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Theobald

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[54] **ACCESSORY IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

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[52] U.S. Cl. **320/106**

[58] Field of Search 320/106, 110, 320/132, DIG. 12, DIG. 21, 105, 114, 147

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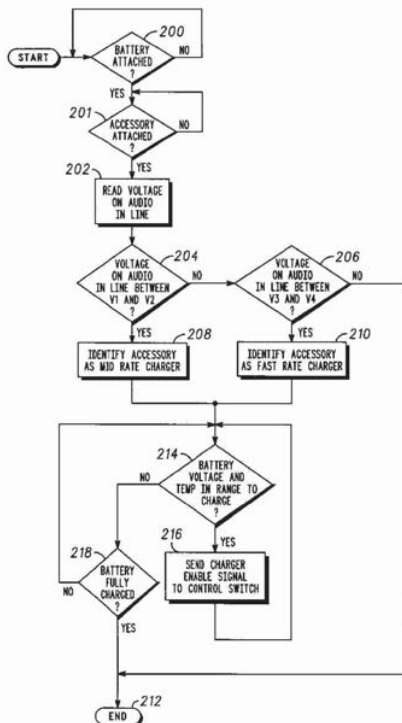
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An accessory identification apparatus (195) used in an electronic device (102) includes a connector (122) to couple to an accessory (104) and a controller (108) coupled to the connector (122). The connector (122) includes an information pin (124) to receive information generated from operation of the accessory (104). The controller (108) identifies the accessory (104) from a voltage level generated by attachment of the accessory (104) to the information pin (124). Also, an accessory identification apparatus (195) used in an accessory (104) includes a connector (173) to couple to an electronic device (102) and an identification element (174) coupled to the connector (173). The connector (173) includes an information pin (179) to supply information generated from operation of the accessory (104). The identification element (174), upon attachment of the connector (173) to the electronic device (102), provides an identity of the accessory (104) via the information pin (179).

