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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNIVERSAL ELECTRONICS INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

LOGITECH EUROPE S.A.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. **SACV 12 - 00583 AG (MLGx)**

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF UNENFORCEABILITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,784,805

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Universal Electronics Inc., by its undersigned counsel, and for its Complaint against Defendant Europe S.A., hereby alleges as follows:

SUMMARY OF NATURE OF ACTION

1. This claim arises under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§2201 and 2202, and the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

THE PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Universal Electronics Inc. ("UEI") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 6101 Gateway Drive, Cypress, California 90630.

3. Defendant Logitech Europe S.A., ("Defendant" or "Logitech") a subsidiary of Logitech International S.A., is a Swiss corporation with its principal place of business in Switzerland. Logitech, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Logitech International S.A., is a California corporation with its principal place of business located at 6505 Kaiser Drive, Fremont, California 94555. Defendant transacts substantial business, both directly and through its agents, on an ongoing basis in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States, including attempting to enforce United States Patent No. 6,784,805 in an action pending in this District, styled, *Universal Electronics Inc. v. Logitech, Inc. et al.*, Case No. SACV 11-1056-JVS (ANx).

4. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the acts complained of herein were committed by, on behalf of, and/or for the benefit of Defendant.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. Plaintiff UEI seeks declaratory judgment of unenforceability of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,805 ("the '805 patent"). Accordingly, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202, as well as the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 1, et seq.

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Logitech by virtue of its doing business in and directed at the State of California pertaining to the '805 patent. Logitech conducted business relating to the '805 patent in the State of California,

including attempting to enforce the '805 patent in an action pending in this District, styled, *Universal Electronics Inc. v. Logitech, Inc. et al.*, Case No. SACV 11-1056-JVS (ANx).

7. On July 15, 2011, UEI filed a lawsuit against Defendant along with certain related entities in the Central District of California asserting infringement of 17 patents owned by UEI. The case is currently pending in the Central District of California styled, *Universal Electronics Inc. v. Logitech, Inc. et al.,* Case No. SACV 11-1056-JVS (ANx).

8. On November 3, 2011, Defendant responded to UEI's complaint by counterclaiming that UEI infringed five patents purportedly owned by Defendant, including the '805 patent. Defendant alleged that several of UEI's products infringe the '805 literally or under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Defendant also accused UEI of indirect infringement, and of willful infringement.

9. Thus an actual and ripe controversy exists of sufficient immediacy to warrant declaratory relief. UEI is therefore entitled to a finding that the '805 patent is invalid and unenforceable due to inequitable conduct during the prosecution of the '805 patent.

10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b).

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. UEI has been an industry leader in the design, development, and manufacture of remote control technology for over twenty years.

12. UEI has a staff of scientists and engineers who design and develop innovative ideas in the remote control field. UEI has invested millions of dollars developing such ideas and has filed a substantial number of patent applications for its inventions every year.

13. Logitech purports to be the owner by assignment of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,805, entitled "State-Based Remote Control System." The '805 patent issued on August 31, 2004. A true and correct copy of the '805 patent is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

COUNT I

DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF UNENFORCEABILITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 6,784,805

14. Plaintiff UEI incorporates and realleges the allegations set forth in Counterclaim Paragraphs 1-13, above, as if set forth fully herein.

15. During prosecution of the '805 patent, Logitech, the prior owners of the '805 patent, their counsel, and anyone else responsible for prosecuting the '805 patent knew or should have known that all patent applicants and their counsel are under a duty to act with good faith and candor before the United States Patent & Trademark Office ("PTO") and are required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to disclose material information to the PTO.

16. In connection with the application for the '805 patent, all of the inventors of the '805 patent signed a declaration in which they attested to their awareness of their duty of good faith and candor before the PTO and the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to disclose material information to the PTO.

17. The attorneys and agents who prosecuted the '805 patent on behalf of Logitech, including but not limited to Michael Neustel ("Neustel") of the Neustel Law Offices, Ltd. and Rodney C. LeRoy ("LeRoy") of the Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP law firm (fka Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP) ("KTS"), were registered patent attorneys who knew or should have known of their duty of good faith and candor before the PTO and the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to disclose material information to the PTO.

18. On March 12, 2001, the prior owners of application no. 12/245,675 (eventually issued as the '805 patent) and Neustel filed application no. 12/245,675 with the PTO.

19. On September 25, 2003, the examiner rejected all 16 original claims of application no. 12/245,675 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. The examiner also

rejected all of the claims as anticipated and/or obvious under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,109,222 ("Welty"). In addition, the examiner objected to all of the original independent claims because it was unclear how the current state is determined.

20. On December 4, 2003, the prior owners and Neustel filed a response and amendment, amending the original 16 claims and adding new claims 17-35. The claims included in the December 4, 2003 response are the only amended and new claims that appear in the file history of the '805 patent.

21. On January 3, 2004, the examiner issued a final office action, rejecting all pending claims 1-35 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Welty and U.S. Patent No. 6,538,586 ("Kawajiri").

22. On February 22, 2004, the prior owners and Neustel submitted an examiner interview request with a proposed issue agenda in response to the examiner's final rejection.

23. On February 26, 2004, Neustel, William Bangachon and Michael Horabik conducted a personal examiner interview. The examiner interview summary, signed by the examiner, states "[a]pplicant suggests to amend the claims to clearly point out the calculating and updating feature of the remote controller which will distinguish it from the remote controller of Kawajiri. It is agreed that there is a difference between the remote controller of the instant invention and Kawajiri." No amended claims were attached to the examiner interview summary.

24. On March 26, 2004, the prior owners and Neustel submitted a request for continued examination to file an information disclosure statement listing additional prior art. The prior owners and Neustel clearly noted that the request for continued examination was not filed to submit amended claims and no amended claims were filed. A request for continued examination would have been necessary to submit amended claims because the pending office action was a final office action.

25. On April 15, 2004, the examiner issued a notice of allowability with respect to pending claims 1-35 and entered the previously-filed information disclosure statement. In the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, examiner stated: "The prior art made of record (Welty (US 5,109,222) in view of Kawajiri (US 6,538,556)) does not teach 'a state-based remote control system comprising an electronic system capable of storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external device wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one electronic device', as claimed in claims 1, 17, and 20 (see interview summary mailed 2/26/04). Claims 8, 11, 23, 26, and 32 recites [sic] a method of practicing the system of claims 1, 17, and 20, and therefore allowable for the same reasons. Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-31, and 33-35 are dependent claims and therefore allowable for the same reasons."

26. The prior owners, Neustel, Logitech, LeRoy, and KTS never submitted comments regarding the examiner's notice of allowability, and, on May 3, 2004, the prior owners and Neustel paid the issue fee for the application for the '805 patent. On information and belief, the application for the '805 patent was assigned by the prior owners to Logitech on May 4, 2004. With the issue fee, Neustel also submitted an information disclosure statement listing four additional prior references, but the examiner refused to consider those references. The '805 patent was issued on August 31, 2004.

27. On July 27, 2005, almost a year after the '805 patent was issued, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS submitted a request for a certificate of correction to the Certificate of Corrections Branch of the PTO. Logitech, LeRoy and KTS stated "Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.322 Applicants submit a Request for Certificate of Correction to ***correct an inadvertent clerical error*** of the Patent Office that appear on U.S. Patent No. 6,784,805 B2 as originally issued. Specifically, the claims amended in the Amendments dated April 23, 2004 and February 26, 2004 were incorrectly printed on the issued patent. The desired

correction is set forth on form PTO/SB/44, enclosed." (emphasis added) The request was signed by LeRoy.

28. The request was approved on March 1, 2006, and the new claims 1-35 (with certain claims cancelled) were entered on September 19, 2006.

29. Logitech, LeRoy and KTS never initiated reissue proceedings after the '805 patent was issued.

30. No amendment claims were ever entered in the record on the dates referenced in Logitech's, LeRoy's, and KTS's request for a certificate of correction.

31. Claims 1-35 that were attached to Logitech's, LeRoy's and/or KTS's request for a certificate of correction were materially and substantially different from the only set of claims 1-35 in the file history (the amended and new claims submitted in the December 4, 2003 amendment and response). Moreover, claims 1-35 that were submitted by Logitech, LeRoy and KTS were materially and substantially different from the claims allowed by the examiner in his April 15, 2004, notice of allowability.

32. Thus, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS falsely claimed that the claims it submitted with the certificate of correction request were previously entered into the record and allowed by the examiner when they were not.

33. With respect to the independent claims 1, 8, 11, 17, 20, 23, 26 and 32 that were submitted by Logitech, LeRoy and KTS as part of the request for a certificate of correction, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS made certain material and substantial modifications to the claims that were never present in any of the prior claims in the file history and thus, the claims that were allowed by the examiner. For example, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS changed independent apparatus claim 1 as follows. First, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed claim 1 from "a state-based remote control system, comprising…***an electronic system***" to "a state-based remote, comprising ***a remote control***." Second, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed the independent apparatus claims from "a communication device connected to ***said electronic system*** for emitting a

control signal to said at least one external electronic device" to "a communication device connected to ***said remote control*** for emitting a control signal to said at least one external device." Third, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed the independent apparatus claims from "an input unit connected to said ***electronic system*** for communicating with said ***electronic system***" to "an input connected to said ***remote control*** for communicating with said ***remote control***." Fourth, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed the independent apparatus claims from "wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one action performed by said ***electronic system*** in controlling said at least one electronic device" to "wherein said simulated current state data is calculated ***and updated*** based upon at least one action performed by said ***remote control*** in controlling said at least one electronic device ***prior to a next action or a next task***." (All emphases added)

34. For example, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed independent method claim 8 as follows. First, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed claim 8 from "a method of operating a stated-based ***remote control sy***stem having an ***electronic system***" to "a method of operating a ***state-based remote control*** having an ***electronic circuit***." Second, Logitech, LeRoy and/or KTS changed claim 8 from "modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device ***based upon said action request***" to "modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device ***based upon said action request or said task request prior to a next action request or a task request***." (All emphases added).

35. Logitech, LeRoy and KTS made similar material changes to the other claims and also cancelled certain claims that had not been cancelled previously.

36. The material and substantial changes made to the new claims submitted as part of the request for a certificate of correction are further confirmed by the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: "The prior art … does not teach 'a state-based remote control system comprising an electronic system capable of storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external device

wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one electronic device.'"

37. Logitech has admitted that both of the amendments referenced in the certificate of correction are not in the publicly-available file history for the '805 patent and the file history produced by Logitech.

38. The purported February 26, 2004 amendment is not in the publicly available file history for the '805 patent because Patentee never filed an RCE after a final office action for that amendment and, therefore, the examiner never entered the amendment. Logitech admits that in the February 26, 2004 amendment, the term "electronic system" was changed to "remote control." Further, Patentee cancelled claims 12 and 27. Yet, when the examiner issued his notice of allowance, he stated that all 35 claims were allowed and recited that the allowed claims disclosed "a state-based remote control system comprising an ***electronic system***..." If Patentee's February 26, 2004 amendment was entered by the examiner, the examiner would have taken into account Patentee's cancellation of two claims and noted that 33 claims were allowed as opposed to 35 claims. Moreover, if the amendment was entered, the examiner's recitation to the allowed claims would have reflected Patentee's change from "electronic system" to "remote control." The notice of allowance does not include those changes because the February 26, 2004 amendment was never entered by the examiner.

