



(12) **United States Patent**  
**Anderson**

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(54) **PRESSURE PASSWORD INPUT DEVICE AND METHOD**

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(22) Filed: **Sep. 1, 1999**

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(52) U.S. Cl. .... **341/34; 341/20; 341/22; 178/18.01; 345/173; 340/5.51; 382/124**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **341/34, 22, 20; 345/168, 173; 382/115, 124; 340/5.51, 5.74; 178/18.01**

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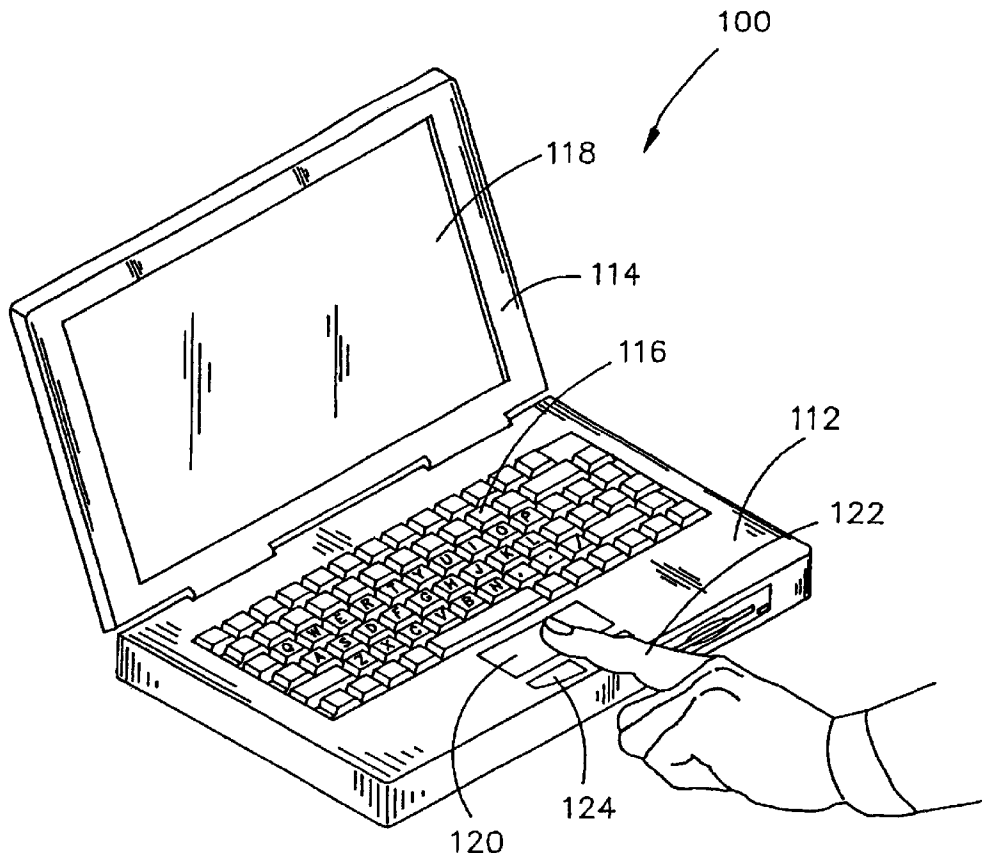
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for inputting an access code via temporal variations in the amount of pressure applied to a touch interface is disclosed. The method facilitates the input of access codes such as passwords, personal identification codes, and the like in a manner that is indiscernible (via either sight or sound) to third parties thereby reducing the possibility that the access codes may be copied or stolen and used a third party to gain unauthorized access to a system or function.

