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**Oakley**

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(54) **MULTIPLE MODE DISPLAY APPARATUS**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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**G06F 1/16** (2006.01)  
**G06F 1/32** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **G06F 1/1681** (2013.01); **G06F 1/1618** (2013.01); **G06F 1/1637** (2013.01); **G06F 1/1643** (2013.01); **G06F 1/1662** (2013.01); **G06F 1/1677** (2013.01); **G06F 1/3203** (2013.01); **G06F 1/3265** (2013.01); **Y02B 60/32** (2013.01); **Y02B 60/1242** (2013.01)  
USPC ..... **345/169**; 345/168; 345/173

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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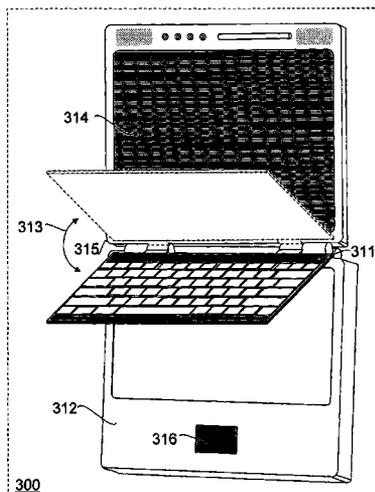
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multiple mode display apparatus and methods of use. An apparatus includes a display surface with a first and a second display area. A housing pivotally attached with the display proximate a first edge of the housing is displaceable from a coplanar position with the surface of the display device to a position wherein an angle of at least 90 degrees between the surface of the display and the housing is formed along said first edge. In the first position, the first display area is visible and activated to receive user input or to display output. The second display area is covered by the housing and placed in a mode of reduced power consumption. In the second position, the second display area is visible and activated to display output.

**27 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**



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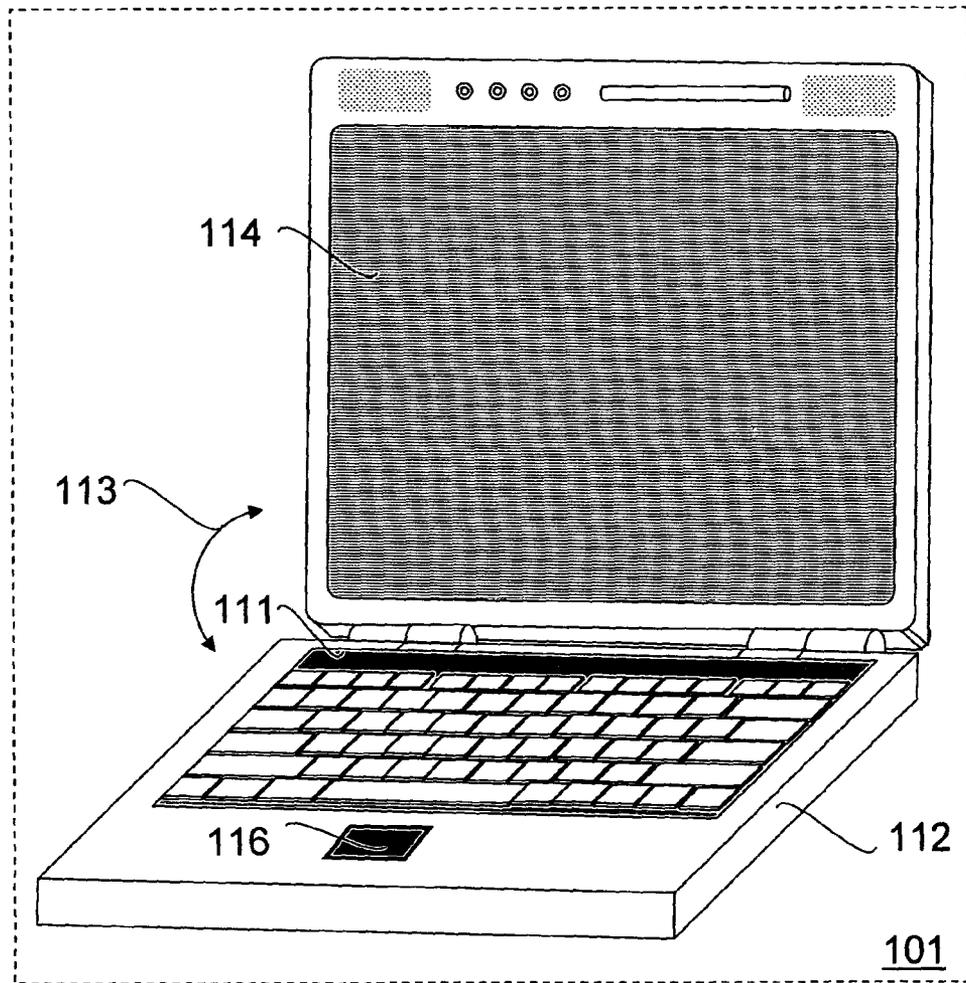