39. The purported April 23, 2004 amendment after allowance is not in the publicly available file history for the '805 patent because Patentee never filed a request for an amendment after allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 and, therefore, the examiner never allowed or entered the amendment. Logitech has admitted that Patentee made material changes to the claims and does not dispute that the examiner never allowed the April 23, 2004 amendment (which could not have been entered as a matter of right).[1]

[1]*See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 ("No amendment may be made as a matter of right in an application after the mailing of the notice of allowance. Any amendment filed pursuant to this section must be filed before or with the payment of the issue fee, and may be entered

Logitech cannot point to an examiner allowance because the April 23, 2004 amendment was never allowed or entered by the examiner.

40. LeRoy and KTS were registered patent attorneys and agents who, based on a review of the prosecution history, would and should have known that the February 26, 2004 and April 23, 2004 amendments were never entered or allowed by the examiner.

41. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS filed a materially false request for a certificate of correction in order to bypass the PTO's review of material and substantial amendments that were never previously entered and allowed by the examiner.

42. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS concealed and failed to disclose that claim amendments were not submitted and were never entered or allowed by the examiner on February 26, 2004 and April 23, 2004.

43. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS falsely stated that the request for a certificate of correction was being made "to correct an inadvertent clerical error of the Patent Office that appear on U.S. Patent No. 6,784,805 B2 as originally issued."

44. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS falsely stated that "the claims amended in the Amendments dated April 23, 2004 and February 26, 2004 were incorrectly printed on the issued patent."

45. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS also made intentional and material misrepresentations or omissions regarding claim amendments purportedly submitted on April 23, 2004 and February 26, 2004 that did not exist, were never entered and/or allowed by the examiner, and a purported clerical error of the PTO.

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on the recommendation of the primary examiner, approved by the Director, without withdrawing the application from issue.").

46. With a specific intent to deceive the PTO, Logitech, LeRoy and KTS also made intentional and material misrepresentations or omissions and falsely stated and/or implied that the claims submitted as part of the request for a certificate of correction were the claims allowed by the examiner.

47. The request for certificate of correction filed by Logitech, LeRoy and KTS, and signed by LeRoy was an unmistakably false certification.

48. In order to bypass the examiner's review of the material amendments made to the claims through a reissue proceeding, Logitech's, LeRoy's and KTS's false certification deceived the PTO in to believing that Logitech, LeRoy and KTS were simply asking the PTO to correct clerical errors when in fact Logitech, LeRoy and KTS were making substantial and material amendments to the claims--substantial and material amendments that had never been entered or allowed by the examiner.

49. An intentional concealment of prior art that is material to the patentability of the inventions claimed in a patent, an affirmative misrepresentation of a material fact, and/or the submission of false material information with an intent to deceive the PTO constitutes inequitable conduct before the PTO and renders the patent unenforceable. Misconduct is material when a patentee engages in affirmative acts of egregious misconduct, such as the filing of an unmistakably false affidavit.

50. Logitech, LeRoy and KTS engaged in affirmative acts of egregious misconduct by filing an unmistakably false affidavit to the PTO.

51. The PTO would not have issued the materially amended claims but for the Logitech's, LeRoy's and/or KTS's false statements and intentional and material misrepresentations or omissions contained in their request for a certificate of correction.

52. If Logitech, LeRoy and KTS had not submitted its false Correction Request, the claims that were issued in the certificate of correction would never have been issued by the Certificate of Corrections Branch of the PTO because the examiner never entered or allowed those purported amendments.

UEI'S PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff UEI respectfully requests entry of judgment in its favor and against Logitech Europe S.A. as follows:

a. Declaring that U.S. Patent No. 6,784,805 is unenforceable based on inequitable conduct;

b. Declaring that UEI is a prevailing party and that this is an exceptional case, and awarding UEI its costs, expenses, disbursements, and reasonable attorney's fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285;

c. Ordering Logitech to pay all costs associated with this action; and

d. Awarding such other costs and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

UEI requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: April 17, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Plaintiff, Universal Electronics Inc.

EXHIBIT 1

US006784805B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Harris et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 6,784,805 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Aug. 31, 2004**

(54) **STATE-BASED REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM**

(75) Inventors: **Glen McLean Harris**, Mississauga (CA); **Justin M. Henry**, Mississauga (CA)

(73) Assignee: **Intrigue Technologies Inc.**, Mississauga (CA)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 501 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/804,718**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 12, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2001/0045819 A1 Nov. 29, 2001

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/253,727, filed on Nov. 29, 2000, and provisional application No. 60/189,487, filed on Mar. 15, 2000.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **G08C 19/00**; G05B 23/02

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **340/825.69**; 340/825.72; 340/3.2

(58) **Field of Search** 340/825.69, 825.72, 340/825.49, 310.06, 825.37, 3.2, 3.1; 700/83; 398/1, 106, 115, 126, 127; 219/497, 413, 483

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Radio Shack, Owner's Manual, Universal Remote Control, 1987, pp. 1–29.
Steve Ciarcia, The Best of Ciarcia's Circuit Cellar, 1987, pp. 345–354.

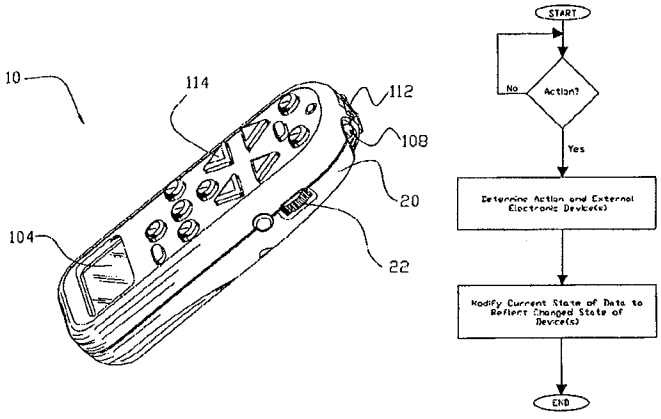
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Michael Horabik
Assistant Examiner—William Bangachon
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Michael S. Neustel

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A state-based remote control system for providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task. The state-based remote control system includes a housing, a keypad in communication with an electronic system contained within the housing, and a communication device in communication with the electronic system for communicating with external electronic devices. The electronic system monitors the buttons selected by a user to determine the state of all external electronic devices that are to be controlled. When the user selects a task (e.g. watch television), the electronic system automatically determines the actions required to achieve the desired task based upon the current state of the external electronic devices. After the task has been fulfilled, the electronic system updates the data to reflect the modified state of the external electronic devices.

