



A S S I G N M E N T

Pursuant to my obligation to Ferris, a Division of Simplicity Manufacturing, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Assignee"), a Delaware corporation having its principal place of business at:

500 North Spring Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074

and for other valuable and sufficient consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, I:

Mark J. Melone  
1774 North George Street  
Rome, NY 13440

confirm my obligation to and hereby sell, assign and convey, unto Assignee, its successors and assigns, my entire right, title and interest -

(1) in and to an invention entitled "MOWER INCORPORATING A MULE DRIVE" for which I have executed a United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/903,905, filed July 30, 2004 (Atty. File No. 086303-9528-00);

(2) in and to said United States patent application, in and to all other patent applications (including divisional, continuation, continuation-in-part, §111(b) provisional, §111(a), and reissue applications) based upon said invention, and in and to the patent or patents to be granted thereon, including reissues thereof, if any, to the full end of the term or terms for which said patent or patents may be granted;

(3) in and to all patent applications on said invention now or hereafter filed in countries foreign to the United States of America, and in and to any and all patents granted on said applications to the full end of the terms for which said patents may be granted; and

(4) under the International Convention in respect to the United States patent application and agree that any patent applications of any foreign countries which may be filed shall be filed in the name of my Assignee with a claim to priority based on said United States application.

And I hereby agree that I will, upon demand of Assignee, its successors or assigns, and without further consideration to me, execute any and all papers that may be necessary, or deemed by Assignee, its successors or assigns, to be necessary, to a complete fulfillment of the intent and purposes of this Assignment, it being understood that any expense incident to the execution of such papers shall be paid by Assignee, its successors and assigns, and not by me.

And the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States is hereby authorized and requested to issue said United States patent or patents to Assignee.

1/12/05  
Date

Mark J. Melone  
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