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United States Patent [19] Marks

[11] **Patent Number:** **6,097,390**
[45] **Date of Patent:** ***Aug. 1, 2000**

[54] **PROGRESS-INDICATING MOUSE POINTER**

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5,953,010 9/1999 Kampe et al. 345/348

[75] Inventor: **Laurence Victor Marks**, Raleigh, N.C.

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[73] Assignee: **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, N.Y.

IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin V. 37 #12 Dec. 1994.
"Icon that Shows Length of Audio or Video", p. 179.
Kenneth Mason Publications Ltd, England, Aug. 1990 #316,
"Design of Dynamically Updated Icon to Depict Labor
Standard Range".
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin V.35 #1A Jun. 1992
"Multi-State Icon", pp. 338-339.

[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Joscelyn G. Cockburn

[21] Appl. No.: **08/832,884**

[22] Filed: **Apr. 4, 1997**

[57] ABSTRACT

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 3/14**
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **345/348; 345/349; 345/977**
[58] **Field of Search** 345/348, 349,
345/326, 333, 334, 338, 339, 977, 145,
473

A method of indicating a state of progress of a task being processed in a computer system by providing a progress-indicating visual pointer on a display device of the computer system. Prior art visual pointers (such as an arrowhead) are responsive to a pointer device such as a mouse, and are used to manipulate features of a graphical user interface (GUI). These prior art pointers do not indicate the state of progress of a task underway, but rather only indicate that the task is still running. The progress-indicating pointer of the present invention can take the form of a wristwatch or clock icon having a face which is filled, e.g., in a clockwise fashion, or the form of an hourglass icon having a portion, e.g., the lower half of the hourglass, which is filled in an amount proportionate to the state of progress of the task being processed. The different states of the icon can easily be presented by providing a plurality of bitmaps (e.g., a 32-by-32 array of pixel elements), and program instructions select one of the bitmaps for the progress-indicating visual pointer based on the state of progress of the task being processed. The progress-indicating pointer may be provided in response to instructions from the operating system or from the application software.

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9 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

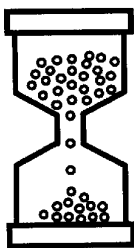
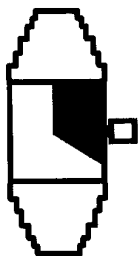
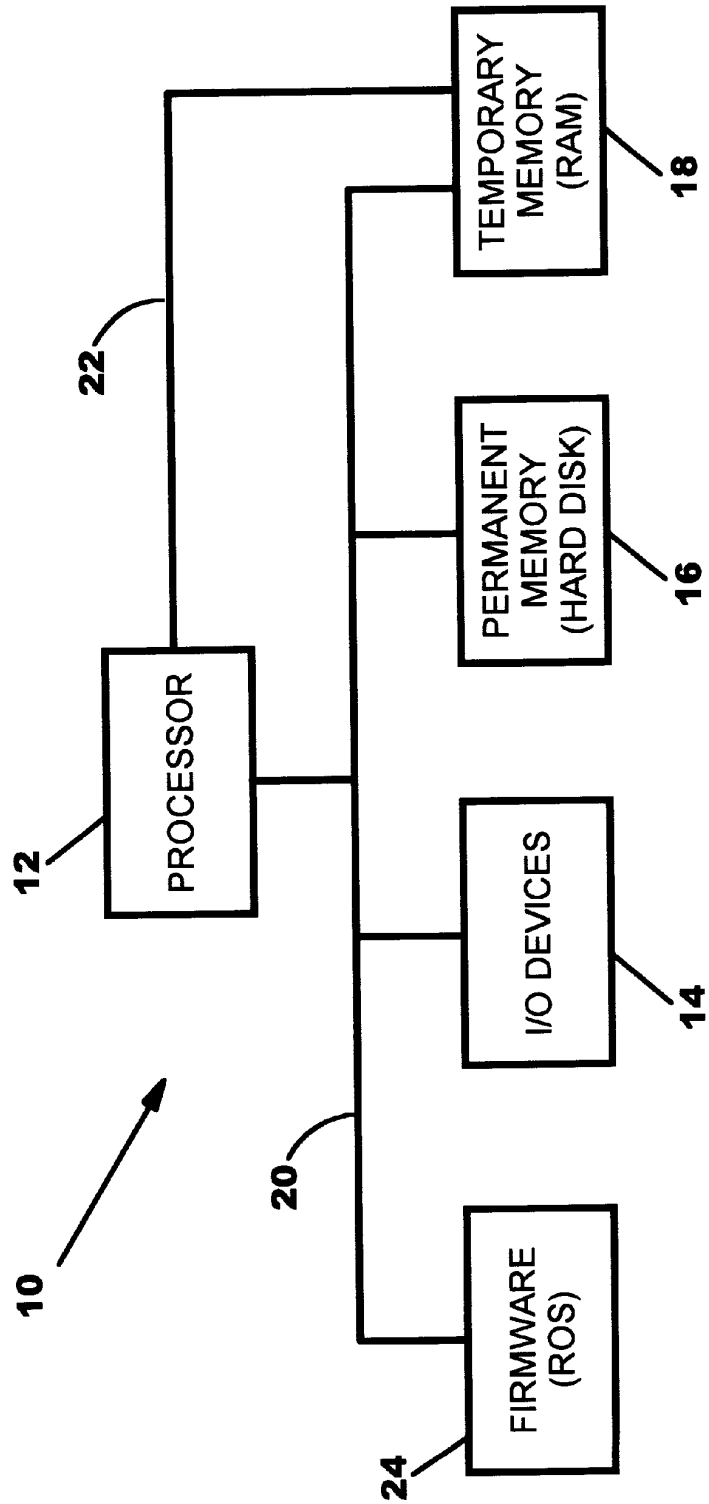


FIG. 1
(Prior Art)



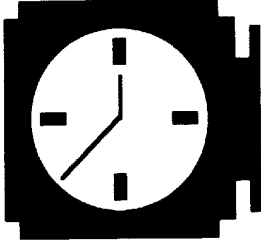


FIG. 2C
(Prior Art)

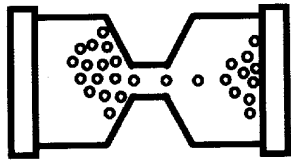


FIG. 2B
(Prior Art)

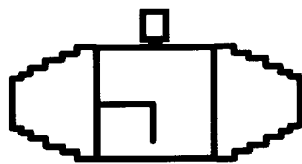


FIG. 2A
(Prior Art)

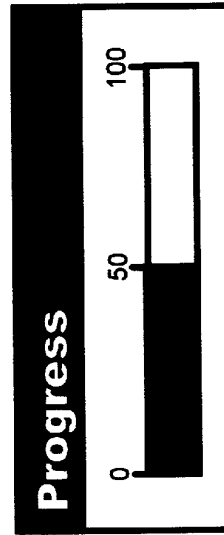


FIG. 3
(Prior Art)

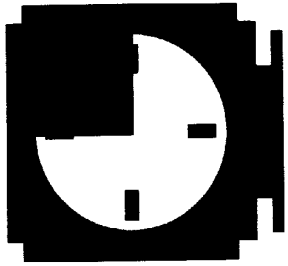


FIG. 4C

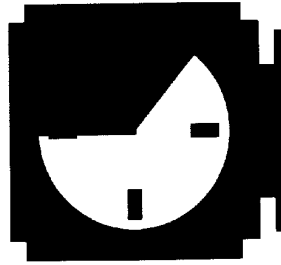


FIG. 5C

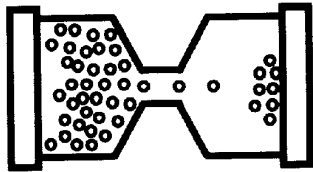


FIG. 4B

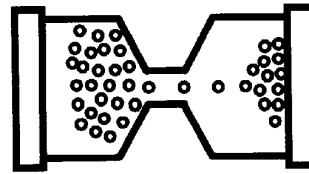


FIG. 5B

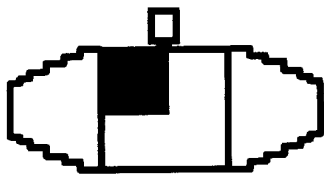


FIG. 4A

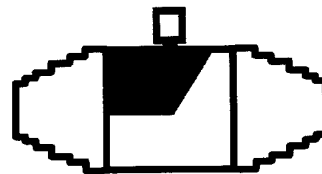


FIG. 5A

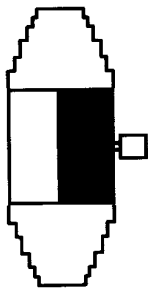


FIG. 6A

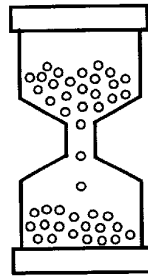


FIG. 6B

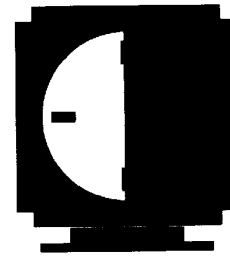


FIG. 6C

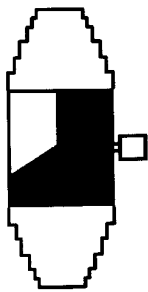


FIG. 7A

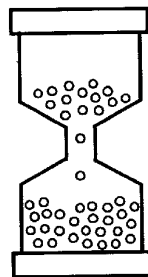


FIG. 7B

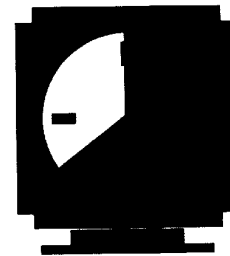


FIG. 7C

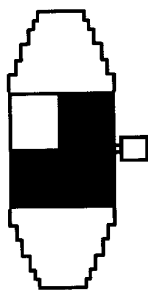


FIG. 8A

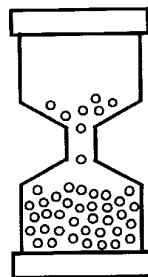


FIG. 8B



FIG. 8C

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