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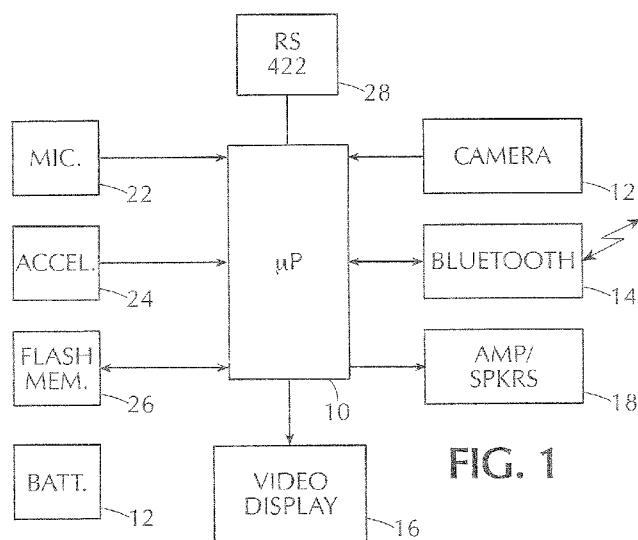


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A garment having audio-video display capabilities, has a garment body bearing a video display device. The display device is preferably mounted to a surface of the garment body whereby it cannot be seen unless activated. An audio reproduction device is also mounted to the garment body. Both the video and audio display/reproduction devices are controlled by a microprocessor system likewise mounted to the garment body. The processor system is capable of receiving video and audio data and control signals from a remote source, such as a smartphone, over a wireless communications system, such as a Bluetooth system. In addition, the garment may itself have a camera and microphone to allow the wearer to record audio-visual material and display it on the garment system.

Multimedia Communication And Display Device

The present invention relates to a novel multi-media display and communications apparatus, and in particular to such an apparatus which may be incorporated into various products, and especially into wearing apparel.

Background of the Invention

Humans are social animals. They engage each other through a variety of communication channels. They talk with each other, they take photographs and movies of each other, and through advances such as smart phones, they transfer and exchange information (and gossip) on a continuous basis, irrespective of where the parties the such exchange are located.

Humans also are expressive creatures. They express themselves both through the media that they employ to communicate with each other, as well as through their physical actions and the clothes they wear. As technology expands, there is an increasing melding of the different expressive modes and the communication channels by which people express themselves and share their thoughts and feelings with each other.

Brief Description of the Invention

The present invention provides for a multi-media communications device that allows the display of information in a unique and innovative personal manner. It comprises a microprocessor "brain" that controls audio and video display devices and allows for the wireless receipt of data from external sources to drive the display devices. Innovatively, the display devices are of a nature that allows them, and the associated drive and control components, to be integrated into a wide variety of products. In particular, they may be integrated into items of wearing apparel, such as shirts. With the video display device integrated into the front or back of a shirt, for example, the wearer can be an electronic billboard or movie screen, the shirt displaying

video images that are received wirelessly and/or stored by the device. Speakers likewise integrated into the shirt can provide accompanying sound.

Control signals for the device may likewise be transmitted wirelessly to the processor, such as through known "Bluetooth" technology. The device may be linked through such a Bluetooth connection to a portable device under the control of the wearer, such as a smartphone or other device. Through commands entered through the smartphone, the wearer can direct the device to play audio-visual media as desired, whether transmitted by the remote device or generated or stored by the device. The device may incorporate other peripherals, such a camera or a microphone to allow it to record audio-video data, as well as sensors such as an accelerometer to permit the coordination between the recording or display of data and a physical action, such as a jump by the wearer. Because a preferred implementation of the invention is in the form of a t-shirt, the invention may be from time to time referred to herein as "the Shirt".

