United States Patent [19]

Neve et al.

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[54] **COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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[51] Int. Cl.^{4} **H04J 3/16**
[52] U.S. Cl. **370/95.1**
[58] Field of Search 370/95, 96, 89, 90; 340/825.08

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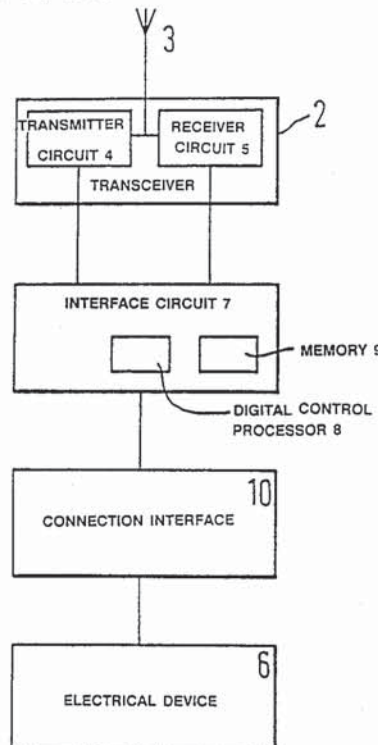|			
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Primary Examiner—Joseph A. Orsino
Assistant Examiner—Frank M. Scutch, III
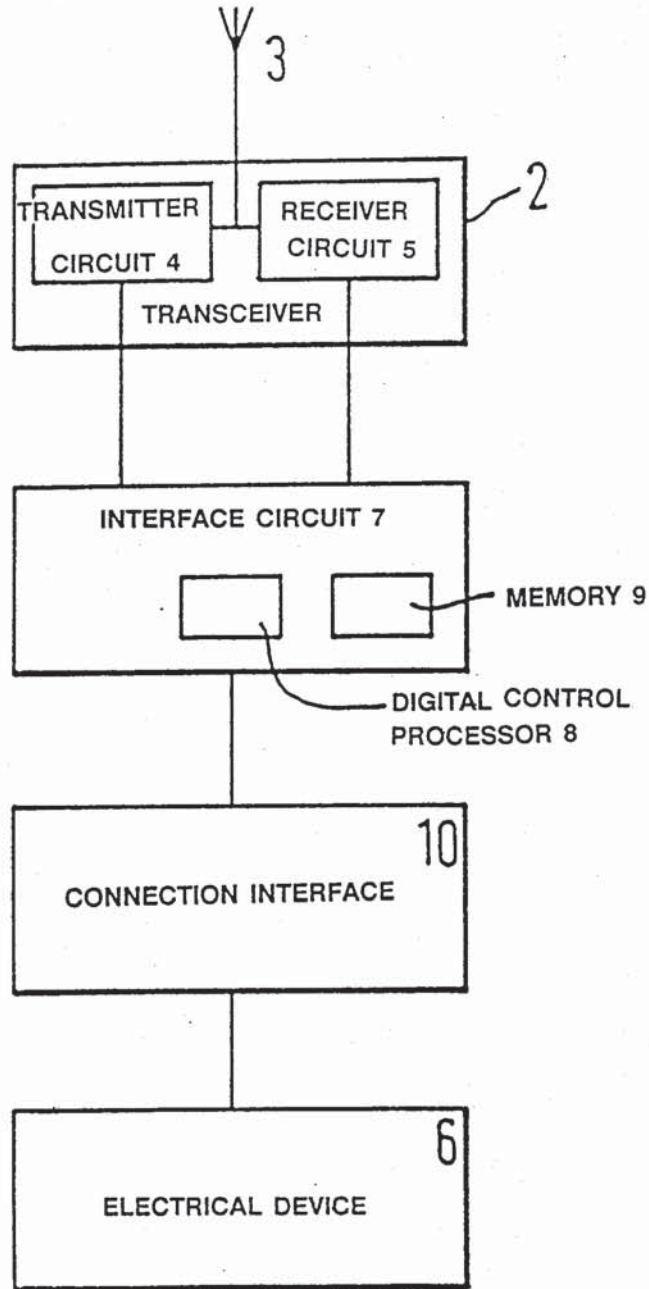*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Bacon & Thomas

