

Contents

Preface	V
Abbreviations.	XIX
Literature	XXIII
A. Determining the scope of protection	1
I. Legal bases	1
II. Admissible documents for interpretation	14
1. Patent specification and patent drawings	14
a) Contested embodiment described	14
b) Contested embodiment not described.	15
aa) Legal definition	15
bb) Common technical term	15
cc) Neologism.	16
dd) Function-oriented interpretation	16
ee) State of the art	23
ff) Method claim.	24
gg) Statements on effects.	24
hh) Decisiveness of the date of infringement.	25
2. Prosecution file	27
a) Basic principle	27
b) Exception.	29
3. Opposition or nullity decision	30
III. Horizon of understanding	30
1. Average skilled person.	30
2. Establishing the facts.	31
3. Filing and priority date	32
IV. Types of patent infringement	32
1. Literal infringement	32
a) Technical literal sense.	32
b) Product-by-process claim	32
2. Equivalent infringement.	33
a) Basics	33
aa) Same effect	34
bb) Obviousness	34
cc) Parity	35
b) Procedural considerations.	47
c) Patented embodiment.	48
d) Specific cases	58
aa) Cases of lacking equivalence.	58
bb) Numerical specifications or measurements	67
cc) Other terms.	74
dd) Unknown surrogate	74
e) Objection according to the »Formed brick« decision	74
aa) Conditions.	74
bb) Limits.	75
3. Subcombinations	76
4. Improved or worse embodiment.	81
5. Parallel decisions of non-German courts	82
6. Supplementary protection certificate	82
a) Determining the scope of protection	83
b) Specific case: Several protection certificates for the same agent	83
aa) Legal protection with regard to third parties.	84
(1) Final decision in favour of a certificate holder	84

	(2) Cease and desist declaration in favour of a certificate holder . . .	85
	bb) Legal protection with regard to other certificate holders	86
7.	Infringing acts	86
	a) Products	87
	aa) Manufacturing	87
	bb) Offering for sale	88
	(1) General requirements	88
	(2) Continued use of images	89
	(3) Non-German aspects	90
	(a) Tradeshow within Germany	91
	(b) Tradeshow outside of Germany	91
	(4) Internet advertisements	92
	cc) Putting on the market	92
	dd) Use	93
	ee) Importation and possession	93
	b) Methods	94
	aa) Use	94
	bb) Offering for sale	95
	c) Direct product of a method	96
	aa) Physicalness, method of production	97
	bb) Directness	98
	(1) Chronological approach	98
	(2) Necessity of extended patent protection	99
	(3) Method product representing the value of the invention	101
	(4) Normative limitation of product protection	103
	d) Use patents	105
8.	Contributory infringement	107
	a) Conditions	108
	aa) Offering for sale and supplying	109
	bb) Means	109
	cc) Essential element of the invention	110
	dd) Double domestic context	111
	ee) Objective suitability for direct infringement	112
	ff) Lacking entitlement of the addressee	112
	gg) Use designation of the buyer	113
	hh) Wilful intent of the contributory infringer	115
	b) Legal consequences	116
	aa) No patent-free possibilities of use	116
	bb) Existence of a possible use not covered by the patent	116
	(1) Offering for sale	116
	(2) Supplying	117
	(3) Specific cases	117
	(a) No effect of the warning notice	117
	(b) Technical design options	117
	cc) Private use	119
B.	Establishing the facts	129
I.	Feature analysis	129
II.	Inspection claim and obligation to render account in order to establish the facts and preserve evidence	130
	1. Substantive requirements	130
	a) Art 43 TRIPS	130
	b) Sections 809 and 810 of the German Civil Code	131
	c) Section 140(c) of the German Patent Act	132
	aa) Patent, petitioner, respondent	132
	bb) Probability of patent infringement	133
	cc) Power of disposal	134
	dd) Necessity	135
	ee) Interests of confidentiality	135
	ff) Proportionality	135