Brief Description of the Drawings

A fuller understanding of the invention may be achieved upon consideration of the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment thereof and the annexed drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the operative elements of the invention;

25

Fig. 2 is a depiction of the construction format of the video display of the invention;

Fig. 3 is pictorial view of the layout of a printed circuit board carrying the main processor of the Shirt and other components;

30

Fig. 4 depicts the bytes in a wireless data transmission to the shirt for display of the word "Hello";

Fig. 5 is a depiction of a t-shirt bearing the Shirt invention, with components shown in phantom; and

5 Fig. 6 is a depiction of the t-shirt of Fig. 5 illustrating the actual appearance of the garment, with the components hidden.

Detailed description of the invention

10 As depicted in Fig. 1, the multi-media communications and display Shirt device of the present invention comprises a processor system having a microprocessor 10 that controls the operation of peripherals connected thereto and processes received data and instructions for the peripherals. It may be 32 bit system, such as an ATSAM3S processor. A battery pack power supply
15 12 powers the processor as well as all the other components of the system. As well known, the power supply may include, or be coupled to, charging, filtering and regulation circuitry needed to provide the power at the appropriate ratings for each of the devices it powers and to allow the battery to be recharged as needed.

20

The microprocessor provides the signals to operate the video display panel 16 and stereo speakers 18, which may be coupled to the microprocessor through appropriate amplification circuitry. The processor also controls the operation of a video camera 20 and a microphone 22, allowing the inputting of
25 audio/video material. The camera may be coupled to the microprocessor through an appropriate interface as known, such as a CX93510 encoder, which takes the raw image data from the camera and converts it to a form usable by the microprocessor. In addition to the storage provided in the processor itself, external flash memory 26 may be provided for the processor, along with an
30 RS422 interface 28. The memory allows for the retention of video and audio data for later display upon receipt of appropriate commands. A micro-accelerometer sensor 24, such as the Analog Devices model ADXL345, a three-axis unit that serves also as a tilt sensor, may also be operatively connected to the processor.

External operating instructions and display data are delivered to the processor 10 by a wireless receiver, such as Bluetooth receiver 14, which may be, for example, a Bluegiga Technologies WT32 unit. The Bluetooth receiver allows the device to be coupled to another Bluetooth-enabled device, such as a smartphone. The smartphone in turn is supplied with an application that allows it to generate the control signals appropriate to operate the device and transmit to the device data, such as text and image data, to be presented/displayed by the device. The application may allow, for example, images received by the smartphone's camera or stored by the smartphone to be transmitted to the device and shown on the device screen. To the smartphone or other Bluetooth device to which the Shirt is coupled the inventive device appears simply as another Bluetooth peripheral with its own application programming interface (API).

15

Video display 16 is preferably an LED matrix, configured and constructed to be both flexible and water resistant, allowing it to be mounted to fabric, such as a shirt front, in a manner that substantially preserves the wearability, washability, and flexibility of the garment. Preferably, it is fabricated as a two layer flexible printed circuit board (PCB) film of polyimide, 170 microns in thickness, with components mounted to both sides. The PCB may be mounted on the inside surface of the shirt fabric intended to be the video "screen" with two layers of a mesh fabric, preferably that known in the trade as "powermesh", a nylon/spandex blend fine mesh fabric serving as a diffuser between the PCB film and garment fabric. As depicted in Fig. 2, the LED matrix itself is divided into 32 sections, each of which comprises 32 multicolor LED devices arranged with 1 cm spacing in a 4x8 rectangular matrix, and driven by a microprocessor, such as an ATMEGA644M or P RISC microcontroller, as known in the art. Each LED forms a pixel of the overall display. The LED sections or matrixes themselves are arranged to form a 32 by 32 pixel square display, with 1024 LED pixels total.

30

As known in the art, the LEDs of each section and the sections themselves are multiplexed and switched by the processor such that each LED

is sequentially provided with an appropriate signal to have it illuminate at the correct color and intensity to produce the desired overall image. Switching between the four rows of a section of LEDs may be performed by p-channel power MOSFETs, such as the FDME1023PZT, a small dual MOSFET, to minimize the board real estate needed, while the cathodes of the LEDs are led through appropriate load resistors to the corresponding processor switch outputs. The section processors are clock-matched to the main processor 12 to achieve a fast error-free data transfer rate and allow the video data to be delivered to the processors of the array with only a single signal control line and a ground, in addition to the lines carrying the data to be displayed.

