

which less than the full display area of the external screen is displayed, and an extended position, in which substantially the full display area of the external screen is displayed, the external screen extending a greater distance from the housing in its extended position than in its retracted position, the device further comprising an end support member and two side support members which, when the external screen is in its extended position, serve to hold the external screen substantially flat.

2. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 comprising a cellular telephone.

3. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 comprising a personal digital assistant.

4. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the external screen has a larger number of pixels than the internal screen in both dimensions.

5. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the external screen is from about 2 to about 14 inches in size, measured diagonally.

6. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein, in its retracted position, the external screen has the form of a scroll wound around a rotatable member.

7. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein, in its retracted position, the external screen has a folded or serpentine configuration.

8. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the side support members are movable between an extended position, in which they are arranged to support the external screen in its extended position, and a retracted position in which they lie closer to the housing than in their extended positions.

9. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the external screen is arranged to draw power from a battery located within the portable electronic device.

10. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the external screen is provided with at least one manually-operable data input means.

11. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the external screen is detachable from the portable electronic device.

12. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises an electrophoretic medium.

13. A portable electronic device according to claim 12 wherein the electrophoretic medium is an encapsulated electrophoretic medium.

14. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises a rotating bichromal member medium.

15. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises an electrochromic medium.

16. A portable electronic device having a flexible external screen arranged to receive information from the electronic device and being capable of displaying said information on a bistable electro-optic medium, the device further comprising a housing, the external screen being movable between a retracted position, in which less than the full display area of the external screen is displayed, and an extended position, in which substantially the full display area of the external screen is displayed, the external screen extending a greater distance from the housing in its extended position than in its retracted position, the device further comprising an end support member and two side support members which, when the external screen is in its extended position, serve to hold the external screen substantially flat.

17. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 comprising a cellular telephone.

18. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 comprising a personal digital assistant.

19. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein the external screen has a larger number of pixels than the internal screen in both dimensions.

20. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein, in its retracted position, the external screen has the form of a scroll wound around a rotatable member.

21. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein, in its retracted position, the external screen has a folded or serpentine configuration.

22. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein the side support members are movable between an extended position, in which they are arranged to support the external screen in its extended position, and a retracted position in which they lie closer to the housing than in their extended positions.

23. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein the external screen is provided with at least one manually-operable data input means.

24. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises an electrophoretic medium.

25. A portable electronic device according to claim 24 wherein the electrophoretic medium is an encapsulated electrophoretic medium.

26. A portable electronic device according to claim 16 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises a rotating bichromal member medium.

27. A portable electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the electro-optic medium comprises an electrochromic medium.

* * * * *