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18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
19 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

20 GOOGLE LLC,

21 Plaintiff,

22 vs.

23 SONOS, INC.,

24 Defendant.
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**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 **COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

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

4 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5 2. Google brings this action against Sonos for infringement of U.S. Patent No.
6 10,593,330 (“the ’330 patent”), U.S. Patent No. 10,134,398 (“the ’398 patent”), and U.S. Patent
7 No. 7,705,565 (“the ’565 patent”) (collectively, the “Asserted Patents”).

8 **BACKGROUND**

9 3. Google was founded in 1998, and has a mission to organize the world’s
10 information and make it universally accessible and useful. Over the past two decades, in service of
11 that mission, Google has become one of the world’s most innovative technology companies.
12 Google’s revolutionary advances in search, computing, software, hardware, and voice-assisted
13 technologies have resulted in improved services for millions of people worldwide.

14 4. As part of its commitment to innovation, Google has invested significantly in
15 extensive research and development efforts. Google is the current assignee of tens of thousands of
16 patents worldwide.

17 5. Google has pioneered advances at the heart of modern technology. Google’s
18 innovative voice-activated Google Assistant has transformed smart device management, connected
19 homes, and mobile computing, and Google’s innovations in power management for voice-
20 controlled devices have made speech interfaces an efficient and effective component of modern
21 electronics. Google’s innovations in power management, including advances for speech-detecting
22 devices and techniques for more efficient wireless charging, are key components for modern
23 mobile devices and smart-home technologies.

24 6. Google makes its innovative technology available to users worldwide, and also to
25 other companies – even providing its Google Assistant software to Sonos for many years. Google
26 engineers have worked for years assisting and instructing Sonos engineers regarding
27 implementation of voice recognition and voice-activated device controls in Sonos’s products.
28

1 This software and know-how, which Google provided to Sonos in the spirit of partnership and
2 collaboration, helped drive demand for Sonos products.

3 **GOOGLE’S PARTNERSHIP WITH SONOS**

4 7. Google partners with other companies to bring Google’s innovations to millions of
5 shared customers. In particular, Google has long had a continued partnership with Sonos. In these
6 collaborations, Sonos has repeatedly asked Google for assistance, so that Sonos could employ
7 Google technology to improve Sonos’s products. In 2013, Sonos asked for Google’s assistance to
8 integrate with Google’s popular Play Music service. Google gave Sonos that assistance, and
9 provided significant engineering resources, technical support, and other resources to integrate
10 Sonos’s products with Google’s Play Music service in 2014.

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

17 9. Google is proud of its multi-year partnership with Sonos, and has worked
18 constructively with Sonos to make the companies’ products work seamlessly by building special
19 integrations for Sonos. For instance, when Google rolled out the ability to set a Sonos speaker as
20 the default option for Google Assistant, it was the first time Google had done that for any partner
21 company.

22 10. Sonos has made false claims about the companies’ shared work and Google’s
23 technology in the lawsuits that Sonos filed against Google. While Google rarely sues other
24 companies for patent infringement, it must assert its intellectual property rights here.

25 **SONOS’S INFRINGEMENT OF GOOGLE’S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

26 11. Google has patented inventions on innovative technologies for enabling voice
27 assistant technology and providing improvements to the efficiency, reliability, and durability of
28 voice-controlled and battery-powered devices. Sonos is using, without permission, these Google

1 technologies in its products to enable multiple commercially-desirable features. For example,
2 Sonos has recently introduced its Sonos Voice Control feature to control its products in a power-
3 efficient manner through the use of “hotwords,” and to manage battery charging of its products,
4 using technologies invented by Google. Sonos uses these technologies in a number of its
5 products, including the Sonos Move, Sonos Roam, Sonos Roam SL, Sonos Arc, Sonos Beam, and
6 Sonos One.