35 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



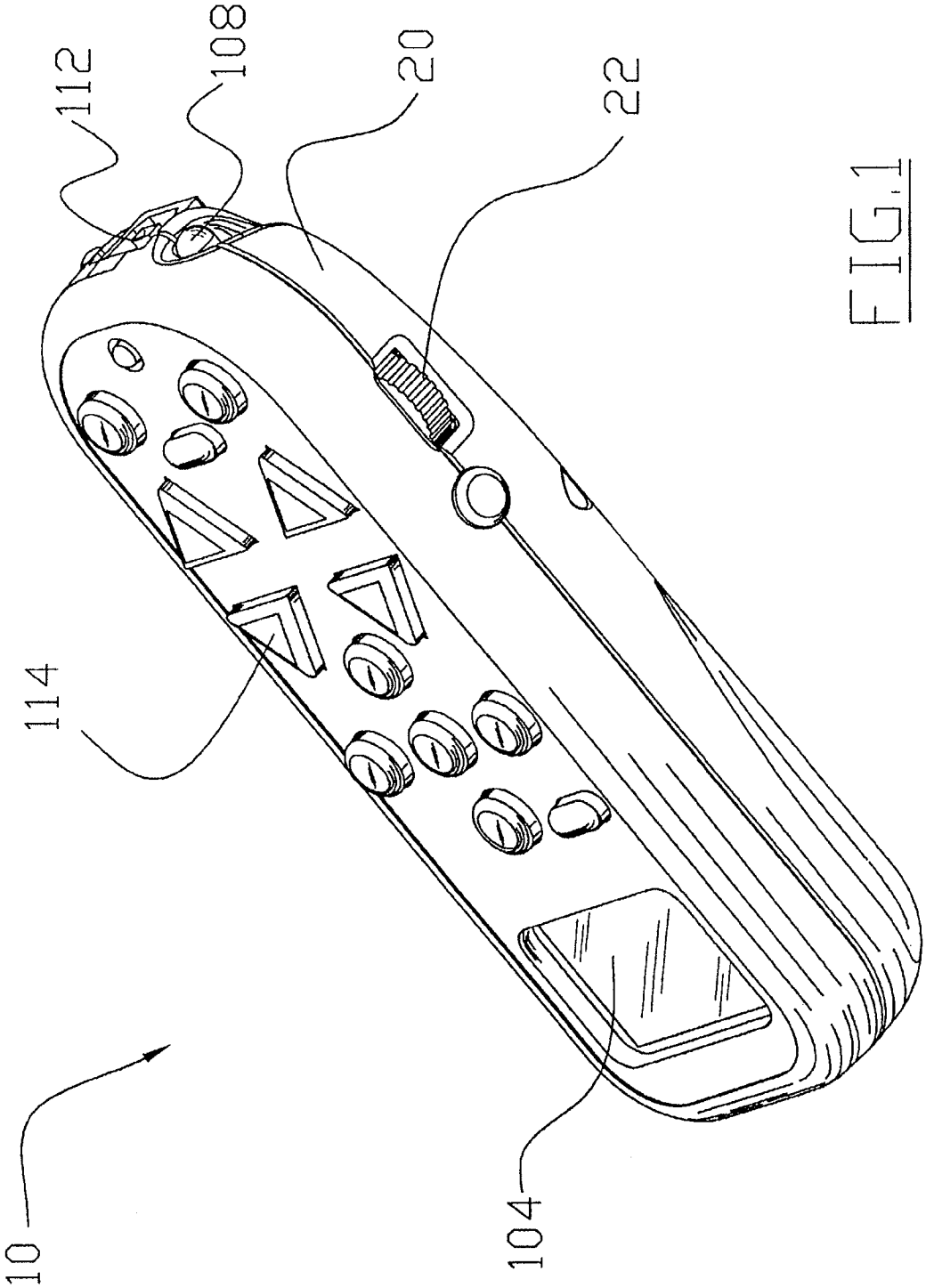


FIG. 1

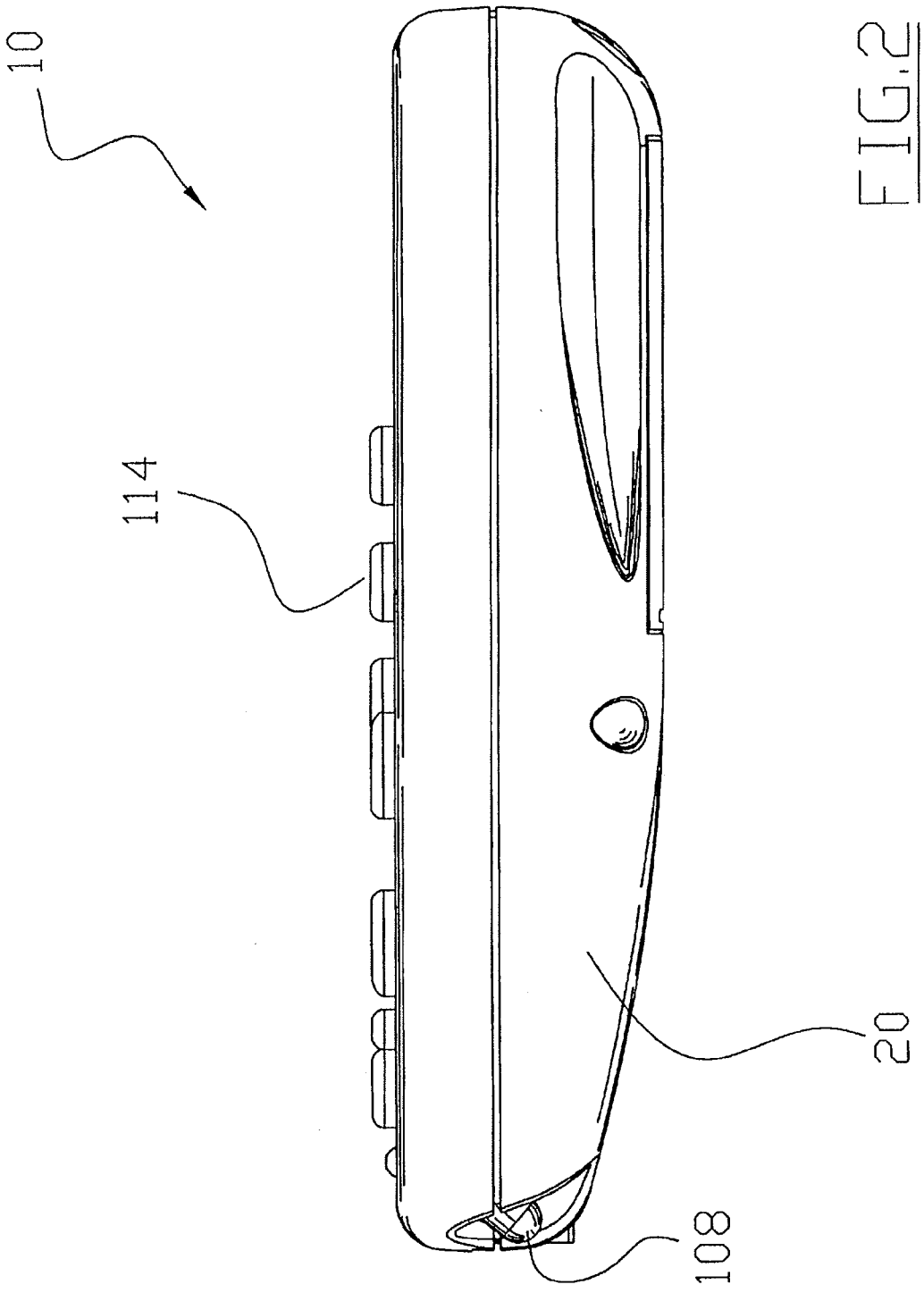


FIG. 2

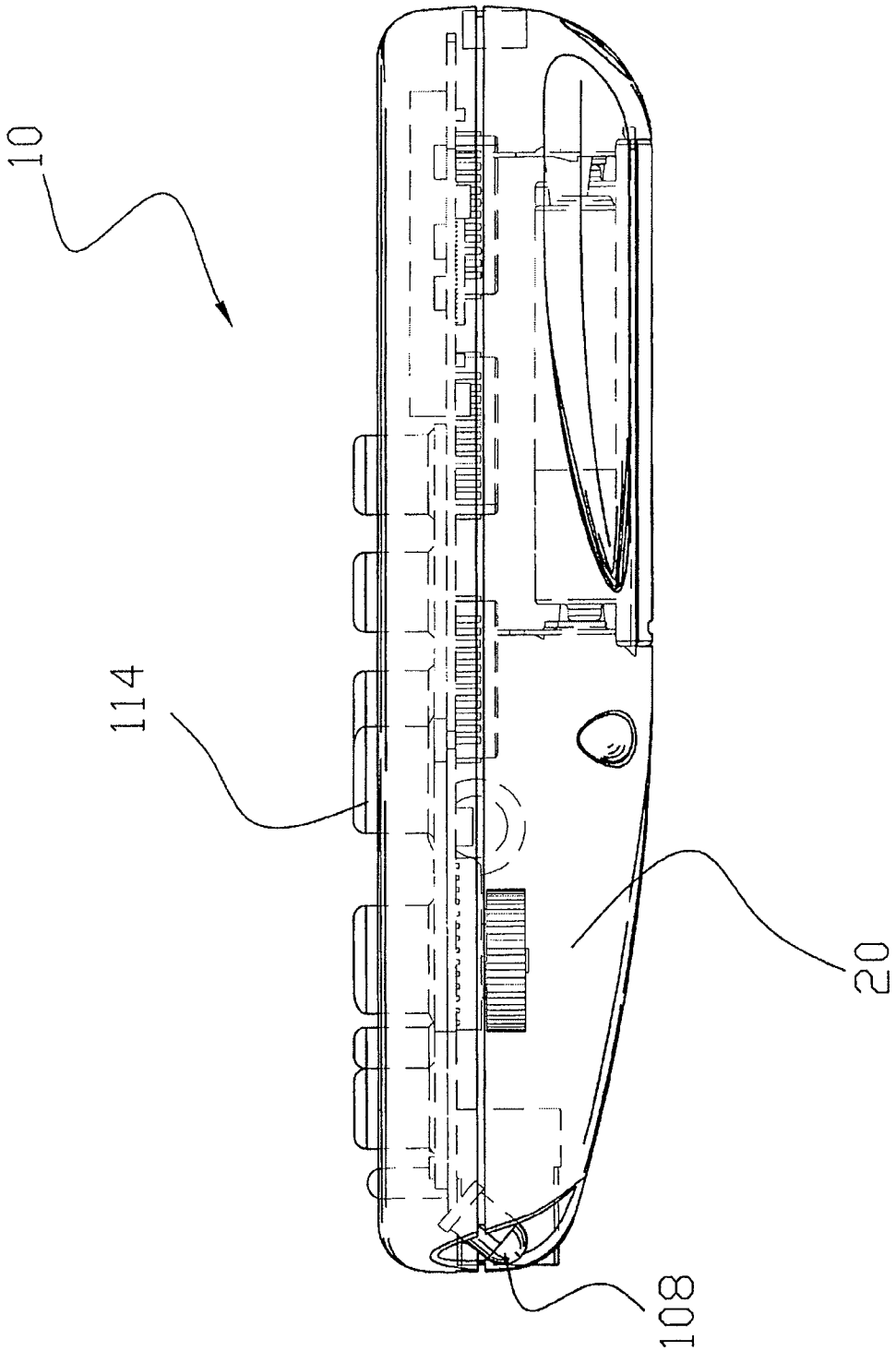


FIG. 3

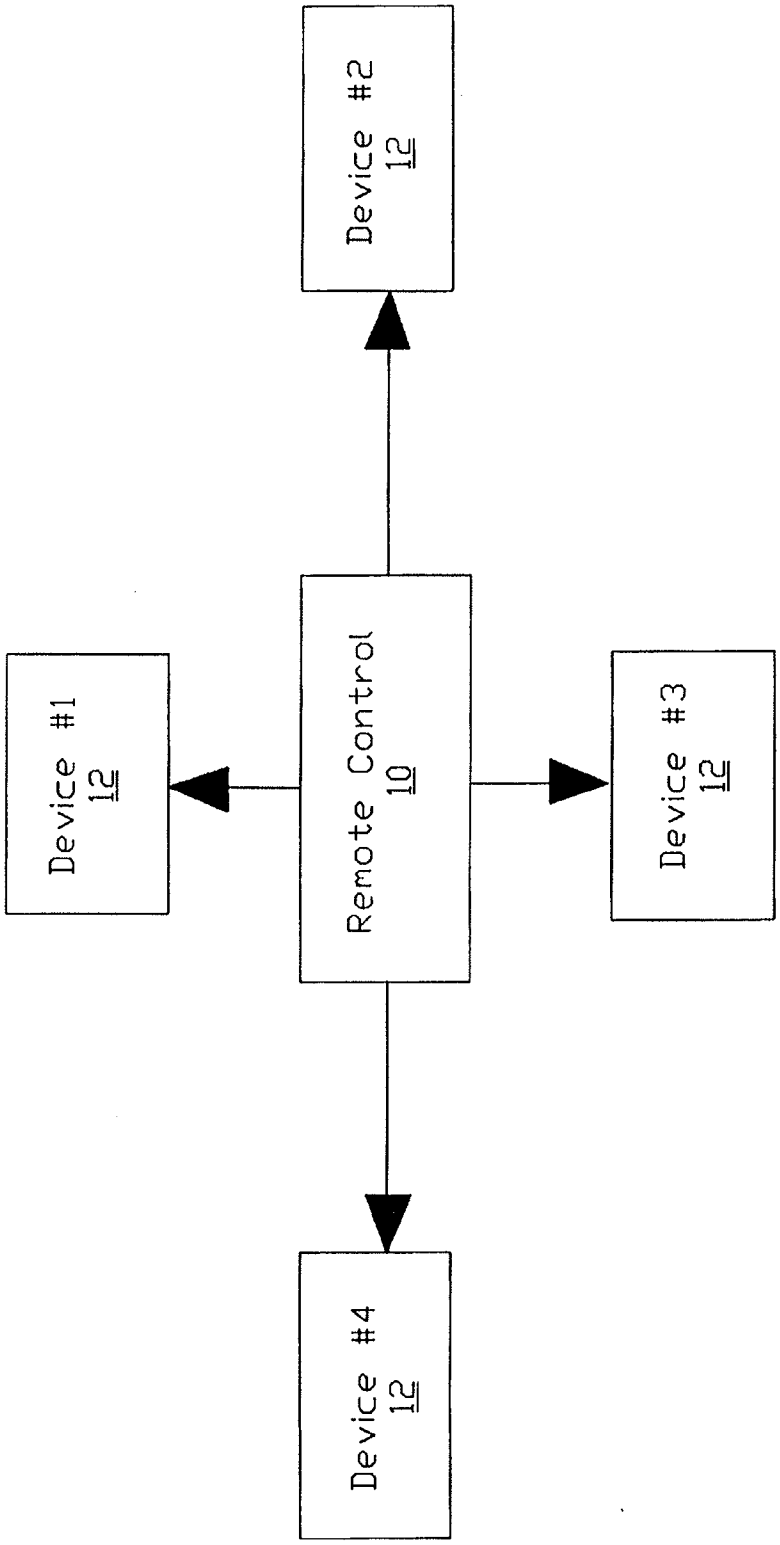
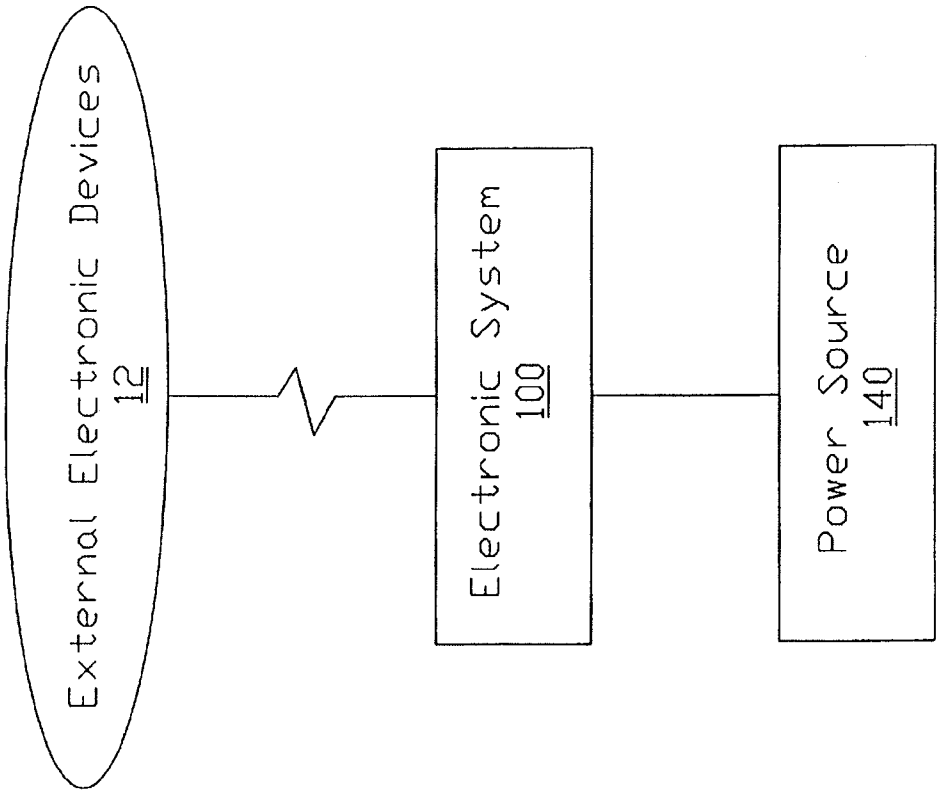
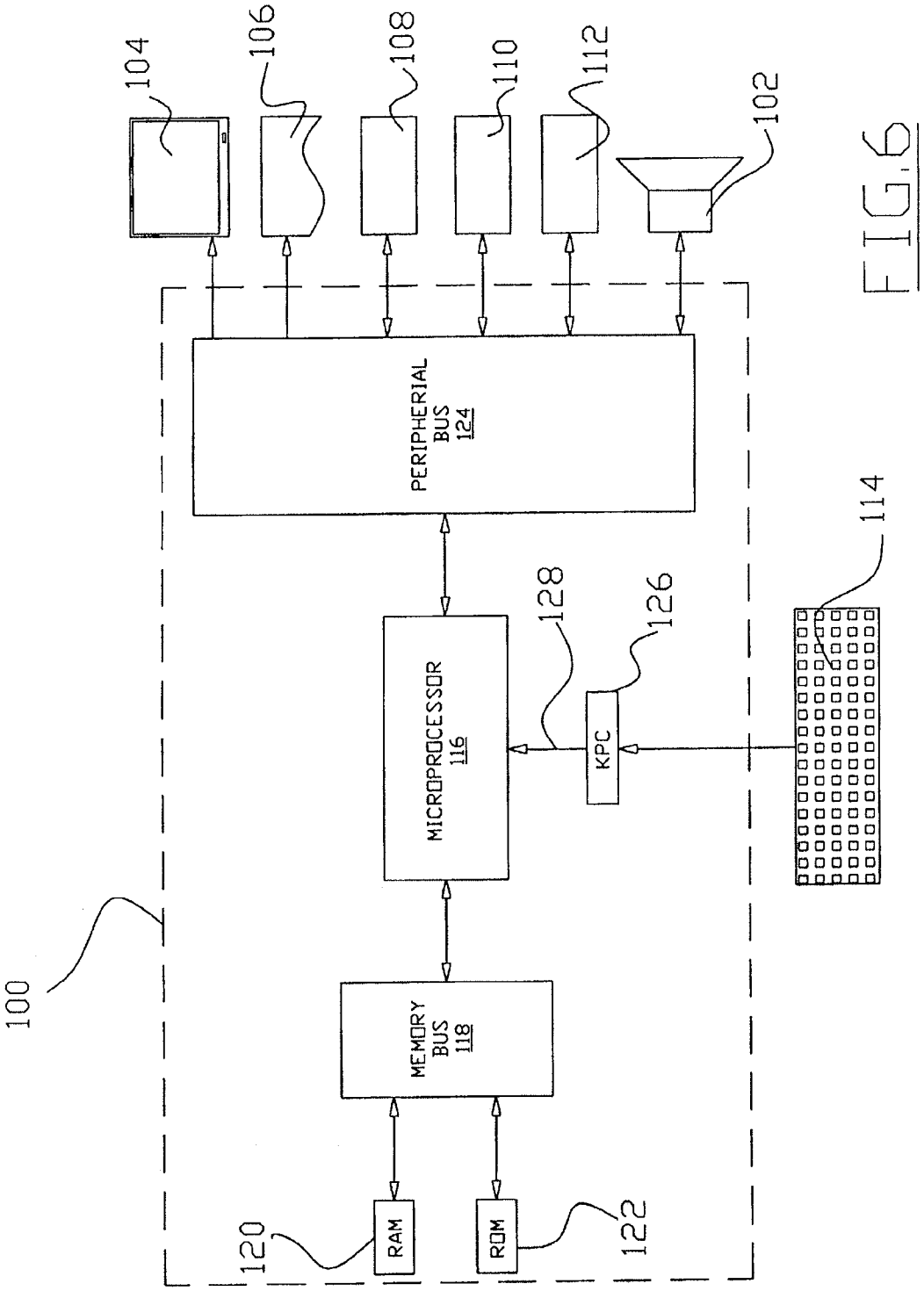

Device #2
12
Device #1
12
Remote Control
10
Device #3
12
Device #4
12

FIG. 4

FIG. 5


External Electronic Devices
12
Electronic System
100
Power Source
140


104
106
108
110
112
102
PERIPHERIAL BUS 124
114
128
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MICROPROCESSOR 116
KPC
100
MEMORY BUS 118
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RAM
ROM
122

FIG. 6

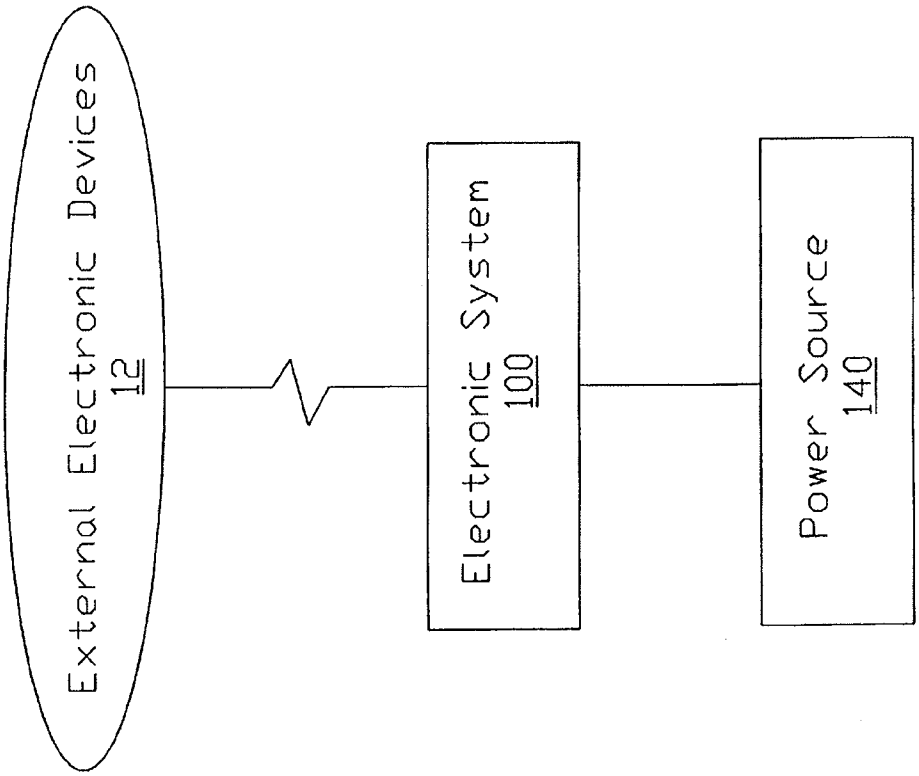

External Electronic Devices
12
Electronic System
100
Power Source
140

FIG. 7

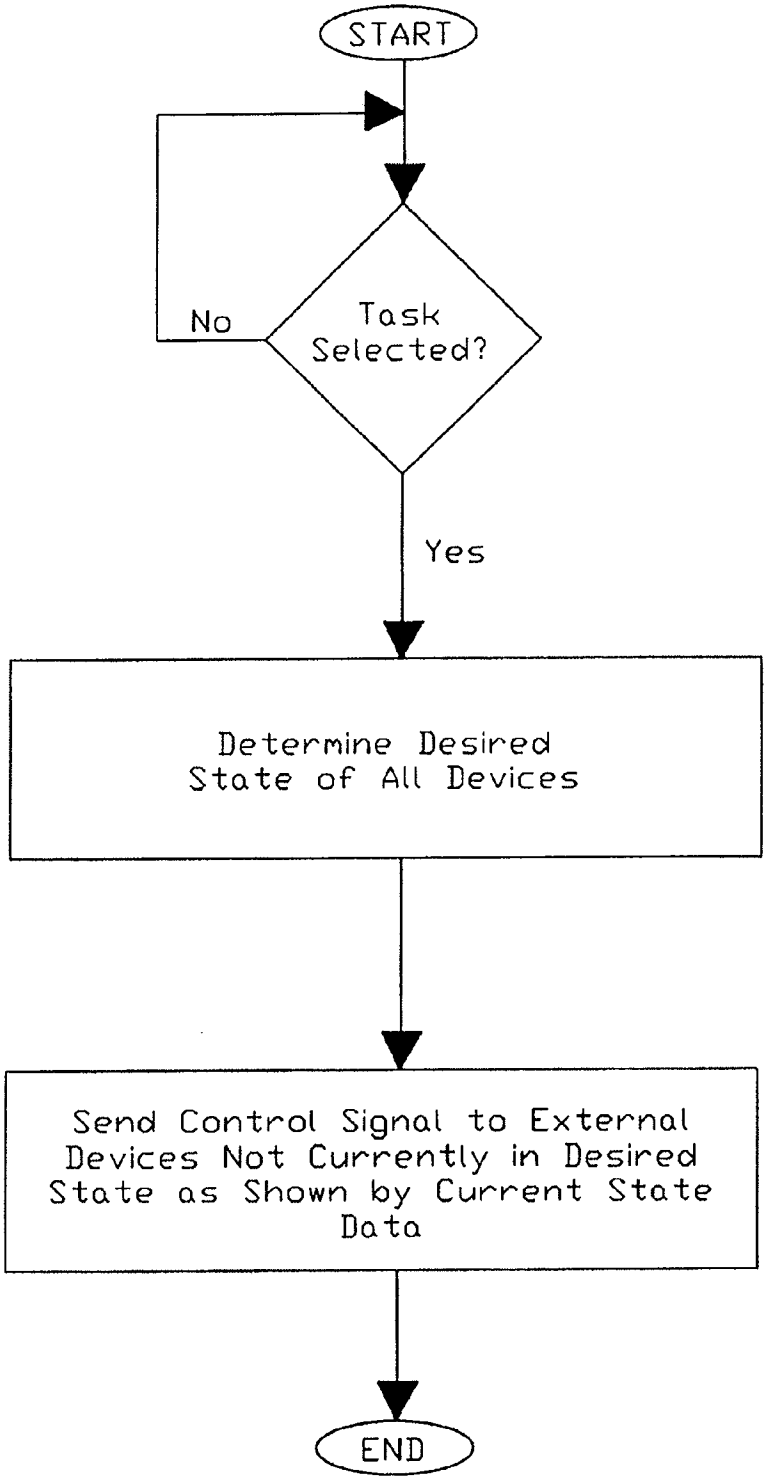

START
Task Selected?
No
Yes
Determine Desired State of All Devices
Send Control Signal to External Devices Not Currently in Desired State as Shown by Current State Data
END