FIG. 1

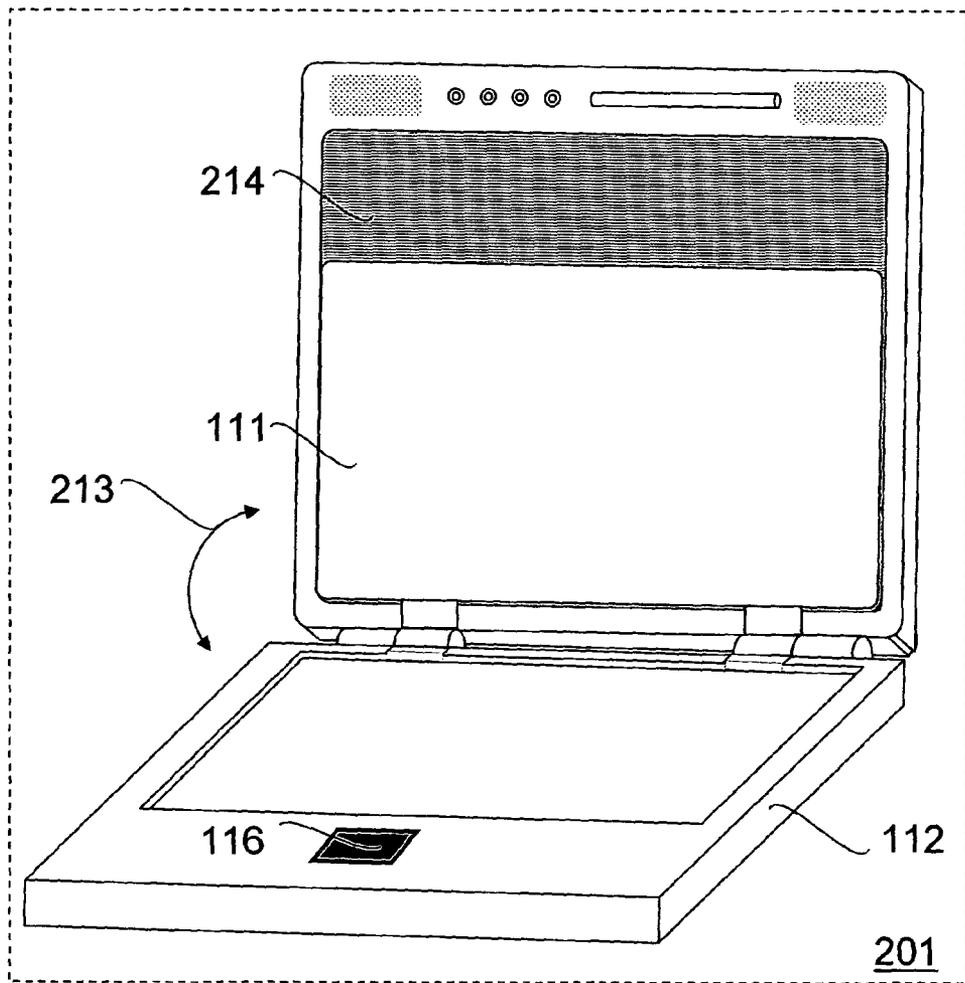


FIG. 2

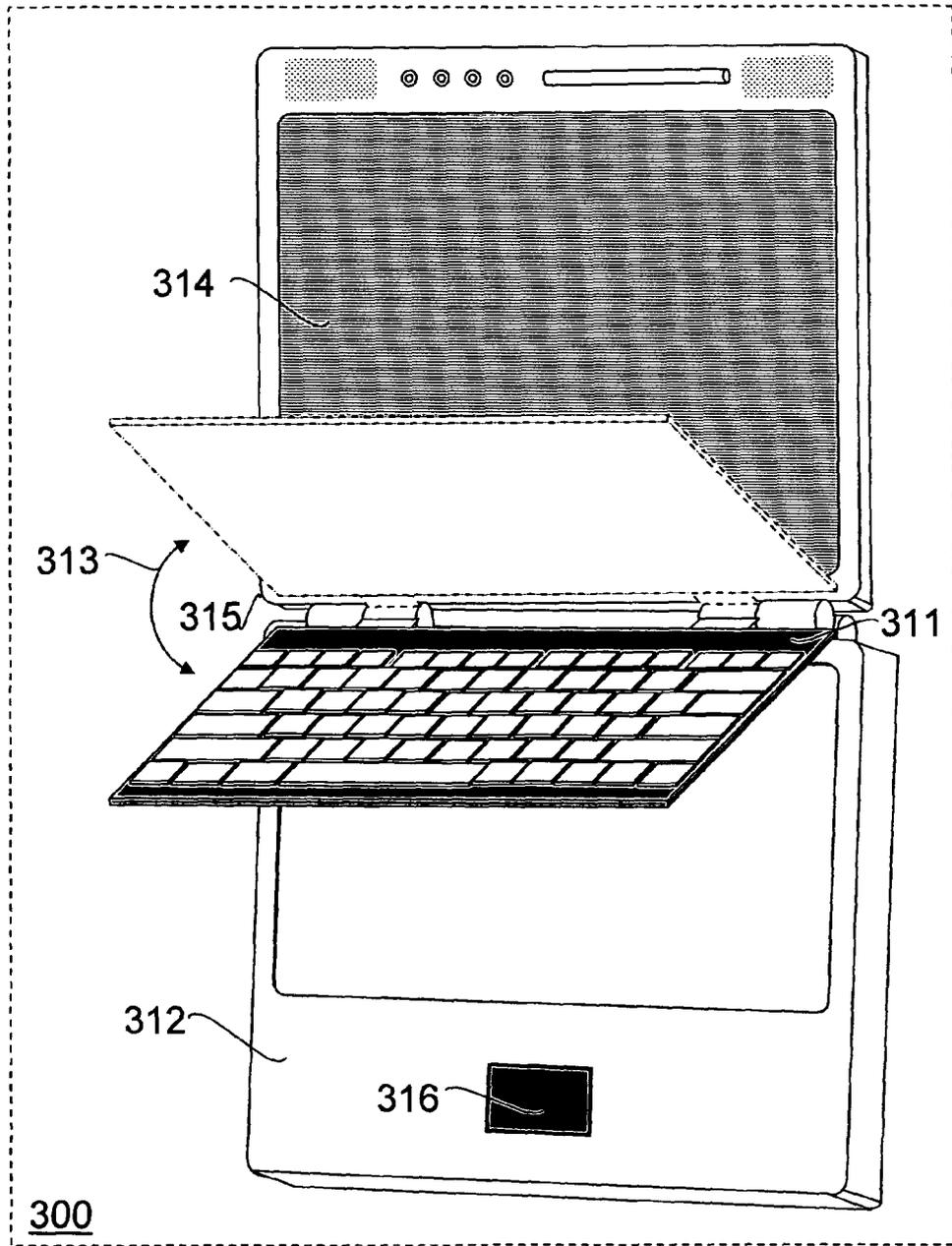


FIG. 3

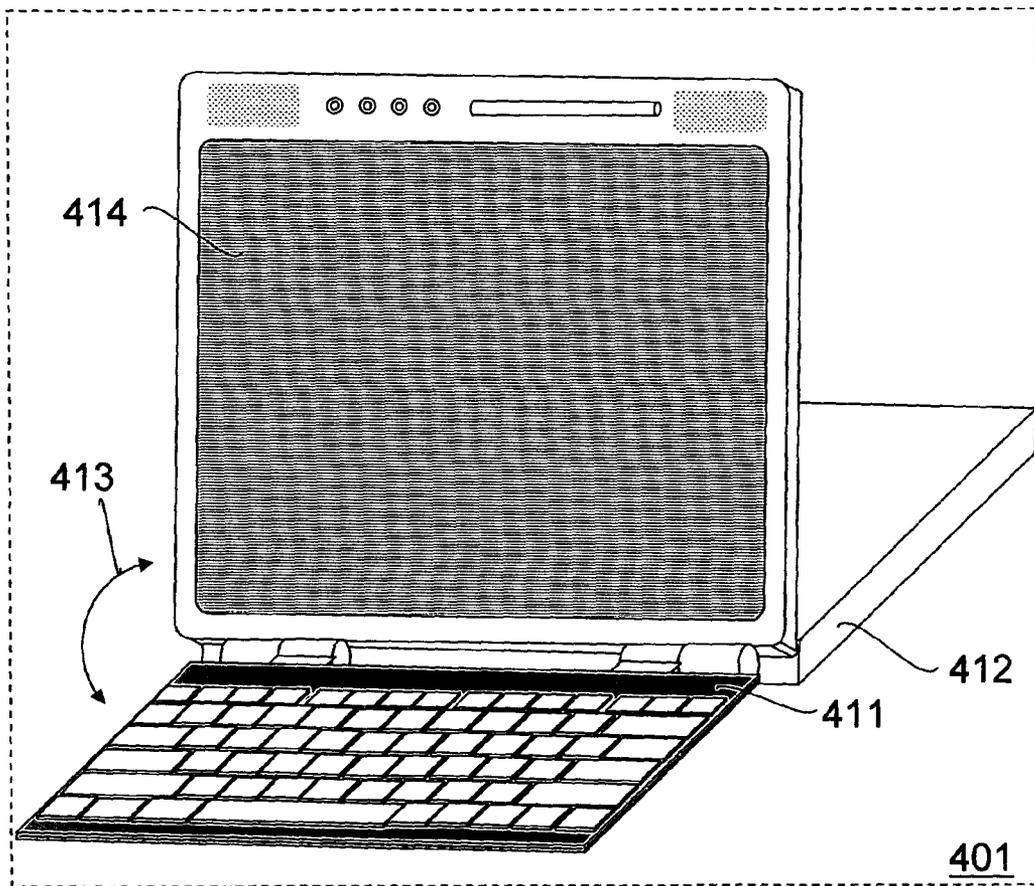