2.	Legal consequences	136
a)	Inspection	136
b)	Submission of documents	138
c)	Banking, financial and commercial documents	138
3.	Procedural enforcement	139
a)	Legal action and preliminary legal measures	139
b)	Independent evidence procedure	140
aa)	Court order	141
(1)	Jurisdiction questions	141
(2)	Scope of inspection	142
bb)	Search order	144
cc)	Delivery of the court expert opinion and hearing	145
(1)	Delivery of the opinion	145
(a)	Party being inspected	146
(b)	Lawyers of the party requesting inspection	146
(c)	Petitioner personally	146
(2)	Hearing the court expert	150
dd)	Possibility of appeal	150
(1)	Delivery of the opinion	150
(2)	Inspection court order	151
(3)	Deadline for an infringement action	151
(4)	Toleration order	152
c)	Obligation to pay damages	152
d)	Sections 142 and 144 of the German Code of Civil Procedure	153
e)	EU Regulation 1206/2001	154
f)	Establishing the facts outside of Germany	154
g)	Public prosecution	155
III.	Obligation to render account for enforcing the damages claim	155
1.	Conditions	156
2.	Legal consequences	158
3.	Procedural enforcement	158
IV.	Border seizure	159
1.	Action under Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003	159
a)	Scope of application	159
b)	Applicant	160
c)	Application	160
d)	Prosecution by the customs authority	161
e)	Legal countermeasures	163
f)	Reimbursement of costs	164
2.	Action according to national rules	164
a)	Application	164
b)	Action	165
c)	Legal countermeasures	165
V.	Industry standards	166
VI.	Test purchases	167
1.	Basic principle: Harmlessness	167
2.	Exception: Abuse of rights	167
a)	Tricking	167
b)	Objectionable measures	168
VII.	Formalities of the property rights in suit	168
1.	Status	168
2.	German translation	169
a)	Incomplete and incorrect translation	169
b)	Compensation claims	172
3.	Registration as patentee	172
VIII.	Validity of the property right in suit	172
IX.	Additional considerations	174
1.	Defendant	174
2.	Cost considerations	174
a)	Litigation value	174

b)	Attorney fees	175
aa)	Attorney-at-law	175
bb)	Party which is not based in Germany	176
cc)	Patent attorney.	176
dd)	Appeal proceedings.	178
ee)	Attorney-at-law in nullity proceedings.	179
ff)	Costs of opposition proceedings.	179
gg)	Cost decision against the own party	180
c)	Plurality of defendants.	180
d)	A party's travelling costs	181
e)	Costs for simultaneous translation	181
f)	Costs of employing a party expert	181
g)	Costs of establishing the facts	183
h)	Search costs	184
i)	Translation costs	184
3.	Other considerations.	185
C.	Preprocedural considerations	187
I.	Warning letter	187
1.	Content	187
a)	Right to sue	187
b)	Designation of the party against whom the claim is being made	188
c)	Description of the facts relating to the infringement	188
d)	Demand to cease and desist	188
e)	Contract penalty	189
f)	Setting of deadlines	191
g)	Mention of judicial proceedings.	191
h)	Further claims.	191
2.	Form	195
3.	Receipt	195
4.	Power of attorney.	196
5.	Costs of warning letters.	196
a)	Basis for liability	197
b)	Level of the claim	199
c)	Deduction of the general handling fee	200
d)	Interest	202
e)	Procedural considerations.	202
6.	Contract penalty.	202
a)	Basis for liability	202
b)	Breach after the contract has been concluded.	204
c)	Several breaches	204
d)	Measurement criteria	205
e)	Procedural considerations.	206
f)	Strategic considerations	207
7.	Unjustified warning letter	207
a)	Illegal warning letter	208
aa)	Formal defects	208
bb)	Substantive defects	209
b)	Illegal and culpable warning letter	211
8.	Dispensability of a warning letter	212
a)	»Immediately«	212
b)	Cause for an action	213
aa)	Claim for an order to cease and desist, rendering of account and damages	213
bb)	Sequestration claim	214
cc)	Claim for the return of property (»vindication claim«).	215
dd)	Inspection claim	215
ee)	Preliminary injunction and parallel main action.	216
II.	Entitlement request letter	218
III.	Press releases.	220

