

Patent Law

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Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Class 19 – Infringement I: claim construction; literal infringement

Recap

Recap

- Laws of nature
- Abstract ideas
- A unified framework



Today's agenda

Today's agenda

- Claim construction
- Literal infringement



Claim construction

Claim-construction background

- Patent claims exist to set out the boundaries of the patent holder's exclusive rights
- But we add another layer of indirection, in which the court construes the claims

Claim-construction background

- Patent claims exist to set out the boundaries of the patent holder's exclusive rights
- But we add another layer of indirection, in which the court construes the claims
- Why?

Claim-construction background

- Patent holders write their own claims, and have an incentive to be vague
- Patents describe things that are new, which can inherently be hard to describe
- Patents are written at time X and applied to technology that exists at time Y
- Patent litigants have an incentive to disagree about claim meaning

Claim-construction background

- Sources of evidence of claim meaning?

Claim-construction background

→ Sources of evidence of claim meaning?

- Patent
- Prosecution history
- Other patents in the field
- Other documents by inventor (articles &c)
- Usage in the field
- Articles
- Dictionaries

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intrinsic evidence

Claim-construction background

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intrinsic evidence

extrinsic evidence

Claim-construction background

→ *Texas Digital* rule (**now repudiated**):

- The best sources of evidence are dictionaries and other extrinsic evidence
- Why?

Claim-construction background

→ *Texas Digital* rule (**now repudiated**):

- The best sources of evidence are dictionaries and other extrinsic evidence
- The goal: eliminate strategic game-playing by experts, since dictionaries are objective, contemporaneous evidence of a claim's meaning

Claim-construction background

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- The best sources of evidence are dictionaries and other extrinsic evidence
- The problem (#1): clever lawyers will still look for the best dictionary
- The problem (#2): dictionaries are written with a different purpose and don't necessarily reflect the patent's use

Claim-construction background

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- The problem (#1): clever lawyers will still look for the best dictionary
- The problem (#2): dictionaries are written with a different purpose and don't necessarily reflect the patent's use

United States Patent [19] Phillips

[11] Patent Number: 4,677,798
[45] Date of Patent: Jul. 7, 1987

[54] STEEL SHELL MODULES FOR PRISONER DETENTION FACILITIES

[76] Inventor: Edward H. Phillips, P.O. Box 979,
Fort Collins, Colo. 80522

[21] Appl. No.: 852,021

[22] Filed: Apr. 14, 1986

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ E04H 3/08

[52] U.S. Cl. 52/106; 52/79.4;

[58] Field of Search 52/79.9; 52/144; 52/404; 109/79

52/79.5, 79.9, 79.12, 144, 243, 404; 109/78, 79

[56] References Cited

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3,312,019 4/1967 Faerber 52/106 X
3,722,152 3/1973 Schuster et al. 52/79.4 X
3,769,766 11/1973 Spidel 52/79.4
3,899,043 8/1975 Hall 52/79.9 X
4,484,340 1/1985 Kastelle 52/404 X

Primary Examiner—J. Karl Bell

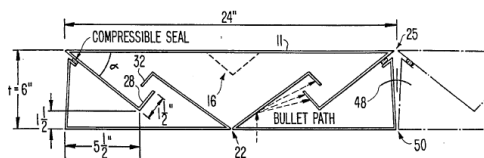
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Laurence R. Brown

[57] ABSTRACT

Vandalism resistant building modules suitable for deten-

tion and secured storage facilities provide good architectural properties and significant resistance to noise, fire and impact. Thus, steel shell modules are welded together to produce steel inner and outer walls. The modules contain strengthening and bullet deflecting internally directed steel baffles and various types of insulating materials. Construction is facilitated by providing modules that are welded together along only two lines coinciding with mating end positions on the steel plate inner and outer walls. Three steel panel pieces are formed into a module, each being partly triangular in cross section so that only one weld seam between two of the panels is required in assembling the three pieces which thereby form the internal baffles at angles for deflecting bullets. The baffles form an intermediate barrier between the walls and flanges at the ends of the module between which an insulating rope is compressed to provide a thermal and sound barrier between the inner and outer steel walls. Different types of internally disposed insulating materials may be disposed on either side of the intermediate barrier thus to provide the best combination of impact, fire and sound resistant properties.

