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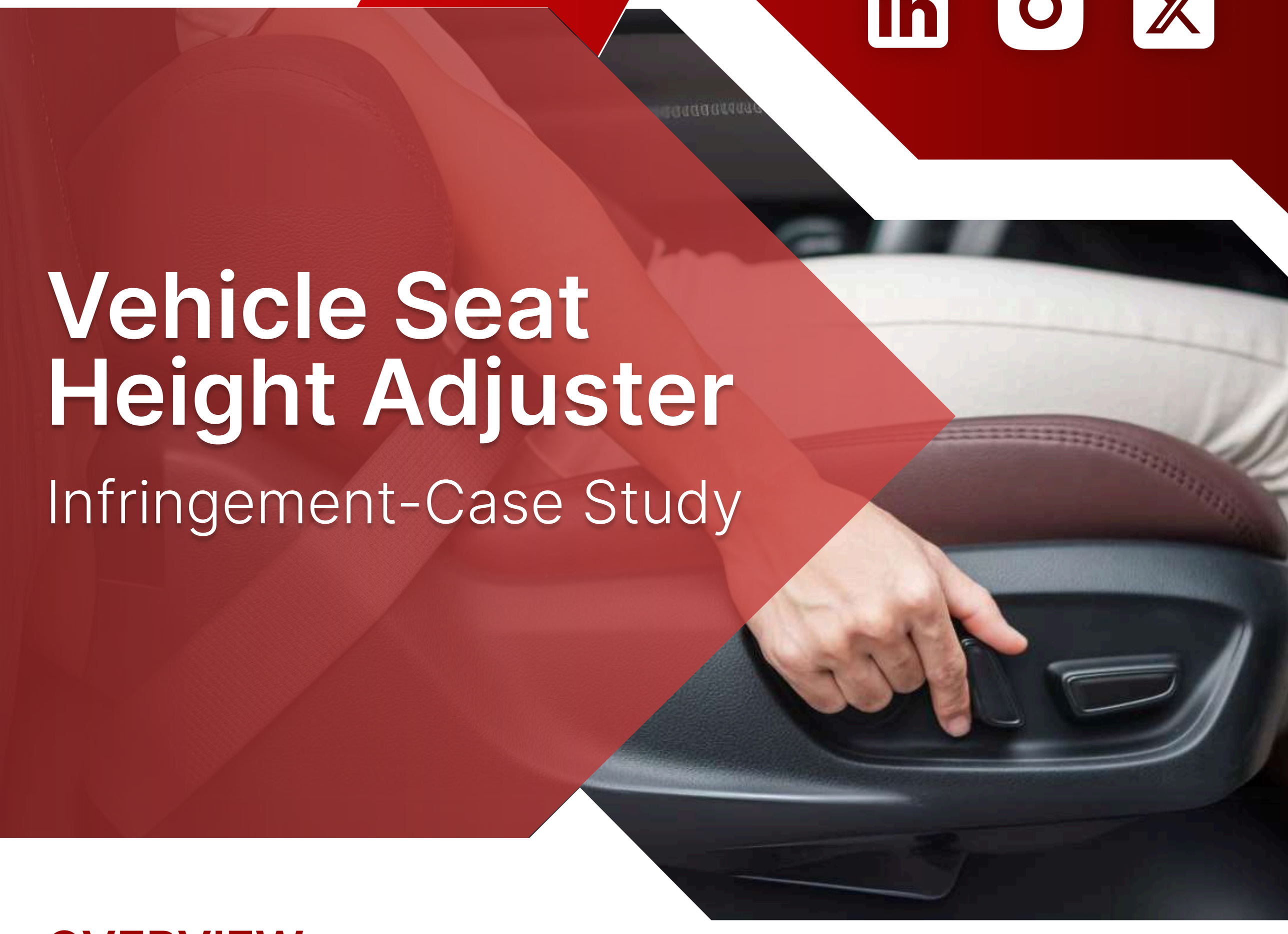
Vehicle Seat Height Adjuster

Infringement-Case Study



OVERVIEW

The subject patent describes a vehicle seat with a seat part and a backrest, both attached to a substructure. The backrest features a height adjuster mechanism, which utilizes a load strap. This load strap adjusts the height of the backrest, providing greater flexibility and comfort for users. The design enables smooth backrest height adjustment while ensuring stability and support. The use of a load strap in the height adjuster is a key feature that enhances the seat's functionality and adaptability in various seating positions.

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EVIDENCE-FINDING CHALLENGES

The product must have a similar mechanism that includes a height adjuster using a load strap. Many vehicle seats had different types of backrest adjustment systems, making it difficult to identify exact matches. Even if a product appears similar, small design changes in the load strap mechanism or other components might make it non-infringing.

It was hard to access detailed technical specifications of vehicle seat systems or internal mechanisms, as manufacturers did not disclose proprietary details.

