



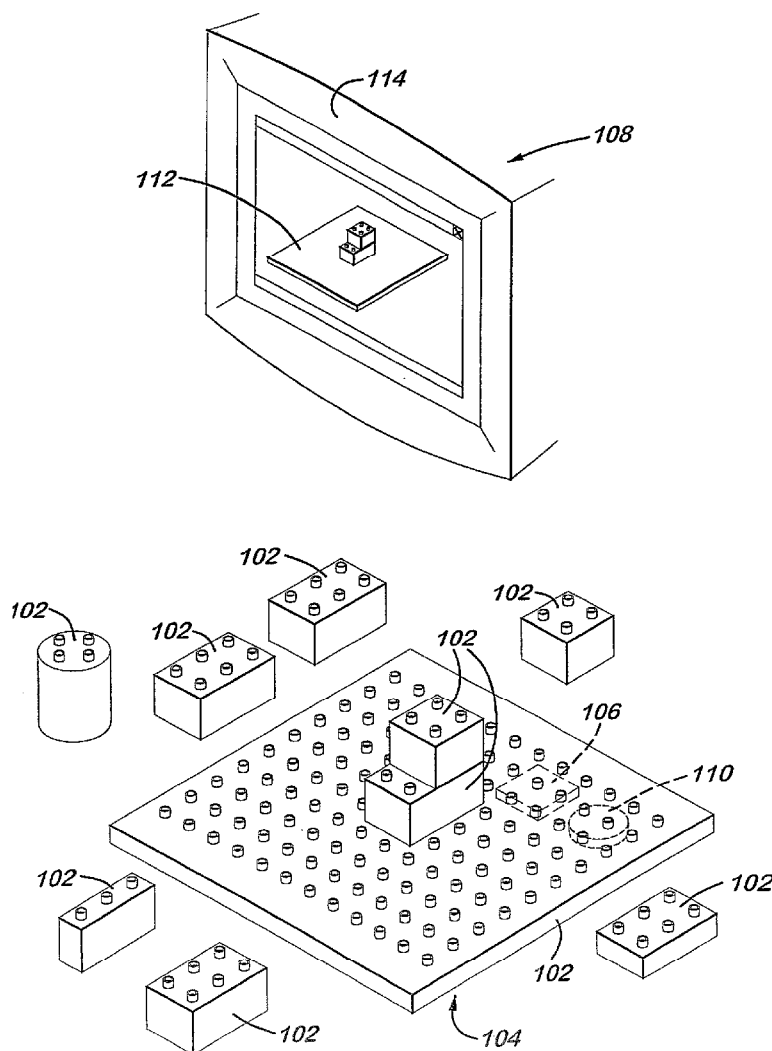
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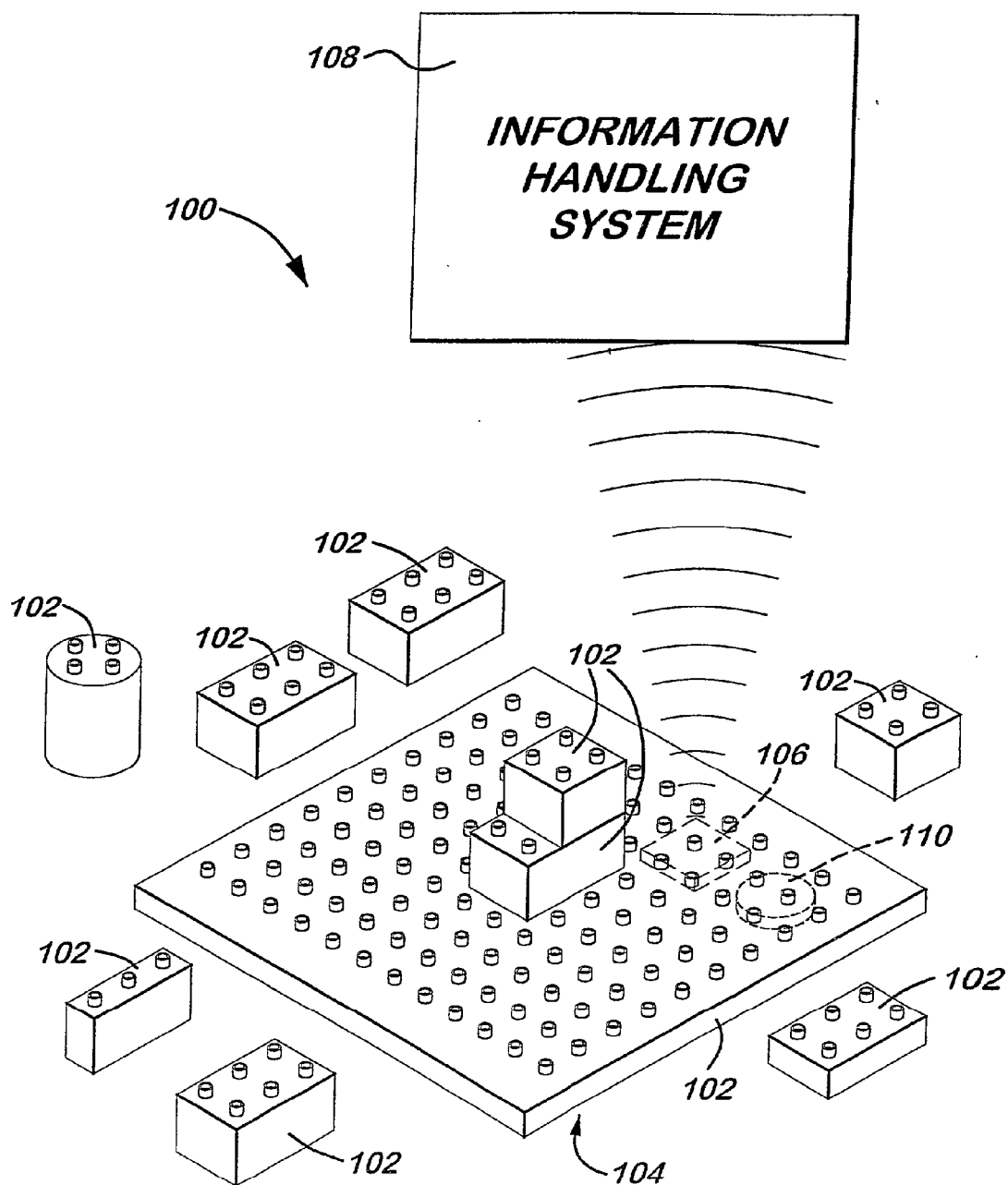
(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Anderson et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0196250 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Dec. 26, 2002**(54) **PARTS ASSEMBLY FOR VIRTUAL  
REPRESENTATION AND CONTENT  
CREATION****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... G06T 17/00**(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 345/420**(75) **Inventors: Glen J. Anderson, Sioux City, IA (US);  
Russell F. McKnight, Sioux City, IA  
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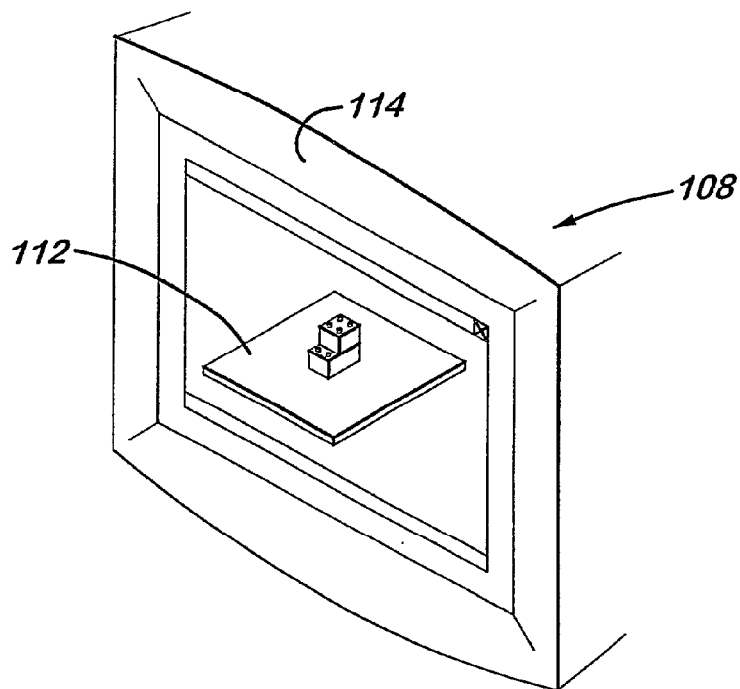
**GATEWAY, INC.****ATTN: SCOTT CHARLES RICHARDSON****610 GATEWAY DRIVE****MAIL DROP Y-04****N. SIOUX CITY, SD 57049 (US)**(73) **Assignee: Gateway, Inc.**(21) **Appl. No.: 09/885,399**(22) **Filed: Jun. 20, 2001**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for rendering a virtual model employs construction elements capable of identifying themselves that are assembled together to form a physical model. At least one controller, which may be disposed within a construction element of the assembled physical model, obtains the identities of at least a portion of the assembled construction elements and detects connections between these identified elements. The controller then communicates the identities of the construction elements and their associated connections with each other to an information handling system suitable for executing a program of instructions for rendering the virtual model corresponding to the assembled physical model.

