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United States Patent [19]

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Schwartz et al.

[45] Date of Patent: **Nov. 28, 2000**

[54] **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AN ELECTRONIC POSTAGE SCALE WITH VARIABLE FUNCTION KEYS AND WINDOW SCREENS**

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(List continued on next page.)

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[21] Appl. No.: **08/485,269**

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[22] Filed: **Jun. 7, 1995**

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Related U.S. Application Data

- [62] Division of application No. 08/139,898, Oct. 14, 1993.
- [51] **Int. Cl.⁷** **G01G 19/22**; G01G 19/413; G07B 17/02
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** **177/25.13**; 705/407; 705/404
- [58] **Field of Search** 177/25.11, 25.12, 177/25.13; 364/464.02, 567

Primary Examiner—Randy W. Gibson

[57] ABSTRACT

In an improved postage scale system, soft-selection keys are used for selecting options including shipping service options provided by the system. The display on such a system is adjustable for comfortable viewing thereof. The system is capable of interfacing and communicating with other devices such as a printer, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit (IC) card, etc. Certain data and code for use in the system can be updated by downloading new data and code from IC cards to the system. A security measure is instituted such that, after an update of the data or code, a system user is required to enter a valid authorization number in order to enable the system. Such a measure is, in part, necessary for deterring unauthorized copying of software of the system onto another similar system.

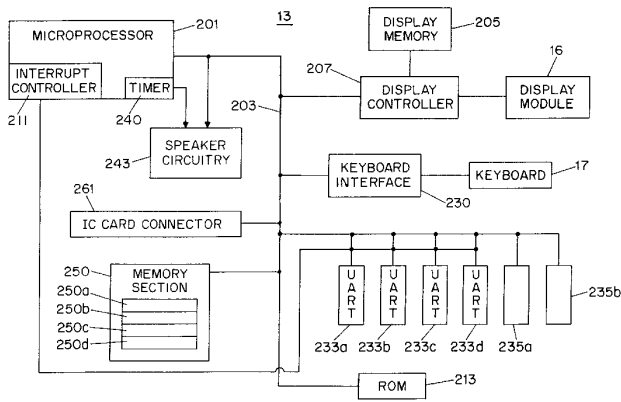
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12 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets

Microfiche Appendix Included
(54 Microfiche, 4342 Pages)



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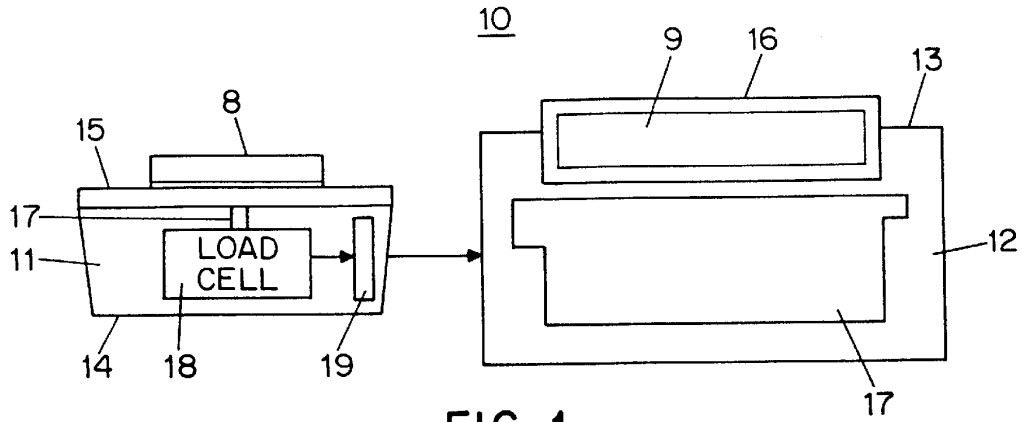


