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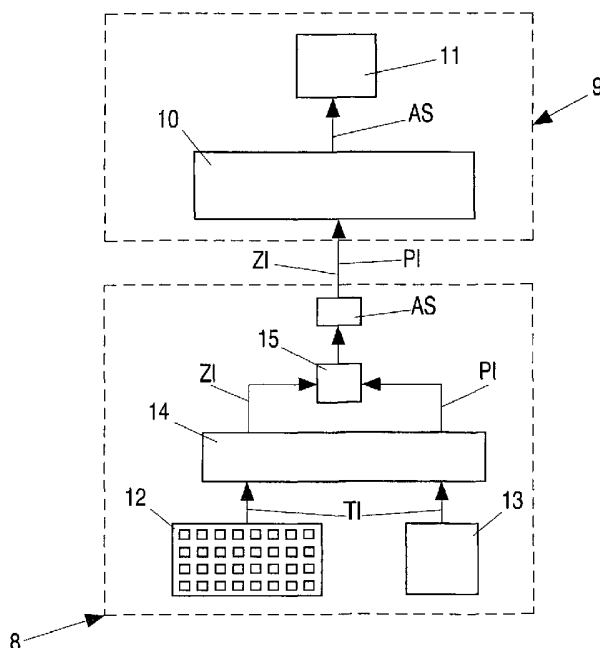
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR INPUTTING CHARACTER AND POSITION INFORMATION



(57) Abstract: An external keyboard (8) for a computer (10) is equipped with a keypad (12) for inputting alphanumeric characters (ZI) and a touchpad (13) for input position information (PI) to alter the input position of input characters (ZI). In order to prevent the input position from being altered as a result of unintentional touching of the touchpad (13) during the inputting of characters (ZI) with the keypad (12), the keyboard (8) is equipped with blocking means (15), which block the delivery of position information (PI) input with touch pad (13) during and shortly after the inputting of alphanumeric characters (ZI) with keypad (12).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G06F3/02 G06F3/023 G06F3/033

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)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10, 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31) & JP 10 133796 A (SHARP CORP), 22 May 1998 (1998-05-22) abstract	1-12
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 112657 A (NEC CORP), 21 April 2000 (2000-04-21) abstract	1-12
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center;">Rosken, W</p>
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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