

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Haynes North America, Inc. and Haynes Group Limited v.
eManualOnline.com**

No. 2:24-cv-09359-CBM-MAA (C.D. Cal. May 23, 2025) · No. 2:24-cv-09359-CBM-MAA · Decided May 23,
2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California denied Plaintiffs’ renewed motion for a preliminary injunction in a copyright and trademark infringement action for lack of personal jurisdiction over Defendant. The Court found that Plaintiffs had not shown Defendant purposefully directed its activities toward California under the Calder effects test. The Court nevertheless granted limited expedited discovery concerning personal jurisdiction and damages, to be completed by August 1, 2025.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 HAYNES NORTH AMERICA, INC. Case No.: 2:24-cv-09359-CBM-MAA
and HAYNES GROUP LIMITED, 12 ORDER RE: PLAINTIFFS’ Plaintiffs, 13 v. MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION 14 EMANUALONLINE.COM, 15 Defendant. 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1 The matter before the Court is Plaintiffs Haynes North America, Inc. and 2
Haynes Group Limited (“Haynes”)’s Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

3 (Dkt. No. 29 (“Motion”).) 4 I. BACKGROUND 5 This is a copyright and trademark
infringement action filed by Haynes against 6 Defendant eManualOnline.com (“eManual”) on
October 29, 2024. (Dkt. No. 1 7 (“Complaint”).) Haynes sells repair and maintenance manuals for
automotive and 8 powersports equipment. (Compl., ¶ 9.) Plaintiffs allege that Defendant operates
a 9 business that “sells electronic files of technical manuals in CD-ROM, software files, 10 and
downloadable PDF format,” including “whole or partial scans of Haynes 11 printed manuals” that
infringe on Haynes’s copyrights and trademarks (the 12 “Infringing Manuals”).

(Id., ¶¶ 32-29.) Plaintiffs allege the following causes of 13 action: (1) copyright infringement (17
U.S.C. § 501); (2) vicarious and/or 14 contributory copyright infringement; (3) trademark
infringement (15 U.S.C. § 15 1114); (4) unfair competition and false designation of origin (15
U.S.C. § 1125(a)); 16 and (5) unfair competition under California law (Cal.

Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200). 17 The Court previously denied Plaintiffs’ request for a temporary
restraining 18 order and ordered Plaintiffs to file a proof of service confirming service of the 19

Complaint on Defendant. (Dkt. No. 14.) Plaintiffs moved for alternative service, 20 which the Court granted. (Dkt. Nos. 26, 28.) Plaintiffs filed proofs of service of 21 the Complaint (Dkt.

No. 30) and renewed their request for a preliminary injunction 22 in the instant Motion. (Dkt. No. 29.) Despite being served with both the Complaint 23 and Motion, to date, Defendant has not appeared or filed a response in the action. 24 II. STATEMENT OF THE LAW 25 A party seeking a preliminary injunction must demonstrate (1) it is likely to 26 succeed on the merits, (2) it is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of 27 injunctive relief, (3) the balance of equities is in its favor, and (4) injunctive relief 28 is in the public interest.

See *Winter v. Nat. Res. Def. Council*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). 1 Alternatively, in the Ninth Circuit, “a party is entitled to a preliminary 2 injunction if it demonstrates (1) serious questions going to the merits, (2) a 3 likelihood of irreparable injury,” (3) a balance of hardships that tips sharply towards 4 the plaintiff, and (4) the injunction is in the public interest.” *Flathead-Lolo- 5 Bitterroot Citizen Task Force v. Montana*, 98 F.4th 1180, 1190 (9th Cir.

2024) 6 (internal quotations and citations omitted). “As to the first factor, the serious 7 questions standard is ‘a lesser showing than likelihood of success on the merits.’” 8 *Id.* (quoting *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Pena*, 865 F.3d 1211, 1217 (9th Cir. 2017)). 9 Therefore, “[t]he ‘serious questions’ standard permits a district court to grant a 10 preliminary injunction in situations where it cannot determine with certainty that 11 the moving party is more likely than not to prevail on the merits of the underlying 12 claims, but where the costs outweigh the benefits of not granting the injunction.” 13 *All. for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir.

2011). 14 III. DISCUSSION 15 As an initial matter, Defendant is alleged to “exist[] under the laws of 16 Delaware” and have their principal place of business in Delaware. (Compl., ¶ 4.) 17 Plaintiffs argue that because Defendant conducts its business over the Internet and 18 has purposefully sold its infringing products to residents within California, this 19 Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant under California’s long-arm 20 statute.

