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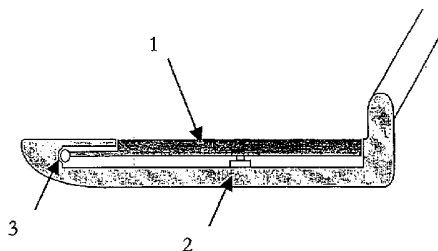
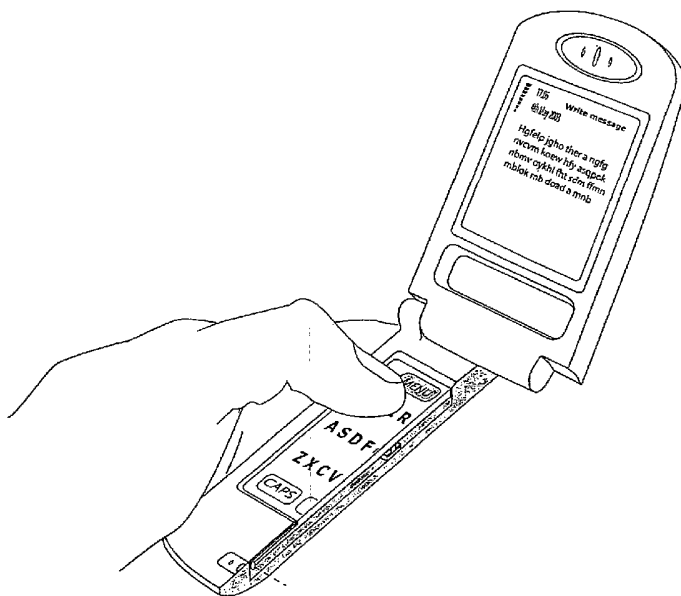
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DATA INPUT METHOD FOR A COMPUTING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A data input method for a comput-
ing device using a touch screen; selection of a vir-
tual key occurs when a user presses down on the
screen overlying the virtual key with a force ex-
ceeding a first pre-defined force and confirmation
of selection of a virtual key occurs when the user
presses *down* on the screen overlying the virtual
key with a force exceeding a second pre-defined
force and actuates a mechanical switch underly-
ing the touch screen. Confirmation of selection
in this manner provides tactile feedback missing
from conventional touch screen systems. Because
it more closely mimics a real world action of hit-
ting a real world key, it is both more satisfying
and more easily understood by a user. The invention
stands in contrast to the established view that con-
firmation of the selection of a virtual key should
be achieved when a user lifts off from the screen
and without any form of tactile feedback.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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 03/029950 A (SAMSON, ILAN, ZADIK) 10 April 2003 (2003-04-10) page 3, line 18 - page 4, line 3 page 4, line 21 - page 5, line 13 page 8, line 12 - line 33 page 9, line 25 - page 10, line 34 page 12, line 22 - line 35; figures 3,4	1-40
X	US 6 243 080 B1 (MOLNE ANDERS L) 5 June 2001 (2001-06-05) column 2, line 5 - line 42 column 4, line 18 - column 6, line 45; figures ----- -/--	1-40

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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A	EP 0 419 145 A (PSION PLC) 27 March 1991 (1991-03-27) cited in the application column 2, line 22 - column 3, line 27 column 6, line 21 - line 57; figures -----	1-40
A	US 5 742 894 A (JAMBHEKAR ET AL) 21 April 1998 (1998-04-21) column 2, line 6 - line 30 column 3, line 49 - column 4, line 5; figures 2,3 -----	39

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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