IV. »Torpedo«	220
D. Litigation proceedings	223
I. Jurisdiction	223
1. Jurisdiction in terms of subject matter	223
2. Jurisdiction in terms of location	223
a) Jurisdiction due to infringement	223
aa) Offer and intermediaries	224
(1) Messenger	224
(2) Receiving agent	224
bb) Internet offer	225
cc) Risk of a first infringing act	226
dd) Facts with two-fold relevance	226
b) Branch office	226
c) Pleading without objection	226
3. International jurisdiction	226
a) Art 2(1) of Regulation 44/2001 (Art 2(1) of the European Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments)	227
b) Art 5(3) of Regulation 44/2001 (Art 5(3) of the European Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments)	228
c) Art 6(1) of Regulation 44/2001 (Art 6(1) of the European Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments)	230
d) Art 24 of Regulation 44/2001 (Art 18 of the European Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments)	234
e) Service considerations in cases with a non-German dimension	235
aa) Formal service outside Germany	235
(1) Hague Service Convention	235
(2) EC Regulation 1393/2007	235
bb) Simplified service by post	238
cc) Public service	239
II. Right to sue	240
1. Patentees	240
a) Assignment of the patent in suit	240
b) Plurality of patentees	244
c) Extension of a final judgement	244
2. Exclusive licensees	245
3. Regular licensees	246
a) Cease and desist and destruction claims	246
b) Rendering of account, compensation and damages	246
4. Special cases	247
III. Capacity to be made a defendant	250
1. Liability as an infringer	250
2. Liability due to induced infringement	251
a) Provider of an Internet platform	252
b) Access provider	253
c) WLAN connection	254
d) Forwarding agents and shippers	254
e) Retailers	255
f) Lessors of domains and administrative contacts	255
3. Legal representatives	256
4. Liability of companies and shareholders	257
5. Procedural considerations	258
a) Consolidation of actions	258
b) Partial judgment	259
c) Correction of party name	260
d) Capacity to sue and be sued	261
aa) Disputed facts	261
bb) Undisputed facts	262
e) Extension of an action to include additional parties	263
aa) First instance	263

bb) Second instance	264
f) Insolvency	264
g) Proceedings against oneself	266
IV. Asserted Claims	266
1. Cease and desist claim	266
a) Risk of repetition	267
aa) Origination	267
bb) Removal	268
b) Risk of first violation	269
aa) Origination	270
bb) Removal	270
c) Special circumstances	270
d) Contributory infringement	271
e) Wording of petitions	272
aa) Infringing acts	272
bb) Subject-matter of the judgement	272
cc) Time period	273
f) Loss of effect during infringement proceedings	274
2. Removal claim	275
3. Publication of a judgment	275
a) Conditions for publication claim	276
b) Legal consequences	277
4. Compensation claim	279
a) Conditions	279
b) Obligated party	279
c) Amount	280
5. Damages claim	280
a) Culpability	280
aa) Retailers, forwarding agents and distributors	281
bb) Equivalence	282
cc) Validity	282
(1) Patents	282
(2) Utility models	283
dd) Ordinary negligence	284
b) Offer for sale as an event triggering liability	284
c) Damages in the event of contributory patent infringement	284
d) Overall devices, »peripheral devices« and consumables	286
6. Claim for unfair enrichment	287
7. Joint procedural considerations	288
a) Stepped action	288
b) Request for declaratory judgment	288
8. Claim for information and rendering of account	289
a) Section 140(b) of the German Patent Act	289
aa) Substantive law	290
(1) Entitlement to file a claim	290
(2) Defendant	290
(a) Parties inducing an infringement	290
(b) Third parties	290
(aa) Material scope	291
(aaa) Obvious infringement of rights	291
(bbb) Filing an action	291
(bb) Personal scope	292
(aaa) Former proprietor	292
(bbb) Use of services	292
(ccc) Carrying out services	292
(ddd) Denunciated person	293
(3) Disproportionality	294
(4) Content of the claim	296
(a) Origin	297
(aa) Products	297

