METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DISPLAYING ANIMATED BUTTONS

A method of displaying a group of animated buttons (A, B, C) on a display (12) in a synchronized manner is described, each button being associated with at least two sequences of pictures, each sequence being associated with a certain status of the corresponding button, all sequences having the same number of pictures (NP). When the button is in a certain status, the pictures of the corresponding sequence are displayed sequentially and repeatedly in a predetermined order, starting again with the first picture. When a button (X) changes from a current status to a second status (i), display of the sequence associated with the second status starts with the picture having ranking number j that satisfies the formula: j = [(CC-Q) mod NP] + 1; wherein CC indicates the value of a Common Counter which is incremented by 1 at picture display transition moments, the counter being common to all fields belonging to said group; and wherein Q indicates the starting value or rest value of the common counter.
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

INV. G06F3/048

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06F

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>EP 1 343 117 A (SHARP KK [JP]) 10 September 2003 (2003-09-10) abstract</td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>GB 2 241 629 A (APPLE COMPUTER [US]) 4 September 1991 (1991-09-04) the whole document</td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

- 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

17 November 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/12/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/Authorized officer

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) 340-2018

Vieira, Alexandre
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent document cited in search report</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Patent family member(s)</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CN 1468418 A</td>
<td>14-01-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WO 0229727 A1</td>
<td>11-04-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB 2241629 A</td>
<td>04-09-1991</td>
<td>US 5479602 A</td>
<td>26-12-1995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>