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(54) **HEADSETS AND HEADSET POWER MANAGEMENT**

(52) **U.S. CL. .... 381/74; 381/370**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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The invention relates to an energy saving headset that comprises a power management unit operable to reduce the power consumption of the headset when a user is not present. The power management unit uses capacitive sensing to detect the presence of the user. Capacitive sensing is advantageous since it provides a flexible and reliable sensor that can accurately detect the presence or absence of a user either by detecting user proximity or user contact. Moreover, in various embodiments, the sensitivity of a capacitive sensor may be adjusted to account for user movement or changes in environmental conditions, such as, for example, the presence of water, or sweat, on the headset to further improve sensing reliability. The invention further relates to headsets using user presence signals based on capacitive sensing to control other functions of the headset or to control external devices to which the headset is connected, either wirelessly or by wires.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/536,583**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 28, 2006**

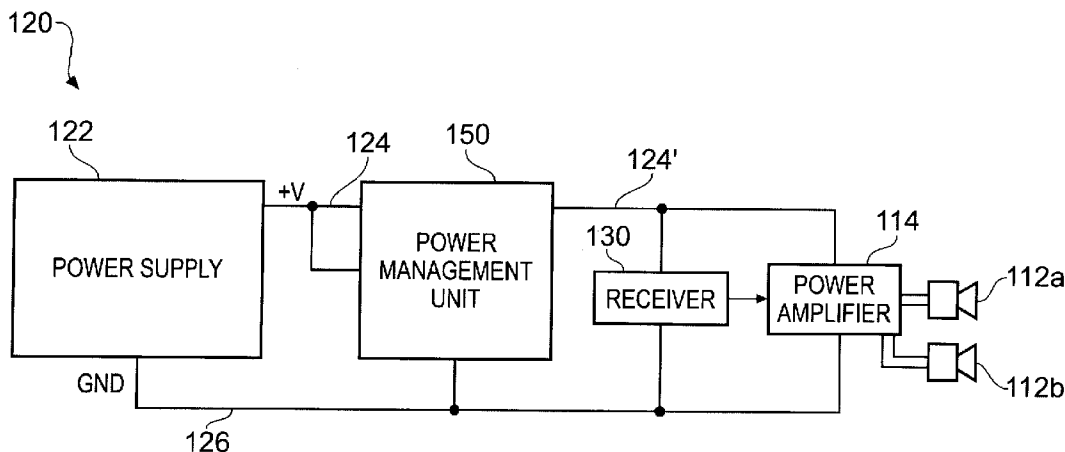
**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/333,489, filed on Jan. 17, 2006.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/722,476, filed on Sep. 30, 2005.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H04R 1/10** (2006.01)



