display unit **10** may rest at a laptop tilt angle relative to the base unit **12**. In the laptop configuration, portions of the cover unit **52** may be used as a stand to support the display unit **10**. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the cover unit top section **57** may be attached to the top rear surface **58** of the display unit **10** and lies flat (parallel against the top rear surface **58** of the display unit **10**). The cover unit middle section **60** and the rear portion **66** of the cover unit bottom section **62** may be utilized as the stand. The angle between the cover unit middle section **60** and the top rear surface **58** of the display unit **10** may be between about 110 and about 170 degrees for example.

[**0061**] The cover unit bottom section **62** may be divided into a front portion **64** and a rear portion **66**. Both the front portion **64** and the rear portion **66** may be parallel to the surface on which the portable computer is placed. The front portion **64** may protrude slightly beyond the edge of the display unit **10** when the portable computer is in either the closed or tablet configuration. The base unit **12** may rest upon the front portion **64** of the cover unit bottom section. In the laptop configuration, the bottom surface of the display unit **10** may abut the rear edge of the base unit **54** at the boundary between the front portion **64** and rear portion **66** of the cover unit bottom section **62**. As a result, the rear edge of the base unit **12** may act as a stop for the display unit **10** so that the weight of the display unit **10** forces the display unit **10** into contact with the rear edge of the base unit **12**.

[**0062**] The rear portion **66** of the cover unit bottom section **62** may be connected to the cover unit middle section **60** at an angle. In embodiments of the invention of the type shown in FIGS. **7-9**, the angle of the rear cover unit bottom section **66** and the cover unit middle section **60** may be between 30 and 60 degrees. The angle between the cover unit middle section **60** and the cover unit bottom section **66** may depend upon the desired laptop tilt angle.

[**0063**] In the tablet mode, as illustrated in **FIG. 9**, the display unit **10** may lie parallel to the base unit **12** so as to cover the keyboard **18** or other primary input device(s). The display screen **16** in the display unit **10** may be viewable and usable by a user as a touchscreen. The user may write on the display **16** with an electronic stylus **70**. The covering of the keyboard **18** or other primary input device(s) by the display unit **10** may prevent errant input as well as damage to the keyboard **18** or other primary input device(s).

[**0064**] In the tablet mode, the cover unit top section **57** and cover unit middle section **60** may fold onto each other and may be tucked away underneath a portion of the display unit **10** and above the rear portion **66** of the cover unit bottom section **62**. The rear surface of the cover unit top section **57** may contact the rear surface of the cover unit middle section **60**. The front surface of the cover unit middle surface **60** may fold onto the top surface of the rear portion **66** of the cover unit bottom section. The folded portions of the cover unit **52** may be approximately the same height as the base unit **12** and together with the base unit **12** may provide a substantially flat surface on which the display unit **10** rests on.

[**0065**] The cover unit **52** may be made of a flexible material, such as leather or plastic. The cover unit **52** may also have seams or grooves at the interfaces or boundaries between sections. In alternative embodiments, the sections of the cover unit **52** may be joined using hinges. A latching assembly **60**, an embodiment of which is shown in FIGS. **6**(*a*)-**6**(*e*) may also be included in embodiments of the invention of the type shown in FIGS. **7-9** to maintain the portable computer in a closed configuration, a tablet configuration, or both.

[**0066**] Embodiments of Type Shown in FIGS. **10-14**

[**0067**] According to other embodiments of the invention (illustrated in FIGS. **10-12**), the display unit **10** and the base unit **12** may be coupled by a hinging assembly **13** that allows the display unit **10** to rotate about two perpendicular axes of rotation with respect to the base unit. The display unit **10** may include a display screen **14**, a display frame **16**, and a rear surface **17** of the display unit **10**. The base unit **12** may include a pointing device **20**, a keyboard **18**, a bottom surface **15**, and a top surface **55**. The display unit **10**, the base unit **12**, or both may include a central processing unit (not shown) and/or a memory (not shown).

[**0068**] In the illustrated embodiment, the portable computer may be moved from the closed configuration to the laptop configuration by rotating the A hinge **30** about an axis of rotation that is parallel to the top surface **55** of the base unit **12** (referred to hereinafter as the "horizontal axis") until the display unit **10** reaches the laptop tilting angle (approximately 90° in the illustrated embodiment) with respect to the base unit **12**. From the laptop configuration, the portable computer may be changed into the tablet configuration by first rotating the B hinge **32** approximately 180° about an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the top surface **55** of the base unit **12** (referred to hereinafter as the "vertical axis"). The display unit **10** may then be brought back to a zero angle relative to the base unit **12** by rotating the first hinge in the reverse direction. In the resulting tablet configuration, the rear surface **17** of the display unit **10** may be placed over the top surface **55** of the base unit **12**, including the keyboard **18**, pointing device **20** or other primary input device(s).

[**0069**] In embodiments of the invention, the laptop tilting angle may be greater or less than the angle at which the display unit **10** is placed relative to the base unit **12** to begin swiveling of the display unit. For example, in embodiments of the invention, the A hinge **30** may have a range of rotation with an upper limit of about 180 degrees (i.e., so that the display unit **10** may lay flat on the surface supporting the base unit **12**). However, the user may place the display unit **10** at a tilt angle of only about 90 degrees before swiveling the display unit **10** relative to the display unit by rotating the B hinge **32**. In such embodiments, it should be understood that the term "laptop configuration" is meant to cover both the configuration in which the display unit **10** is at an angle of about 90 degrees relative to the base unit **12**, as well as configurations in which the display unit **10** is at other tilting angles with respect to the base unit **12**.

[**0070**] **FIG. 13**(*e*) illustrates the hinging assembly **13**. As discussed above, the A hinge **30** may be rotated to allow the display unit **10** to be tilted relative the base unit **12** to place the portable computer in the laptop configuration, and the B hinge **32** may be swiveled and the A hinge **30** rotated to allow the portable computer to be placed in the tablet configuration. The hinging assembly **13** may include a B hinge **30** oriented to rotate a shaft **98** about the vertical axis. The shaft **98** may be coupled to a support plate **97**. Consequently, the support plate may also rotate about the vertical