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United States Patent [19]

Kelleher

[54] **PARALLEL-PROCESSOR GRAPHICS ARCHITECTURE**

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[73] Assignee: **Dynamic Pictures, Inc.**, Palo Alto, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **570,088**

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[51] **Int. Cl.^{6}** **G06F 15/80**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/505**; 395/509; 395/497.04; 395/412

[58] **Field of Search** 395/502, 505, 395/506, 507, 509, 401, 402, 497.01–497.04, 412–419, 515, 516; 382/303, 304

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[57]   **ABSTRACT**

A parallel-processor graphics architecture appropriate for multimedia graphics workstations that is scalable to the needs of a user. The graphics architecture includes one or more rendering processors and a graphics memory that is partitioned into blocks. Noncontiguous groups of the blocks are then assigned to different processors. The parallel-processor graphics architecture is scalable by the number of rendering processors utilized, and is configurable with respect to the allocation of the groups of the blocks to specific rendering processors.
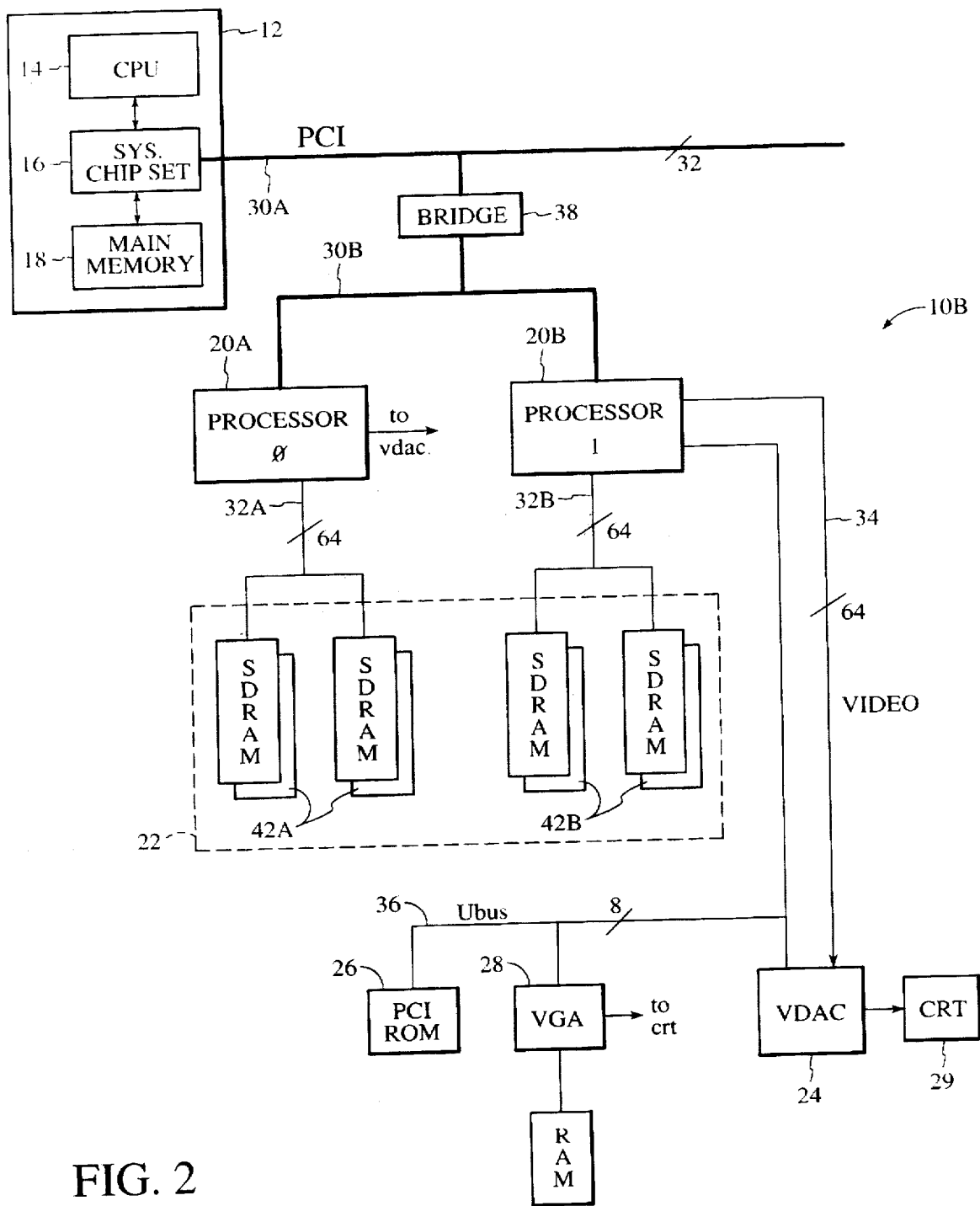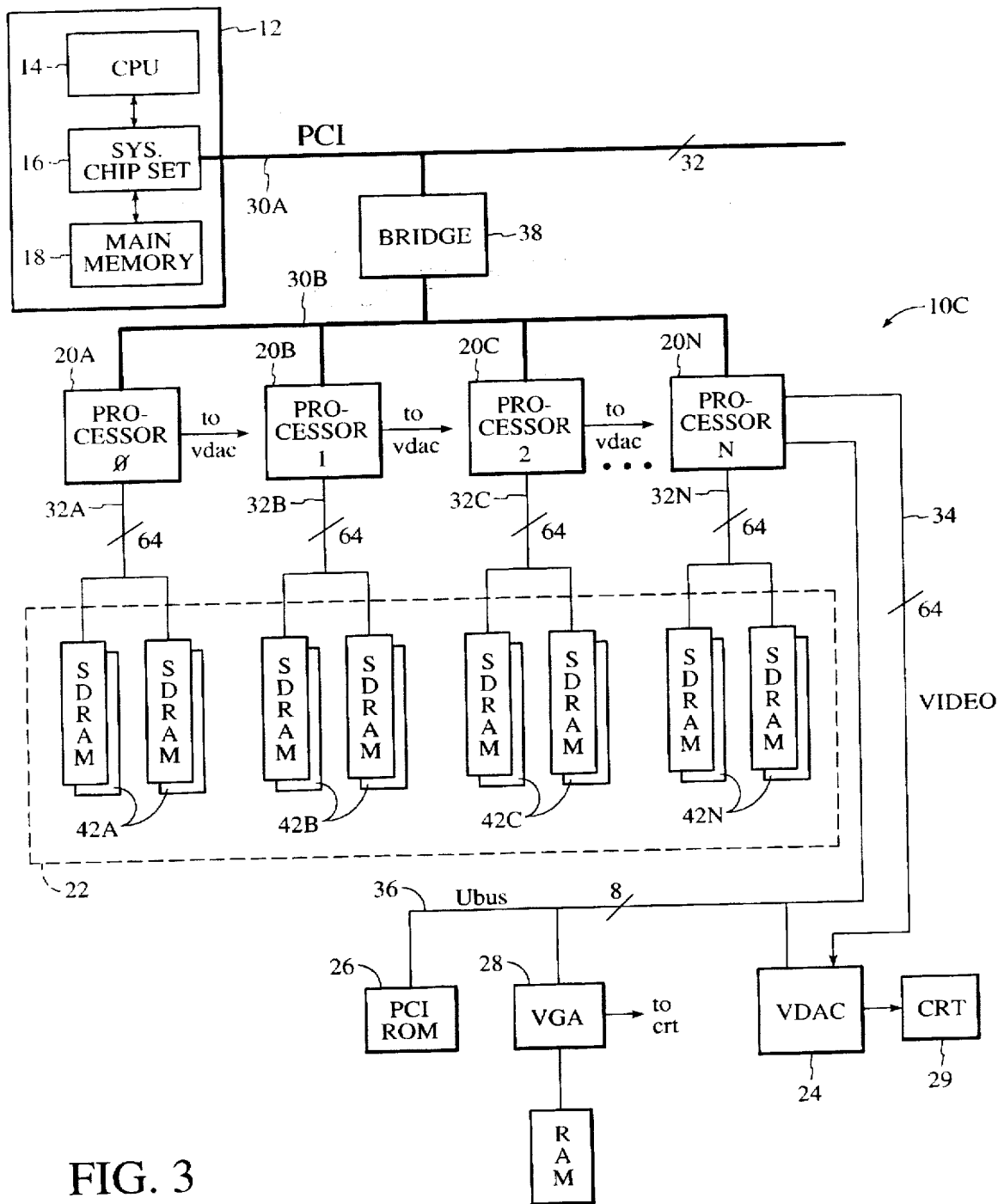
10 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

