

[54] **CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR VEHICLES**

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[\*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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[22] Filed: **Jul. 18, 1996**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/622,749, Mar. 27, 1996, and application No. 08/587,628, Jan. 17, 1996, abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/489,238, Jun. 12, 1995, Pat. No. 5,513,244, which is a continuation of application No. 08/073,755, Jun. 8, 1993, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **B60R 25/10**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **340/426; 340/425.5; 340/825.32; 701/36; 307/10.2; 342/457; 455/404**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... **342/457; 340/426, 340/825.34, 825.32, 825.36, 825.37, 825.49, 425.5; 370/352, 389; 307/10.2; 455/404; 180/287; 701/33, 36**

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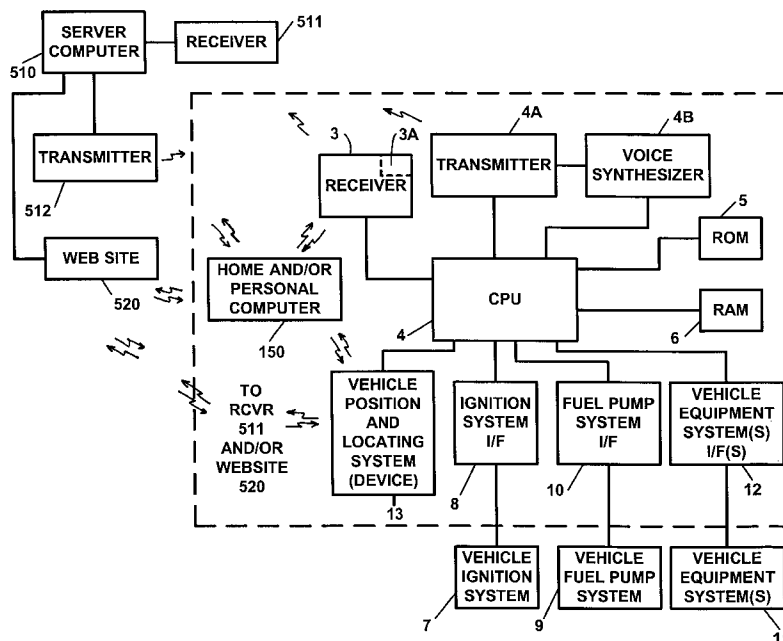
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A control apparatus for a vehicle, which comprises a first control device. The first control device one of generates and transmits a first signal for one of activating, deactivating, enabling, and disabling, one of a vehicle component, a vehicle device, a vehicle system, and a vehicle subsystem. The first control device is located at the vehicle. The first control device is responsive to a second signal, wherein the second signal is one of generated by and transmitted from a second control device. The second control device is located at a location which is remote from the vehicle. The second control device is responsive to a third signal, wherein the third signal is one of generated by and transmitted from a third control device. The third control device is located at a location which is remote from the vehicle and remote from the second control device.

