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United States Patent [19]

Ghitea, Jr. et al.

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[45] Date of Patent: Dec. 2, 1997

[54] **FUEL ECONOMY DISPLAY FOR VEHICLES**

[75] Inventors: **Nicolae Ghitea, Jr.**, Tigard, Oreg.; **James M. Ehlbeck**, La Center, Wash.

[73] Assignee: **Freightliner Corporation**, Portland, Oreg.

[21] Appl. No.: **655,841**

[22] Filed: **May 31, 1996**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G01M 15/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **73/114**; 340/439

[58] **Field of Search** 73/113, 114, 116, 73/117.2, 117.3; 340/439

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Primary Examiner—George M. Dombroske

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Klarquist Sparkman Campbell Leigh & Whinston

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improved fuel economy device computes a filtered rate of change of instantaneous fuel economy or a filtered instantaneous fuel economy and repetitively updates a graphical display depicting the current fuel economy. The fuel economy can be displayed as a percentage of a target fuel economy, programmed by the driver or other operator of the vehicle.

21 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

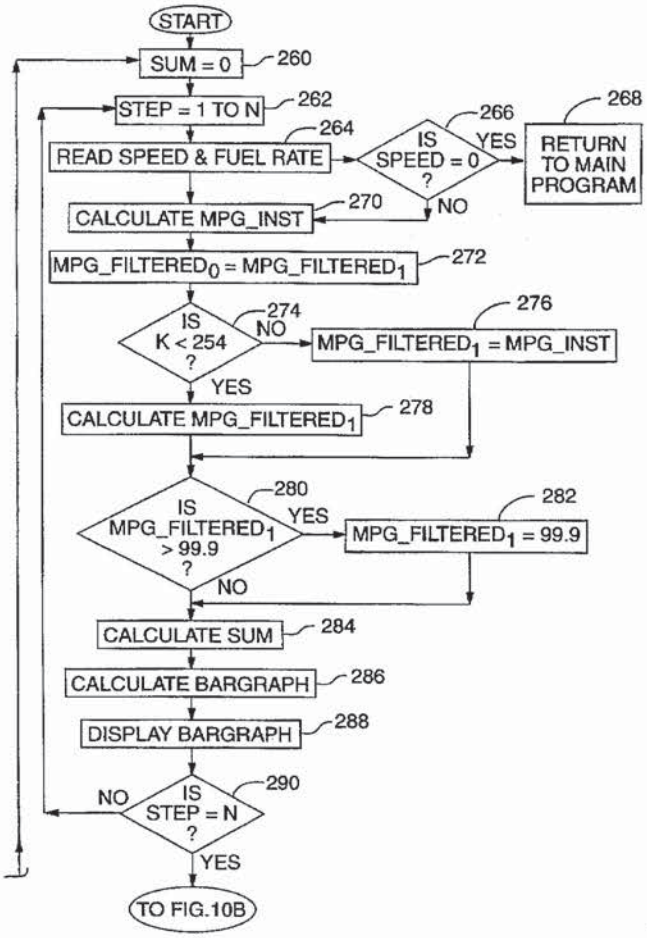

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FIG. 1