FIG. 1

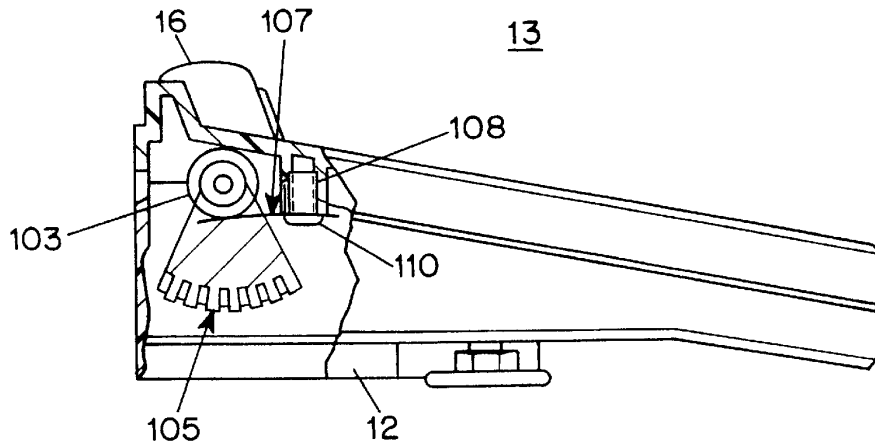


FIG. 2

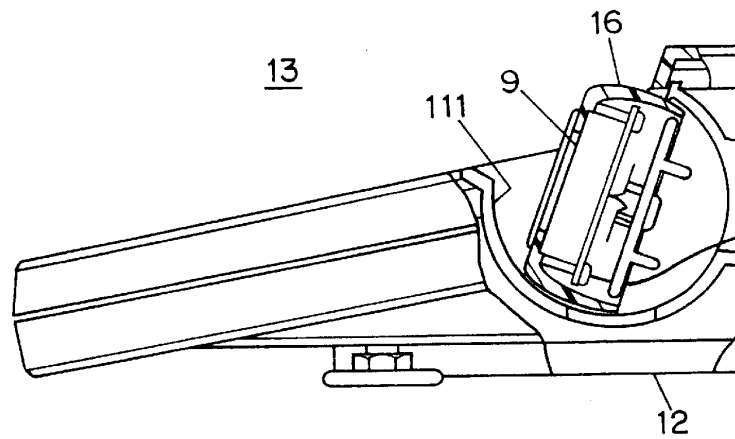


FIG. 3

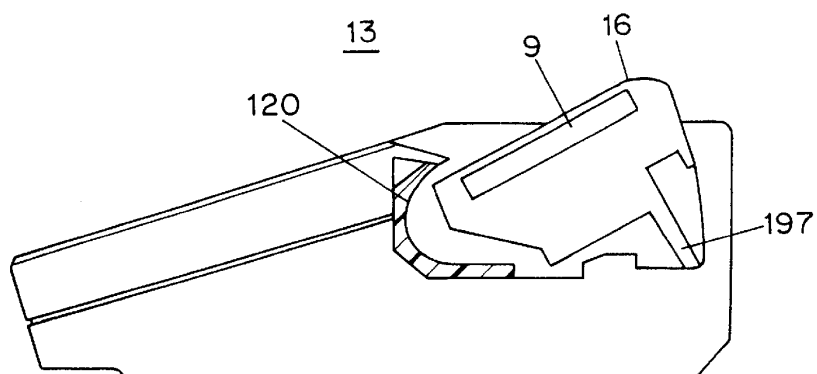


FIG. 4

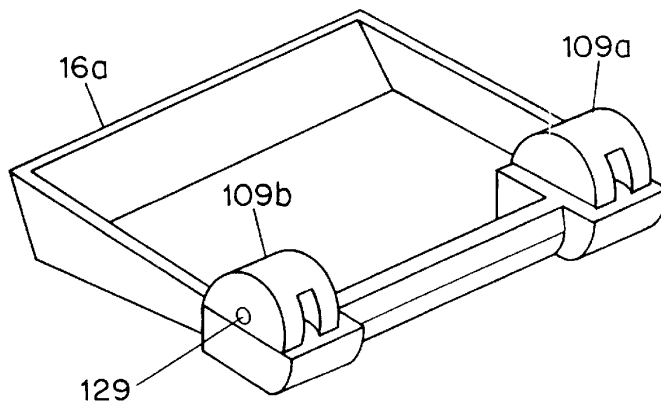


FIG. 5

