 2025 #71

> Jammintree said:
>
> "History is written by the ~~winners~~ wieners"

Fixed it for ya...
@Plebe .. I fear if you keep digging you're going to find a guy named Anderson lurking in the shadows.
He's the real OG....

Fl Canopy Stalker, Red Beard, gcr0003 and 3 others



BTaylor
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2019
Messages: 9,927
Location: Central Arkansas

Feb 6, 2025 #72

> Jammintree said:
>
> "History is written by the winners"

Then they may need to put their pencil down.

Fl Canopy Stalker and woodsdog2



NMSbowhunter
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 3, 2022
Messages: 5,983

Feb 6, 2025 #73

> Swingin' Free said:
>
> Fixed it for ya...
> @Plebe .. I fear if you keep digging you're going to find a guy named Anderson lurking in the shadows.
> He's the real OG....

Yeah, I was thinking about that the other day when reading this thread. Andreson had a patent on the Anderson Sling. Of course, Tethrd stopped selling the ESS...maybe wasn't all sales driven. Maybe they realized they were living in a glass house throwing stones with that one?



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Feb 6, 2025 #74

> NMSbowhunter said:
>
> Yeah, I was thinking about that the other day when reading this thread. Andreson had a patent on the Anderson Sling. Of course, Tethrd stopped selling the ESS...maybe wasn't all sales driven. Maybe they realized they were living in a glass house throwing stones with that one?

Or they couldn't patent it because Eberhart had been using an identical design for 20 years. And eberhart himself wouldn't hunt out of the ESS.

MattMan81, BTaylor, Fl Canopy Stalker and 2 others

F

Fl Canopy Stalker
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 4, 2021
Messages: 5,499

Feb 6, 2025 #75

> NMSbowhunter said:
>
> Yeah, I was thinking about that the other day when reading this thread. Andreson had a patent on the Anderson Sling. Of course, Tethrd stopped selling the ESS...maybe wasn't all sales driven. Maybe they realized they were living in a glass house throwing stones with that one?

The patent they had on the sling has long since expired. Patents are good for 20 years

BTaylor, woodsdog2, NMSbowhunter and 2 others



huntin_addict
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jun 18, 2018

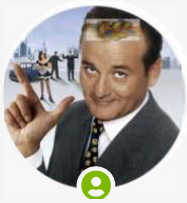
Feb 6, 2025 #76

> Jammintree said:
>
> Or they couldn't patent it because Eberhart had been using an identical design for 20 years. And eberhart himself wouldn't hunt out of the ESS.

That particular tidbit cracked me up, the namesake of the item wouldn't even use it.

Messages: 1,468
Location: Erie County, PA

BTaylor, FI Canopy Stalker, woodsdog2 and 1 other person



Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Apr 5, 2025 #77



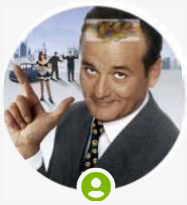
BTaylor, Nosaj, Porter and 3 others



MattMan81
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 13, 2020
Messages: 6,082
Location: The Mitten

Apr 5, 2025 #78

Is that why Latitude is celebrating with a sale?



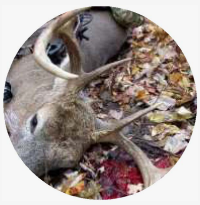
Plebe
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2020
Messages: 7,012

Apr 5, 2025 #79

> MattMan81 said:
>
> Is that why Latitude is celebrating with a sale?

You'd have to ask them. Maybe they have some great new gear to unveil, hopefully...but unlikely.

BTaylor and woodsdog2



woodsdog2
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jun 28, 2019

Apr 5, 2025 #80

I would think Latitude has the sophistication to know the parameters of that envelope. Often, companies must shoot over each other's bows testing the waters of their designs in terms of originality. Unfortunately; more often, most probably try to "legally" steal ideas and then try to "legally" keep what they stole.