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



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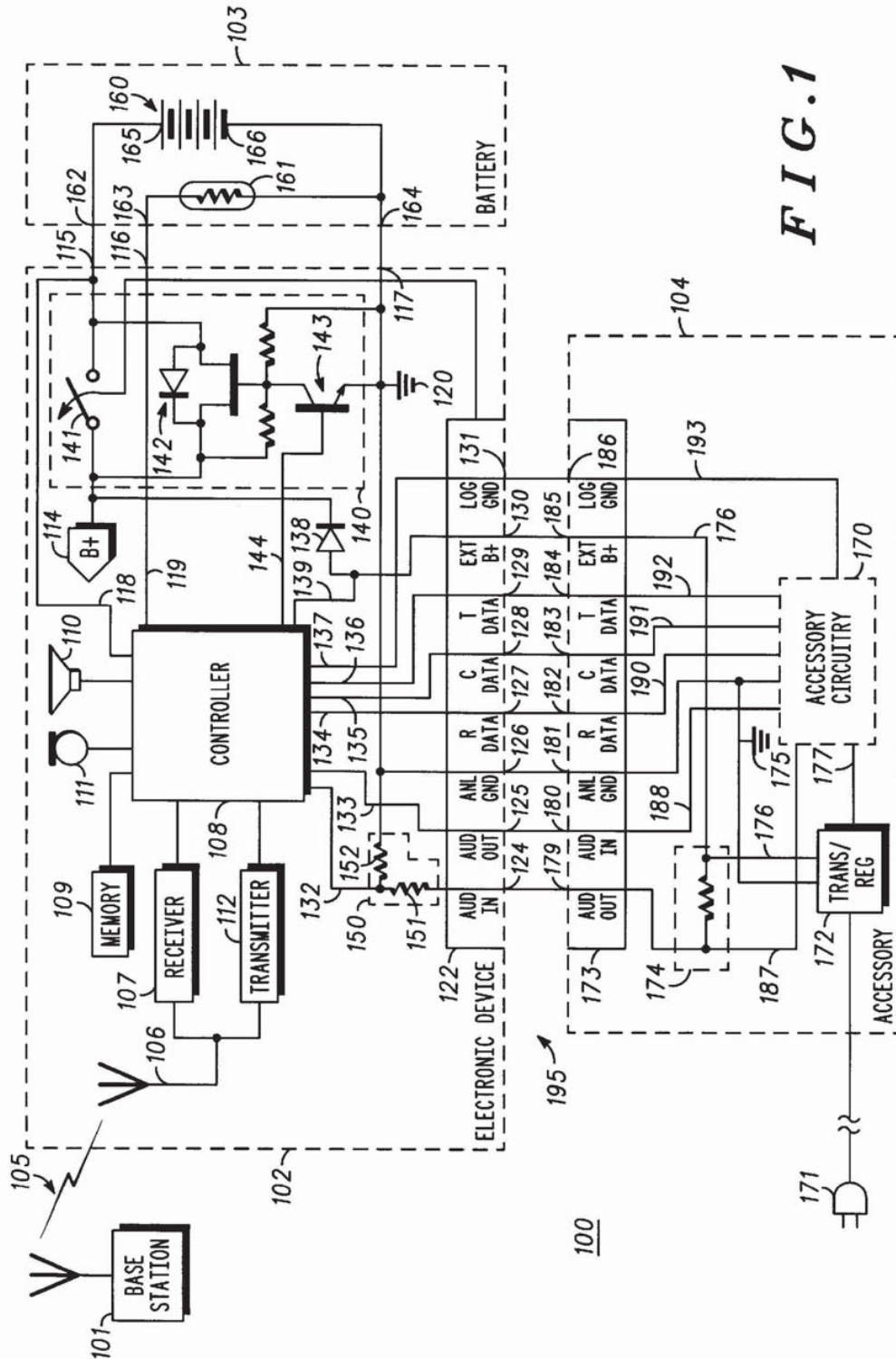
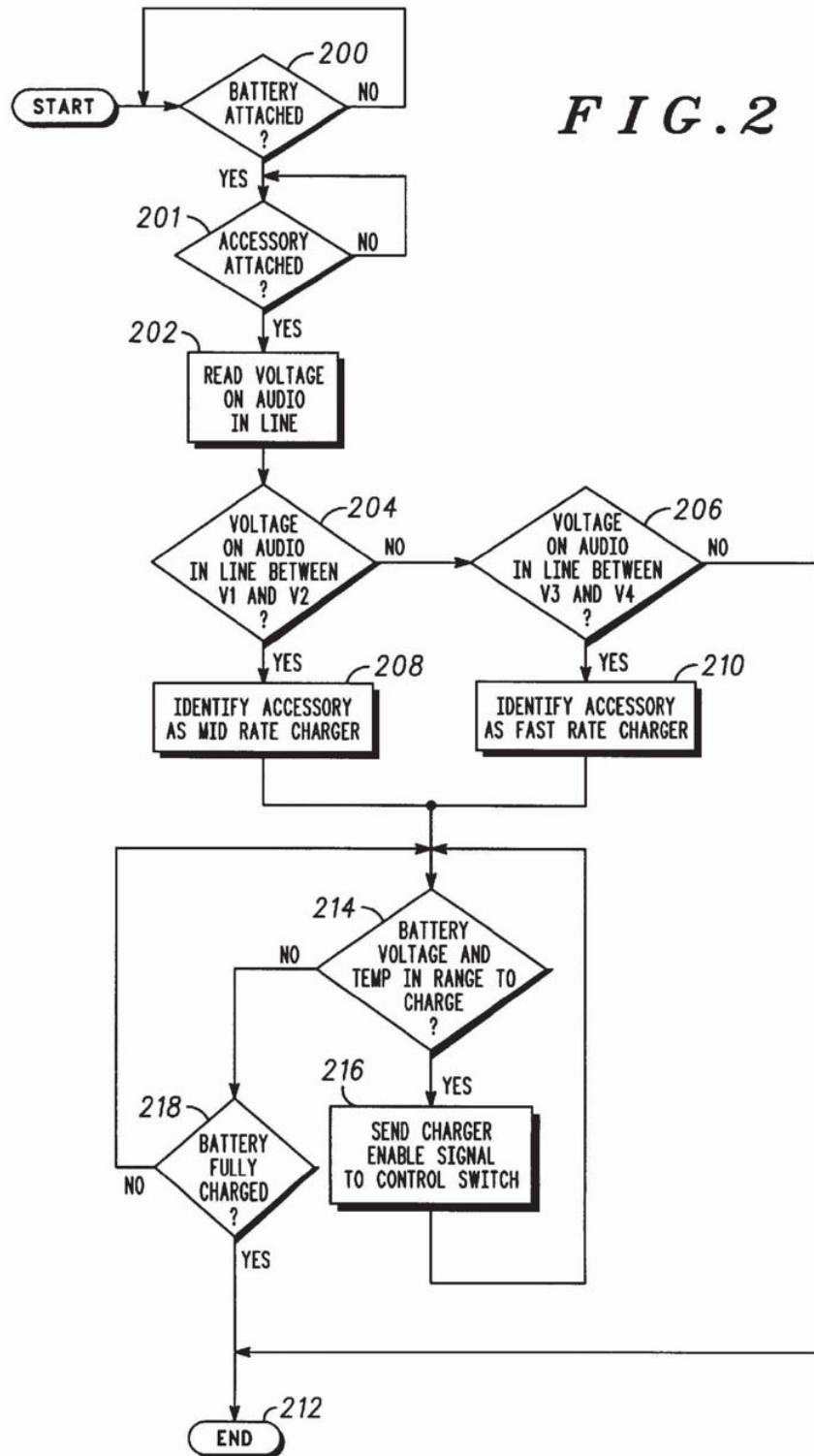


