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**Lambourne et al.**

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING MULTIMEDIA PLAYERS IN A MULTI-ZONE SYSTEM**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/816,217, filed on Apr. 1, 2004.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 17/00** (2006.01)  
**G06F 3/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 700/94; 715/716

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 700/94; 715/716, 734, 735; 709/220, 221; 381/56  
See application file for complete search history.

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*Primary Examiner*—Curtis Kuntz

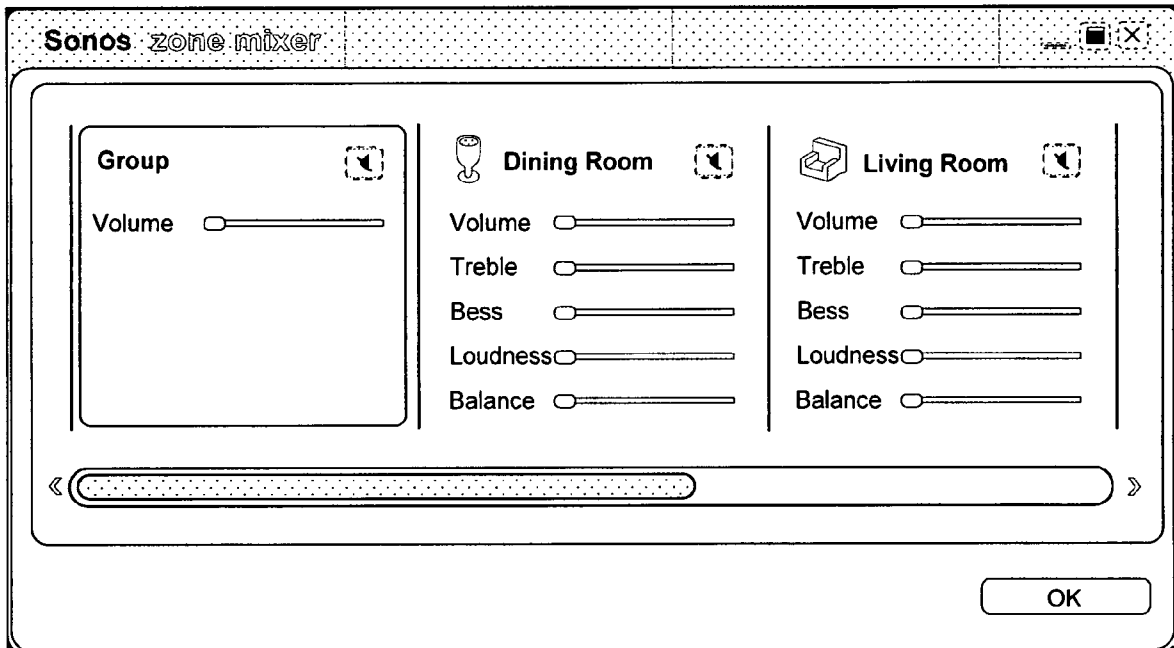
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Techniques for controlling zone group and zone group characteristics such as audio volume in a multi-zone system are disclosed. The multi-zone system includes a number of multimedia players, each preferably located in a zone. A controller may control the operations of all of the zone players remotely from any one of the zones. Two or more zone players may be dynamically grouped as a zone group for synchronized operations. According to one aspect of the techniques, a zone group configuration can be managed, updated, modified via an interactive user interface provided in a controlling device. The zone group configuration may be saved in one of the zone players. According to another aspect of the techniques, the audio volume control of a zone group can be performed individually or synchronously as a group.