FIG. 4

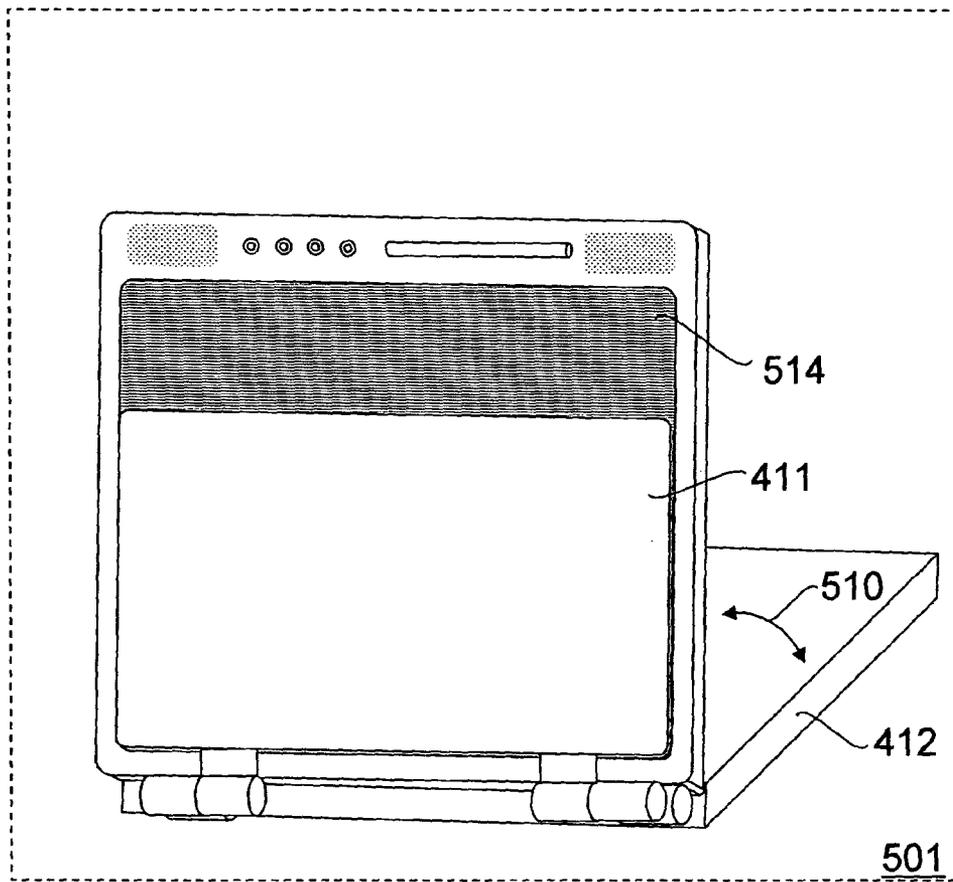


FIG. 5

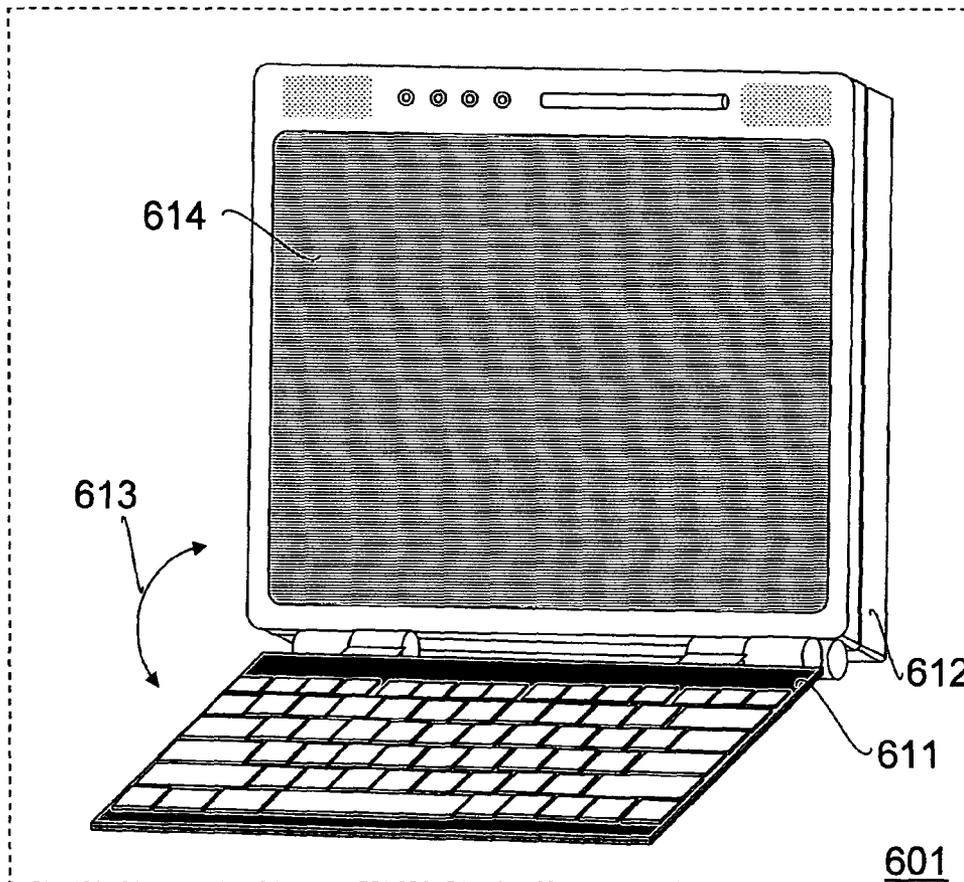


FIG. 6

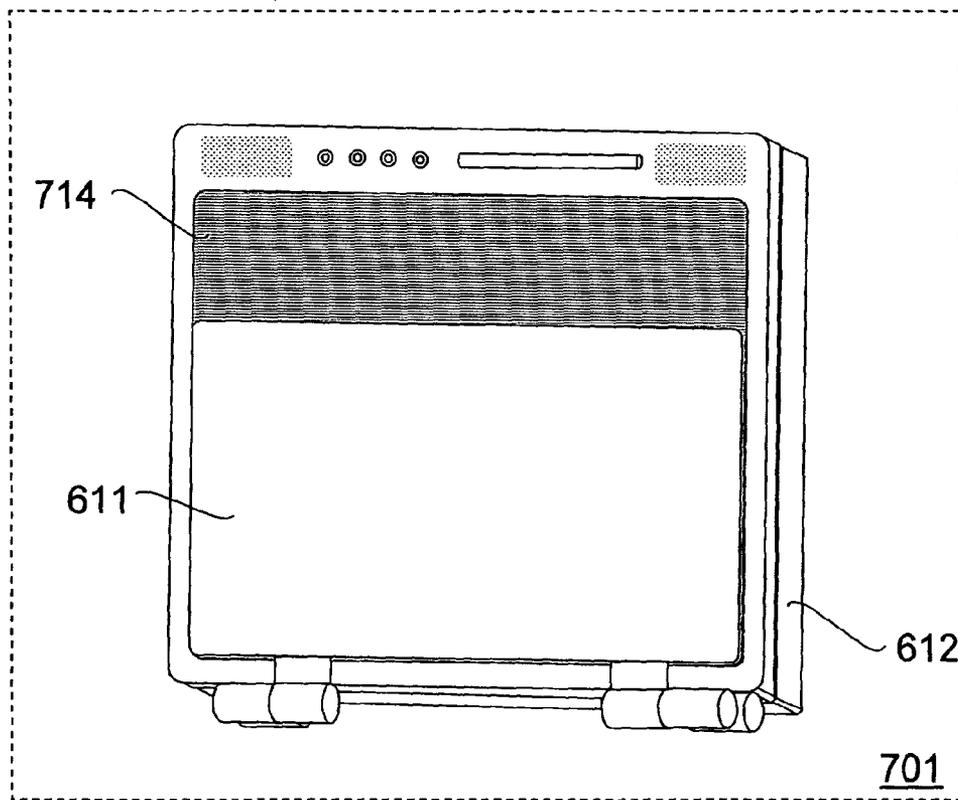