26 Claims, 18 Drawing Figures



U.S. Patent No. 4,677,798

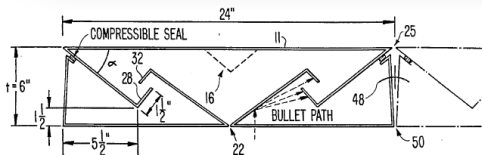
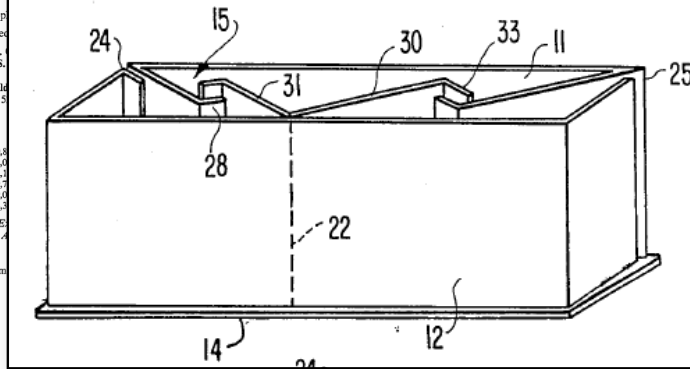
→ "Steel shell
modules for
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United States Patent [19]
Phillips

[11] Patent Number: 4,677,798
[45] Date of Patent: Jul. 7, 1987

[54] STEEL SHELL
[76] Inventor: STEPHEN D. PHILLIPS
[21] Application No.: 08/012,120
[22] Filed: Jan. 13, 1987
[51] Int. Cl. B63C 1/00
[52] U.S. Cl. 102/102
[58] Field of Invention: 102/102
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4,484,000
Primary Examiner: J. A. [illegible]
[57] Attorney: [illegible]
Vandalism

FIG. 2.



U.S. Patent
No. 4,677,798

Steel shell
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FIG. 2.

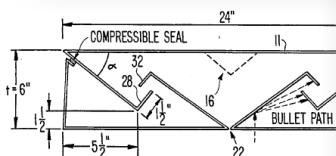
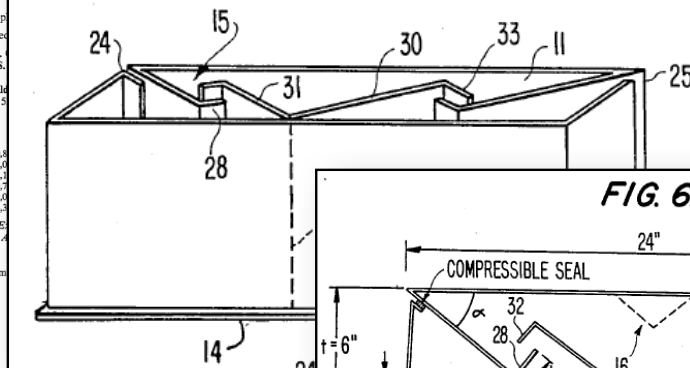


FIG. 6.

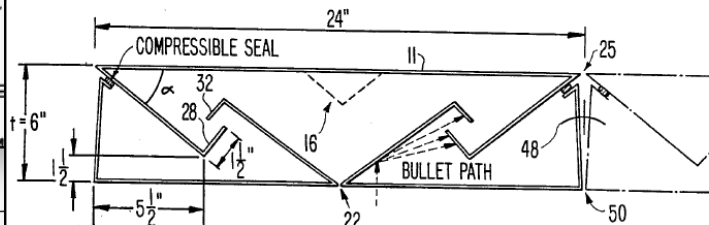
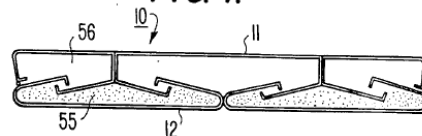


FIG. 7.



U.S. Patent
No. 4,677,798

Steel shell
modules for
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[54] STEEL SHELL MODULES FOR PRISONER DETENTION FACILITIES

[76] Inventor: Edward Fort C.

[21] Appl. No.: 852,021

[22] Filed: Apr. 14, 1985

[51] Int. Cl.² E04B 1/76

[52] U.S. Cl. 52

[58] Field of Search 52/79.5, 79.9, 79.10

[56] References

U.S. PATENT

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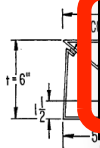
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—

[57] ABS

Vandalism resistant build

I claim:

1. Building modules adapted to fit together for construction of fire, sound and impact resistant security barriers and rooms for use in securing records and persons, comprising in combination, an outer shell of substantially parallelepiped shaped with two outer steel plate panel sections of greater surface area serving as inner and outer walls for a structure when a plurality of the modules are fitted together, sealant means spacing the two panel sections from steel to steel contact with each other by a thermal-acoustical barrier material, and further means disposed inside the shell for increasing its load bearing capacity comprising internal steel baffles extending inwardly from the steel shell walls.

