United States Patent [19]

Rackley

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[54] STOLEN OBJECT LOCATION SYSTEM

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[51] Int. Cl.⁴ G01S 3/02

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[52] U.S. Cl. 342/457; 342/450; 342/463; 342/388

[58] Field of Search 340/63, 988, 989; 342/457, 450, 463–465, 387, 389, 45, 455, 456

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[57] ABSTRACT

A stolen object location system having a base station, a location network and an object unit which is associated with the object to be located. The location system is capable of operating in a plurality of different location modes ranging from simple triangulation to LORAN. The base station, upon being notified that the object has been stolen, will transmit a locate request message to the object unit specifying the location mode to be used and the transmission frequency of the object unit's transmitter. An electronic control in the object unit will control the operation of the object unit's receiver and transmitter in accordance with the location mode and transmission frequency specified in the locate request message. The electronic control will also initiate the transmission of an alarm message if the object unit loses communication with the base station, and is capable of transmitting a tattle-tale message, effectively relaying the alarm message of another object unit if the base station does not respond to the other object unit's alarm message.
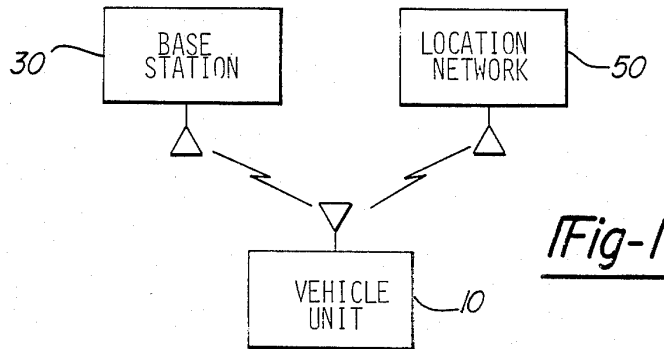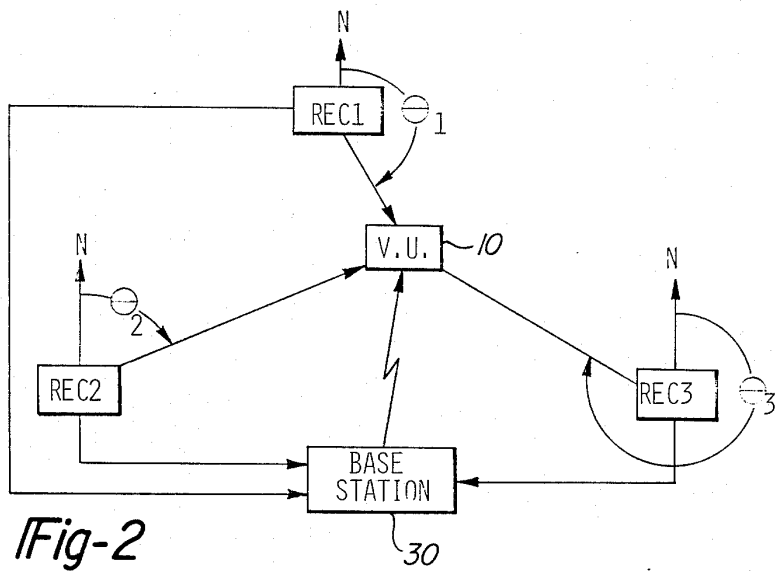
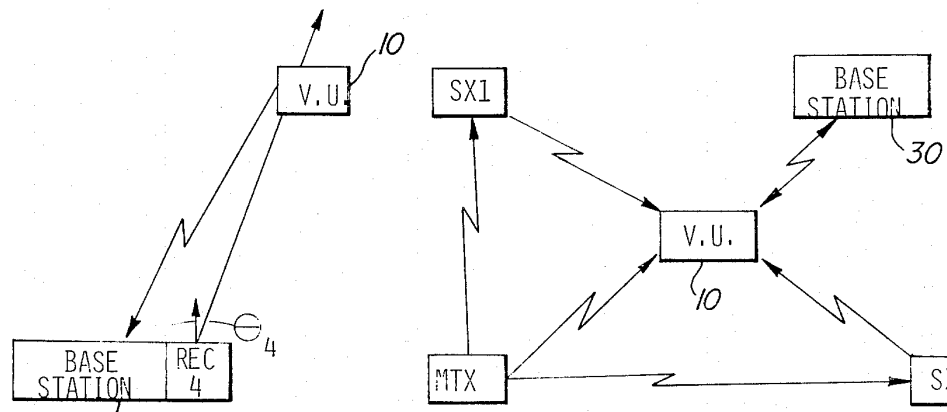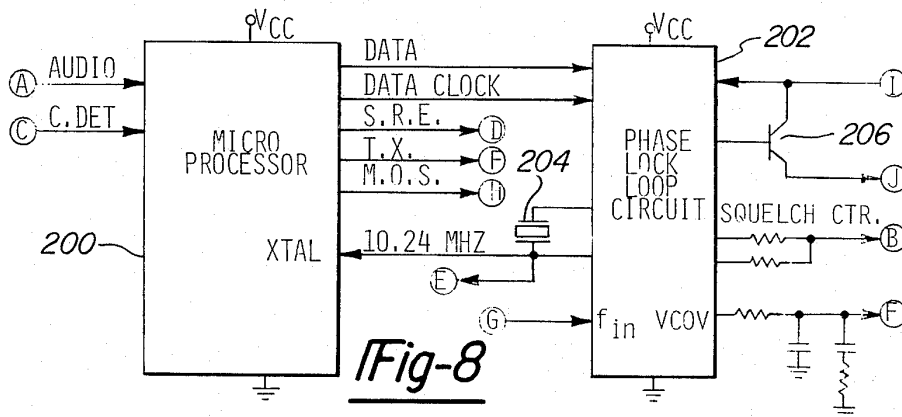36 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

