APPARATUS OR A METHOD

TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD

[0001] Embodiments of the present invention relate to an apparatus and a method. Some embodiments relate to an apparatus for receiving a first planar component or a different second planar component.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Various different electronic components are provided as planar components that can be inserted and removed by a user. Examples include smart cards, subscriber identity modules and memory cards.

[0003] It would be desirable to provide an apparatus that can receive not only a first planar component but alternatively a different second planar component.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[0004] According to various, but not necessarily all, embodiments of the invention there is provided an apparatus comprising: a support comprising a planar support surface; first protrusions protruding from the planar support surface and located on the planar support surface to position a first planar component within a first area; and second protrusions protruding from the planar support surface and located on the planar support surface to position a second planar component within a second area, which overlaps the first area, wherein at least some of the second protrusions are located within the first area and are configured to retract from a first protruding configuration for positioning a second planar component into a second retracted configuration for enabling the first protrusions to position a first planar component.

[0005] According to various, but not necessarily all, embodiments of the invention there is provided a method comprising: providing first protrusions protruding from a planar support surface and located on the planar support surface to position a first planar component within a first area; and providing second protrusions protruding from the planar support surface and located on the planar support surface to position a second smaller planar component within a second area, which overlaps the first area, wherein at least some of the second protrusions are located within the first area and are configured to retract from a first protruding configuration for positioning a second planar component into a second retracted configuration for enabling the first protrusions to position a first planar component

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

[0006] For a better understanding of various examples of embodiments of the present invention reference will now be made by way of example only to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0007] FIG. **1**A illustrates an example of an apparatus without an inserted planar component;

[0008] FIG. **1**B illustrates an example of an apparatus with an inserted smaller planar component;

[0009] FIG. **1**C illustrates an example of an apparatus with an inserted larger planar component;

[0010] FIG. **2** illustrates an example of a receptacle housing an apparatus with an inserted planar component;

[0011] FIG. **3**A illustrates a cross-section view of an example of an apparatus with an inserted smaller planar component, for example, as illustrated in FIG. **1**B;

[0012] FIG. **3**B illustrates a cross-section view of an example of an apparatus with an inserted larger planar component, for example, as illustrated in FIG. **1**C;

[0013] FIGS. **4**A and **4**B illustrate an example of a retractable protrusion for positioning and holding a smaller planar component;

[0014] FIG. **5**A illustrates another example of an apparatus without an inserted planar component;

[0015] FIG. **5**B illustrates a rear view of the another example of the apparatus with an inserted planar component;

[0016] FIG. **6** illustrates an example of a receptacle housing an apparatus with an inserted planar component;

[0017] FIG. **7**A illustrates an example of the apparatus of FIG. **5**A without an inserted planar component;

[0018] FIG. **7**B illustrates an example of the apparatus of FIG. **5**A with an inserted smaller planar component; and

[0019] FIG. **7**C illustrates an example of an apparatus of FIG. **5**B with an inserted larger planar component.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] The Figures illustrate an apparatus **10** comprising: a support **2** comprising a planar support surface **4**; first protrusions **12** protruding from the planar support surface **4** and located on the planar support surface **4** to position a first planar component **100** within a first area **14**; and second protrusions **22** protruding from the planar support surface **4** and located on the planar support surface **4** to position a second planar component **200** within a second area **24**, which overlaps the first area **14**, wherein at least some of the second protrusions **22** are located within the first area **14** and are configured to retract from a first protruding configuration **16** for positioning a second planar component **200** into a second retracted configuration **18** for enabling the first protrusions **12** to position a first planar component **100**.

[0021] FIG. **1**A illustrates an example of an apparatus **10** without an inserted planar component. FIG. **1**B illustrates an example of the apparatus **10** illustrated in FIG. **1**A with an inserted second planar component **200** but not a first planar component **100**. FIG. **1**C illustrates an example of the apparatus illustrated in FIG. **1**A with an inserted first planar component **100** but not a second planar component **200**. FIG. **3**A is a cross-sectional view through FIG. **1**B. FIG. **3**B is a cross-sectional view through FIG. **1**C.

[0022] In this example, the second planar component **200** when received by the apparatus **10**, is securely retained by frictional forces between retractable protrusions **22** of the apparatus **10** and edges **211**, **212**, **213**, **214** of the second planar component **200**.

[0023] In this example, the first planar component **100** when received by the apparatus **10**, is securely retained by frictional forces between sidewall protrusions **12** of the apparatus **10** and edges of the first planar component **100** and the retractable protrusions **22** are retracted.

[0024] The first planar component **100** and the second planar component **200** are both user exchangeable. A user can insert either the first planar component **100** or the second planar component (but not both simultaneously) into the apparatus **10** without a tool. This is achieved by inserting a planar component from above by pushing it down into the apparatus **10** (rather than by sliding) towards a planar support surface **4** of a base support **2**. A user can remove a planar component from the apparatus **10** without a tool.