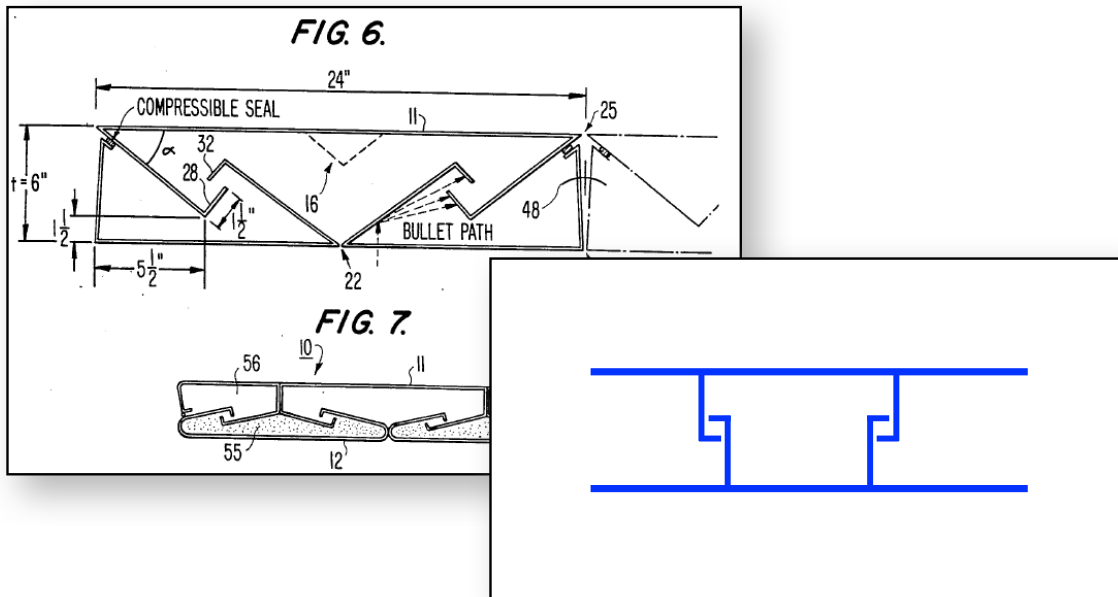


Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ The claim-construction issues:

- Is "baffles" a § 112 ¶ 6 / § 112(f) means-plus-function limitation?
- If not, can the baffles extend 90° from the wall, or just angles greater and less than 90°?

Phillips v. AWH Corp.



Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ New rule?

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ New rule?

- We construe claims to have their ordinary meaning, as understood by someone of ordinary skill in the art, in light of the patent as a whole and the prosecution history

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ Advantage?

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ Advantage?

- More likely to give us a claim construction that relates to what the inventor actually intended to claim

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ Disadvantage?

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ Disadvantage?

- We have competing axioms on both sides
- We read claims in light of the specification and prosecution history
- But we don't import limitations from the specification into the claims
- That's a hard line to walk

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

→ New process:

- (1a) Context of the claim and surrounding claims
- (1b) Specification
- (1c) Prosecution history
- (2) Extrinsic evidence

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

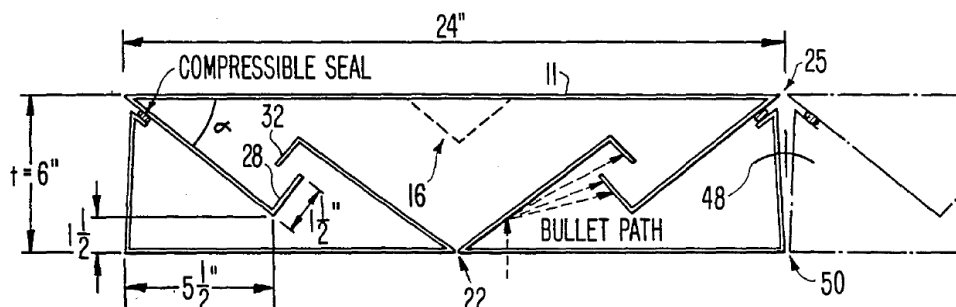
- Okay, so let's construe "baffles"
- (1a) Context of the claim and surrounding claims

2. Modules as defined in claim 1 wherein the steel baffles are oriented with the panel sections disposed at angles for deflecting projectiles such as bullets able to penetrate the steel plates.