FIG. 1



ACCESSORY IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS AND METHOD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to electronic devices and accessories therefor and, more particularly, to an apparatus and method used to identify an accessory to an electronic device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Electronic devices, such as cellular telephones, have become increasingly popular. Those devices that are compatible with a large number of accessories have a commercial advantage. Accessories are used in association with the device to increase the functionality thereof. Accessories are attached to the device via an accessory connector thereof. One such accessory connector is the standardized eight pin J3-type accessory connector used in MicroTAC™ cellular telephones manufactured and sold by Motorola, Inc. from 1989 to the present. The J3-type accessory connector has an external power supply pin; an audio in pin; an audio out pin; data pins for high speed data communications according to the three-wire bus protocol used in radiotelephone products by Motorola, Inc.; and two ground pins in a predetermined arrangement.

To be compatible with the J3-type accessory connector, an accessory must have a connector that is designed to mate with the accessory connector and have the same number and arrangement of pins. To communicate its identity to the device, the accessory includes a logic circuit or microcontroller capable of driving high speed data communications on the data pins according to the three-wire bus protocol. Unfortunately, such logic circuits or microcontrollers are expensive and oftentimes double the cost of the accessory. Therefore, what is needed is a low cost apparatus and method of identifying an accessory to a device that maintains backward compatibility with existing accessories that use the accessory connector.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates, in partial block and partial schematic diagram form, an accessory identification system including an electronic device having an accessory identification apparatus, a battery, and an accessory; and

FIG. 2 illustrates, in flow chart form, an accessory identification method implemented by the electronic device of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

An accessory identification apparatus used in an electronic device includes a connector to couple to an accessory and a controller coupled to the connector. The connector includes an information pin to receive information generated from operation of the accessory. The controller identifies the accessory from a voltage level generated by attachment of the accessory to the information pin. In addition, an accessory identification apparatus used in an accessory includes a connector to couple to an electronic device and an identification element coupled to the connector. The connector includes an information pin to supply information generated from operation of the accessory. The identification element, upon attachment of the connector to the electronic device, provides an identity of the accessory via the information pin. By using the information pin to provide a voltage level and

to receive information generated from operation of the accessory, a low cost and backwards compatible accessory identification system is realized.

FIG. 1 illustrates an accessory identification system 100. The accessory identification system 100 includes an electronic device 102, a battery 103, and an accessory 104. The electronic device 102 communicates with a base station 101, which provides wireless communications and features, such as paging, telephone, and short messaging, or the like, to the electronic device 102 when it is located within a geographic area served by the base station 101. The base station 101 and the electronic device 102 communicate with each other via a communication link, which is preferably radio frequency (RF) signals 105. In the illustrated embodiment, the electronic device 102 is a cellular telephone and the base station 101 is a cellular telephone service provider.