Fig-1

Fig-2
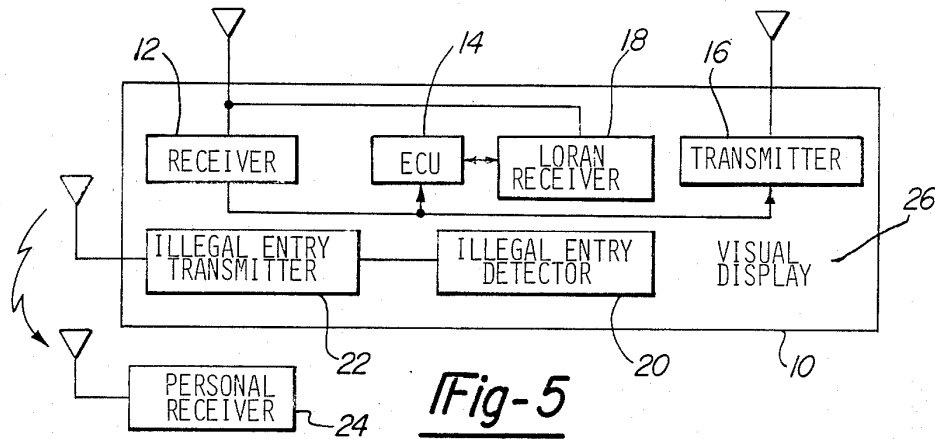

Fig-3

Fig-4

Fig-5

Fig-6

Fig-8
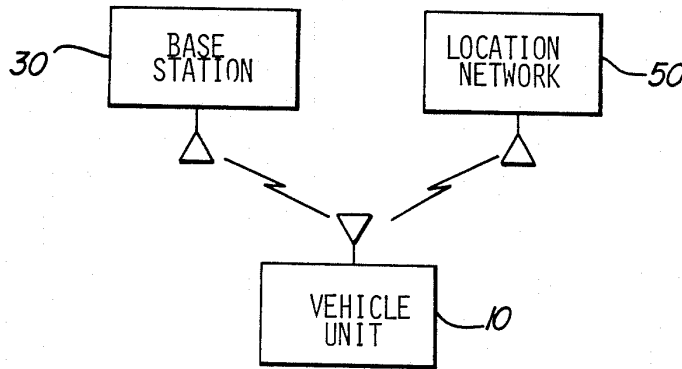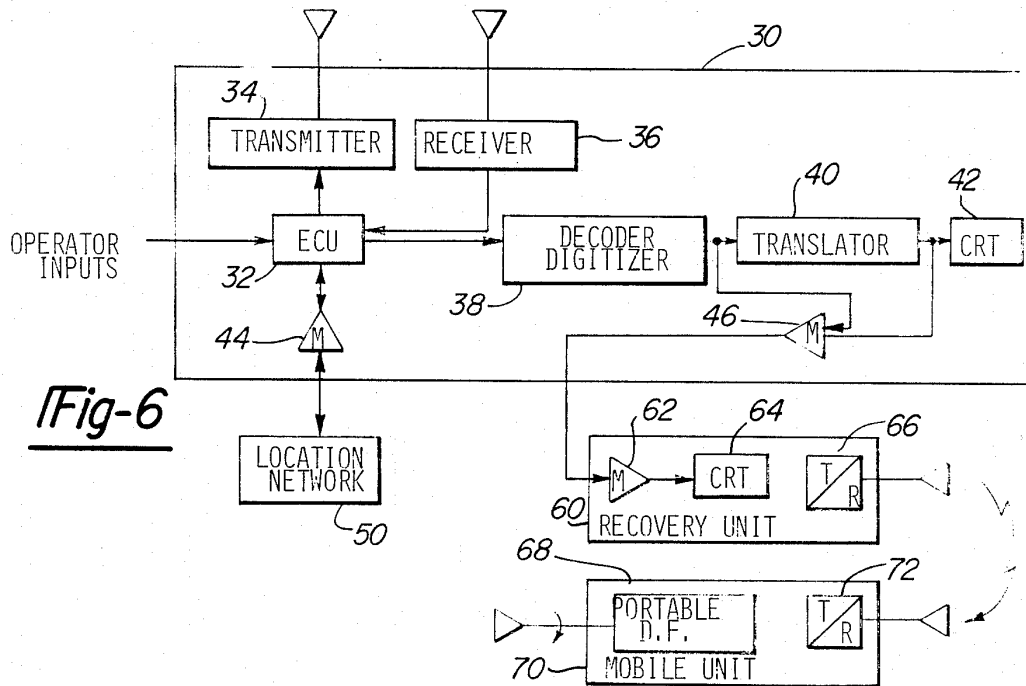
Fig-7