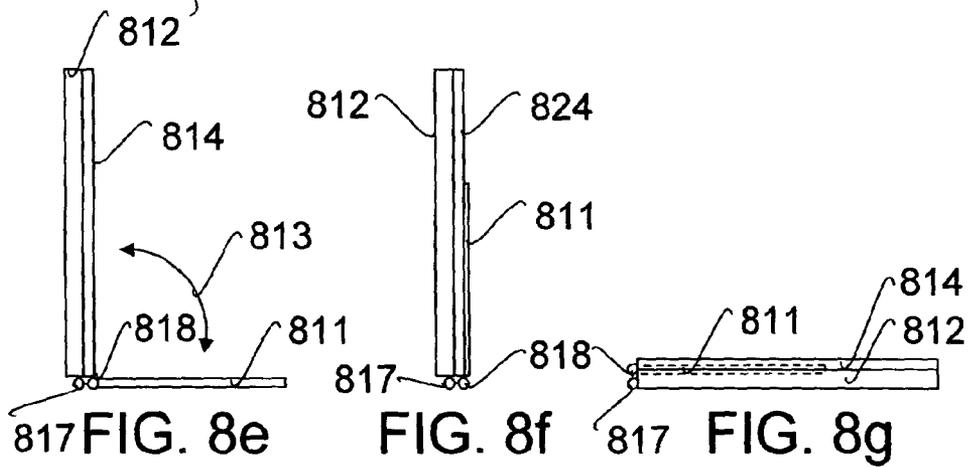
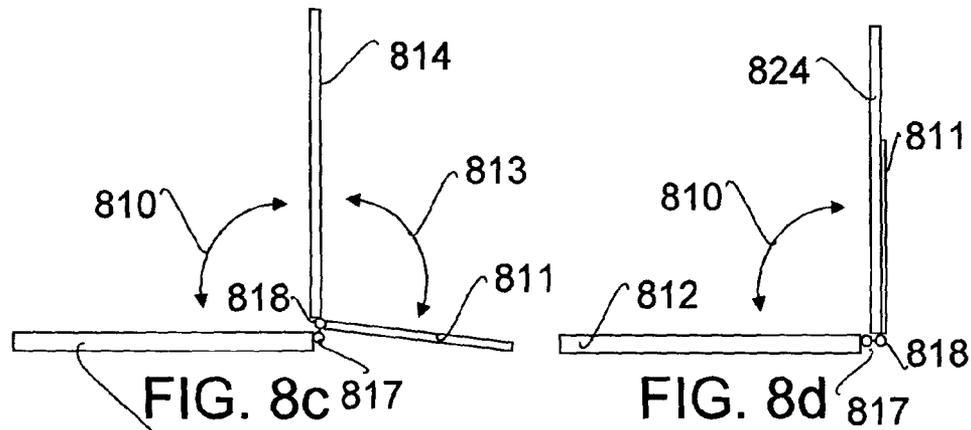
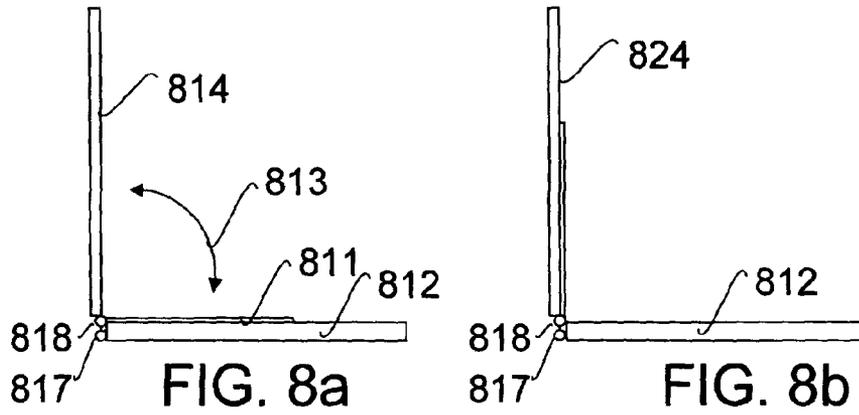
