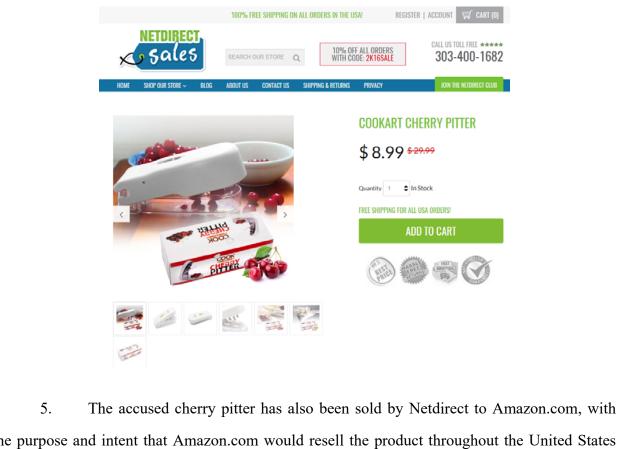
	Case 2:17-cv-00447	Document 1	Filed 03/21/17	Page 1 of 7	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	UNITE WESTERN DIST		TRICT COURT HINGTON AT SI	FATTLE	
9 10	PROGRESSIVE INTERNATION CORPORATION, Plaintiff,		Civil Action No		
11 12	V.		COMPLAINT		
13 14 15 16	NETDIRECT DISTRIBUTION LI Defendant. Plaintiff Progressive Internat		JURY DEMAN		
17 18 19	Netdirect Distribution LLC ("Netdire				
<ul> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> <li>27</li> </ul>	PARTIES         1. Progressive is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Delaware having its principal place of business at 20435 72 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Suite 400, Kent, Washington, 98032.         2. Upon information and belief, defendant Netdirect is a Colorado limited liability company having a principal place of business at 9360 Federal Boulevard, Federal Heights, Colorado, 80260.				
	COMPLAINT - 1 Civil Action No. PROG-6-1025 P01 Complaint				

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## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281 and 289. Accordingly, original jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331.

4. Netdirect has offered for sale or sold a cherry pitter in the United States, including in the Western District of Washington. Netdirect does business under the trademark "CookArt," and operates several Internet sites which include cookartlove.com and netdirectsales.com. Netdirect also sells its products through an online store at amazon.com. Netdirect's online sales efforts are directed to customers nationally, including in the Western District of Washington. The netdirectsales.com website is an active site from which its products may be directly purchased using a shopping cart model. The accused cherry pitter has been offered for sale nationwide using the shopping cart website, as shown in the image below from the website at netdirectsales.com.

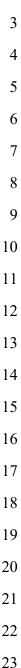


the purpose and intent that Amazon.com would resell the product throughout the United States COMPLAINT - 2 LOWE GRAHAM JONES Civil Action No. PROG-6-1025 P01 Complaint

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and within this district. The cherry pitter may be purchased from Amazon.com using a shopping cart model allowing consumers in this district to purchase the product directly, as shown below.





Cherry and Olive Pitter Stoner Core Pit Remover Seeder Press Kitchen Tool by CookArt - Holds 4

6. Netdirect is therefore subject to personal jurisdiction in the Western District of Washington.

7. For purposes of venue, Netdirect resides in the Western District of Washington pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c).

#### **PROGRESSIVE'S PATENTED PRODUCT**

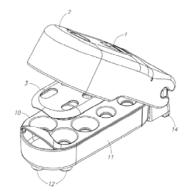
8. Progressive is the assignee of U.S. Patent No. 8,347,783 (the '783 patent) for a cherry pitter. In particular, the '783 patent relates to a cherry pitting device having a lower container, a fruit holder supported by the container and having at least one cavity for holding a cherry, a lid pivotally attached to the container, a cutting rod extending downward from the lid, and a push-off plate between the lid and the fruit holder. One of the images from the '783 patent is shown below.

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9. Progressive has sold a commercial embodiment under its patent, and its product has enjoyed commercial success. An exemplary image of a patented Progressive product is shown below. Progressive has marked its product with the number of the '783 patent.



#### NETDIRECT'S WRONGFUL CONDUCT

10. Netdirect has made, imported, offered for sale, and/or sold cherry pitters that infringe Progressive's patent rights. The Netdirect products are functionally identical to those made and sold by Progressive, and the similarity indicates that they were directly copied from the Progressive product.

11. The Netdirect product, sold under the CookArt name, is shown in exemplary images below from netdirectsales.com.



12. As is clear from the above images, the Netdirect cherry pitter sold under the CookArt trademark includes a lower container, a fruit holder supported by the container and

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having at least one cavity for holding a cherry, a lid pivotally attached to the container, a cutting rod extending downward from the lid, and a push-off plate between the lid and the fruit holder. The Netdirect cherry pitter infringes at least claim 1 of the Progressive '783 patent.

13. Netdirect has known that its accused cherry pitters infringe the above Progressive patent. On May 3, 2016, Progressive wrote to Mr. Carlos Salguero to provide notice of the infringement, directing letter to sales@cookartlove.com, which is the contact email address provided at cookartlove.com. A follow up letter was sent on May 8, 2016, but no response to either letter was ever received.

14. The above notice letter was directed to DirectDeals, LLC. According to the Colorado Secretary of State records, DirectDeals LLC is the registered owner of the trademark CookArt. Upon information and belief, DirectDeals LLC has changed its name to Netdirect Distribution LLC, and the two companies are the same. In each case the principal address has remained the same, and is listed in Colorado Secretary of State databases as 9360 Federal Blvd., Federal Heights, CO 80260. Similarly, the website at cookart.com provides the above same address as its place of business.

15. Despite the efforts to reach Netdirect, Netdirect has ignored Progressive's communications and its patent rights, and instead has continued to sell its products with the full knowledge that they infringe Progressive's patents. For example, even now the product is still being sold through Amazon.com and through netdirectsales.com, as shown in the images above.

**COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF DESIGN PATENT NO. 8,347,783** 

16. Progressive repeats the allegations above.

17. The accused cherry pitters made, offered for sale, sold, and imported by Netdirect infringe Progressive's '783 patent.

18. Netdirect has not been granted any license or other authority from Progressive.

19. The activities by Netdirect with regard to its cherry pitter products constitute direct infringement of the '783 patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

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20. As a direct result of the infringing activity by Netdirect, Progressive has suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in an amount to be established at trial. In addition, Progressive has suffered, and continues to suffer, irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

21. The infringement by Netdirect was with full knowledge of the Progressive patent, and has continued despite that knowledge. Netdirect's infringement is in willful disregard of Progressive's patent rights.

# **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

Progressive requests the following alternative and cumulative relief:

- 1. That Netdirect be preliminarily and permanently enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly making, using, importing, exporting, offering for sale, or selling infringing cherry pitters or colorable imitations thereof;
- 2. That Netdirect pay damages adequate to compensate Progressive for the infringement by the Netdirect, and in no event less than a reasonable royalty for the use of the invention;
- 3. That the damages award be trebled pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- 4. That Progressive be granted its reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 or other applicable laws;
- 5. That Progressive be awarded prejudgment interest, postjudgment interest, and costs; and
- 6. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

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## JURY DEMAND

Progressive demands a jury trial on all issues triable by jury.

DATED this 20th day of March, 2017.

Lowe Graham Jones<sup>PLLC</sup>

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Lawrence D. Graham, WSBA No. 25402 Graham@LoweGrahamJones.com 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800 Seattle, Washington 98104 T: 206.381.3300 F: 206.381.3301 *Attorneys for Progressive International Corp.* 

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