	(bb) Services	297
	(b) Distribution channels	297
	(aa) Buyers	297
	(bb) Quantity	298
	(cc) Sales prices	298
	(c) Immediately	298
	(d) Submission of documents	298
	(e) Affidavit.	299
	bb) Procedural considerations	299
	(1) Preliminary injunction	299
	(2) Suspension	299
	cc) Special case of »telecommunications data«	300
	(1) Telecommunications data	300
	(2) Permission order for use	301
	(3) Interim court order	302
	(4) Claim for the provision of information	302
	(5) Details on the procedure	303
	dd) Consequences of rendering account.	306
	(1) Costs of rendering account	306
	(2) Incorrect or incomplete information	306
	b) Sections 242 and 259 of the German Civil Code	307
	aa) Personal scope	308
	bb) Substantive scope	308
	cc) Factual scope	309
	dd) Time frame	309
	c) Auditor's reservation and right of inspection	310
9.	Destruction claim	311
	a) Legal requirements	311
	aa) Possession/ownership	311
	bb) Proportionality.	313
	cc) Expiry of patent.	314
	dd) General removal claim.	315
	b) Legal consequence.	315
10.	Recall claim	317
	a) Relevant time period	317
	b) Conditions.	318
	aa) General.	318
	bb) Proportionality.	318
	c) Content of the claim	319
	aa) Recall	319
	bb) Removal from distribution channels	320
	cc) Applicability of destruction claim	320
	dd) Procedural aspects.	321
V.	Petitions in an action	321
VI.	Reasoning in an action	324
	1. Description of the invention.	324
	2. The contested embodiment	327
	3. The facts relating to the infringement	327
	4. Discussion of the legal aspects	327
	5. Necessity of a court expert opinion.	327
VII.	Checklist for plaintiffs	328
E.	Possible defences available to the defendant	331
I.	No prospects of a successful defence.	331
	1. Acknowledgement	331
	2. Default and Default Judgement.	332
II.	Formal defence	332
	1. Lack of jurisdiction.	332
	2. Security bond for legal costs.	333
	a) Exemptions	333

b)	Objections	335
c)	Amount	335
d)	Procedural considerations	337
3.	Section 145 of the German Patent Act	338
a)	General application conditions	339
b)	Extension of a legal action at first instance	340
c)	Extension of a legal action on appeal	340
aa)	Consent/appropriateness	341
bb)	Right of preclusion	341
d)	Procedural considerations	342
4.	Torpedo	343
a)	Art 27(1) of Regulation 44/2001	343
aa)	Application conditions	344
(1)	Nationality	344
(2)	The same parties	344
(3)	The same claim	345
bb)	Legal consequence	346
b)	Art 28 of Regulation 44/2001	348
c)	Art 31 of Regulation 44/2001	348
5.	Res judicata	349
III.	Substantive defence	349
1.	Prohibition of double patenting	349
2.	Disputing the capacity to be made a defendant	350
3.	Disputing the infringement allegation	350
a)	Design of the contested embodiment	350
b)	Subsumption within the scope of protection	352
c)	Section 139(3) of the German Patent Act	353
4.	Permission for use	354
a)	Joint proprietorship	354
b)	Licence agreement	354
aa)	Agreements of/between joint proprietors	354
bb)	Other aspects	355
c)	Simple authorization for use	356
5.	Objection of a compulsory licence under antitrust law	357
a)	Admissibility	357
b)	Conditions	359
aa)	General refusal to grant a licence	359
bb)	Unreasonable licensing practice	360
(1)	Discrimination	361
(a)	Standard-free property right	361
(b)	Standard-bound property right	361
(2)	Abusive exploitation	362
(3)	Patent pool	364
c)	Legal consequences of a breach of antitrust law	365
aa)	Cease and desist claim	365
bb)	Damages claim	366
cc)	Claim for rendering of account	366
dd)	Destruction claim	366
d)	Licence offer	366
e)	Performance in accordance with the offer	369
f)	Declaration of willingness to grant a licence	371
g)	Questions of jurisdiction	372
aa)	District courts	372
bb)	Higher Regional Courts	373
cc)	Declaration of willingness to grant a licence	373
dd)	Isolated legal action for the conclusion of a licence	374
6.	Private right of prior use	374
a)	Conditions	374
aa)	Possession of invention	374
bb)	Confirmation of the possession of the invention	376

