

proximal thereto on the display 12. This approach communicates a relatively intuitive and self-explanatory message to the user regarding what these two control surfaces 41 and 42 control or otherwise relate to. So configured, a common physical form factor and layout can be used for a variety of different models and/or tiered product offering while nevertheless providing potentially different control surface functionality as between such differing offerings.

**[0030]** It would also be possible to configure one or more such control surfaces as a programmable function user-assertable control surface as versus a fixed-function user-assertable control surface. So configured, the purpose and/or functionality of a given control surface can vary during different modes of operation for a given movable barrier operator system operational component 11. To illustrate, and with continued reference to FIG. 4, a user might select the control surface 41 as then corresponds to the “FORCE” feature (for example, this might refer to a user-defined alteration of an automatically-set maximum force setting as used in an obstacle detection scheme). Upon selecting this “FORCE” feature, the purpose of this particular control surface 41 can then be programmably altered in an appropriate corresponding fashion. To illustrate, and referring now to FIG. 5, this particular control surface 41 can now correspond to an “UP” instruction (while another programmable control surface 42 can now correspond to a “DOWN” instruction). This programmed alteration of the control surface functionality will permit a user to now increase or decrease the FORCE setting without requiring dedication of corresponding buttons or the like. The displayed programmable functionality as corresponds to the altered programmable control surface aids in ensuring that a user will remain properly and easily informed of this revised capability and purpose.

**[0031]** It will therefore be appreciated by those skilled in the art that such a display can significantly impact the flexibility and usability of a given movable barrier operator system operational component 11 and particularly so when the display itself comprises a user entry interface or works in conjunction with other user entry interfaces to facilitate the use and/or programmed alteration of use of such user entry interfaces.

**[0032]** In the illustrative examples provided above, a user interacts with the movable barrier operator system operational component 11 via physical contact with the component. It would also be possible to use voice-activated control strategies, either alone or in conjunction with physical-contact based approaches. For example, and referring now to FIG. 6, the movable barrier operator system operational component 11 can include an audio interface such as a microphone 61 to thereby provide a speech recognition-based interface. (Various speech recognition techniques are presently known in the art and more will undoubtedly be developed in the future. These teachings are likely compatible with all such approaches. Since such techniques are well understood in the art, and since these embodiments are not particularly sensitive to the selection of a specific approach, there is no particular need to provide further embellishment or details regarding such speech recognition techniques in this description.) As with the control surfaces described above, the display 12 can provide information that corresponds to use of such an audio input capacity.

**[0033]** As one example, the display can provide options that can be audibly selected. To illustrate, the display could show the following:

FORCE	1
TIME	2
CODES	3

A user could then audibilize the word “TWO” in order to select the time functionality depicted. In such a case, acceptable speech input is constrained to specific predetermined options. Such an approach typically lends itself well to facilitating speaker independence.

**[0034]** As another example, a user could verbalize the words “TWO POINT THREE” and the display could display the recognized result. By displaying “2.3” the user would receive visual confirmation that the input had been successfully recognized. If “2.8” were displayed instead, the user would quickly understand that the input had been mis-interpreted.

**[0035]** Such examples are intended to be illustrative only and without any intent to comprise an exhaustive selection. Those skilled in the art will recognize that a wide variety of useful interactions between a display and a speech recognition capability in a movable barrier operator system operational component 11 can be envisioned and realized by employing these teachings.

**[0036]** In the various embodiments set forth above, the movable barrier operator system operational component 11 had a single display 12. Depending upon the needs of a given application, however, it might be useful or preferred to provide two or more such displays. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 7, a movable barrier operator system operational component 11 can comprise both a first display 12 and a second display 71. Such additional displays can be identical to the first display 12 or different. For example, the first display 12 can comprise a touch screen display and the second display 71 can comprise a non-input form of display. If desired, other differences regarding color, size, presentation technology, resolution, and so forth also be accommodated and served in this way.

**[0037]** In the embodiments described with respect to FIG. 7 the supplemental display(s) comprise a part of the movable barrier operator system operational component 11 itself. If desired, however, and referring now to FIG. 8, a second display 81 can be disposed distal to the movable barrier operator system operational component 11. A remote display 81 could couple in any of many various ways to the movable barrier operator system operational component 11. For example, various wired or wireless signal-bearing pathways could be utilized to support such a deployment. Of course, additional such remote displays 82 could also be accommodated if desired.

**[0038]** If desired, one or more of these display options can be used in conjunction with other output mechanisms as well. For example, an audibilized speech mechanism can be provided to facilitate the provision of audibly articulated informational content to a nearby user. (Synthesized and pre-recorded speech-delivery techniques are known in the art. In addition, further details regarding supporting embodiments and use of speech-delivery mechanisms in a movable barrier operator system are set forth in a patent application entitled MOVABLE BARRIER CONTROL SYSTEM COMPONENT WITH AUDIBLE SPEECH OUTPUT APPARATUS AND METHOD filed on even date herewith and having attorney docket number 82832, the contents of which are fully