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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING INPUT TO A PROCESSOR, AND A SENSOR PAD

(57) Abstract: An apparatus for providing input to a processor includes a sensor pad having a surface and a sensor array for sensing pressure at the surface and producing signals corresponding to the pressure at the surface. The sensor array having columns and rows of electrodes that are covered with resistive material which fills in the spaces between the electrodes and acts as a linear resistor between the electrodes and measures pressure on the pad surface between the electrodes. The sensor array having columns and rows of electrodes that are covered with resistive material which fills in the spaces between the electrodes and acts as a linear resistor between the electrodes and measures pressure on the pad surface between the electrodes. There is the step of communicating the signals to the processor in contact with the sensor pad and in communication with the sensor array which couples to the processor.

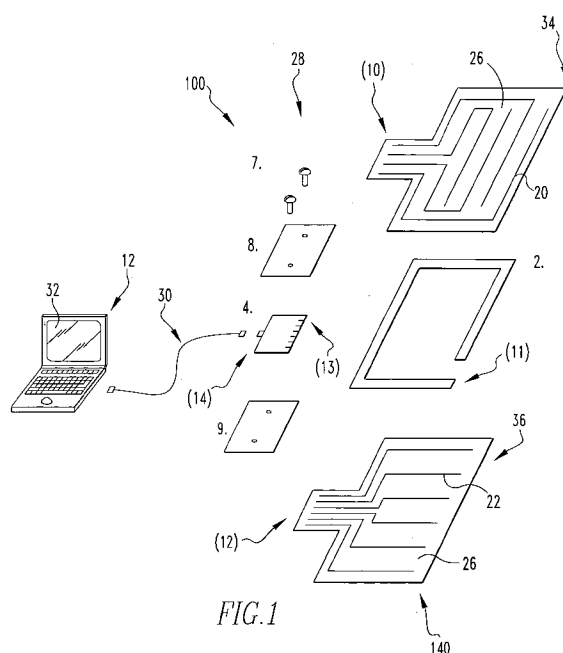


FIG.1



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G06F 3/045 (2009.01)

USPC - 345/174

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8): G06F 3/045 (2009.01)

USPC: 345/174

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 345/156, 157, 173, 174 (text search)Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB,USOCR); Freepatentsonline.com, Google; Search terms used: resistance impedance touch pad sensor layer grid mesh wire conductor pressure tap intersection point coordinate scan triangulate USB array

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- Y	US 2008/0007539 A1 (Hotelling) 10 January 2008 (10.01.2008), entire document Fig. 1, 17, 18; para [0009], [0011], [0036]-[0049], [0065]-[0071], [0086].	18-21 ----- 1-17, 22-24
Y	US 4,797,514 A (Talmage, Jr. et al.) 10 January 1989 (10.01.1989), col. 2, ln. 50-60; col. 4, ln. 5-15; col. 5, ln. 30-50	1-17, 22-24
A	US 2007/0078316 A1 (Hoarau et al.) 05 April 2007 (05.04.2007), entire document	1-24
A	US 6,118,435 A (Fujita et al.) 12 September 2000 (12.09.2000), entire document	1-24
A	US 7,023,427 B2 (KRAUS et al.) 04 April 2006 (04.04.2006), entire document	4, 20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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