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United States Patent [19]

Bloomfield et al.

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[45] **Date of Patent: Jun. 13, 1995**

[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING CONDITIONAL CASCADING IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE**

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[73] Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **854,171**

[22] Filed: **Mar. 20, 1992**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 3/03**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/156**; 345/146

[58] **Field of Search** 395/156, 157, 158, 161; 345/146

[56] **References Cited**

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Assistant Examiner—Cliff N. Vo
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bruce D. Jobse; Mark Kahler; Andrew J. Dillon

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A computer system and method of operation thereof are provided including an improved graphical user interface (GUI). A conditional cascading menuing method and apparatus which shield novice users from being overwhelmed by advanced operations in the desktop which appears on the user's computer screen. The conditional cascading feature provides the user with the ability to select a basic function or action from a main menu on the desktop, in which case the default behavior of the function will be performed, or to conditionally display, by pressing a mini push-button next to the main menu item text, a submenu of all forms of function or action. The default submenu behavior or item is indicated by a checkmark adjacent the default item in the submenu. Each time the user selects a submenu item which is different from the default submenu item, the presently selected submenu item becomes the default item or behavior.

6 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

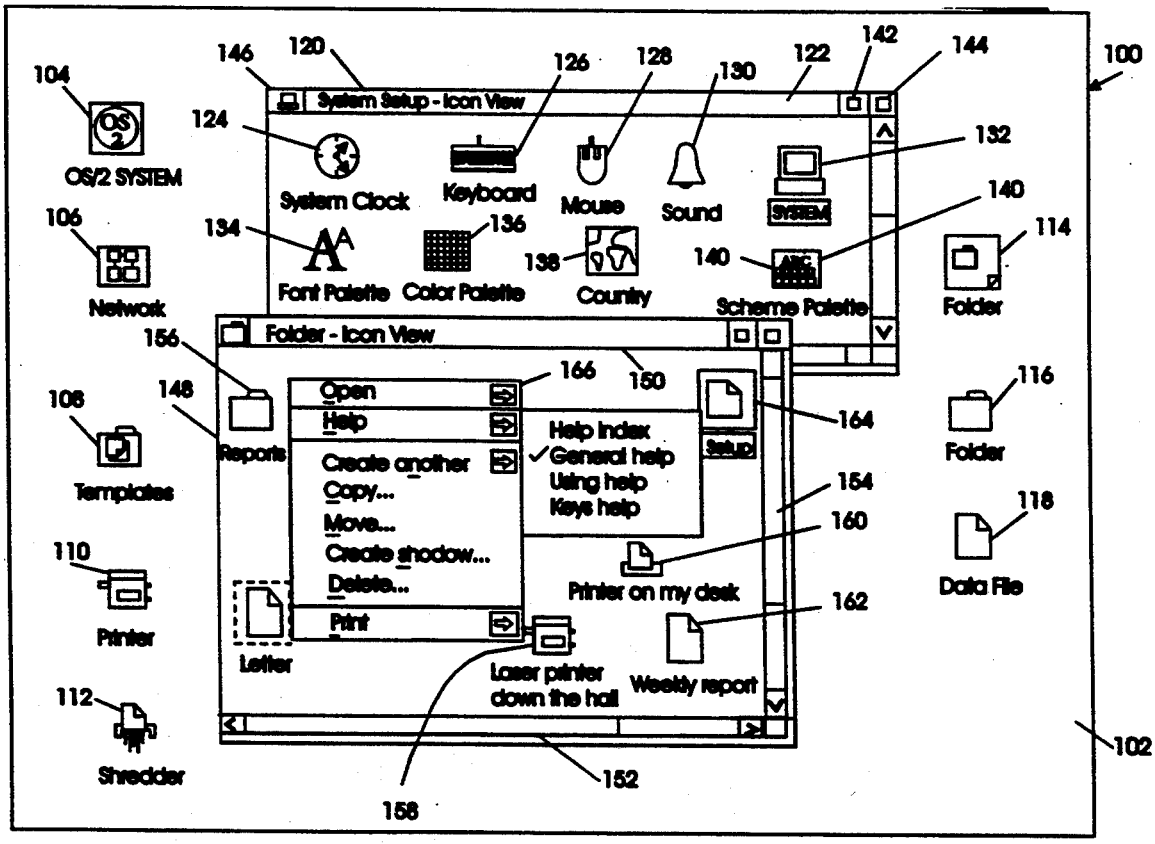

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FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

