

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

APPLE INC., a California Corporation,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
 v.)
)
 SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD., a)
 Korean corporation; SAMSUNG)
 ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC., a New York)
 corporation; and SAMSUNG)
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC,)
 a Delaware limited liability company,)
 Defendants.

Case No.: CV 12-00630 LHK

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S
MOTION TO AMEND ITS
DISCLOSURE OF ASSERTED
CLAIMS & INFRINGEMENT
CONTENTIONS; AND GRANTING
DEFENDANTS’ MOTION TO
AMEND ITS INFRINGEMENT
CONTENTIONS**

(Re: Docket No. 267 and 269)

In this patent infringement suit, Defendants Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., Samsung Electronics America, Inc., and Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC (collectively “Samsung”) and Plaintiff Apple, Inc. (“Apple”) exchanged their initial infringement contentions on June 15, 2012. Samsung now moves to amend its infringement contentions to include the iPhone 5 as an infringing product. Apple, in turn, has filed a motion to amend its infringement contentions with a number of substantive changes. On November 6, 2012, the parties appeared for hearing. Having reviewed the papers and considered the arguments of counsel, the court GRANTS Samsung’s motion and GRANTS Apple’s motion.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 8, 2012, Apple filed suit against Samsung alleging various Samsung products (including smartphones, media players, and tablets) infringed upon eight of Apple's patents. Samsung filed a response and cross-complaint, denying its products infringed on any of Apple's patents and claiming that Apple's iPhone and iPad products infringed on eight patents owned by Samsung.

The parties commenced discovery in May of 2012.¹ Pursuant to the court-mandated deadline, the parties submitted their infringement contentions on June 15, 2012.² Samsung's infringement contentions alleged its two UMTS standard patents and six feature patents were infringed by Apple's iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch devices, as well as any "newer but unreleased versions of the accused products that have recently been announced by Apple."³ Apple's infringement contentions asserted 37 total claims for 8 patents against 19 Samsung devices.⁴ Claim construction discovery has been scheduled to close on December 14, 2012.⁵ The Claim Construction Hearing is set for February 21, 2013.⁶ Factual discovery closes in July of 2013.⁷ Trial is to commence on March 31, 2014.⁸

Samsung now seeks leave to supplement its infringement contentions to include Apple's iPhone 5 as an infringing product. The iPhone 5 was released on September 21, 2012.

Apple has also moved for leave to amend its asserted claims and infringement contentions. Apple's proposed amendments fall into three categories. First, Apple seeks to include recently-

¹ Docket No. 160.

² *Id.*

³ Docket No. 267, Ex. A.

⁴ Docket No. 269, Ex. 2.

⁵ Docket No. 259.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Docket No. 160.

⁸ *Id.*

1 released Samsung products as potentially infringing devices. Apple wishes to include the Galaxy
 2 Note 10.1, the U.S. version of the Galaxy S III, and the Jelly Bean operating system, all of which
 3 were released after the exchange of infringement contentions. Second, Apple seeks to make
 4 “minor clarifying changes” and exemplary details to several claims charts previously served on
 5 Samsung.⁹ Lastly, Apple wishes to add several claims charts which were “mistakenly omitted”
 6 from the June 15 infringement contentions. Some of these “mistakenly omitted” claims charts
 7 were supposed to be included in the June 15 contentions, but were lost in an administrative error.
 8 The remaining “mistakenly omitted” claims charts were actually never intended to be a part of the
 9 initial infringement contentions, but were later drawn up by Apple.

10 II. LEGAL STANDARDS

11 Patent Local Rule 3-6 allows the parties to amend their infringement contentions only “by
 12 order of the Court upon a timely showing of good cause.”¹⁰ The text of the local rule provides a
 13 non-exhaustive list of circumstances which, absent prejudice to the non-moving party, may support
 14 a finding of good cause: “(a) a claim construction by the Court different from that proposed by the
 15 party seeking amendment; (b) recent discovery of material, prior art despite earlier diligent search;
 16 and (c) recent discovery of nonpublic information about the Accused Instrumentality which was
 17 not discovered, despite diligent efforts, before the service of the Infringement Contentions.”¹¹

18 The local rules of the Northern District of California require parties to define their theories
 19 of infringement early on in the course of litigation.¹² By requiring the non-moving party to show
 20 good cause, Local Rule 3-6 serves to balance the parties’ rights to develop new information in
 21 discovery along with the need for certainty in legal theories at the start of the case.¹³

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 23 ⁹ Docket No. 269 at 4.