**20 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets**



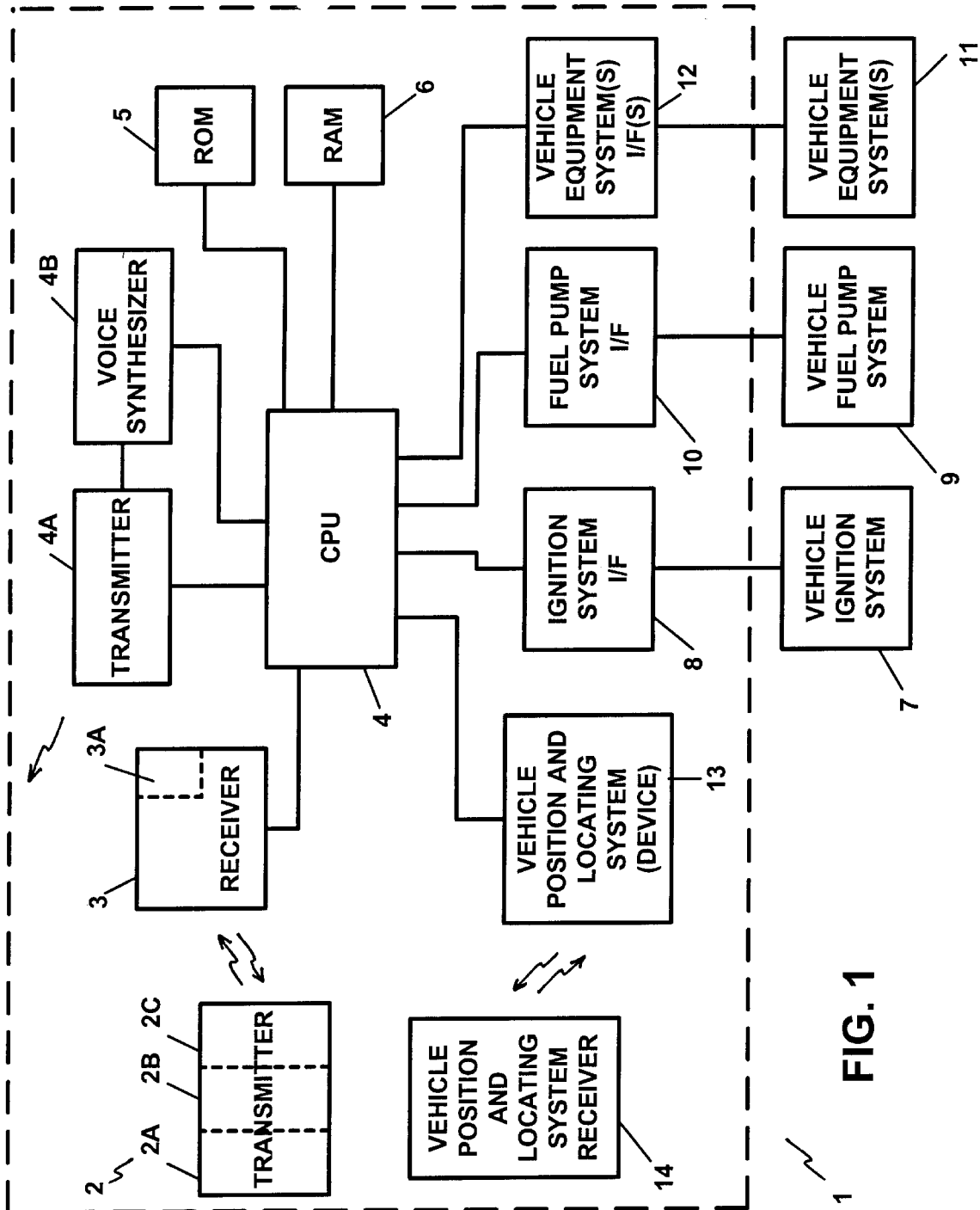


