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- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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(54) Title: COMPUTER INPUT UNIT SUITABLE FOR USE BY RIGHT-HANDED PEOPLE AND LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE

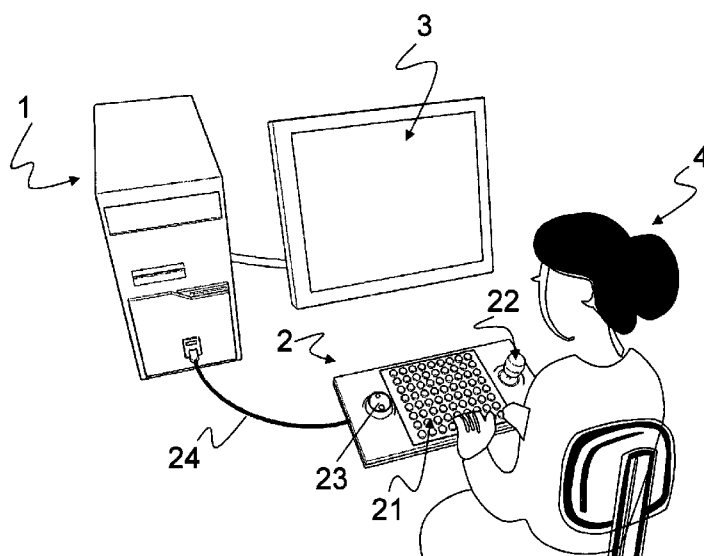


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: An input unit (2) for a computer (1) is described, which is adapted to be used in at least two different modes, in particular one for right-handed people and one for left-handed people. The input unit (2) comprises a plurality of keys (21) and a control unit (400) which detects when the keys (21) are pressed. Each key (21) is associated with a read code which is transmitted to the computer by the control unit (400) when the input unit (2) is operating in a first one of said two modes. The keys (21) are arranged according to a centrally symmetric configuration. When the input unit (2) is operating in the second one of said two modes, as a first key is pressed the control unit (400) will transmit the read code of a second key; the latter is the key which is symmetric to the key actually pressed with respect to the centre of symmetry of the plurality of keys.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2009/006753

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06F3/02

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00/79772 A (SIEMENS AG [DE]; FEIL HENRY [DE]) 28 December 2000 (2000-12-28) page 2, line 15 - page 4, line 33; figure 1	1-10,12
X	US 2004/227731 A1 (GOULD BEAR ERIC JUSTIN [US] ET AL BEAR ERIC JUSTIN GOULD [US] ET AL) 18 November 2004 (2004-11-18) paragraphs [0119], [0120], [0125], [0127], [0135] - [0159] figures 7E,13,15C,16A,16C,17,18B,18D,20A	1-10,12
X	US 2004/263479 A1 (SHKOLNIKOV MARK [US]) 30 December 2004 (2004-12-30) paragraphs [0092], [0093], [0106], [0127] - [0132]; figures 7,8,26A,27A,28,29,32	1-7,12
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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

27 November 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

15/03/2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2009/006753

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 689 253 A (HARGREAVES WILLIAM R [US] ET AL) 18 November 1997 (1997-11-18) column 14, line 56 - column 15, line 3 -----	1-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2009/006753

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 all searchable 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.:

please see additional sheet

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: 1-10, 12

input unit with mode-dependent key codes

2. claim: 11

a sensor for detecting tilt

3. claims: 13, 14

means for configuring an input unit

4. claim: 15

means for connecting a cable to an input unit

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/IB2009/006753

Patent document cited in search report	A	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0079772	A	28-12-2000	NONE	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
US 2004227731	A1	18-11-2004	AU 2003297076 A1	29-07-2004
			EP 1573710 A2	14-09-2005
			JP 2006510134 T	23-03-2006
			KR 20050113547 A	02-12-2005
			WO 2004061592 A2	22-07-2004
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US 2004263479	A1	30-12-2004	NONE	
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US 5689253	A	18-11-1997	NONE	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				