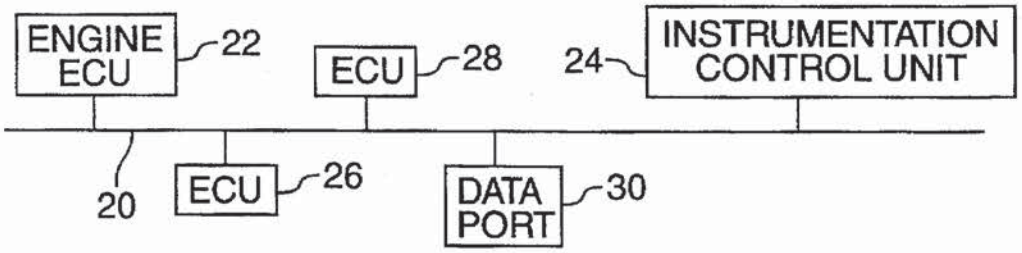

FIG. 2

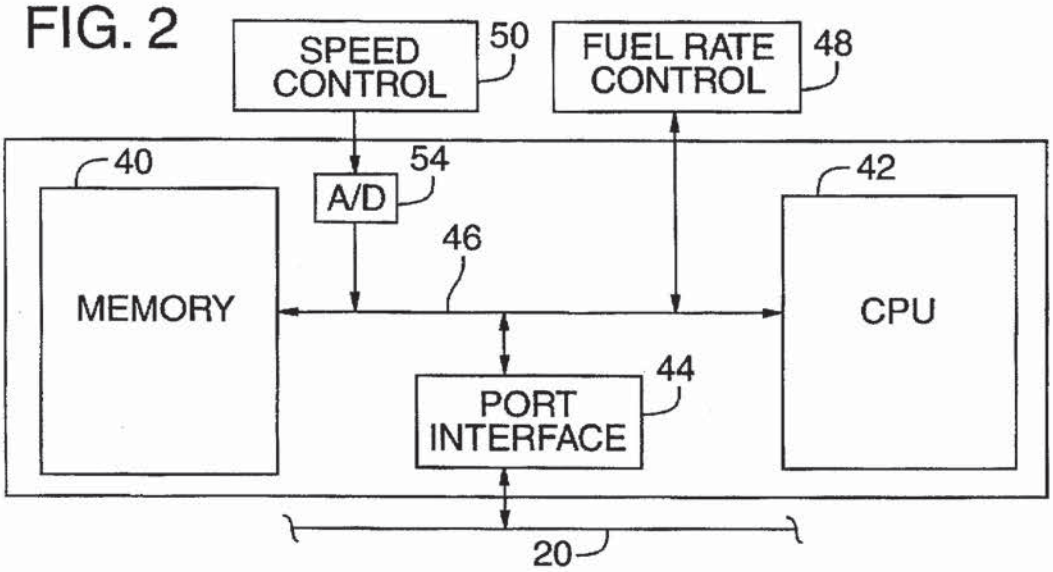

FIG. 3

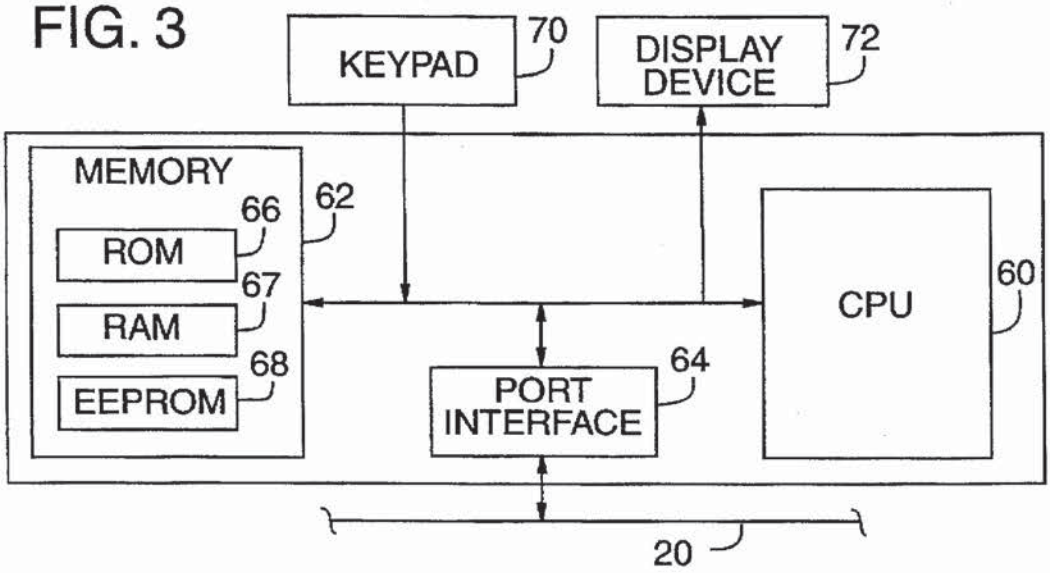

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FIG. 4

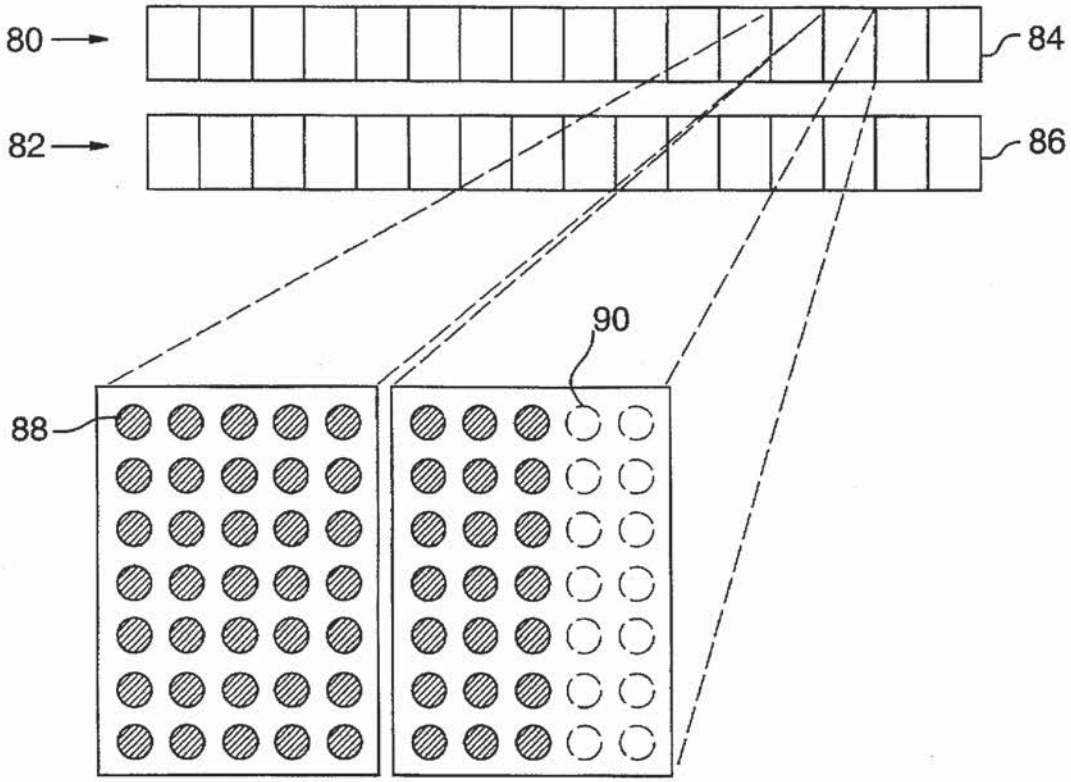

FIG. 5

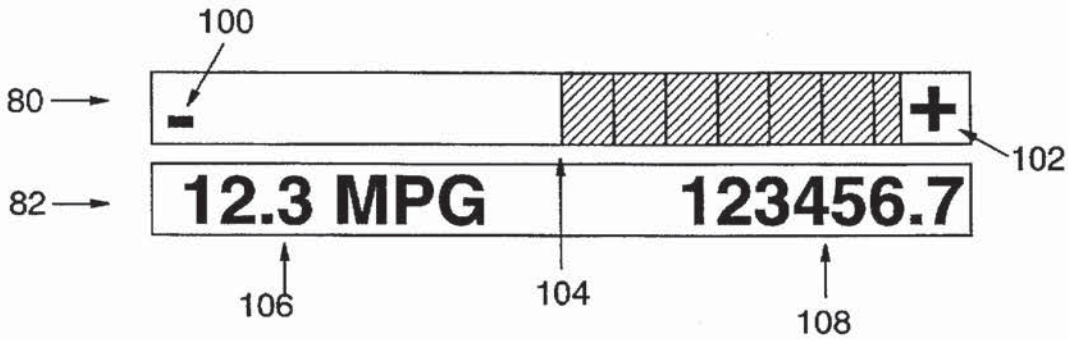

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FIG. 6

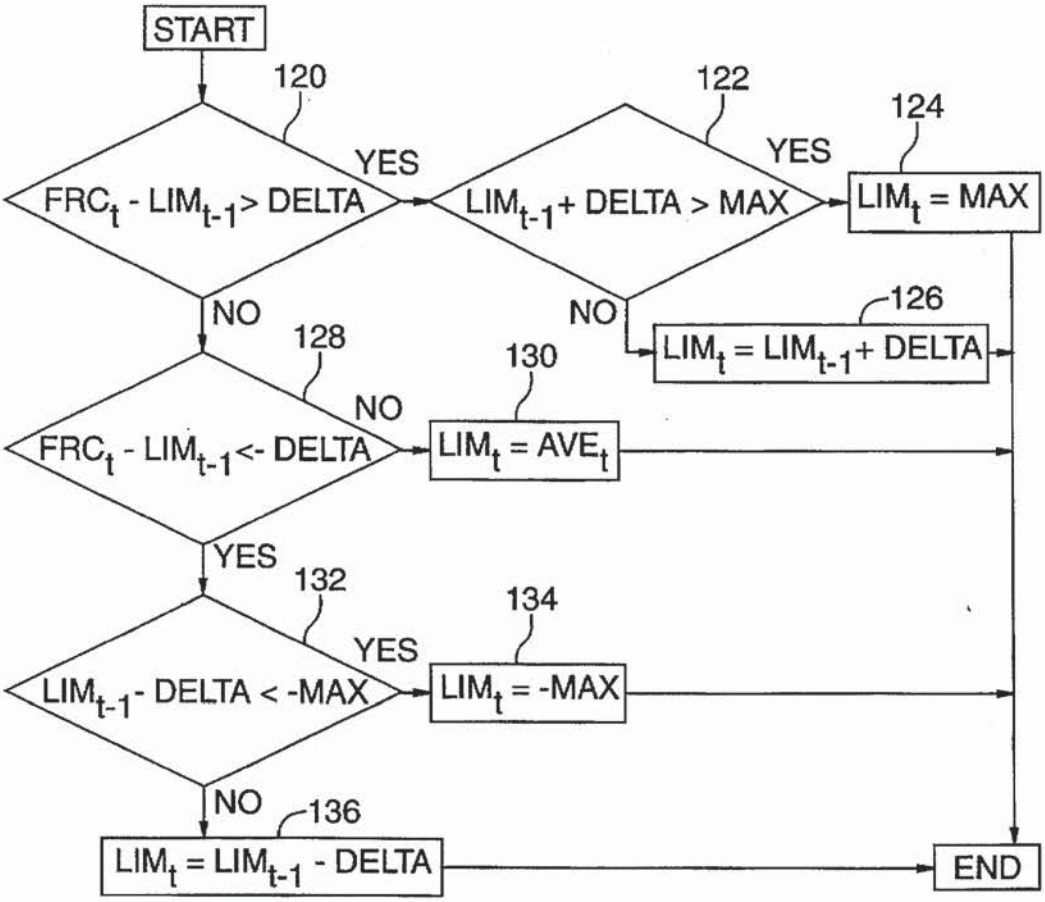
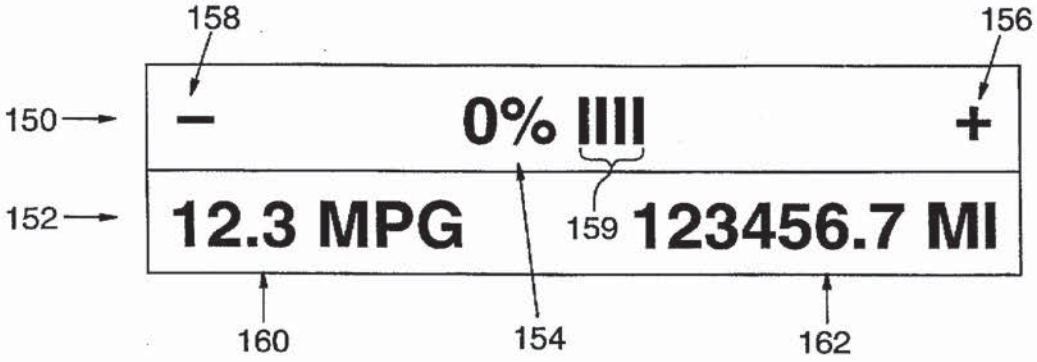