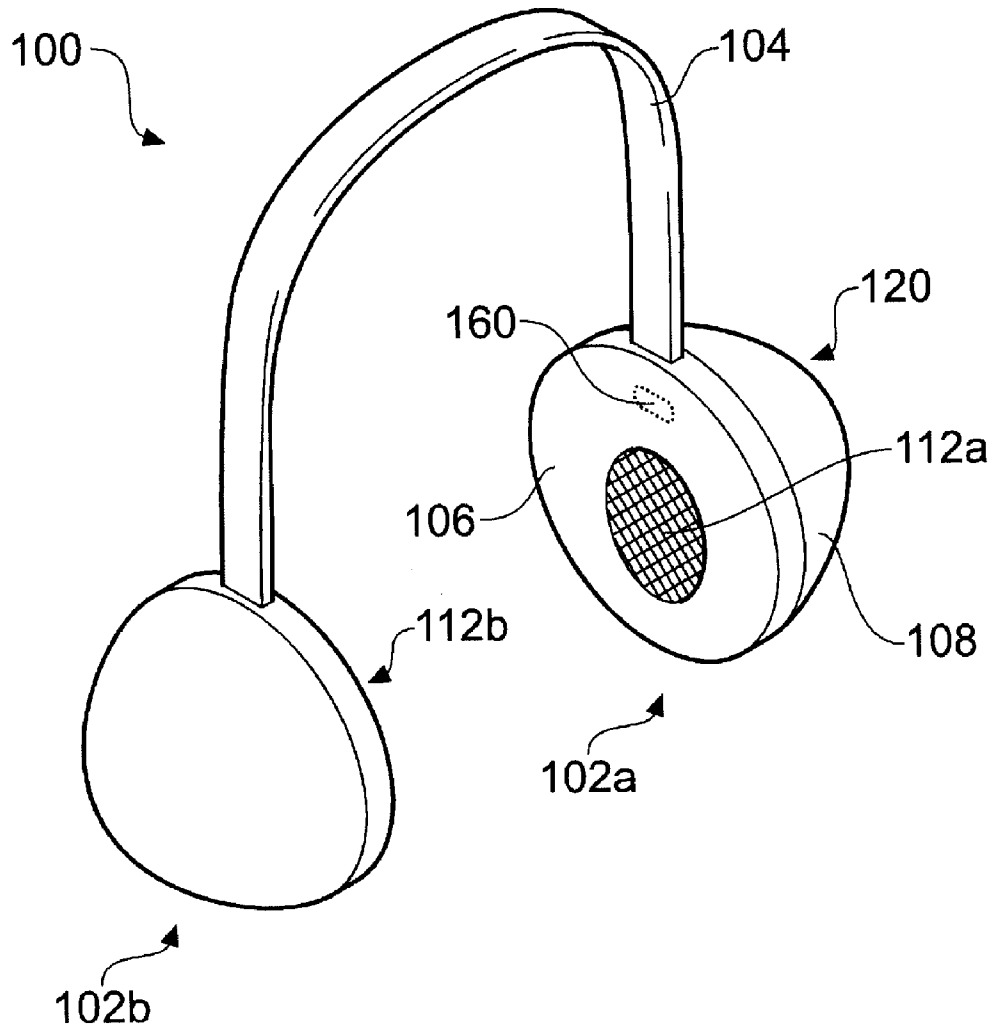


Fig. 1

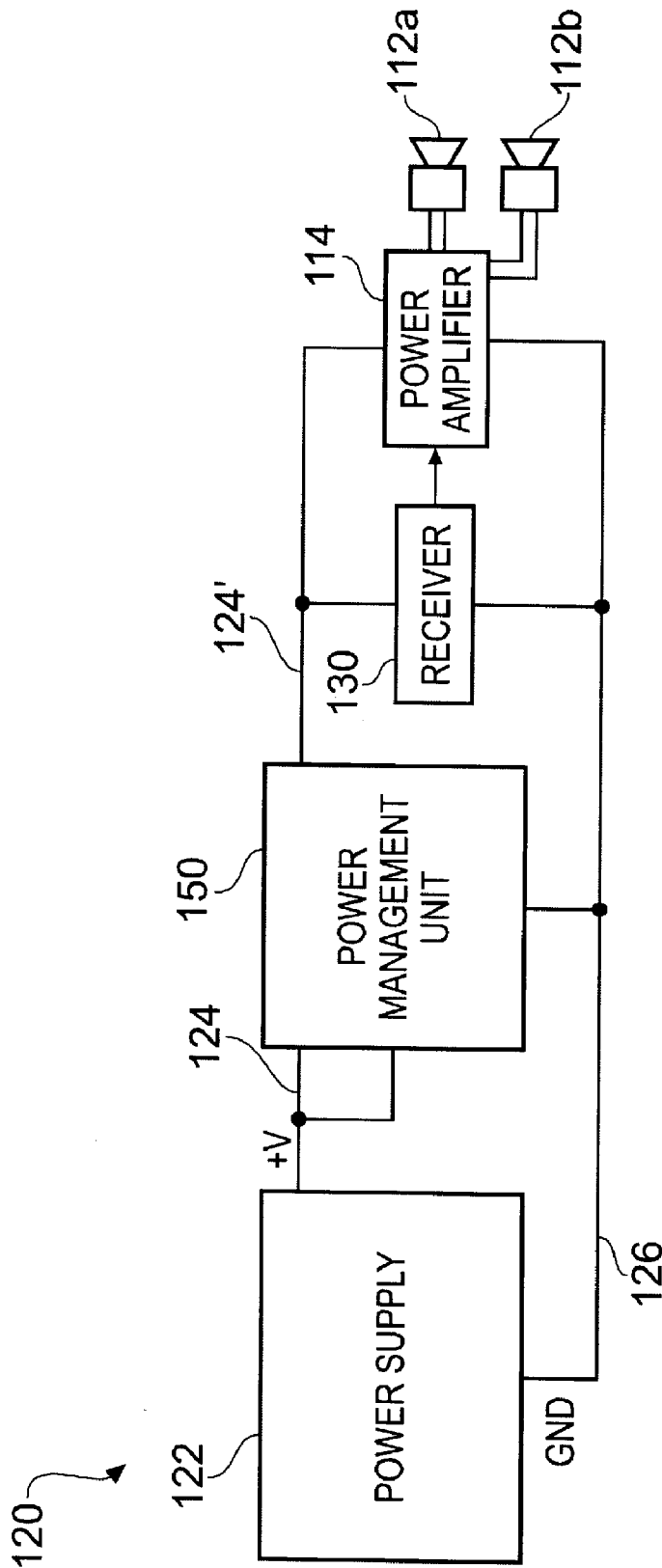


