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Klipsch wins restraining order vs. alleged counterfeiters

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Indianapolis speaker maker Klipsch Group Inc. has won a temporary restraining order against numerous Chinese companies it accuses of using the Klipsch name to sell counterfeit headphones.

The order, unsealed by a federal judge in New York on Tuesday, enables Klipsch to disable websites where the suspected knockoffs are sold and allows it to restrain the funds of the accused.

Klipsch also can seek up to \$2 million per trademark infringement in addition to permanently disabling the websites and seller listings of the 23 companies Klipsch suspects of infringing on its trademark.

So far Klipsch said it has restrained the accounts of 20 defendants that are believed to have a total of more than \$750,000 derived from the sale of counterfeit Klipsch merchandise.

Klipsch has noticed a dramatic increase in counterfeit activities during the past six months and has increased its efforts to combat the problem, Mike Klipsch, the company's president of global operations, said in a prepared statement.

"The Klipsch brand has been cultivated for over a 65-year time period and we are not about to sit by and let counterfeiters tarnish what we have established," he said.

The judge originally granted Klipsch's restraining order on Dec. 15.

New York-based Voxx International Corp. purchased Klipsch early last year. The company, founded in 1945 by Paul Klipsch, has 210 employees, including 130 in Indianapolis. Its brands include Jamo, Mirage and Energy.

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