Fig. 3 depicts the arrangement of major components on a main PCB 32. The main PCB carries main "brain" microprocessor 10, as well as associated circuitry and components, including some of the peripherals, such as the camera 20 and accelerometer 24. The PCB board may be of multi-layer rigid design, with two snap connectors 30 connecting the board to the LED display through a TX (transmit) and a ground line. The PCB carrying the microprocessor and associated components may sit in an internal pocket on the shirt, and is thus removable, while the LED array is permanently affixed to the shirt. Given the different power demands of the microprocessor and other main PCB components on the one hand and the display matrix 16 on the other, the battery pack 12 may be in two parts, with power for the main PCB board being provided by a board-mounted supply (which may be part of the Bluetooth transceiver 14). Power for the matrix is supplied by another battery pack 52 (Fig. 5) located at the matrix and able to be disconnected therefrom for charging. An independent charger may be provided to charge both batteries, such as through USB ports. The main PCB may carry a power management and battery charging circuit 34 to condition and distribute battery power as appropriate to components. The main PCB is also connected to the video display 16 by a multi-conductor ribbon cable (not shown) carrying the display signal data. The ribbon cable is disconnectable from the PCB, as are the snap connectors 30, to allow the PCB to be removed from the pocket. Because the Shirt is also capable of recording video through camera 20 and audio through microphone 22, main PCB may also carry the video

processor/encoder CX93510 38 for camera 20 as well as a jack 36 to input audio from the microphone 22, typically located remote to the board. Jack 36 may also be used to couple generated audio (amplified by amplifier 18a) to the speakers 18.

5

As indicated above, user-generated control commands for the microprocessor 10 are issued by the smartphone or other wireless device to which the Shirt is Bluetooth coupled. "Short" commands generated by the API in the phone, instructing the Shirt to take or report some action, are typically 4 bytes long. Each 4 byte command comprises a 2 byte header, a following single byte identifying the nature of the command, and a final, argument byte which sets any settings relevant to the command. If no argument is relevant, the last byte is zero.

15 "Long" commands can also be issued to carry or deliver a payload of data, such as a photo or text to be displayed, rather than to set a mode or function for the Shirt. At present the types of data to be sent to the Shirt are text and images. Thus there are only two long commands. Other long commands can be developed to send other types of data.

20

A long command comprises a 2 byte (bytes 0 and 1) header, followed by a command byte (byte 2) setting forth the type of data being delivered (e.g. hex 40 for text). Byte 3 is the address where the data transmitted is to be stored at the Shirt. The received data will overwrite any prior data at that location. The next byte (4) represents the payload length. For a text transmission the payload length is the actual number of characters in the phrase. The maximum length is thus 255. "Hello", for example, would have a payload length of 5, corresponding to the 5 letters in the word. If a group of commands include data that are to be displayed sequentially, the addresses for the data should be sequential.

30

The next bytes in the string are the actual bytes of the payload. For "Hello" bytes 5 through 9 would be used, each byte being the actual ASCII

value for the corresponding letter or character. The final byte of the string is a checksum. Fig. 4 depicts the string for "Hello".

For sending images bytes 0 through 2 are of the same format as for a
5 text (with, e.g., the command byte being decimal 65 to denote an image). The
fourth byte denotes whether the image data is compressed. For compressed
image data each pixel may be, for example, one of 256 colors, and thus can be
represented by a single byte. With limited memory available, compression is
presently required. With 3 color LEDs a single byte of data is sufficient to
10 describe 256 colors, with the 8 available bits of each byte being allocated
among the red, green and blue color channels. Red and green are allocated 3
bits each, while blue, the shades of which are less able to be differentiated by
the human eye, being allocated 2 bits (3:3:2 compression), allowing 8 levels for
red and green and 4 levels of blue to be designated and combined as needed to
15 generate the 256 colors. With a LED image display area fixed at 32 by 30
pixels (which is smaller than the available display space), the total number of
bytes of the payload will always be 960 (32 x 30). The bytes following the
compression byte (bytes 5 - 965) are the 960 bytes of the payload. Again, the
last byte of the message string is a checksum. The payload bytes are
20 arranged in column order.

