

actuator identity signal may provide a predetermined command to the electronic device.

[0013] Still further according to the first aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a flexible conductive material and attached to an insulating cover, and the manipulation signal may be applied to the flexible conducting material of the actuator through the insulating cover.

[0014] According further to the first aspect of the invention, the N conducting lines may be equally spaced, the K conducting lines may be equally spaced and the N-1 contacts may also be equally spaced, wherein each of the N-1 contacts has an equal distance to any two adjacent parallel conducting lines out of the N conducting lines.

[0015] According still further to the first aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide an electrical short between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines to one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines. Still further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a direction parallel to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the K further conducting lines and by monitoring a voltage generated in any of the N conducting lines as a result of making the physical contact. Yet still further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a further direction perpendicular to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the N further conducting lines and monitoring a voltage generated in any of the K further conducting lines as a result of making the physical contact.

[0016] According further still to the first aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and an electrically insulating membrane or a keymat may be laid over the surface of the general purpose input board, and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0017] According yet further still to the first aspect of the invention, the actuation may be provided using a resistive method, a capacitive method, a digital switch method, an optical detection method or an inductive method.

[0018] Yet still further according to the first aspect of the invention, all components of the general purpose input board may be made of materials substantially transparent in a visible part of an optical spectrum. Further, the general purpose input board may be a transparent or translucent sensor-screen placed over a display in an electronic device, wherein the actuator can be situated to a position corresponding to an identified area of the display visible through the general purpose input board such that the actuator identity signal for providing the predetermined command may be generated when the actuator is moved to make a physical contact with the general purpose input board in the position corresponding to the identified area of the display. Still further, the actuator may be a stylus with at least a tip made of a flexible conductive material and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the general purpose

input board, may provide an electrical short between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines to one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines. Still yet further, the actuator may be a stylus made of a conductive material with a tip made of a flexible insulating material, and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0019] According still yet further still to the first aspect of the invention, the general purpose input board may be covered by an electrically insulating material and the actuator may be a stylus with at least a tip made of a flexible conductive material and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the electrically insulating material, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0020] According to a second aspect of the invention, an electronic device for providing an actuator identity signal using a general purpose input board, comprises of: an actuator, responsive to a manipulation signal by a user of the electronic device for communicating a predetermined command to the electronic device; and a general purpose input board, responsive to a physical contact with the actuator, for generating an actuator identity signal used for providing the predetermined command, wherein the actuator identity signal is indicative of a location of the actuator on a surface of the general purpose input board and optionally indicative of a force imposed by the actuator on the general purpose input board and wherein the general purpose input board contains on the surface of the general purpose input board N conducting lines parallel to each other and electrically isolated from each other, and contains beneath the surface of the general purpose input board K further conducting lines parallel to each other and electrically isolated from each other and from the N conducting lines, the K further conducting lines being perpendicular to the N conducting lines, and wherein each of the K further conducting lines has N-1 contacts extending to the surface of the general purpose input board having one such contact of the N-1 contacts between any two of the N parallel conducting lines, wherein N and K are integers of at least a value of two.

[0021] Further according to the second aspect of the invention, all components of the general purpose input board may be made of materials substantially transparent in a visible part of an optical spectrum. Further, the general purpose input board may be a transparent or translucent sensor-screen placed over a display in an electronic device, wherein the actuator can be situated to a position corresponding to an identified area of the display visible through the general purpose input board such that the actuator identity signal for providing the predetermined command may be generated when the actuator is moved to make a physical contact with the general purpose input board in the position corresponding to the identified area of the display. Still further, the actuator may be a stylus with at least a tip made of a flexible conductive material and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide an electrical short between one or