

[0063] The provisional display may be selected from blinking, difference in luminance, and difference in color.

[0064] If the determination in step 02 is NO, the initial state is kept until a first input operation is performed.

[0065] Then, step 04 determines whether a second input operation is performed, that is to say, whether the second input switch 7 is pressed with a finger of the operator and a movable electrode 9 comes into contact with a fixed electrode 8 as shown in FIG. 4.

[0066] If the determination in step 04 is YES, go to step 05. In step 05, a final display is performed, that is to say, the input data are confirmed by an operation of the second input switch 7 and then the method terminates. The confirmation of the input data is performed by changing the provisional display into a final display based on the programs and data stored in the memory 15. That is to say, the blinking "7" shown in FIG. 8 is changed into an unblinking "7" shown in FIG. 9. It is preferable to let the operator know that the input is confirmed by a sound such as a bleep in addition to the display.

[0067] In the case where the provisional display and the final display are distinguished by difference in luminance, it is preferable that the provisional display have high luminance and the final display have low luminance.

[0068] In the case where the provisional display and the final display are distinguished by difference in color, it is preferable that the provisional display be in one of the three primary colors, black, or white and the final display be in the other colors.

[0069] If the determination in step 04 is NO, the provisional display is kept until a new first input operation is performed. In one example, when the first input operation is performed, a number which is detected by the first input sensor 6 is provisionally displayed until the second input operation is performed. If the operator moves his finger on the key sheet 12 before the second input operation is performed to select a new number, the new number corresponding to the finger position on the key sheet is provisionally displayed until the second input operation is performed and the original number is disregarded.

[0070] Since an operator is given feedback by provisionally displaying input data obtained from a first input operation of the first input sensor 6 on the display portion 5a of the display panel 5 and then the input is confirmed by a second input operation of the second input switch 7, the operator can know the unconfirmed input data in advance by the provisional display. Therefore, inputting errors are prevented surely and easily.

[0071] With the inputting method and the input device 1 of this embodiment, the operator can perform a correct input operation surely and easily.

[0072] In the coordinate input mode, the second input switch 7 under, for example, the "#" key is used as an input-confirming switch. Based on the track of movement of a finger and the like on the first input sensor 6, output data for provisionally displaying the track are produced. By the output data, the track is displayed provisionally by blinking on the display portion 5a of the display panel 5. Then, by pressing the "#" key, the input is confirmed and the provisional display on the display portion 5a is changed into a final display.

[0073] As described above, a coordinate input into the first input sensor 6 as the first input unit is confirmed with a single second input switch 7.

[0074] FIGS. 10 and 11 show a second embodiment of an input device to which an inputting method of the present invention is applied. FIG. 10 is an external view of the main part. FIG. 11 is a functional block diagram. Incidentally, the same reference numerals will be used to designate the same or similar components as those in the first embodiment, so that the detailed description will be omitted.

[0075] In the input device 1A of this embodiment, the display unit 21 is physically separated from the control unit 13, or more specifically, from the first input sensor 6 as a first input unit, the second input switch 7 as a second input unit, and the control unit 13.

[0076] That is to say, as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, the input device 1A of this embodiment is a remote control for input operation of an output device 22 with a display unit 21 such as a television. A remote control main body 23 of the input device 1A has the same input unit 3 and the same control unit 13 as the input device 1 of the first embodiment. However, the remote control main body 23 does not have the same display unit 2 as the input device 1 of the first embodiment. The remote control main body 23 and the output device 22 are connected via a known transmission line such as a wireless transmission using infrared rays or radio waves, and a wired transmission using a cable. In the case of a wireless transmission, each of the remote control main body 23 and the output device 22 is provided with a predetermined communication unit.

[0077] The display unit 21 of the output device 22 functions as the display unit 2 of the input device 1 of the first embodiment. In the display portion 21a of the display unit 21, in addition to the display of a predetermined output picture, a provisional display of input data obtained from a first input operation and a final display by a second input operation are performed as in the display unit 2 of the input device 1 of the first embodiment.

[0078] Incidentally, it is preferable that the output device 22 have a superimposing circuit to superimpose the provisional display and the final display on the output picture.

[0079] The output device 22 may have a dedicated display unit for the provisional display and the final display.

[0080] Since the other components are the same as the input device 1 of the first embodiment, the detailed description will be omitted.

[0081] The input device 1A of this embodiment has the same advantages as the input device 1 of the first embodiment. In addition, the existing output device 22 can be used for the input operation of the input device 1A without making major changes to the existing output device 22.

[0082] The present invention is not intended to be limited to the above-described embodiments, and, if necessary, various changes may be made therein.

What is claimed is:

1. An inputting method to input data with a flat input unit including a capacitance sensor or a pressure sensor and capable of coordinate input and to display the input data with a display unit, the inputting method comprising: