

EXECUTING FUNCTIONS THROUGH TOUCH INPUT DEVICE

[0001] This application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2007-0020278 filed on Feb. 28, 2007, the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] This present invention relates to a mobile terminal and corresponding method that displays an analog-type dial on a touch screen of the mobile terminal.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] Mobile terminals now provide many addition functions besides the basic call service. For example, users can now access the Internet, send and receive voice and text messages, play music, watch videos, perform scheduling tasks, etc. Most young people today now consider a mobile terminal a necessity. However, older people often only want a mobile terminal to perform basic call functions and are not interested in sending text messages, downloading music, etc. Further, because of the complexity of cell phones, many older people do not own cell phones.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Accordingly, one object of the present invention is to address the above-noted and other problems.

[0007] Another object of the present invention is to provide a mobile terminal that is easy to operate for older people.

[0008] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a nostalgic telephone dial on a touch screen of the terminal.

[0009] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, the present invention provides in one aspect A method of executing a function through a touch input device. The method includes displaying a plurality of soft keys on a screen of the touch input device, and executing a function when one of the soft keys is touched and slid on the screen of the touch input device and an input instruction is entered to execute the assigned function.

[0010] In another aspect, the present invention provides a mobile terminal including a touch screen display configured to display a plurality of soft keys, and a controller configured to execute a function on the terminal when one of the soft keys is touched and slid on the touch screen display of the touch input device and an input instruction is entered to execute the assigned function.

[0011] Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given hereinbelow

and the accompanying drawings, which are given by illustration only, and thus are not limitative of the present invention, and wherein:

[0013] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a mobile communication terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0014] FIGS. 2A and 2B are overviews illustrating different rotary dials according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 3 is an overview illustrating a specific number key being touched by a user according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIGS. 4A-4D are overviews illustrating different stages of a dialing operation being performed on the terminal according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0017] FIGS. 5A-5E are overviews illustrating different stages of a dialing operation being performed on the terminal according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 6 is an overview illustrating an inverted rotary dial according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIGS. 7A-7D are overviews illustrating different stages of a dialing operation being performed on the terminal according to still another embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIGS. 8A-8D are overviews illustrating different stages of a dialing operation being performed on the terminal according to yet another embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIGS. 9A-9E are overviews illustrating different stages of a dialing operation and a call being connected according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIGS. 10A and 10B are overviews illustrating a user invoking a message function using a rotary dial according to an embodiment of the present invention screens; and

[0023] FIGS. 11A and 11B are overviews illustrating a user invoking a menu option using a rotary dial according to an embodiment of the present invention

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The same reference numerals will be used to describe the same or similar elements.

[0025] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a mobile communication terminal 100 according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, the mobile communication terminal 100 includes a transceiver 10, a memory 20, an input 30, a display 40, a controller 50, an audio processor 60 and a vibrator 70.

[0026] The transceiver 10 transmits and receives signals with a base station (not shown) to perform a communication function for the mobile communication terminal 100. Further, the memory 20 stores programs for controlling an overall operation of the terminal 100, and various data input, output and processed during the operations of the mobile communication terminal 100. The memory 20 may also store abbreviated numbers for performing functions such as connecting a call to a phone number corresponding to the selected abbreviated number (i.e., speed dialing functions). The memory 20 may also store various menus for setting a standby screen, background screen, ring tone, etc.

[0027] In addition, the input 30 includes various buttons for inputting information such as numbers and characters. The