SEARCH METHODOLOGY

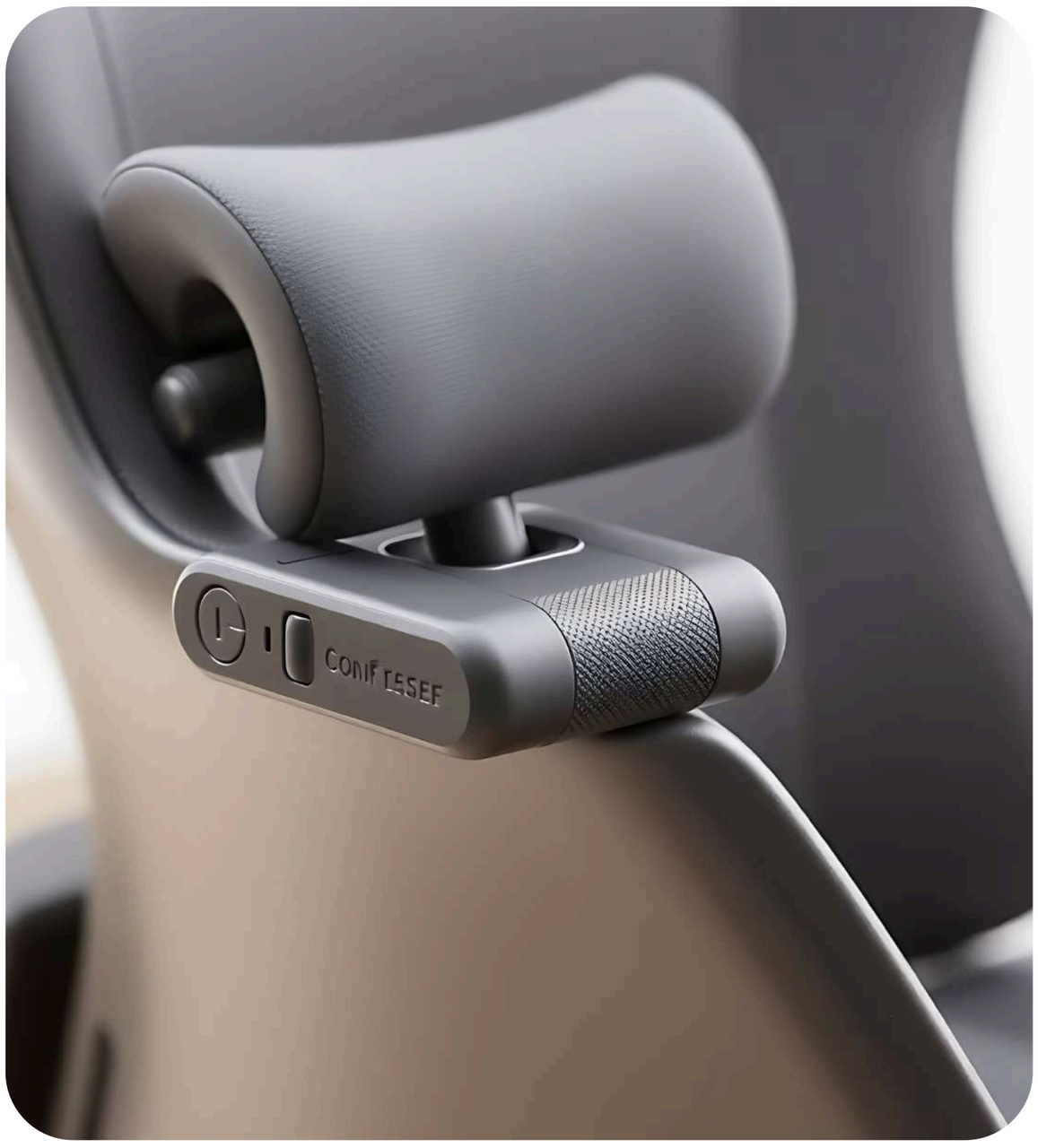
To find a product potentially infringing a patent, we started by analyzing the patent claims to identify key features and terminology. This includes extracting specific keywords and their synonyms, such as "height adjuster," "load strap," or "backrest mechanism," which are crucial to the patent’s claims.

After identifying the key terms, we used them to search through various platforms, including search engines like Google, video platforms like YouTube, E-commerce websites such as Amazon and Alibaba & tear down videos. Using this method allowed us to comprehensively search across multiple sources, increasing the likelihood of finding products that may infringe upon the patent by matching key features or components described in the claims.

APPROACH TO FIND THE PRODUCT

We conducted a broad search focused on vehicle seat mechanisms and explored products related to height adjustment mechanisms. While we found some products featuring height-adjustable vehicle seats, none of them disclosed the use of a load strap for height adjustment

As a result, we expanded our search to companies active in this field, examining the product catalogs of their vehicle seat mechanisms on their websites. This approach enabled us to identify a relevant reference that describes a vehicle seat with a seat part attached to a substructure and a backrest pivotally connected to it, featuring a height adjustment mechanism that uses a load strap.



