

United States Patent [19]

Du et al.

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[54] TOUCH-PAD DIGITAL COMPUTER POINTING-DEVICE

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Assignee: 02 Micro, Inc., Santa Clara, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: 549,422

Oct. 27, 1995 [22] Filed:

[51]

[52] [58] **Field of Search** 345/157, 158,

345/159, 173, 174, 175, 179, 180, 145

[56] **References Cited**

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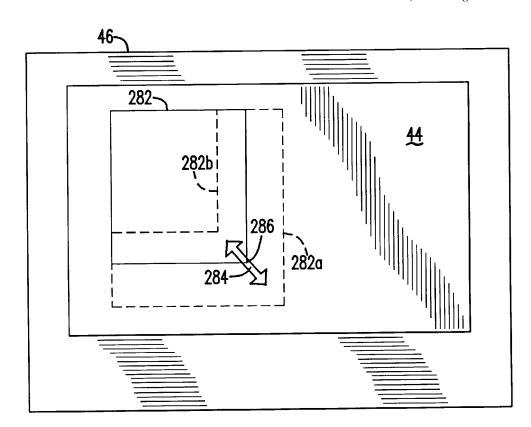
Diehl, Stanford, "Touchpads to Navigate By," Byte, p. 150, Oct. 1995.

Primary Examiner-Steven J. Saras Assistant Examiner—David Lewis Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Donald E. Schreiber

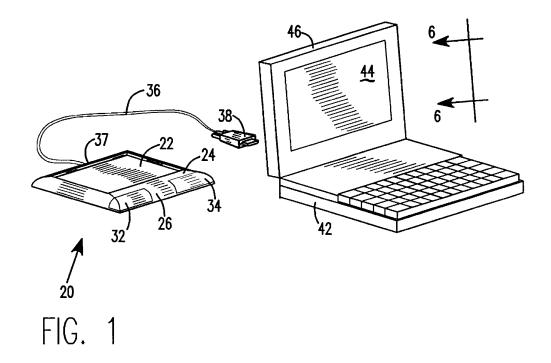
[57] **ABSTRACT**

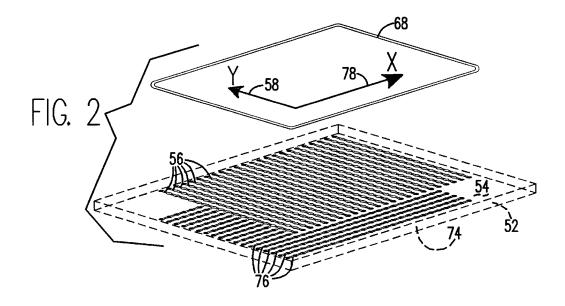
A touch-pad digital computer pointing-device, for controlling a position of a cursor appearing on a display screen of a digital computer, senses and resolves respective locations within an active area at which concurrent multi-finger contacts occur. Multi-finger contacts with the active area activate or deactivate a drag-lock operating mode, computer power conservation, and other touch-pad operating characteristics such as the touch-pad's sensitivity to finger contact. The touch-pad also senses a velocity and direction for finger contact with the active area for use in transmitting data to the computer which effects continuous cursor movement across the computer's display screen in a direction fixed by the initial direction of contact movement across the active area. While there is no finger contact with the active area, the touch-pad monitors the active area and adjusts its operation to compensate for changes in the surrounding environment such as changes in temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure.

