

REASONED STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PROTEST UNDER PCT RULE 40.2(c)

International Application No.: PCT/US2026/020261

Title: Pivoting, Transforming, Voice Activated Weightlifting Machine

I. Introduction

Applicant respectfully submits this reasoned statement in response to the Invitation to Pay Additional Fees and, Where Applicable, Protest Fee, issued pursuant to PCT Rule 40.1.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the determination that the present international application lacks unity of invention under PCT Rule 13. Applicant submits that the claims are linked by a single general inventive concept and therefore satisfy the unity requirement of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

The Invitation separates the claims into five alleged inventions relating to (i) voice/touch control, (ii) a pivoting main body, (iii) a treadmill, (iv) a bench and base structure, and (v) a folding seat mechanism. Respectfully, this characterization examines isolated structural features rather than the invention as claimed and disclosed.

The present application is directed to a single transformable exercise apparatus that changes between multiple exercise configurations while maintaining one integrated structural framework. The claims, specification, and drawings consistently describe one machine whose various structural elements cooperate mechanically and functionally to achieve a common transforming architecture.

II. Applicable Standard Under PCT Rule 13

PCT Rule 13.1 provides that an international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

PCT Rule 13.2 further provides that where a group of inventions is claimed, the requirement of unity is fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. These special technical features are those technical features that define a contribution over the prior art.

Accordingly, the proper inquiry is not whether individual components of the apparatus may be identified separately, but whether the claimed subject matter shares common special technical features constituting one inventive concept.

III. The Common Inventive Concept

The common inventive concept throughout the present application is a single transformable exercise apparatus capable of selectively reconfiguring itself into multiple exercise positions through coordinated mechanical movement of common structural components under common user control.

The claims consistently rely upon the same principal structural framework, including the pivoting main body, the common base structure, the common transformation mechanisms, the common weight system, and the common control architecture. The apparatus does not consist of independent inventions assembled together; rather, it is one integrated machine that changes configuration to perform different exercise functions.

Claim 1 introduces the invention as a device transformed by a touch-operated control panel or by verbal commands into selected positions or modes. This claim establishes the invention as a single transformable apparatus whose defining characteristic is selective transformation into different operating configurations, not separate exercise devices.

Claim 2 introduces the pivoting main body that forms the central structural element supporting the remaining claimed features. Claims 3 through 8 depend directly from Claim 2 and further define mechanisms operating within that same apparatus.

Likewise, Claims 10 through 17 define additional structural features of the same apparatus, including the bench, backrest, seat, support mechanisms, motors, base legs, and transformation systems. Claims 18 and 19 further describe the seat mechanism as another component cooperating within the same transforming apparatus.

These claims do not define unrelated inventions. Rather, they define interacting structural components that cooperate to permit one apparatus to transform between multiple exercise configurations.

IV. The Drawings Demonstrate One Integrated Apparatus

The drawings reinforce the existence of a single inventive concept.

Figures 1 through 3 illustrate the same machine in different operating configurations rather than separate machines.

The principal structural members—including the main body, base assembly, control panel, weight stack, bench assembly, support arms, and transformation mechanisms—remain common throughout the figures while the apparatus changes between exercise modes.

The repeated use of identical reference numerals across the figures demonstrates that the same structural elements are reused as the apparatus transforms. The treadmill, bench, seat, and support mechanisms are not disclosed as independent inventions but as cooperating components of one integrated transforming machine.

V. The Special Technical Features Were Identified Too Narrowly

The Invitation identifies the common technical features principally as a motor, a bench, and a treadmill and concludes that those features are known from the cited prior art.

Respectfully, Applicant submits that this does not identify the common special technical features of the claimed invention.

The contribution described throughout the claims and specification is not merely the presence of a motor, bench, or treadmill.

Rather, the common special technical features include the coordinated transforming architecture centered upon the pivoting main body together with the mechanisms that reposition common structural components into multiple selectable exercise configurations under a common control system.

These coordinated transforming mechanisms define the technical contribution over the prior art and provide the technical relationship required by PCT Rule 13.2.

VI. Conclusion

When considered as a whole, the claims define one integrated transforming apparatus whose structural components cooperate to achieve a single technical objective: the transformation of one exercise machine into multiple exercise configurations through a common mechanical and control architecture.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claims are linked by a single general inventive concept within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.1 and PCT Rule 13.2.

Applicant respectfully requests that the determination of lack of unity be reconsidered.