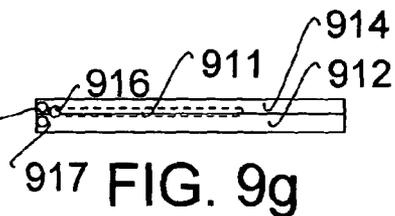
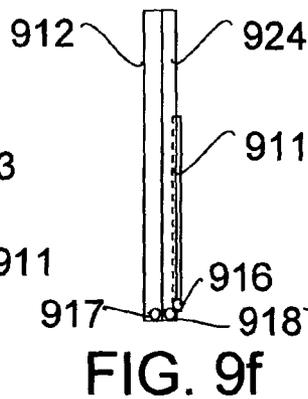
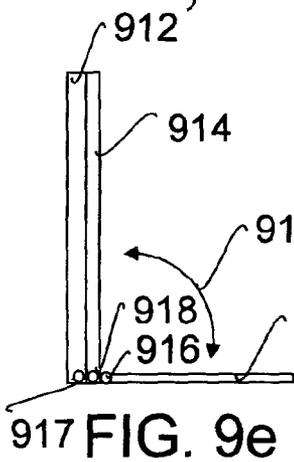
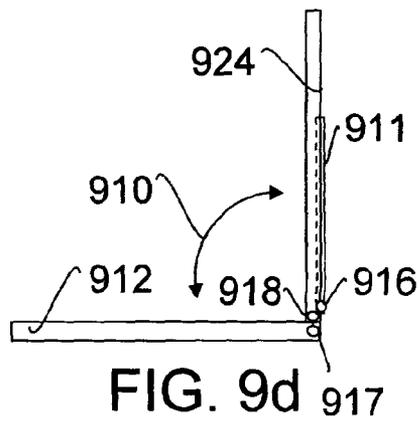