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

- Okay, so let's construe "baffles"
- (1a) Context of the claim and surrounding claims

FIG. 6.



Phillips v. AWH Corp.

- Okay, so let's construe "baffles"
 - (1b) Specification

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides modular equipment for formulating detention structures comprising of a multiplicity of interchangeable modules of similar size having steel plate inner and outer wall sections defining end closures and internally directed load supporting baffles. The modules comprise three steel plate wall panel sections of partially triangular cross section shape positioned to provide the internally directed baffles and the end closure walls. Modules of a size that may be manually processed are abutted together end to end in registration and welded together along two weld lines to form walls for the detention structure. The ends are indented so that the two weld lines at the wall section surfaces are the sole lines of registered contact.

The baffles provided by the triangular shaped panels to extend inwardly form an intermediate interlocking barrier with the baffles disposed at such angles that bullets which might penetrate the outer steel panels are deflected. Flanges are formed between the inner and outer wall panels between which a ropelike insulating seal is compressed to isolate the two walls. Two different kinds of filler insulating material may be inserted on opposite sides of the intermediate layer to increase the versatility of the modules. Thus, insulation properties, impact properties or load bearing properties may be emphasized by the appropriate filler materials.

Phillips v. AWH Corp.

- Okay, so let's construe "baffles"
 - (1c) Prosecution history
 - (2) Extrinsic evidence

Post-Phillips

- Claim construction is still really hard and indeterminate
 - There are several maxims, rules of thumb, and common practices
 - Internal divisions on the Federal Circuit
 - The claim-construction reversal rate on the Federal Circuit is ~50%

Ordinary meaning v. contextual meaning

- Many cases prioritize “ordinary meaning”
 - Usually, this leads to broader patent claims
- Other cases prioritize “contextual meaning”

Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc.

- The written-description consequences of *Phillips*
- Medrad's application: explicitly recited a pressure jacket
 - During prosecution, Medrad becomes aware of a jacketless system and amends its claims to cover such a system

Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc.

- The written-description consequences of *Phillips*
- Claim ultimately requires a "high pressure power injector"
 - District court, relying on specification: this requires a pressure jacket
 - Federal Circuit: nope, the claim is not ambiguous, so we don't need to look to the specification

Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc.

- The written-description consequences of *Phillips*
 - *Three years pass*
 - District court: claim is invalid for lacking written description
 - Federal Circuit affirms

Nystrom v. TREX

- Specification repeatedly assumed that all “board”s were made of wood
 - Court: in context, the best construction of “board” is “wooden board”
 - Even though some claims required a board made from wood!

Lexicographer

- Patent applicants can act as their own lexicographers
 - Usually, this is implicit
 - Often, this is done to broaden the meaning of a claim term
 - “[W]here the scanning and image reproduction aspects are separate (within or without the same housing), but cooperate to produce the effect of a plain paper photocopy machine ... the two aspects are deemed to define a photocopy machine as that term is used herein.”

Purpose of the invention

- The purpose of the invention can inform a claim term's meaning
 - “lubricant” in *3M v. Johnson & Johnson*

Literal infringement

35 U.S.C. § 271 — Infringement of Patent (post-AIA)

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, whoever without authority **makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells** any patented invention, within the United States or imports into the United States any patented invention during the term of the patent therefor, infringes the patent.

(b) Whoever **actively induces** infringement of a patent shall be liable as an infringer.

(c) Whoever offers to sell or sells within the United States or imports into the United States a **component of a patented machine**, manufacture, combination or composition, or a **material or apparatus for use in practicing a patented process**, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing the same to be **especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement** of such patent, and **not a staple article** or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial noninfringing use, shall be liable as a contributory infringer.

* * *

35 U.S.C. § 271 — Infringement of Patent (post-AIA)

* * *

(f)

(1) Whoever without authority **supplies** or causes to be supplied in or from the United States **all or a substantial portion of the components of a patented invention**, where such components are uncombined in whole or in part, in such manner as to **actively induce the combination of such components outside of the United States** in a manner that would infringe the patent if such combination occurred within the United States, shall be liable as an infringer.

(2) Whoever without authority **supplies** or causes to be supplied in or from the United States **any component of a patented invention that is especially made or especially adapted for use in the invention and not a staple article** or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial noninfringing use, where such component is uncombined in whole or in part, knowing that such component is so made or adapted and intending that such component will be combined outside of the United States in a manner that would infringe the patent if such combination occurred within the United States, shall be liable as an infringer.