24 ¹⁰ Pat L.R. 3-6.

25 ¹¹ *Id.*

26 ¹² *O2 Micro Int’l Ltd. v. Monolithic Power Sys., Inc.*, 467 F.3d 1355, 1359 (Fed. Cir. 2006)

27 ¹³ *Id.* at 1366.

1 The good cause inquiry considers first whether “the party seeking leave to amend acted
2 with diligence in promptly when new evidence [was] revealed.”¹⁴ The core is the moving party’s
3 diligence in investigating the claim and seeking to amend.¹⁵ This prevents parties from employing
4 a “shifting sands” approach to claim construction.¹⁶ In considering the party’s diligence, the
5 critical question is whether the party “could have discovered [the new information] earlier had it
6 acted with the requisite diligence.”¹⁷ The burden is on the moving party to show diligence.¹⁸ The
7 court then considers whether there would be undue prejudice to the non-moving party.¹⁹ If the
8 court finds that the moving party was not diligent in amending its infringement contentions, there is
9 no need to consider the question of prejudice to the non-moving party, although a court in its
10 discretion may elect to do so.²⁰

11 III. DISCUSSION

12 A. *Samsung’s Motion for Leave to Amend its Infringement Contentions*

13 Samsung seeks to amend its infringement contentions to include the iPhone 5 as an
14 infringing product. Samsung alleges good cause exists for leave to amend because it was required
15 to submit its infringement contentions on June 15, 2012 and the iPhone 5 was not released until
16 September 21, 2012.

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18 ¹⁴ *O2 Micro*, 467 F.3d at 1363.

19 ¹⁵ *Acer, Inc. v. Tech. Properties Ltd.*, Case No. 5:08-CV-00877 JF/HRL, 2010 WL 3618687 (N.D.
20 Cal. Sept. 10, 2010).

21 ¹⁶ *See LG Electronics Inc. v. Q-Lity Computer Inc.*, 211 F.R.D. 360, 367 (N.D. CA 2002).

22 ¹⁷ *Google, Inc. v. Netlist, Inc.*, Case No. 08-4144 SBA, 2010 WL 1838693, at *2 (N.D. Cal. May 5,
2010).

23 ¹⁸ *O2 Micro*, 467 F.3d at 1355.

24 ¹⁹ *Board of Trs. Of Leland Stanford Junior Univ. v. Roche Molecular Sys.*, 2008 WL 624771, at *2
25 (N.D. Cal. 2008).

26 ²⁰ *See O2 Micro*, 467 F.3d at 1368 (affirming the district court’s decision refusing leave to amend
27 upon finding the moving party was not diligent, without considering the question of prejudice to
28 the non-moving party); *See also Leland Stanford Junior Univ.*, 2008 WL 624771, at *3.

1 When a party becomes aware of new information during the course of discovery, the party
2 must “proceed with diligence in amending those contentions.”²¹ Courts of the Northern District of
3 California have found good cause for leave to amend when the defendant released new products, so
4 long as the plaintiff acted diligently in seeking leave to amend.²²

5 Here, Samsung could not have known the specifications of the iPhone 5 before it was
6 released in September 2012. After the release of the iPhone 5, Samsung investigated the device to
7 determine whether the iPhone 5 practiced its patented technologies.²³ A week later, Samsung gave
8 Apple notice that it intended to amend its June 15 Contentions to include the iPhone 5 and
9 provided Apple with a copy of the proposed amendments. Samsung filed the motion three days
10 later. In doing so, Samsung acted with reasonable diligence as soon as it discovered “nonpublic
11 information... which was not discovered, despite diligent efforts, before the service of the
12 Infringement Contentions.”²⁴

