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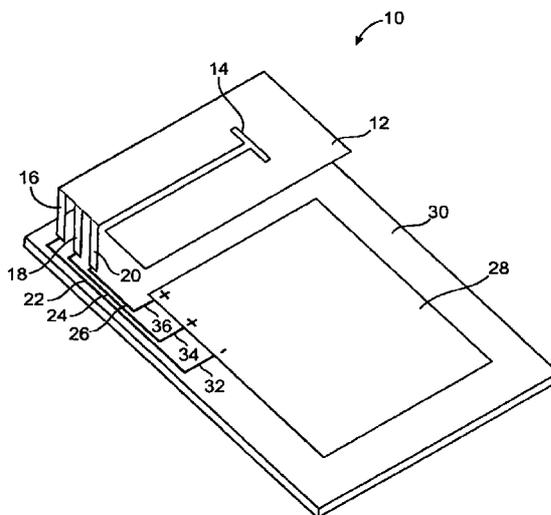
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(54) Title: TUNABLE ANTENNAS FOR HANDHELD DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A compact tunable antenna for a handheld electronic device and methods for calibrating and using compact tunable antennas are provided. The antenna can have multiple ports. Each port can have an associated feed and ground. The antenna design can be implemented with a small footprint while covering a large bandwidth. The antenna can have a radiating element formed from a conductive structure such as a patch or helix. The antenna can be shaped to accommodate buttons and other components in the handheld device. The antenna may be connected to a printed circuit board in the handheld device using springs, pogo pins, and other suitable connecting structures. Radio- frequency switches and passive components such as duplexers and diplexers may be used to couple radio- frequency transceiver circuitry to the different feeds of the antenna. Antenna efficiency can be enhanced by avoiding the use of capacitive loading for antenna tuning.

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## TUNABLE ANTENNAS FOR HANDHELD DEVICES

This application claims priority to United States patent application No. 11/516,433, filed September 5, 2006.

Background

This invention can relate to antennas, and more particularly, to compact tunable antennas used in wireless handheld electronic devices.

5           Wireless handheld devices, such as cellular telephones, contain antennas. As integrated circuit technology advances, handheld devices are shrinking in size. Small antennas are therefore needed.

10           A typical antenna for a handheld device is formed from a metal radiating element. The radiating element may be fabricated by patterning a metal layer on a circuit board substrate or may be formed from a sheet of thin metal using a foil stamping process. These techniques can be used to produce antennas that fit  
15           within the tight confines of a compact handheld device.

          Modern handheld electronic devices often need to function over a number of different communications bands. For example, quad-band cellular telephones that use the popular global system for mobile (GSM)

communications standard need to operate at four different frequencies (850 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, and 1900 MHz).

Although multi-band operation is desirable, it is difficult to design a compact antenna that functions satisfactorily over a wide frequency range. This is because small antennas tend to operate over narrow frequency ranges due to the small dimensions of their radiating elements.

Antennas with tunable capacitive loading have been developed in an attempt to address the need for compact multi-band antennas. By varying the amount of capacitive loading that is applied to the radiating element, the resonant frequency of the antenna can be adjusted. This allows an antenna with a relatively narrow frequency range to be tuned sufficiently to cover more than one band.

The adjustable capacitive loading that is placed on this type of antenna leads to unwanted power loss. As a result, capacitively-tuned antennas tend to exhibit less-than-optimal efficiencies.

It would be desirable to be able to provide ways in which to improve the performance of tunable antennas for handheld electronic devices.

## 25 Summary

In accordance with the present invention, tunable multipoint antennas are provided. Handheld devices that use the tunable multipoint antennas and methods for calibrating and using the tunable multipoint antennas are also provided.

A tunable multipoint antenna can have a ground terminal and multiple feed terminals. Each feed terminal

can be used with the ground terminal to form a separate antenna port. By selecting which antenna port is active at a given time, the antenna's operating frequencies can be tuned.

5 Tunable multiport antennas contain radiating elements. The radiating elements may be formed, for example, by a foil stamping process or by patterning a conductive layer on a substrate such as a printed circuit board or flex circuit. Each radiating element can  
10 resonate at a fundamental frequency range. The dimensions of the radiating element may be chosen to align the antenna's fundamental operating frequency range with at least one communications band. If desired, the radiating element may also be used at one or more  
15 harmonic frequency ranges.

The radiating element can be coupled to a printed circuit board on which electronic components for a handheld electronic device are mounted. The printed circuit board can contain conductive traces that connect  
20 the components to the ground and feed terminals of the antenna. Electrical connecting structures, such as springs and spring-loaded pins, can be used to electrically connect the conductive traces on the printed circuit board to the ground and feeds of the radiating  
25 element.

Handheld electronic devices can contain radio-frequency transceivers and switching circuitry. The radio-frequency transceivers can have input-output paths that are used to transmit and receive signals associated  
30 with different communications bands. The switching circuitry can selectively connects the input-output paths to the ports of the antenna. During operation of a

handheld electronic device, control circuitry on the device can direct the switching circuitry to activate a desired one of the antenna ports. By selecting which antenna port is active, the control circuitry can tune  
5 the antenna so that one or more of the antenna's operating frequency ranges aligns with one or more desired communications bands.

Because the antenna can be tuned, it is not necessary to enlarge the dimensions of the radiating  
10 element to broaden the bandwidth of the radiating element's resonant frequencies. This allows the antenna to be implemented with a small footprint. The use of multiple feeds in the radiating element permits tuning without the use of adjustable capacitive loading, which  
15 reduces reactive antenna losses and enhances antenna efficiency.

Further features of the invention, its nature and various advantages will be more apparent from the accompanying drawings and the following detailed  
20 description of the preferred embodiments.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an illustrative circuit board to which a multi-port antenna is mounted in  
25 accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a graph in which the return loss of the antenna of FIG. 1 has been plotted as a function of frequency in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of an  
30 illustrative handheld device containing a tunable antenna in accordance with the present invention.

FIGS. 4-14 are diagrams of illustrative antenna

radiating elements having multiple feeds that can be selected for tuning in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 15 is a side view of an illustrative printed circuit board showing how vias can be used to connect the upper and lower surfaces of the printed circuit board to form a ground plane for an antenna of the type shown in FIG. 1 in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of an illustrative portion of a circuit board assembly showing how a radiating element with an integral spring may be used to make contact between to a pad on a printed circuit board of the type shown in FIG. 15 in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional side view of an illustrative spring-loaded pin that may be used to connect an antenna's radiating element to a circuit board in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 18 is a cross-sectional side view showing use of an illustrative spring-loaded pin that is soldered to a radiating element to make contact with a printed circuit board in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 19 is a cross-sectional side view showing use of an illustrative spring-loaded pin that is soldered to a printed circuit board to make contact with an antenna's radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a cross-sectional side view showing use of an illustrative spring to make contact between a radiating element and a printed circuit board in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 21 is a cross-sectional side view showing use of an illustrative spring that is attached to a printed circuit board to make contact with a post of a radiating element formed from flexible circuit board material in accordance with the present invention.

FIGS. 22 and 23 are cross-sectional side views showing use of an illustrative floating spring-loaded pin to make contact between a radiating element and a printed circuit board in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 24 is a circuit diagram showing how illustrative switches may be used to selectively connect a radio-frequency (RF) transceiver integrated circuit operating in two frequency bands to two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 25 is a graph showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the circuitry of FIG. 24 selects between each of two different antenna feeds on the radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 26 is a circuit diagram showing how illustrative switches may be used to selectively connect a radio-frequency (RF) transceiver integrated circuit operating in three frequency bands to two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 27 is a graph showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the circuitry of FIG. 26 selects between each of two different antenna feeds on the radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 28 is a circuit diagram showing how illustrative switches and a passive antenna duplexer may be used to selectively connect a radio-frequency (RF)

transceiver integrated circuit operating in three frequency bands to two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

5 FIG. 29 is a graph showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the circuitry of FIG. 28 selects between each of two different antenna feeds on the radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

10 FIG. 30 is a circuit diagram showing how illustrative switches and a passive antenna diplexer may be used to selectively connect a radio-frequency (RF) transceiver integrated circuit operating in three frequency bands to two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

15 FIG. 31 is a graph showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the circuitry of FIG. 30 selects between each of two different antenna feeds on the radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

20 FIG. 32 is a diagram showing how transmitting and receiving subbands may be coupled to an antenna feed using an illustrative switch in accordance with the present invention.

25 FIG. 33 is a diagram showing how transmitting and receiving subbands may be coupled to an antenna feed using an illustrative diplexer in accordance with the present invention.

30 FIG. 34 is a diagram showing how an illustrative RF transceiver integrated circuit with five bands can be selectively connected to two different antenna feeds using switching circuitry made up of two switches in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 35 is a diagram showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the circuitry of FIG. 34 selects between each of the two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 36 is a diagram showing how an illustrative RF transceiver integrated circuit with four bands can be selectively connected to two different antenna feeds using two diplexers in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 37 is a diagram showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the switching circuitry of FIG. 36 selects between each of the two different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 38 is a diagram showing how an illustrative RF transceiver integrated circuit with five bands can be selectively connected to three different antenna feeds using two diplexers and a duplexer in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 39 is a diagram showing the return loss of an illustrative radiating element versus frequency as the switching circuitry of FIG. 38 selects between each of the three different antenna feeds in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 40 is a diagram of illustrative handheld electronic device circuitry including control circuitry that transmits and receives data, an RF module containing an RF transceiver integrated circuit and switching circuitry, and an antenna module having a multi-feed radiating element in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 41 is a diagram showing how an illustrative tester can be used to calibrate a circuit board containing a multi-feed antenna in accordance with the present invention.

5           FIG. 42 is a cross-sectional side view of an illustrative RF switch connector for an RF module when the RF module is in normal operation in accordance with the present invention.

10           FIG. 43 is a cross-sectional side view of an illustrative RF switch connector for an RF module when the RF module is being calibrated using a test probe in accordance with the present invention.

15           FIG. 44 is a flow chart of illustrative steps involved in calibrating and using a handheld electronic device having a multi-feed antenna in accordance with the present invention.

#### Detailed Description

20           The present invention can relate to tunable antennas for portable electronic devices, such as handheld electronic devices. The invention can also relate to portable devices that contain tunable antennas and to methods for testing and using such devices and antennas.

25           A tunable antenna in accordance with the invention can have a radiating element with multiple antenna feeds and a ground. The radiating element may be formed using any suitable antenna structure such as a patch antenna structure, a planar inverted-F antenna  
30           structure, a helical antenna structure, etc.

          The portable electronic devices may be small portable computers such as those sometimes referred to as

ultraportables. With one particularly suitable arrangement, the portable electronic devices are handheld electronic devices. The use of handheld devices is generally described herein as an example.

5                   The handheld devices may be, for example, cellular telephones, media players with wireless communications capabilities, handheld computers (also sometimes called personal digital assistants), remote controllers, and handheld gaming devices. The handheld  
10 devices of the invention may also be hybrid devices that combine the functionality of multiple conventional devices. Examples of hybrid handheld devices include a cellular telephone that includes media player  
15 functionality, a gaming device that includes a wireless communications capability, a cellular telephone that includes games and email functions, and a handheld device that receives email, supports mobile telephone calls, and supports web browsing. These are merely illustrative  
20 examples. Any suitable device may include a tunable multi-feed antenna, if desired.

                  Illustrative antenna and control circuitry 10 that may be used in a handheld device in accordance with the invention is shown in FIG. 1. Circuitry 10 can include control circuitry 28. Control circuitry 28 may  
25 include one or more integrated circuits such as microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors, field programmable gate arrays, power amplifiers, and application-specific integrated circuits. Control circuitry 28 may also include passive RF  
30 components such as duplexers, diplexers, and filters.

                  Control circuitry 28 may be mounted to one or more printed circuit boards 30 or other suitable mounting

structures. Circuit board 30 may be, for example, a dual-sided circuit board containing patterned conductive traces.

Control circuitry 28 can send and receive RF signals. The RF signals may be provided to an antenna module. The antenna module can contain a radiating element 12. Radiating element 12 may be formed from a highly-conductive material, such as copper, gold, alloys containing copper and other metals, high-conductivity non-metallic conductors (e.g., high-conductivity organic-based materials, high-conductivity superconductors, highly-conductive liquids), etc. In the example of FIG. 1, the radiating element 12 can have a thin planar profile, which facilitates placement of the radiating element 12 within a handheld device. The use of a radiating element with a planar structure is, however, merely illustrative. The radiating element 12 may be formed in any suitable shape.