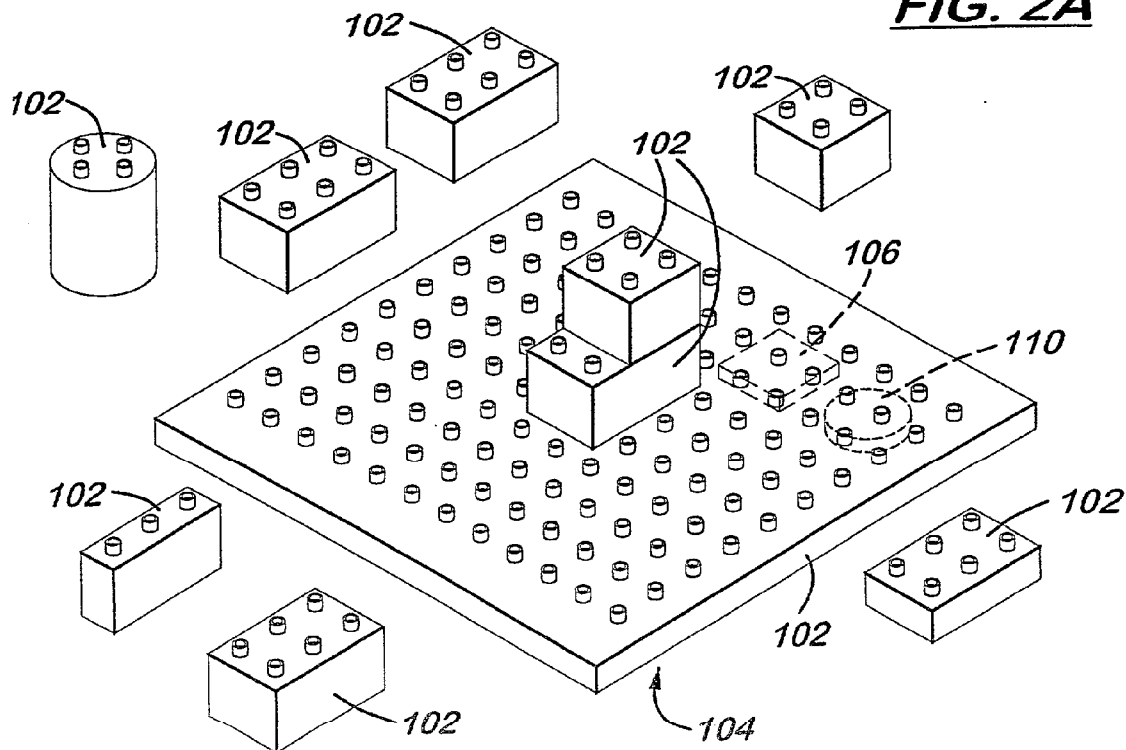


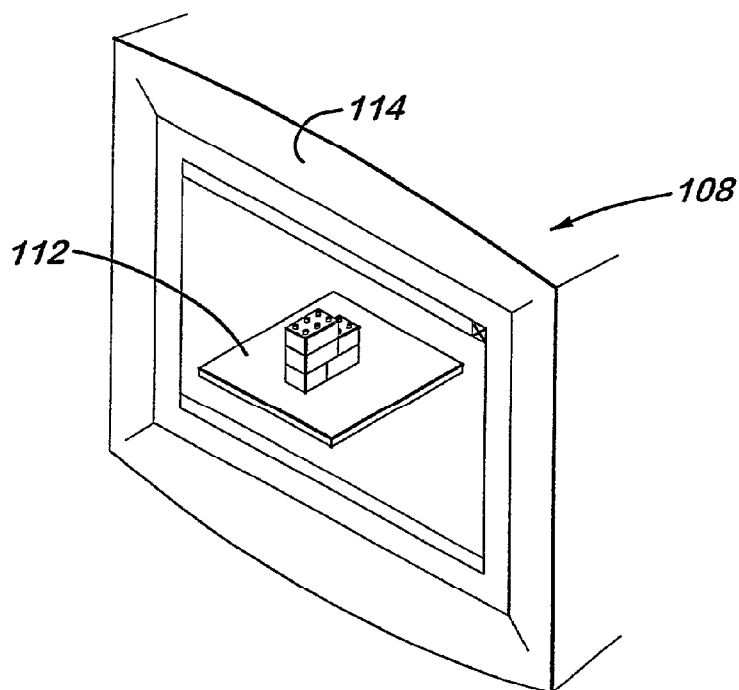


**FIG. 1**

