

provided by first and second hinge units **150** and **155** is shown. For this embodiment of the invention, second fastener **220** has disengaged from slot **250**. This is accomplished in response to an event performed on interlocking mechanism **200** as depicted by arrow **290**.

[0053] For instance, according to one embodiment of the invention, in response to an event performed on first fastener **210**, lever **230** is laterally shifted from a first state to a second state. Examples of these events may include (i) depressing/pulling first fastener **210**, (ii) twisting first fastener **210** in a circular motion, (iii) pivoting first fastener **210**, or the like. This event causes biasing mechanism **260** to be adjusted and allows second fastener **220** to become disengaged from slot **250** upon rotation of display housing **110** is depicted by arrow **295**.

[0054] As shown, when biasing mechanism **260** is implemented as a spring, lateral movement of lever **230** causes compression of spring **260**. This allows second fastener **220** to become disengaged from slot **250**. When biasing mechanism **260** is implemented as retention bumps, however, lateral movement of lever **230** causes different retention bumps to maintain the lateral position of lever **230**, but this again allows second fastener **220** to become disengaged from slot **250**.

[0055] After second fastener **220** becomes disengaged from slot **250**, display housing **110** can be freely rotated on an axis of rotation provided by first and second hinge units **150** and **155**. As one embodiment, the maximum degree of rotation provided by hinge units **150** and **155** is approximately 180 degrees. First hinge unit **150** may be implemented with a brake mechanism. This would enable display housing **110** to be maintained at certain degrees of rotation.

[0056] As further shown in FIG. 10, display housing **110** is rotated in a counter-clockwise direction as represented by arrow **295** in order to invert display housing **110**. As a result, back display panel **114** of display housing **110** is adapted to be flush against top panel section **122** of body case **120** and display support member **140** as shown in FIG. 11. Front display panel **112** would be viewable by the user. Moreover, during rotation of display housing **110**, display support member **140** forms a dual member assembly to enhance support of the flat panel display.

[0057] Referring now to FIG. 12, a perspective view of an embodiment of display support member **140** is shown. Display support member **140** comprises a first member **300** and a second member **320**. In general, first member **300** is pivotally coupled to both hinge assembly **130** and first hinge unit **150**. Second member **320** is pivotally coupled to hinge assembly **130** and second hinge unit **155**. Both hinge units **150** and **155** are positioned in recessed area **115** of back display panel **114**.

[0058] First member **300** includes a recessed area **305** sized to accommodate second member **320** during all positions except when display housing **110** is being rotated about an axis of rotation provided by hinge units **150** and **155**. More specifically, as one embodiment of the invention, recessed area **305** includes a plurality of recessed portions such as recessed portions **306** and **307** for example. A first recessed portion **306** is configured to receive protrusions **325** of second member **320** when electronic device **100** is placed in a CLOSED position. In this position, second member **320** is substantially coplanar to first member **300**.

[0059] As further shown in FIG. 12, a second recessed portion **307** operates as slot **250** for second fastener **220**, which is illustrated as a fastener having dual prongs separated by a width slightly exceeding the width of second member **320**. Where second fastener **220** is a single prong fastener, only a part of second recessed portion **307** is needed as slot **250**. However, when display housing **110** is completely inverted, second recessed portion **307** receives protrusions **325** of second member **320**.

[0060] Referring back to FIGS. 9 and 10, initial counter-clockwise rotation of display housing **110** along an axis of rotation established by first hinge unit **150** causes second member **320**, substantially coplanar to recessed area **305** and first member **300**, to move away from first member **300**. Continued counter-clockwise rotation further separates second member **320** from first member **300** so that first member **300** and second member **320** are substantially in parallel and separated by a predetermined distance. In one embodiment, the predetermined distance exceeds one-quarter of an inch; however, any predetermined distance can be accommodated.

[0061] Further counter-clockwise rotation of display housing **110** along an axis of rotation established by first hinge unit **150**, generally exceeding 90 degrees from its non-rotated state in the OPENED position, causes reduced separation of first member **300** and second member **320**. When display housing **110** is fully inverted, second member **320** is again positioned in recessed area **305** of first member **300** and generally as coplanar to first member **300**.

[0062] Referring back again to FIG. 11, a side elevation view of electronic device **100** in which display housing **110** has been fully inverted is shown. Herein, display support member **140** is now interposed between display housing **110** and body case **120**. Second fastener **220** of interlocking mechanism **200** is configured so as to not protrude above a depth of recessed area **115**. This prevents second fastener **220** from causing scratching and other physical damage to body case **120** when electronic device **100** is placed in an INVERTED position.

[0063] While certain exemplary embodiments of the invention have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely illustrative of and not restrictive on the broad aspects of various embodiments of the invention, and that these embodiments not be limited to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described, since various other modifications are possible.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a lever;

a first fastener coupled to the lever; and

a second fastener coupled to the lever, the second fastener to engage a display support member when the lever is placed in a first state and to disengage from the display support member when the lever is placed in a second state.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first fastener is pivotally coupled to the lever.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the lever is positioned between a pair of display panels forming a display housing of an electronic device.