

①② **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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⑤④ **Data encryption.**

⑤⑦ Data transmitted over any sort of "broadcast" system can, in general, be picked up by anyone with the correct sort of receiver properly tuned in. For many reasons, however, it may be desirable for the data signals to be "scrambled" or encrypted, before transmission so that only the recipient who can appropriately "unscramble" or decrypt the signal, will be able to see the data in its original plain form.

The invention provides a data encryption/decryption method (and the equipment therefor), in which plain form data is transferred sequentially through two sets of analogue shift registers at a number of different transfer rates such that for each register data fed in at one rate is then fed out at another; whereby the data transferred between the two sets of registers is encrypted, but when fed out of the last register is decrypted, and in plain form.

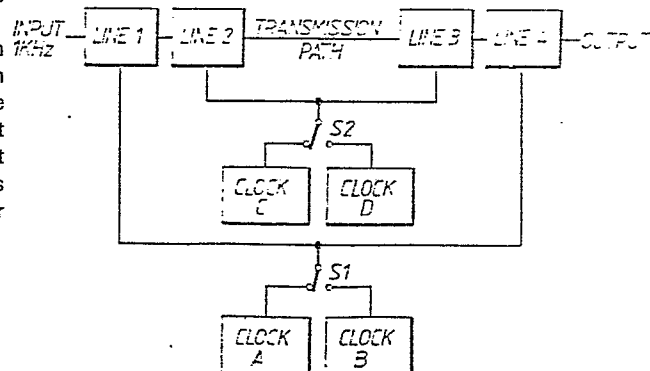


FIG.3.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	EP-A-0 117 276 (SANYO) * Page 14, line 24 - page 22, line 21; figures 3-6 *	5-8,11-13	H 04 K 1/06
A	---	1,3,10	
Y	EP-A-0 018 869 (ETABLISSEMENT PUBLIC TELEDIFFUSION DE FRANCE) * Page 7, line 5 - page 11, line 3; figure 1 *	5-8,11-13	
A	---	1,3,10,14	
A	US-A-4 217 469 (MARTELLI) * Column 17, line 51 - column 18, line 8 *	1,3,5-8,10-15	
A	US-A-4 392 021 (SLATE) * Abstract; figures 1,8 *	1,3,5,10,11,13-15	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 8, no. 231 (E-274)[1668], 24th October 1984; & JP-A-59 112 740 (ENII K.K.) 29-06-1984 * Abstract *	1,3-8,10,11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			H 04 K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 05-08-1988	Examiner SNELL T.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			