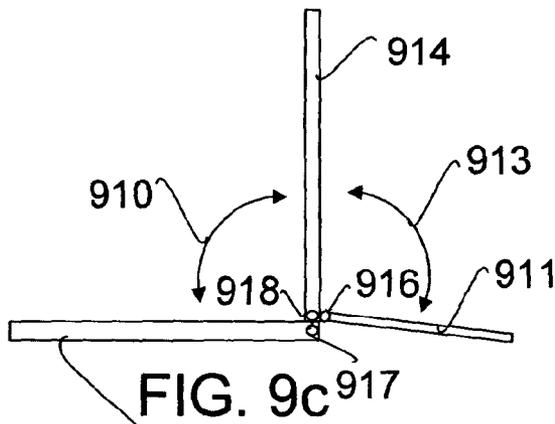
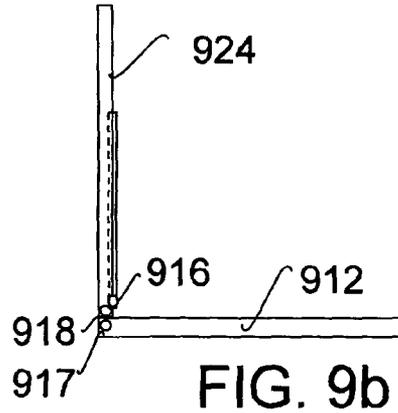
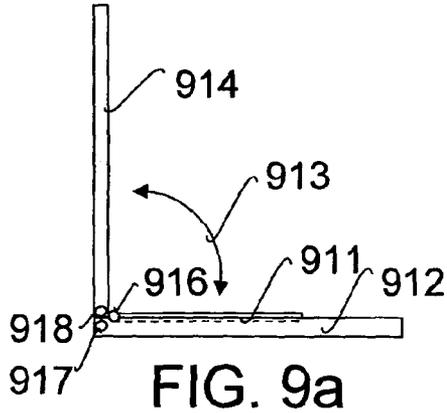