7 12. Google’s patented innovations are fundamental to the ability of Sonos’s products to
8 work together as energy efficient, voice-controllable smart devices. Sonos acknowledges that for
9 its products, “the real magic is in the software,” and not in the “look and sound” of its speakers.
10 See Ex. 4, (retrieved August 3, 2022), available at
11 https://jobs.mindtheproduct.com/?post_type=job_listing&p=10065. Sonos freely admits as much
12 on its own tech blog:

13 Our software is the “magic.”

14 If you’ve used Sonos before, you know that the Sonos
15 experience is more than just sounds coming from a speaker. It’s the
16 seamlessness of moving from room to room while listening to your
17 favorite true crime podcast. It’s the ease of asking your voice assistant
18 to turn down the volume or convert ounces to cups while you’re
19 cooking. And it’s the joy of soundtracking a picnic with a
20 collaborative playlist on a speaker that weighs less than a pound.

19 None of this would be possible without the hard-working
20 software inside our speakers and components. “There’s a perception
21 that we’re a hardware company because everything we sell is
22 hardware,” says Jim Dolan, Vice President, Software Development.
23 “And the hardware is beautiful. It’s amazing. But *the magic of the*
24 *system is the software*. The speaker itself does not enable the system;
25 the software enables the system.”

23 See Ex. 5, “5 Things We Want To Share With Our Future SVP, Software” (retrieved June
24 20, 2022), available at [https://tech-blog.sonos.com/posts/things-we-want-to-share-with-our-future-](https://tech-blog.sonos.com/posts/things-we-want-to-share-with-our-future-svp-software/)
25 [svp-software/](https://tech-blog.sonos.com/posts/things-we-want-to-share-with-our-future-svp-software/) (emphasis added). This software “magic” uses patented Google technology, and
26 Google brings this case to defend that technology from Sonos’s infringement.

1 13. Sonos is actively infringing Google’s intellectual property, and is not licensed to
2 use Google’s patented inventions to implement the accused features described in this Complaint.
3 Accordingly, Google has filed this suit to protect its intellectual property.

4 **THE PARTIES**

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

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

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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

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

18 18. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1391 and 1400(b). Sonos
19 has a regular and established place of business in this District—specifically, offices and employees
20 located at 550 Montgomery Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94111. Sonos lists this San
21 Francisco office on its website (<https://www.sonos.com/en-us/contact>, a true and correct copy of
22 which is attached as Exhibit 6), and the Sonos office at this location is advertised by Sonos as a
23 current place of business (including in the building’s directory in the public lobby). Sonos has
24 also committed acts of infringement in this District by selling, using, importing, and/or offering
25 for sale its infringing products in this District.

26 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

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

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 10,593,330)

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3 20. Google incorporates and realleges all of the above paragraphs as though fully set
4 forth herein.

5 21. U.S. Patent No. 10,593,330, titled “Hotword Detection On Multiple Devices,” was
6 duly and lawfully issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 26, 2018
7 and is assigned to Google LLC. A true and correct copy of the ’330 patent is attached to this
8 Complaint as Exhibit 1.

9 22. Google is the owner of all rights, title, and interest in the ’330 patent, including the
10 right to bring this suit for past and future damages and/or injunctive relief.

11 23. The ’330 patent is valid and enforceable.

12 24. Sonos infringes one or more claims of the ’330 patent, including but not limited to
13 claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, and 18 (the “Asserted ’330 Claims”), directly and/or indirectly via induced
14 infringement and/or by contributory infringement. Sonos infringes the Asserted ’330 Claims by
15 making, using, offering to sell, importing, selling for importation, and/or selling after importation
16 into the United States at least Sonos audio player products that include one or more microphones
17 and support Sonos Voice Control, including the Sonos One, Sonos Move, Sonos Roam, Sonos
18 Arc, and Sonos Beam (the “Accused Voice Products”) in violation of 35 U.S.C. Sections 271(a)-
19 (c). On information and belief, the Accused Voice Products satisfy all claim limitations of the
20 Asserted ’330 Claims at the time of their importation into and/or sale in the United States.