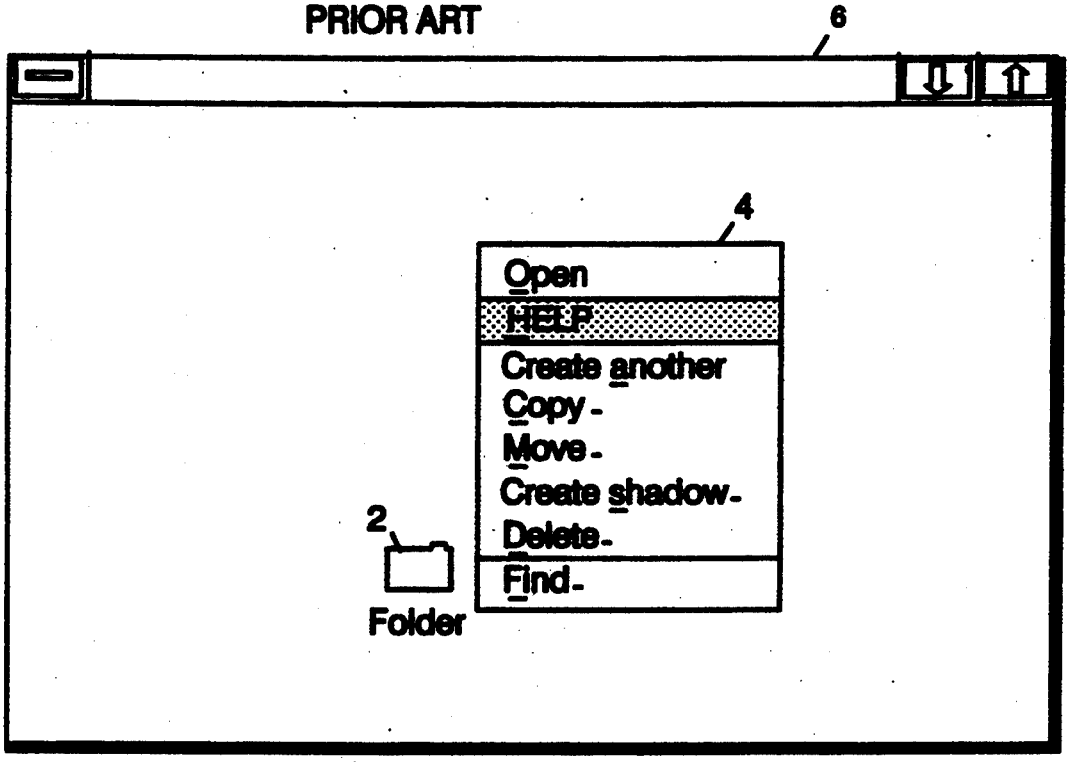
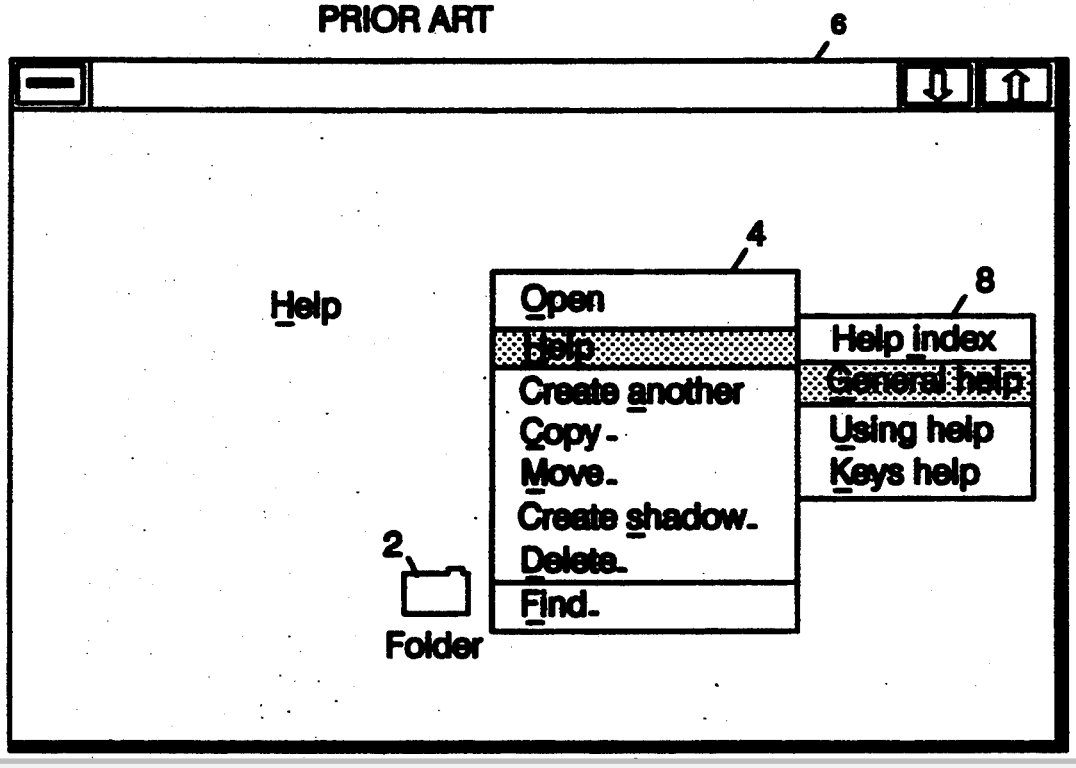


