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9 Attorneys for GOOGLE LLC

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 GOOGLE LLC,
13 Plaintiff,
14 vs.
15 SONOS, INC.,
16 Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:20-CV-3845
**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT**
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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19 **COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

20 1. Plaintiff Google LLC (“Google”), by and through its attorneys, and for its
21 Complaint against Sonos, Inc. (“Sonos”), hereby alleges the following:

22 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

23 2. Google brings this action against Sonos for infringement of U.S. Patent No.
24 7,899,187 (the “187 patent”), U.S. Patent No. 8,583,489 (the “489 patent”), U.S. Patent No.
25 10,140,375 (the “375 patent”), U.S. Patent No. 7,065,206 (the “206 patent”), and U.S. Patent No.
26 10,229,586 (the “586 patent”) (collectively, the “Patents-in-Suit”).
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1 **BACKGROUND**

2 3. Google was founded in 1998, and has a mission to organize the world's
3 information and make it universally accessible and useful. Over the past two decades, in service
4 of that mission, Google has become one of the world's most innovative technology companies.

5 4. Google's revolutionary advances in search, software, mobile computing, wireless
6 networking, content streaming, machine learning, and voice-assisted technologies including
7 speech recognition and advanced audio processing, have changed and improved millions of lives.

8 5. As part of its commitment to innovation, Google has invested significantly in
9 extensive research and development efforts, including its own research, as well as investments in
10 and acquisitions of other cutting-edge technology companies. Google is the current assignee of
11 tens of thousands of patents worldwide.

12 **GOOGLE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH SONOS**

13 6. Google partners with other companies to bring Google's innovations to millions of
14 shared customers. In particular, Google has long had a continued partnership with Sonos. In these
15 collaborations, Sonos has repeatedly asked Google for assistance, so that Sonos could employ
16 Google technology to improve Sonos' products.

17 7. In 2013, Sonos asked for Google's assistance to integrate with Google's popular
18 Play Music service. Google gave Sonos that assistance, and provided significant engineering
19 resources, technical support, and other resources to integrate Sonos' products with Google's Play
20 Music service in 2014.

21 8. In 2016, Sonos again asked for Google's assistance—this time to integrate with
22 Google's innovative Assistant software. And again, Google was willing to help. Google gave
23 Sonos significant assistance in designing, implementing, and testing a solution that would bring
24 Google's voice recognition software to Sonos' devices. This effort again involved substantial
25 Google engineering resources, including significant months of employee work time, for the initial
26 launch of Google's Assistant on Sonos' products in May 2019.

27 9. Google is proud of its more than five-year partnership with Sonos, and has worked
28 constructively with Sonos to make the companies' products work seamlessly by building special

1 integrations for Sonos. For instance, when Google rolled out the ability to set a Sonos speaker as
2 the default option for Google Assistant, it was the first time Google had done that for any partner
3 company.

4 10. Sonos has made false claims about the companies' shared work and Google's
5 technology in the lawsuits that Sonos filed against Google earlier this year. While Google rarely
6 sues other companies for patent infringement, it must assert its intellectual property rights here.

7 **SONOS' INFRINGEMENT OF GOOGLE'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

8 11. Sonos is using substantial volumes of Google's technology, including patented
9 Google innovations in search, software, networking, audio processing, and digital media
10 management and streaming, both in Sonos' hardware products and in Sonos' software and service
11 offerings, including the current-generation Sonos controller application (hereafter "S2 App"),
12 prior-generation Sonos controller application (hereafter "S1 Controller App"), and the Sonos
13 Radio service.