21 25. Sonos had knowledge of the ’330 patent by no later than the filing of this action.

22 26. Sonos directly infringes the Asserted ’330 Claims by making, using, offering to
23 sell, or selling the Accused Voice Products in the United States and by importing the Accused
24 Voice Products into the United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(a). A claim chart
25 illustrating Sonos’s infringement of independent claims 1, 9, and 17 of the ’330 patent for a
26 representative Accused Voice Product is attached as Exhibit 7.

27 27. Sonos actively, knowingly, and intentionally induces the infringement of the
28 Asserted ’330 Claims by actively encouraging others to make, use, offer to sell, or sell the

1 Accused Voice Products in the United States and/or import the Accused Voice Products into the
2 United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(b). By at least the filing of this Complaint,
3 Sonos knows (or should know) that its actions will induce (and do induce) users of the Accused
4 Voice Products to directly infringe the Asserted '330 Claims. For example, Sonos promotes
5 Sonos Voice Control as providing “[f]ast, accurate control of your music and your Sonos System,”
6 and as being available “on new voice capable products and as a free update for existing
7 customers.” Ex. 14 (retrieved August 3, 2022) available at [https://www.sonos.com/en-](https://www.sonos.com/en-us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening)
8 [us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening](https://www.sonos.com/en-us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening).

9 28. Sonos contributorily infringes the Asserted '330 Claims by offering to sell or
10 selling within the United States or importing into the United States the Accused Voice Products
11 (where each of the Accused Voice Products is or contains a component of a patented machine,
12 manufacture, combination or composition, or a material or apparatus for use in practicing a
13 patented process, constituting a material part of the invention), knowing, by at least the filing of
14 this Complaint, the same to be especially made or especially adapted for use in infringing the '330
15 patent, and not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing
16 use in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(c).

17 29. Sonos's continued infringement of the '330 patent is willful and deliberate because
18 it knows of the '330 patent and the infringement of that patent no later than the filing of this
19 action, but continues to act despite an objectively high likelihood that such acts will result in
20 infringement of the patent.

21 30. As the direct and proximate result of Sonos's conduct, Google has suffered and, if
22 Sonos's conduct is not stopped, will continue to suffer, competitive harm, irreparable injury, and
23 damages in an amount to be proven at trial. Because Google's remedy at law is inadequate,
24 Google seeks, in addition to damages, permanent injunctive relief. Google's business operates in
25 a competitive market and will continue suffering irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 10,134,398)

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3 31. Google incorporates and realleges all of the above paragraphs as though fully set
4 forth herein.

5 32. U.S. Patent No. 10,134,398, titled “Hotword Detection On Multiple Devices,” was
6 duly and lawfully issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 20,
7 2018, and is assigned to Google LLC. A true and correct copy of the ’398 patent is attached to
8 this Complaint as Exhibit 2.

9 33. Google is the owner of all rights, title, and interest in the ’398 patent, including the
10 right to bring this suit for past and future damages and/or injunctive relief.

11 34. The ’398 patent is valid and enforceable.

12 35. Sonos infringes one or more claims of the ’398 patent, including but not limited to
13 claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-20 (the “Asserted ’398 Claims”), directly and/or indirectly via induced
14 infringement and/or by contributory infringement. Sonos infringes the Asserted ’398 Claims by
15 making, using, offering to sell, importing, selling for importation, and/or selling after importation
16 into the United States at least the Accused Voice Products in violation of 35 U.S.C. Sections
17 271(a)-(c). On information and belief, the Accused Voice Products satisfy all claim limitations of
18 the Asserted ’398 Claims at the time of their use in the United States. A claim chart illustrating
19 Sonos’s infringement of independent claims 1, 9, and 16 of the ’398 patent for a representative
20 Accused Voice Product is attached as Exhibit 15.

21 36. Sonos had knowledge of the ’398 patent by no later than the filing of this action.