* * *

35 U.S.C. § 271 — Infringement of Patent (post-AIA)

* * *

(g) Whoever without authority **imports** into the United States or **offers to sell, sells, or uses** within the United States a product which is **made by a process patented in the United States** shall be liable as an infringer, if the importation, offer to sell, sale, or use of the product occurs during the term of such process patent. In an action for infringement of a process patent, no remedy may be granted for infringement on account of the noncommercial use or retail sale of a product unless there is no adequate remedy under this title for infringement on account of the importation or other use, offer to sell, or sale of that product. A product which is made by a patented process will, for purposes of this title, not be considered to be so made after—

(1) it is materially changed by subsequent processes; or

(2) it becomes a trivial and nonessential component of another product.


* * *

Infringement background

- Two dimensions of infringement:
 - Direct versus indirect
 - Literal versus equivalents

Infringement background

- Direct infringement: infringement by the defendant's own behavior
- Indirect infringement: liability for the behavior of a third party
- Literal infringement: literally practicing every element of a patent claim
- Infringement by equivalents: practicing every element of a claim, but one or more by the doctrine of equivalents



US005486000A

United States Patent [19] **Patent Number:** **5,486,000**
Chorne [45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 23, 1996**

[54] **WEIGHTED GOLF IRON CLUB HEAD** 1,917,774 7/1993 Ogg 273/167 F
 2,007,377 7/1993 Link 273/167 F
 2,550,846 5/1951 Milligan 273/167 A
 3,814,427 6/1974 Waquist 273/167 F
 4,621,813 11/1986 Solheim 273/77 A

[76] **Inventor:** **Robert Chorne, 99 Russell Pl., Freeport, N.Y. 11520**

[21] **Appl. No.:** **173,056**
 [22] **Filed:** **Dec. 27, 1993**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] **Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 886,173, May 21, 1992, Pat. No. Des. 343,216, Ser. No. 729,173, Jul. 17, 1991, Pat. No. 5,186,465, Ser. No. 643,860, Jan. 22, 1991, abandoned, and Ser. No. 469,825, Jan. 24, 1990, Pat. No. Des. 326,130, said Ser. No. 729,173 is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 643,860, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 469,825.**
 [51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A63B 53/04**
 [52] **U.S. Cl.** **273/169; 273/167 F; 273/167 H; 273/167 A**

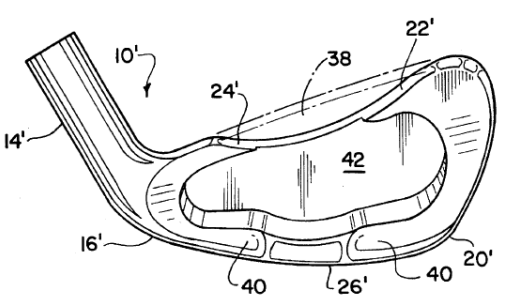
[58] **Field of Search** **273/167 R, 77 R, 273/77 A, 167 A, 167 D, 167 E, 167 F, 169, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 193 R, 194 R, 194 A, 167 H**

[56] **References Cited**
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
 835,735 11/1906 Robertson 273/167 F

Primary Examiner—Sebastiano Passaniti
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—F. Eugene Davis, IV


ABSTRACT
 For weight distribution in a golf iron club head, the use of construction material from a location thereon never used in play, namely centrally along a top edge of the ball-striking face, advantageously relocated to the toe, sole, heel or combinations thereof, to contribute to sweet spot-enhancement in at least two respects, viz. first, that weight in the removal location is counterproductive to a good hit and removal is a benefit even if not relocated elsewhere, and second that said weight that is relocated being sourced from the club head itself, does not change the overall swing weight of the club head, which typically is selected according to the size and handicap of the golfer and should remain unchanged.

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



U.S. Patent No. 5,486,000

→ “Weighted golf iron club head”



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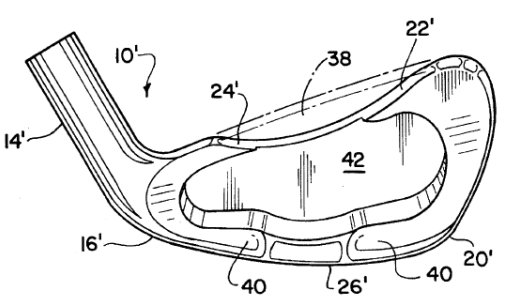
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U.S. Patent No. 5,486,000

“Weighted golf iron club head”



Next time

Next time

- Infringement: the doctrine of equivalents; indirect infringement