Abstract: Active and spare battery holders (104, 102) are removably disposed within a battery compartment of a battery operated device (10) such that battery cells (30) in the active holder (104) provide electrical power to operate the device (10), while battery cells (30) in the spare holder (102) are electrically isolated to prevent their discharge. In one embodiment, upon discharge of the battery cells (30) of the active holder (104) the cells (30) of the active holder (104) and the spare holder (102) are exchanged, providing the active holder (104) with fresh cells (30) to operate the device (10). In another embodiment, the active and spare holders are simply interchanged, so that the spare holder becomes the active holder and the active holder becomes the spare holder. According to the latter embodiment, a unitary battery holder includes a first and second battery holder in a single unit, so that to interchange active and spare holders the unitary battery holder is reversed within the battery compartment.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: F21L 4/00 (2006.01)

USPC: 362/208

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)

U.S.: 362/208, 183, 184, 190, 191, 194, 195, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,188,450 A (ANDERSON) 23 February 1993 (23.02.1993), entire document.</td>
<td>20, 21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,197,796 A (MOORE) 30 March 1993 (30.03.1993), entire document.</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
20 December 2007 (20.12.2007)

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26 DEC 2007

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