**45 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**



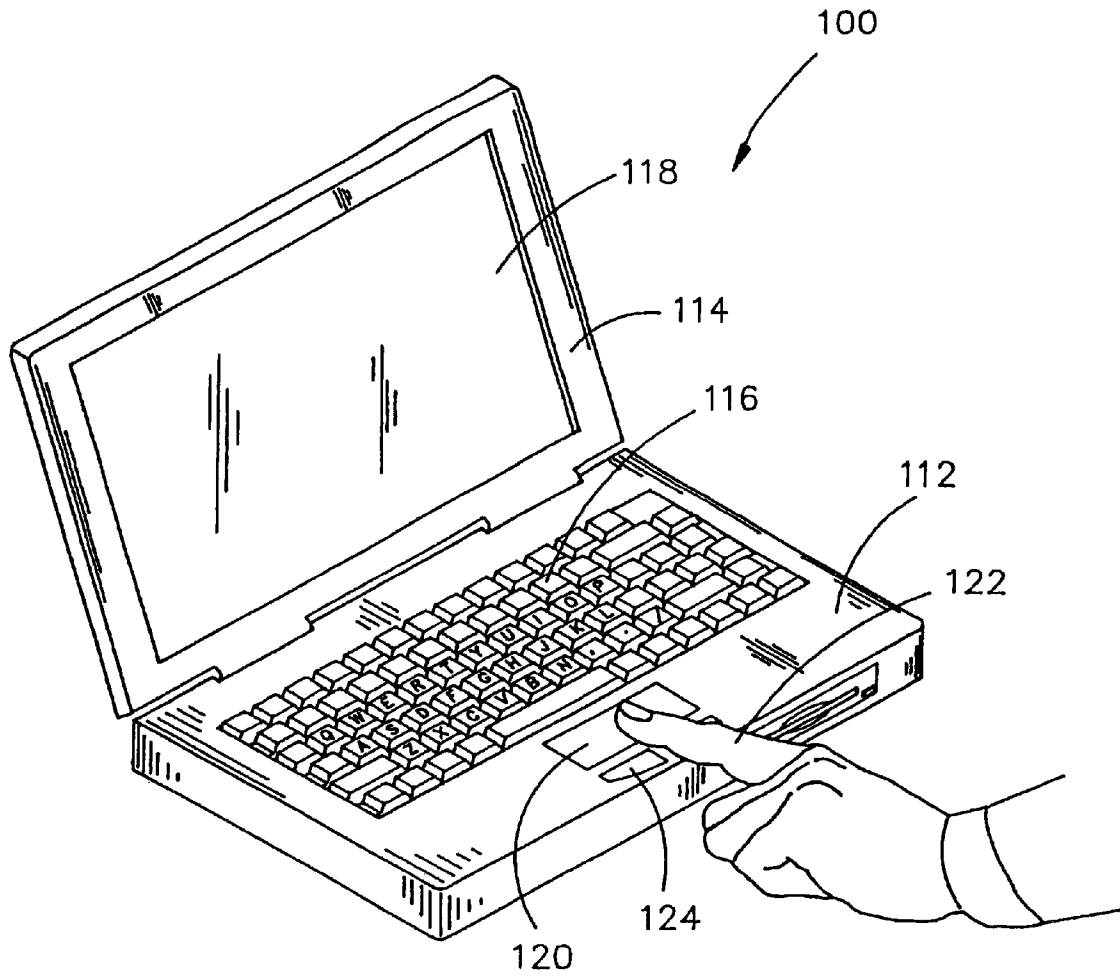