Fig. 2

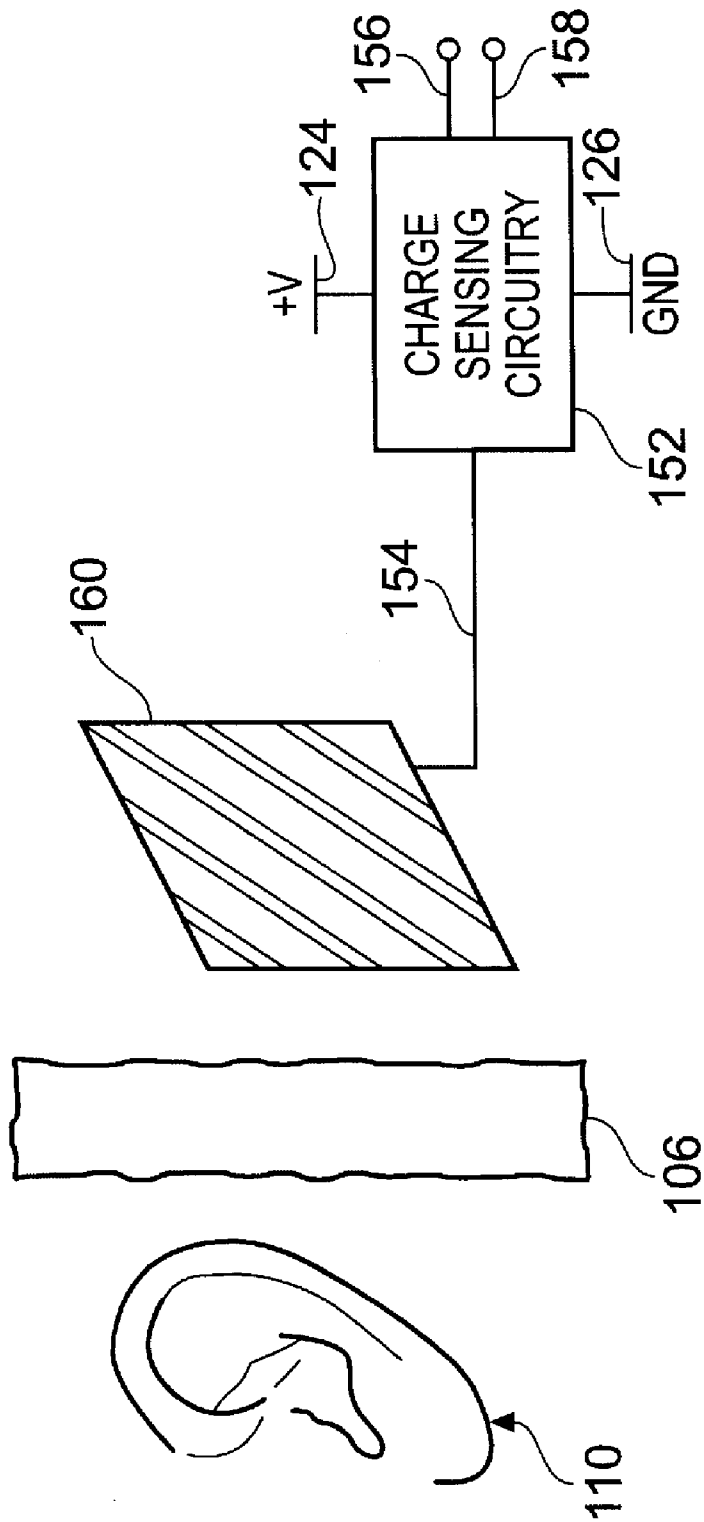


Fig. 3