**44 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**



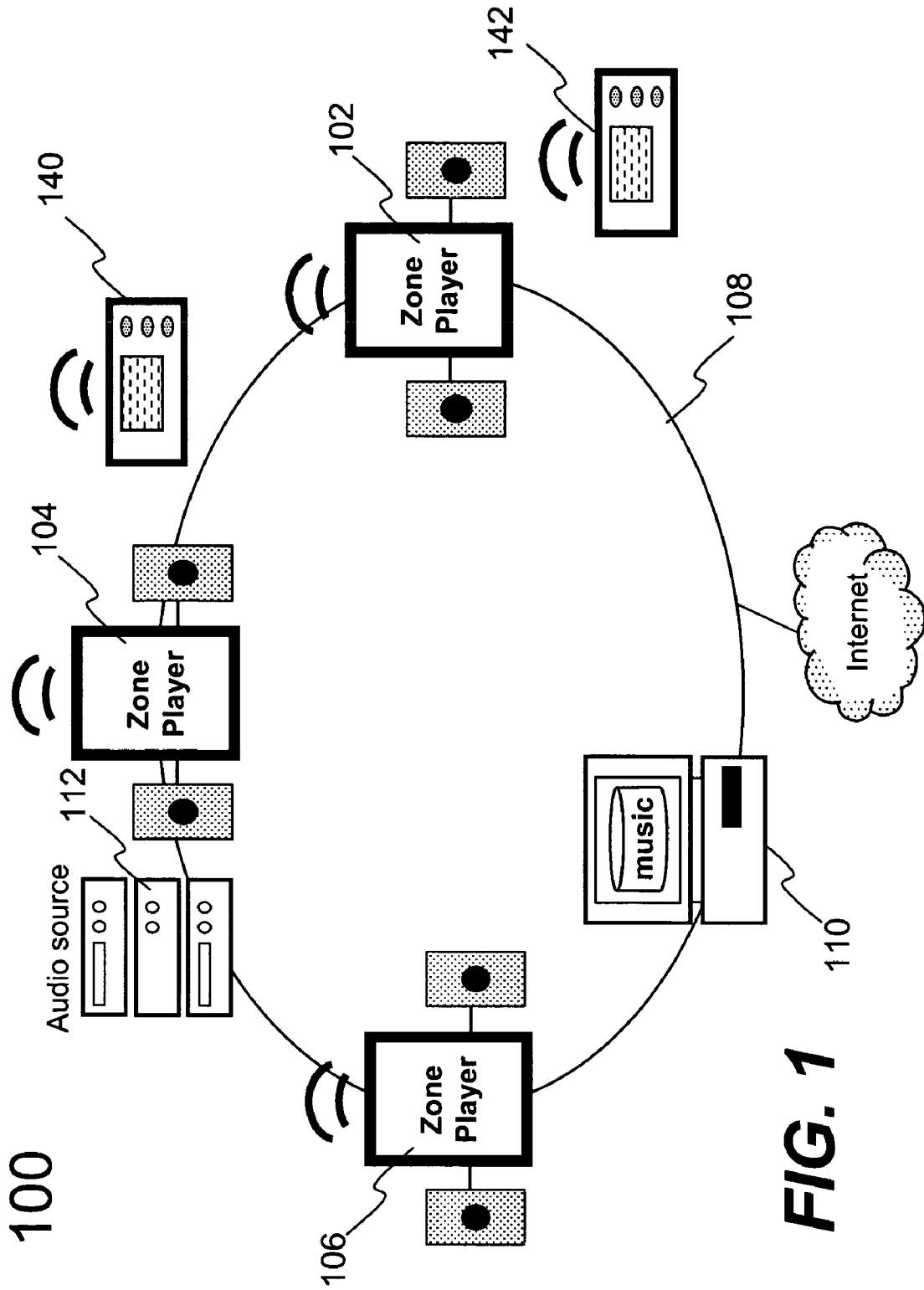
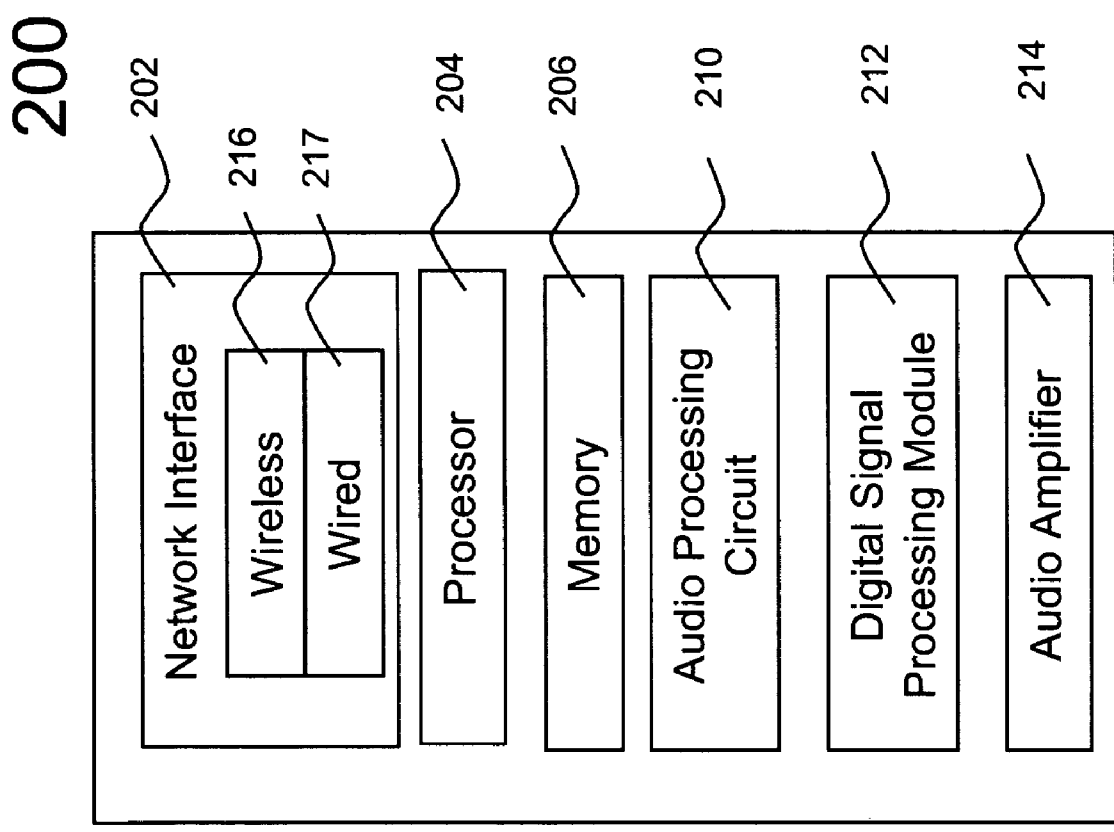


