

# Chamberlain prevails in patent infringement dispute



THE CENTER OF THE DISPUTE: Launched in April 2016, the Ryobi GD200 opener offered several features that were new to the residential garage door opener industry.

In August, a unanimous federal jury found that Techtronic Industries (TTI) willfully infringed on two patents of the Chamberlain Group (CGI) involving its garage door openers. The verdict awarded lost profits, reportedly worth more than \$3.6 million.

## Home Depot removes openers

Chamberlain originally filed the suit in June 2016, seeking to stop TTI from importing the Ryobi GD200 opener. Hong Kong-based TTI is the parent company to brands such as Ryobi, Milwaukee, Hoover, and Oreck.

Home Depot has now reportedly taken the product off its shelves, but CGI is additionally seeking a court order that “permanently” restrains sales of Ryobi GD200 and GD200A openers. In the meantime, the Ryobi opener is available for sale at Direct Factory Tool Outlets, a sales outlet owned by TTI.

## From five patents to two

The original suit alleged infringement of five patents that involve battery backup, data communication, fault notifications, auto-force settings, and installation methods. The final ruling affected two patents: one that covered “core garage door open connectivity technology” and one that covered “the use of a battery from power tools as a back-up battery for garage door openers.”



Sohovich

## Chamberlain responds

“We invest significant resources to bring innovation and technology to our Chamberlain and LiftMaster offerings,” said JoAnna Sohovich, CGI CEO. “We respect

the intellectual property laws of the United States, and we will continue to rigorously defend our patents and our reputation.”

Sohovich explained that Chamberlain has hundreds of global patents. “This verdict is a big win for innovators and customers alike, as it will allow us to continue to develop new solutions that provide access and knowledge to our consumers,” she added.

## TTI responds

In a corporate statement to Door + Access Systems, TTI said, “We are disappointed in the jury’s decision but remain extremely confident that their decision will be overturned on appeal. TTI stands behind all its products and will continue its longstanding tradition of delivering exceptional and innovative products to its customers.” ■



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