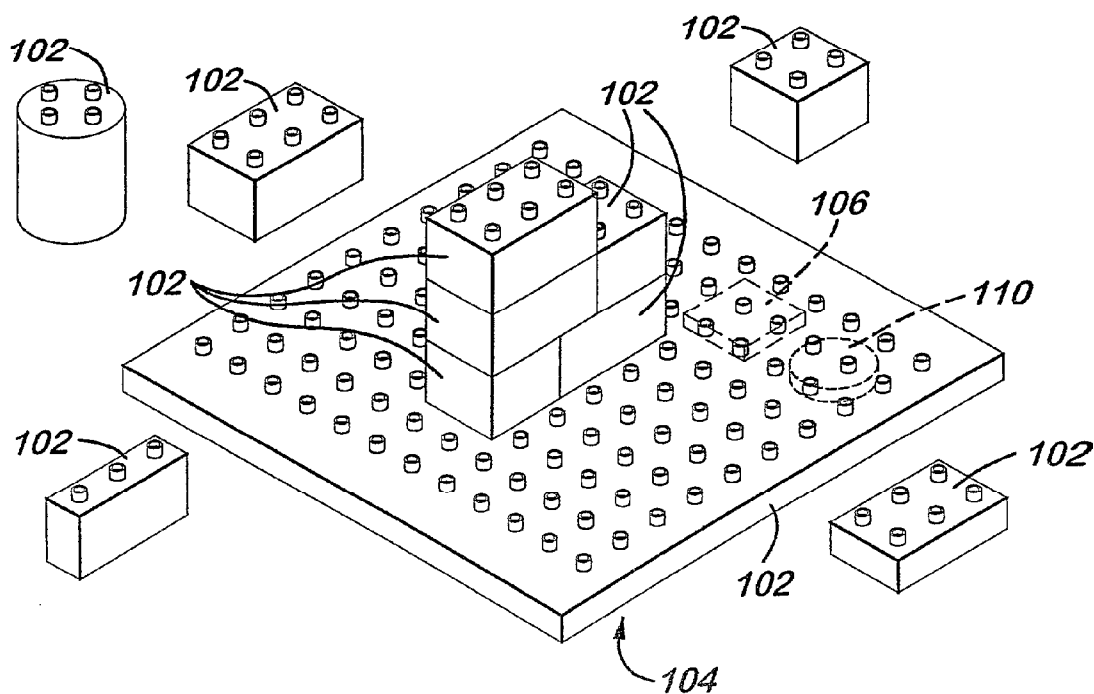


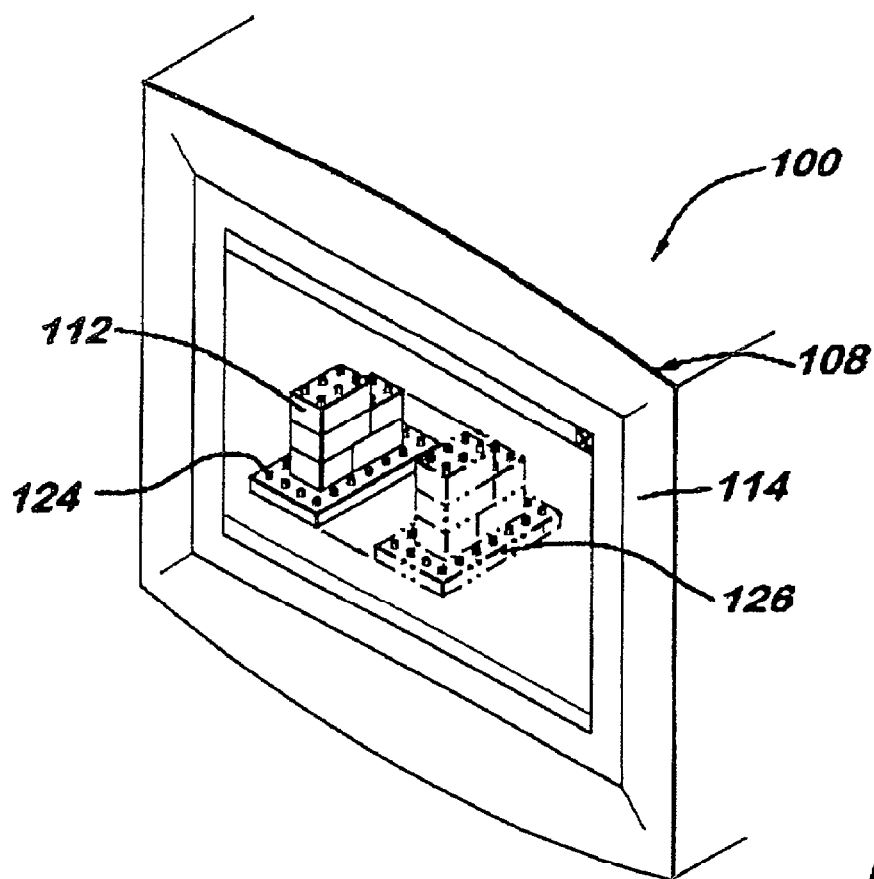
**FIG. 2A**