Messages: 10,032

BTaylor, Fl Canopy Stalker and MattMan81

Prev 1 2 3 4

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| Add-ons by ThemeHouse

EXHIBIT W

Horns

HuskerInIowa · Sep 30, 2023



HuskerInIowa
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Aug 18, 2022
Messages: 1,158

Sep 30, 2023 #1

Anybody else get annoyed when the tv show hosts use the term horns instead of antlers? Maybe I'm old man shouts at clouds on this one but if you're on whitetail tv you outta get it right.

Shapeshifter, Blacksmith, BTaylor and 2 others



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Sep 30, 2023 #2

I always tell the TV people: horns don't fall off!

Arrowsquirrel, BTaylor and HuskerInIowa



Sep 30, 2023 #3

Every hunter I talk to calls them horns. Eventually I got tired of correcting people and now, although I know it's incorrect, I find myself saying horns too. I guess I took the, if you can't beat 'em... join 'em route.

Jimdude
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 9, 2021
Messages: 777
Location: New Jersey

BTaylor



Bowtie747
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Aug 3, 2021
Messages: 2,189
Location: Ohio

Sep 30, 2023 #4

I find myself getting annoyed by tv hunters a lot. The super long shots on live animals. The fact they can't talk anymore without mentioning a sponsor. I get it that it's their job but dial it back a lil.

Shapeshifter, Blacksmith, GeoFish and 1 other person



Jammintree
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Jan 5, 2021
Messages: 3,159

Oct 3, 2023 #5

> Bowtie747 said:
>
> I find myself getting annoyed by tv hunters a lot. The super long shots on live animals. The fact they can't talk anymore without mentioning a sponsor. I get it that it's their job but dial it back a lil.

Yep, I too get turned off when I feel like it's one big sales pitch for a company who's primary goal
Is to patent other peoples ideas and build a monopoly. Which is why I tend to watch a lot more amateur content.

Somewhere along the way it became cool to be an ignorant fool.

BTaylor and GeoFish



Weldabeast

Well-Known Member

SH Member

Joined: May 23, 2019
Messages: 13,914
Location: Northeast Florida

Oct 3, 2023 #6

I agree for sure....if u "so" passionate about the critters u trying to kill and all, why not use the right term....antlers are unique to cervids so why take that away from them.

eral Hunting Discussion >

It's real crazy when u think about it.....a horn like hair or fingernails...I could not cut my fingernails or hair and make an impressive "rack" but I can't make essentially another 2 limbs grow outta my body, have the limbs die and rot away exposing the bone underneath, use the dead limb bones as weapons, have them fall off, and start over again...weird and crazy and cool

BTaylor

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EXHIBIT X

Ex. 1142
Crüzr v. Tethrd

April 21, 2022

CRÜZR Saddles LLC
ATTN: Chadrick Rice
1380 N. Washington Avenue, Suite C
Cookeville, TN 38501

*** BY CERTIFIED MAIL

- and –

chad@cruzrsaddles.com
** BY EMAIL

File No: TETH135
RE: Contoured Saddle

Mr. Rice,

I represent Tethrd, Inc. ("Tethrd"), an incorporated company headquartered in Minnesota, with respect to intellectual property matters. Tethrd is the owner of intellectual property concerning tree saddle assemblies and in particular U.S. Patent 11,179,584 issued on November 23rd, 2021 (the '584 patent).

Claim 1 of the '584 patent states in its entirety:

> A harness assembly comprising:
> a saddle configured to receive the buttocks of a person, the saddle including:
> a closed loop including an upper strap, a lower strap, a first lateral strap and a second lateral strap, the closed loop including a front side, a back side, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge, the first and second lateral edges being arcuate such that the closed loop has an elongated oval shape, the first and second lateral edges being configured to engage a bridge line such that the bridge line can be secured to a tree, each of the upper and lower straps having a forward edge lying in a forward plane, each of the upper and lower straps having a rearward edge lying in a rearward plane, the forward plane being spaced forward of the rearward plane, a length of the forward edges of the upper and lower straps being longer than a length of the rearward edges of the upper and lower straps wherein the upper and lower straps remain angled relative to each other within the closed loop;
> a panel comprising a flexible material being attached to the upper and lower straps and extending from the first lateral strap to the second lateral strap such that the panel is spaced from the first and second lateral edges, a receiving section of the panel is defined which traverses a

space between the upper and lower straps, the receiving section continuously extending along corresponding ones of the rearward edges such that the receiving section is entirely positioned rearward of the forward plane and extends rearwardly away from the rear plane, the receiving section having an interior surface facing the forward plane, the interior surface being concavely shaped; and

a belt strap being attached to the saddle adjacent to the upper strap.