All instructions sent to the Shirt require a response. The response will
differ depending on the command given. All responses, however, begin with a
1 byte header, followed by a 1 byte identification of the type of response, for
25 example a general status update. The third byte of the response is the argument
that indicates the value of the response, for example an acknowledge or
negative acknowledge (error).

In addition to the display of text and images/video transmitted from a remote
control device via Bluetooth, the Shirt can also collect local data. Images
30 captured by camera 20 can be transmitted by the Bluetooth connection to the
coupled smartphone, while the microphone 22 can capture sounds which can
be stored and played back through the speakers. Because of the provision of
both the microphone and speakers, the Shirt can also be used to answer
telephone calls directed to the coupled smartphone using well known

methodology and can likewise broadcast music streamed by the smartphone. Accelerometer 24 can be used to trigger certain events. If the wearer of the shirt has the controlling smartphone, for example, the wearer can issue a command for the Shirt to take a particular action when the accelerometer has a certain
5 input, such as sensing a jump. In that regard the accelerometer can function as a switch.

Fig. 5 depicts the orientation of components of the invention. Garment body 42 is in the form of a t-shirt, with the video display screen 16
10 and other Shirt components shown in phantom, as they are mounted upon the inner surface of the shirt front. PCB 32, bearing the main processor, camera and other components, is located in an internal pocket adjacent the video display which, as set forth above, is directly laminated upon the shirt inner surface. While the construction of the video display is such that the hand of
15 the shirt is substantially retained, a zipper 44 is preferably provided at the back of the shirt to facilitate donning and removing the shirt. As further shown in Fig. 6, the components are not visible for the garment exterior, save for an entrance slot 50 for the internal PCB pocket, a small hole 46 in the garment aligned with the lens of camera 20 on the PCB board, and a hole 48
20 aligned with the audio and microphone jack 36, which at present provides the audio output and input through coupling with a plug of a headset (not shown) having earphones and a microphone. Control signals are sent by the remote transmitter, such a smartphone 54. Other audio systems, such as an external speaker system or garment- mounted speakers and a microphone can
25 alternatively be provided to be plugged into the jack.

We claim:

1. A garment having audio-video display capabilities, comprising:
a garment body;
a video display device mounted to a surface of the garment body;
at least one audio reproduction device mounted to a surface of the garment body;
a receiver for receiving wireless video and audio command signals from a remote source;
a processor system coupled to the receiver and to the video and audio displays for processing the received command signals and generating display signals for the video and audio displays for display thereby.
2. The garment of claim 1, wherein the video display device is mounted to a location on an interior surface area of the garment for observation from the exterior of the garment.
3. The garment of claim 2, wherein the video display device is an LED matrix.
4. The garment of claim 3, wherein the LED matrix comprises a flexible printed circuit board film mounted to the interior surface area by a mesh fabric.
5. The garment of claim 4, wherein the LED matrix further comprises 32 sections, each comprising 32 multicolor LED devices and a microprocessor.
6. The garment of claim 1 wherein the receiver is a bluetooth receiver.
7. The garment of claim 6 further comprising a remote bluetooth-enabled device for generating and wirelessly transmitting the command signals to the receiver.
8. The garment of claim 2 wherein the processor system is removably

located in a pocket of the garment positioned behind and mounted to the garment body.

