

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the top surface is not planar.

18. A method of sensing the position of an object comprising the steps of:

- j. providing a deformable touch layer having a top surface accessible to a user and a bottom surface, the top surface having a length and width;
- k. providing a compliant dielectric layer mounted below the deformable touch layer and forming a border with the deformable touch layer;
- l. providing a plurality of sensors spaced apart and affixed in the region of the border, the combination of the deformable touch layer, sensors and compliant dielectric layer forming a three dimensional assembly having x and y axes correlating with the length and width, and a z axis generally perpendicular to the x and y axes;

m. providing a sense object layer mounted below the compliant dielectric layer;

n. sensing the presence of an object generally in the x and y axes by evaluating one or more sensors to determine which one or more sensors are closest to the object; and

o. sensing the presence of an object in the z axis by evaluating one or more sensors to determine the relative position of a sensor with respect to the sense object layer.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the sensors are capacitive in nature and the sense object layer is electrically conductive.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the top surface is not planar.

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