(Mot. at 30.) Plaintiffs also argue that because of Plaintiffs’ previous 21 attempts to have Defendant remove the Infringing Manuals from Defendant’s 22 websites, Defendant is aware the infringing products are on its websites yet 23 “continue[] to sell and ship the Infringing Manuals to California”—thus, 24 Defendant’s “continued advertisement and sales of infringing products in 25 California” are “intentional acts aimed at residents of this forum.” (Mot. at 31.)

26 “The general rule is that personal jurisdiction over a defendant is proper if it 27 is permitted by a long-arm statute and if the exercise of that jurisdiction does not 28 violate federal due process.” *Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy*, 453 F.3d 1151, 1154 (9th 1 Cir. 2006). “California authorizes jurisdiction to the fullest extent permitted by the 2 Constitution.” *Licea v. Caraway Home Inc.*, 655 F. Supp. 3d 954, 961 (C.D.

Cal. 3 2023) (Bernal, J.); see also Cal. Civ. Code § 410.10 (“A court of this state may exercise jurisdiction on any basis not inconsistent with the Constitution of this state or of the United States). Jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant satisfies due process if the defendant has “‘minimum contacts’ with the forum state such that the assertion of jurisdiction ‘does not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.’” *Pebble Beach*, 453 F.3d at 1155 (quoting *Int’l Shoe Co. v. State of Wash., Off. of Unemployment Comp. & Placement*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945)). “A defendant’s minimum contacts can give rise to either general or specific jurisdiction.” *Ayla, LLC v. Alya Skin Pty.*

Ltd., 11 F.4th 972, 979 (9th Cir. 12 2021). 13 Corporations are subject to general jurisdiction in their place of 14 incorporation, principal place of business, and where the corporation’s contacts are 15 “so continuous and systematic as to render [it] essentially at home in the forum 16 State.” *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 571 U.S. 117, 139 (2014) (internal quotations 17 omitted).

Plaintiffs do not argue that the Court has general jurisdiction over 18 Defendant, and neither the Complaint nor the evidence submitted by Plaintiffs 19 indicate the Court has general jurisdiction over Defendant. Specific jurisdiction 20 exists if “(1) the defendant has performed some act or consummated some 21 transaction within the forum or otherwise purposefully availed himself of the 22 privileges of conducting activities in the forum, (2) the claim arises out of or results 23 from the defendant’s forum-related activities, and (3) the exercise of jurisdiction is 24 reasonable.” *Pebble Beach*, 453 F.3d at 1155. “The plaintiff bears the burden of 25 satisfying the first two prongs of the test.” *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor 26 Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 802 (9th Cir.

2004). 27 A. Purposeful Availment/Purposeful Direction 28 Under the first prong, Defendant must have “either purposefully availed itself 1 of the privilege of conducting activities in California, or purposefully directed its 2 activities toward California.” *Id.* Purposeful availment is “most often used in suits 3 sounding in contract,” whereas purposeful direction applies to actions sounding in 4 tort.

Id. Copyright and trademark infringement claims sound in tort—therefore, the 5 “purposeful direction” analysis applies. See *AMA Multimedia, LLC v. Wanat*, 970 F.3d 1201, 1208 (9th Cir. 2020). “Under the ‘effects test’ set forth in *Calder v. 7 Jones*... a defendant purposefully directs its activities toward the forum when the 8 defendant has ‘(1) committed an intentional act, (2) expressly aimed at the forum 9 state, (3) causing harm that the defendant knows is likely to be suffered in the forum 10 state.’” *Ayla*, 11 F.4th at 980 (quoting *Calder v. Jones*, 465 U.S. 783 (1984)).

11 Intentional Act 12 “For purposes of jurisdiction, a defendant acts intentionally when he acts with 13 ‘an intent to perform an actual, physical act in the real world, rather than an intent 14 to accomplish a result or consequence of that act.’” *AMA Multimedia*, 970 F.3d at 15 1209. Plaintiffs

allege that Defendant's infringement was "done intentionally, with 16 actual and constructive knowledge of [Plaintiffs'] business," and that Defendant 17 continue to sell and offer for sale the Infringing Manuals after Plaintiffs took steps 18 to have the manuals removed, including by sending DMCA takedown requests.

