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United States Patent [19]
Mead et al.

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[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jan. 30, 1996**

[54] **PAINTBRUSH STYLUS FOR CAPACITIVE TOUCH SENSOR PAD**

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5,373,118 12/1994 Uktson 178/18 X
5,408,593 4/1995 Kotaki et al. 395/122

[75] Inventors: **Carver A. Mead**, Pasadena; **Ralph Wolf**, Palo Alto; **Timothy P. Allen**, Los Gatos, all of Calif.

Primary Examiner—Stephen Chin
Assistant Examiner—Paul Loomis
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—D’Alessandro & Ritchie

[73] Assignee: **Synaptics, Incorporated**, San Jose, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **324,438**

[57] **ABSTRACT**

[22] Filed: **Oct. 17, 1994**

A proximity sensor system includes a touch-sensor pad with a sensor matrix array having a characteristic capacitance on horizontal and vertical conductors connected to sensor pads. The capacitance changes as a function of the proximity of an object or objects to the sensor matrix. The change in capacitance of each node in both the X and Y directions of the matrix due to the approach of an object is converted to a set of voltages in the X and Y directions. These voltages are processed by circuitry to develop electrical signals representative of the centroid of the profile of the object, i.e., its position in the X and Y dimensions. Noise reduction and background level setting techniques inherently available in the architecture are employed. A conductive paintbrush-type stylus is used to produce paint-like strokes on a display associated with the touch-sensor pad.

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 300,630, Sep. 2, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 300,387, Sep. 2, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 115,743, Aug. 31, 1993, Pat. No. 5,374,787, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 895,934, Jun. 8, 1992, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G08C 21/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **178/18; 345/179**

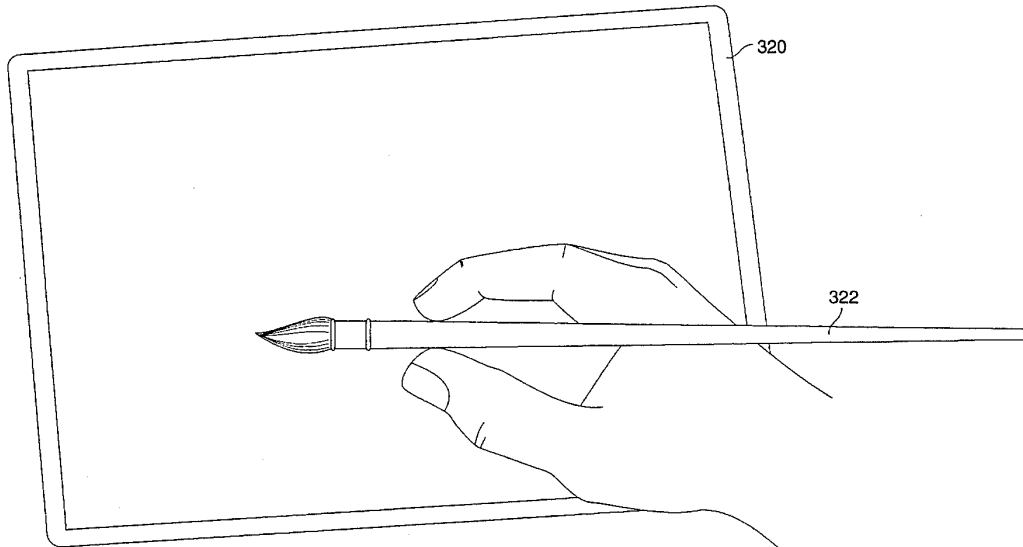
[58] **Field of Search** 178/12, 19, 20, 178/87; 345/173, 174, 175, 179, 180, 181; 341/5; 382/3, 13; 355/27, 266; 395/117, 118, 122

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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11 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



