

[0141] FIG. 84 is a view illustrating the internal structure of an oscillatory actuator according to a sixth modification of the present invention.

[0142] FIG. 85 is a perspective view illustrating the appearance of an ATM according to an eighth embodiment of the present invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0143] Next, embodiments of the present invention will be explained. These embodiments show some aspects of the present invention. They do not limit the invention and can be changed as desired within the scope of the present invention.

[0144] [A: First Embodiment]

[0145] [A-1: Configuration of First Embodiment]

[0146] FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the appearance of a PDA 10 according to a first embodiment of the present invention. In the figure, a transparent touch panel 102 is overlaid on a display screen of a liquid crystal display panel 103a covering an opening of a main case 101. A user inputs operation instructions to the PDA 10 by touching the touch panel 102 by his or her fingertip. Note that the touch operation on the touch panel 102 may also be of a mode using a pen or other operation tools. Further, the top surface of the main case 101 is provided with push-button type operation keys 104a, 104b, and 104c for inputting operation instructions to the PDA 101 such as for turning the main power on or off.

[0147] Next, FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the hardware configuration of the PDA 10 shown in FIG. 1. As shown in this figure, the PDA 10 has a touch panel 102, a display unit 103, a key input unit 111, a memory 112, a CPU (central processing unit) 113, a drive signal generation circuit 114, and an oscillatory actuator 115.

[0148] The touch panel 102 outputs a signal showing a touched position on the touch panel 102 (hereinafter called a "touch signal") to the CPU 113 in response to a touch operation. Further, the display unit 103 has a liquid crystal display panel 103a and a drive circuit for controlling the display of the liquid crystal display panel 103a. The key input unit 111 outputs, to the CPU 113, a key operation signal in response to the pressing operation of the operation keys 104a to 104c by the user. The memory 112 stores programs, data, etc. for controlling the PDA 10. Further, the memory 112 stores waveform data of the drive signal for driving the oscillatory actuator 115.

[0149] The CPU 113 executes a program stored in the memory 112 to control the parts of the device interconnected through a bus 116. This CPU 113 executes a vibration control processing 1 (see FIG. 5). Upon detection of an operation input from the touch panel 102 or any one of operation keys 104a to 104c, it drives the oscillatory actuator 115 through the drive signal generation circuit 114 to cause the touch panel 102 or one of the operation keys 104a to 104c to vibrate.

[0150] The drive signal generation circuit 114 generates a drive signal for driving the oscillatory actuator 115 in accordance with waveform data supplied from the CPU 113. Further, the drive signal generation circuit 114 applies a

drive signal to the oscillatory actuator 115 in accordance with instructions from the CPU 113.

[0151] The oscillatory actuator 115 is a linear oscillatory actuator of a so-called moving permanent magnet type which uses a permanent magnet as a movable weight (weight) and causes the movable weight to linearly reciprocate by electromagnetic force to cause generation of vibration. The oscillatory actuator 115 is driven by a drive signal applied from the drive signal generation circuit 114 and generates vibration.

[0152] FIG. 3 is a sectional view schematically illustrating a state of placement of the oscillatory actuator 115 in the main case 101 of the PDA 10. As shown in the figure, the top surface of the case 115a of the oscillatory actuator 115 is in contact with the liquid crystal display panel 103a and operation keys 104a to 104c. Further, the case 115a of the oscillatory actuator 115 is provided inside it with a cylindrical coil 121 fixed to the top surface of the case 115a, a columnar movable weight 122 made of permanent magnet and having an annular space in which the coil 121 fits, and a spring 123 for supporting the movable weight 122.

[0153] Note that the case 115a of the oscillatory actuator 115 is sealed and functions as a magnetic shield. The function as such a magnetic shield is given to the case 115a by, for example, forming the case 115a by a conductive substance and grounding it or making it the same potential. Alternatively, the case 115a may be made of a magnetic member having a high-permeability.

[0154] The movable weight 122 is supported by the spring 123 in a state where the weight 122 is able to linearly reciprocate in the vertical direction in the figure in the space formed inside the case 115a of the oscillatory actuator 115. The spring 123, as shown in FIG. 3, is connected at one end to the case 115a (base member) that is in contact with the liquid crystal display panel 103a and operation keys 104a to 104c and is connected at its other end to the movable weight 122. Note that a plurality of springs 123 may also be provided. Further, instead of the spring 123, it is also possible to use a support member formed using an elastic body such as a rubber band.

[0155] The movable weight 122 linearly reciprocates in the vertical direction in the figure by the magnetic force generated from the coil 121 when an AC (alternating) current (drive signal) is applied to the coil 121. By the counter force of the reciprocation of the movable weight 122, vibrational acceleration occurs at the portion of the case 115a to which the spring 123 is connected. Note that the portion of the case 115a to which the spring 123 is connected receives a vibration component transmitted from the movable weight 122 through the spring 123 in addition to the counter force of the reciprocation along with the reciprocation of the movable weight 122. The principle of generation of vibration by the oscillatory actuator 115 is however based on the use of the vibrational acceleration occurring by a counter force of the reciprocation of the movable weight 122.

[0156] Due to this vibrational acceleration, vibration is transmitted to the liquid crystal display panel 103a and the operation keys 104a to 104c. The direction of the vibration is a direction perpendicular to the front surface of the touch panel 102 and matches with the direction by which the user