13 Further, Apple will not be prejudiced by the addition of the iPhone 5 to Samsung’s
14 infringement contentions. Apple has not opposed Samsung’s motion.²⁵ Samsung’s amendment
15 does not seek to add new claims or theories of infringement, but merely adds another device that
16 has the same accused functionality as the previous versions of the iPhone. As a result, Apple’s
17 analysis in defending against Samsung’s contentions should remain largely the same. Samsung
18 served notice of its proposed amendments several months before the end of claim construction
19 discovery (December 2012) and factual discovery (July 2013). This will give Apple ample time to
20 investigate Samsung’s infringement theories and prepare their defenses accordingly.

21 ²¹ *O2 Micro*, 467 F.3d at 1366.

22 ²² *See, e.g., Leland Stanford Junior Univ.*, Case No. 05-04158 MHP, 2008 WL 624771, at *2-3
23 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2008) (granting movant leave to amend infringement contentions where movant
24 gave non-movant notice of intention to amend one week after product was approved for sale in the
U.S., and actually filed for amendment four months later).

25 ²³ Docket No. 267.

26 ²⁴ Pat. L.R. 3-6.

27 ²⁵ Docket No. 279.

1 **B. *Apple’s Motion for Leave to Amend its Infringement Contentions***

2 Apple has also moved for leave to amend. Apple’s proposed amendments fall into three
3 categories: addition of newly-released Samsung products as infringing devices, minor clarifying
4 changes to the claims charts, and addition of several mistakenly-omitted claims charts. Moreover,
5 Samsung argues that Apple omits a fourth category from their motion, which is hidden within
6 Apple’s third category: “Apple’s proposed amendments to assert five additional claims against
7 seventeen products that have been in the case from the beginning.”²⁶

8 1. **Addition of Newly-Released Samsung Products**

9 Apple seeks to add the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 as an infringing device. The Samsung
10 Galaxy Note 10.1 was released on or about August 16, 2012.²⁷ Apple gave filed to amend its
11 infringement contentions to include this device on October 5, 2012.

12 This amendment is markedly similar to Samsung’s proposal to add the iPhone 5 to the
13 infringement contentions. The Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 was released after the parties
14 exchanged their infringement contentions. Apple acted diligently to investigate the Galaxy Note
15 10.1 after it was released and notified Samsung shortly after of Apple’s proposed amendments.
16 Also, the infringement contentions against this device are identical to already-accused products, so
17 Samsung will not need to do extensive additional research.²⁸ In the interests of judicial economy,
18 the court will allow Apple to add the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 as an infringing device.

19 Second, Apple seeks to update infringement contentions with respect to the Samsung S III,
20 which was released in the United States on June 20, 2012.²⁹ Apple had previously filed
21 infringement contentions against the Samsung Galaxy S III based on the United Kingdom version
22 of the device.³⁰ Now that the United States version of the device has been released, Apple would

23 ²⁶ Docket No. 285 at 1.

24 ²⁷ Docket No. 269, Ex. 5.

25 ²⁸ See Docket No. 269, Ex 10-12.

26 ²⁹ Docket No. 269, Ex. 73.

27 ³⁰ Docket No. 269, Ex. 1, ¶ 29.

1 like to make changes to the contentions reflecting the “minor aesthetic differences” between the
2 two versions.”³¹

3 Apple was diligent in investigating and amending their claims against the Samsung Galaxy
4 S III. Apple prepared its June 15 infringement contentions against the Samsung Galaxy S III
5 before the device had been released in the United States. Apple purchased and investigated a
6 Samsung Galaxy S III device from the United Kingdom and based its contentions on the findings.³²
7 After the release of the United States version, Apple found minor visual differences and now seeks
8 to change its infringement contentions to reflect these differences.³³ Samsung does not oppose this
9 amendment.³⁴ Samsung will not be prejudiced because these differences do not change
10 infringement theories, nor will they require Samsung to prepare additional defenses.