FIG. 7



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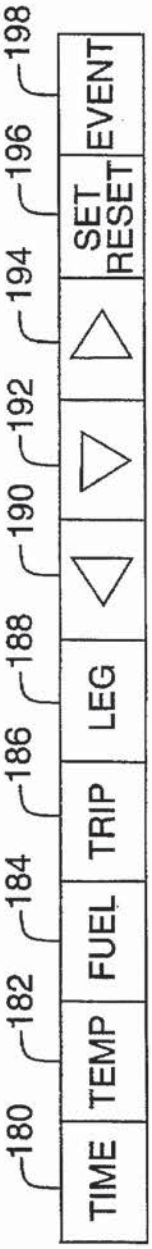

FIG. 8

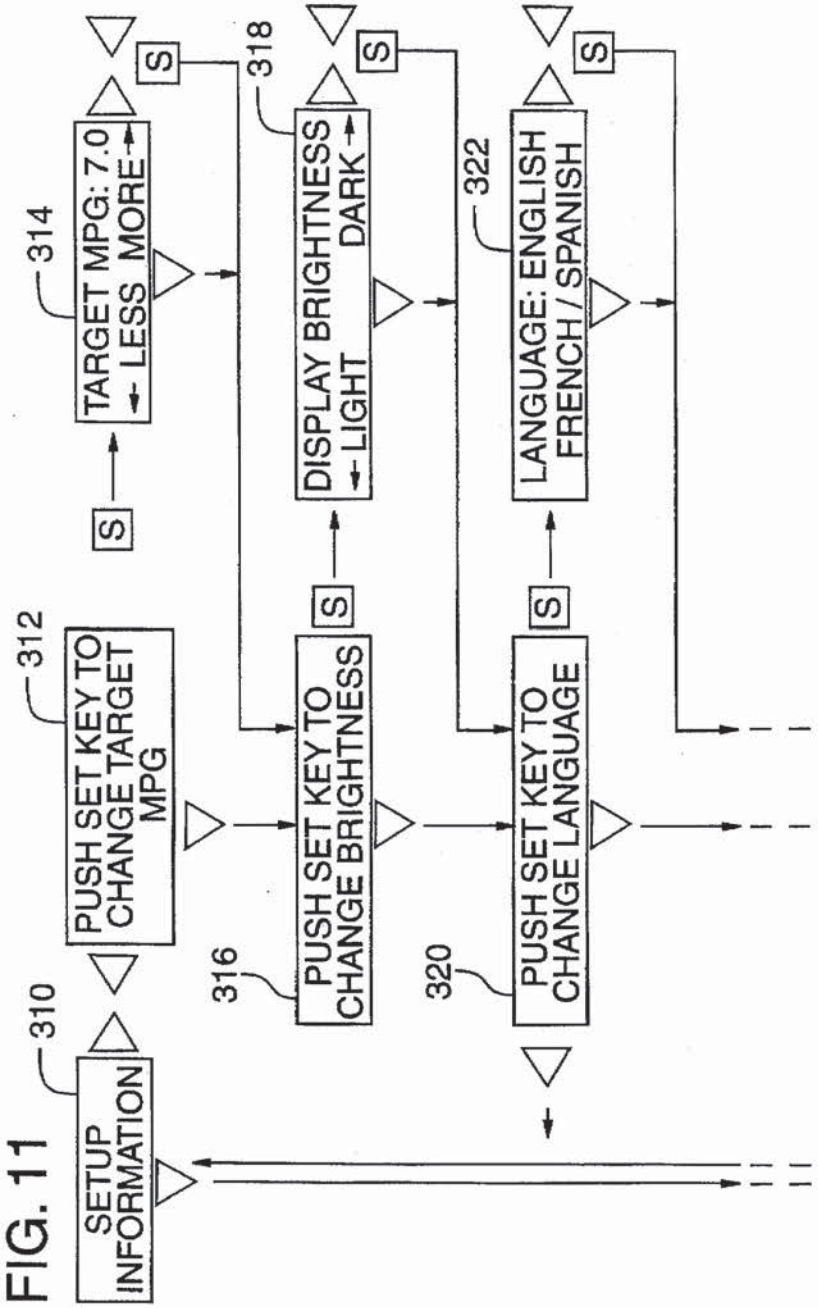

FIG. 11

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