In the FIG. 1 example, slot 14 can be formed in radiating element 12, which increases the effective length of the radiating element 12, while maintaining a compact footprint. Radiating element 12 may be formed using any suitable manufacturing technique. With one suitable arrangement, the so-called foil stamping method can be used to form radiating element 12. With foil stamping techniques, a foil stamping machine is used to generate numerous radiating elements from a thin copper foil. Another suitable technique for forming radiating element can involve printing or etching the antenna pattern onto a fixed or flexible substrate. Flexible substrates that may be used during these patterning processes include so-called flex circuits (e.g., circuits

formed from metals such as copper that are layered on top of flexible substrates such as polyimide). If desired, other techniques may be used to form radiating elements 12.

5                   The radiating element 12 can have a ground signal terminal and two or more corresponding positive signal terminals. The positive signal terminals can be called antenna feeds. In the example of FIG. 1, radiating element 12 can have three elongated portions  
10 16, 18, and 20. Elongated portion 16 may serve as ground. Elongated portion 18 may serve as a first feed. Elongated portion 20 may serve as a second feed. In general, there may be any suitable number of feeds in the antenna (e.g., two feeds, three feeds, four feeds, more  
15 than four feeds, etc.).

                  Control circuitry 28 may include input-output terminals, such as ground input-output terminal 32 and positive input-output terminals 34 and 36. Conductive paths such as paths 22, 24, and 26 may be used to  
20 electrically connect the input-output terminals of control circuitry 28 to radiating element 12. Paths 22, 24, and 26 may be patterned conductive traces (e.g., metal traces) formed on printed circuit board 30. Paths 24 and 26 may be used to electrically connect positive  
25 input-output terminals 34 and 36 to elongated portions 18 and 20, respectively. A path such as path 22 may be used to connect the ground input-output terminal 32 to the ground portion 16 of radiating element 12. If desired, the upper and lower portions of printed circuit board 30  
30 may also be connected to ground. The elongated portions 16, 18, and 20 may be soldered or otherwise electrically connected to paths 22, 24, and 26.

In the example of FIG. 1, the elongated portions 16, 18, and 20 are shown as being formed as an integral portion of radiating element 12 and paths 22, 24, and 26 are shown as being formed from circuit board traces. This is merely one suitable arrangement for connecting the ground and feeds of the radiating element 12 to the circuitry of the handheld device. Other suitable arrangements include contact arrangements based on external spring-loaded pins and spring connectors. Regardless of the particular type of arrangement that is used to convey signals into and out of the radiating element, the radiating element structure that is associated with ground is commonly referred to as the antenna's and radiating element's ground pin, ground terminal, or ground and the radiating element structure that is associated with positive antenna signals is commonly referred to as the antenna's and radiating element's feed pin, feed terminal, or feed.

The antenna formed from radiating element 14 has a resonant frequency  $f_0$  at which it can transmit and receive signals. The operating frequency range surrounding  $f_0$  is sometimes referred to as the fundamental band or fundamental operating frequency range of the antenna. If, as an example,  $f_0$  is at 850 MHz, the antenna's fundamental frequency range can be used to cover a 850 MHz communications band. Antennas also generally resonate at higher frequencies that are harmonics of  $f_0$ . With this type of arrangement, an antenna can cover two or more bands. For example, an antenna may be designed to cover both the 850 MHz band (using the antenna's fundamental frequency range centered on  $f_0$ ) and the 1800 MHz band (using a harmonic frequency

range).

The bandwidth associated with an antenna's operating frequency is influenced by the geometry of the radiating element 12. Antennas that are compact tend to  
5 have narrow bandwidths. Unless the bandwidth of the antenna is widened (e.g., by increasing its physical size), the antenna will not be able to cover nearby bands without tuning.

As an example, consider the GSM cellular  
10 telephone standard, which uses bands at 850 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, and 1900 MHz. These bands may have bandwidths of about 70-80 MHz (for the 850 MHz and 900 MHz bands), 170 MHz (for the 1800 MHz band), and 140 MHz (for the 1900 MHz band). Each band may contain two associated  
15 subbands for transmitting and receiving data. For example, in the 850 MHz band, a subband that extends from 824 to 849 MHz may be used for transmitting data from a cellular telephone to a base station and a subband that extends from 869 to 894 MHz may be used for receiving  
20 data from a base station. The 850 MHz and 1900 MHz bands may be used in countries such as the United States. The 900 MHz and 1800 MHz may be used in countries such as the European countries.

A compact antenna that is designed to cover the  
25 850 MHz band may have a harmonic that allows it to simultaneously cover a higher band (e.g., 1900 MHz), but a compact antenna that has a narrow bandwidth will not be able to cover both the 850 MHz and 900 MHz bands unless it is tuned.

30 In accordance with the present invention, control circuitry 28 may be used to select between different feeds to tune the antenna formed from radiating

element 12. When, for example, signals are transmitted or received using ground terminal 32 and input-output terminal 34, the antenna covers one band. When signals are transmitted on received using ground terminal 32 and  
5 input-output terminal 36, the antenna covers a different band.

Each feed (and its associated ground) may serve as an antenna port. An antenna such as an antenna formed from radiating element 12 of FIG. 1 therefore can have  
10 multiple ports and can be tuned by proper port selection. The control circuitry 28 can be used to determine which port is used. When access to a particular band is desired, the control circuitry 28 ensures that the proper port is active. By using multiple ports, a compact  
15 antenna with potentially narrow resonances can be tuned to cover all bands of interest.

A graph containing an illustrative plot of return loss versus frequency for a tunable multi-port antenna in accordance with the present invention is shown  
20 in FIG. 2. Return loss is at a minimum at the antenna's fundamental operating frequency range. No harmonic frequency ranges are shown in FIG. 2.

When signals are transmitted and received through a first antenna port (i.e., ground terminal 32,  
25 path 22, and radiating element extension 16 and positive input-output terminal 34, path 24, and radiating element extension 18), the antenna covers the frequency range centered at frequency  $f_a$ , as shown by the solid line in FIG. 2. When signals are transmitted and received through  
30 a second antenna port (i.e., ground terminal 32, path 22, and radiating element extension 16 and positive input-output terminal 36, path 26, and radiating element

extension 20), the antenna covers the frequency range centered at frequency  $f_b$ , as shown by the dashed line in FIG. 2. This allows the control circuitry 28 to tune the antenna as needed. When it is desired to send or receive data in the  $f_a$  range, the control circuitry 28 uses the first port. When the second port is used, the antenna's response is tuned to higher frequencies, so that the antenna covers a range of frequencies centered at  $f_b$ .

By using intelligent port selection, the coverage of an antenna can be extended to cover all frequency bands of interest. Because compact radiating elements tend to have small sizes, an antenna that is tuned by selecting a desired antenna port can be made more compact than would otherwise be possible, while still ensuring that all desired bands are covered. Moreover, tuning through the use of port selection can be more efficient than antenna tuning through adjustable capacitive loading schemes. Such capacitive loading schemes introduce reactive losses, which reduce antenna efficiency. An antenna with multiple feeds need not be tuned using variable capacitive loading because tuning can be performed through proper port selection.

A schematic diagram of an illustrative handheld electronic device 38 containing a tunable multi-port antenna is shown in FIG. 3. Handheld device 38 may be a mobile telephone, a mobile telephone with media player capabilities, a handheld computer, a game player, a combination of such devices, or any other suitable portable electronic device.

As shown in FIG. 3, handheld device 38 may include storage 40. Storage 40 may include one or more different types of storage such as hard disk drive

storage, nonvolatile memory (e.g., FLASH or electrically-programmable-read-only memory), volatile memory (e.g., battery-based static or dynamic random-access-memory), etc.

5                   Processing circuitry 42 may be used to control the operation of device 38. Processing circuitry 42 may be based on a processor such as a microprocessor and other suitable integrated circuits.

10                   Input-output devices 44 may allow data to be supplied to device 38 and may allow data to be provided from device 38 to external devices. Input-output devices can include user input-output devices 46 such as buttons, touch screens, joysticks, click wheels, scrolling wheels, touch pads, key pads, keyboards, microphones, cameras,  
15                   etc. A user can control the operation of device 38 by supplying commands through user input devices 46. Display and audio devices 48 may include liquid-crystal display (LCD) screens, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and other components that present visual information and  
20                   status data. Display and audio devices 48 may also include audio equipment such as speakers and other devices for creating sound. Display and audio devices 48 may contain audio-video interface equipment such as jacks for external headphones and monitors.

25                   Wireless communications devices 50 may include communications circuitry such as RF transceiver circuitry formed from one or more integrated circuits, power amplifier circuitry, passive RF components, antennas such as the multiport antenna of FIG. 1, and other circuitry  
30                   for generating RF wireless signals. Wireless signals can also be sent using light (e.g., using infrared communications).

The device 38 can communicate with external devices such as accessories 52 and computing equipment 54, as shown by paths 56. Paths 56 may include wired and wireless paths. Accessories 52 may include headphones  
5 (e.g., a wireless cellular headset or audio headphones) and audio-video equipment (e.g., wireless speakers, a game controller, or other equipment that receives and plays audio and video content). Computing equipment 54  
10 may be a server from which songs, videos, or other media are downloaded over a cellular telephone link or other wireless link. Computing equipment 54 may also be a local host (e.g., a user's own personal computer), from which the user obtains a wireless download of music or other media files.

15 As described in connection with FIG. 1, the multiport antenna used in the handheld device can be formed from any suitable radiating element 12. An example of a radiating element 12 that is formed from a rectangular patch antenna structure is shown in FIG. 4.  
20 The antenna structure of FIG. 4 and the other radiating element structures are preferably about one quarter of a wavelength in size (e.g., several centimeters for most cellular telephone wavelengths).

The radiating element 12 of FIG. 4 may have a  
25 ground terminal 16, a first feed 18, a second feed 20, and potentially more feeds (shown by dotted feed structure 21). In general, any radiating element 12 may have more than two feeds, but only the radiating element 12 of FIG. 4 shows the additional feeds to avoid over-  
30 complicating the drawings.

Different fundamental resonant frequencies are associated with each of the different antenna ports and

are influenced by the geometry of the radiating element 12. As shown in FIG. 4, when feed 18 is used, there is an inductive path in the antenna between feed 18 and ground 16. This path is shown schematically by dotted line 60. When feed 20 is used, there is a different inductive path in the antenna, shown by dotted line 58. Inductances  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are associated with paths 60 and 58, respectively. The inductance  $L_2$  is generally larger than the inductance  $L_1$ , so the port formed using feed 20 resonates at a higher frequency (e.g., frequency  $f_b$  of FIG. 2) than the port formed using feed 18 (e.g., frequency  $f_a$  of FIG. 2).

An illustrative radiating element 12 that is formed from a rectangular patch antenna structure containing a slot 14 is shown in FIG. 5. Because of the presence of slot 14, the antenna of FIG. 5 will exhibit harmonics that are shifted with respect to the harmonics of the patch antenna structure of FIG. 4. This allows the antenna designer to place harmonics at desired communications bands.

If desired, antenna ports may be formed on the shorter side of a rectangular patch. An illustrative structure of the type shown in FIG. 1 in which feeds have been placed on the shorter side of the rectangular patch is shown in FIG. 6.

Another illustrative radiating element 12 is shown in FIG. 7. With the arrangement of FIG. 7, the rectangular patch structure has a cut-away portion 68. The cut-away portion 68 may be formed to accommodate a cellular telephone camera, a button, a microphone, speaker, or other component of the handheld device. Ports may be formed on the long side of the element 12

(e.g., using ground 16 and feeds 18 and 20) or on the short side of element 12 (e.g., using ground 16 and feeds 18a and 20a). As shown in FIG. 8, the cut-away portion 68 need not be formed in the center of the radiating element 12.

FIG. 9 shows how the sides of a radiating element may be bent downwards. Portions of the radiating element 12 such as portions 70 and 72 may be formed during a foil stamping process or by using a flex circuit. Portions 70 and 72 may serve as a fixed source of capacitive loading. Using bent-down portions in this type of arrangement tends to decrease the footprint of the radiating element for a given operating frequency. If desired, other forms of capacitive loading may be used with radiating element. Capacitive loading can be used with the patch antenna structure of FIG. 7 (as shown in the example of FIG. 9) or with any other suitable radiating element structure.

If desired, a radiating element 12 may be formed from a flex circuit or other flexible substrate. In the example of FIG. 10, radiating element 12 is formed from a conductive element 62 that is formed in a serpentine pattern on flex circuit substrate 64. After the serpentine pattern is formed on substrate 64, the substrate 64 is curled to form the cylindrical shape of FIG. 10. The cylindrical antenna of FIG. 10 has a ground 16 and two feeds 18 and 20.