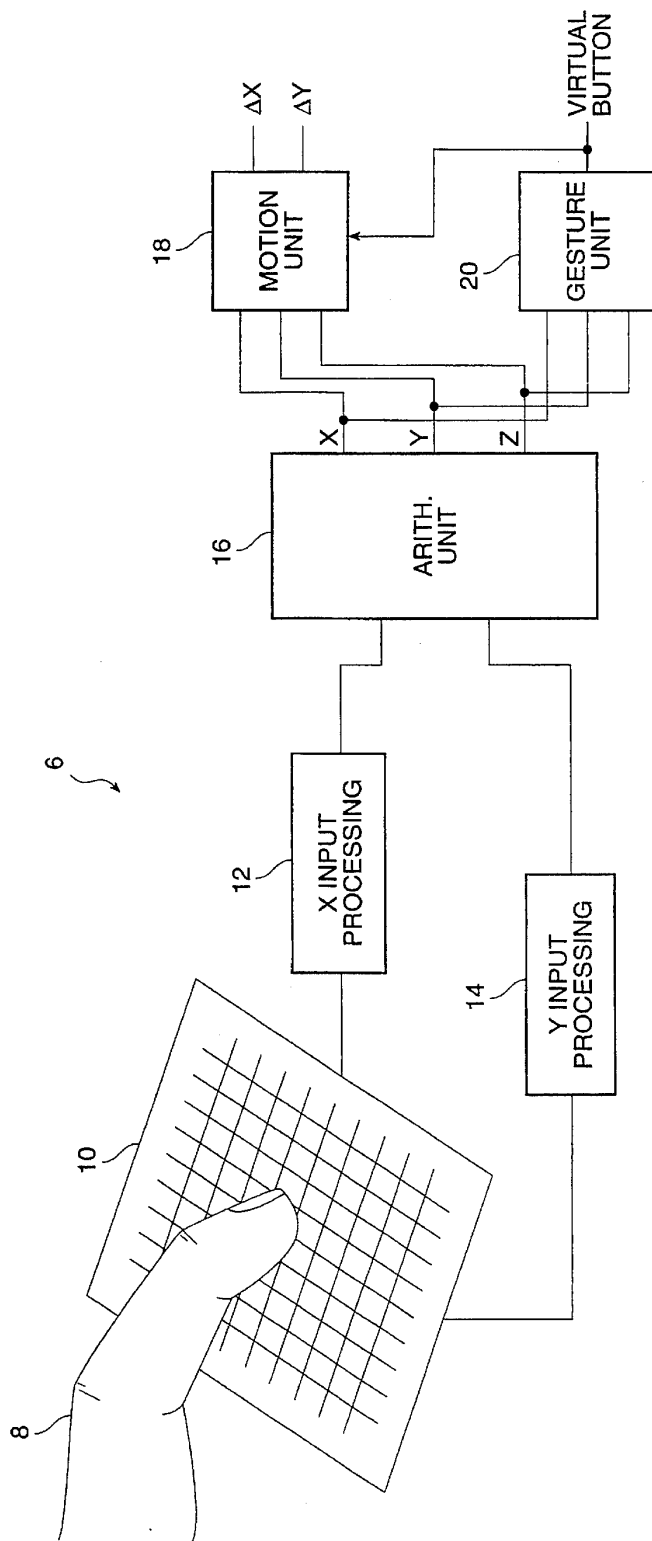


FIG. 1

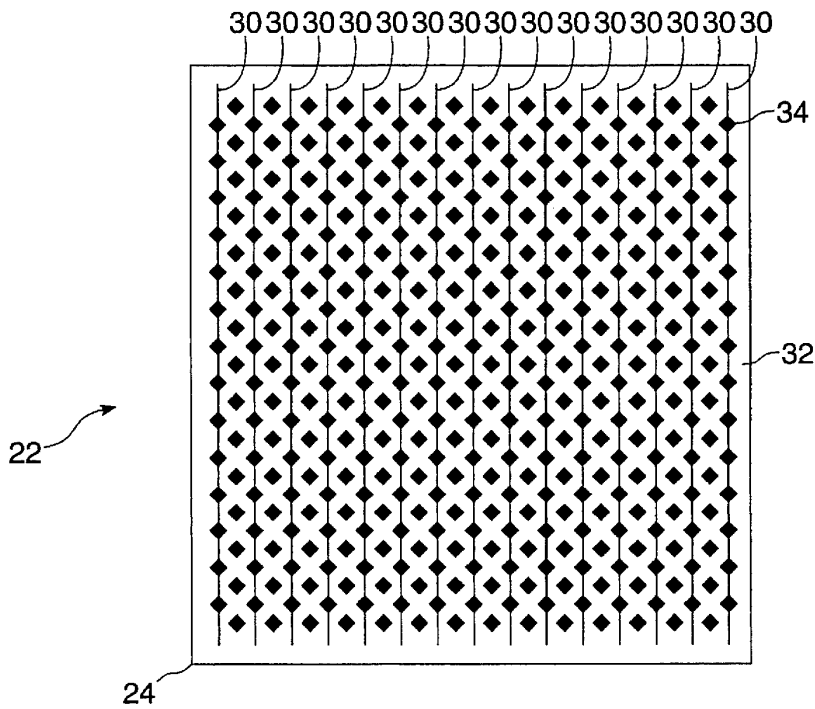


FIG. 2A

