Apple Reprimanded for Grudging Notice That Samsung Didn’t Copy iPad

A UK judge has reprimanded Apple for the “untrue” and “incorrect” notice [1] it posted to its UK website acknowledging a ruling that Samsung’s Galaxy tablets did not infringe on a design patent for the iPad.

Apple was originally ordered to issue a simple notice to correct perceptions that Samsung had copied Apple’s products after a UK court ruled in Samsung’s favor on Oct. 18. Instead, Apple inserted four paragraphs that make it appear as though Samsung did copy Apple’s “cool[er]” iPad, and suggest that the UK court’s ruling was out of line with those of other courts.

In the original notice [2], Apple says that the High Court of Justice of England and Wales ruled in July that Samsung’s Galaxy Tab 10.1, Tab 8.9 and Tab 7.7 do not infringe on Apple’s designs. It goes on to praise some of the points made by the presiding judge, including his determination that Samsung’s tablets “are not as cool.”

Apple also points out that other courts have determined that Samsung did in fact copy its iPad device, concluding, “So while the UK court did not find Samsung guilty of infringement, other courts have recognized that in the course of creating its Galaxy tablet, Samsung willfully copied Apple’s far more popular iPad.”

"I'm at a loss that a company such as Apple would do this," appeals court Judge Robin Jacob said in a statement recorded by Bloomberg [3]. "That is a plain breach of the order."

Apple has been ordered to remove the statement within 24 hours and replace it with a new notice. It must also add a three-sentence note on its homepage acknowledging the inaccurate statement it made before with a link to the new one. A request for 14 days to update the notice was rejected.

In addition to the website notice, Apple must also carry through an original order to publish statements in UK news and industry papers with details of the ruling. The statement appears in Thursday's *Financial Times* on page four, Bloomberg reported.

Apple has had mixed success in its patent disputes with Samsung. A U.S. jury awarded Apple $1.05 billion [4] in damages for copying elements of Apple's iPhone and iPad devices in late August. South Korea delivered a split decision [5] that same month, banning some older products from both companies from the Korean market. In Tokyo, courts have ruled that Samsung did not infringe upon Apple patents for syncing music and videos with servers, and also dismissed a motion [6] to block iPhone sales in Japan. Disputes are ongoing in Australia and Germany.

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