22 37. Sonos directly infringes the Asserted ’398 Claims by making, using, offering to
23 sell, or selling the Accused Voice Products in the United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section
24 271(a).

25 38. Sonos actively, knowingly, and intentionally induces the infringement of the
26 Asserted ’398 Claims by actively encouraging others to make, use, offer to sell, or sell the
27 Accused Voice Products in the United States and/or import the Accused Voice Products into the
28 United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(b). By at least the filing of this Complaint,

1 Sonos knows (or should know) that its actions will induce (and do induce) users of the Accused
2 Voice Products to directly infringe the Asserted '398 Claims. For example, Sonos promotes
3 Sonos Voice Control as providing “[f]ast, accurate control of your music and your Sonos System,”
4 and as being available “on new voice capable products and as a free update for existing
5 customers.” Ex. 17 (retrieved August 3, 2022) available at [https://www.sonos.com/en-](https://www.sonos.com/en-us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening)
6 [us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening](https://www.sonos.com/en-us/newsroom/introducing-effortless-listening).

7 39. Sonos contributorily infringes the Asserted '398 Claims by offering to sell or
8 selling within the United States or importing into the United States the Accused Voice Products
9 (where each of the Accused Voice Products is or contains a component of a patented machine,
10 manufacture, combination or composition, or a material or apparatus for use in practicing a
11 patented process, constituting a material part of the invention), knowing, by at least the filing of
12 this Complaint, the same to be especially made or especially adapted for use in infringing the '398
13 patent, and not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing
14 use in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(c).

15 40. Sonos's continued infringement of the '398 patent is willful and deliberate because
16 it knows of the '398 patent and the infringement of that patent no later than the filing of this
17 action, but continues to act despite an objectively high likelihood that such acts will result in
18 infringement of the patent.

19 41. As the direct and proximate result of Sonos's conduct, Google has suffered and, if
20 Sonos's conduct is not stopped, will continue to suffer, competitive harm, irreparable injury, and
21 damages in an amount to be proven at trial. Because Google's remedy at law is inadequate,
22 Google seeks, in addition to damages, permanent injunctive relief. Google's business operates in
23 a competitive market and will continue suffering irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.

24 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **(Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,705,565)**

26 42. Google incorporates and realleges all of the above paragraphs as though fully set
27 forth herein.

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1 43. U.S. Patent No. 7,705,565, titled “Method and System for Wireless Charging,” was
2 duly and lawfully issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 27, 2010, and
3 is assigned to Google LLC. A true and correct copy of the ’565 patent is attached to this
4 Complaint as Exhibit 3.

5 44. Google is the owner by assignment of all rights, title, and interest in the ’565
6 patent, including the right to bring this suit for past and future damages and/or injunctive relief.

7 45. The ’565 patent is valid and enforceable.

8 46. Sonos infringes one or more claims of the ’565 patent, including but not limited to
9 claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, and 18 (the “Asserted ’565 Claims”), directly and/or indirectly via induced
10 infringement and/or by contributory infringement. Sonos infringes the Asserted ’565 Claims by
11 making, using, offering to sell, importing, selling for importation, and/or selling after importation
12 into the United States at least Sonos audio player products that support both wireless and wired
13 charging, including the Sonos Move, Sonos Roam, and Sonos Roam SL (the “Accused Portable
14 Products”) in violation of 35 U.S.C. Sections 271(a)-(c). On information and belief, the Accused
15 Portable Products satisfy all claim limitations of the Asserted ’565 Claims at the time of their
16 importation into and/or sale in the United States.

17 47. Sonos had knowledge of the ’565 patent by no later than the filing of this action.

18 48. Sonos directly infringes the Asserted ’565 Claims by making, using, offering to
19 sell, or selling the Accused Portable Products in the United States and by importing the Accused
20 Portable Products into the United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(a). A claim chart
21 illustrating Sonos’s infringement of independent claims 1, 9, and 18 of the ’565 patent for a
22 representative Accused Portable Product is attached as Exhibit 16.