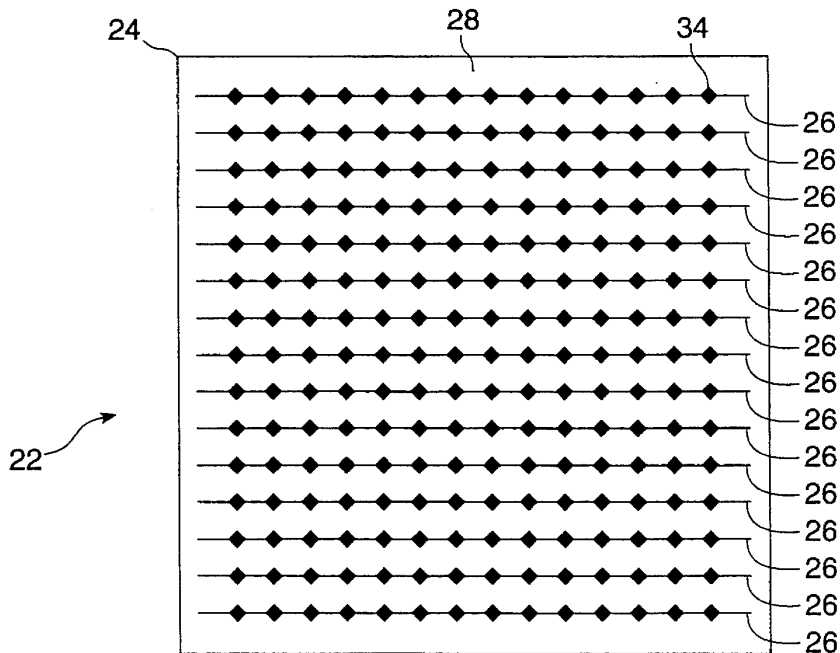


FIG. 2B

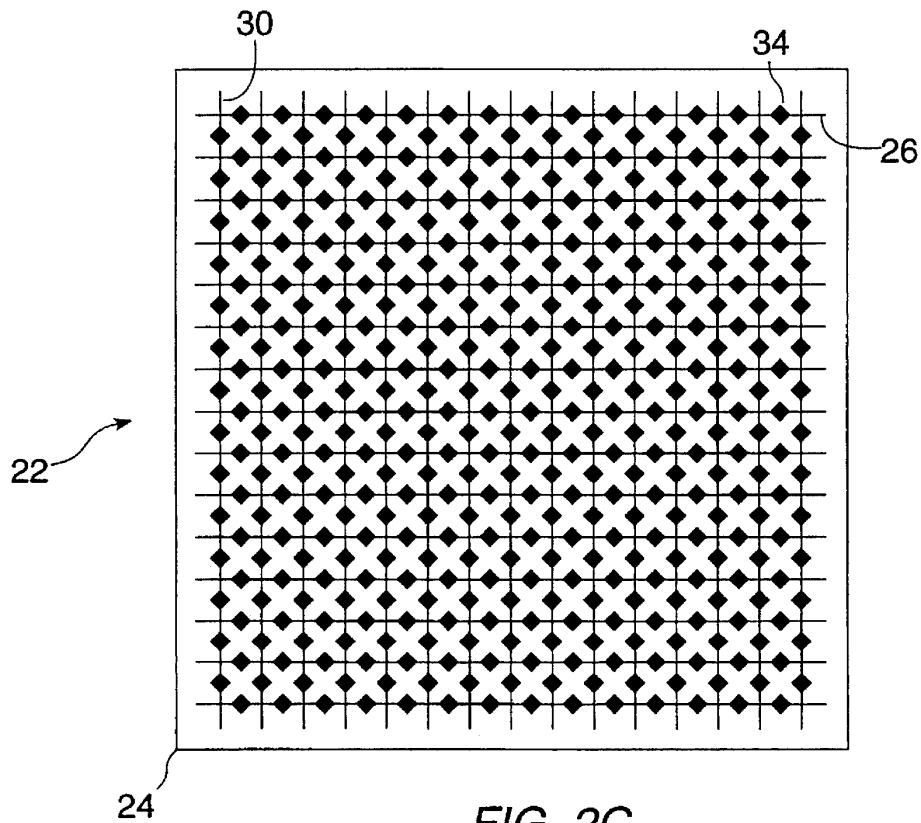


FIG. 2C

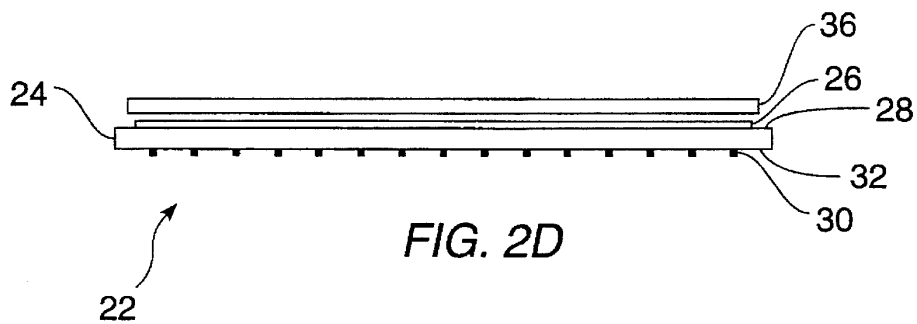