In the illustrative arrangement of FIG. 11, radiating element 12 is formed from a patch antenna having a serpentine slot 14. In general, one or more slots of any suitable shape may be formed in the radiating element 12.

FIG. 12 shows an illustrative arrangement for a radiating element 12 that is based on an L-shaped planar antenna arrangement. The radiating element 12 of FIG. 12 has a ground 16 and feeds 18 and 20.

5 In FIG. 13, the ground terminal 16 is formed using a separate conductor from the conductive element that contains feeds 18 and 20.

FIG. 14 shows an illustrative radiating element 12 that is formed from a separate ground element 16 and  
10 serpentine element 66. Feeds 18 and 20 are formed at different locations in the serpentine element 66.

The radiating element structures show in FIGS. 1 and 4-14 are merely illustrative. In general, any suitable radiating element structures with multiple feeds  
15 may be used.

As shown in FIG. 15, a printed circuit board such as printed circuit board 30 of FIG. 1 may have an upper surface of conductive material 74 and a lower surface of conductive material 76 separated by an  
20 insulating printed circuit board layer 78. The upper and lower conductive surfaces may contain a patterned metal such as copper. The lower surface may be relatively unpatterned and may be used to form a ground plane. Ground wires on the upper surface may be connected to the  
25 lower surface ground plane using conductive vias 80. When mounting the radiating element 12 to the printed circuit board 30, the patterned conductors on the upper surface of printed circuit board 30 may be used to form electrical contact with the radiating element.

30 Electrical contact may be made using any suitable electrical connecting structures. In the example of FIG. 16, an elongated portion of radiating

element 12 (e.g., a ground or feed element of the type shown in FIG. 1) is shown as forming a spring 82. When the antenna is mounted in proximity to the circuit board, the spring portion 82 presses against a conductive trace 84 on the upper surface 74 of circuit board 30. This forms an electrical contact between trace 84 (which is connected to control circuitry 28 of FIG. 1) and the radiating element 12.

If desired, spring-loaded pins may be used to make electrical contact between a radiating element 12 and circuit board 30. One commonly-available spring-loaded pin is the so-called pogo pin. A cross-sectional side view of a spring-loaded pin 86 is shown in FIG. 17. Pin 86 has a reciprocating member 88 with a head portion 90 that reciprocates within a hollow cylindrical pin housing 98. A spring 92 bears against the inner surface 94 of pin housing 98 and the upper surface 96 of head 90. When member 88 is withdrawn within housing 98, spring 92 is compressed and biases reciprocating member 88 in direction 100. This drives the tip 102 of member 88 against a conductive element such as a portion of a circuit board or a radiating element.

FIG. 18 shows an arrangement in which a spring-loaded pin 86 has been soldered to a radiating element 12 with solder 104. The tip 102 of the pin presses against a conductor on the surface of circuit board 30.

In the arrangement of FIG. 19, the spring-loaded pin 86 has been soldered to a circuit board 30 and is pressing upward against the radiating element 12, so that the tip 102 of reciprocating member 88 makes electrical contact with the radiating element.

FIG. 20 shows an arrangement in which a spring

108 has been soldered to a circuit board 30 with solder 106. A portion 112 of radiating element 12 has been bent downward. The portion 112 of radiating element 12 may be formed during a metal foil stamping process (as an  
5 example). As shown in FIG. 20, spring 108 is compressed and bears against the portion 112, thereby forming electrical contact between radiating element 12 and circuit board 30.

The arrangement of FIG. 21 is similar to the  
10 arrangement of FIG. 20, but involves forming an electrical connection to a radiating element 12 that is fabricated from a flex circuit. The radiating element 12 has a post 110. As shown in FIG. 21, a spring 108 that has been soldered to circuit board 30 with solder 106  
15 bears against post 110 to form electrical contact.

The pins and springs of FIGS. 18, 19, 20, and 21 need not be soldered to the circuit board or radiating element 12. Arrangements in which the connecting electrical structure is not soldered are said to be  
20 floating. FIGS. 22 and 23 show floating pin arrangements in which pin 86 forms an electrical connection between radiating element 12 and circuit board 30. In the arrangement of FIG. 22, the tip 102 of pin 86 presses against the radiating element 12. In the arrangement of  
25 FIG. 23, the tip 102 of pin 86 presses downward against a conductor on circuit board 30.

Any suitable circuit architecture may be used to interconnect the control circuitry 28 with the feeds of the antenna and radiating element 12.

30 Consider, as an example, the arrangement of FIG. 24. As shown in FIG. 24, an RF transceiver integrated circuit 114 is connected to ground 16. RF

transceiver integrated circuit 114 is also connected to two antenna feeds 18 and 20 using input-output data paths 115 and switching circuitry formed from switches 116. Switches 116 may be formed from PIN diodes, high-speed field-effect transistors (FETs), or any other suitable switch components. The switches for each feed are complementary and work in tandem. The state of each switch is the inverse of the other. When switch SW1 is on, switch SW2 is off and a first antenna port is active while a second antenna port is inactive. When switch SW1 is off, switch SW2 is on and the first antenna port is inactive while the second antenna port is active. Using this type of arrangement ensures that only one feed is active at a time. Feed1 is active and feed2 is inactive when switch SW1 is on and switch SW2 is off. Feed2 is active and feed1 is inactive when switch SW2 is on and switch SW1 is off.

The graph of FIG. 25 shows the frequency response of the radiating element 12 in two conditions. The solid line shows the return loss of the radiating element at its fundamental operating frequency range when the first port is active. In this configuration, the antenna is tuned so that it operates at the frequency  $f_a$ . The dashed line in FIG. 25 shows the return loss of the radiating element when the second port is active. In this configuration, the antenna is tuned so that it operates at frequency  $f_b$ .

In the arrangement of FIG. 26, switch SW1 may handle two different bands ( $f_a$  and  $f_b$ ), whereas switch SW2 may handle frequency band  $f_c$ . Switch SW1 has three states. In its first state, input-output signal path 118 is connected to feed1 and the antenna operates at

frequency  $f_a$ , as shown in FIG. 27. In its second state, input-output signal path 120 is connected to feed1 and the antenna operates in band  $f_b$ . As described in connection with FIG. 24, switch SW2 is off whenever  
5 switch SW1 is on. When it is desired to tune the antenna, the control circuitry 28 places switch SW1 in a third state in which lines 118 and 120 are disconnected from feed1 (i.e., switch SW1 is off). When switch SW1 is turned off, switch SW2 is turned on, so the antenna  
10 operates at shifted fundamental frequency  $f_c$  (FIG. 27).

As shown in FIGS. 28 and 29, passive RF components such as duplexers and diplexers may be used to couple RF transceiver 114 to the antenna feeds. A duplexer can be used to combine or separate RF signals  
15 that are in adjacent bands (e.g., 850 MHz and 900 MHz). A diplexer can be used to combine or separate RF signals that are in distant bands (e.g., 850 MHz and 1800 MHz).

As shown in FIG. 28, duplexer 122 may be coupled between data paths 118 and 120 and switch SW1.  
20 Switch SW2 is coupled between data path 126 and feed2. When it is desired to use feed1, switch SW1 is turned on and switch SW2 is turned off. This tunes the antenna so that it operates according to the solid line of FIG. 29. In this state, RF transceiver 114 can use paths 118 and  
25 120 to transmit and receive in either frequency band  $f_a$  or frequency band  $f_b$ , because the radiating element 12 of the antenna is designed to have a sufficiently large bandwidth in its fundamental operating frequency range to handle the adjacent bands  $f_a$  and  $f_b$ . When it is desired  
30 to tune the antenna by using feed2, switch SW1 is turned off and switch SW2 is turned on. In this state, path 126 is connected to feed2 and transceiver 114 can transmit

and receive signals using band  $f_c$ , as shown by the dotted line in FIG. 29.

In the arrangement of FIG. 30, a diplexer 124 is used in place of a duplexer. The radiating element 12  
5 in this scenario is designed to have a harmonic at  $f_b$ . Because a diplexer 124 is being used, the signals associated with paths 118 and 120 must be more widely separated than in the duplexer arrangement of FIG. 28. As shown by the solid line in FIG. 31, when feed1 is  
10 switched into use by turning on SW1 and turning off SW2, transceiver 114 can use paths 118 and 120 to transmit and receive in either fundamental frequency band  $f_a$  or harmonic frequency band  $f_b$ . When it is desired to tune the antenna by using feed2, switch SW1 is turned off and  
15 switch SW2 is turned on. In this state, path 126 is connected to feed2 and transceiver 114 can transmit and receive signals using band  $f_c$ , as shown by the dotted line in FIG. 31.

The bands used in GSM communications each have  
20 two subbands, one of which contains channels for transmitting data and the other of which contains channels for receiving data. As shown in FIG. 32, a switch 116 can be used to connect an appropriate transmit or receive data path to its associated feed 128. Paths  
25 118a and 118b are connected to the RF transceiver. In GSM communications, signals are either transmitted or are received. Simultaneous transmission and reception is not permitted. When the RF transceiver has data to transmit, switch 116 connects the transmit line 118a to feed 128.  
30 In receive mode, the switch 116 is directed to connect feed 128 to path 118b. When it is desired to inactivate the feed 128, switch 116 may be turned off. In the

example of FIG. 32, paths 118a and 118b are labeled 850T (850 MHz transmit) and 850R (850 MHz receive). The same principal applies to all GSM bands. The input-output data paths connected to the RF transmitter 114 in FIGS. 5 24, 26, 28, and 30 are shown as single bidirectional paths rather than as separate transmit and receive paths to avoid over-complicating the drawings.

An arrangement in which a duplexer 122 may be used to couple an RF transceiver to a feed 128 is shown 10 in FIG. 33. When incoming data is received on feed 128 or when outgoing data is being transmitted, switch 116 is on. Switch 116 is off when it is desired to tune the antenna by using a different feed. Duplexer 122 is frequency sensitive. Incoming data (e.g., on the 850R 15 subband) is routed to line 118b by the passive RF components in duplexer 122. When outgoing data is transmitted on line 118a, duplexer 122 routes those signals to line 128 via switch 116.

When architectures of the type shown in FIGS. 20 24, 26, 28, and 30 are used for GSM-type communications, an active subband switching arrangement of the type shown in FIG. 32 or a passive subband routing arrangement of the type shown in FIG. 33 may be used. In either case, switching circuitry 116 is used to ensure that the 25 appropriate antenna feed is active.

In some communications protocols such as those based on code division multiple access (CDMA) technology, signals can be transmitted and received simultaneously. There is therefore no need for a switch to actively 30 switch between transmit and receive bands. Examples of communications schemes that use CDMA technology include CDMA cellular telephone communications and 3G data

communications over the 2170 MHz band (commonly referred to as UMTS or Universal Mobile Telecommunications System). With CDMA-based arrangements, a duplexer arrangement of the type shown in FIG. 33 may be used to  
5 separate transmitting and receiving frequencies from each other.

Some handheld devices need to cover many bands. An example of an arrangement that may be used to cover five bands (e.g., the four GSM bands plus the UMTS band)  
10 using a two port antenna is shown in FIG. 34. A graph showing the placement of each of the bands is shown in FIG. 35. The antenna is designed to have a fundamental operating frequency range 128 at about 850-900 MHz and a harmonic operating frequency range 130 at about 1800-  
15 1900. When switch SW1 is on and switch SW2 is off, feed1 is active and the antenna's response is as shown by the solid line in FIG. 35. The antenna is designed to have a relatively broad bandwidth at its fundamental and harmonic operating frequencies. As a result, the antenna  
20 covers both the 850 MHz and 900 MHz GSM bands in the fundamental operating frequency range 128 and covers both the 1800 MHz and 1900 MHz GSM bands using the harmonic operating frequency range 130. When switch SW2 is on and switch SW1 is off, feed 2 is active and the antenna is  
25 tuned. This shifts the harmonic operating frequency range 130 to a higher frequency, so that it covers the UMTS band at 2170 MHz.

An example of an arrangement that may be used to cover four bands (e.g., the four GSM bands) using a  
30 two port antenna is shown in FIG. 36. Diplexers 124 are used to couple RF transceiver 114 to switching circuitry 116. One diplexer 124 handles the 850 MHz and 1800 MHz

bands while the other diplexer 124 handles the 900 MHz and 1900 MHz bands. A graph showing the placement of each of the bands is shown in FIG. 37. The antenna is designed to have a fundamental operating frequency range 5 128 at about 850 MHz and a harmonic operating frequency range 130 at about 1800. When switch SW1 is on and switch SW2 is off, feed1 is active and the antenna's response is as shown by the solid line in FIG. 37. The antenna has a narrow bandwidth that covers a single band 10 at each resonant frequency.