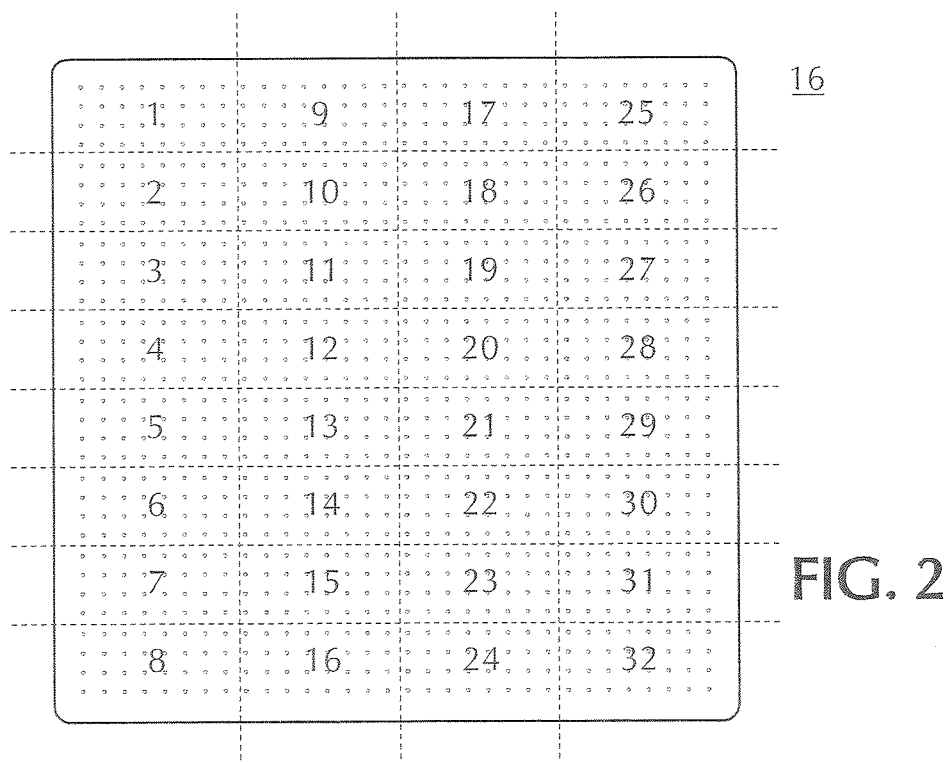
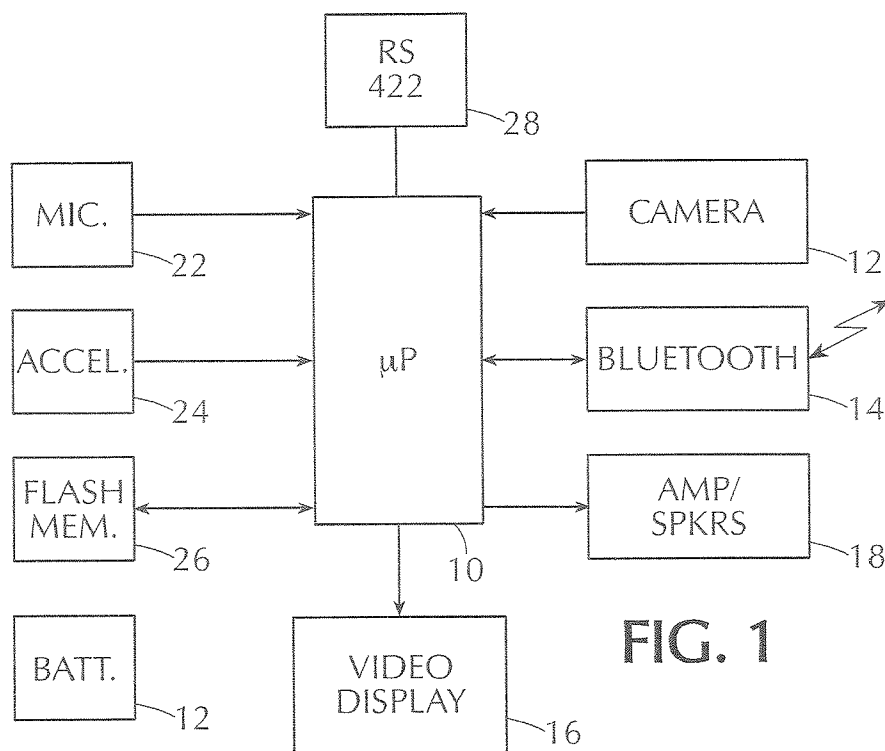
9. The garment of claim 8 wherein the processor system is mounted upon a circuit board, the circuit board further including at least one of a video camera, a microphone and an accelerometer coupled to the processor system, the garment body having an aperture for a lens of the camera, the circuit board being positioned within the pocket whereby the camera lens is aligned with the aperture.