FIG. 1

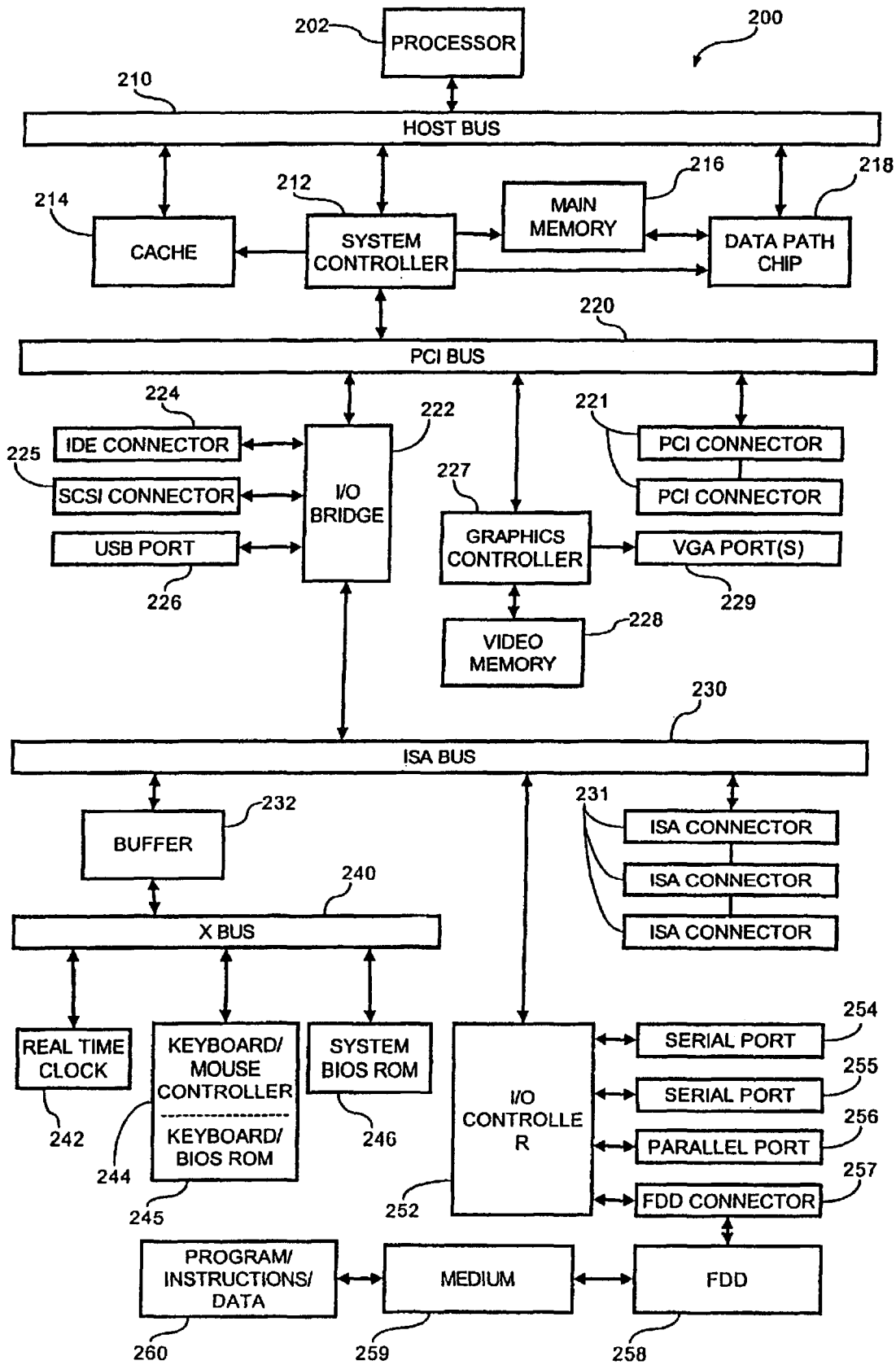


FIG. 2

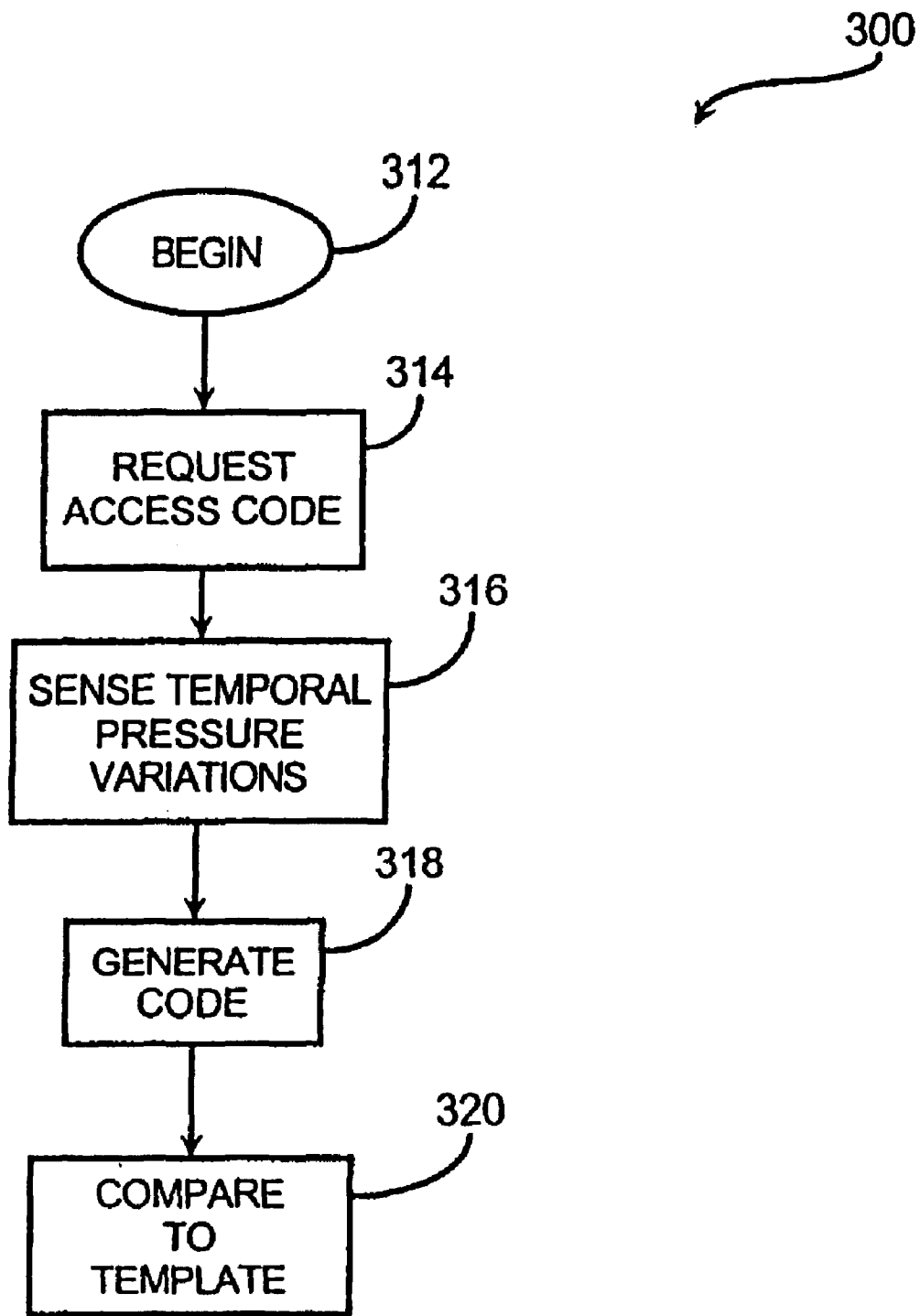


FIG. 3A