As shown by the solid line in FIG. 37, when feed1 is used, the antenna can cover both the 850 MHz and 1800 MHz bands. When it is desired to tune the antenna, switches 116 are adjusted so that feed2 is used. This 15 shifts both the fundamental operating range 128 and the harmonic operating frequency range 130 to higher frequencies, so as to cover the 900 MHz and 1900 MHz bands, respectively, as shown by the dashed line in FIG. 37.

20 An example of an arrangement that may be used to cover five bands (e.g., the four GSM bands and the UMTS band) using a three port antenna is shown in FIG. 38. Diplexers 124 are used to couple RF transceiver 114 to switching circuitry 116. One diplexer 124 handles the 25 850 MHz and 1800 MHz bands while the other diplexer 124 handles the 900 MHz and 1900 MHz bands. The placement of each of the bands is shown in the graph of FIG. 39. When feed1 is used, the antenna is has a fundamental operating frequency range 128 at about 850 MHz and a harmonic 30 operating frequency range 130 at about 1800 MHz. When switch SW1 is on and switches SW2 and SW3 are off, feed1 is active and the antenna's response is as shown by the

solid line in FIG. 39.

As shown by the solid line in FIG. 39, when feed1 is used, the antenna covers both the 850 MHz and 1800 MHz bands. Due to the relatively narrow bandwidth  
5 of the antenna, adjacent bands are not covered without tuning. When it is desired to tune the antenna to cover the 900 MHz and 1900 MHz bands, switches 116 are adjusted so that feed2 is used. This shifts both the fundamental operating range 128 and the harmonic operating frequency  
10 range 130 to higher frequencies, so as to cover the 900 MHz and 1900 MHz bands, respectively, as shown by the dashed line in FIG. 39.

When it is desired to tune the antenna to cover the 2170 MHz band, switches 116 are adjusted so that  
15 feed3 is switched into use. As a result, the fundamental operating range 128 and the harmonic operating frequency range 130 are shifted to higher frequencies. With this antenna tuning configuration, the harmonic operating frequency range 130 covers the 2170 MHz band, as shown by  
20 the dot-and-dashed line in FIG. 39.

FIG. 40 shows details of an arrangement of the type described in FIGS. 34 in which five bands are covered (e.g., the four GSM bands and the UMTS band) using two antenna ports.

25 Processing circuitry 42 can generate data to be transmitted and can provide this data to RF module 132 in wireless communications circuitry 50 using a path such as path 140. Data that is received by the handheld device may be routed from RF module 132 to processing circuitry  
30 42 via path 142. Transceiver 114 can be coupled to radiating element 12 in antenna module 134 via feed1, feed2, and ground. Switching circuitry 116 can be used

to regulate which antenna port is active. Switch SW1 can be used to select a desired GSM signal path to connect to feed1 when feed1 is active and is used to disconnect feed1 from the RF transmitter when feed1 is inactive.

5 Switch SW2, which is on when switch SW1 is inactive, can be used to selectively activate feed2. Switch SW2 can receive transmitted signals from RF transceiver 114 and can deliver received signals to RF transceiver 114 through duplexer 122, which can handle the transmit and  
10 receive subbands for a 2170 MHz UMTS band.

A power amplifier integrated circuit 136 may be used to boost outgoing signal levels. Power amplifier integrated circuit 136 contains power amplifiers 138. The power amplifiers may be provided as separate integrated  
15 circuits if desired.

A testing arrangement that may be used to calibrate an RF module 132 during the process of manufacturing a handheld device 38 is shown in FIG. 41. During testing, tester 144 can apply power and control  
20 signals to processing circuitry 42 using a path such as path 147. The control signals may direct the processing circuitry 42 to transmit signals to antenna module 134. Each feed can be calibrated in turn. Tester 144 has a cable and test probe that can be connected to either RF  
25 switch connector 152 (when the cable and probe are in the position indicated by line 148) or RF switch connector 156 (when the cable and probe are in the position indicated by line 150). During testing, the probe taps into the signals that would otherwise be transmitted over  
30 antenna module 134.

RF switch connectors 152 and 156 have two operating conditions. A cross-section of an illustrative

RF switch connector 166 is shown in FIGS. 42 and 43. When no test probe is inserted, as shown in FIG. 42, input 160 is connected to output 162 via conductor 164. When the tip of a test probe 168 is inserted into switch connector 166, conductor 164 is pressed downwards, which opens the circuit between conductor 164 and output 162 and electrically connects input 160 to the test probe 168.

RF switch connector 152 may be used to tap into signals that would normally pass from data path 154 to feed1, whereas RF switch connector 156 may be used to tap into signals that would normally pass from data path 158 to feed2. During calibration, tester 144 measures the signal strength received on each feed for a variety of output power settings. Using curve fitting techniques, tester 144 determines which calibration settings should be stored in the circuitry 10. The calibration settings are loaded into non-volatile memory 40 such as flash memory over a path such as path 146. Later, during normal operation, processing circuitry 42 uses the stored calibration settings to make calibrating adjustments to the output signal levels of the RF module 132.

Illustrative steps involved in testing and fabricating handheld devices with tunable multi-port antennas are shown in FIG. 44.

At step 170, a circuit board assembly containing the RF module 132 and antenna module 134 can be fabricated.

At step 172, tester 144 of FIG. 41 may send control signals to processing circuitry 42 via path 147. The control signals direct the processing circuitry 42 to use transceiver 114 and switching circuitry 116 to

transmit suitable test signals to the antenna on feeds 18 and 20. Each feed is exercised separately. To ensure accurate measurements, test signals may be transmitted using several different power settings while tester 144  
5 gathers associated test measurements.

At step 174, the tester 144 can process the test measurements (e.g., using curve-fitting routines) and generates corresponding calibration settings. The calibration settings indicate what adjustments need to be  
10 made by RF module 132 during normal operation to ensure that the transmitted RF power levels are accurate.

The tester 144 can store the calibration information in memory 40 at step 176. With one suitable arrangement, the calibration information is stored in a  
15 non-volatile memory such as a flash memory to ensure that the calibration information will be retained in the event of a loss of power by the handheld electronic device 38.

During steps 178 and 180, the handheld electronic device 38 may be used by a user to place  
20 cellular telephone calls, to upload or download data over a 3G link, or to otherwise wirelessly transmit and receive data.

During step 178, the processing circuitry 42 (FIG. 41) retrieves the calibration settings data from  
25 memory 40 and uses the retrieved calibration settings to adjust the power output of the handheld device so that the output power is calibrated. The processing circuitry 42 calibrates each port separately, so the output power is accurate regardless of which antenna port is being  
30 used.

During step 180, the user can transmit and receive data using the antenna. The processing circuitry

42 tunes the antenna as needed by selecting an appropriate antenna feed using switching circuitry 116.

The foregoing is merely illustrative of the principles of this invention and various modifications  
5 can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

What is Claimed is:

1. A tunable multiport handheld electronic device antenna, comprising:
  - a radiating element;
  - a ground terminal that is electrically connected to the radiating element; and
  - at least first and second antenna feeds, wherein the first antenna feed is electrically connected to the radiating element at a first location, wherein the second antenna feed is electrically connected to the radiating element at a second location that is different from the first location, wherein the first antenna feed and the ground form a first antenna port, and wherein the second antenna feed and the ground form a second antenna port.
  
2. The tunable multiport handheld electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the radiating element comprises a patch antenna structure.
  
3. The tunable multiport handheld electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the radiating element comprises a metal antenna structure without adjustable capacitive loading.
  
4. The tunable multiport handheld electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the radiating element comprises first, second, and third integral elongated portions, wherein the first elongated portion forms the ground, wherein the second elongated portion forms the first feed, and wherein the third elongated portion forms the second feed.

5. The tunable multiport handheld electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the radiating element comprises metal and is configured to operate at a frequency range associated with a first cellular telephone band when the first port is used and is configured to operate at a frequency range associated with a second cellular telephone band that is different from the first cellular telephone band when the second port is used.

6. A handheld electronic device comprising:  
storage that stores data;  
processing circuitry coupled to the storage that generates data for wireless transmission and that processes wirelessly-received data; and  
wireless communications circuitry that communicates with the processing circuitry, wherein the wireless communications circuitry contains a tunable multiport antenna containing a ground, a first antenna feed, and a second antenna feed, wherein the processing circuitry tunes the antenna by selecting whether to use the first antenna feed or the second antenna feed in wirelessly transmitting and receiving data.

7. The handheld electronic device defined in claim 6 wherein the wireless communications circuitry comprises:

a radio-frequency transceiver having a plurality of associated paths, each path being configured to carry signals associated with a separate communications band; and

switching circuitry that selectively connects the first feed or the second feed to an active one of the plurality of associated paths to tune the antenna so that the antenna operates at the communications band associated with the active path.

8. The handheld electronic device defined in claim 6 wherein the wireless communications circuitry comprises:

a radio-frequency transceiver having a plurality of associated paths, each path being configured to carry signals associated with a respective one of a set of at least five different communications bands; and

switching circuitry that selectively connects the first feed or the second feed to an active one of the plurality of associated paths to tune the antenna so that the antenna operates at the communications band associated with the active path, wherein the antenna transmits and receives signals in a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range, wherein when the first feed is connected, the antenna's fundamental frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a first one of the five bands and a second one of the five bands and the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a third one of the five bands and a fourth one of the five bands, and wherein when the second feed is connected, the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a fifth one of the five bands.

9. The handheld electronic device defined in

claim 6 wherein the wireless communications circuitry comprises:

a radio-frequency transceiver having a plurality of associated paths, each path being configured to carry signals associated with a respective one of a set of at least five different communications bands; and switching circuitry that selectively connects the first feed or the second feed to an active one of the plurality of associated paths to tune the antenna so that the antenna operates at the communications band associated with the active path, wherein the antenna transmits and receives signals in a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range, wherein when the first feed is connected, the antenna's fundamental frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a first one of the five bands and a second one of the five bands and the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a third one of the five bands and a fourth one of the five bands, and wherein when the second feed is connected, the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a fifth one of the five bands, wherein the second band has a higher frequency than the first band, wherein the third band has a higher frequency than the second band, wherein the fourth band has a higher frequency than the third band, wherein the fifth band has a higher frequency than the fourth band, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth communications bands are cellular telephone bands and wherein the fifth band is a data band.

10. The handheld electronic device defined in claim 6 wherein the wireless communications circuitry comprises:

a radio-frequency transceiver having a plurality of associated paths, each path being configured to carry signals associated with a respective one of a set of at least five different communications bands; and switching circuitry that selectively connects the first feed or the second feed to an active one of the plurality of associated paths to tune the antenna so that the antenna operates at the communications band associated with the active path, wherein the antenna transmits and receives signals in a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range, wherein when the first feed is connected, the antenna's fundamental frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a first one of the five bands and a second one of the five bands and the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a third one of the five bands and a fourth one of the five bands, and wherein when the second feed is connected, the antenna's harmonic frequency range is used to transmit and receive signals associated with a fifth one of the five bands, wherein the first band is centered at about 850 MHz, wherein the second band is centered at about 900 MHz, wherein the third band is centered at about 1800 MHz, wherein the fourth band is centered at about 1900 MHz, and wherein the fifth band is centered at about 2170 MHz.

11. Tunable multipoint antenna circuitry comprising:

a radiating element;  
a circuit board having a ground conductive path and first and second antenna feed conductive paths;  
a ground electrical connecting structure that connects the ground conductive path to the radiating element and serves as a ground terminal for the radiating element;  
a first feed electrical connecting structure that electrically connects the first feed conductive path on the circuit board to the radiating element at a first location and serves as a first feed terminal for the radiating element; and  
a second feed electrical connecting structure that electrically connects the second feed conductive path on the circuit board to the radiating element at a second location distinct from the first location and serves as a second feed terminal for the radiating element.

12. The tunable multiport circuitry defined in claim 11 wherein at least one of the ground electrical connecting structure, the first feed electrical connecting structure, and the second feed electrical connecting structure comprises a spring-loaded pin.

13. The tunable multiport circuitry defined in claim 11 wherein at least one of the ground electrical connecting structure, the first feed electrical connecting structure, and the second feed electrical connecting structure comprises a piece of bent conductor that serves as a spring.

14. The tunable multiport circuitry defined in claim 11 wherein at least one of the ground electrical connecting structure, the first feed electrical connecting structure, and the second feed electrical connecting structure comprises a piece of bent conductor formed as an integral part of the radiating element that serves as a spring and that is soldered to one of the conductive paths on the circuit board.

