

tageous for this if tooth flanks on the support sheet are provided for engagement in driving rollers. The touch points should then be respectively arranged in the regions between the tooth flanks.

[0033] In another embodiment, the support sheet is formed as a disk-shaped turntable, which is preferably rotated by a motor in the center of the turntable.

[0034] The activation of the membranes may take place mechanically or magnetically, but also thermally and piezo-electrically.

[0035] In the embodiment of the support sheet as a continuous band which is clamped in a circulating manner between two deflecting rollers that are spaced apart from one another, the band is turned continuously or discontinuously, so that a running script is created. For this purpose, the Braille characters are represented in the support sheet at the beginning of the circulating path with the aid of actuators acting on the touch points. After completion of the circulation, the Braille characters are then erased again by an erasing element. This preferably takes place by an erasing drum acting against the circulating roller at the end of the circulating path, the raised touch points being pressed by the erasing drum below the plane formed by the surface of the support sheet.

[0036] In the case of another advantageous embodiment, it is provided that a multiplicity of continuous bands are respectively clamped in a circulating manner between two deflecting rollers that are spaced apart from one another. The axes of the deflecting rollers are in line with one another, so that the continuous bands extend parallel to one another. For each band, a character or a column of characters is represented in this way. The bands arranged in parallel next to one another form a line with Braille characters. Circulating of the bands running transversely in relation to the line has the effect that the Braille characters of a line are continued independently of one another. Approximately synchronous turning of the support sheets accomplishes a complete change of characters.

[0037] It is particularly advantageous if a sensor for sensing the reading speed and a regulating unit for regulating the speed of the representation of continuous information are provided. In this way, the speed of movement of the at least one support sheet can be variably adapted to the reading speed of the reader. The sensor is preferably a pressure sensor, so that the reading speed is controlled by the touching pressure of the fingers on the support sheet.

[0038] It is particularly advantageous if the device has an additional voice output unit for acoustic output of the information. The graphically and acoustically representable information may in this case be transmitted in a coded form, for example in the Wave or MP3 format.

[0039] Furthermore, it is advantageous if the device has an interface for the transmission of the information from a terminal unit, such as for example a computer, to the device. The interface should be formed in particular for radio transmission or infrared transmission. In the case of radio transmission, the information can be transmitted from the terminal unit for example on the basis of the Bluetooth standard. The interface may, however, also be an SCSI interface, a parallel interface, a serial interface, a USB interface or PS/2 interface, etc.

[0040] The invention is explained in more detail below on the basis of the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0041] FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a detail of the support sheet with a touch point;

[0042] FIG. 2 shows a plan view of a support sheet in band form with systematically arranged touch points and a cross-sectional view of the support sheet with tooth flanks;

[0043] FIG. 3 shows a device for the representation of Braille script with a circulating support band;

[0044] FIG. 4 shows a device for the representation of Braille script with a number of continuous bands running in parallel next to one another;

[0045] FIG. 5 shows a device for the representation of Braille script with a plate in disk form as a support sheet;

[0046] FIG. 6 shows a cross-sectional view of a support sheet with an electromagnetically activated roller actuator arranged underneath it;

[0047] FIG. 7 shows a cross-sectional view of a support sheet with a second embodiment of an electromagnetically activated roller actuator.

[0048] FIG. 1 shows a support sheet 1 with a touch point 2, which is formed integrally with the support sheet 1. The support sheet 1 has at least one touch region 3, which, drawn as a continuous line, in the activated state protrudes beyond the plane formed by the touch surface of the support sheet 1. Provided between the touch region 3 and the support sheet 1 is an undular flexible boundary region 4, to make it possible that the touch region 3 can be pressed by a suitable actuator into an active state, in which the excess material of the support sheet 1 forming the touch region 3 protrudes beyond the plane formed by the surface of the support sheet 1. The flexible boundary region 4 allows the touch region 3 to continue to be sprung back into a deactivated state, in which the touch region lies below 3 the plane [sic], which is defined by the touch surface of the support sheet 1.

[0049] The touch points 2 may advantageously be produced by the flexible boundary region 4 of the support sheet 1 formed from plastic being heated for a short time. The touch region 3 is preferably formed in a dome-shaped manner by heating.

[0050] FIG. 2 shows a plan view of the support sheet 1 with a systematic arrangement of the touch points 2, a group 5 of eight touch points 2 respectively forming a character and four lines with two touch points 2 lying directly next to one another being provided.

[0051] Other distributions of the touch points 2 are possible, however, in order for example to make larger graphical representations not only able to be read by touch but also able to be seen.

[0052] FIG. 2 also shows two embodiments of the support sheet 1 in cross section. It is clear that tooth flanks 6 which engage in driving or deflecting rollers (not represented) are arranged on the underside of the support sheet 1, so that the support sheet 1 can be advanced. The support sheet 1 is in this case formed as a circulating band.

[0053] This embodiment is sketched in FIG. 3 as a perspective view. It is clear that the circulating support sheet 1 in band form is clamped between two deflecting rollers 7