

images N, for instance, takes four values, for instance, 1, 4, 9, and 25 that are square numbers. When the N is 1, the size of the image displayed in the image reproduction area 27 becomes the largest. The size of the image displayed in the image reproduction area 27 becomes smaller as the number of images N increases. When plural images (reduced images) are displayed in the image reproduction area 27, the images are arranged in a square matrix.

[0035] In the speed gear table 32, the number of images N and the frame change interval T are determined such that the number of images displayed per unit time, for instance, one minute (hereinafter referred to as a frame display rate) increases with the increase of the gear number (see FIG. 3). In the speed gear table 32, some of the gear numbers have the same number of images displayed in one frame. In that case, the frame change interval T is reduced as the gear number increases so as to increase the frame display rate.

[0036] In FIG. 4, the slide bar 28 has tick marks corresponding to the gear numbers in the speed gear table 32. A tick mark S0 at the center of the slide bar 28 corresponds to the gear number GN0, and a tick mark S11 at the right end of the slide bar 28 corresponds to the gear number GN11. Tick marks S4, S7, and S10 labeled with numbers correspond to the gear numbers GN4, GN7 and GN10. For instance, when the slider 31 is moved to the right, the number of images displayed in one frame increases every time the slider 31 reaches the tick mark with number. Tick marks S1, S2, and S3 between the tick marks S0 and S4 correspond to the gear numbers GN1, GN2, and GN3. Tick marks S5 and S6 between the tick marks S4 and S7 correspond to the gear numbers GN5 and GN6. The tick marks S8 and S9 correspond to the gear numbers GN8 and GN9.

[0037] Likewise, the tick marks S21 to S31 on the left side of the tick mark S0 correspond to the gear numbers GN1 to GN11. When the slider 31 is moved to the right side of the tick mark S0, the images are reproduced in normal order from the beginning according to, for instance, a file name or the like. On the contrary, when the slider 31 is moved to the left side of the tick mark S0, the images are reproduced in inverse order to the above.

[0038] Next, the operation of the present invention is described. In FIG. 5, the image data stored in the memory card 16 is read by the memory card reader 17 and stored in a specified directory in the memory device 14. When the image reproduction program is executed, the image reproduction window output section 18 generates the image reproduction window 25, which is then displayed on the monitor 13.

[0039] The image reproduction window 25 is divided into the folder display area 26, the image reproduction area 27, and the operating area 29. In the folder display area 26, the user selects the folder icon coupled to the directory with the desired image data. In the operating area 29, in an initial state, the slider 31 is at the tick mark S0, that is, the center position of the slide bar 28. The image reproduction window output section 18 obtains the gear number GN0 from the position of the slider 31 and makes reference to the speed gear table 32. The image reproduction window output section 18 reads the number of images N and the frame change interval T from the speed gear table 32. If the slider 31 is kept at the tick mark S0, the image reproduction is in a pausing state in which one image is kept displayed as one frame without changing over to the next frame in the image reproduction area 27.

[0040] When the operation is performed to move the slider 31 to the right, the displacement amount is detected by the slider detection section 19. The image display reproduction window output section 18 makes reference to the detected displacement amount and moves the slider 31 accordingly. The image reproduction window output section 18 converts the position of the slider 31 into the corresponding gear number and makes reference to the speed gear table 32. The image reproduction window output section 18 reads the number of images N to be displayed in the image reproduction area 27 and the frame change interval T of the corresponding gear number from the speed gear table 32. Thereby, the image reproduction window output section 18 reproduces one frame having the N numbers of images in the image reproduction area 27 for T seconds. If the slider 31 is not moved during T seconds, the next N numbers of images are read and arranged in a matrix. This next frame is then displayed for T seconds, and the slide show is continued.

[0041] In FIG. 6, in the speed gear table 32, the frame display rate increases as the displacement amount of the slider 31 increases in the right direction. To search the intended image from the plurality of images, the user only needs to move the slider 31 to select the most easily viewable display configuration.

[0042] For instance, when the slider 31 is moved to the tick mark S1, frames each of which has one large-size image are reproduced at the frame change intervals of 4 seconds. When the slider 31 is moved to the tick mark S2, the number of the image displayed in one frame is not changed, but the frame change interval is changed to two seconds. When the slider 31 is moved to the tick mark S4, 4 images arranged in the matrix are displayed in one frame in the image reproduction area 27 at the frame change intervals of 4 seconds. When the slider 31 is moved to the tick mark S6, the number of images displayed in one frame is not changed, but the frame change interval is changed to 2.5 seconds. When the slider is moved to the tick mark S7, 9 images are displayed in one frame at the frame change intervals of 5 seconds.

[0043] As described above, the number of images displayed per unit time (the frame display rate) is increased as the slider 31 is moved away from the tick mark S0 on the slide bar 28. Further, at the tick marks between the tick marks S4 and S7, and those between the tick marks S7 and S10, only the frame change interval T is shortened while the number of images N displayed in one frame is remained the same. In other words, when the slider 31 is moved slowly from the tick mark S0, the changeover of the frames becomes gradually faster while one image is displayed in each frame. When the frame change interval T reaches a minimum value, the number of images N in one frame is increased to 4, and at the same time, the frame change interval T is increased. When the slider 31 is further moved to the right, the frame change interval T is gradually shortened while the number of images N in one frame remains at 4. When the frame change interval T reaches a minimum value, the number of images N in one frame is increased to 9, and at the same time, the frame change interval T is increased. When the slider 31 is further moved to the right, the frame change interval T is shortened while the number of images N in one frame remains at 9, and so on. Note that when the slider 31 is moved to the left of the tick mark S0, the frame display rate increases in the same manner as above. However, the images are reproduced in the inverse order. The user can adjust the frame display rate and select the most easily viewable display configuration by moving the slider 31 while viewing the images in accordance with