The electronic device 102 includes an antenna 106, a receiver 107, a controller 108, a memory 109, a speaker 110, a microphone 111, and a transmitter 112. The controller 108 includes a microprocessor, such as a 68HC11 microprocessor commercially available from Motorola, Inc., known synthesizer circuitry, and known audio logic circuitry. The controller 108 controls the operation of the electronic device 102 according to instructions read from the memory 109. The antenna 106 detects and emits the RF signals 105. The receiver 107 operates under control of the controller 108 to convert signals received by the antenna 106 into data signals input to the controller 108 for use thereby and into voice signals input to the controller 108 for output by the speaker 110 as audible speech. The transmitter 112 operates under control of the controller 108 to convert signals, which include data signals generated by the controller 108 and voice signals generated by the controller 108 from audible speech input via the microphone 111, for emission by the antenna 106.

The electronic device 102 has a supply terminal (B+) 114, battery terminals 115, 116, and 117, a connector 122, and a switch circuit 140. The supply terminal 114 supplies power to electrical circuitry of the electronic device 102, including but not limited to, the receiver 107, the controller 108, and transmitter 112 via electrical connections (not shown). The battery terminals 115–117 are for electrically connecting to the battery 103. Battery terminals 115 and 116 are monitored by the controller 108 via lines 118 and 119. Battery terminal 117 is coupled to an analog ground 120 of the electronic device 102.

The connector 122 is for physically and electrically connecting to the accessory 104. The connector 122 has multiple pins including information pins 124, 125, 127, 128, and 129 designated AUD IN, AUD OUT, and R, C, and T DATA, respectively; ground pins 126 and 131 designated ANL GND and LOG GND; and an external power supply pin 130 designated EXT B+. The information pin 124 is coupled to the controller 108 via audio in line 132 and an identification network 150. The identification network 150 is employed to identify the accessory 104. In the illustrated embodiment, the identification network 150 includes a resistor 151, having a value of 15 kΩ, coupled in series with the information pin 124 and the audio in line 132 and a resistor 152, having a value of 15 kΩ, coupled to the audio in line 132 and the analog ground 120 in a shunt configuration, which give the identification network 150 an impedance of approximately 30 kΩ looking in from the information pin 124. The information pin 125 is coupled to the controller 108 via audio out line 133. The information pins 127–129 are coupled to the controller 108 via data lines 134–136. The ground pins 126 and 131 are coupled to the analog ground

120 and to a logic ground of the controller 108 via line 137, respectively. The external power supply pin 130 is coupled to the supply terminal 114 via a diode 138. The external power supply pin 130 is monitored by the controller 108 via line 139. The connector 122 is preferably the standardized eight pin J3-type accessory connector employed by Micro-TAC™ cellular telephones manufactured and sold by Motorola, Inc. from 1989 to the present, but may be any other suitable multiple pin accessory connector having an external power supply pin and at least one information pin.

The switch circuit 140 selectively connects the battery terminal 115 to the supply terminal 114. The switch circuit 140 includes a mechanical switch 141, a transistor switch 142, and a control switch 143. The mechanical switch 141 is coupled to the connector 122, the supply terminal 114, and the battery terminal 115. The mechanical switch 141 electrically connects the supply and battery terminals 114 and 115 when the connector 122 is unattached and opens to electrically disconnect the supply and battery terminals 114 and 115 when the accessory 104 is physically attached to the connector 122.

The transistor switch 142 is coupled in parallel with the mechanical switch 141 to prevent interruption of power to the electronic device 102 when the mechanical switch 141 is opened or closed. The transistor switch 142 provides a conduction path between the supply and battery terminals 114 and 115 until a voltage level at the supply terminal 114 meets or exceeds a voltage level at the battery terminal 115 causing the transistor switch 142 to turn off. The transistor switch 142 is preferably a MOSFET (metal-oxide semiconductor field effect transistor) having gate and drain terminals coupled to the supply terminal 114, a source terminal coupled to battery terminal 115, and an intrinsic diode coupled across the source and drain terminals. One skilled in the art will recognize that the mechanical switch 141 in the aforementioned arrangement is redundant and the desired switching of the supply and battery terminals 114 and 115 can be accomplished using only the transistor switch 142.

