

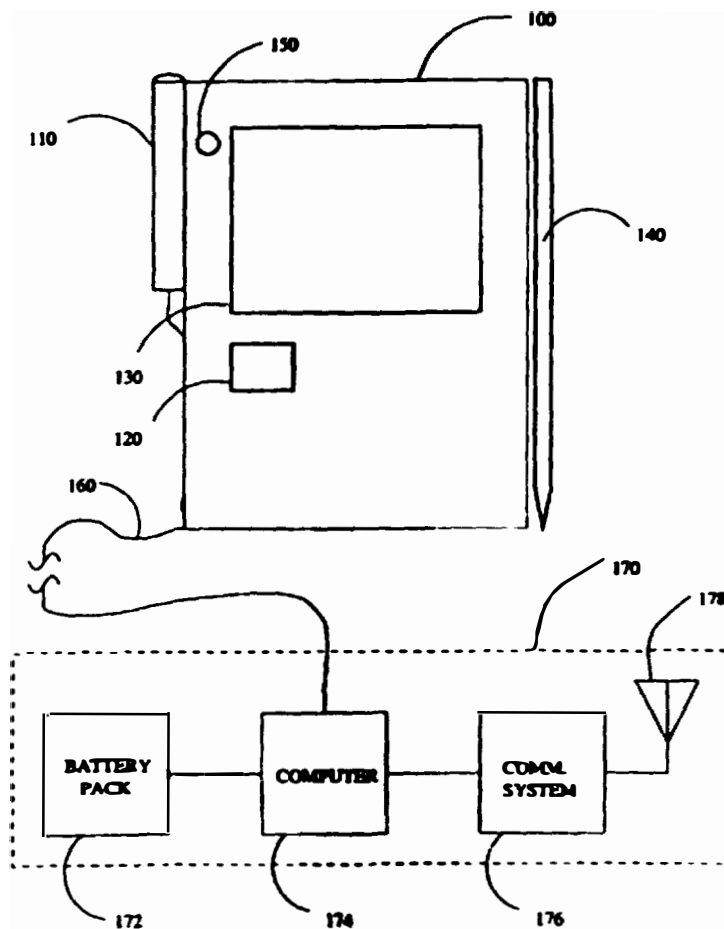
(72) MANN, Steve, CA

(71) MANN, Steve, CA

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(54) **SYSTEME D'IMAGERIE PERSONNEL AVEC VISIONNEUSE ET  
DISPOSITIF DE PRISE DE NOTES**

(54) **PERSONAL IMAGING SYSTEM WITH VIEWFINDER AND  
ANNOTATION MEANS**



PDA-BASED VIDEO RECORDING/ANNOTATION SYSTEM

(57) L'invention est constituée par une nouvelle méthode et un nouvel appareil de photographie et de vidéographie de documents personnels. Elle porte particulièrement sur une caméra personnelle avec visionneuse et sur un système vidéo personnel de prise de notes. Cette caméra permet de tenir un journal personnel manuscrit ou: un

(57) A novel means and apparatus for personal documentary photography and videography is described. In particular, a personal camera with viewfinder means and a personal video annotation system is introduced. The camera system integrates the process of making a personal handwritten diary or the like, with the capture of

document similaire avec saisie vidéo à optimisation de l'angle de prise de vues. Ceci donne une nouvelle forme de journal personnel, ainsi qu'un nouveau type d'enregistrement vidéo de documents. Un client d'un établissement peut effectuer un enregistrement vidéo d'un préposé installé derrière un comptoir de telle façon que ce préposé ne puisse facilement déterminer si un enregistrement vidéo est effectué en même temps que l'enregistrement des notes manuscrites.

video, from an optimal point of vantage and camera angle. This gives rise to a new form of personal diary, as well as a new genre of documentary video. Video of a subject such as an official behind a counter may be captured by a customer or patron of an establishment, in such a manner that the official cannot readily determine whether or not video is being captured with the handwritten notes or annotations.



**ABSTRACT:        PERSONAL IMAGING SYSTEM WITH  
VIEWFINDER AND ANNOTATION MEANS**

A novel means and apparatus for personal documentary photography and videography is described. In particular, a personal camera with viewfinder means and a personal video annotation system is introduced. The camera system integrates the process of making a personal handwritten diary or the like, with the capture of video, from an optimal point of vantage and camera angle. This gives rise to a new form of personal diary, as well as a new genre of documentary video. Video of a subject such as an official behind a counter may be captured by a customer or patron of an establishment, in such a manner that the official cannot readily determine whether or not video is being captured with the handwritten notes or annotations.

Patent Application  
of  
Steve Mann  
for  
**PERSONAL IMAGING SYSTEM WITH VIEWFINDER AND  
ANNOTATION MEANS**

of which the following is a specification:

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**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention pertains generally to a new photographic or video means and apparatus typically comprising a hand-held portable electronic camera system with viewfinder means and electronic pen-based annotation means.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

In photography (and in movie and video production), it is often desirable to capture events in a natural manner with minimal intervention or disturbance. In the present invention, the scenario to be considered is that of face-to-face conversation between two individuals, where one of the individuals wishes to make an annotated video diary of the conversation without disrupting the natural flow of the conversation. In this context, it is desirable to create a personal video diary or personal documentary, or to have some kind of personal photographic or videographic memory aid that forms the visual equivalent of what the electronic organizers and personal digital assistants do to help us remember textual or syntactic information.

Current state-of-the-art photographic or video apparatus creates a visual disturbance to others and attracts considerable attention on account of the gesture of bringing the camera up to the eye. Even if the size of the camera could be reduced to the point of being negligible (e.g. no bigger than the group of a typical camera viewfinder, for example), the very gesture of bringing a device up to the eye is

unnatural and attracts considerable attention, especially in establishments such as department stores where photography is often prohibited. However it is in these very establishments in which a customer may wish, for example, to have a video record of the clerk's statement of the refund policy or the terms of a sale. Just as department stores often keep a video recording of all transactions (and often even a video recording of all activity within the establishment, sometimes including a video recording of customers in the fitting rooms), the goal of the present invention is to assist, for example, a customer who may wish to keep a video record of a transaction, interaction with a clerk, manager, refund explanation, or the like.

Although there exist a variety of covert cameras such a camera concealed beneath the jewel of a necktie clip, cameras concealed in baseball caps, and cameras concealed in eyeglasses, these cameras tend to produce inferior images, not just because of the technical limitations imposed by their small size, but, more importantly because they lack a viewfinder means (e.g. means of viewing the image to adjust camera angle for best composition). Because of the lack of viewfinder means, the subject matter is not necessarily centered well in the viewfinder, or even captured by the camera, and thus these covert cameras are not well suited to personal documentary or for use in a personal photographic/videographic memory assistant.

A wearable camera system (called WearCam) has been proposed in, for example, IEEE Computer, Vol 30, No 2, or equivalently <http://wearcam.org/ieeecomputer.html> (see also <http://wearcomp.org/wearpubs.html>). Unfortunately embodiments of the WearCam invention typically require special preparation such as special clothing, and special wiring of the body a-priori. Such systems will work for those dedicated to being constantly wired with various computational and sensory apparatus incorporated into special clothing, but there are a good many individuals who may wish to obtain the same convenience without a change of lifestyle.

Accordingly, what is proposed is a camera and viewfinder means for unobtrusively capturing video of exceptionally high compositional quality and possibly even artistic

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