

[0022] Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the present invention.

[0023] To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

[0025] FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the first display fully extended allowing for viewing of the first display and a second display simultaneously.

[0026] FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along line 2-2 of FIG. 1.

[0027] FIG. 3a is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the first display partially rotated along its horizontal pivot axis.

[0028] FIG. 3b is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the first display fully rotated along its horizontal pivot axis.

[0029] FIG. 3c is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the first display partially rotated along its vertical pivot axis.

[0030] FIG. 3d is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the first display fully rotated along its vertical pivot axis into a position in front of the second display.

[0031] FIG. 4a is an upper perspective view of a first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display and the second display slidably positioned within a rear support.

[0032] FIG. 4b is an upper perspective view of the first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display and the second display partially extended from the rear support.

[0033] FIG. 4c is an upper perspective view of the first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display and the second display fully extended from the rear support.

[0034] FIG. 5a is a front view of the first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display positioned in front of the second display.

[0035] FIG. 5b is a front view of the first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display and the second display partially extended from the rear support.

[0036] FIG. 5c is a front view of the first alternative embodiment illustrating the first display and the second display fully extended from the rear support.

[0037] FIG. 6a is an upper perspective view of a second alternative embodiment with a second display positioned within a first display.

[0038] FIG. 6b is an upper perspective view of the second alternative embodiment with the second display partially extended from within the first display.

[0039] FIG. 6c is an upper perspective view of the second alternative embodiment with the second display fully extended from within the first display.

[0040] FIG. 7 is an upper perspective view of a third alternative embodiment with a third display extended from the first display.

[0041] FIG. 8a is a front view of the third alternative embodiment with the second display partially extended from the first display.

[0042] FIG. 8b is a front view of the third alternative embodiment with the second display and the third display partially extended from the first display.

[0043] FIG. 8c is a front view of the third alternative embodiment with the second display and the third display fully extended from the first display.

[0044] FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating connection of the video card with the first display, the second display and the third display.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0045] A. Overview

[0046] Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 9 illustrate a multi-screen laptop system 10, which comprises a laptop 20 having a first display 30 and a second display 50 movably connected to one another. The first display 30 is pivotally attached to the second display 50 for allowing the user to view either the first display 30 by itself or both the first display 30 and the second display 50.

[0047] B. Laptop

[0048] FIGS. 1 through 8c illustrate an exemplary laptop 20 having a first display 30, a keypad 22, a mouse pad 24 and various control buttons 26 suitable for usage with the present invention. It can be appreciated that the present invention should not be limited to the laptop 20 illustrated in the attached figures. In addition, the first display 30 may be comprised of a stand-alone monitor that is not attached to a laptop 20.

[0049] The laptop 20 further preferably includes hardware (e.g. video card 28) and/or software (e.g. DUALVIEW within MICROSOFT® XP) capable of providing a "clone" mode and a "horizontal" mode for use with multiple monitors. One or more video cards 28 may be utilized to generate the horizontal view among two or more monitors as is well known in the art. The first display 30, the second display 50 and the third display 60 are electrically connected to the laptop 20 thereby receiving the video signal in "horizontal" mode. It is preferable that the horizontal mode is entered into only if the second display 50 and/or the third display 60 are fully extended from the first display 30.