

United States Patent [19]

Cullen et al.

[54] COMPUTER USER INTERFACE FOR MANIPULATING IMAGE FRAGMENTS USING DRAG, DROP AND MERGE **OPERATIONS**

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- [73] Assignees: Richo Company Ltd., Tokyo, Japan; Richo Corporation, Menlo Park, Calif.
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- May 19, 1995 [22] Filed:
- [51]
- [52] U.S. Cl. 395/339; 395/135; 358/450
- [58] 395/159, 161, 135, 339, 133, 138; 358/450

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Date of Patent: Mar. 24, 1998 [45]

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ABSTRACT [57]

A system for manipulating image fragments so that image processing devices such as copiers, fax machines and scanners may efficiently process oversize images. The system provides a user interface so that when an oversize image is scanned in multiple parts to produce multiple image fragments the user can manipulate the image fragments by performing drag, drop and merge operations on the image fragments. Embodiments of the invention include the use of a touch screen or mouse to allow the user to perform the operations. Other operations are selectable such as rotating an image fragment, zooming in or out on portions of the displayed fragments, merging the fragments into an integrated image and storing or printing the image fragments.

17 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

100

102

104

106

-108

110

112

- 114

118

-119

/120

122

116

NO

ENTER

SCAN OVERSIZE IMAGE INTO TWO OR MORE FRAGMENTS INPUT IMAGE FRAGMENTS

INTO SYSTEM

DISPLAY IMAGE FRAGMENTS ON SCREEN

SELECT A FRAGMENT

MOVE SELECTED FRAGMENT

DROP SELECTED FRAGMENT AT NEW

POSITION

DONE MOVING FRAGMENTS?

REGISTER FRAGMENTS INTO CORRECT CORRESPONDENCE

> MERGE INAGE FRAGMENTS

OUTPUT THE INTEGRATED MAGE

EXIT

YES



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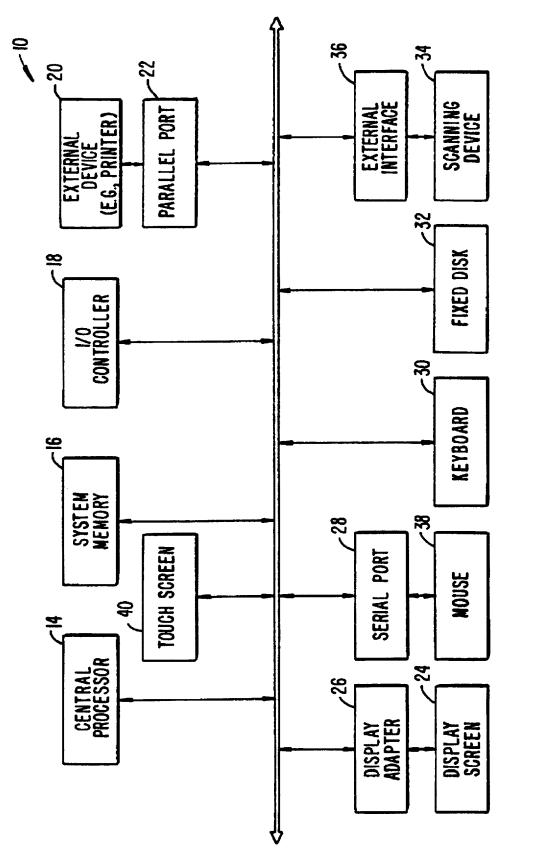


FIG 1.

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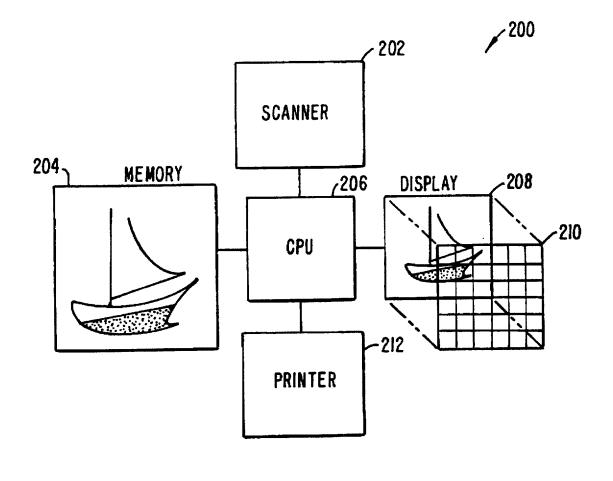


FIG. 2.

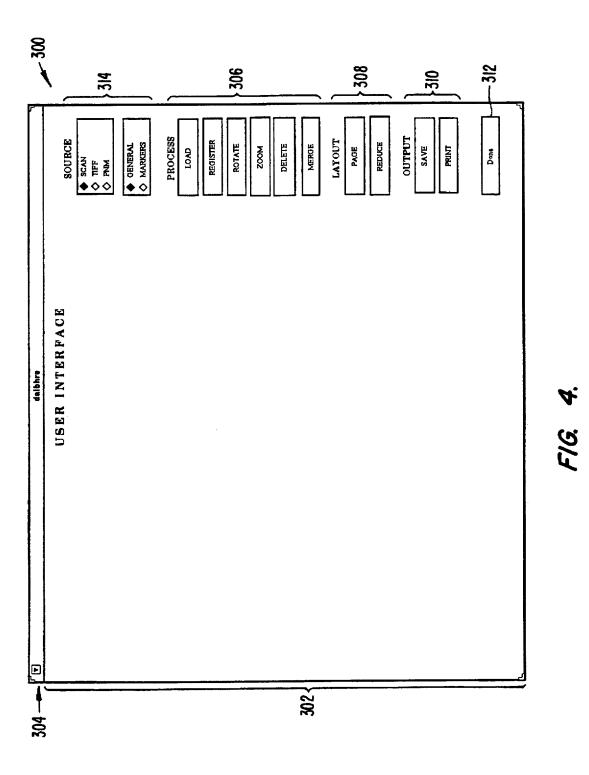
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-102 ENTER ~104 SCAN OVERSIZE IMAGE INTO TWO OR MORE FRAGMENTS -106 INPUT IMAGE FRAGMENTS INTO SYSTEM -108 DISPLAY IMAGE FRAGMENTS ON SCREEN -110 SELECT A FRAGMENT -112 MOVE SELECTED FRAGMENT -114 DROP SELECTED FRAGMENT AT NEW POSITION - 116 DONE MOVING NO FRAGNENTS? YES -118 **REGISTER FRAGMENTS** INTO CORRECT CORRESPONDENCE ~119 MERGE IMAGE FRAGMENTS /120 OUTPUT THE INTEGRATED IMAGE - 122 EXIT



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