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From *Stairway to Sailing*: Can Trade Dress Protect Iconic Guitar Designs?

SPEAKERS

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In this episode of *No Infringement Intended*, Austin Padgett and Rusty Close move from sports jerseys and Florida State legends to yacht rock lore and double-neck guitars to discuss how patents and trade dress shape the guitar industry. Using Stratocaster contours, SG cutaways, and iconic silhouettes like the Les Paul and Flying V, they explain why utility and design patents expire and how trade dress depends on nonfunctionality and acquired distinctiveness. The discussion shows how signature headstocks and logos became enforceable trademarks and why early, disciplined enforcement matters for consumer brands.

No Infringement Intended, hosted by Rusty Close and Austin Padgett, is your go-to podcast for exploring the fascinating intersection of intellectual property and pop culture.

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