The control switch 143 is coupled to the transistor switch 142 and the controller 108 via line 144 to selectively control the transistor switch 142. In response to an enable signal on line 144, the control switch 143 turns on and pulls the gate of the transistor switch 142 low, which in turn forces the transistor switch 142 to turn on and provide a current conduction path between the supply and battery terminals 114 and 115. The control switch 143 is preferably a BJT (bipolar junction transistor) having a collector terminal coupled to the gate of the transistor switch 142, a base coupled to the controller 108 via line 144, and an emitter coupled to the analog ground 120.

Although electronic device 102 is illustrated as a cellular telephone, the present invention will also find application in radios, portable computers, cordless telephones, two-way radios, pagers, personal digital assistants, tape recorders, and the like, and "electronic device" as used herein shall refer to all such battery powered electronic devices and their equivalents.

The battery 103 includes an electrochemical cell 160, a thermistor 161, and contacts 162–164. The electrochemical cell 160 includes a positive polarity terminal 165 coupled to contact 162 and a negative polarity terminal 166 coupled to contact 164. The electrochemical cell 160 is preferably rechargeable, and can be, for example, any one of the following chemical types: Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd), Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH), Alkaline, or Lithium Ion. In the illustrated embodiment, the electrochemical cell 160 sup-

plies a battery voltage supply, preferably of 6 V DC (direct current), at the positive polarity terminal 165. The thermistor 161 is coupled to the contacts 163 and 164. A voltage level across the thermistor 161 forms a temperature signal corresponding to the temperature of the electrochemical cell 160.

The accessory 104 has a plug 171, a transformer and regulator 172, a connector 173, and an identification element 174. The accessory 104 can be a modem, a hands-free adapter, a battery saver, or the like, and includes accessory circuitry 170. The accessory circuitry 170 can include a microprocessor or microcontroller requiring a logic ground; and data or audio input/output devices such as a keypad, a microphone, or a speaker requiring a connection to an analog ground 175 of the accessory 104. However, in the illustrated embodiment, the accessory 104 is a mid rate charger or fast rate charger that does not include the accessory circuitry 170 and, thus, is low cost.

The plug 171 is compatible to mate with a conventional wall outlet (not shown) and provide external power (e.g., 110 V AC (alternating current) supply) to the accessory 104 from the outlet. Alternatively, the plug 171 could be compatible to mate with a cigarette lighter port to provide power to the accessory 104 from an automobile electrical system, or with another suitable power supply.

The transformer and regulator 172 is coupled to the plug 171 and has conventional circuitry. The transformer and regulator 172 provides an external power supply to connector 173 via line 176. In the illustrated embodiment, the external power supply is a current limited constant voltage supply supplying an 8.6 V DC output voltage for both the mid and fast rate chargers, a 340 mA current for the mid rate charger, and a 850 mA current for the fast rate charger. The transformer and regulator 172 preferably includes a tracking circuit that adjusts output power according to feedback received on line 176. In the event that the accessory 104 has the accessory circuitry 170, the transformer and regulator 172 outputs regulated power on line 177 to power the accessory circuitry 170. The transformer and regulator 172 is coupled to the analog ground 175.

The connector 173 is for physically and electrically connecting to the connector 122 of the electronic device 102. The connector 173 has multiple pins including information pins 179, 180, 182, 183, and 184 designated AUD OUT, AUD IN, and R, C, and T DATA, respectively; ground pins 181 and 186 designated ANL GND and LOG GND; and an external power supply pin 185 designated EXT B+. The information pins 179 and 180 are coupled to an audio out line 187 and an audio in line 188, respectively. The information pins 181–183 are coupled to data lines 190–192. The ground pins 181 and 186 are coupled to the analog ground 175 and logic ground line 193, respectively. The external power supply pin 185 is coupled to the transformer and regulator 172 via line 176.

The identification element 174 is employed to identify the accessory 104 to the electronic device 102. The identification element 174 has two ends, one end coupled to line 176 and the other end coupled to the audio out line 187. The identification element 174 is uniquely valued in each different type of the accessory 104. In other words, the identification element 174 is selected to have a different electrical value for each different type of the accessory 104. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the identification element 174 employed in the mid rate charger accessory is a 120 kΩ resistor, and the identification element 174 employed in the fast rate charger accessory is a 36 kΩ resistor.

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