19 (Compl., ¶¶ 41, 44.) Plaintiffs also submit a declaration from a private investigator, 20 who declares that she purchased six technical manuals from Defendant's website 21 from their office in Santa Clarita, California and that the manuals were "delivered 22 via online download." (Dkt. No. 13 ("Imperial Decl."), ¶ 4-5.)

Therefore, 23 Defendant committed an intentional act. 24 Express Aiming 25 "Express aiming requires more than the defendant's awareness that the 26 plaintiff it is alleged to have harmed resides in or has strong ties to the forum, 27 because the plaintiff cannot be the only link between the defendant and the forum." 28 Ayla, 11 F.4th at 980 (internal quotations omitted). "[S]omething more—conduct 1 directly targeting the forum—is required to confer personal jurisdiction." Id. 2 (internal quotations omitted).

Courts "have struggled with the question whether 3 tortious conduct on a nationally accessible website is expressly aimed at any, or all, 4 of the forums in which the website can be viewed." Mavrix Photo, Inc. v. Brand 5 Techs., Inc., 647 F.3d 1218, 1229 (9th Cir. 2011). Courts may consider the 6 following factors under the "something more" inquiry—(1) the interactivity of the 7 defendant's website, (2) the geographic scope of the defendant's commercial 8 ambitions, and (3) whether the defendant individually targeted a plaintiff known to 9 be a forum resident.

Id. 10 While some district courts have found that "online product sales to residents 11 of the forum are sufficient to satisfy [the] 'something more' requirement in 12 trademark infringement cases,"¹ other district courts have "declined to find express 13 aiming based on alleged sales of products that infringe intellectual property rights 14 through commercial, interactive websites accessible to California consumers."² 15 Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Walden v. Fiore*, 571 U.S. 277 (2014),³ 16 many district courts take the latter approach.

These cases have focused on whether 17 a defendant's conduct specifically targets California as a market. See *Lanard Toys 18 Ltd. v. Toys 2 Discover Inc.*, 2022 WL 2155976, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 11, 2022) 19 (finding no purposeful direction where defendant sold infringing products via 20 Amazon.com and did not specifically target California consumers, noting that "[i]f 21 1 Nat.

Wellness Centers of Am., Inc. v. Golden Health Prods., Inc., 2013 WL 22 245594, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 22, 2013). 23 2 *Tart Optical Enters., LLC v. Light Co.*, 2019 WL 9048862, at *13 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 7, 2019) (collecting cases). 24 3 *Walden* clarified that the "minimum contacts" analysis "looks to the defendant's 25 contacts with the forum State itself, not the defendant's contacts with persons who reside there" and held that held that "[d]ue process requires that a defendant be haled

26 into court in a forum State based on his own affiliation with the State, not based on 27 the ‘random, fortuitous, or attenuated’ contacts he makes by interacting with other persons affiliated with the State.” Id. at 285–86 (reversing Ninth Circuit finding of 28 1 the Court were to accept Plaintiff’s theory, ‘anyone who sold a product over the 2 internet would be subject to jurisdiction anywhere that product may have been 3 advertised or purchased’ and this ‘would essentially eliminate the concept of 4 personal jurisdiction’”); Handsome Music, LLC v. Etoro USA LLC, 2020 WL 5 8455111, at *10 (C.D.

Cal. Dec. 17, 2020) (finding “Plaintiff presents no evidence 6 demonstrating Defendant has done ‘something more’ than operate a website that is 7 available to residents of California” where evidence did not show defendant 8 “expressly aimed [its] advertisements at California residents”); P & P Imports LLC 9 v. OJCommerce, LLC, 2019 WL 8012690, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Oct.

4, 2019) (finding 10 lack of jurisdiction where plaintiffs failed to show that sales to California were not 11 “merely because California ‘is where the purchaser happened to reside’” and 12 “[p]osting Plaintiff’s intellectual property on Defendants’ website” and “marketing 13 and selling to California residents through Defendants’ website... is insufficient 14 to establish personal jurisdiction”); Tart Optical, 2019 WL 9048862 at *13 (finding 15 plaintiff failed to establish purposeful direction where it had “not shown that 16 [online] sales [were] more than ‘random, fortuitous, or attenuated,’” and that the 17 evidence submitted by the plaintiff showed that defendant sold its products “around 18 the world, without regard to geographic location”); Matus v. Premium 19 Nutraceuticals, LLC, 2016 WL 3078745, at *3 (C.D.