FIG. 2
PRIOR ART



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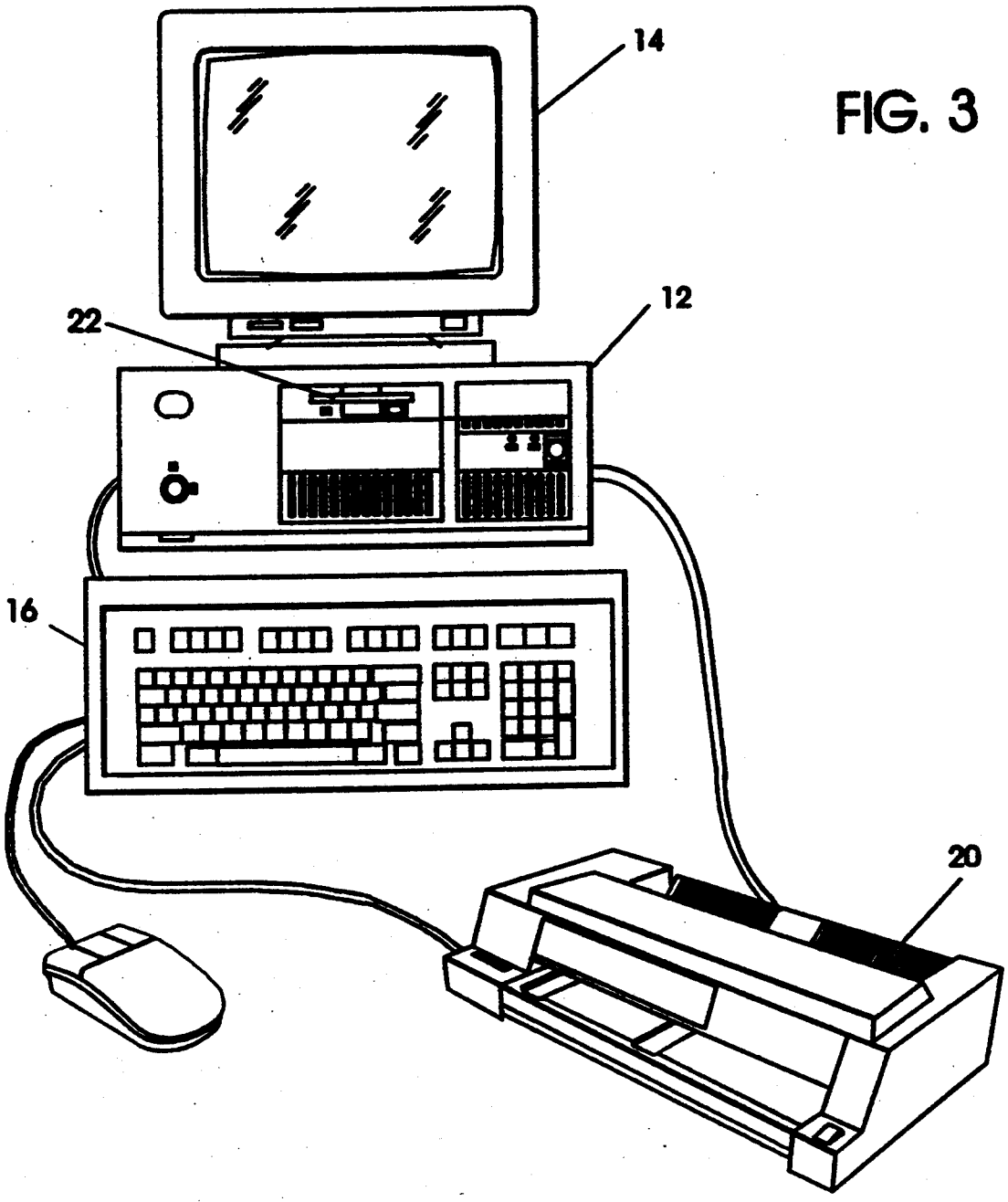

