

causing movement of the touch screen display 24 relative to the base 22 of the portable electronic device 20. Referring first to FIG. 6, there is shown a sectional side view of portions of the portable electronic device 20, according to one embodiment. In the present example, a user touches the touch-sensitive input surface 28 at the area 91 (FIG. 5) of the touch screen display 24, by pressing in the direction of the arrow "A" (step 110). The X and Y co-ordinates of the location of the touch on the touch-sensitive input surface 28 are determined at the controller 30 and the co-ordinates of the touch are provided to the processor 40 (step 112). The processor 40 uses the co-ordinates of the touch to determine the associated option or command selected by the user based on the location of the touch (step 114) and carries out the appropriate action or actions accordingly (step 116). The co-ordinates of the touch are also used by the processor 40 to determine the associated wire 32b (the wire 32 to activate) (step 118) and then complete the circuit including the wire 32b to cause current flow resulting in a change in shape from the extended spring-shaped room temperature state to the compressed spring-shaped heated state (step 120). The touch screen display 24 moves as a result of the change in length of the coil-spring shaped wire 32b, as shown in FIG. 6. It will be appreciated that the Figures are not to scale and the movement of the touch screen display 24 is exaggerated for the purpose of illustration. As shown, the touch screen display 24 pivots in the present example to provide the user with a tactile response.

[0054] Referring now to FIG. 7, there is shown a sectional side view of portions of the portable electronic device 20, similar to FIG. 6. In the present example, however, a user touches the touch-sensitive input surface 28 at the area 93 (FIG. 5) of the touch screen display 24, by pressing in the direction of arrow "B" (step 110). The X and Y co-ordinates of the location of the touch on the touch-sensitive input surface 28 are determined at the controller 30 and the co-ordinates of the touch are provided to the processor 40 (step 112). The processor 40 uses the co-ordinates of the touch to determine the associated option or command selected by the user (step 114) and carry out the appropriate action or actions based on the option or command determined at step 114 (step 116). The co-ordinates of the touch are also used by the processor 40 to determine the associated wire 32d (step 118) to activate and then complete the circuit including the wire 32d to cause current flow resulting in a change in shape from the extended spring-shaped room temperature state to the compressed spring-shaped heated state (step 120). The touch screen display 24 moves as a result of the change in length of the coil-spring shaped wire 32d, as shown in FIG. 7. Again, it will be appreciated that the Figures are not to scale and the movement of the touch screen display 24 is exaggerated for the purpose of illustration. Again, the touch screen display 24 pivots in the present example to provide the user with a tactile response.

[0055] Referring now to FIG. 8, there is shown a sectional side view of portions of the portable electronic device 20, similar to FIGS. 5 and 6. In the present example, a user touches the touch-sensitive input surface 28 at the area 94 (FIG. 5) of the touch screen display 24, by pressing in the direction of arrow "C" (step 110). The X and Y co-ordinates of the location of the touch on the touch-sensitive input surface 28 are determined at the controller 40 and the co-ordinates of the touch are again provided to the processor 40 (step 112) for determining the associated option or command

selected by the user (step 114) and performing the appropriate actions based on the option or command determined at step 114 (step 116). The co-ordinates of the touch are used by the processor 40 to determine the associated coil spring wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d (step 118) and then complete each of the circuits including the respective coil spring shaped wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d resulting in a change in shape from the extended spring-shaped room temperature state to the compressed spring-shaped heated state (step 120). The touch screen display 24 moves as a result of the change in length of all of the coil-spring shaped wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d, as shown in FIG. 8. Again, it will be appreciated that the Figures are not to scale and the movement of the touch screen display 24 is exaggerated for the purpose of illustration. In the present example, each of the four wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d shrinks and, rather than pivoting, the touch screen display 24 moves generally parallel to the base 22.

[0056] With the movement of the touch screen display 24 relative to the base 22 caused by the phase change in the wire or wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d, the user is provided with a tactile response during user interaction with the graphical user interface.

[0057] As indicated above, the touch screen display 24 can be any suitable touch screen display and is not limited to a capacitive touch screen display. The touch screen display can be, for example, a resistive touch screen display or any other suitable touch screen display, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

[0058] As described, the touch screen display 24 is not limited to the determination of a single location of a static touch event. Instead, motions such as the sliding of a finger along the touch screen display 24 can be determined. Further, it is contemplated that touches at more than one location on the touch screen display 24 can be determined and motions such as increasing or decreasing the distance between finger touch locations can be determined. With more than one location of touch, more than one set of X and Y co-ordinates can be used to determine which of the coil-shaped wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d to activate. Thus, more than one of the wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d can be activated without activating all four of the wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d. For example, two of the wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d that are located proximal corners that share a common side can be activated to cause the touch screen display 24 to pivot. Further still, the changing location or motion of the touch can result in a change in activation from one or all of the coil shaped wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d to another or all of the coil-shaped wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d.

[0059] Although five areas are shown in the touch screen display 24 in the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, it will be appreciated that these areas are shown for exemplary purposes only and other areas can be employed. For example, the X and Y co-ordinates can be determined, followed by activation of the nearest one or ones of the four wires 32a, 32b, 32c, 32d. Further, the shape of the areas can differ from that shown. Further, a different number of wires can be used and the wires can be located at different positions between the base 22 and the touch screen display 24.

[0060] In the embodiments described above, the touch screen display 24 is framed by the frame 84, which is fixed to the base 22 by the sidewalls 86. It is contemplated that base 22 can be fixed to the touch screen display 24 by flexible sidewalls rather than, for example, rigid sidewalls. Such flexible sidewalls can be made of any suitable elastomer.