14 12. Google has patents on innovative technologies that allow networked digital audio
15 devices to create robust wireless communications networks, access and play copy-protected
16 media, adaptively control echo and ambient noise, and search multiple music libraries
17 simultaneously. Sonos is using, without permission, these Google technologies in Sonos' products
18 to enable multiple commercially-desirable features, for example, to allow for easier configuration
19 of and extensions to multi-speaker networks; to facilitate the management and use of multiple
20 music services with Sonos speakers; to permit playing copy-protected digital media, including
21 Sonos' new Sonos Radio service; and to allow Sonos to use noise suppression and echo
22 cancellation to obtain accurate audio input. Sonos uses these technologies to offer a number of
23 products and services, including, *inter alia*, the Sonos One, One SL, Five, Play:1, Play:3, Play:5,
24 Playbar, Playbase, Beam, Arc, Move, Connect:Amp, Amp, Connect, Sub, and the Sonos S1
25 Controller App and S2 App (collectively, the "Accused Products").

26 13. Sonos is actively infringing Google's intellectual property. Sonos has no license to
27 use Google's patents. Because Sonos refuses to cease its infringement, and is unwilling to
28

1 recognize the value of Google’s technology through a license, Google has filed this suit to protect
2 its intellectual property.

3 **THE PARTIES**

4 14. Plaintiff Google LLC is a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. with its principal place of
5 business located in Mountain View, California 94043.

6 15. Defendant Sonos, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with headquarters at 614 Chapala
7 Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101.

8 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9 16. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the
10 United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court has exclusive subject matter
11 jurisdiction over this Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1338(a).

12 17. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Sonos. Sonos is registered to do business
13 in the State of California (Registration No. C2465272), has its headquarters in the State of
14 California, and has offices in this District. Sonos, directly and through agents, regularly does,
15 solicits, and transacts business in this District and elsewhere in the State of California. Those acts
16 have caused injury to Google, including within this District.

17 18. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1391 and 1400(b). Sonos
18 has a regular and established place of business in this District—specifically, offices and employees
19 located at 550 Montgomery Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94111. Sonos lists this
20 San Francisco office on its website (<https://www.sonos.com/en-us/contact>, a true and correct copy
21 of which is attached as Exhibit 1), and the Sonos office at this location is advertised by Sonos as a
22 current place of business (including in the building’s directory in the public lobby). Sonos has
23 also committed acts of infringement in this District by selling, using, importing, and/or offering
24 for sale the Accused Products in this District.

25 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

26 19. For purposes of intradistrict assignment under Civil Local Rules 3-2(c) and 3-5(b),
27 this Intellectual Property Action will be assigned on a district-wide basis.

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Infringement of Patent No. 7,899,187)

20. Google incorporates all of the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

21. U.S. Patent No. 7,899,187, titled “Domain-Based Digital-Rights Management System with Easy and Secure Device Enrollment,” was duly and lawfully issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 1, 2011. A true and correct copy of the ’187 patent is attached to this Complaint as Exhibit 2.

22. Google is the owner by assignment of all rights, title, and interest in the ’187 patent, including the right to bring this suit for past and future damages and/or injunctive relief.

23. The ’187 patent is valid and enforceable.

24. Sonos infringes one or more claims of the ’187 patent, including but not limited to claim 10 (the “Asserted ’187 Claims”), directly and/or indirectly via induced infringement and/or by contributory infringement. Sonos infringes the Asserted ’187 Claims by making, using, importing, selling for importation, and/or selling after importation into the United States at least the Sonos One, One SL, Play:1, Play:3, Play:5, Playbar, Playbase, Beam, Move, Connect:Amp, Amp, Connect, Port, and Sub products (the “Accused ’187 Products”) in violation of 35 U.S.C. Sections 271(a)-(b). On information and belief, the Accused ’187 Products satisfy all claim limitations of the Asserted ’187 Claims at the time of their importation into and/or sale in the United States.

25. Sonos had actual knowledge of the ’187 patent or was willfully blind to its existence at least as early as October 25, 2016, and no later than the filing of this action.

26. Sonos directly infringes the Asserted ’187 Claims by making, using, offering to sell, or selling the Accused ’187 Products in the United States and by importing the Accused ’187 Products into the United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(a). Sonos infringes at least claim 10 of the ’187 patent for at least the following reasons:

27. To the extent the preamble is limiting, the Accused ’187 Products each constitute an apparatus.

28

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