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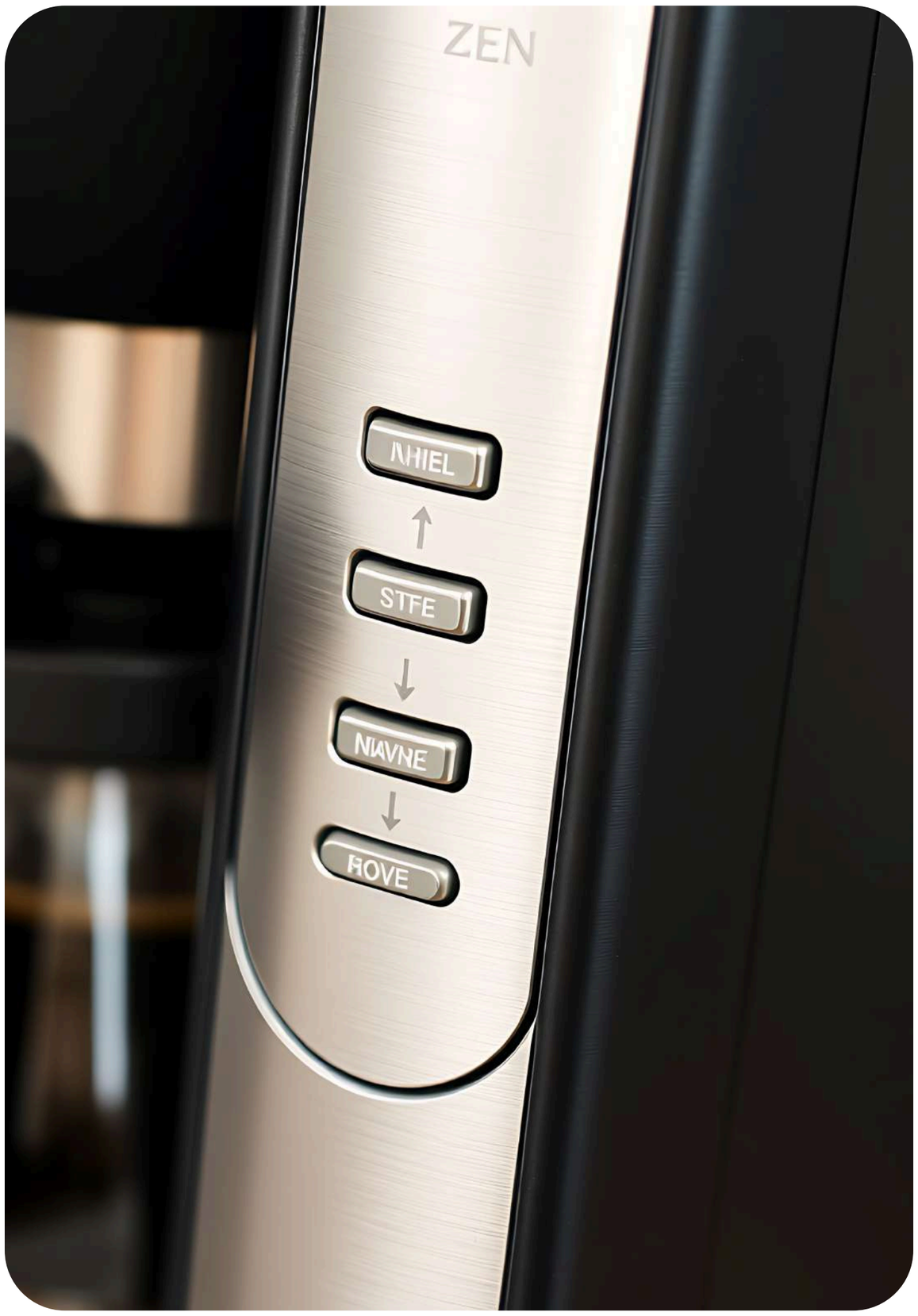
CONCLUSION

Our search strategy effectively led us to a relevant reference. By initially focusing on height-adjustable vehicle seats, we identified several products, but none disclosed the use of a load strap for height adjustment.

Expanding the search to include active companies in the field and examining their product catalogs allowed us to find a product that closely matched the key features outlined in the patent. This comprehensive approach successfully pinpointed a potential infringement.



PRO TIP

Use broad and targeted searches, combining keywords and company catalogs to uncover hidden patent infringement references effectively.

Expert

She holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and 4.5 years of expertise in patent research. Her specialized areas include aviation, turbine technology, and the automotive industry. She has successfully completed projects in novelty/ patentability search, invalidation search, freedom-to-operate search, state-of-the-art search, landscape analysis, and portfolio analysis.

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