Cal. May 31, 2016), aff’d, 715 20 F. App’x 662 (9th Cir. 2018) (finding plaintiff failed to satisfy purposeful availment 21 prong because defendant’s operation of a commercial, interactive website from 22 which consumers could make purchases “does not necessarily mean there is 23 personal jurisdiction,” and there was no “indication that [defendant] took other 24 efforts to target California consumers”).⁴ In other words, a plaintiff must show that 25 4 See also Sanho Corp. v. Cimo Techs., Inc., 2012 WL 3075094, at *5 (N.D.

Cal. 26 July 30, 2012) (finding plaintiffs failed to establish personal jurisdiction over 27 defendant where there was “nothing in the record to suggest that CIMO’s website was directly targeted at the California market, or that the selling of technology- 28 1 the forum state was “the focal point both of the [conduct] and of the harm suffered.” 2 Axiom Foods, Inc. v. Acerchem Int’l, Inc., 874 F.3d 1064, 1071 (9th Cir.

2017). 3 In Graco Minnesota Inc. v. PF Brands, Inc., the court considered evidence 4 that defendants’ products were sold to California customers, that defendants 5 received a letter informing them of trademark infringement and a potential lawsuit, 6 and that plaintiff hired investigators “to purchase and receive the products in 7 California.” 2019 WL 1746580, at *6 (S.D.

Cal. Apr. 17, 2019). The court found 8 that defendants had not expressly aimed their conduct at California because “the 9 record [did] not show that Defendants’ business is targeted at a California-specific 10 market or industry.” Id. Plaintiffs here cite to similar evidence. A private 11 investigator located in California, hired by Plaintiffs’ counsel to investigate 12 Defendant’s website, declares that she completed a purchase of six Infringing 13 Manuals.

(Imperial Decl., ¶¶ 4-6.) The CEO of Haynes North America declares 14 that Plaintiffs’ U.S. headquarters is located in Newbury Park, California, and that 15 in 2023, a “third-party that handles intellectual property enforcement for Haynes 16 attempted to have the Infringing Manuals taken down via a Digital Millennium 17 Copyright Act notice, but was unsuccessful.” (Dkt.

No. 10-2 (Wolff Decl., ¶¶ 6, 18 21.) Plaintiffs offer no evidence that Defendant has specifically targeted the 19 California market or that the sale of repair and maintenance manuals is a California- 20 specific industry—a “single unsolicited purchase does not constitute purposeful 21 direction.” *Joe Leighton & Assocs., Inc. v. Log Lighter Sales, Inc.*, 2008 WL 22 11406052, at *5 (C.D.

Cal. Feb. 15, 2008).⁵ Nor do Plaintiffs offer evidence that 23 Defendant individually targeted the investigator or knew she was a resident of 24 California—on the contrary, the Imperial Declaration indicates that the investigator 25 5 While the Ninth Circuit has rejected a “theory of jurisdiction [that] would allow 26 corporations whose websites exploit a national market to defeat jurisdiction in states 27 where those websites generate substantial profits from local consumers,” Plaintiffs here offer no evidence that Defendant generates “substantial profits” from its 28 1 initiated the purchase of the manuals.

2 Causing Harm 3 None of Plaintiffs’ evidence indicates whether Defendant actually knows 4 Haynes is located in California. The record is also unclear as to whether Defendant 5 knew the investigator was located in California when she purchased the manuals. 6 The Complaint alleges that Defendant has “actual and constructive knowledge of 7 Haynes’ business” but does not allege Defendant has knowledge of Plaintiffs’ 8 location. “[T]here is no evidence that Defendants knew that Plaintiff was located 9 in California—even if they were aware of Plaintiff’s website.” *Advice Co. v. Novak*, 10 2009 WL 210503, at *16 (N.D.

Cal. Jan. 23, 2009); see also *Handsome Music*, 2020 11 WL 8455111 at *10 (“Plaintiff presents no evidence to show Defendant caused 12 harm it knew to be likely suffered in California”); *MGA Ent., Inc. v. Innovation 13 First, Inc.*, 2010 WL 11601032, at *5 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 14, 2010) (finding court 14 lacked personal jurisdiction where plaintiff did not “specifically allege that 15 Defendants knew Plaintiff was located in California or that the harm to Plaintiff 16 caused by its acts would primarily occur in California”).