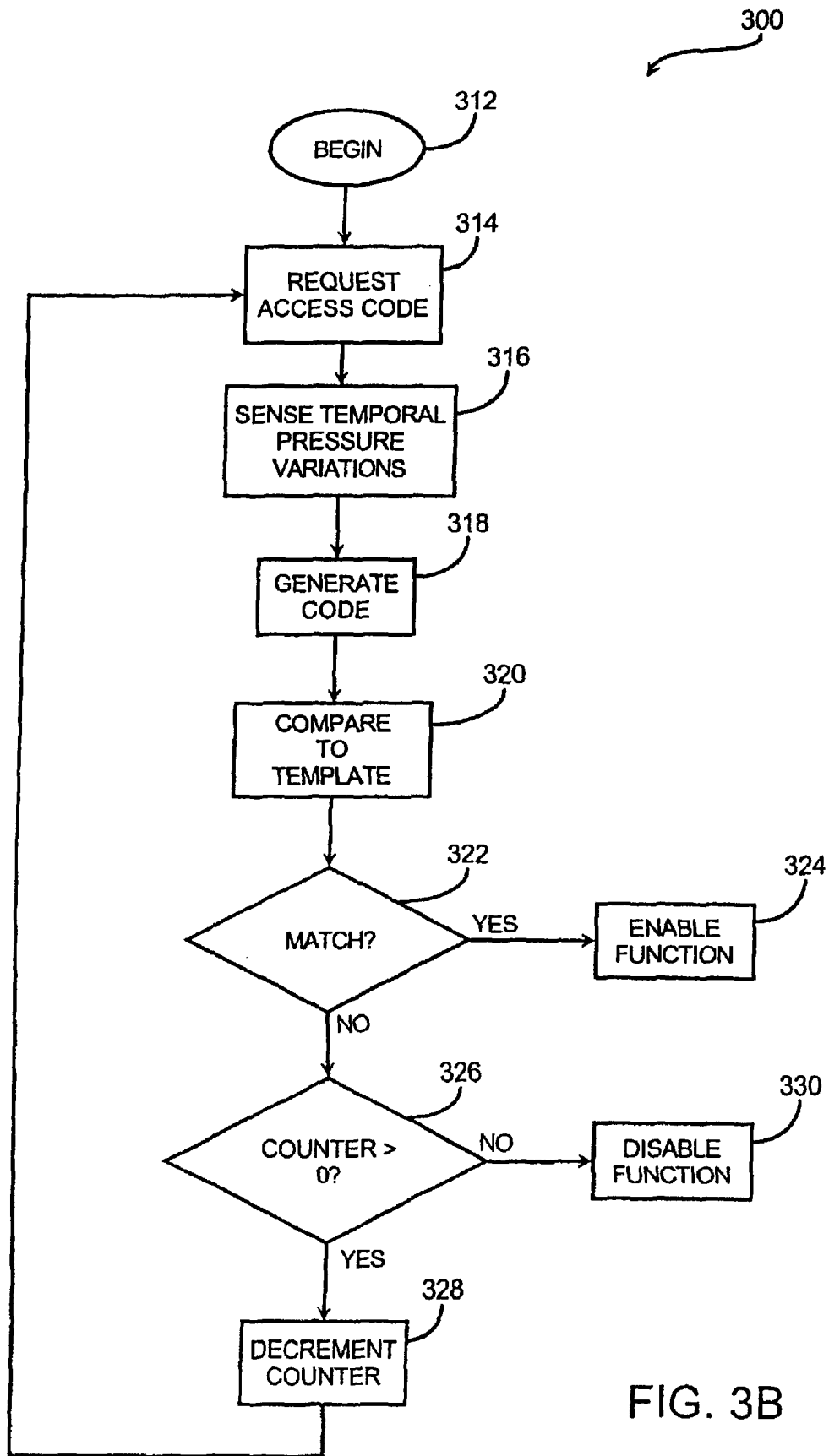


FIG. 3B

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