FIG. 1



**FIG. 2A**

240

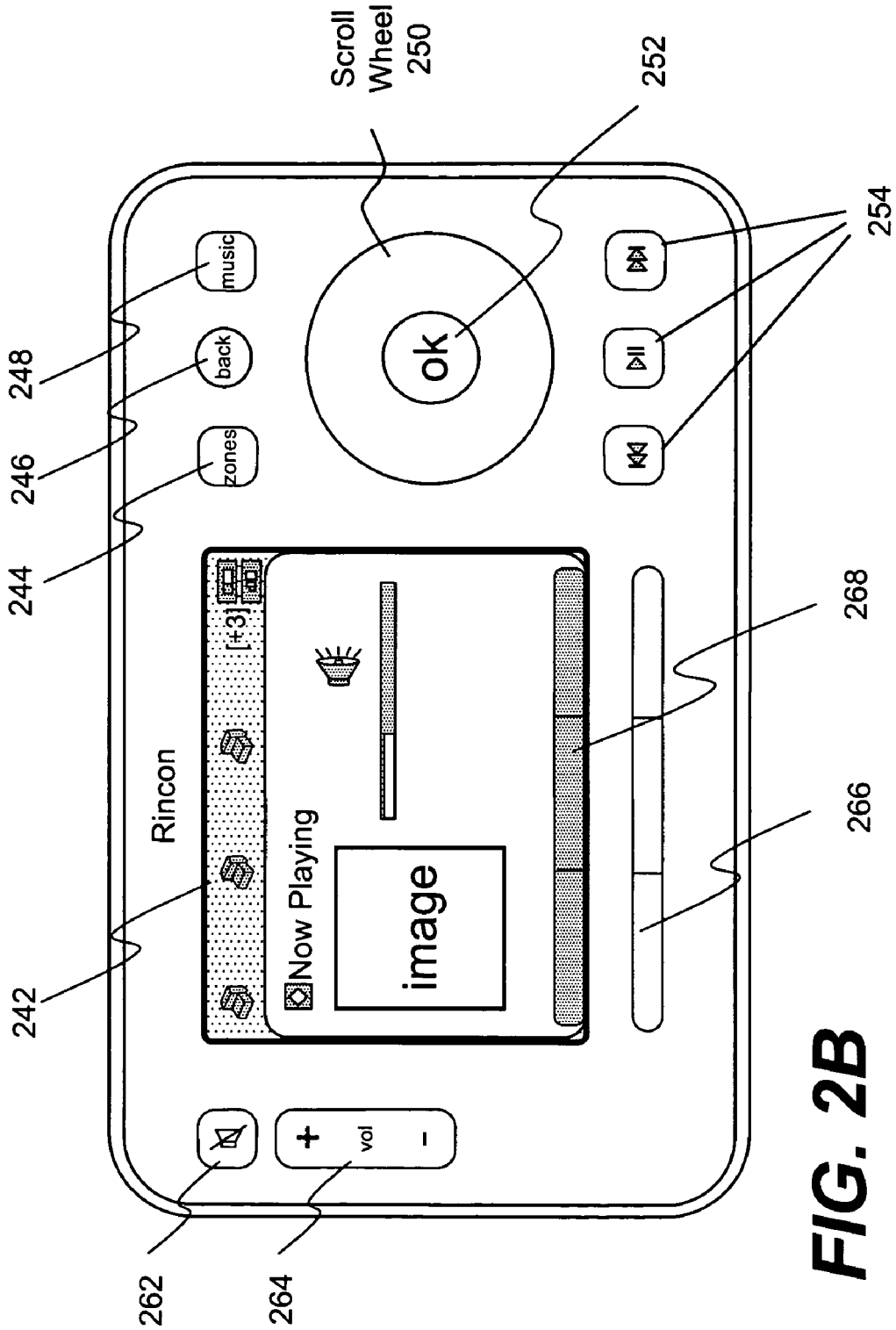
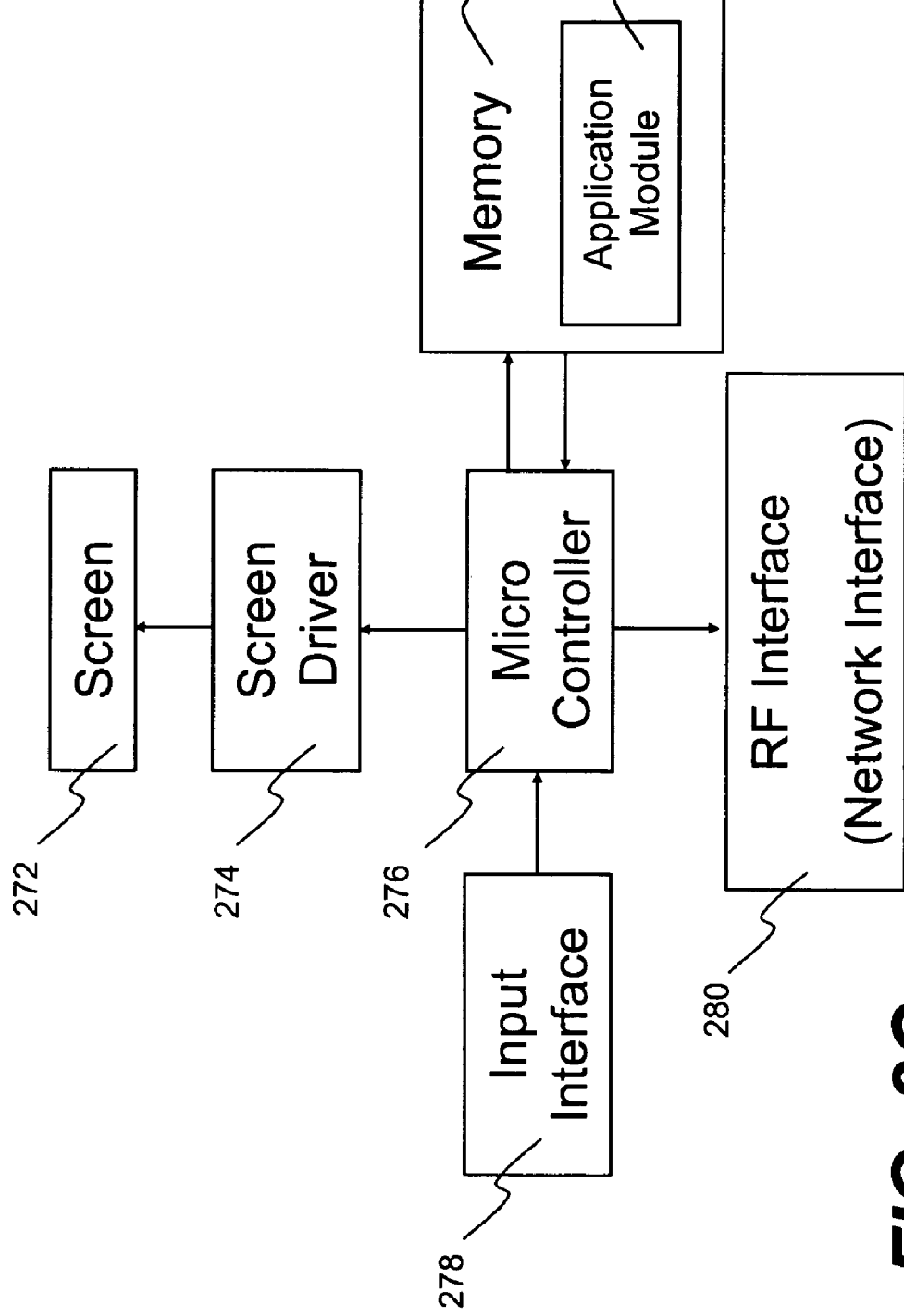


FIG. 2B



**FIG. 2C**

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