23 49. Sonos actively, knowingly, and intentionally induces the infringement of the
24 Asserted ’565 Claims by actively encouraging others to make, use, offer to sell, or sell the
25 Accused Portable Products in the United States and/or import the Accused Portable Products into
26 the United States in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(b). By at least the filing of this Complaint,
27 Sonos knows (or should know) that its actions will induce (and do induce) users of the Accused
28 Portable Products to directly infringe the Asserted ’565 Claims. For example, Sonos provides

1 instructions informing a user “how to charge your Sonos Roam or Roam SL with a USB-C cable
2 (included), wireless Qi charger, or the Sonos Wireless Charger.” Ex. 22 (retrieved August 3,
3 2022), available at <https://support.sonos.com/s/article/4994>. Sonos advertises to users that they
4 can charge their Sonos Roam “[u]sing the included USB A-C charging cable with any 5V/1.5A
5 (7.5W) or higher USB power adapter. You can also use the [Sonos Roam Wireless Charger](#) or any
6 Qi-certified wireless charger.” Ex. 17 (retrieved August 5, 2022), available at
7 <https://www.sonos.com/en-us/shop/roam>. Sonos likewise promotes the Sonos Move as capable
8 of being charged in a wired or wireless configuration. See Ex. 23 (retrieved August 5, 2022),
9 available at <https://www.sonos.com/en-us/guides/move> (“Rechargeable battery lasts up to 10
10 hours. Easily recharge by just setting Move on the charging base—no plugs or extra wires
11 required. For power on the go, use a compatible USB-C charger (sold separately).”).

12 50. Sonos contributorily infringes the Asserted ’565 Claims by offering to sell or
13 selling within the United States or importing into the United States the Accused Portable Products
14 (where each of the Accused Portable Products is or contains a component of a patented machine,
15 manufacture, combination or composition, or a material or apparatus for use in practicing a
16 patented process, constituting a material part of the invention), knowing, by at least the filing of
17 this Complaint, the same to be especially made or especially adapted for use in infringing the ’565
18 patent, and not a staple article or commodity of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing
19 use in violation of 35 U.S.C. Section 271(c).

20 51. Sonos’s continued infringement of the ’565 patent is willful and deliberate because
21 it knows of the ’565 patent and the infringement of that patent no later than the filing of this
22 action, but continues to act despite an objectively high likelihood that such acts will result in
23 infringement of the patent.

24 52. As the direct and proximate result of Sonos’s conduct, Google has suffered and, if
25 Sonos’s conduct is not stopped, will continue to suffer, competitive harm, irreparable injury, and
26 damages in an amount to be proven at trial. Because Google’s remedy at law is inadequate,
27 Google seeks, in addition to damages, permanent injunctive relief. Google’s business operates in
28 a competitive market and will continue suffering irreparable harm absent injunctive relief.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Google respectfully requests the following relief:

- A. Judgment in Google’s favor and against Sonos on all causes of action alleged herein;
- B. Damages in an amount to be further proven at trial, including trebling of all damages awarded with respect to infringement of the U.S. Patent Nos. 10,593,330, 10,134,398, and 7,705,565;
- C. An injunction prohibiting further infringement of the Asserted Patents by Sonos;
- D. Judgment that this is an exceptional case;
- E. Costs of suit incurred herein;
- F. Prejudgment interest;
- G. Attorneys’ fees and costs; and
- H. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem to be just and proper.

DATED: August 8, 2022

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &
SULLIVAN, LLP

By /s/ Patrick D. Curran
Patrick D. Curran
Attorneys for GOOGLE LLC

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Google respectfully demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by jury.

DATED: August 8, 2022

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART &
SULLIVAN, LLP

By /s/ Patrick D. Curran
Patrick D. Curran
Attorneys for GOOGLE LLC