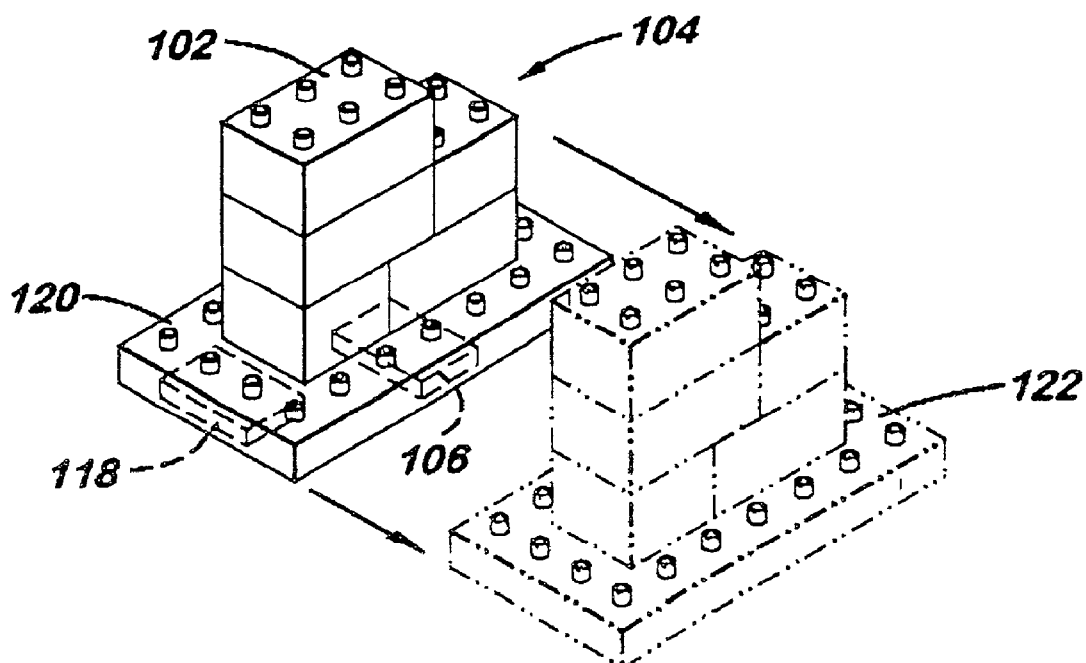


**FIG. 2B**





**FIG. 3**



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