11. A touch sensor system, comprising:

an electrically insulating substrate having a touch region;

a cover coupled to the touch region;

a plurality of electrically-conducting band segments coupled to and traversing the touch region; and

a means whereby touches are used to encode information that is transmitted to an external system.

12. The system of claim 11 where the encoded information can be generated in the complete absence of light.

13. The system of claim 11 where the code is Braille-based.

14. The system of claim 11 where the code is binary-based.

15. The system of claim 11 where custom codes are used to accommodate to the preference of the sender.

16. The system of claim 11 in which the external system includes a computer monitor.

17. The system of claim 11 in which the coded information is transmitted to an external system.

18. The system of claim 17 in which the information at the distant user's site is monitored and converted by a transducer to a useful form.

19. The system of claim 18 in which monitoring is done with an audio converter.

20. The system of claim 18 in which monitoring is done with a visual converter.

21. A touch sensor system, comprising:

an electrically insulating substrate having two sides and a touch region on one of the two sides;

a plurality of electrically-conducting band segments coupled to and traversing the touch region and wherein the band segments are insulated from one another;

a cover with an electrically-conductive surface that is able to contact the touch region under external pressure; and

a controller providing an electrical means of sequentially energizing a plurality of the said segments and an electrical means for monitoring the electrical characteristics of the touch sensor and for identifying the location of a plurality of touch positions on the touch sensor from the monitored electrical characteristics.

a means by which the weight of an object left on the cover will cause contact with the electrically conducting band segments so that the shape of the object in contact with the touch sensor can be determined.

22. The touch sensor system of claim 21, which further includes a predetermined pattern of insulating and conductive spacers positioned between the cover and the touch region to permit electrical contact between the cover and individual electrically conducting band segment at only one point each.

23. The predetermined pattern of claim 22 in which the area pattern of the object is determined.

24. The predetermined pattern of claim 21 in which the weight distribution of the object can be sensed.

25. A method for identifying the location at which at least one touch position on the touch sensor is touched, comprising the steps of:

providing a touch screen including:

an electrically insulating substrate having two sides and a touch region on one of the two sides;

a plurality of electrically-conducting band segments coupled to and traversing the touch region and wherein the band segments are insulated from one another;

a cover layer overlying the touch region;

a controller providing an electrical means of sequentially energizing a plurality of the said segments and an electrical means for monitoring the electrical characteristics of the touch sensor and for identifying the location at which at least one touch position on the touch sensor is touched from the monitored electrical characteristics;

sequentially energizing a plurality of the said segments;

monitoring the electrical characteristics of the touch sensor, and

identifying the location at which at least one touch position on the touch sensor is touched from the monitored electrical characteristics.

26. A method according to claim 25 in which regions-of-interest can be selected simultaneously using a plurality of simultaneous touches.

27. A method according to claim 26 in which further allows operations to be activated with additional simultaneous touches.

28. A method according to claim 25 that allows an operator to input data to an electronic device without requiring the operator to look at the placement of the fingers.

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