FIG. 8

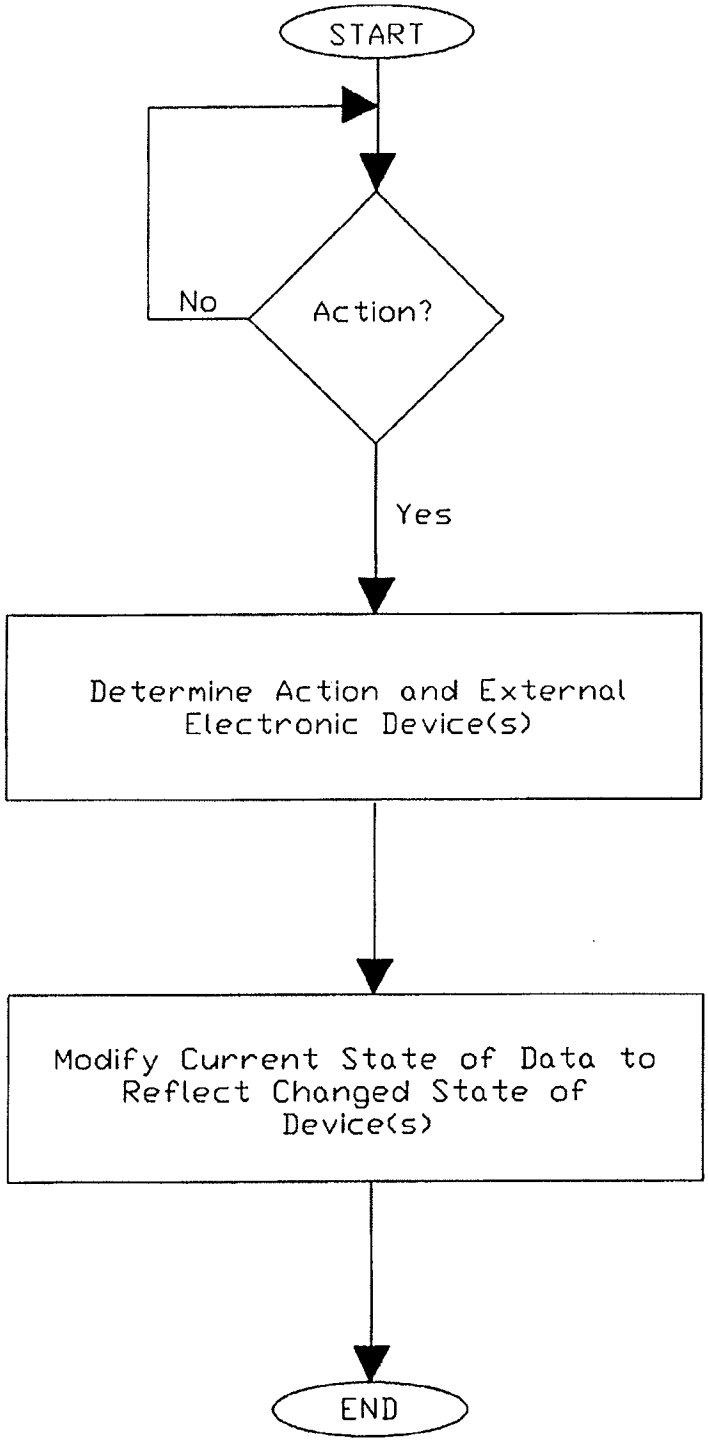

START
No
Action?
Yes
Determine Action and External Electronic Device(s)
Modify Current State of Data to Reflect Changed State of Device(s)
END

FIG. 9

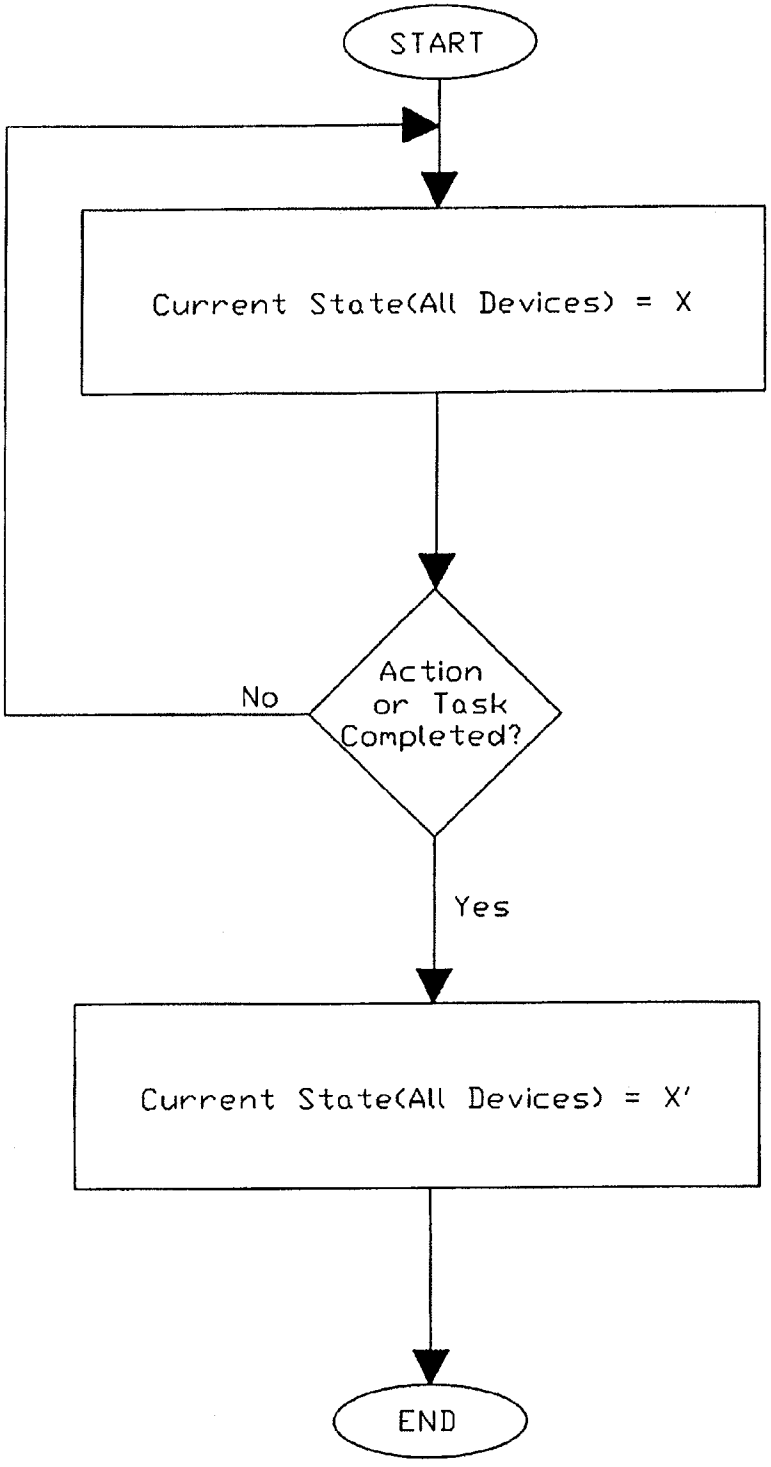

START
Current State(All Devices) = X
Action or Task Completed?
No
Yes
Current State(All Devices) = X'
END

FIG.10

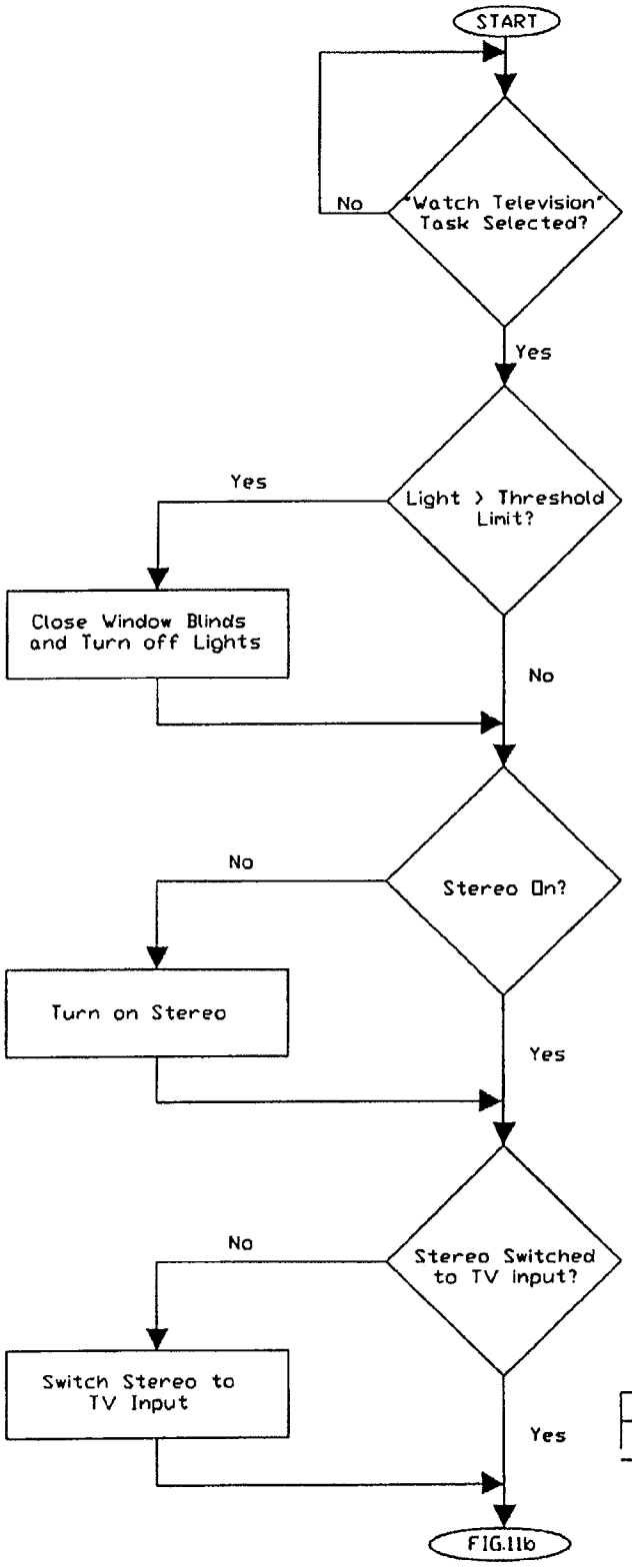

START
"Watch Television" Task Selected?
No
Yes
Light > Threshold Limit?
Yes
Close Window Blinds and Turn off Lights
No
Stereo On?
No
Turn on Stereo
Yes
Stereo Switched to TV Input?
No
Switch Stereo to TV Input
Yes
FIG.11b