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A communication system able to provide multiple path communication between a plurality of stations operating on a single channel. The stations are synchronized and a cyclically repeating series of time slots is defined. One time slot in each cycle is reserved for the transmission of synchronization information by a station designated the master station for reception by the other stations, designated slave stations, and maintaining synchronization therein. Another time slot is reserved for any slave station to transmit a message that it requires to communicate to another station, such indication preferably being by transmitting its own pre-assigned address code. The remaining time slots are used for transmitting address information and data. The slave stations operate in a low power condition except during one of the other time slots when they may receive their own address, or except when they need to transmit data.
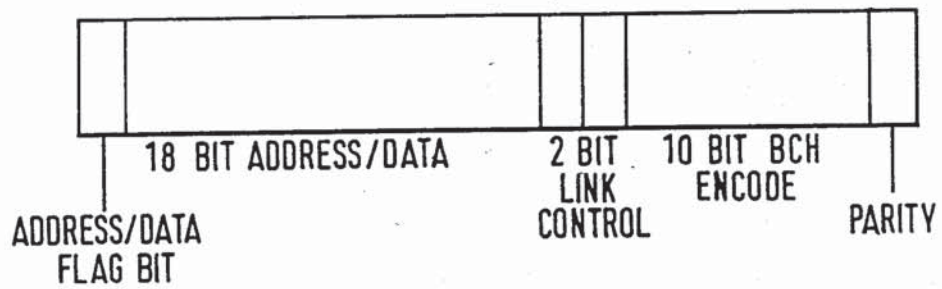
12 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

DATA WORD FORMAT

18 BIT ADDRESS/DATA   2 BIT LINK CONTROL   10 BIT BCH ENCODE   PARITY

ADDRESS/DATA FLAG BIT

DATA BATCH FORMAT

S I 15 WORDS

S I 15 WORDS

S I 15 WORDS

S : SYNCHRONISATION WORD
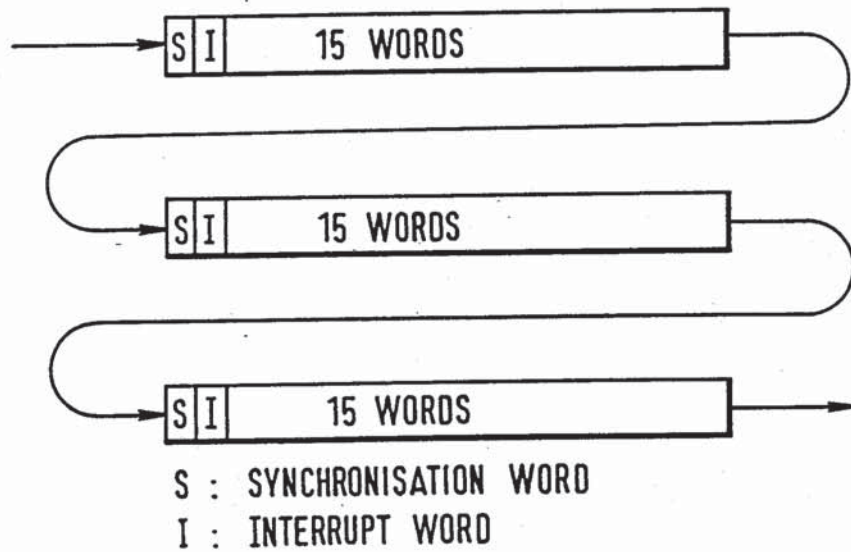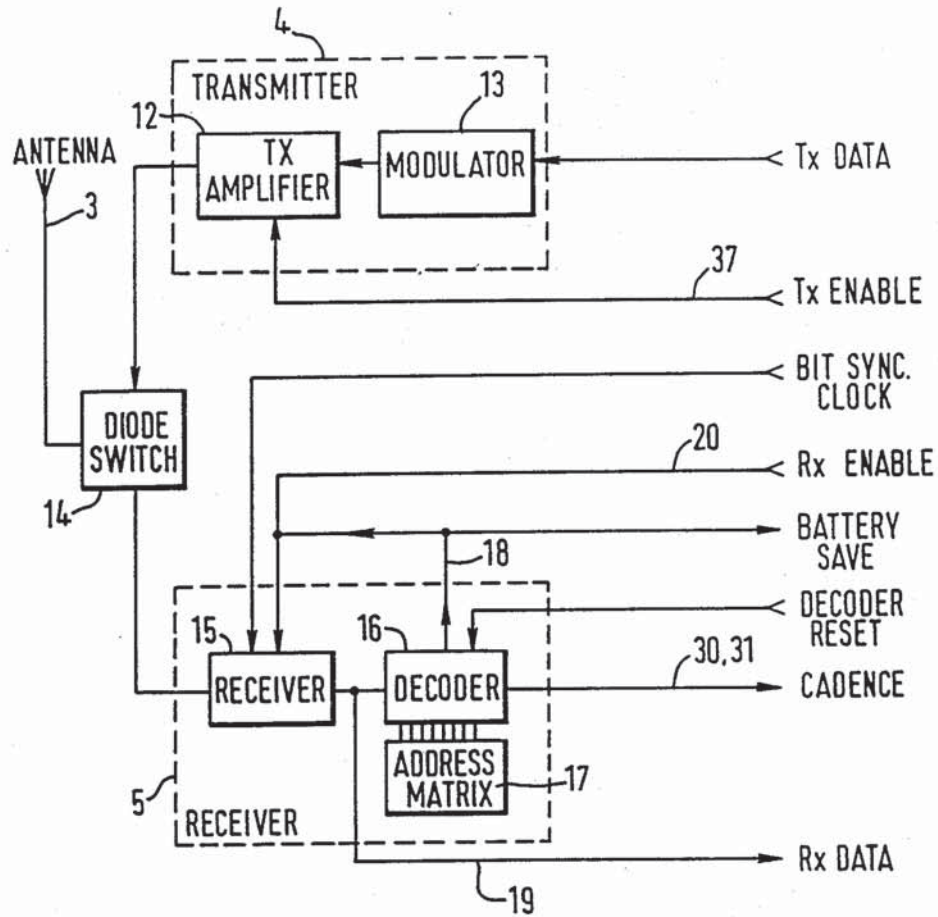I : INTERRUPT WORD