Fig-9

DOCKET ALARM
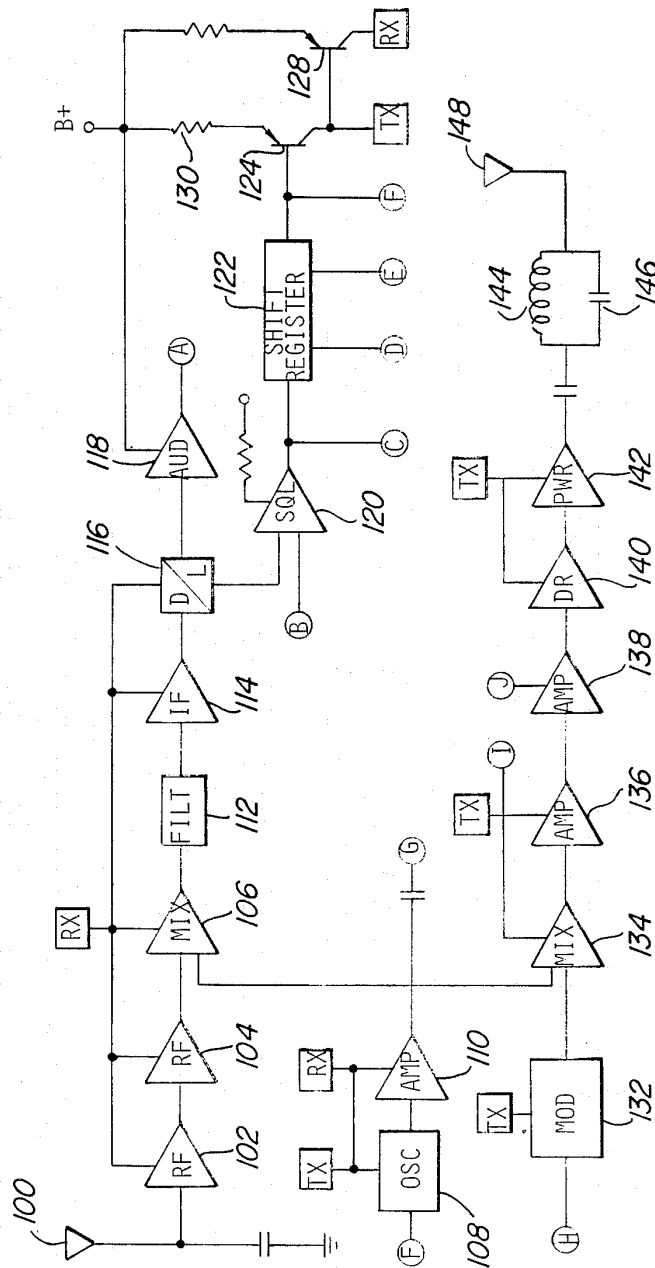