Claim 9 of the '584 patent states in its entirety:

A harness assembly comprising:

a saddle configured to receive the buttocks of a person, the saddle including:

a closed loop being formed by a continuous strap, the continuous strap including an upper strap, a lower strap, a first lateral strap and a second lateral strap, the closed loop including a front side, a back side, a first lateral edge and a second lateral edge, the first and second lateral edges being arcuate such that the closed loop has an elongated oval shape, the first and second lateral edges being configured to engage a bridge line such that the bridge line can be secured to a tree, each of the upper and lower straps having a forward edge lying in a forward plane, each of the upper and lower straps having a rearward edge lying in a rearward plane, the forward plane being spaced forward of the rearward plane, a length of the forward edges of the upper and lower straps being longer than a length of the rearward edges of the upper and lower straps wherein the upper and lower straps remain angled relative to each other within the closed loop;

a panel comprising a flexible material being attached to the upper and lower straps and extending from the first lateral strap to the second lateral strap such that said panel is spaced from the first and second lateral edges, a receiving section of the panel is defined which traverses a space between the upper and lower straps, the receiving section continuously extending along corresponding ones of the rearward edges such that the receiving section is entirely positioned rearward of the forward plane and extends rearwardly away from the rear plane;

the upper and lower straps each being angled inwardly from the forward edge to the rearward edge toward an area bounded by the closed loop such that any line extending from the rearward edge of the upper or lower straps perpendicularly through the forward plane forms an acute angle with the front side.

As is apparent from the above, Tethrd's '584 patent covers a saddle assembly forming a cup to better follow the contour of the shape of the user. Figure 1 of the '584 patent is shown below and, for the purposes required here, serves as a representative example for the patent referenced above.