FIG. 1

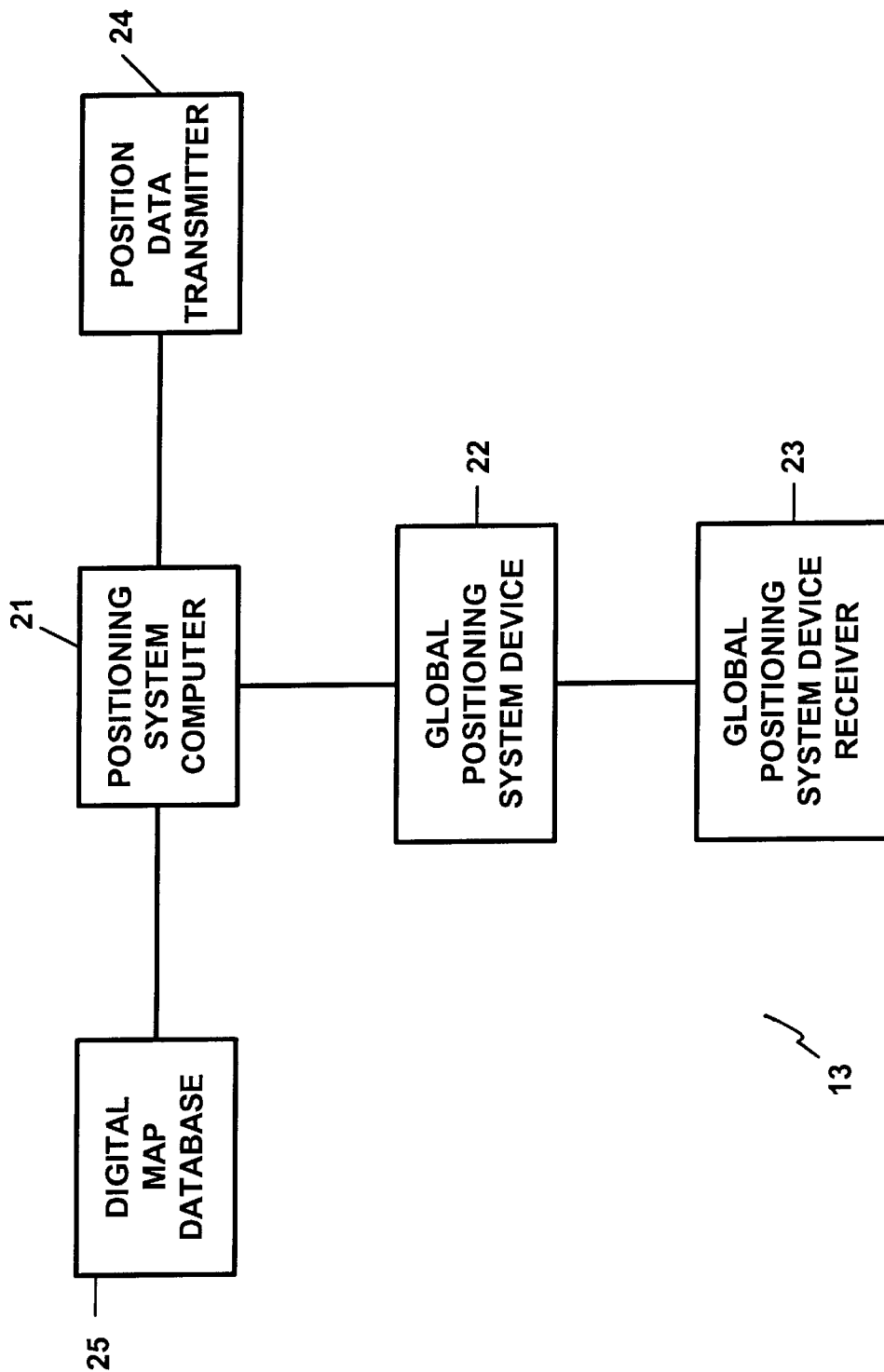


FIG. 2

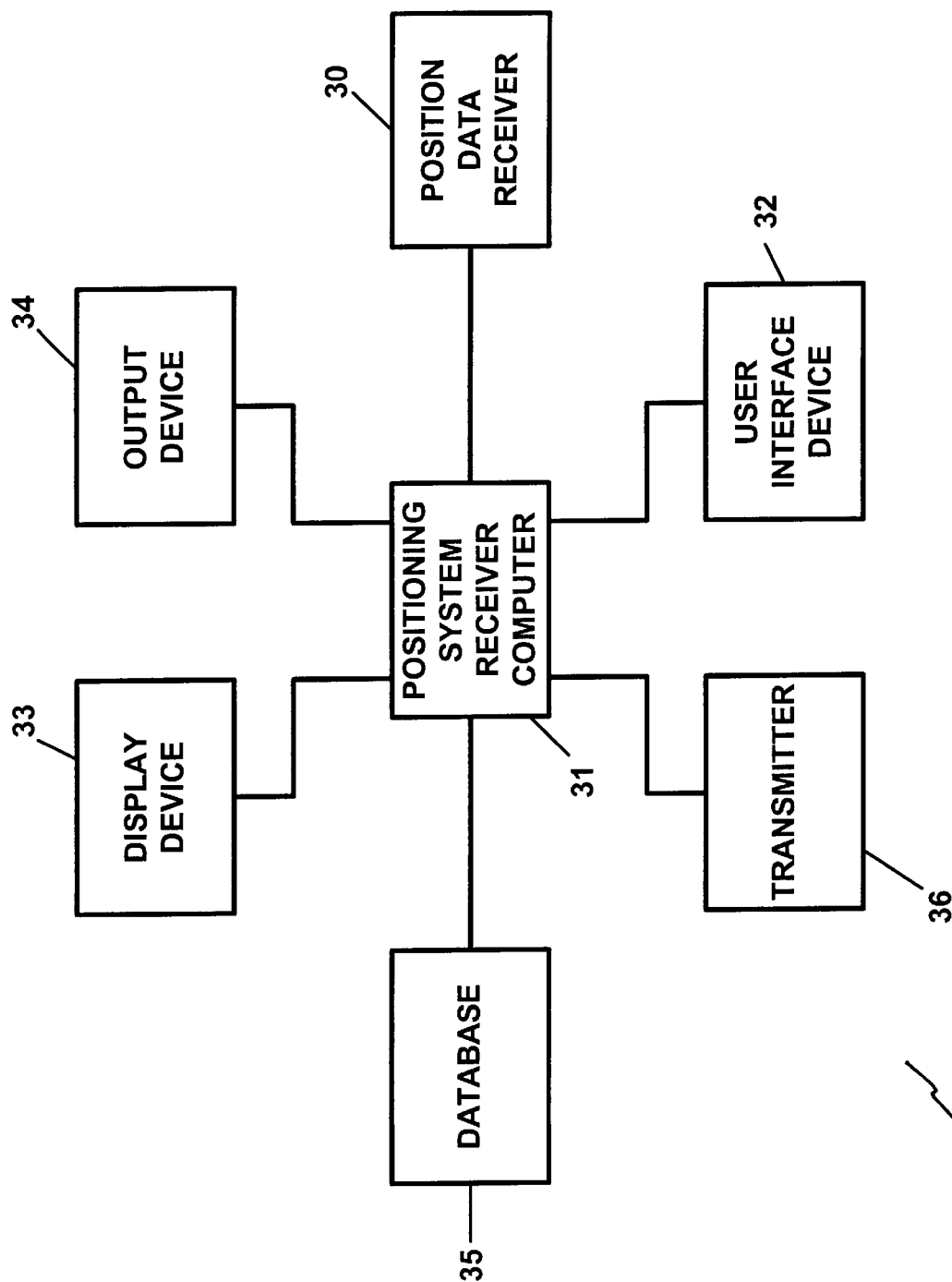