15. The tunable multiport circuitry defined in claim 11 wherein the circuit board has a third feed conductive path, the circuitry further comprising:

a third feed electrical connecting structure that electrically connects the third feed conductive path on the circuit board to the radiating element at a third location distinct from the first and second locations and that serves as a third feed terminal for the radiating element.

16. A method for calibrating and using a tunable multiport antenna in a handheld electronic device, comprising:

fabricating a circuit board assembly that contains a radio-frequency module, a radiating antenna element that is connected to the radio-frequency module with a ground and at least first and second antenna feeds, processing circuitry, and non-volatile memory, wherein the radio-frequency module contains at least a first radio-frequency switch connector for tapping into the first feed with a test probe and a second radio-frequency switch connector for tapping into the second feed with the test probe; and

sending control signals to the processing circuitry from a tester while measuring output signal powers for the first and second antenna feeds using the first and second radio-frequency switch connectors, wherein only a single one of the first and second antenna feeds is active at a given time.

17. The method defined in claim 16 further comprising:

determining calibration settings based on the measured output signal powers; and

storing the calibration settings in the non-volatile memory.

18. The method defined in claim 16 further comprising:

determining calibration settings based on the measured output signal powers;

storing the calibration settings in the non-volatile memory; and

transmitting and receiving data through the antenna radiating element using the calibration settings.

19. A method for using a tunable multiport antenna in a handheld electronic device, wherein the tunable multiport antenna has a first antenna port formed from a ground and a first antenna feed and has a second antenna port formed from a ground and a second antenna feed, wherein the handheld electronic device comprises a radio-frequency transceiver having associated data paths each of which carries signals for a different

communications band, and wherein the handheld electronic device comprises switching circuitry that is coupled between the radio-frequency transceiver and the first and second antenna feeds, the method comprising:

adjusting the switching circuitry to activate a single selected one of the first and second antenna ports while deactivating the other of the first and second antenna ports; and

conveying signals between the transceiver and the single selected antenna port using one of the data paths and the antenna feed and ground of the single selected antenna port.

20. The method defined in claim 19 wherein the handheld electronic device comprises non-volatile memory in which calibration settings for the first and second antenna ports have been stored and wherein conveying the signals comprises:

transmitting signals from the transceiver using the calibration settings, wherein when the first antenna port is activated by the switching circuitry, the tunable multiport antenna transmits and receives signals in a fundamental frequency range containing at least a first communications band and transmits and receives signals over a harmonic frequency range containing at least a second communications band, wherein when the second antenna port is activated by the switching circuitry, the tunable multiport antenna transmits and receives signals in the harmonic frequency range containing at least a third communications band, and wherein the second and third communications bands are different.

21. Wireless communications circuitry comprising:

a tunable multiport radiating element having a ground terminal and at least first and second feed terminals, wherein the first feed terminal and the ground terminal form a first antenna port, wherein the second feed terminal and the ground terminal form a second antenna port;

a transceiver having a number of associated signal input-output paths that convey signals to and from the antenna; and

switching circuitry that tunes the tunable multiport radiating element by selectively activating the first port and the second port, wherein the switching circuitry activates the first port by connecting a first one of the input-output paths to the first feed while disconnecting the second feed from the input-output paths and wherein the switching circuitry activates the second port by connecting a second one of the input-output paths to the second feed while disconnecting the first feed from the input-output paths.

22. The wireless communications circuitry defined in claim 21 wherein the radiating element is configured to operate over a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range that is higher than the fundamental frequency range and wherein the signal input-output paths comprise:

a first input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a first communications band;

a second input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a second communications band that is different than the first communications band; and

a third input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a third communications band that is different than the first and second communications bands, wherein when the first port is active, the first communications band lies within the fundamental frequency range and the second communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range and wherein when the second port is active, the third communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range.

23. The wireless communications circuitry defined in claim 21 wherein the radiating element is configured to operate over a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range that is higher than the fundamental frequency range, the wireless communications circuitry further comprising power amplifiers that amplify at least some of the signals on the input-output paths and at least one radio-frequency duplexer, wherein the signal input-output paths comprise:

a first input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a first communications band;

a second input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a second communications band that is different than the first communications band; and

a third input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a third

communications band that is different than the first and second communications bands, wherein when the first port is active, the first communications band lies within the fundamental frequency range and the second communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range, wherein when the second port is active, the third communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range, and wherein the duplexer is coupled within the third input-output path between the transceiver and the switching circuitry.

24. The wireless communications circuitry defined in claim 21 wherein the radiating element is configured to operate over a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range that is higher than the fundamental frequency range, the wireless communications circuitry further comprising power amplifiers that amplify at least some of the signals on the input-output paths and at least one radio-frequency duplexer, wherein the signal input-output paths comprise:

a first input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a first communications band;

a second input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a second communications band that is different than the first communications band;

a third input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a third communications band that is different than the first and second communications bands, wherein the duplexer is coupled within the third input-output path between the

transceiver and the switching circuitry;

a fourth input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a fourth communications band that is different than the first, second, and third communications bands; and

a fifth input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a fifth communications band that is different than the first, second, third, and fourth communications bands, wherein when the first port is active, the first and fourth communications bands lie within the fundamental frequency range and the second and fifth communications bands lie within the harmonic frequency range and wherein when the second port is active, the third communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range.

25. The wireless communications circuitry defined in claim 21 wherein the radiating element is configured to operate over a fundamental frequency range and a harmonic frequency range that is higher than the fundamental frequency range, the wireless communications circuitry further comprising power amplifiers that amplify at least some of the signals on the input-output paths and at least one radio-frequency duplexer, wherein the signal input-output paths comprise:

a first input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a first communications band;

a second input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a second communications band that is different than the first communications band;

a third input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a third communications band that is different than the first and second communications bands, wherein the duplexer is coupled within the third input-output path between the transceiver and the switching circuitry;

a fourth input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a fourth communications band that is different than the first, second, and third communications bands; and

a fifth input-output path that is configured to transmit and receive signals for a fifth communications band that is different than the first, second, third, and fourth communications bands and that is associated with a data service, wherein when the first port is active, the first and fourth communications bands lie within the fundamental frequency range and the second and fifth communications bands lie within the harmonic frequency range, wherein when the second port is active, the third communications band lies within the harmonic frequency range, and wherein the first, second, third, and fourth communications bands each include non-overlapping transmit and receive subbands.