FIG. 7





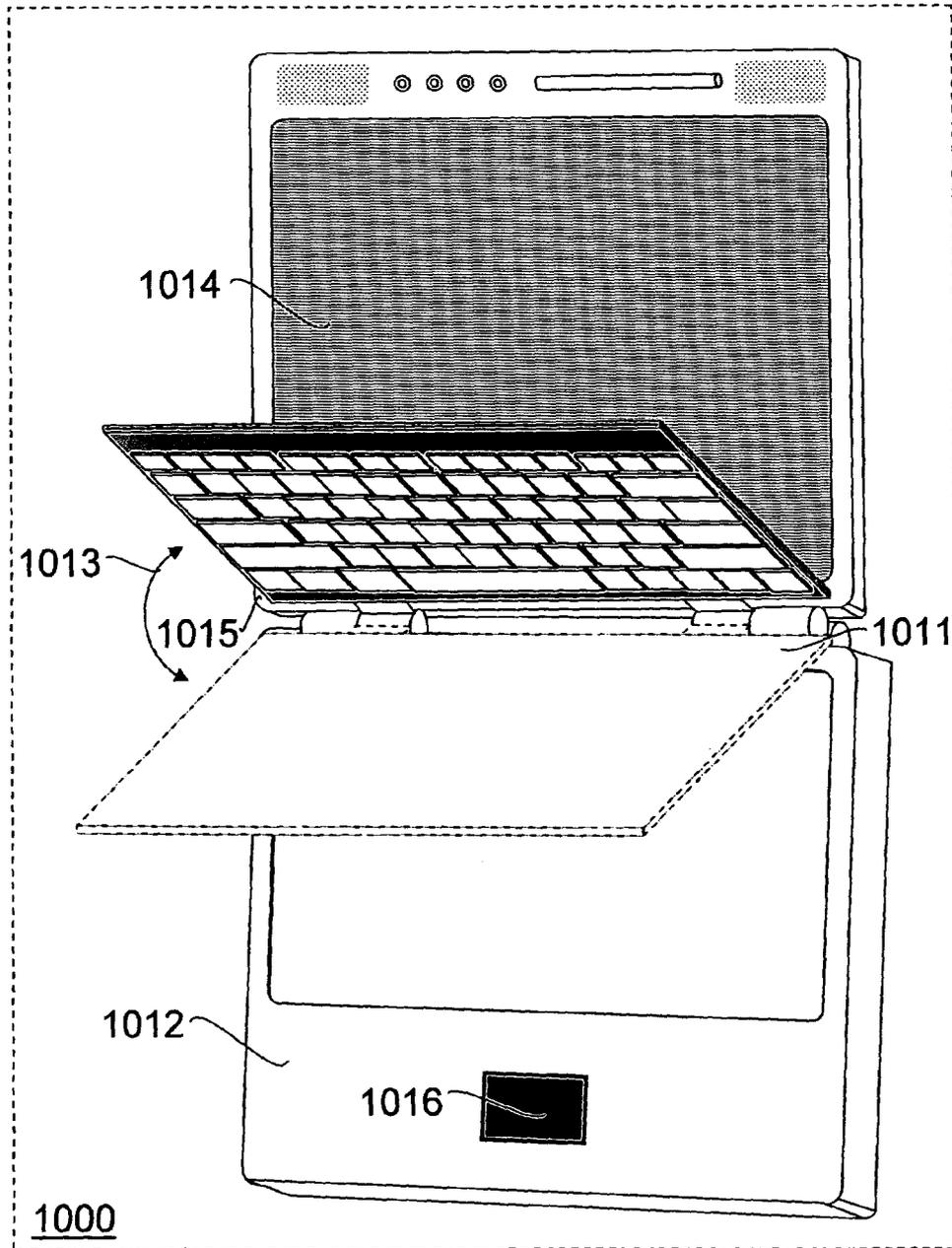
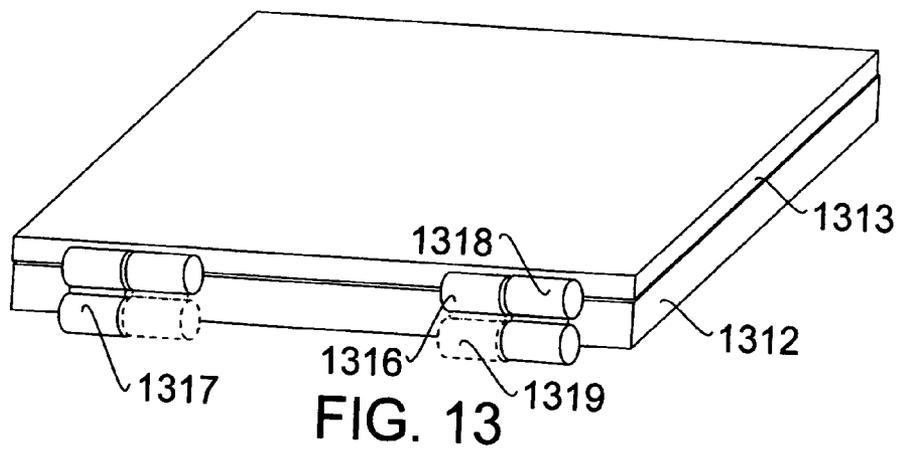
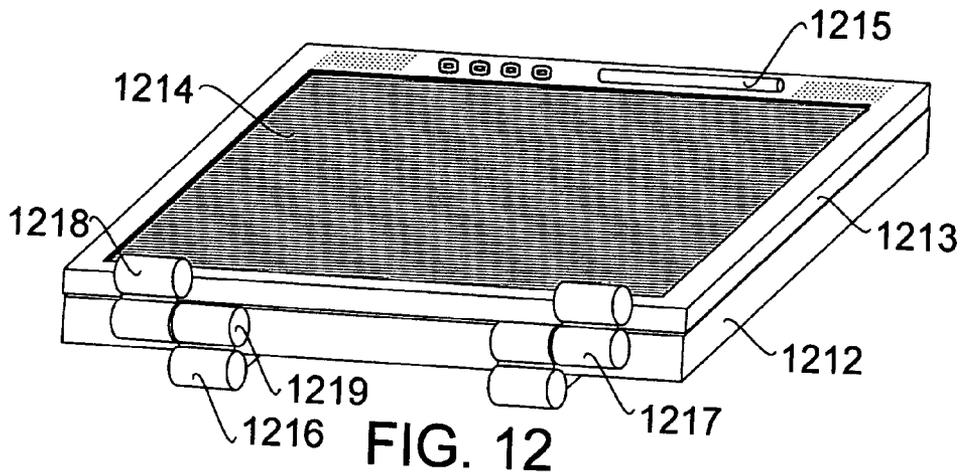
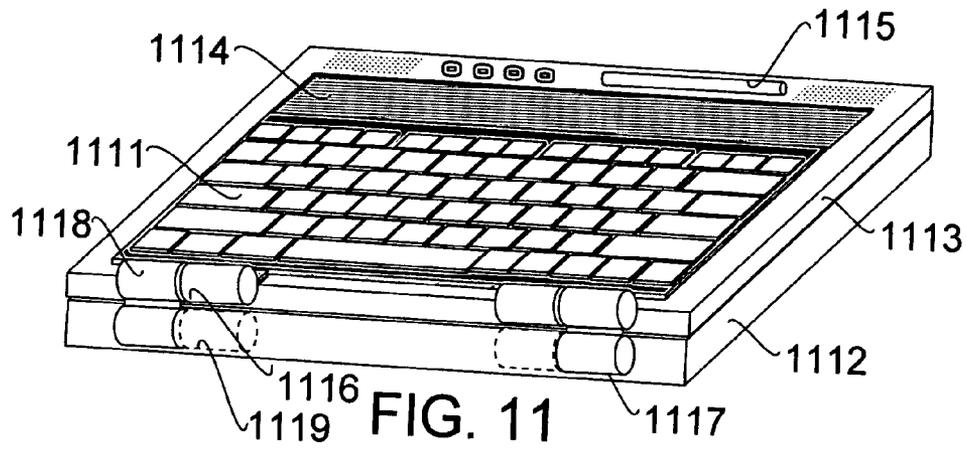


