



US006771494B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Shimano**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,771,494 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 3, 2004**

(54) **PORTABLE COMPUTER USABLE IN  
LAPTOP AND TABLET CONFIGURATIONS**

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/023,228**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 17, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0112588 A1 Jun. 19, 2003

(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 1/16**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **361/681; 345/173; 345/905; 361/681; D14/304**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **361/680-683, 361/686; D14/304, 305; 345/173, 905, 178, 179**

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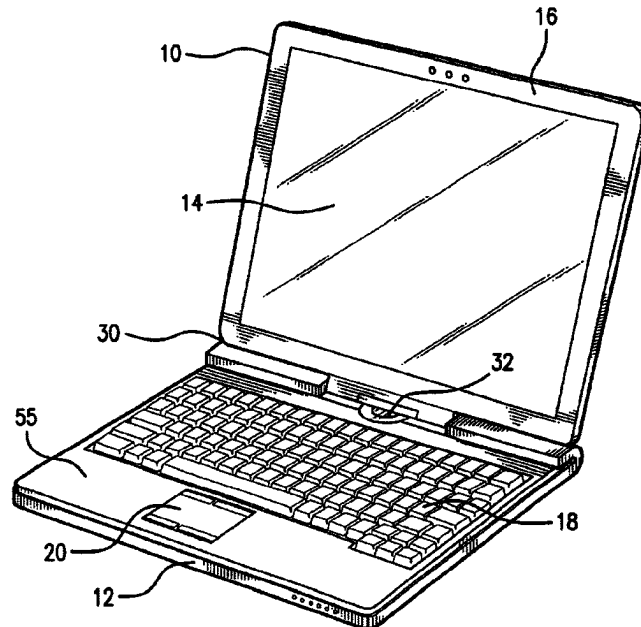
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to a portable computer, such as a laptop or notebook computer, a subnotebook computer, a personal digital assistant, a wireless phone or the like, that can be set up in a closed configuration, a laptop configuration or a tablet configuration. The portable computer may include a base unit having a primary input device, such as a keyboard or pointing device, and a display unit having a display device. The base unit and the display unit may be coupled so that the display unit can be moved relative to the base unit to place the portable computer in a desired configuration.