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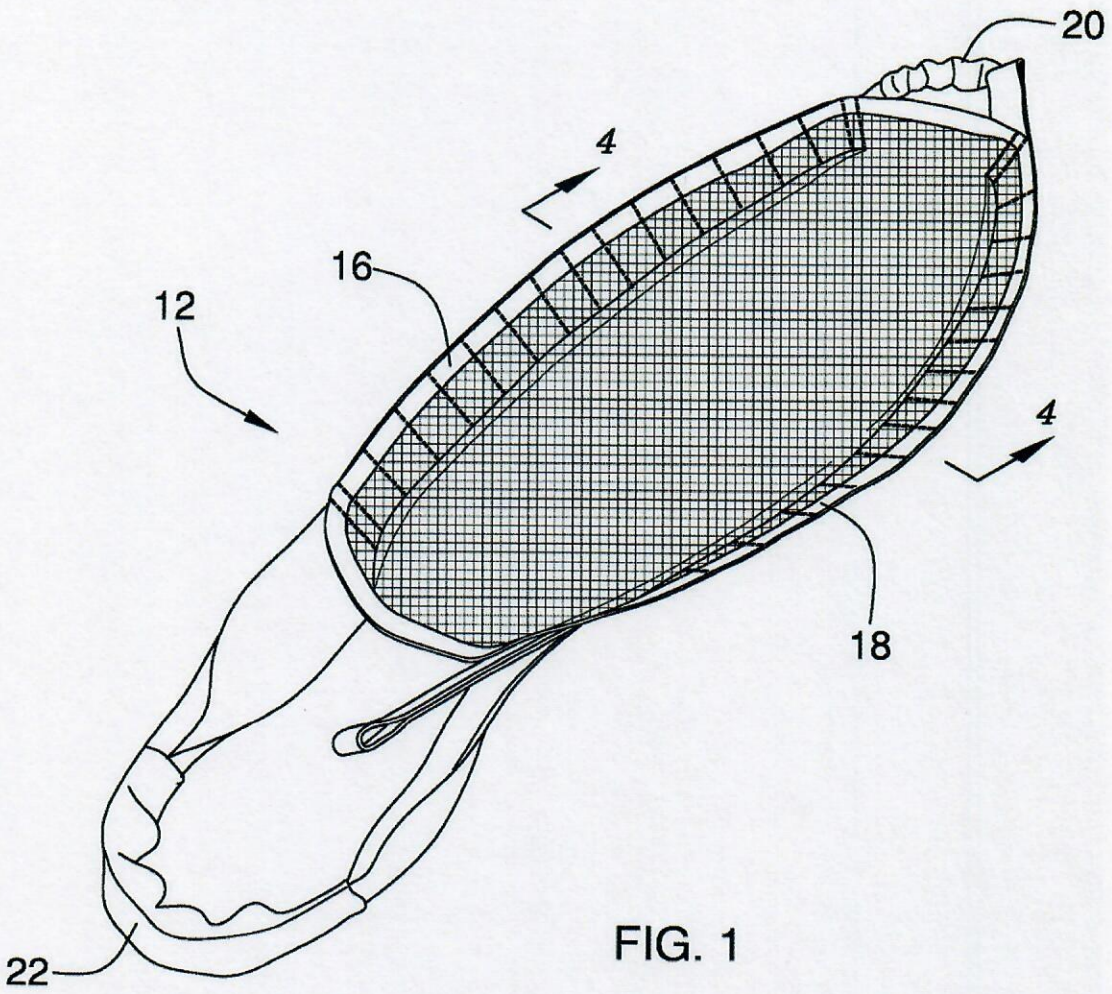