11 Lastly for this category, Apple proposes to add the Jelly Bean operating system to its
12 claims. The Jelly Bean operating system is the new version of the Google Android system that is
13 used on all Samsung mobile devices, including those named by Apple in this suit.³⁵ The Jelly Bean
14 operating system was first released in July 2012.

15 As the moving party, Apple bears the burden of showing that it “acted with diligence in
16 promptly moving to amend when new evidence is revealed.”³⁶ Apple fails to do so. Apple merely
17 alleges in one paragraph of its October 5 motion that the Jelly Bean was released in July 2012, and
18 inclusion of the system “will not increase the number of claims asserted or introduce any new
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22 ³¹ Docket No. 269, Ex. 1, ¶ 29.

23 ³² *Id.*

24 ³³ *Id.*

25 ³⁴ *See* Docket No. 285 at 10.

26 ³⁵ *See* Docket 285 at 9.

27 ³⁶ *See O2 Micro*, 467 F.3d at 1363.

1 infringement theories.”³⁷ This is insufficient to show diligence for making a substantial change to
2 the infringement contentions.

3 Turning to the question of prejudice, it is problematic that Apple makes no reference in its
4 initial briefing to the infringement theories or patent claims it wishes to charge against Jelly Bean.
5 Samsung would be prejudiced by the lack of specificity in Apple’s proposed amendment because it
6 will not have notice to the claims it must defend against. Moreover, as Samsung correctly noted,
7 such an amendment would be overbroad and may sweep any number of Samsung devices using
8 the Jelly Bean operating system into this suit.³⁸ The Jelly Bean operating system is used on
9 numerous Samsung devices. Samsung also does not have any design control over the content of
10 Jelly Bean as it is a Google Android product that Samsung itself did not develop. The court will
11 not permit a sweeping amendment that might apply to devices other than those properly tied to
12 Samsung. The court will allow this proposed amendment, but only as to the Jelly Bean product
13 Apple has specified: the Galaxy Nexus.

14 2. Minor Clarifying Changes to Existing Claims Charts

15 Apple wishes to make minor clarifying and correcting changes to existing claims charts.³⁹
16 The changes include amendments to the ‘721, ‘502, ‘172, and the ‘760 patents’ claims charts to
17 add more detail as to Samsung’s actions of induced infringement, such as references to Samsung’s
18 user manuals. Also, Apple seeks to modify the ‘604 and ‘959 patents’ claims charts with
19 exemplary language adding detail to the accused devices on different carriers. Apple also seeks to
20 correct certain minor mistakes and references in the claims charts.

21 Apple does not explain why these mistakes were made or when they were discovered, nor
22 does it provide evidence of its diligence in amending these mistakes. However, considering the
23 unsubstantial nature of these changes and the lack of opposition from Samsung, the court will
24 allow the minor clarifying changes to the above claims charts.

25 ³⁷ Docket No. 269 at 4.

26 ³⁸ See Docket No. 285 at 9.

27 ³⁹ See Docket 269, Ex. A.

1 Apple fails to establish good cause for its mistakes because they cannot explain their
2 extended delay. Courts have declined to find good cause where plaintiffs sought to add
3 “mistakenly omitted” infringements where plaintiffs could not adequately explain the cause for the
4 errors or the amendment’s delay.⁴⁵ After Samsung informed Apple that the first set of claims was
5 missing from their infringement contentions, Apple was put on notice to investigate any other
6 omissions in their claims charts, but did not discover the omissions until October 3, 2012.
7 Although Apple contends that Samsung should have informed Apple the omitted charts were
8 missing, it is not Samsung’s affirmative duty to police Apple’s claims charts for omissions.