FIG. 3

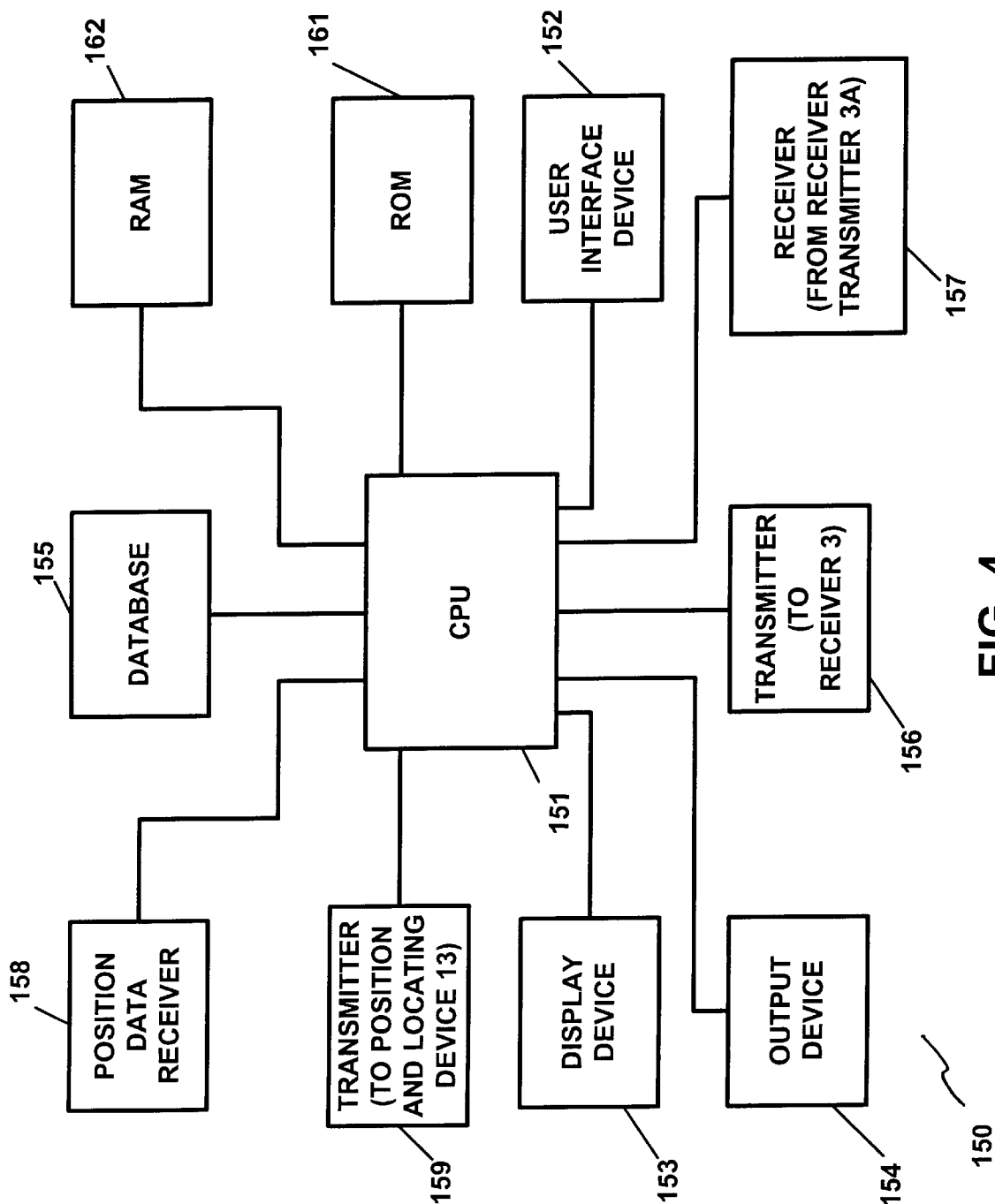


FIG. 4

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