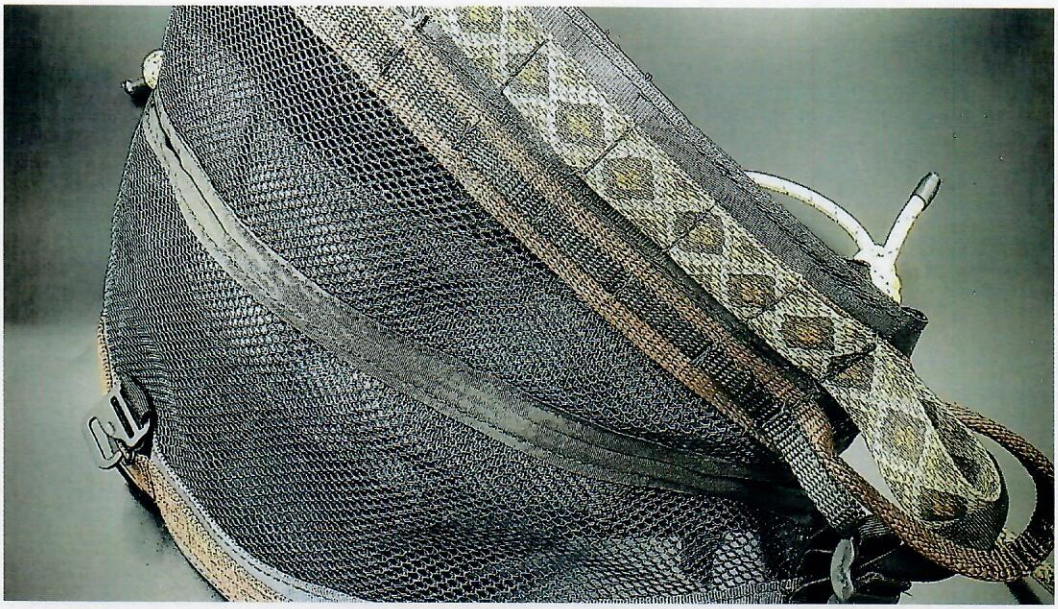
FIG. 1

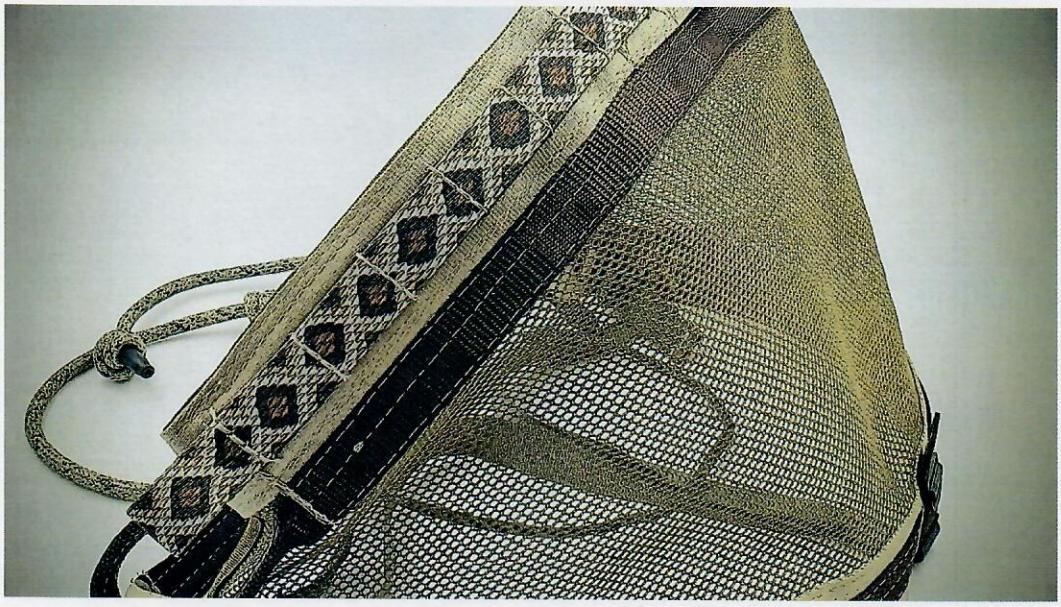
Patent infringement of a utility patent is found when every element of a claim is found in an infringing product or if the infringing product performs substantially the same function in substantially the same way to obtain the same result.

It has been brought to our attention that you, your company, or those working at the direction by you are selling saddle assemblies that appear to include all limitations of either claim 1 or 9 of the '584 patent, or comprise equivalent structures thereof.

Below are an image of the concerning products named the "Sidewinder" and "Cobra" captured from the Custom Gear Modifications websites:
https://www.customgearmodifications.com/product-page/Sidewinder-hunting-saddle and
https://www.customgearmodifications.com/product-page/the-cobra-hunting-saddle, respectively.

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As is evident from the above image, the product in question clearly includes a concave area for receiving the buttocks of a user and thereby facilitates contouring of the saddle assembly to its user.

Accordingly, CRÜZR Saddles LLC is hereby placed on notice that should CRÜZR Saddles LLC continue to produce and sell this product without a license or other agreement acquiesced to by Tethrd, Tethrd will take all actions necessary to enjoin CRÜZR Saddles LLC from producing, selling or using this or similar devices in the United States. Tethrd will further seek monetary

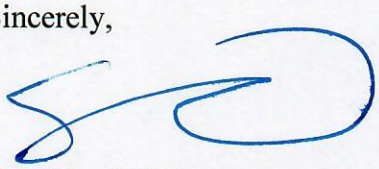
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damages including all sales losses by Tethrd, profits gained by you, and attorneys' fees associated with this matter.

CRÜZR Saddles LLC is requested to reply to this letter within 14 days of its receipt with a statement that all further sales and production of this device will cease. If CRÜZR Saddles LLC has engaged legal counsel, you may have your attorney contact me directly to discuss this matter further.

We look forward to your response on or before May 6th, 2022

Sincerely,



Sean Kaufhold
Patent Attorney

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Direct Fax: 605-334-1574
Email: sean@kaufholdlaw.com

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