FIG. 3

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FIG. 4A

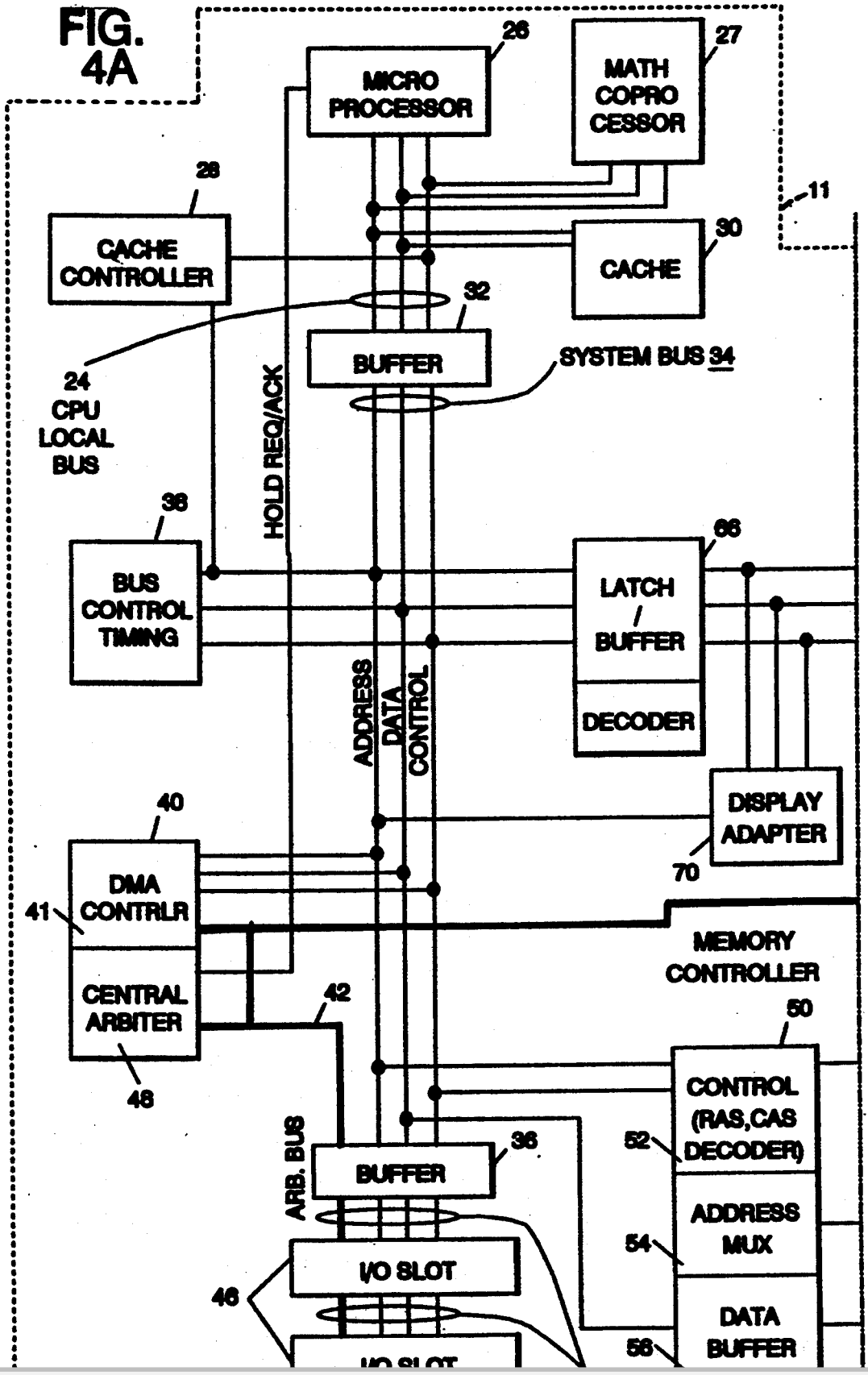

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FIG. 4

