

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513

Mailed: May 22, 2003

Cancellation No. 92/041,630

420 Gear, Inc.

v.

John Marvin Rowland

Andrew P. Baxley, Interlocutory Attorney:

Respondent's late-filed answer is noted and accepted.¹ A reading of this "answer" reveals, however, that it is argumentative and more in the nature of a brief on the case than a responsive pleading to the petition to cancel. As such, it does not comply with Rule 8(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, made applicable to this proceeding by Trademark Rule 2.116(a).

Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(b) provides, in part:

A party shall state in short and plain terms the party's defenses to each claim asserted and shall admit or deny the averments upon which the adverse party relies. If a party is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a

¹ Respondent's communication does not indicate proof of service of a copy of same on counsel for petitioner as required by Trademark Rule 2.119 (which is more fully explained later in this order). Respondent is hereby ordered to serve a copy of its answer upon petitioner within **thirty days** of the mailing date of this order.

It is further noted that the parties' filings are single-spaced. Any further filings that are not double-spaced will receive no consideration. See Trademark Rule 2.127(a).

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belief as to the truth of an averment, the party shall so state and this has the effect of a denial. Denials shall fairly meet the substance of the averments denied. When a pleader intends in good faith to deny only a part or a qualification of an averment, the pleader shall specify so much of it as is true and material and shall deny only the remainder.

The petition to cancel filed by petitioner herein consists of six paragraphs setting forth the basis of petitioner's claim of damage. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(b), it is incumbent on respondent to answer the petition to cancel by simply admitting or denying the allegations contained in each paragraph without setting forth lengthy arguments in support thereof. If respondent is without sufficient knowledge or information on which to form a belief as to the truth of any one of the allegations, it should so state and this will have the effect of a denial.

In view of the foregoing, respondent is allowed until **thirty days** from the mailing date of this order in which to file an answer herein which complies with Fed. R. Civ. P. 8.

As noted earlier in this order, Trademark Rules 2.119(a) and (b) require that every paper filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in a proceeding before the Board must be served upon the attorney for the other party, or on the party if there is no attorney, and proof of such service must be made before the paper will be considered by the Board. Consequently, copies of all papers which respondent may

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subsequently file in this proceeding, including its answer to the petition to cancel, must be accompanied by a signed statement indicating the date and manner in which such service was made. The statement, whether attached to or appearing on the paper when filed, will be accepted as prima facie proof of service.

It is recommended that respondent's counsel obtain a copy of the latest edition of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes the Trademark Rules of Practice and is available for a fee from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.²

Strict compliance with the Trademark Rules of Practice, and where applicable the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is expected of all parties before the Board, whether or not they are represented by counsel.

Discovery and trial dates remain as set.

² The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP) (Stock No. 903-022-00000-1) is available for a fee from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Telephone (202) 512-1800). The TBMP is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uspto.gov>.