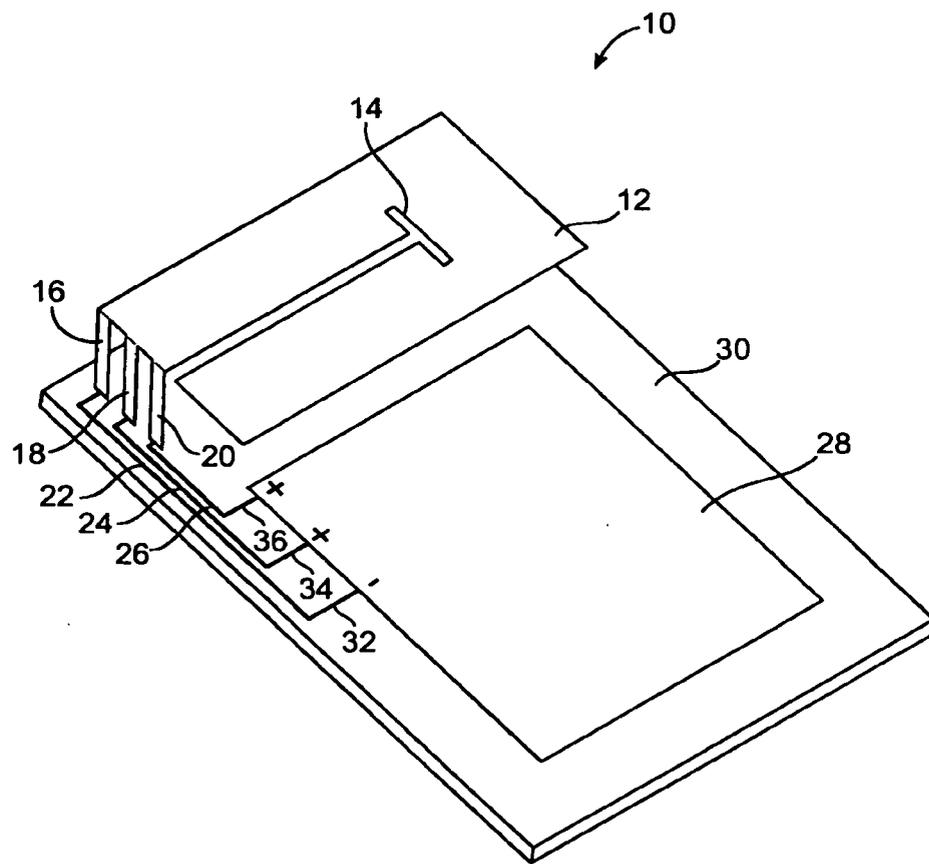


FIG. 1

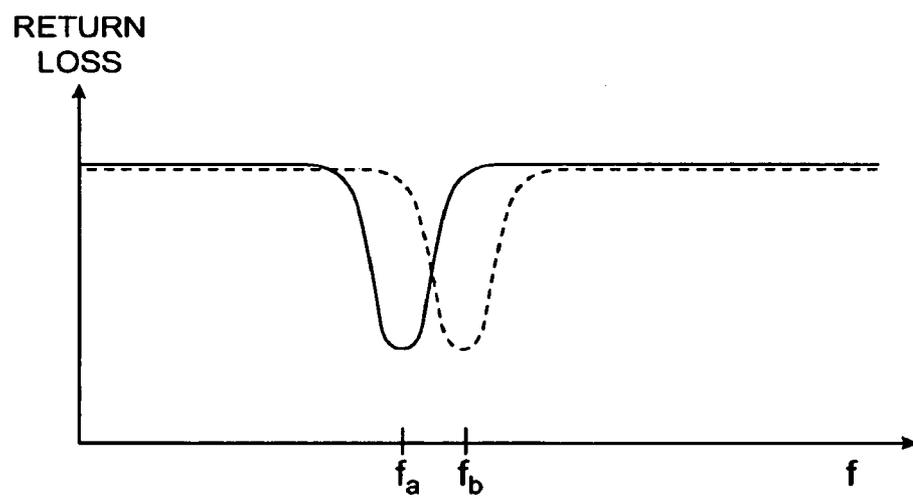


FIG. 2

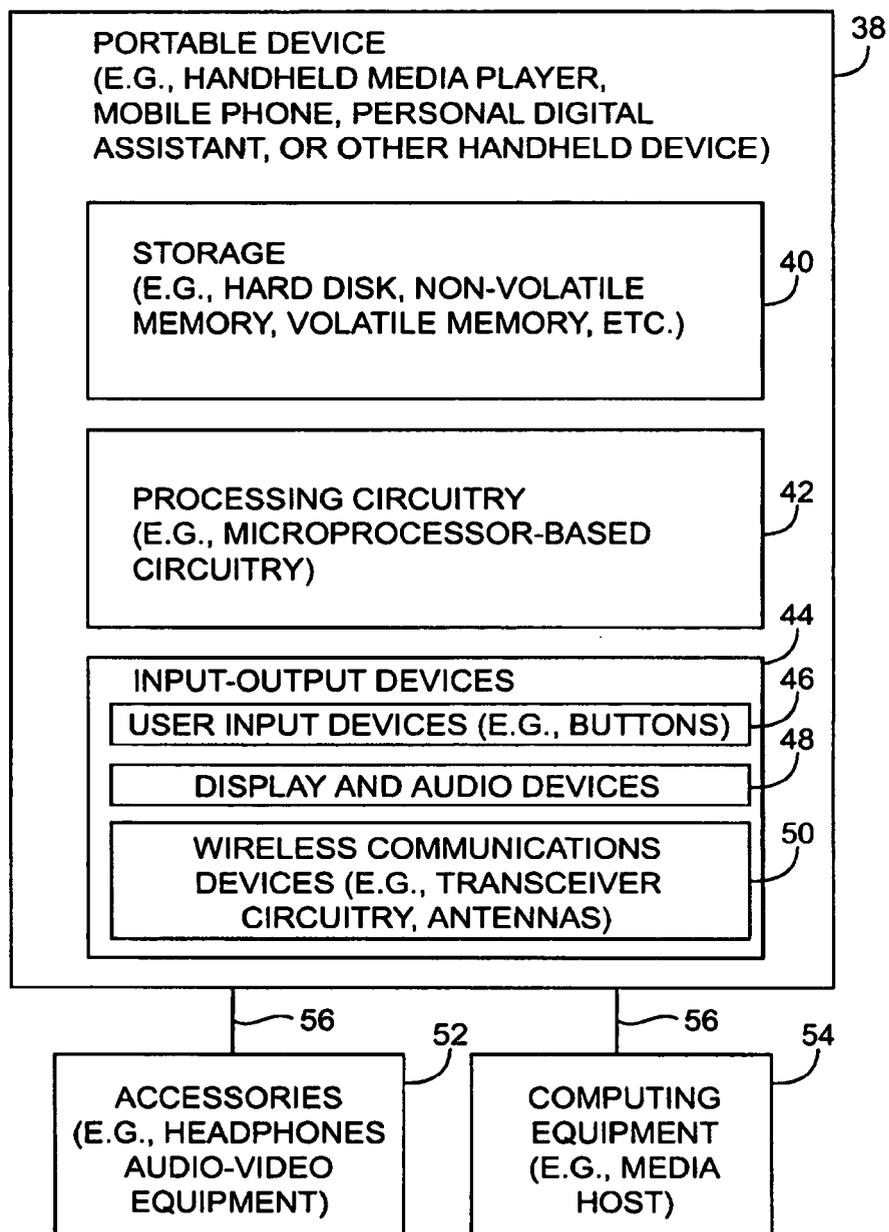


FIG. 3

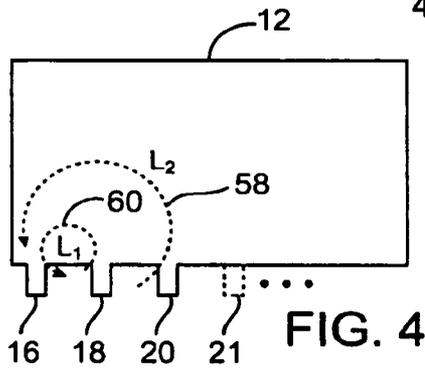


FIG. 4

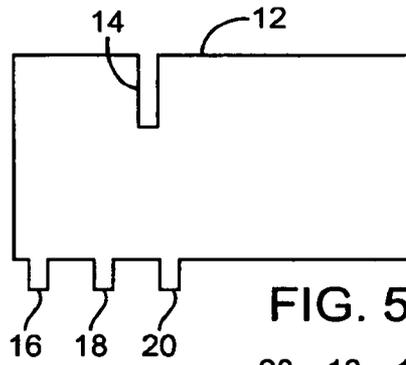


FIG. 5

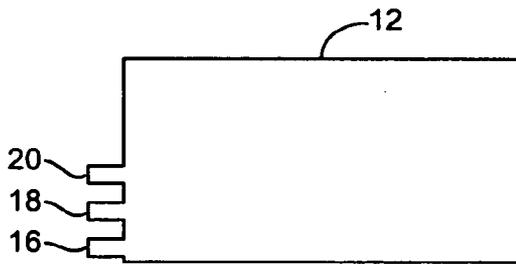


FIG. 6

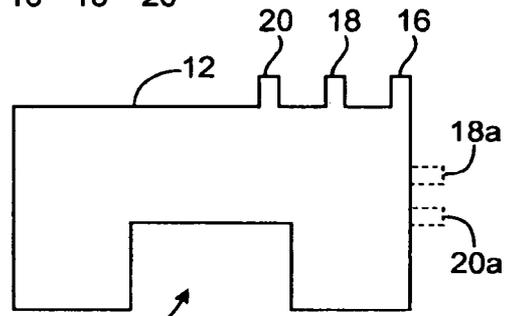


FIG. 7

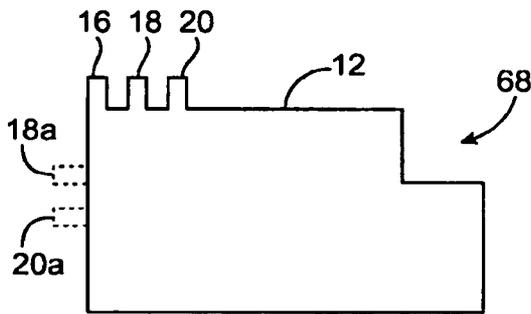


FIG. 8

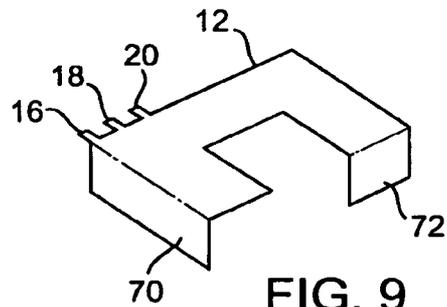


FIG. 9

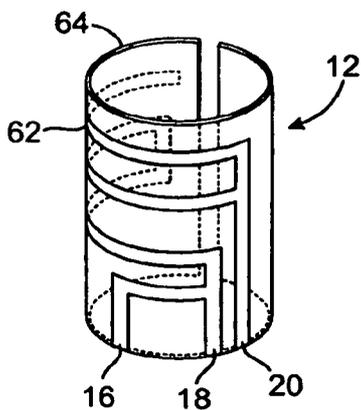


FIG. 10

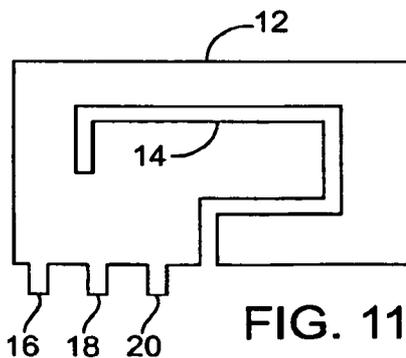
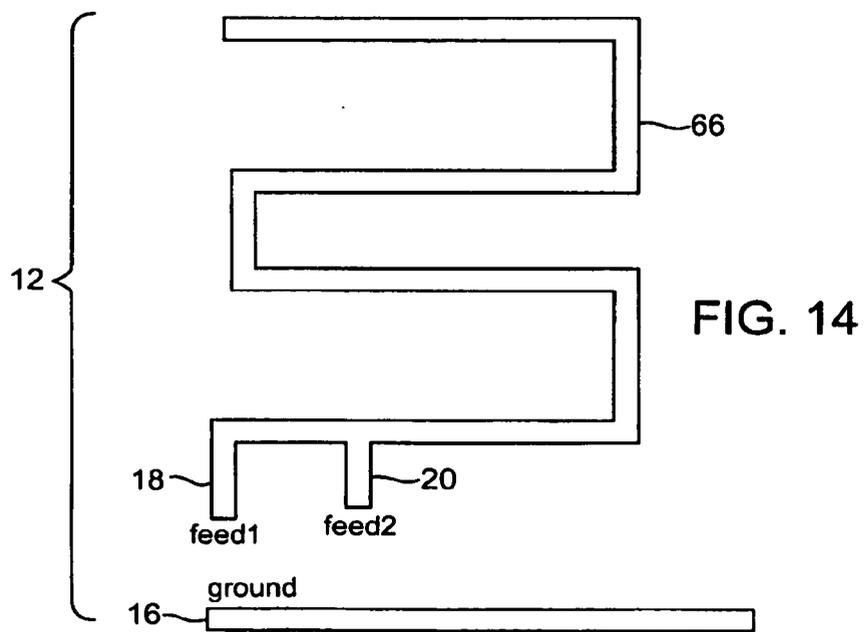
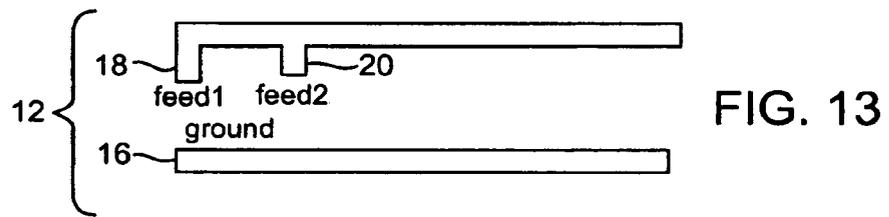
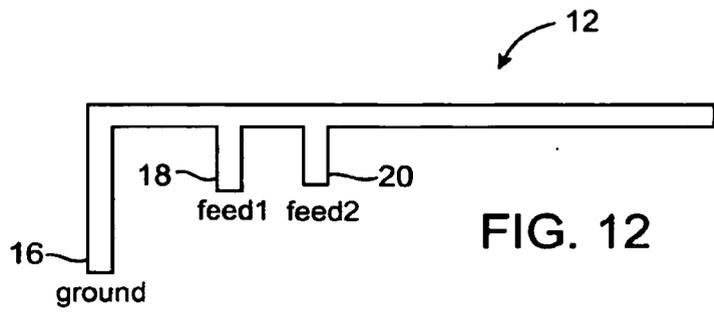


FIG. 11



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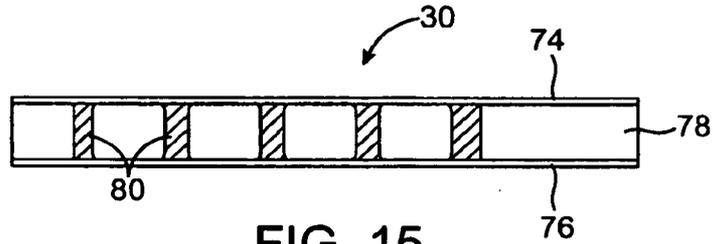