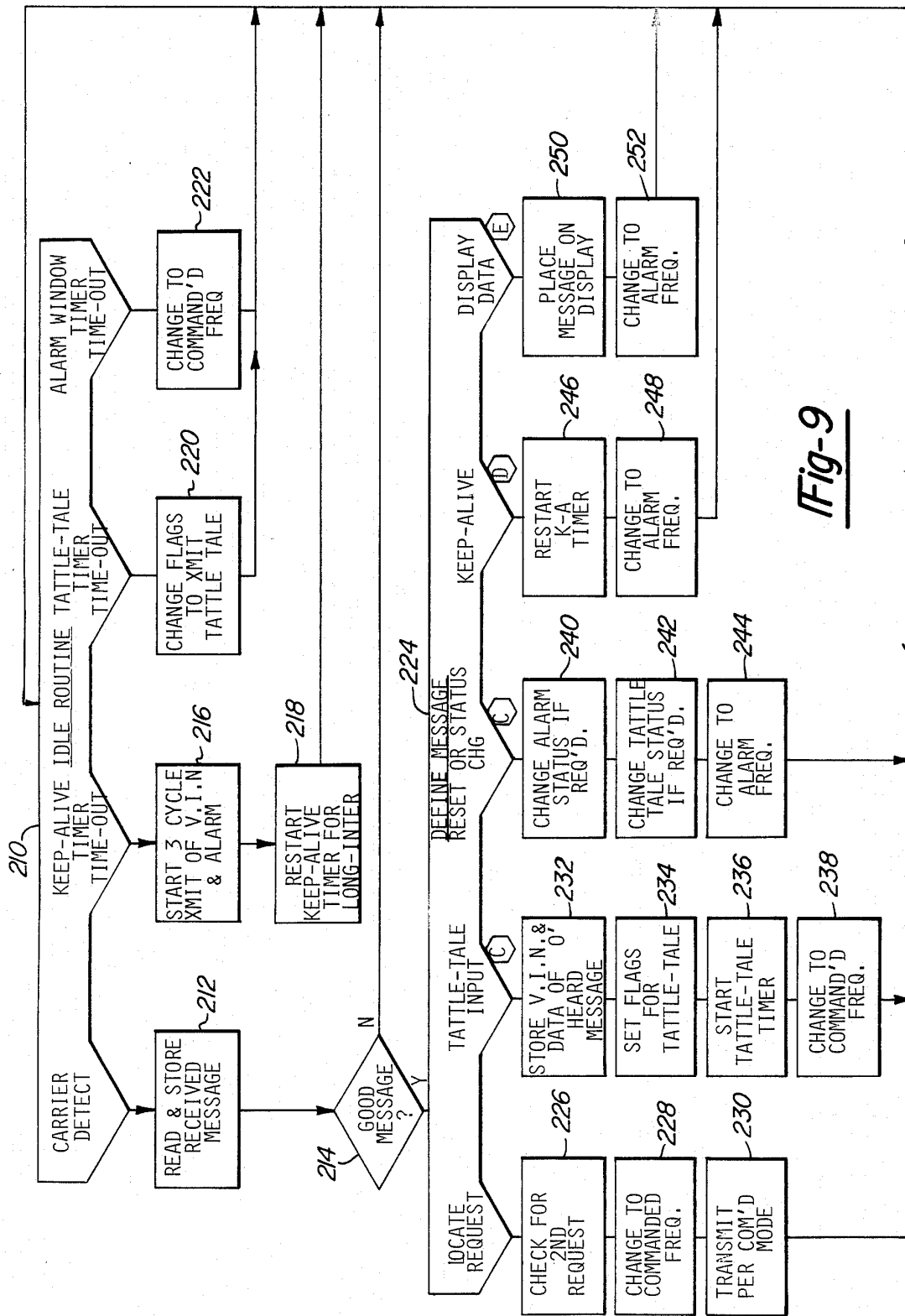
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