**17 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets**



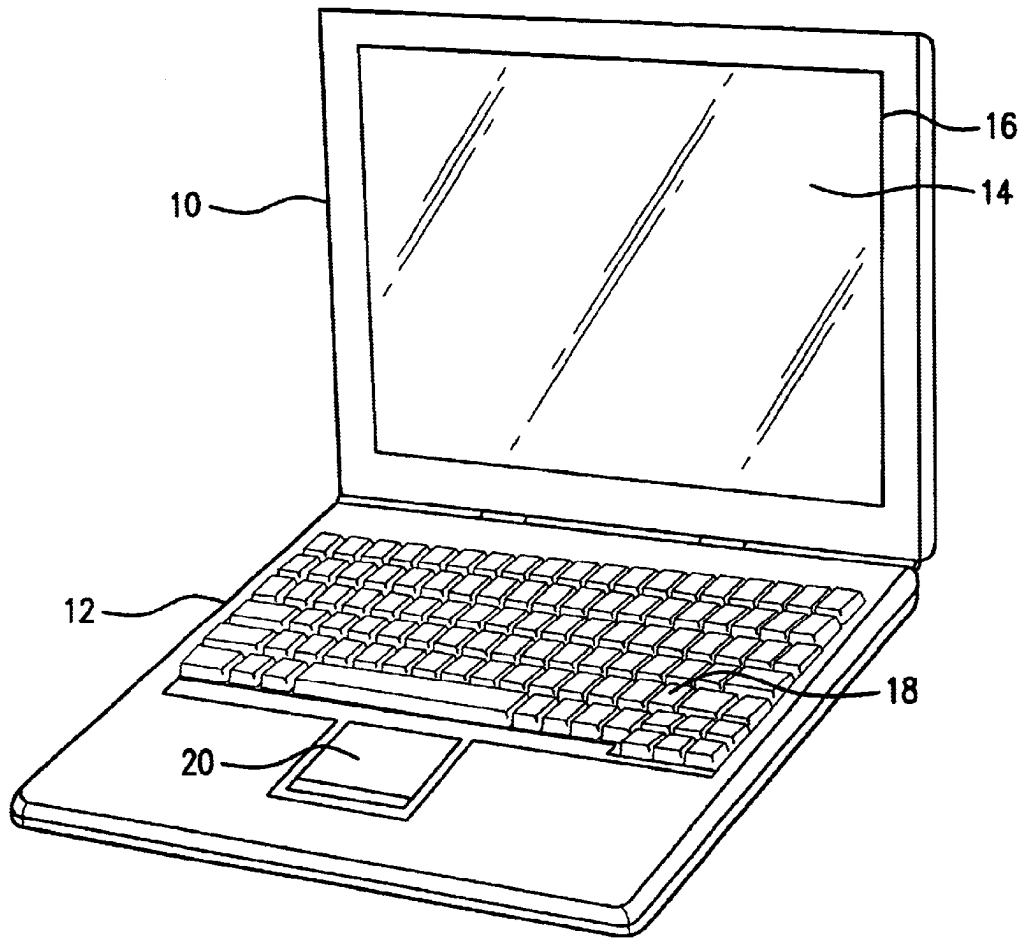


FIG. 1

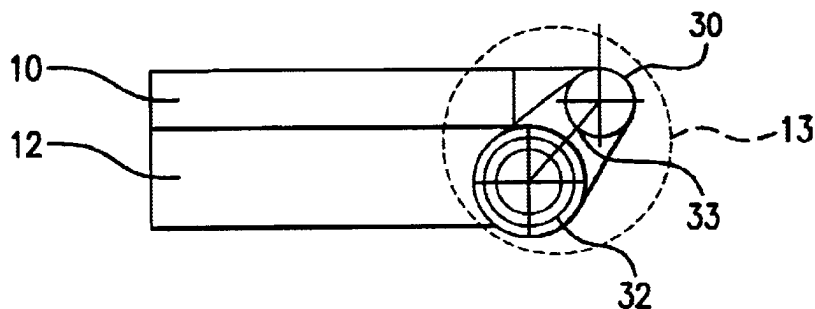


FIG. 2(a)

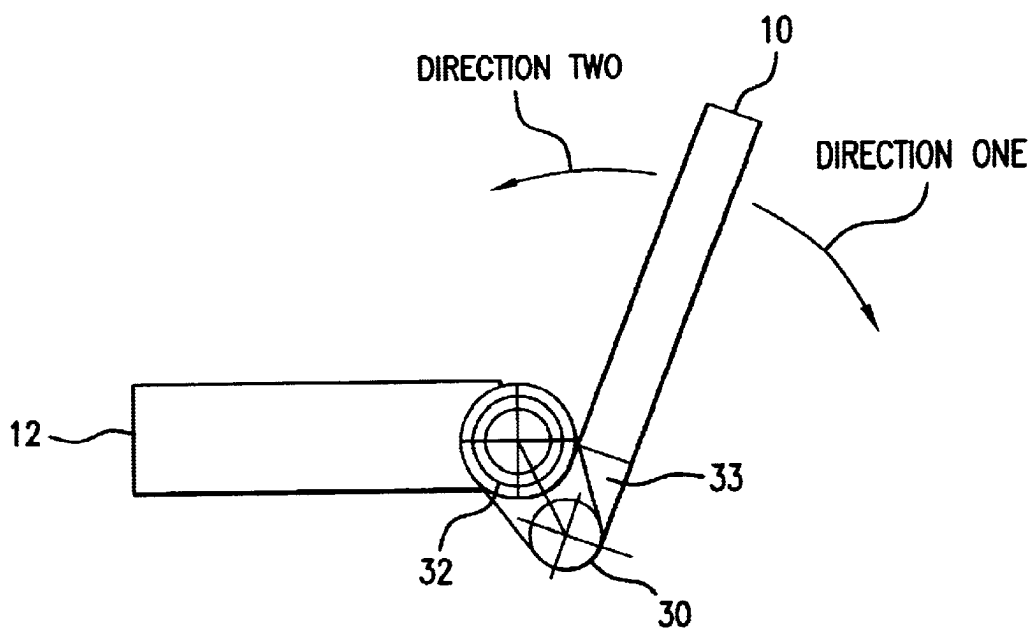


FIG. 2(b)