b) Legal consequences	377
7. Positive right of use	381
8. Objection of fraudulent abstraction	382
9. Objection of added subject-matter	383
10. Rights of continued use	383
11. Declaration of willingness to grant a licence	384
12. Exhaustion	384
a) Object relationship	385
b) Intention	385
c) EU and EEA	385
d) Burden of evidence	386
e) Putting on the market	386
f) New manufacturing	387
g) Method patent	388
13. Statute of limitations	389
a) Relative statute of limitations	389
b) Absolute statute of limitations	390
c) Legal consequences	390
d) Interruption	392
e) Restart	393
f) Right of preclusion	394
14. Forfeiture	394
15. Staying of proceedings	394
a) Relevancy	396
b) Discretion	397
aa) First instance	398
(1) Cases of no staying/suspension	399
(2) Cases of staying/suspension	400
bb) Second instance	402
cc) Non-admission appeal proceedings	403
c) (Alternative) combination of claims	403
d) Operative provision and reasoning	405
e) Possibility of appeal	406
f) Settlement	408
16. Validity of a German utility model	408
17. Trial privilege and the Roche-Bolar rule	410
18. Roche-Bolar rule	411
IV. Checklist for the defendant	412
F. Legal countermeasure proceedings	415
I. Appeal proceedings on questions of fact and law	415
1. Right of late submission	415
2. Cross-appeal	418
II. Appeal proceedings on questions of law only	419
1. Attacks against the interpretation of a patent	419
2. Subsequent limitation of the patent claim	421
3. Limited petition in an action	422
a) No use of the limited version	422
b) Use of the limited version	423
4. Grounds for admission	424
G. Other proceedings	427
I. Action for a negative declaratory judgment	427
1. Conditions	427
2. Petition	430
3. Grounds	431
4. Burden of evidence	431
5. Litigation value	432
II. Preliminary injunction	432
1. General aspects	432

a)	Suitable claims for property right infringement	432
b)	Prima facie evidence	433
c)	Special cases in patent law	434
d)	Validity of the injunction patent	435
e)	Security bond	439
f)	Appearance at a trade fair	439
2.	Conditions	440
3.	Urgency	442
a)	General rules	442
b)	Change of case law	444
c)	Awaiting a validity decision	444
d)	Settlement negotiations, waiver of enforcement and default judgments	446
e)	Property right portfolio	446
f)	Second petition for a preliminary injunction	446
g)	Appeal proceedings	447
h)	Strategic considerations	447
4.	Proceedings	449
5.	Enforcement	452
a)	Obligation to cease and desist	452
b)	Information and sequestration claim	455
6.	Obligation to pay damages	455
7.	Cancellation due to changed circumstances	456
8.	Discontinuation of enforcement	459
9.	Protective letter	459
10.	Termination letter	461
a)	Legal action within the specific time	461
b)	Premature legal action	462
11.	Declaration of termination	462
III.	Action for defence against enforcement and action for restitution	463
1.	Action for defence against enforcement	464
2.	Action for restitution	466
a)	Case groups	466
b)	Section 580 No. 6 of the German Code of Civil Procedure	467
c)	Subsidiarity	468
d)	Deadlines	468
aa)	One-month deadline	469
bb)	Knowledge	470
cc)	Five-year deadline	472
dd)	Advance on court fees	473
ee)	Litigation value	473
e)	Substantive scope of the assessment	474
f)	Operative provision	474
g)	Claims for return despite omitted resumption	474
aa)	Administrative fines and coercive penalty payments	475
bb)	Damages payments	475
cc)	Fixing of liability on the merits only	476
IV.	Waiver judgment	476
V.	Intervention by a third party	477
1.	Admissibility grounds	477
2.	Procedural law	479
3.	Agreements substituting a third party notice	480
H.	Compulsory enforcement proceedings	483
I.	General considerations	483
1.	General conditions for enforcement	483
a)	Payment of a security bond	483
b)	Partial security	484
c)	Bank guarantee	486
d)	Remedy	488
e)	Obligation to pay damages	488