FIG. 15

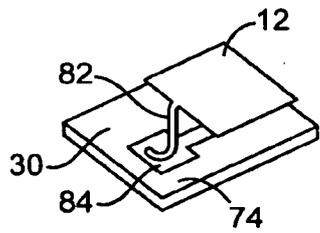


FIG. 16

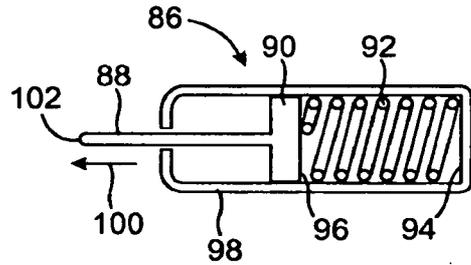


FIG. 17

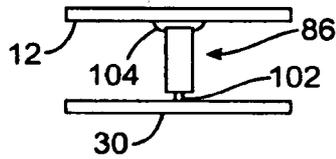


FIG. 18

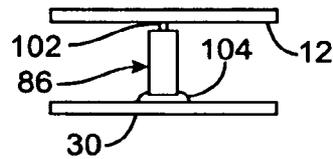


FIG. 19

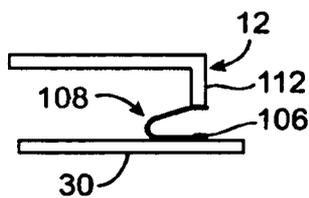


FIG. 20

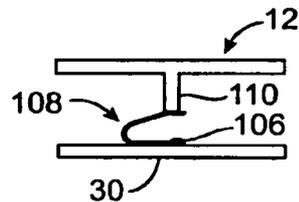


FIG. 21

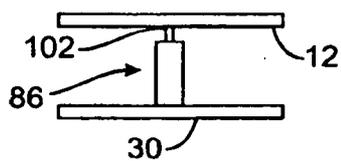


FIG. 22

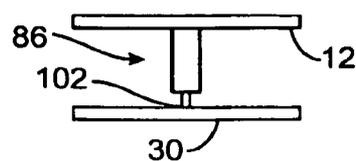


FIG. 23

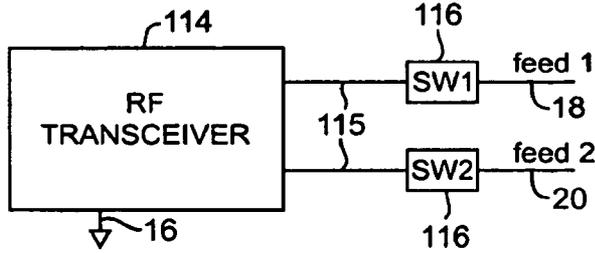


FIG. 24

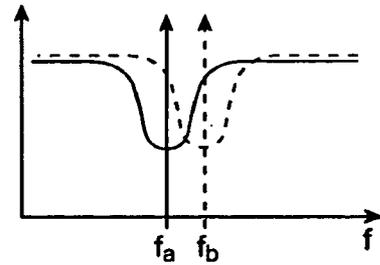


FIG. 25

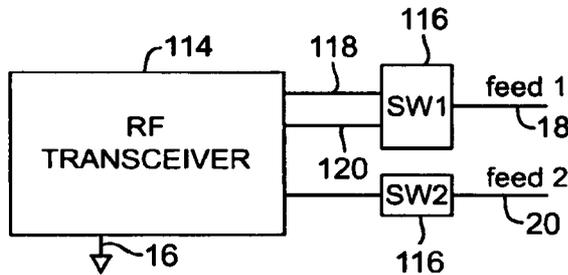


FIG. 26

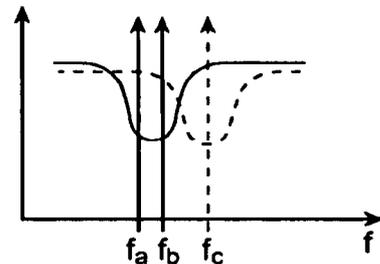


FIG. 27

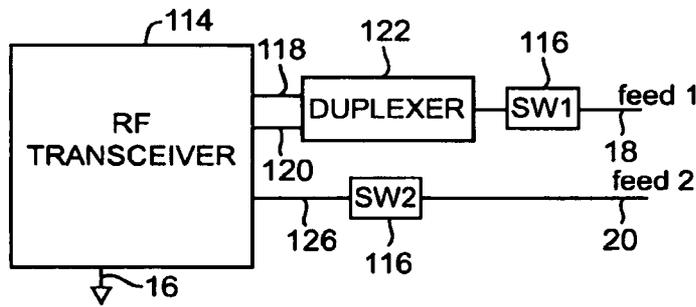


FIG. 28

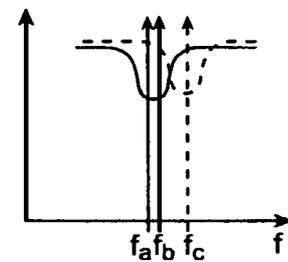


FIG. 29

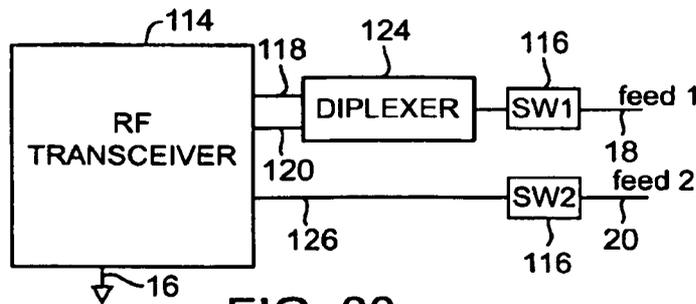


FIG. 30

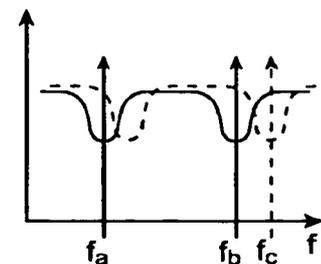


FIG. 31

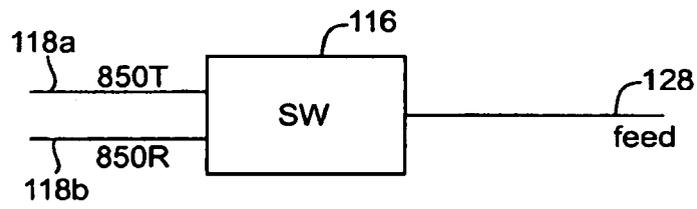


FIG. 32

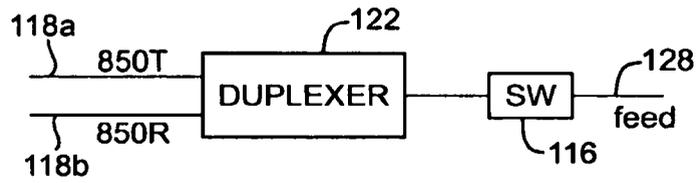


FIG. 33

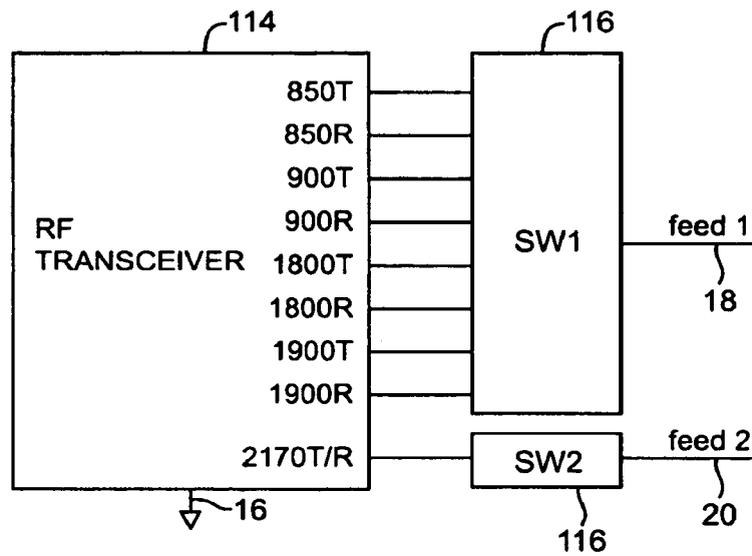


FIG. 34

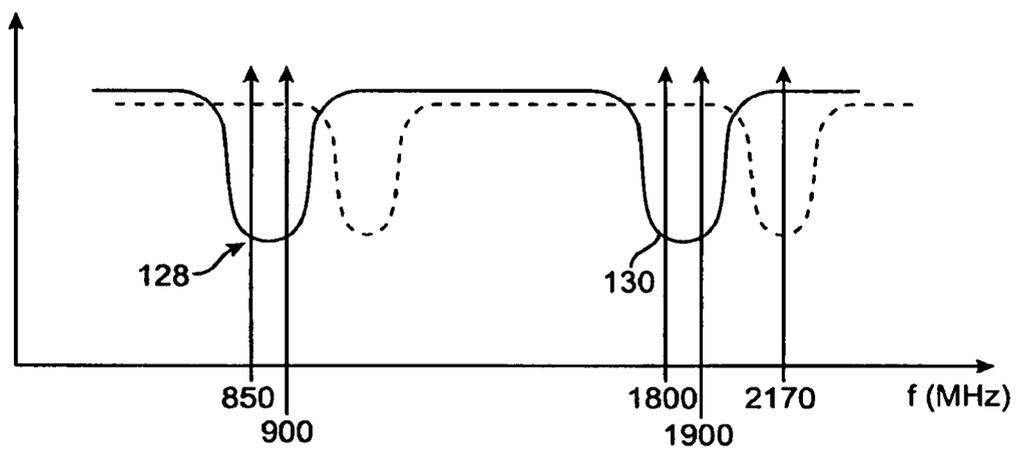


FIG. 35

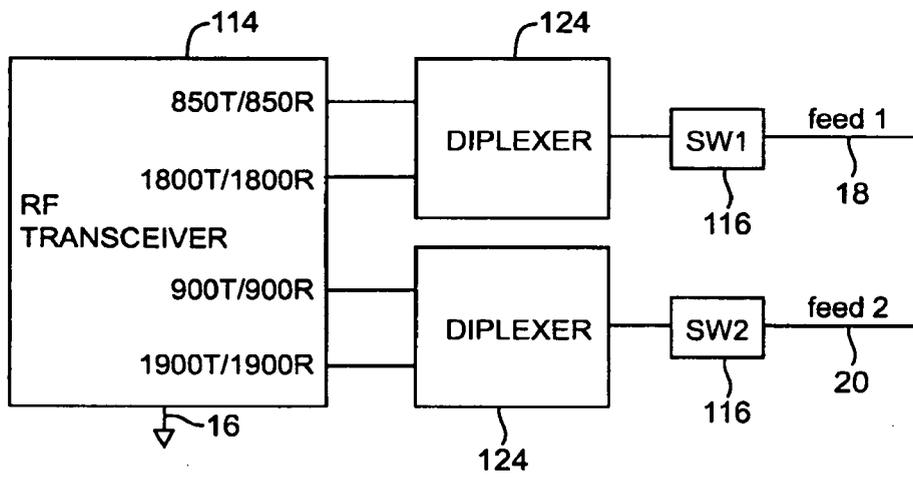


FIG. 36

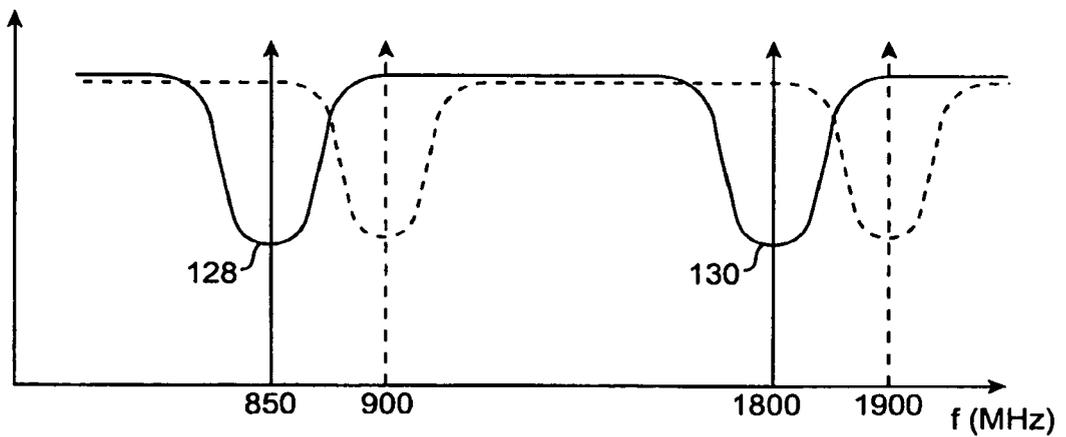


FIG. 37

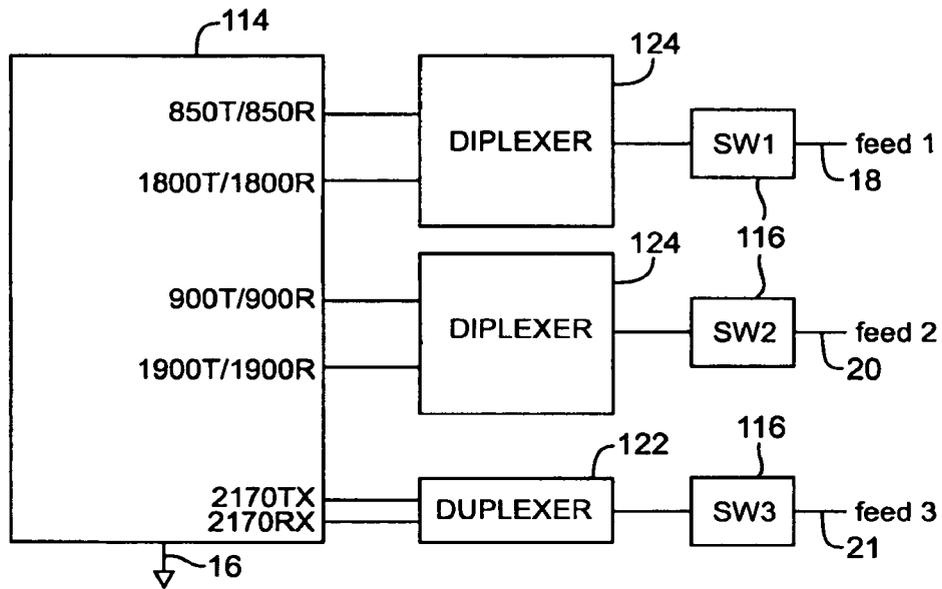


FIG. 38

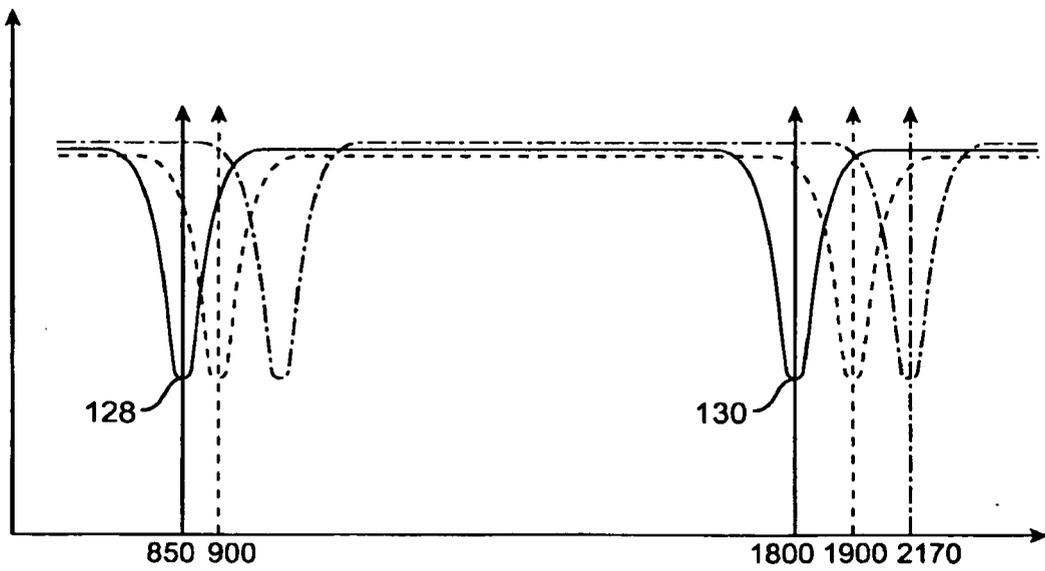


FIG. 39

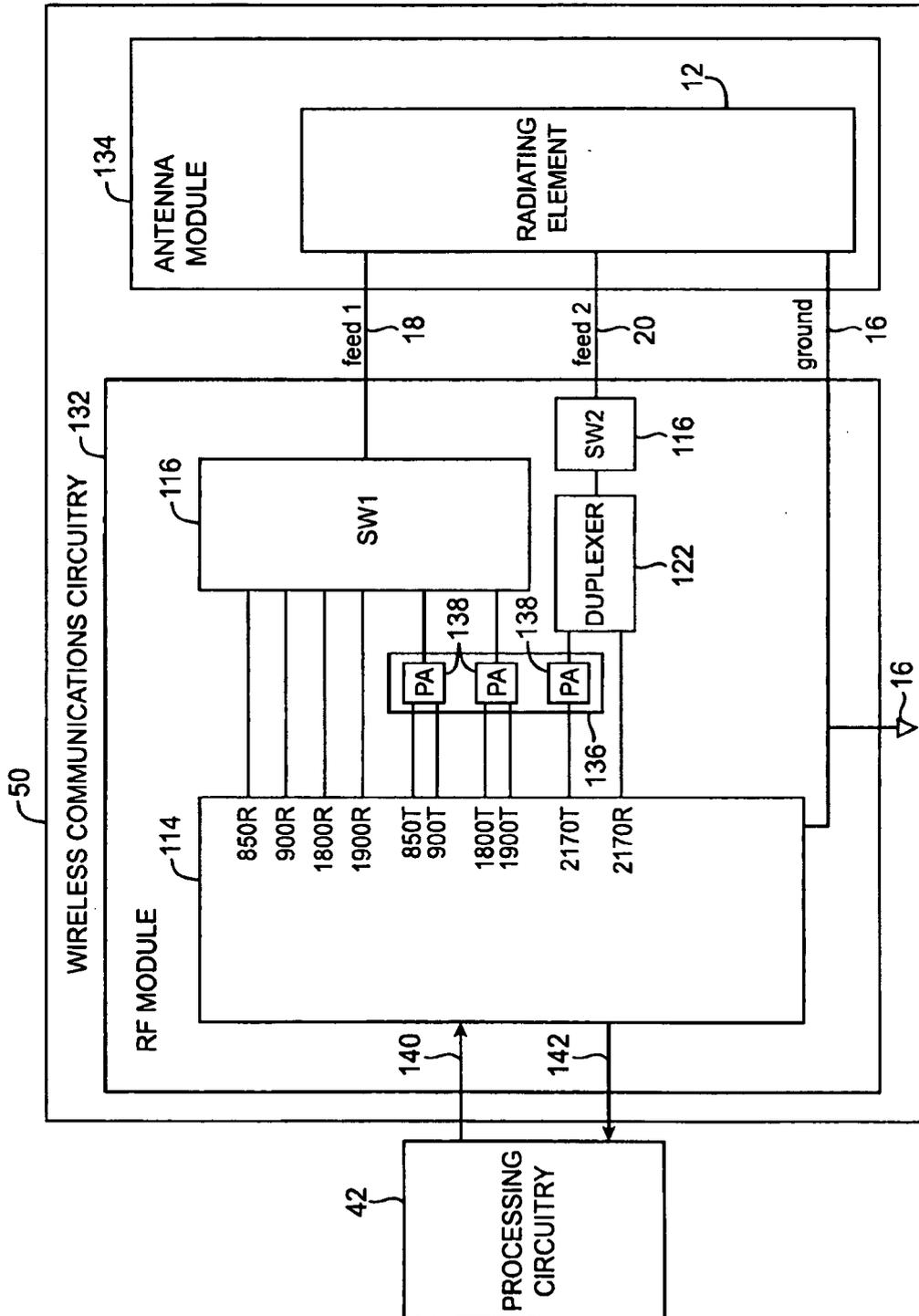


FIG. 40

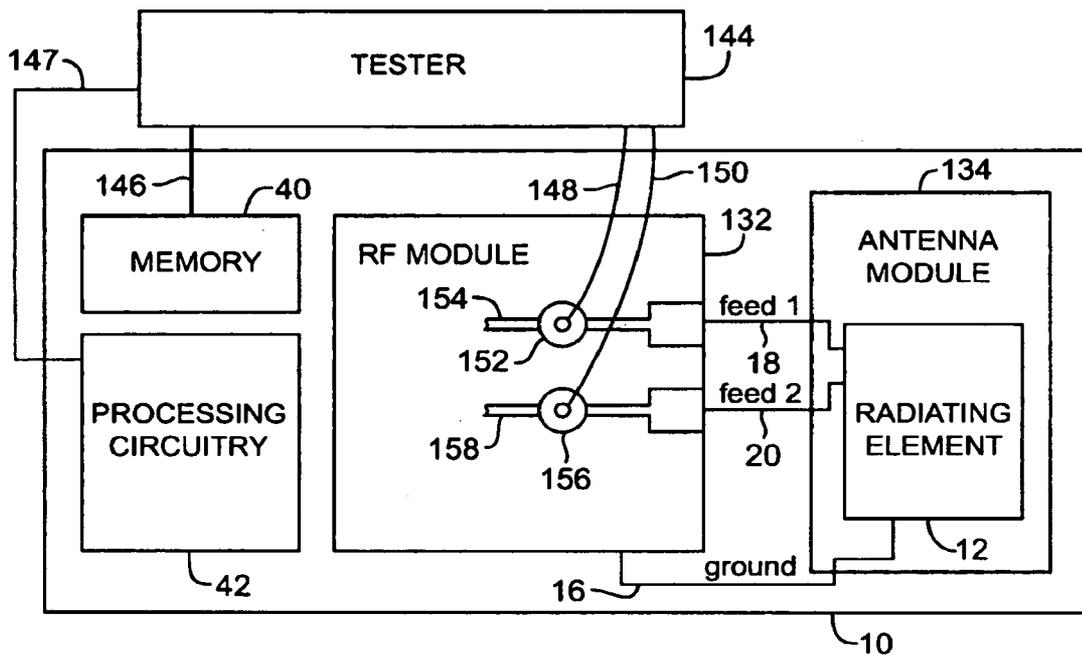


FIG. 41

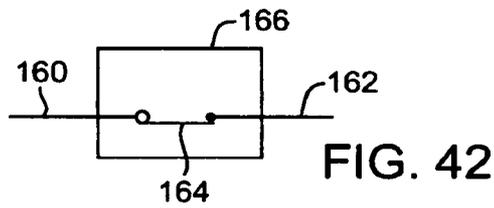


FIG. 42

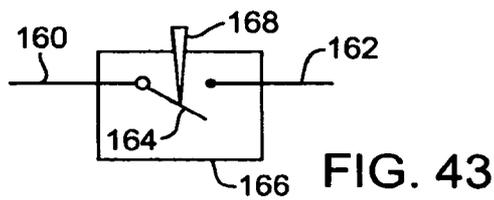


FIG. 43

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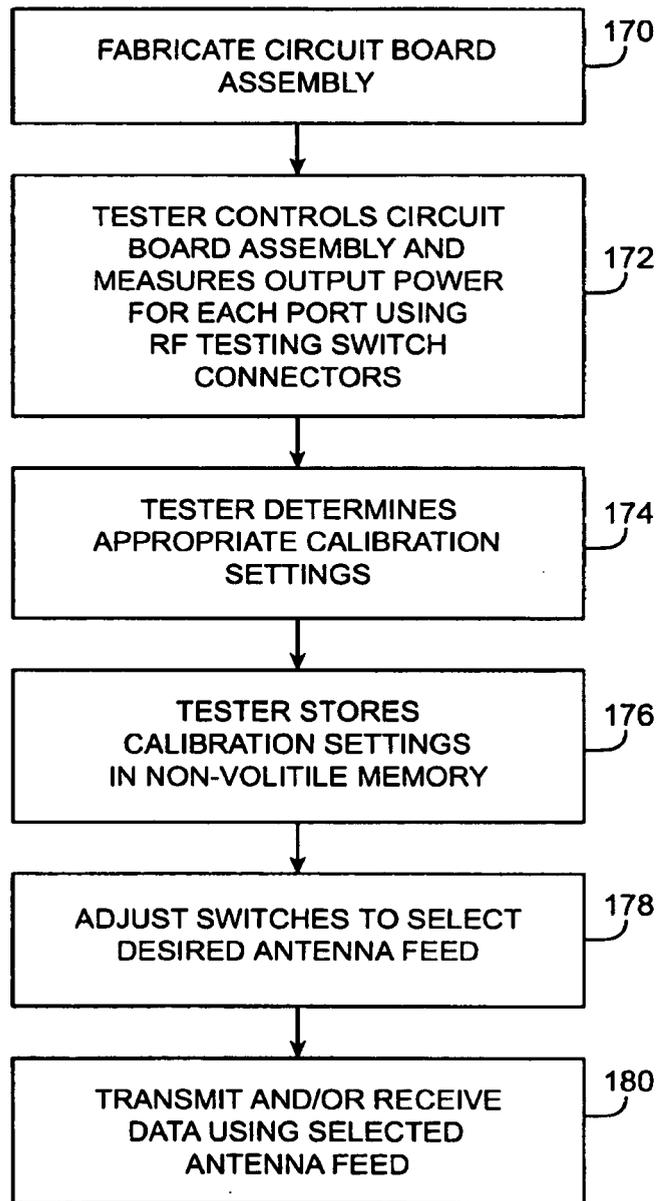


FIG. 44

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
PCT/US2007/014078

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> INV. H01Q1/24      H01Q5/00      H01Q9/04		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) H01Q		
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		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/29927 A (SIEMENS AG [DE]; SCHREIBER MICHAEL [DE]; HUBER STEFAN [DE]) 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26)	1-7, 11, 15, 19, 21
Y	the whole document	8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 22-25