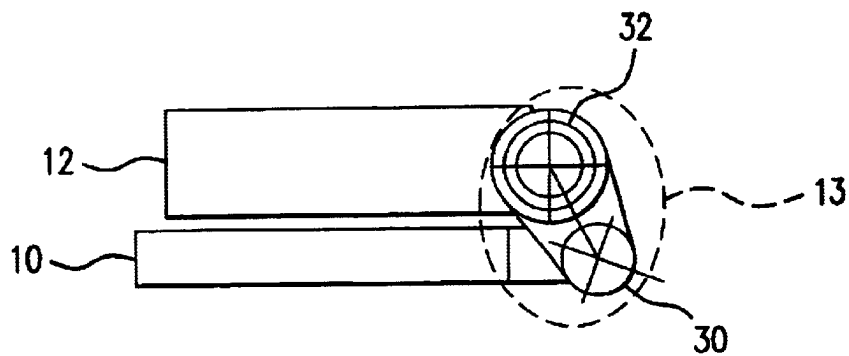


FIG. 2(c)

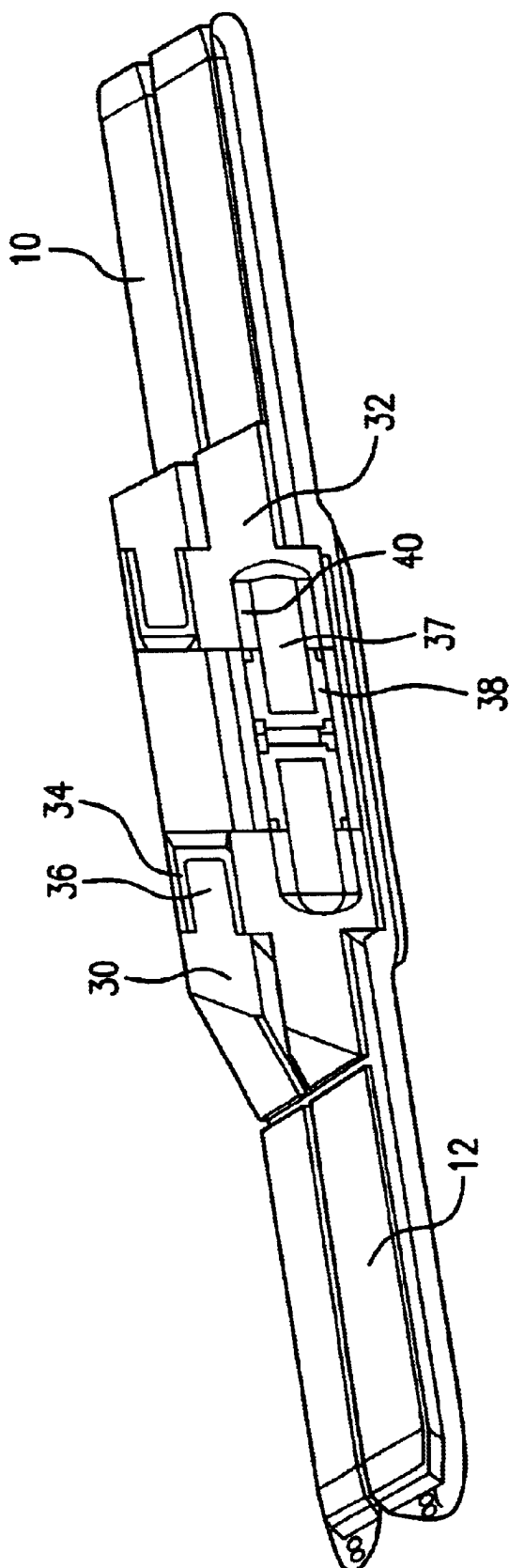


FIG. 3

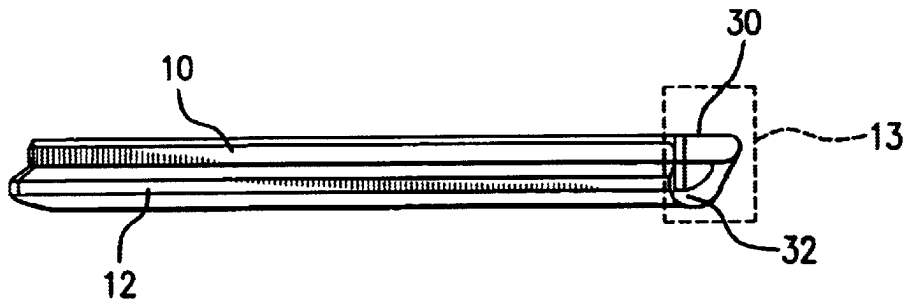


FIG. 4(a)