FIG. 1
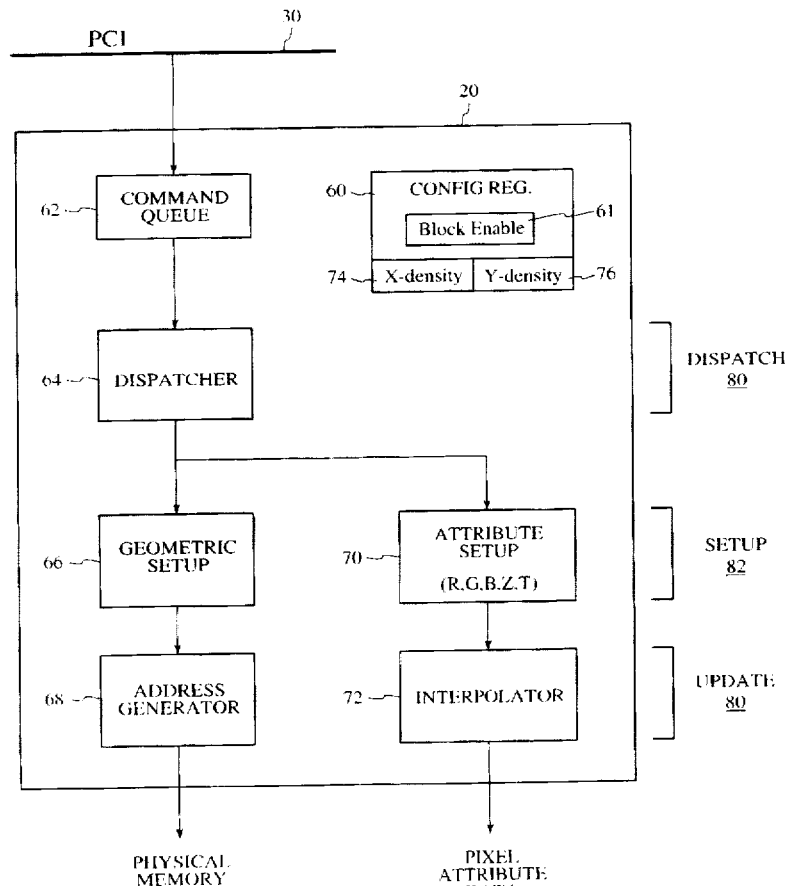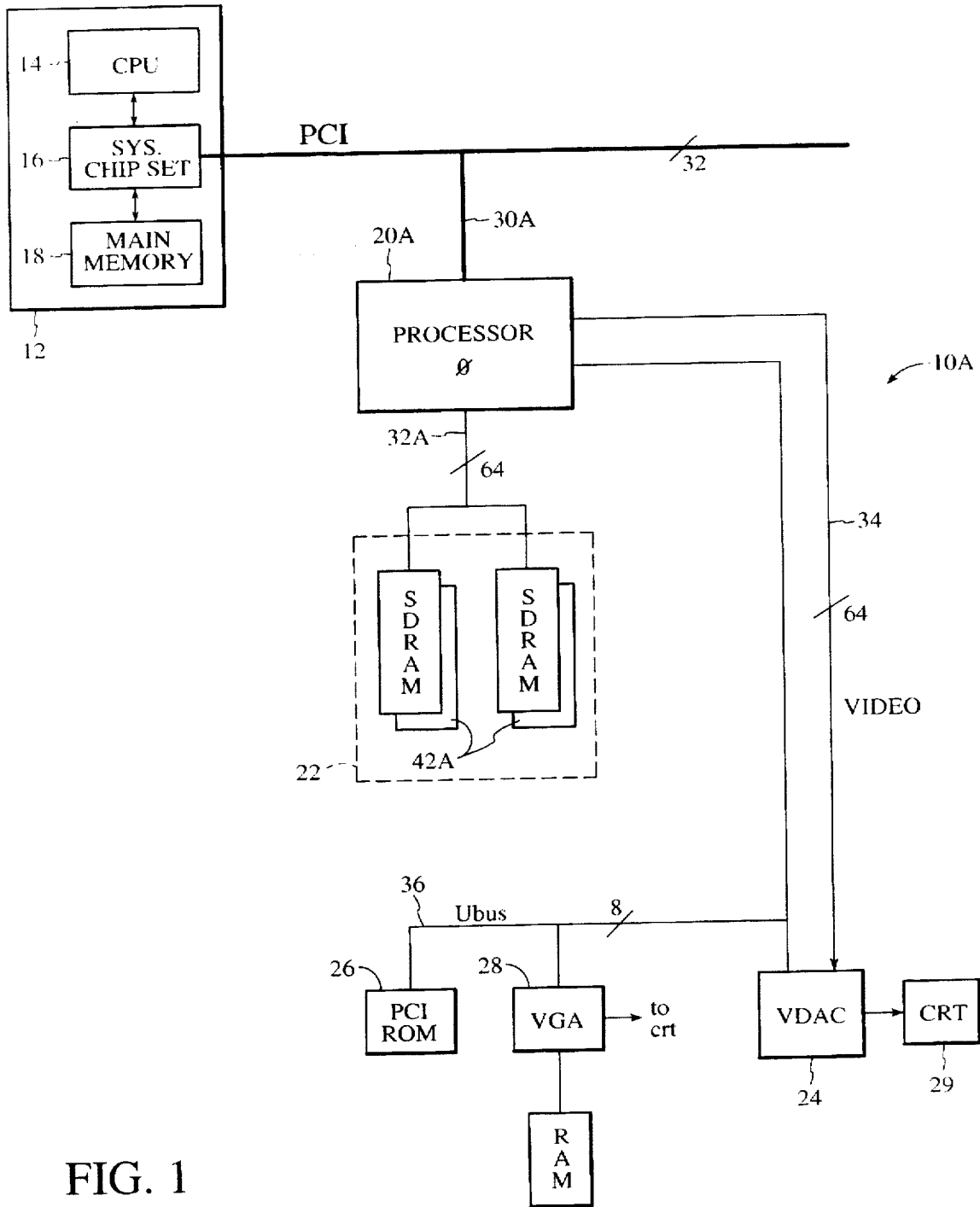
FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

