

[0049] FIG. 3 schematically shows a variation of the touch input display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention. Here there is, as in FIG. 2, an information presentation layer 26. However, the touch detecting unit is provided through a light source 28 and a detector 30, where the light source 28 scans the surface of the information presentation layer 26, the light of which is received by the detector 30, which is connected to the control unit 16. Upon touching or providing a touching member close to the information presentation layer 26 the ray of light generated by the light source is broken, where the position can be converted to a position and used for determining an area selected by a user. This technique also follows well known principles. However there does not have to be a touch of the display surface in order to indicate a selection of objects, it is sufficient that a touching member, like the finger of a user or another object like a pen, is brought close to the display surface.

[0050] FIG. 4 schematically shows a display according to a third and presently contemplated preferred embodiment of the present invention. As before there is an information presentation layer 26 showing visual information, which layer has been divided into a number of display elements. Above the information presentation layer 26 there is provided a sensing and control layer 32 of piezoelectric material. This layer is controlled by a piezoelectric driving unit 36, which is also connected to the control unit 16. Here there is also provided a layer of flexible material 34, which the control unit 16 makes the sensing and control layer 32 to raise in selected areas that are to be presented as an object 38. The information presentation layer 26 and the layer of flexible material 34 here form an information presentation unit, while the sensing and control layer 32 forms a touch detecting unit. Here a number of display elements are being raised by the piezoelectric material such that an object 38 like a key appears on the display. Additional information 40 relating to this object 38 is at the same time displayed in the information presentation layer 26, which information is indicated by a hatched area. The object can be depressed. Upon depression of the object 38 the sensing and control layer 32 senses the pressure or force and converts it to an electric signal that can be processed by the control unit 16. The processing of such a signal will be described in more detail shortly.

[0051] FIG. 5 schematically shows a key 38 that is provided on a display. As can be seen from the figure the key 38 is made up a number of display elements adjacent each other and here shown as a 6x6 square of these elements, indicated by a hatched area. In the figure there is also shown a centre area 44 made up of the four display elements in the middle of the square and a peripheral area 48 made up of the display elements in the key 38 that run along the perimeter or circumference of the square, where these areas will be described in more detail later. The centre area 44 and the peripheral are shown with diagonal hatches, while an area of the object in-between is shown with vertical hatches. It should here be realized that the size of the key is only shown as an example for describing the invention. The key is furthermore just an example of an object and may furthermore be such things as a an icon or some other type of object that the user can influence. The peripheral area might furthermore be wider and the centre area might be wider as well as smaller. In fact it can be as small as one display element in the middle of the object. Naturally the object need not be shaped as a square, but can have any other form that can be provided by the display elements.

[0052] FIG. 6A-6C shows how an object is being depressed in the display device according to the third embodiment and how the object is being moved in dependence thereof. FIG. 7 shows a flow chart of a method of moving an object according the present invention.

[0053] The general way the invention according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention is working will now be described with reference being made to FIGS. 6 and 7.

[0054] The control unit first makes the sensing and control layer 32 provide an object 38 on the display by raising a part of the flexible material layer 34 in the display element positions that are to represent the object. This raised part is a first position of the object, which is shown as a middle area in the layer 34 shown in FIG. 6A. At the same time the control unit makes the information presentation layer 26 display information 40 below the object 38. The object is here provided in the form of a key and the information displayed is information regarding the meaning of the key, like for instance the letter "k". The piezoelectric material of the sensing and control layer 32 is capable of detecting vertical forces as well as tangential forces, which tangential forces gave raise to shear forces within the material. The control unit thus awaits user inputs via the display. When the user then touches the key with his finger 46, which is shown in FIG. 6B, the touch is detected, step 56, which detection is made using the piezoelectric material of the sensing and control layer 32, which converts a force being applied to the flexible material layer 34 into electric signals. The touch is here made up of a vertical component and a horizontal component. As the object is being moved horizontally, at least one edge thereof, which edge is provided in the peripheral area of the object, is forced against the surrounding non-raised material of the layer 34. This forcing against the surrounding non-raised material is an effect on the object caused by the touch of the finger 46. This creates a shear force S within the flexible material that is sensed by the sensing and control layer 32. Also a vertical force F is here detected. The forces are here provided in the area of the sensing and control layer 32 corresponding to the affected display elements, i.e., the display elements in the peripheral region. The two forces are then converted to at least one electrical signal that is transferred to the control unit. Thereafter the control unit compares the vertical force F with a threshold T1. If the vertical force is higher than the threshold T1, step 50, the touch is interpreted as being a selection of the function of the key and not as a moving of the key, and therefore the control unit performs the action associated with the key, step 52. If however the vertical force was below the threshold T1, step 50, the control unit assumes that the user input was a selection to move the key. Based on the shear force part of the signal, the control unit then determines a distancing factor based on the shear S, step 54. Thereafter the control unit orders the moving of the object by a distance and in a direction determined by the distancing factor, step 56. The object is thus moved to a second position determined by the distancing factor. The control unit does this by making the sensing and control layer 32 lower the pushed region and raise another region in the direction that the object was pushed. In FIG. 6C this is shown as being the neighboring area to the right of the middle area. At the same time the control unit makes the information presentation layer to show the same information 40 under the newly raised area.

[0055] In this way it is possible to move an object like a key by looking at the horizontal force applied.