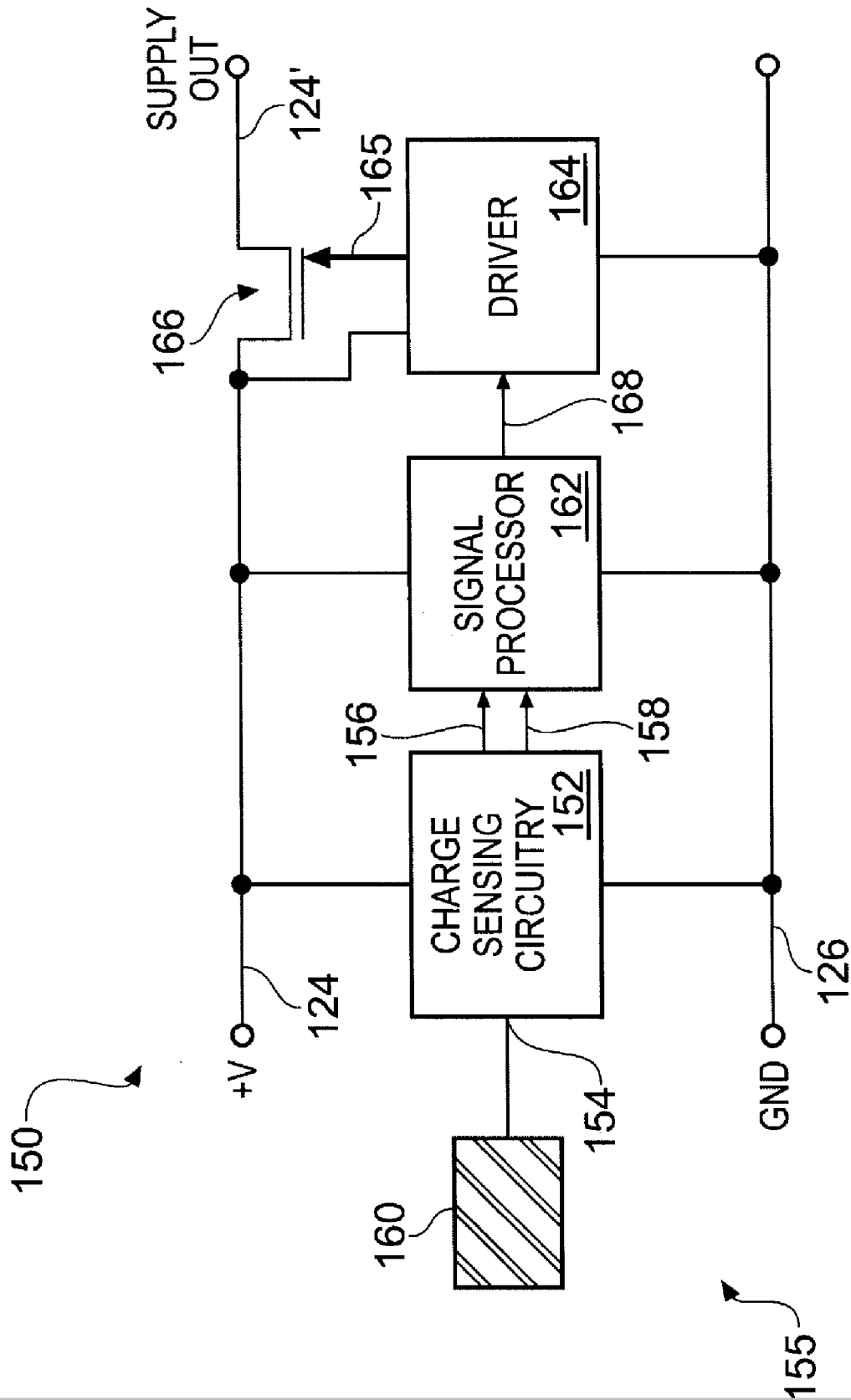


Fig. 4

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