FIG. 2D

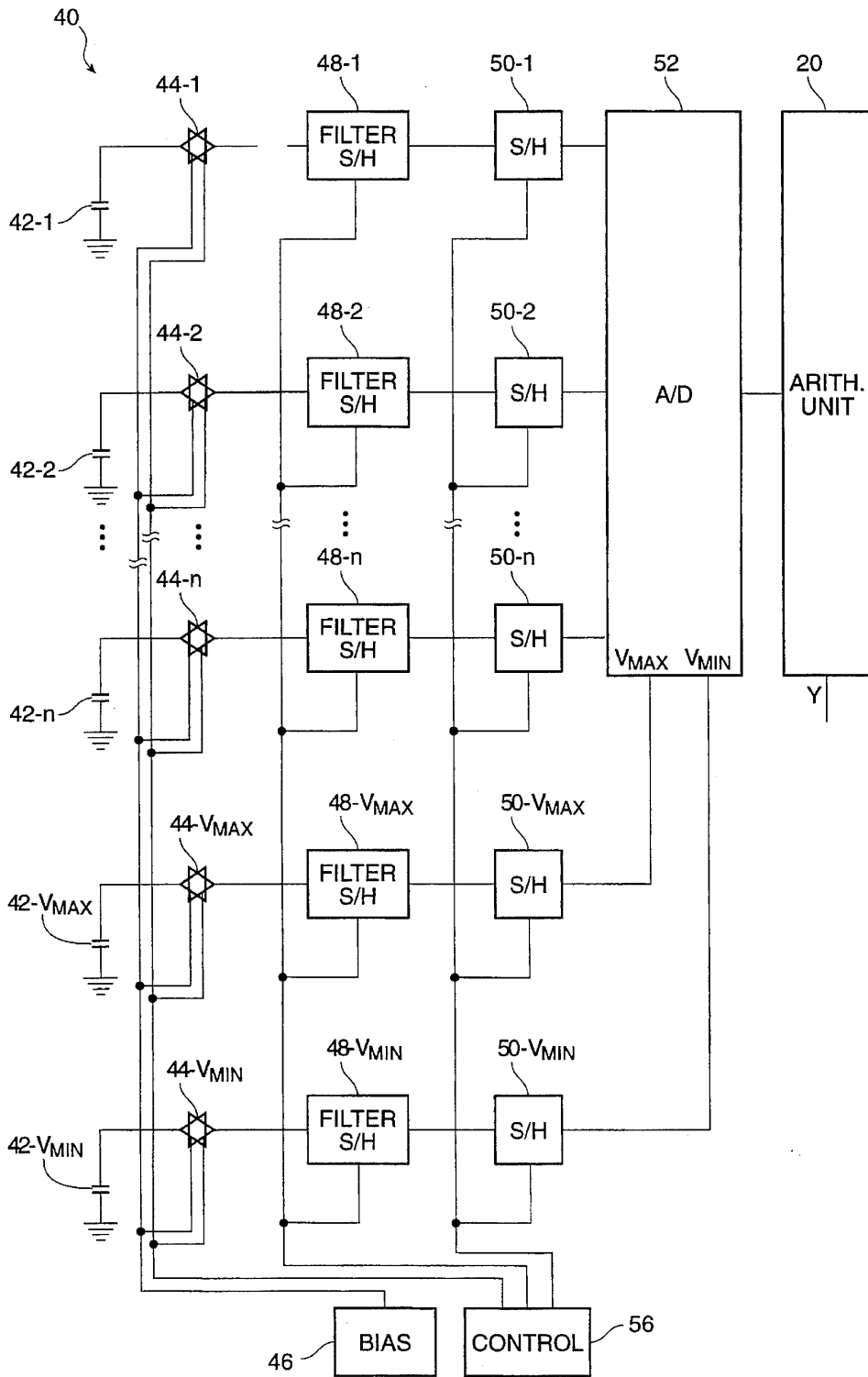


FIG. 3

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