

4. The button assembly of claim 1 wherein the first spring constant cooperates with the second spring constant so as to provide a decreasing force profile from the second switch button end toward the first switch button end.

5. The button assembly of claim 1 wherein the first spring constant cooperates with the second spring constant so as to provide a neutral force profile from the second switch button end toward the first switch button end.

6. The button assembly of claim 1 further comprising an electronic switch configured to actuate upon application of sufficient force to the switch button by the user wherein a first force is required to be applied at the first switch button end to actuate the electronic switch and a second force is required to be applied at the second switch button end to actuate the electronic switch, the first force being greater than the second force.

7. The button assembly of claim 6 wherein the first force is about twice the second force.

8. The button assembly of claim 7 wherein a distance between the first switch button end and the second switch button end is not less than 3 cm.

9. The button assembly of claim 6 wherein the first force is about 1.2 Newtons and the second force is about 0.6 Newtons.

10. The button assembly of claim 9 wherein a distance between the first switch button end and the second switch button end is not less than 3 cm.

11. A trackball pointing device comprising:

a trackball housing having a palm portion and a distal portion;

an electronic switch;

a fulcrum having a spring constant proximate to the distal portion of the trackball housing;

a thumb pad having a distal end and a palm end, wherein the fulcrum flexibly connects the thumb pad to the distal portion of the trackball housing so as to actuate the electronic switch when force is applied to the thumb pad, a first actuating force at the distal end of the thumb pad being greater than a second actuating force at the palm end of the thumb pad.

12. The trackball pointing device of claim 11 wherein the first actuating force is at least two times greater than the second actuating force.

13. The trackball pointing device of claim 11 wherein the distal end of the thumb pad is at least 3 cm away from the palm end of the thumb pad.

14. The trackball pointing device of claim 11 wherein the first actuating force is about 1 Newton and the second actuating force is about 0.5 Newtons.

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