10. The garment of claim 8 wherein the pocket is accessible from the exterior of the garment through a slot formed in the garment body.

11. The garment of claim 8 wherein the processor system is further removably coupled to at least one of a microphone and an earphone by a jack mounted to the circuit board, system, the garment body having a second aperture aligned with the jack for plug connection thereto from an exterior of the garment.

12. The garment of claim 8 wherein the processor system is coupled to the video display device by a cable removably connected to both the processor system and video display device.

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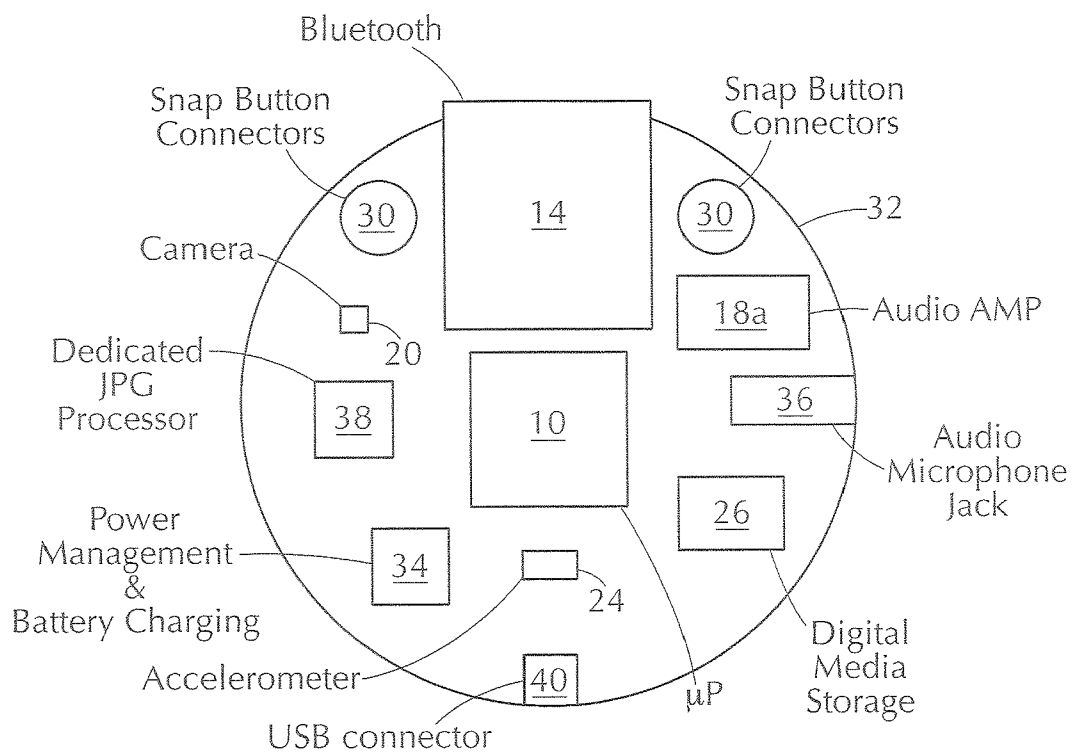