FIG.11a

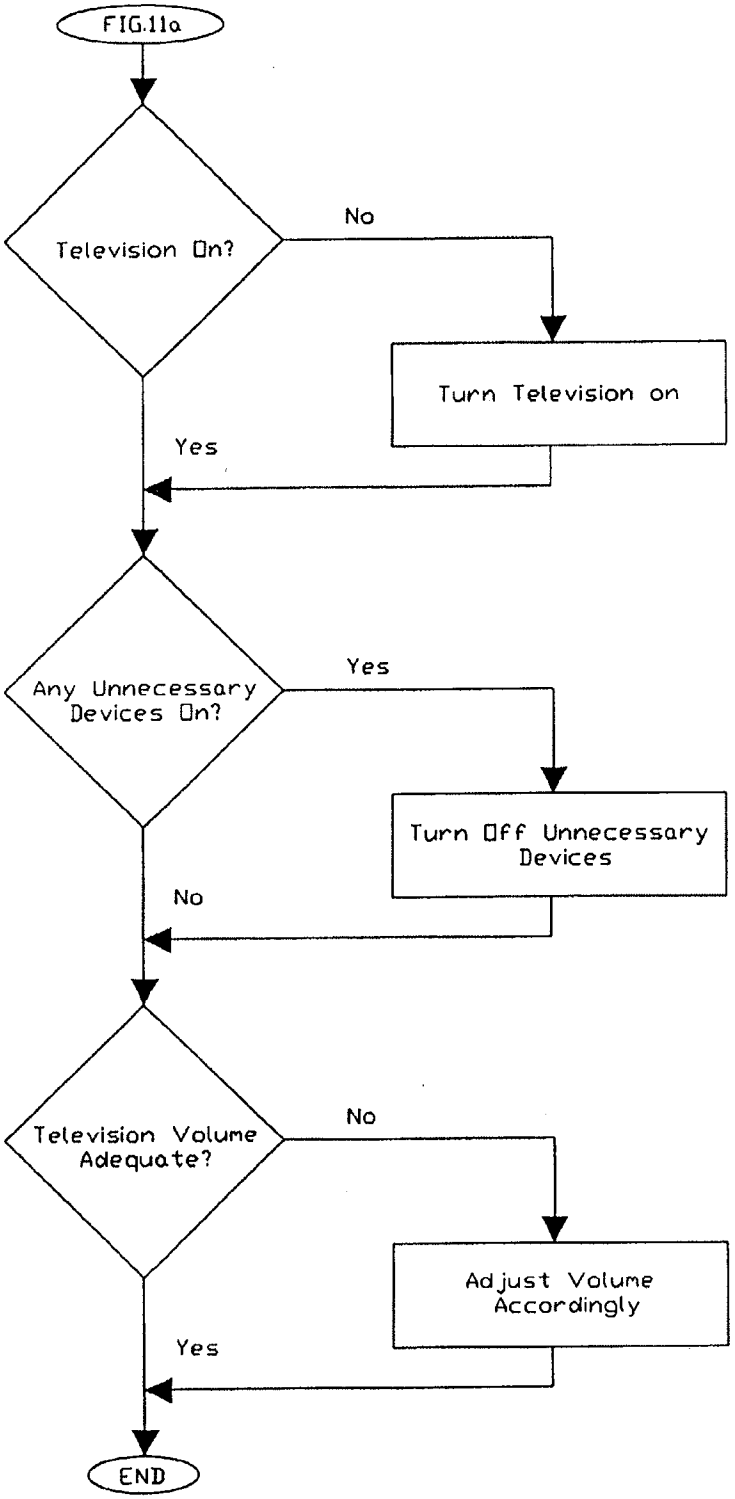


FIG.11a
Television On?
No
Turn Television on
Yes
Any Unnecessary Devices On?
Yes
Turn Off Unnecessary Devices
No
Television Volume Adequate?
No
Adjust Volume Accordingly
Yes
END

FIG.11b

STATE-BASED REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED U.S. PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS

I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/189,487 filed Mar. 15, 2000, and U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/253,727 filed Nov. 29, 2000. This application is a continuation of the 60/189,487 and 60/253,727 applications. The 60/189,487 and 60/253,727 applications are currently pending. The 60/189,487 and 60/253,727 applications are hereby incorporated by reference into this patent application.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to remote control devices and more specifically it relates to a state-based remote control system for providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Remote control devices have been in use for years. Remote control devices are utilized to operate various external electronic devices including but not limited to televisions, stereos, receivers, VCRs, DVD players, CD players, amplifiers, equalizers, tape players, cable units, lighting, window shades and other electronic devices. A conventional remote control is typically comprised of a housing structure, a keypad within the housing structure for entering commands by the user, electronic circuitry within the housing structure connected to the keypad, and a transmitter electrically connected to the electronic circuitry for transmitting a control signal to an electronic device to be operated.

The user depresses one or more buttons upon the keypad when a desired operation of a specific electronic device is desired. For example, if the user desires to turn the power off to a VCR, the user will depress the power button upon the remote control which transmits a "power off" control signal that is detected by the VCR resulting in the VCR turning off.

Because of the multiple electronic devices currently available within many homes and businesses today, a relatively new type of remote control is utilized to allow for the control of a plurality of electronic devices commonly referred to as a "universal remote control." Most universal remote controls have "selector buttons" that are associated with the specific electronic device to be controlled by the remote control (i.e. television, VCR, DVD player, etc.).

A few universal remote controls allow for "macros" to be programmed into the remote control so that when a preprogrammed button is depressed a string of commands is executed as programmed. For example, if the user desires to operate their television along with the stereo receiving input from the television, the user would program a macro for turning on the television, turning on the stereo and then switching the input to the stereo for receiving audio input from the television. The main problem with conventional universal remote controls is that they are unable to detect or monitor the state of a particular electronic device. Another problem with conventional universal remote controls is that when a preprogrammed macro is executed, an undesirable effect can occur wherein electronic devices that are desired to be turned on are actually turned off. For example, if the television is already on but the stereo is tuned to a local radio station and the user selects the above macro the power to the television would actually be turned off instead of maintained on.

Recently, universal remote controls have been developed that communicate via radio frequency (RF) with external sensing devices that are connected to the electronic devices for detecting the current state of the electronic device. Other remote controls are able to receive and display information from the electronic device they control such as displaying the name of a radio station on a display of the remote. These devices are relatively expensive and again difficult to utilize for the average consumer.

The main problem with conventional remote control devices is that they are typically unable to know the particular "state" of an electronic device they are to control, particularly universal remote controls. A further problem with conventional remote controls that do allow for advanced configuration thereof to compensate for the various states of the electronic device is that they are often times difficult for the average consumer to utilize. Another problem with conventional remote control devices is that they force consumers to view their electronic devices "individually" (i.e. turn television on, turn stereo on, switch audio input on stereo to television) rather than in broad "tasks" (e.g. watch television).

While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they are not as suitable for providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task. Conventional remote controls are typically programmed to operate only one electronic device. Conventional universal remote controls are typically programmed to operate electronic devices "individually" or are difficult to configure to automated control of a plurality of electronic devices.

In these respects, the state-based remote control system according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of remote controls now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new state-based remote control system construction wherein the same can be utilized for providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new state-based remote control system that has many of the advantages of the remote controls mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new state-based remote control system which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art remote controls, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a housing, a keypad in communication with an electronic system contained within the housing, and a communication device in communication with the electronic system for communicating with external electronic devices. The electronic system constantly monitors the buttons selected by a

user to determine the state of all external electronic devices that are to be controlled. When the user selects a task (e.g. watch television), the electronic system automatically determines the actions required to achieve the desired task based upon the current state of the external electronic devices. After the task has been fulfilled, the electronic system updates the data to reflect the modified state of the external electronic devices.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide a state-based remote control system that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide a state-based remote control system for providing efficient and simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices as a coordinated system based upon an overall task.

Another object is to provide a state-based remote control system that provides for intuitive operation of a plurality of electronic devices.

An additional object is to provide a state-based remote control system that allows for the simple operation of a plurality of electronic devices based upon an overall "task" instead of specific controls for specific electronic devices.

A further object is to provide a state-based remote control system that is simple and easy to utilize for the average consumer.

Another object is to provide a state-based remote control system that does not require significant programming prior to usage.

An additional object is to provide a state-based remote control system that is affordable.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the present invention.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

FIG. **1** is an upper perspective view of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a side view of the present invention.

FIG. **3** is a side view of the present invention illustrating electronic circuitry within.

FIG. **4** is a block diagram illustrating the communications between the present invention and a plurality of external electronic devices.

FIG. **5** is a block diagram illustrating the electronic system of the present invention electrically connected to the power source and in communication with the external electronic devices.

FIG. **6** is a block diagram illustrating the electronic system along with a plurality of accessory devices connected to thereof.

FIG. **7** is a flowchart illustrating the initial programming of the present invention prior to usage.

FIG. **8** is a flowchart illustrating the modification of the state of external electronic devices not in the desired state as desired within a task to be performed.

FIG. **9** is a flowchart illustrating an action performed upon one or more external devices and modifying the memory within the electronic system accordingly.

FIG. **10** is a flowchart illustrating the modification of the memory within the electronic system to reflect the changed state of the external electronic devices after a task or an action has been completed.

FIGS. **11***a–b* is a flowchart providing an example task for watching television being executed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. **1** through **11** illustrate a state-based remote control system **10**, which comprises a housing **20**, a keypad **114** in communication with an electronic system **100** contained within the housing **20**, and a communication device **108** in communication with the electronic system **100** for communicating with external electronic devices **12**. The electronic system **100** constantly monitors the buttons of the keypad **114** and other switches selected by a user to determine the state of all external electronic devices **12** that are to be controlled. When the user selects a task (e.g. watch television), the electronic system **100** automatically determines the actions required to achieve the desired task based upon the current state of the external electronic devices **12**. After the task has been fulfilled, the electronic system **100** updates the data to reflect the modified state of the external electronic devices **12**.

A. Housing Structure

The present invention generally is comprised of a housing **20** having a structure and shape similar to conventional remote control devices. The housing **20** may be constructed of various types of materials and shapes as can be appreciated by one skilled in the art. The housing is preferably structured to be ergonomic for a majority of users.

B. Electronic System

The present invention is utilized to control and operate various external electronic devices including but not limited to televisions, stereos, receivers, VCRs, DVD players, CD players, amplifiers, equalizers, tape players, cable units, satellite dish receivers, lighting, window shades and other electronic devices. Almost any number of external electronic devices may be controlled by the present invention as will be discussed in further detail.

FIG. **6** is a block diagram of an exemplary electronic system **100** for practicing the various aspects of the present invention. The electronic system **100** is preferably enclosed within the housing. A portable power source **140** is electrically connected to the electronic system **100** for providing electrical power to the electronic system **100**. The power source **140** may be comprised of any power source such as a battery structure (disposable or rechargeable), solar cells, or direct power.

The electronic system **100** preferably includes a display screen **104**, a network interface **112**, a keypad **114**, a microprocessor **116**, a memory bus **118**, random access memory (RAM) **120**, a speaker **102**, read only memory (ROM) **122**, a peripheral bus **124**, a keypad controller **126**, and a communications device **108**. As can be appreciated, the electronic system **100** of the present invention may be comprised of any combination of well-known computer devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, remote control devices and other similar electronic structures.

The microprocessor **116** is a general-purpose digital processor that controls the operation of the electronic system **100**. The microprocessor **116** can be a single-chip processor or implemented with multiple components. Using instructions retrieved from memory, the microprocessor **116** controls the reception and manipulations of input data and the output and display of data on output devices.

The memory bus **118** is utilized by the microprocessor **116** to access RAM **120** and ROM **122**. RAM **120** is used by microprocessor **116** as a general storage area and as scratch-pad memory, and can also be used to store input data and processed data. ROM **122** can be used to store instructions or program code followed by microprocessor **116** as well as other data.

Peripheral bus **124** is used to access the input, output and storage devices used by the electronic system **100**. In the described embodiment(s), these devices include a display screen **104**, an accessory device **106**, a speaker **102**, a communications device **108**, and a network interface **112**. A keypad controller **126** is used to receive input from the keypad **114** and send decoded symbols for each pressed key to microprocessor **116** over bus **128**.

The display screen **104** is an output device that displays images of data provided by the microprocessor **116** via the peripheral bus **124** or provided by other components in the electronic system **100**. Other output devices such as a printer, plotter, typesetter, etc. can be utilized as an accessory device **106**.

The microprocessor **116** together with an operating system operate to execute computer code and produce and use data. The computer code and data may reside on RAM **120**, ROM **122**, or other storage mediums. The computer code and data could also reside on a removable program medium and loaded or installed onto the electronic system **100** when needed. Removable program mediums include, for example, PC-CARD, flash memory, and floppy disk.

The network interface **112** is utilized to send and receive data over a network connected to other electronic systems. The network interface may be comprised of a Universal Serial Bus (USB), an external bus standard that supports data transfer rates of 12 Mbps (12 million bits per second). A single USB port can be used to connect up to 127 peripheral devices, such as mice, modems, and keyboards. An interface card or similar device and appropriate software implemented by microprocessor **116** can be utilized to connect the electronic system **100** to an existing network and transfer data according to standard protocols including data over a global computer network such as the Internet.

