

Statement of Gordon Wayne Watts

I recently saw a public Facebook post by my friend, **April Mathis**, dated **April 02, 2025**, where she told her Facebook followers that she was looking for people who purchased or been given her weightlifting / powerlifting wraps and/or recall her selling them at any time **prior to April 28, 2017**, and would be willing to provide a **written and signed statement** to help her in a lawsuit in which fellow-lifter, John Inzer, has sued her for alleged patent infringement, apparently referring to **"Weightlifting wrap"** Patent No. 9,895,594 (**Current U.S. Class: Complete Cover Or Casing (428/76)**) was filed / applied for on **April 28, 2017** and issued on February 20, 2018 <https://Patents.Justia.com/patent/9895594> by Inzer Advance Designs, Inc. (Longview, TX), and, according to this lookup, "claims the benefit of" U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/639,267, filed Mar. 5, 2015, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/338,958, filed Dec. 28, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,011,305 – and apparently related to **"Gripper wraps"** Patent No. 9,731,160 (**Current U.S. Class: Aligned Or Parallel Nonplanarities (428/179)**), which application claims the benefit of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/338,958, filed **Dec. 28, 2011**, according to <https://Patents.Justia.com/patent/9731160>. She and Inzer, in their filed briefs, also both mention **"Weightlifting wrap"** Patent No. D848558 (**Current U.S. Class: Element Or Attachment (D21/694)**), which, according to <https://Patents.Justia.com/patent/D848558> was filed / applied for on **Feb 15, 2018**, and issued on May 14, 2019.

In other words, I understand April's request to be proof, evidence, and/or testimony that she made, sold, or gifted lifting wraps before a certain arbitrary cutoff date in order to be considered "Prior Art," under Federal Law for patents. However, my own independent research has suggested that since Mr. Inzer's Patent No. 9,011,305 was applied for on December 28, 2011, the required date for prior art is **before December 28, 2010, to meet the one-year "grace period" (pre-12/28/2010) needed for April to invalidate the patent as prior art.** Moreover, my own research suggested that evidence and statements from customers or fellow-lifters **from 2011** could show prior use close to Inzer's filing, potentially supporting an inventorship or non-infringement argument, but recollections of use **prior to 12/28/2010 are ideal.** To that end, I shall do my best to provide my best recollection of her having made, sold, and/or given away weightlifting and powerlifting wraps, so far as I can remember:

- 1) In the **mid-1980's**, my father, the late Bobby Watts, had **The American Eagle Gym** in our hometown of Plant City, Florida, and I entered one powerlifting contest, and was an amateur / part-time lifter.
- 2) After our family moved to nearby Lakeland, Florida, I lived with my father for a while and decided to get back into lifting, and – according to my lifting journal – I picked up on **Saturday, 02 October 2010** (with weights in our garage gym) and by **Thursday, 28 October 2010**, later that month, I joined **Deb's Gym**, owned by IPF powerlifting judge, Deb Callahan, which, at the time, was located at 1052 East Memorial Boulevard, Lakeland FL 33801, and within walking distance of where I lived.
- 3) Shortly thereafter (I don't recall the exact time), I met **April Mathis**, a well-known world record holder in the Super-heavyweight class, **who was a regular member of Deb's Gym.**
- 4) According to old email logs from that time, on **Tuesday, 05 October 2010**, I had an email exchange with Nia Shanks, another experienced powerlifter, from whom I'd purchased an online "consult" (plan), which, according to old receipts, I purchased the previous day, **"10/04/2010 (at) 7:47 PM PDT."**
- 5) Other old email records, dated **Tuesday, 28 December 2010**, show an email exchange with experienced powerlifter, Eric Cressey, from whom I'd purchased his "Art of the Deload" and "Show & Go" papers.
- 6) Other old email records **from Thursday, 12/29/2011 to Sunday 1/1/2012**, show an lengthy email exchange between me and my friend, **April Mathis**, in which she asked if I could help her **[[#1]]** make an **e-book**, **[[#2]]** install a **PayPal payment portal**, and **[[#3]]** **insert images into a website and her e-book.**
- 7) I don't recall what, precisely, she'd been selling **circa 2010 – 2012** other than her online advanced powerlifting e-book (i.e., I don't recall her making or selling weightlifting wraps then).
- 8) Although I'm April's friend, I won't make up a story about recollections of lifting wraps, but but based on my having known her for several decades and known her to always be honest and always willing to help others in need (she once bought me lunch and roofing tar when I needed help, and was always willing to help beginners and new lifters at the gym) – and based on the overall context, here, I believe that she probably did, indeed, also manufacture, make, sell, and give away the lifting wraps, too **circa 2010 – 2012**, that she describes in her recent social media posts and her response to the patent lawsuit in question.
- 9) To make this statement, I'm using the format required by Federal Law, specifically, 28 U.S. Code § 1746 - "Unsworn declarations under penalty of perjury": <https://www.Law.Cornell.edu/uscode/text/28/1746>
- 10) While I think this 1-page statement should suffice, I can provide supporting documentation, if needed.
- 11) I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date: **X Saturday, July 19, 2025**)

12) (Signature: **X**)

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