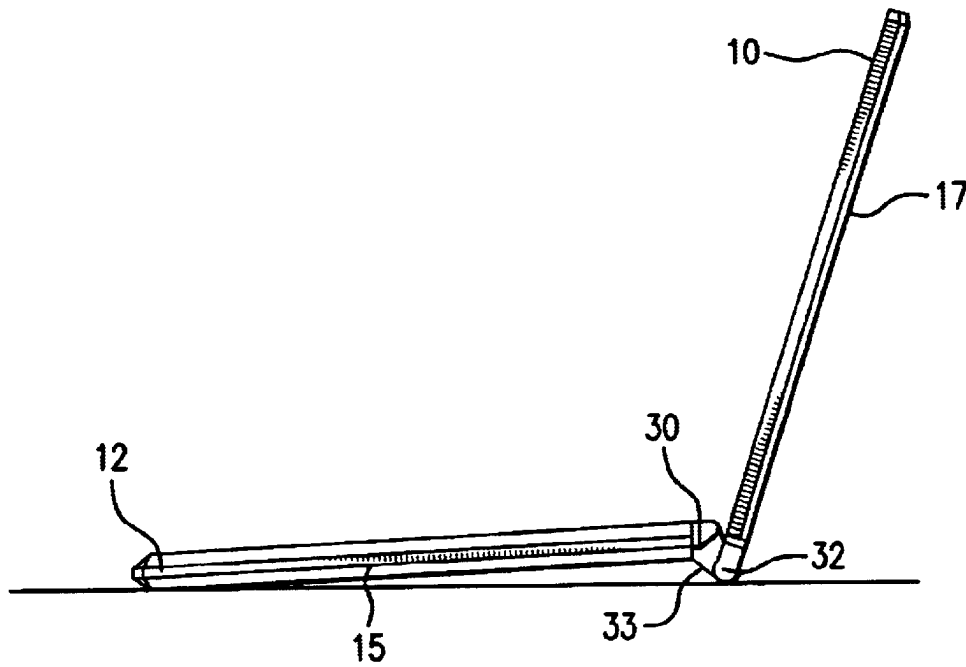


FIG. 4(b)

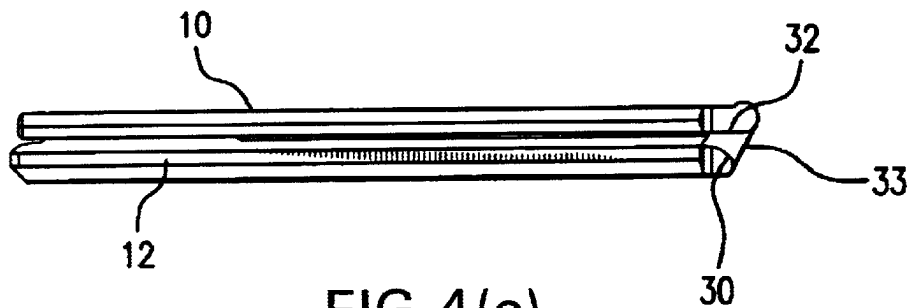


FIG. 4(c)

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