The keypad **114** is used by a user to input commands and other instructions to the electronic system **100**. Other types of user input devices can also be used in conjunction with the present invention. For example, pointing devices such as a computer mouse, a jog switch **22**, a track ball, a stylus, or a tablet to manipulate a pointer on a screen of the electronic system **100**.

The present invention can also be embodied as computer readable code on a computer readable medium. The computer readable medium is any data storage device that can store data which can be thereafter be read by a electronic system. Examples of the computer readable medium include read-only memory, random-access memory, magnetic data storage devices such as diskettes, and optical data storage devices such as CD-ROMs. The computer readable medium can also be distributed over a network coupled electronic systems so that the computer readable code is stored and executed in a distributed fashion.

The communications device **108** may be comprised of any well-known communication system that allows communications with external electronic devices. The communications device **108** may provide for various types of communication such as but not limited to via infrared (IR), wireless (e.g. BLUETOOTH), unidirectional, bi-directional, radio frequency (RF), visible light, ultrasonic and various other means for communicating with external electronic devices.

The environmental unit **110** senses environmental information such as lighting, motion, orientation, temperature, audio and other environmental information. The environmental unit **110** communicates the detected environmental information to the microprocessor **116** for consideration in controlling the external electronic devices. The environmental unit **110** includes the appropriate sensors such as light sensors, temperature sensors, sound sensors and other desirable sensors to determine the environment conditions external of the housing.

Input into the electronic system is accomplished mainly through the usage of the keypad **114**. The keypad **114** includes a plurality of buttons that allow the user to execute one or more commands. The keypad **114** allows for the control of basic functions such as volume, channel manipulation, mute, and last channel. However, the keypad **114** may also include several buttons that represent a specific task such as watch television, listen to radio and various other tasks. Various other input devices may be utilized to input data into the electronic system such as a jog switch **22** (i.e. dial), motion and orientation detectors, touch sensitive screens and voice recognition. The display **104** provides information to the user such as possible tasks to complete or the current state of the external electronic devices.

C. Initializing/Synchronizing of Electronic System with External Devices

Prior to utilizing the present invention, the user must program the electronic system **100** to not only recognize all of the external electronic devices **12** to be controlled but also as to each external electronic device **12** respective current "states" (i.e. on, off, current input, current output, etc.) as is shown in FIG. **7** of the drawings.

The initial programming of the electronic system **100** may be accomplished through various well-known means such as entering a code for each specific external electronic device. "Sampling" of a signal from a remote control utilized to control a specific electronic device may also be utilized to assist in the programming of the electronic system **100**. Various other methods may be utilized to program the electronic system **100** to recognize and control the external electronic devices **12** which are well known in the art.

After all of the external electronic devices **12** have been properly programmed into the electronic system **100**, the user then must program the "current state" of each external electronic device into the electronic system **100**. This is accomplished typically by the user answering a series of questions shown on the display regarding each display. For example, the display may ask "Is the television turned on?" which the user would respond to. It can be appreciated that there can also be a default state for all of the external devices as being "off." All of the programmed "Current State Data" is stored within memory of the electronic system **100**.

D. Current State Data

"Current State Data" is data information relating to the current state of each of the external electronic devices **12** stored within the electronic system **100**. The "state" of an external electronic device **12** is comprised of various variables such as but not limited to power on, power off, volume level, mute on, mute off, audio input, audio output, video input, video output, lights on, lights off, shades open, shades closed, and various other states common to external electronic devices **12**. The Current State Data is updated as actions and/or tasks are performed to provide an accurate reflection of the actual current state of the external electronic devices **12**. The Current State Data is utilized by the electronic system **100** to determine what external electronic devices **12** require modification when a "task" is selected by the user to prevent undesirable events from occurring.

E. Actions

An "action" is a specific event that occurs that typically only affects one of the external devices. An example of an action is when the user selects the power button on the keypad **114** to turn off the television which causes the television to switch from on to off or vice-versa.

The Current State Data is immediately modified to reflect the changed state of the television or other external electronic device after an action occurs as shown in FIGS. **9** and **10** of the drawings. The Current State Data is constantly updated to maintain an accurate reflection of the actual current state of the external electronic devices **12**.

F. Tasks

A "task" may be comprised of one or more "actions" depending upon (1) the desired state of all external devices as prescribed by the task, and (2) the current state of all external devices. Examples of tasks are "watch television," "listen to radio," "watch video," "listen to CD's," "watch DVD", and so forth. There are many more tasks that may accomplished with the present invention that are not discussed but are deemed readily apparent to one skilled in the art.

Each task has a "desired state" for each of the external electronic devices **12**. When a task is selected, either through the keypad or the display, the electronic system **100** immediately determines the Current State Data and compares this data to the "Desired State Data" for all of the external electronic devices **12**. After determining which external electronic devices **12** are in the desired state and which are not in the desired state, the electronic system **100** transmits a communication signal to the external electronic devices **12** that are not in the desired state to switch to the desired state based upon the task to be performed.

Another function of the present invention is to allow for the electronic system **100** to determine what menu options (i.e. "tasks") that are available upon the display **104** based upon the current state of the external electronic devices **12**. For example, if the television is currently on, the menu within the display may display the "Turn Television Off" task instead of the "Turn Television On" task which is not required.

G. Watch Television Task Example

Assuming for the sake of example that a user using the present invention has (1) interior lighting, (2) electronically controlled shades, (3) a stereo, (4) a television, (5) a CD player, and (6) a VCR which are programmed and synchronized within the electronic system as stated above. FIG. **11** illustrates the "WATCH TELEVISION" task. Below is a sample listing of the "Current State Data" prior to the selection of the WATCH TELEVISION task as shown in FIG. 11 of the drawings.

Current State Data

External Device	Initial State Prior to Execution of Task
1. Room Lighting	Lights turned on and shades open during evening hours.
2. Stereo	Turned on with input audio from CD player.
3. Television	Turned off with volume very high.
4. CD Player	On and playing CD.
5. VCR	Off.

After selecting the desired WATCH TELEVISION task, the electronic system **100** immediately reads the Current State Data and compares the same to the "Desired State Data." Below is a listing of the Desired State Data for the WATCH TELEVISION task.

Desired State Data

External Device	Desired State After Execution of Task
1. Room Lighting	Light threshold at a minimum.
2. Stereo	Turned on with input audio from television.
3. Television	Turned on with volume at a low-medium setting.
4. CD Player	Off.
5. VCR	Off.

After comparing the Current State Data to the Desired State Data, the electronic system **100** determines that the room lighting needs to be reduced by turning off lights and closing shades along with switching the audio input to the television. The electronic system **100** further determines that the television needs to be turned on and the CD player turned off. Below is a listing of the individual actions that the electronic system **100** takes to perform the WATCH TELEVISION task.

Actions Performed to Reach Desired State

External Device	Action Performed
1. Room Lighting	Turn lighting off and close shades
2. Stereo	Switch input audio to television.
3. Television	Turn on and reduce volume to low-medium setting.
4. CD Player	Turn off.
5. VCR	No action taken.

After the specific actions are executed to accomplish the overall task, the memory within the electronic system **100** is automatically updated to reflect the various changes to the state of each individual external electronic device **12** for reference later. Below is a listing of the Current State Data after the WATCH TELEVISION task has been performed.

Current State Data
(After Execution of Task)

External Device	Current State After Execution of Task
1. Room Lighting	Light threshold at a minimum.
2. Stereo	Turned on with input audio from television.
3. Television	Turned on with volume at a low-medium setting.
4. CD Player	Off.
5. VCR	Off.

The above process is repeated for the life of the state-based remote control system **10**. If additional external electronic devices are added to the overall entertainment system of the user, the user simply programs the added device **12** into the electronic system **100** and synchronizes the electronic system **100** accordingly.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed to be within the expertise of those skilled in the art, and all equivalent structural variations and relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. A state-based remote control system, comprising:

an electronic system capable of storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device;

a communication device connected to said electronic system for emitting a control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input unit connected to said electronic system for communicating with said electronic system;

wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one action performed by said electronic system in controlling said at least one electronic device.

2. The state-based remote control system of claim **1**, wherein said input unit includes a keypad having a plurality of buttons.

3. The state-based remote control system of claim **2**, wherein said input unit includes a display.

4. The state-based remote control system of claim **1**, wherein said electronic system is capable of performing tasks based upon a desired state data as compared to said simulated current state data.

5. The state-based remote control system of claim **1**, wherein said electronic system only modifies a state of an electronic device that has a simulated current state that does not match a desired state.

6. The state-based remote control system of claim **1**, wherein said communication device is able to transmit and receive data.

7. The state-based remote control system of claim **1**, wherein said electronic system is programmable to allow for the control of a plurality of external electronic devices.

8. A method of operating a state-based remote control system having an electronic system with a communication device and an input device for controlling at least one external electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a simulated current state data of said at least one external electronic device;

(b) receiving an action request from said input device with respect to said at least one external electronic device;

(c) performing said action request by communicating to said at least one external electronic device; and

(d) modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device based upon said action request.

9. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **8**, wherein said step (a) comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding the current state of each of said external electronic devices.

10. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **8**, wherein said step (a) comprises assuming all of said external electronic devices are in a predetermined current state.

11. A method of operating a state-based remote control system having an electronic system with a communication device and an input device for controlling a at least one external electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a simulated current state data of said at least one external electronic device;

(b) receiving a task request from said input device with respect to said at least one external electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data stored within said electronic system;

(c) determining which of said external electronic devices require a modification to their respective state in order to achieve said desired state data; and

(d) modifying at least one selected external electronic device to conform to said desired state data.

12. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **11**, including the following step:

(e) updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one selected external electronic device.

13. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **11**, wherein said step (a) comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

14. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **11**, wherein said step (a) comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined current state.

15. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **11**, wherein said step (c) comprises comparing said simulated current state data with said desired state data.

16. The method of operating a state-based remote control system of claim **11**, including the step of:

(c) displaying a menu containing at least one task that are dependent upon a state of said at least one external electronic device.

17. A remote control apparatus, comprising:

a means for storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device, wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one action performed in controlling said at least one electronic device;

a communication device in communication with said means, wherein said communication device is capable of emitting at least one control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input device in communication with said means.

18. The remote control apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means is capable of performing tasks based upon a desired state data as compared to said simulated current state data.

19. The remote control system of claim 17, wherein said means only modifies a state of one or more electronic devices that has a simulated current state that does not match a desired state.

20. A remote control apparatus, comprising:

an electronic circuit for storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device, wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one action performed in controlling said at least one electronic device;

a communication device in communication with said electronic circuit, wherein said communication device is capable of emitting at least one control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input device in communication with said electronic circuit.

21. The remote control apparatus of claim 20, wherein said electronic circuit is capable of performing tasks based upon a desired state data as compared to said simulated current state data.

22. The remote control system of claim 20, wherein said electronic circuit only modifies a state of one or more electronic devices that has a simulated current state that does not match a desired state.

23. A method of operating a remote control for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device;

receiving an action request from said input device with respect to said at least one electronic device;

performing said action request by communicating to said at least one external electronic device; and

modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device based upon said action request.

24. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 23, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding the current state of said at least one electronic device.

25. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 23, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one electronic device is in a predetermined current state.

26. A method of operating a remote control system for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device;

receiving a task request for said at least one electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data;

determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification to its respective state in order to achieve said desired state data; and

modifying a selected electronic device to conform to said desired state data if a modification of state is required.

27. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 26, including updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said selected electronic device.

28. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 26, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

29. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 26, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined initial current state.

30. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 26, wherein said step of determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification comprises comparing said simulated current state data with said desired state data.

31. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 26, including the step of displaying a menu containing at least one task that is dependent upon a state of said at least one electronic device.

32. A method of operating a remote control system for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device;

receiving a task request for said at least one electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data;

determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification to its respective state in order to achieve said desired state data based upon a comparison of said simulated current state data with said desired state data;

modifying a selected electronic device to conform to said desired state data if a modification of state is required; and

updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said selected electronic device.

33. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 32, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

34. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 32, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined initial current state.

35. The method of operating a remote control system of claim 32, including the step of displaying a menu containing at least one task that is dependent upon a state of said at least one electronic device.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,784,805 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/804718
DATED : August 31, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Harris et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE CLAIMS, should read

-- 1. A state-based remote control, comprising:

a remote control capable of storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device;

a communication device connected to said remote control for emitting a control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input unit connected to said remote control for communicating with said remote control;

wherein said simulated current state data is calculated and updated based upon at least one action performed by said remote control in controlling said at least one electronic device prior to a next action or a next task.

2. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said input unit includes a keypad having a plurality of buttons.

3. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said input unit includes a display.

4. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said remote control is capable of performing tasks based upon a desired state data as compared to said simulated current state data.

5. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said remote control only modifies a state of an electronic device that has a simulated current state that does not match a desired state.

6. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said communication device is able to transmit and receive data.

7. The state-based remote control of Claim 1, wherein said remote control is programmable to allow for the control of a plurality of external electronic devices.

8. A method of operating a state-based remote control having an electronic circuit with a communication device and an input device for controlling at least one external electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a simulated current state data of said at least one external electronic device;

(b) receiving an action request or a task request from said input device with respect to said at least one external electronic device;

(c) performing said action request or said task request by communicating to said at least one external electronic device; and

(d) modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device based upon said action request or said task request prior to a next action request or a task request.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,784,805 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/804718
DATED : August 31, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Harris et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

9. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 8, wherein said step (a) comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding the current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

10. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 8, wherein said step (a) comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined current state.

11. A method of operating a state-based remote control having an electronic circuit with a communication device and an input device for controlling at least one external electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a simulated current state data of said at least one external electronic device;

(b) receiving a task request from said input device with respect to said at least one external electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data stored within said electronic circuit;

(c) determining which of said at least one external electronic device require a modification to their respective state in order to achieve said desired state data;

(d) modifying at least one selected external electronic device to conform to said desired state data; and

(e) updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one selected external electronic device prior to a next task or a next action.

12. Canceled

13. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 11, wherein said step (a) comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

14. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 11, wherein said step (a) comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined current state.

15. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 11, wherein said step (c) comprises comparing said simulated current state data with said desired state data.

16. The method of operating a state-based remote control of Claim 11, including the step of: (e) displaying a menu containing at least one task that is dependent upon a state of said at least one external electronic device.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,784,805 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/804718
DATED : August 31, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Harris et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

17. A remote control apparatus, comprising:

a means for storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device, wherein said simulated current state data is calculated and updated based upon at least one action performed in controlling said at least one electronic device prior to a next action or a next task;

a communication device in communication with said means, wherein said communication device is capable of emitting at least one control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input device in communication with said means.

20. A remote control apparatus, comprising:

an electronic circuit for storing, calculating and updating a simulated current state data relating to at least one external electronic device, wherein said simulated current state data is calculated based upon at least one action performed in controlling said at least one electronic device prior to a next action or a next task;

a communication device in communication with said electronic circuit, wherein said communication device is capable of emitting at least one control signal to said at least one external electronic device; and

an input device in communication with said electronic circuit.

21. The remote control apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said electronic circuit is capable of performing tasks based upon a desired state data as compared to said simulated current state data.

22. The remote control apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said electronic circuit only modifies a state of one or more electronic devices that has a simulated current state that does not match a desired state.

23. A method of operating a remote control for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device; receiving an action request from said input device with respect to said at least one electronic device;

performing said action request by communicating to said at least one external electronic device; and

modifying said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said at least one external electronic device based upon said action request prior to a next action request or a next task request.

24. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 23, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding the current state of said at least one electronic device.

25. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 23, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one electronic device is in a predetermined current state.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,784,805 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/804718
DATED : August 31, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Harris et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

26. A method of operating a remote control for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device; receiving a task request for said at least one electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data; determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification to its respective state in order to achieve said desired state data;

modifying a selected electronic device to conform to said desired state data if a modification of state is required; and

updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said selected electronic device prior to a next task or a next action.

27. Canceled

28. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 26, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

29. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 26, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined initial current state.

30. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 26, wherein said step of determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification comprises comparing said simulated current state data with said desired state data.

31. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 26, including the step of displaying a menu containing at least one task that is dependent upon a state of said at least one electronic device.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,784,805 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 09/804718
DATED : August 31, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Harris et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

32. A method of operating a remote control for controlling at least one electronic device, said method comprising the steps of:

determining a simulated current state data of said at least one electronic device;

receiving a task request for said at least one electronic device, wherein said task request has a desired state data;

determining if said at least one electronic device requires a modification to its respective state in order to achieve said desired state data based upon a comparison of said simulated current state data with said desired state data;

modifying a selected electronic device to conform to said desired state data if a modification of state is required; and

updating said simulated current state data to reflect a new state of said selected electronic device prior to a next action request or a next task request.

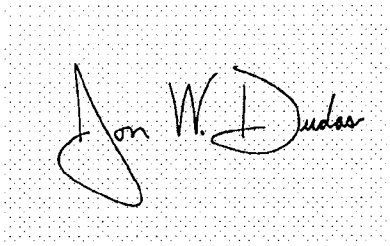
33. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 32, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises asking a series of questions of a user regarding an actual current state of each of said at least one external electronic device.

34. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 32, wherein said step of determining a simulated current state data comprises assuming said at least one external electronic device is in a predetermined initial current state.

35. The method of operating a remote control of Claim 32, including the step of displaying a menu containing at least one task that is dependent upon a state of said at least one electronic device. --

Signed and Sealed this

Nineteenth Day of September, 2006



JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☐)	DEFENDANTS
UNIVERSAL ELECTRONICS INC.	LOGITECH EUROPE S.A.
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.) Wendy M. Mantell & James J. Lukas Jr. Greenberg Traurig, LLP, 2450 Colorado Avenue, Suite 400 East, Santa Monica, California 90404	Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)

☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	☐ 1	☐ 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State	☐ 4	☐ 4
Citizen of Another State	☐ 2	☐ 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	☐ 5	☐ 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	☐ 3	☐ 3	Foreign Nation	☐ 6	☐ 6

IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)

☑ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify): ☐ 6 Multi-District Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge

V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: ☑ Yes ☐ No (Check 'Yes' only if demanded in complaint.)

CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.P. 23: ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ **MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: $**

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)

28 USC - 2201 & 2202

VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)

OTHER STATUTES	CONTRACT	TORTS	TORTS	PRISONER	LABOR
		PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL PROPERTY	PETITIONS	
☐ 400 State Reapportionment	☐ 110 Insurance	☐ 310 Airplane	☐ 370 Other Fraud	☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus	☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act
☐ 410 Antitrust	☐ 120 Marine	☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability	☐ 371 Truth in Lending	☐ 530 General	☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations
☐ 430 Banks and Banking	☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage	☐ 535 Death Penalty	☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act
☐ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.	☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 330 Fed. Employers' Liability	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 540 Mandamus/ Other	☐ 740 Railway Labor Act
☐ 460 Deportation	☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	☐ 340 Marine	BANKRUPTCY	☐ 550 Civil Rights	☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation
☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations	☐ 151 Medicare Act	☐ 345 Marine Product Liability	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 555 Prison Condition	☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act
☐ 480 Consumer Credit	☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle	☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	FORFEITURE / PENALTY	PROPERTY RIGHTS
☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV	☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	CIVIL RIGHTS	☐ 610 Agriculture	☐ 820 Copyrights
☐ 810 Selective Service	☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 360 Other Personal Injury	☐ 441 Voting	☐ 620 Other Food & Drug	☑ 830 Patent
☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange	☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 362 Personal Injury-Med Malpractice	☐ 442 Employment	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	☐ 840 Trademark
☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410	☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	☐ 365 Personal Injury-Product Liability	☐ 443 Housing/Acco-mmodations	☐ 630 Liquor Laws	SOCIAL SECURITY
☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions	☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	☐ 444 Welfare	☐ 640 R.R. & Truck	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)
☐ 891 Agricultural Act	REAL PROPERTY	IMMIGRATION	☐ 445 American with Disabilities - Employment	☐ 650 Airline Regs	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)
☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act	☐ 210 Land Condemnation	☐ 462 Naturalization Application	☐ 446 American with Disabilities - Other	☐ 660 Occupational Safety /Health	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))
☐ 893 Environmental Matters	☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 463 Habeas Corpus-Alien Detainee	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	☐ 690 Other	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI
☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act	☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 465 Other Immigration Actions			☐ 865 RSI (405(g))
☐ 895 Freedom of Info. Act	☐ 240 Torts to Land				FEDERAL TAX SUITS
☐ 900 Appeal of Fee Determi-nation Under Equal Access to Justice	☐ 245 Tort Product Liability				☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	☐ 290 All Other Real Property				☐ 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: **SACV 12 - 00583 AG (MLGx)**

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? ☑ No ☐ Yes
If yes, list case number(s): _____

VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? ☐ No ☑ Yes
If yes, list case number(s): Case No. SACV 11-1056-JVS(ANx)

Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:
(Check all boxes that apply) ☑ A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
☑ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
☑ C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
☑ D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.

IX. VENUE: (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if necessary.)

(a) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named plaintiff resides.
☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Orange County	

(b) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named defendant resides.
☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. If this box is checked, go to item (c).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
	Logitech Europe, S.A. - Switzerland

(c) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** claim arose.
Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Orange County	

*** Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties**
Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER): _____ Date 04/17/2012

Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Andrew Guilford and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Marc Goldman.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

SACV12- 583 AG (MLGx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

---

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[ ] **Western Division**
312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8
Los Angeles, CA 90012

[X] **Southern Division**
411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

[ ] **Eastern Division**
3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Name & Address:
Wendy M. Mantell
James J. Lukas, Jr.
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
2450 Colorado Ave., Suite 400 East,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Universal Electronics, Inc.

PLAINTIFF(S)

v.

Logitech Europe S.A.

DEFENDANT(S).

CASE NUMBER

SACV 12 - 00583 AG (MLGx)

SUMMONS

TO: DEFENDANT(S):

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☑ complaint ☐ _____ amended complaint ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Wendy Mantell / James J. Lukas Jr. , whose address is Greenberg Traurig, LLP 2450 Colorado Ave., Suite 400 East, Santa Monica, CA 90404. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

Dated: 04/17/2012

By: Denise Vo
Deputy Clerk

1146

(Seal of the Court)

[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

ORIGINAL

Name & Address:
Wendy M. Mantell
James J. Lukas, Jr.
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
2450 Colorado Ave., Suite 400 East,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Universal Electronics, Inc.

PLAINTIFF(S)

v.

Logitech Europe S.A.

DEFENDANT(S).

CASE NUMBER

SACV 12 - 00583 AG (MLGx)

SUMMONS

TO: DEFENDANT(S):

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☑ complaint ☐ _____ amended complaint ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Wendy Mantell / James J. Lukas Jr., whose address is Greenberg Traurig, LLP 2450 Colorado Ave., Suite 400 East, Santa Monica, CA 90404. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

Dated: 04/17/2012

By: Denise VO
Deputy Clerk

(Seal of the Court)

[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

ORIGINAL