This distinguishes 17 Plaintiffs' case from cases where courts have found purposeful direction from 18 online activity.⁶ For this reason, Plaintiffs' cited case is inapposite.⁷ 19 ⁶ See *Inventors Row Inc. v. Blankenship*, 2018 WL 2064795, at *4 (E.D. Cal. May 20 3, 2018) (finding plaintiff satisfied the Calder test where "defendant was aware of 21 plaintiff's residence in the forum state"); *Rosen v. Masterpiece Mktg.*

Grp., LLC, 2015 WL 12860487, at *8 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 23, 2015) (finding specific jurisdiction 22 where plaintiff alleged defendant had "actual knowledge of the harm they were 23 causing to Plaintiffs in Los Angeles County and the State of California" (emphasis added) and submitted evidence that it sent a DMCA request that "included 24 Plaintiff's address in Los Angeles" and defendant's employee "acknowledged in an 25 email that Plaintiff lives in Santa Monica, California").

⁷ See *D.Light Design, Inc. v. Boxin Solar Co.*, 2014 WL 12659909, at *2 (N.D. Cal. 26 Feb. 3, 2014) (finding plaintiffs' specific jurisdiction theory had merit because 27 plaintiffs provided "evidence that Defendants willfully copied Plaintiffs' designs" and that "Defendants at the very least should have known that Plaintiffs' corporate 28 1 Accordingly, Plaintiffs have not met their burden to show Defendant 2 purposefully directed its activities toward California.

3 B. Remaining Jurisdictional Requirements 4 Because Plaintiffs have not met their burden to show purposeful direction, 5 the Court does not analyze whether the claims arises out of Defendant's forum- 6 related activities or whether exercise of jurisdiction would be reasonable. 7 C. Expedited Discovery 8 Since the Complaint (along with Plaintiffs' evidence) does not establish that 9 the Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, the Court cannot grant Plaintiffs 10 the preliminary injunction they seek.

At the hearing on the Motion, Plaintiffs 11 informed the Court that as of now, they have no other facts they could include in an 12 amended complaint to establish jurisdiction over Defendant is proper. However, 13 Plaintiffs request expedited discovery to obtain evidence regarding Defendant's the 14 scope and extent of Defendant's counterfeiting website and "Defendant's account 15 details relating to the counterfeit website." (Mot. at 54–55.)

The Court has 16 discretion to order expedited discovery, which "may be appropriately granted where 17... a more satisfactory showing of the facts is necessary." *Boschetto v. Hansing*, 18 539 F.3d 1011, 1020 (9th Cir. 2008). Plaintiffs argue the information they seek is 19 "essential to establishing Defendant's exact identity and protecting assets available 20 to recompense Haynes." (Id. at 55.)

The Court agrees—given the challenges 21 Plaintiffs have faced to date in locating and serving Defendant, the Court finds that 22 expedited discovery regarding personal jurisdiction over Defendant and damages 23 stemming from Defendant's sales of manuals infringing on Plaintiffs'

works is 24 appropriate. See *Hard Drive Prods., Inc. v. Does* 1-130, 2011 WL 5573960, at *1 25 (N.D.

Cal. Nov. 16, 2011) (courts will grant expedited discovery upon a showing of 26 good cause, and good cause exists where “the need for expedited discovery, in 27 consideration of the administration of justice, outweighs the prejudice to the 28 responding party”). 1 Accordingly, the Court DENIES the Motion for Preliminary Injunction for 2 lack of jurisdiction.

However, the Court GRANTS Plaintiffs’ request for expedited 3 discovery. Expedited discovery is limited to personal jurisdiction over Defendant 4 and damages stemming from Defendant’s sales of manuals infringing on Plaintiffs’ 5 works, and shall be completed no later than August 1, 2025. Given that Defendant 6 is now in default in this action, if discovery reveals that jurisdiction is proper, 7 Plaintiffs may file a motion for entry of default judgment.

Any such motion must 8 be preceded by an application for the Clerk of the Court to enter default. See Fed. 9 R. Civ. P. 55(a). Such a motion should include sufficient evidence to establish 10 personal jurisdiction as well as damages. 11 12 IT IS SO ORDERED. 13 14 DATED: May 23, 2025 15 CONSUELO B. MARSHALL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28