DOCKET ALARM
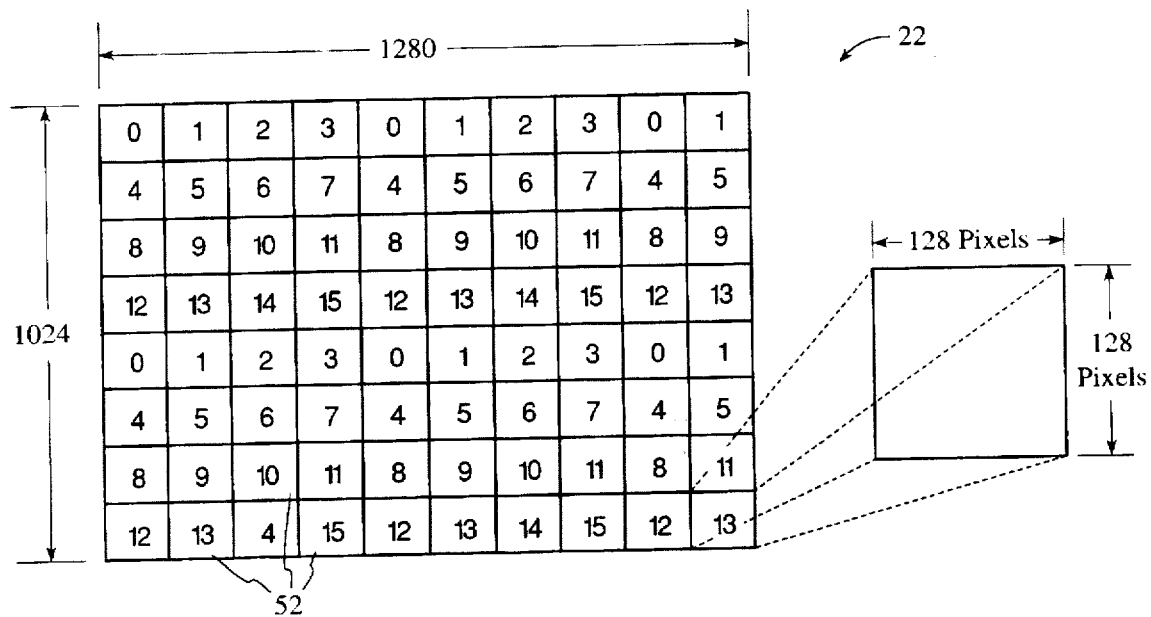
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