

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 11/480,868	Applicant(s) BRUWER, FREDERICK JOHANNES	
	Examiner Robert DeBeradinis	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 9/11/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-55.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/11/07 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-55 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose or suggest "inter alia", the module comprising the microchip and the switch nor the method including the steps of opening a user interface switch which is not a serial link in a circuit from the power source to the load to power the load.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

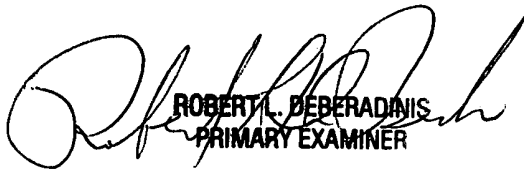
Art Unit: 2836

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert L. DeBeradinis whose number is (571) 272-2049. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry, can be reached on (571) 272-2058. The Fax phone number for this Group is (571) 272-8300.

RLD

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007


ROBERT L. DEBERADINIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REMARKS

By this Amendment, numerous changes are being made to the allowed claims. The claims have been reorganized to provide better protection and have been revised to remove possible ambiguities. An effort has been made to reduce similarities with parent patents recently allowed. Regarding independent claims 1 and 52, these have actually been narrowed slightly. As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that in spite of the extensive changes to the claims, the application still remains in condition for allowance. A summary of the more notable of the claim changes and where support may be found in the specification follows.

Essentially claim 1 has been narrowed by including limitations previously recited in dependent claims. The changes include:

- Narrowing and adding clarity by including text "that is not the load" making sure that the indicator is not misconstrued as the load. (see paragraph 62 of the specification);
- Defining the indicator as luminous and visible. (See paragraph 62 – "this indicator may be a LED");
- Narrowing by moving "the load is not activated" from claim 6 into claim 1;
- Claim 1 (a) narrowed by adding the touch sensor limitation. (See allowed claim 4). In claim 4, the limitation of direct current type power source has been removed.

In claim 7, multiple switches have been added. Support for this language may be found in FIGs. 9 and 10, as well as in paragraphs 68 and 69 of the specification.

Claim 8 has been amended to specify that the switch is activated for a short period of time. See paragraphs 62, 63 "microchip 1113 can activate the LED 1104 for a short time,..."

Claims 9, 31 and 39 are amended to specify that the recited components are enclosed in or attached to the panel housing (see FIG. 12).

Claims 10, 37, 38, 45 and 47 have been amended to specify that the switch is integral with the product housing. For support, see e.g. paragraph 53 – "...can be formed structurally integral with the product, for example, with the casing of a flashlight ..."

Claims 11-13 have been amended to specify that the function selected by the microchip upon receiving a signal from the switch is at least dependent on the period of time that passed since a previous switch operation signal was received. The text in paragraphs 83 and 84 provides support for this limitation.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite use of an address field. See paragraph 82 of the specification for support.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite that the load is a device for generating sound signals (e.g. such as the radio disclosed in paragraph 65).

Claims 23 and 36 have been amended to recite that the power level is gradually adjusted. See paragraph 83 for the gradual dimming feature.

Claims 32 and 46 have been amended to specify that the switch operation is dependent on a ratio of resistances in the switch structure. For support, see FIG. 9 wherein the resistances are shown and the discussion in paragraph 68 where the voltages derived from the resistances are discussed to indicate different commands.

Independent claim 52 has been amended to specify that the interface switch is a touch sensor switch and to clarify some of the language in the claim. Finally, claims 53-55 are dependent on method claim 52 and provide more comprehensive method type coverage of the invention as defined in the various apparatus claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application remains in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /wab/

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Dated: September 11, 2007

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