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Apple sues Atico over patent infringement

iPod accessories in the dock

by Amy-Mae Elliott published on 16 May 2008

Apple has sued Atico International USA claiming the company has infringed five patents for accessories to be used with iPods. The patents in question cover accessory designs and a system for transferring information.

Atico is apparently selling unlicensed versions of products for the iPod, which is costing Apple money in lost sales and damaging its reputation, the Mac-maker said.

According to the legal papers filed in federal court in Wilmington, Delaware, Apple is looking for a court order to halt the sale of Atico's supposedly patent-infringing products in the United States.

Asking for a jury trial, Apple apparently also alleges trademark infringement and unfair competition. "The iPod's success has spawned an enormous demand for iPod-compatible accessories" Apple said in the papers, listing docking stations, speakers and cables as such in-demand add-ons.