X	----- EP 1 387 435 A (SONY CORP [JP] SONY CORP [JP]; ARAI HIROYUKI [JP]) 4 February 2004 (2004-02-04)	1-7, 11, 15, 19, 21
Y	paragraphs [0026], [0048], [0052]; figure 14	8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 22-25
	----- -/--	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search  <p align="center">23 January 2008</p>		Date of mailing of the international search report  <p align="center">04/02/2008</p>
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 align="center">Moumen, Abderrahim</p>

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2007/014078

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 146 590 A (MURATA MANUFACTURING CO [JP]) 17 October 2001 (2001-10-17) paragraphs [0028], [0031] - [0033], [0035], [0036] -----	8-10, 22-25
Y	US 2005/151689 A1 (VESTERINEN JUKKA [FI]) 14 July 2005 (2005-07-14) paragraph [0022] -----	12
Y	US 6 423 915 B1 (WINTER JAMES BLAKE [US]) 23 July 2002 (2002-07-23) the whole document -----	13
Y	EP 0 892 459 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD [FI] NOKIA CORP [FI]) 20 January 1999 (1999-01-20) column 8, line 30 - line 46; figure 7 -----	14
Y	EP 1 168 496 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD [FI] NOKIA CORP [FI]) 2 January 2002 (2002-01-02) paragraphs [0019], [0020], [0029]; figures 3,4,8 -----	16-18,20
Y	US 5 832 372 A (CLELLAND DAVID [GB] ET AL) 3 November 1998 (1998-11-03) column 3, line 54 - line 64; figure 3 -----	16-18,20
A	US 6 714 162 B1 (KADAMBI GOVIND R [US] ET AL) 30 March 2004 (2004-03-30) paragraph [0030] -----	4

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/014078

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11, 15,19, 21-25

fundamental and harmonic modes  
---

2. claims: 12-14

spring connection means  
---

3. claims: 16-18,20

calibration method  
---

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/014078

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0129927	A	26-04-2001	NONE	
EP 1387435	A	04-02-2004	WO 02071542 A1 JP 3469880 B2 JP 2002261533 A US 2004027288 A1	12-09-2002 25-11-2003 13-09-2002 12-02-2004
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