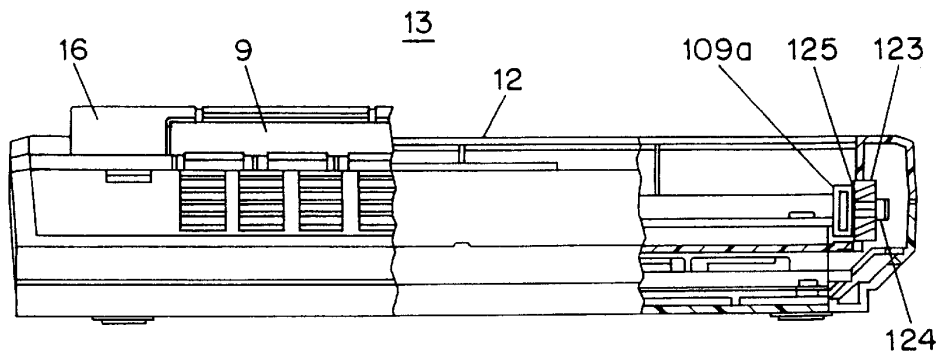


FIG. 6

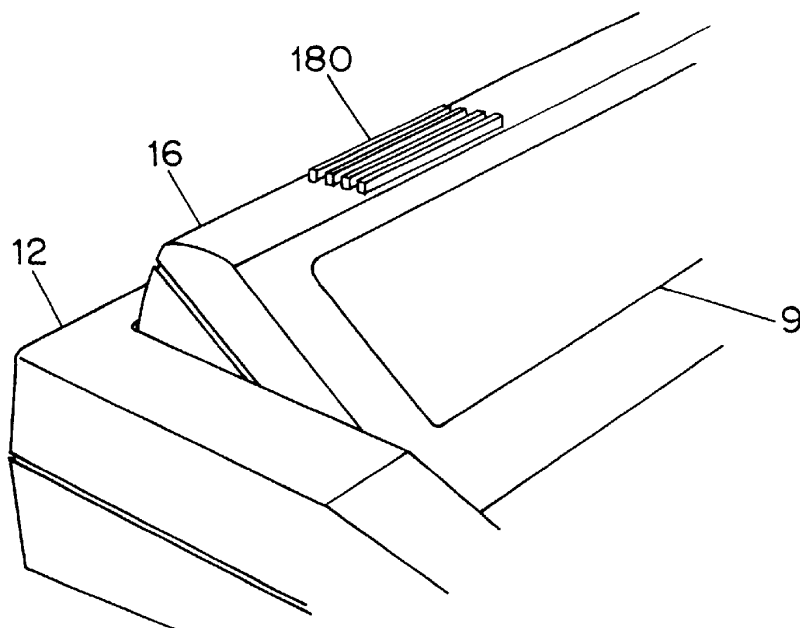


FIG. 7A

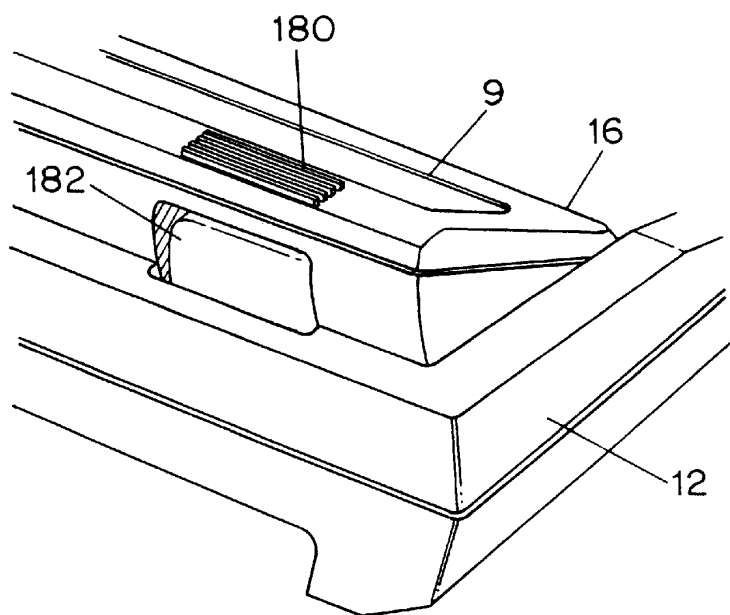


FIG. 7B

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