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

DOCKET ALARM
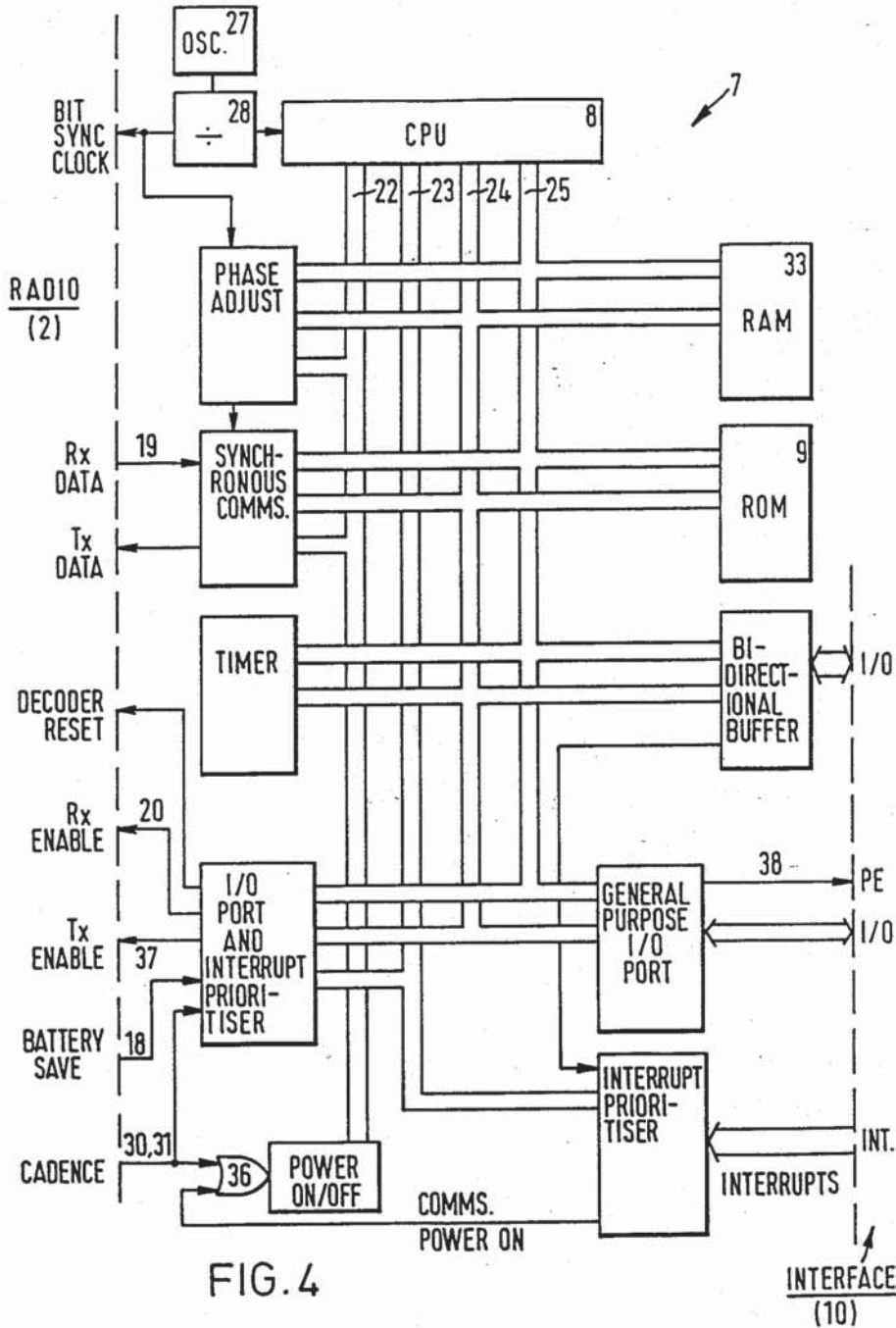
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