

RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET PATENTS ONLY

To the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office:
Please record the attached documents or the new address(es) below.

Attorney Dkt. No.: 040472.281885

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Jerry Franklin Hartman

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Lowe's Companies, Inc.
1000 Lowe's Blvd.
 Mooresville, North Carolina 28115

3. Nature of conveyance/ Execution Date(s):
Execution Date(s) August 15, 2005
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Joint Research Agreement
 Government Interest Assignment
 Executive Order 9424, Confirmatory License
 Other _____

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application or patent number(s):
A. Patent Application No.(s) 11/087,726, filed March 23, 2005 B. Patent No.(s)
 This document is being filed together with a new application. Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

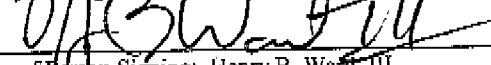
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7. Total fee (37 CFR 1.21(h) & 3.41) \$40.00
 Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account
 None required (government interest not affecting title)

8. Deposit account number: 16-0605

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9. Statement and signature: *To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.*


Name of Person Signing: Henry B. Ward, III
Reg. No. 42,212

8/25/05
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 5

USPTO Fax Number for New Assignments (703) 306-5995

CH \$40.00 160605 1108726

ASSIGNMENT

THIS ASSIGNMENT, made by me, Jerry Franklin Hartman, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at P.O. Box 955, Denton, North Carolina 27239,

WITNESSETH: That,

WHEREAS, I am the sole inventor of certain new and useful improvements in A **SYSTEM, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DECOUPLING A RAILCAR RESTRAINT** for which an application for United States Letters Patent has been filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 23, 2005, under Application No. 11/087,726,

and which application claims priority from Application No. , filed , all applications listed above being hereinafter referred to as the "application"; and

WHEREAS, Lowe's Companies, Inc., a North Carolina corporation having a principal place of business at 1000 Lowe's Blvd., Mooresville, North Carolina 28115, hereinafter referred to as assignee, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in and to said invention as described in said application, and in and to any and all Letters Patent which shall be granted therefor in the United States of America and all foreign countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, To Whom It May Concern, be it known that for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I have sold and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer, and convey unto the said assignee, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said invention and application, and in and to any and all continuations, continuations-in-part, or divisions thereof, and in and to any and all Letters Patent of the United States of America and all foreign countries or reissues, reexaminations, or extensions thereof which may be granted therefor or thereon, for the full end of the term for which said Letters Patent may be granted, together with the right to claim the priority of said application in all foreign countries in accordance with the International Convention, the same to be held and enjoyed by said assignee, its successors, and assigns, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by me if this assignment and sale had not been made.

I hereby request that said Letters Patent be issued in accordance with this assignment.

I further covenant and agree that, at the time of the execution and delivery of these presents, I possess full title to the invention and application above-mentioned, and that I have the

PATENT**REEL: 016669 FRAME: 0078**

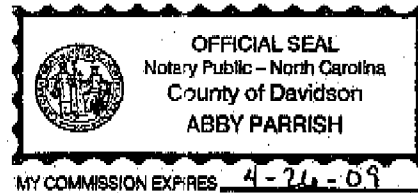
unencumbered right and authority to make this assignment.

I further covenant, and agree to bind my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, promptly to communicate to said assignee or its representatives any facts known to me relating to said invention, to testify in any interference or legal proceedings involving said invention, to execute any additional papers which may be requested to confirm the right of the assignee, its representatives, successors or assigns to secure patent or similar protection for the said invention in all countries and to vest in the assignee complete title to the said invention and Letters Patent, without further compensation, but at the expense of said assignee, its successors, assigns, and other legal representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal on this 15 day of

August, 2005.

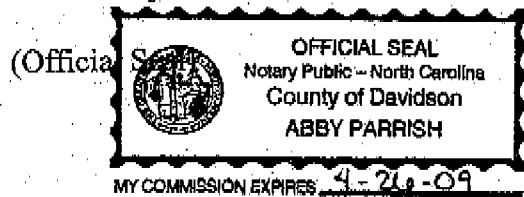
Jerry Franklin Hartman (SEAL)
Jerry Franklin Hartman



STATE OF North Carolina)
COUNTY OF Davidson)

I, Abby Parrish, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that Jerry Franklin Hartman personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 15th day of August, 2005.



Abby Parrish
Notary Public

My commission expires: April 26, 2009

CLT01/4708857v1