2.	Provisional suspension of compulsory enforcement	488
a)	General aspects	488
b)	Obvious incorrectness	489
c)	Exceptional disadvantages	490
d)	Procedural law	492
3.	Enforcement protection (Section 712 of the German Code of Civil Procedure)	493
4.	Change of security bond	494
II.	Legal order proceedings	497
1.	Requirements and procedural issues	497
a)	Managing directors	497
b)	Existing contract penalty	497
c)	General enforcement conditions	497
d)	Violation	498
e)	Number of violations	499
f)	Procedural issues	500
2.	Culpability	501
3.	Modified embodiment	502
4.	Statute of limitations	505
a)	Limitation of prosecution	505
b)	Limitation of enforcement	506
5.	Subsequent declaration of undertaking to cease and desist	506
6.	Choice and level of legal order	509
7.	Insolvency of the obligor	509
8.	Non-German obligor	510
III.	Coercive measure proceedings	512
1.	General procedural issues	512
2.	Repeated petition for means of coercion	514
3.	Imprisonment enforced against legal entities	514
4.	Satisfying the rendering of account claim	514
a)	Relevance of the operative provision and its grounds	515
b)	Information time period	516
c)	Burden of evidence	517
d)	Production costs and profit	518
e)	Modification	520
f)	Partial performance	520
g)	Partially unjustified objections	521
h)	Duties of enquiry	521
i)	Incorrect rendering of account	522
j)	Affidavit	523
I.	Damages	527
I.	Rightful claimant	527
1.	Damages for patent infringement	527
2.	Damages for unjustified infringement litigation	529
3.	Damages for unjustified enforcement	529
a)	Liability under a guarantee	530
b)	Encroachment upon business operations	531
II.	Defendant	532
1.	Lost profits	532
2.	Infringer profit	532
3.	Licence analogy	534
III.	Calculation of loss	534
1.	Basis for the calculation of loss	534
2.	Methods of calculation and right to choose	535
3.	Licence analogy	536
a)	Reference value	539
b)	Royalty	541
c)	Interest	542
d)	Turnover tax	544
4.	Infringer profit	544

a)	Turnover that can be taken into account	545
b)	Deductible costs	545
aa)	General aspects	546
bb)	Specific cases	548
c)	Causality	549
d)	Prelitigation interest	553
e)	Reserves	554
f)	Turnover tax	554
g)	Legal costs associated with payment claims	555
5.	Lost profits	555
a)	Assumed turnover transactions	555
b)	Earning situation	556
c)	Interest	556
d)	Turnover tax	557
6.	Statutory default interest	557
7.	Exceptional loss	558
IV.	Liquidation of damages in criminal proceedings	558
V.	Parallel criminal proceedings	558
VI.	Recuperation aid	559
J.	Other aspects	561
I.	Expert evidence	561
1.	Task to be carried out by the expert	561
2.	Evidence order	562
a)	Court order	562
b)	Challenge	566
3.	Procedural considerations	566
a)	Expert search and request for an expert opinion	566
b)	Decisive expert opinion	568
c)	Consent of third parties	569
d)	Hearing	569
e)	Duty to pay an advance	573
f)	Claim for payment of the expert's fee	574
g)	Concerns over partiality	576
4.	Additional samples	579
a)	Level of damages following a patent infringement	579
aa)	Reasonable royalty	580
bb)	Lost profits	580
cc)	Infringer profit	582
b)	Evidence order for establishing joint inventor share	583
II.	Litigation value	585
1.	Relevance	585
2.	Determination	585
a)	Rules for setting the litigation value	586
b)	Converse positions on litigation value	587
c)	Litigation value in specific cases	589
d)	Litigation value in nullity proceedings	590
3.	Challengeability	590
4.	Reduction	591
	German Patent Act	593
	Index	649