FIG. 3

byte#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Header					H	e	l	l	o	
hex	1	0	40	0	5	48	65	6C	6C	6F	F4
dec	1	0	64	0	5	72	101	108	108	111	244

FIG. 4

3/3

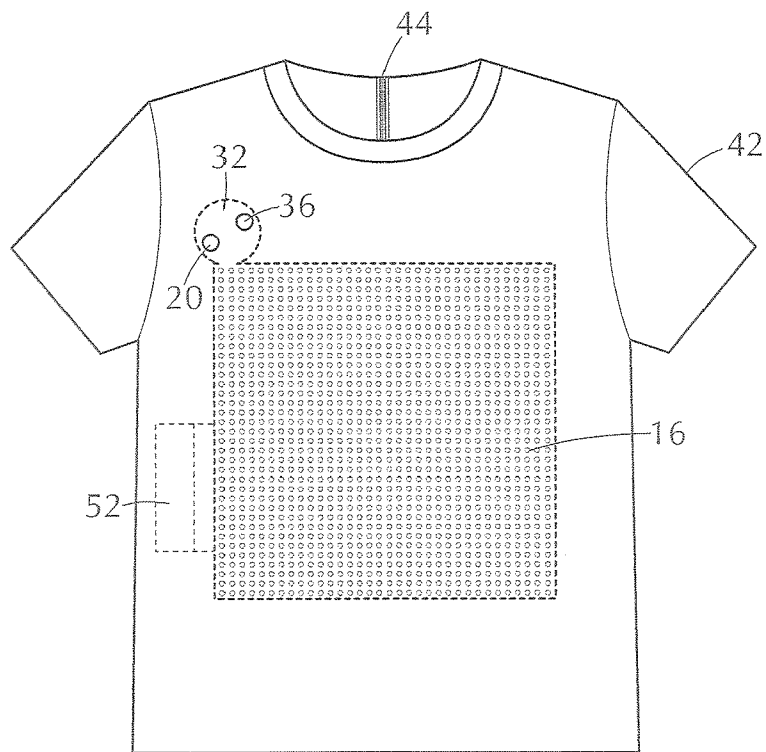


FIG. 5

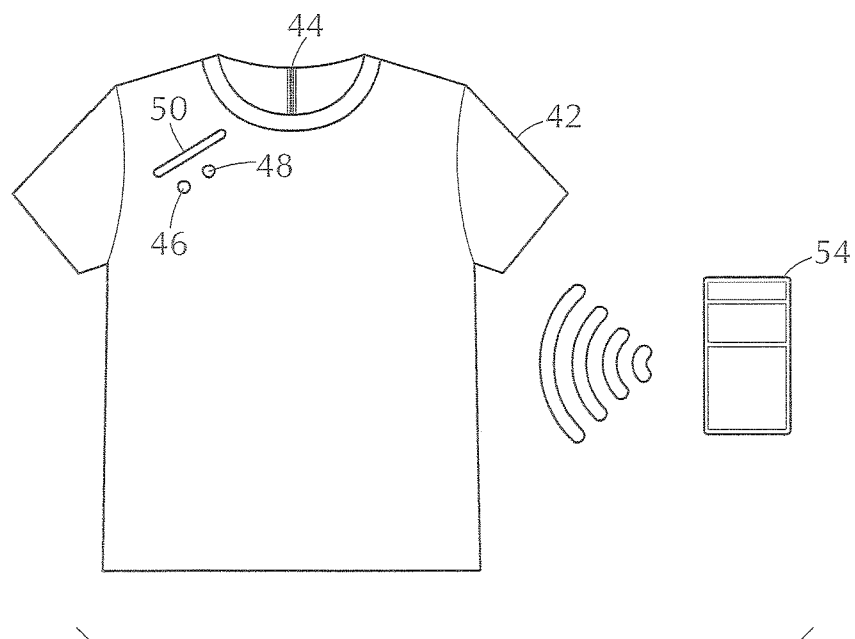


FIG. 6