9 Nevertheless, as noted previously, even if the movant was arguably not diligent, the court
10 may still grant leave to amend.⁴⁶ Courts have allowed amendments when the movant made an
11 honest mistake, the request to amend did not appear to be motivated by gamesmanship, or where
12 there was still ample time left in discovery.⁴⁷ Here, it appears that Apple’s omission of the second
13 set of charts was due to an honest mistake. There is evidence supporting Apple’s contention that
14 Apple had originally intended for these charts to be a part of the June 15 infringement contentions.
15 The missing claims charts are listed in Apple’s Claims Summary Table (the table of contents of
16 their June 15 contentions), and duplicates of other charts were served in place of the second set of
17 omitted charts.⁴⁸ The omission, though careless, does not appear to be motivated by
18 gamesmanship. Precluding Apple from bringing these claims because of an administrative mistake
19 would be an unnecessarily harsh result.

20 Next, the court turns to Apple’s attempt to assert claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13 of the ‘502 patent
21 (collectively, “pen stylus claims”) against all accused Samsung devices other than the Galaxy Note,
22 which was already accused in the infringement contentions. In total, this amendment would assert

23 ⁴⁵ See, e.g., *Berger*, 2006 WL 1095914, at *4.

24 ⁴⁶ See *Leland Stanford Junior Univ.*, 2008 WL 624771, at *3.

25 ⁴⁷ See, e.g., *Yodlee, Inc. v. CashEdge, Inc.*, Case No. 05-01550 SI, 2007 WL 1454259, at *2 (N.D.
26 Cal. May 17, 2007).

27 ⁴⁸ See Docket No. 269, Ex. 1, ¶¶ 17, 19; See also Docket No. 269, Ex. 7.

1 the pen stylus against 17 other devices. Apple claims good cause exists for this amendment
2 because it was not aware at the time of filing its infringement contentions that the other devices
3 could also be used with a stylus.⁴⁹

4 Since early 2011, Samsung's website has displayed product specifications and reviews
5 indicating the products could be used with a separate stylus.⁵⁰ Through diligent investigation at the
6 time of the infringement contentions, Apple could have discovered the Samsung products in
7 question could be used with a separate stylus. Apple provides no reasons for why it did not
8 discover this publicly available information earlier. Thus, Apple fails to establish the requisite
9 diligence regarding the pen stylus claims.

10 But once again, the court will in its discretion consider whether Samsung will suffer
11 prejudice with the addition of the pen stylus claims. It is undeniable that in the months following
12 the June 15 contentions, Samsung has filed its invalidity contentions. The invalidity contentions
13 were presumably instructed by the Apple's infringement claims charts available to Samsung at the
14 time, which included only the '502 patent claims against the Samsung Galaxy Note, sold with a
15 stylus. While a broader Apple claim against a product sold without a stylus might conceivably
16 have opened Samsung's eye to still more prior art, invalidity claims should stand or fall regardless
17 of another party's theory of claim or scope, even if that party is the patentee. In any event, with
18 ample time left on the pretrial clock, Samsung should be able to pursue any additional art without
19 any undue prejudice. Under these circumstances, this Apple amendment is reasonable.

20 IV. CONCLUSION

21 Considering Samsung's diligence in amending its claims to add the newly-released iPhone
22 5 and the absence of prejudice to the non-moving party, Samsung's motion to add the iPhone 5 as
23 an infringing device is GRANTED.

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26 ⁴⁹ Docket 269 at 8.

27 ⁵⁰ See Docket No. 285, Ex. G.

1 Apple’s similarly-situated motion to amend to add the Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1, the U.S.
2 version of the Samsung Galaxy S III, the Jelly Bean operating system in connection with the
3 Galaxy Nexus, the nonsubstantive clarifying changes,⁵¹ the claims charts previously listed in the
4 Claim Summary Table, and the pen stylus claims against additional products is GRANTED. Given
5 the early stage of this litigation and the reasoning of this order, the court notes that Apple should
6 think twice before opposing similar amendments reflecting other newly-released products — e.g.
7 the iPad 4 and iPad mini — that Samsung may propose in the near future. Any amended
8 contentions shall be served no later than November 23, 2012.

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10 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

11 Dated: November 15, 2012

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15 PAUL S. GREWAL
16 United States Magistrate Judge
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27 ⁵¹ See Docket No. 269, Ex. A.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California