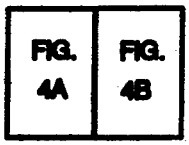
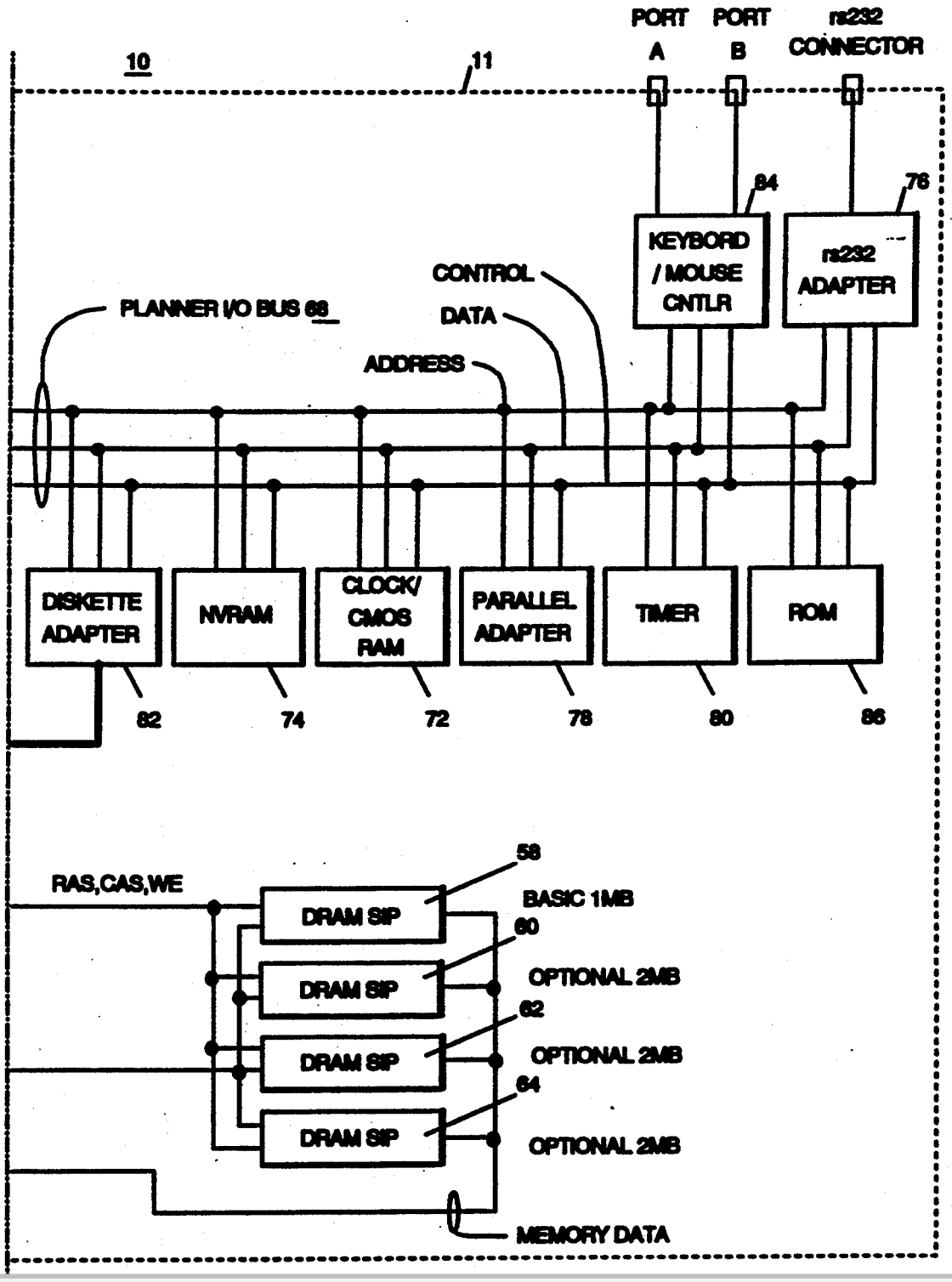


FIG. 4B



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