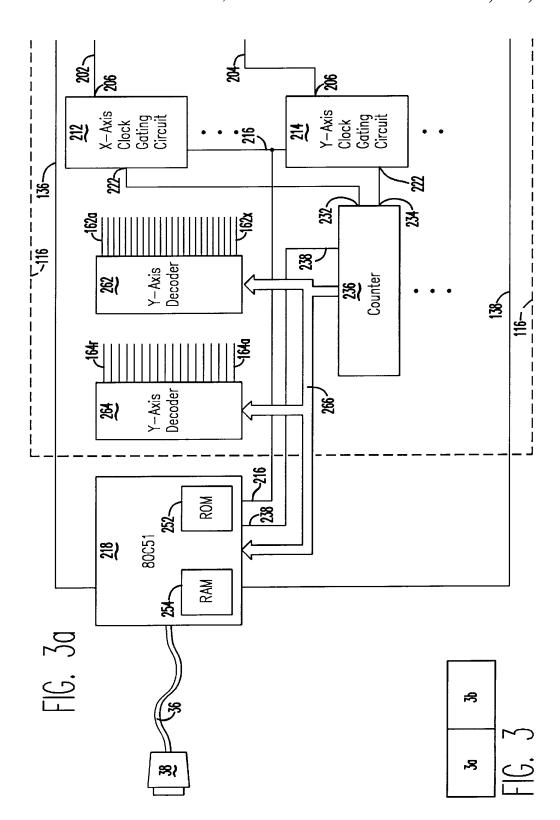
1 Claim, 5 Drawing Sheets

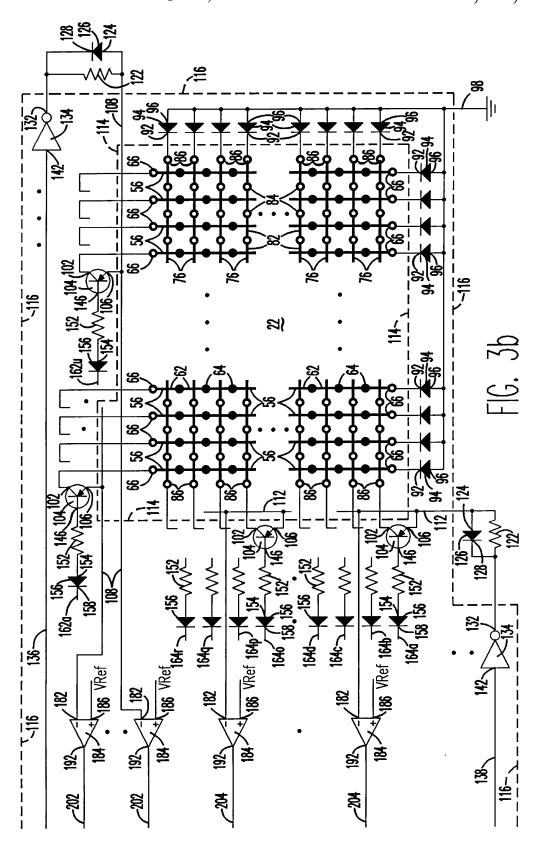


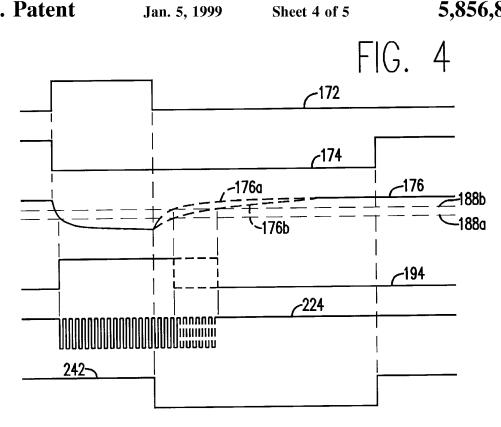


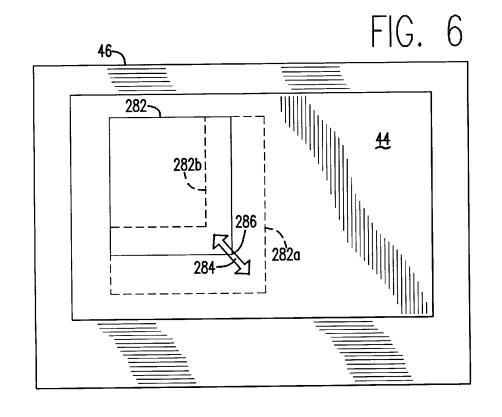












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