FIG. 10



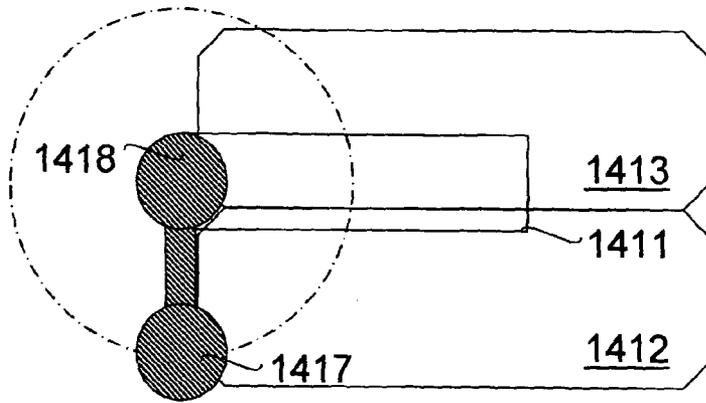


FIG. 14a

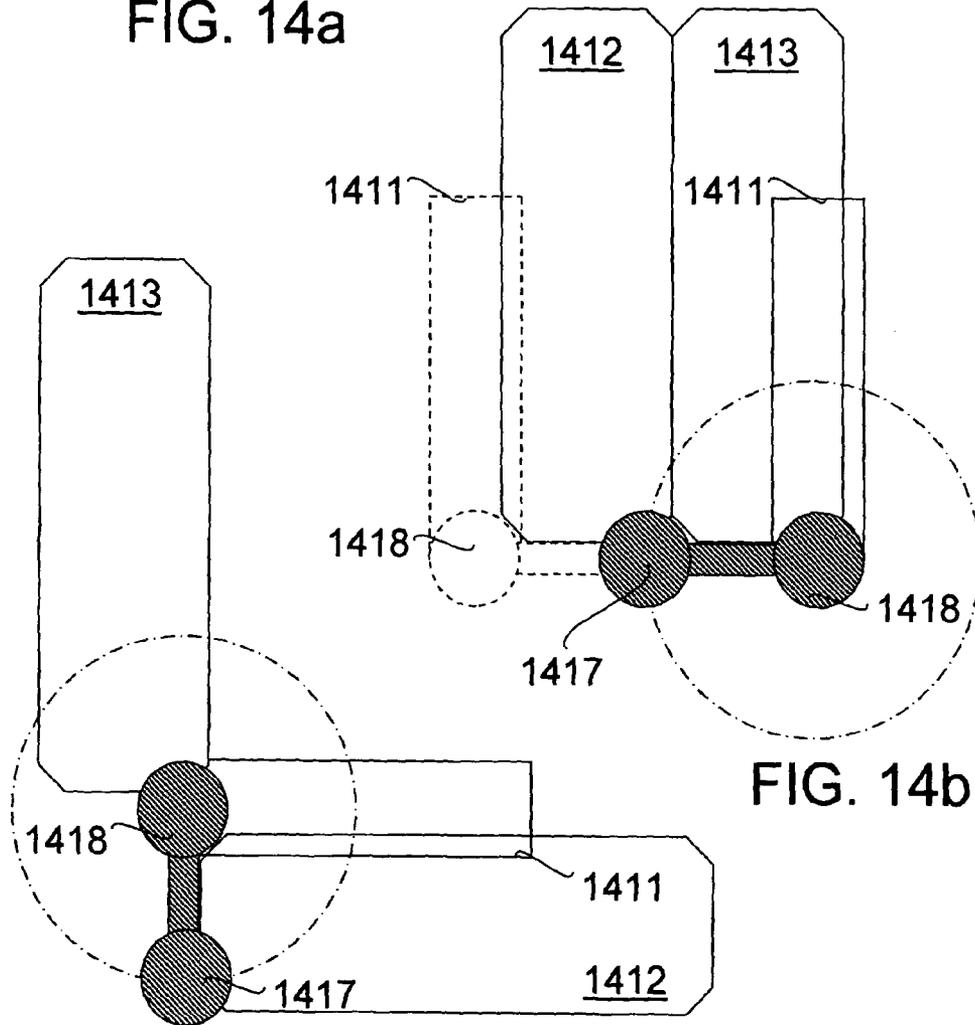


FIG. 14b

FIG. 14c

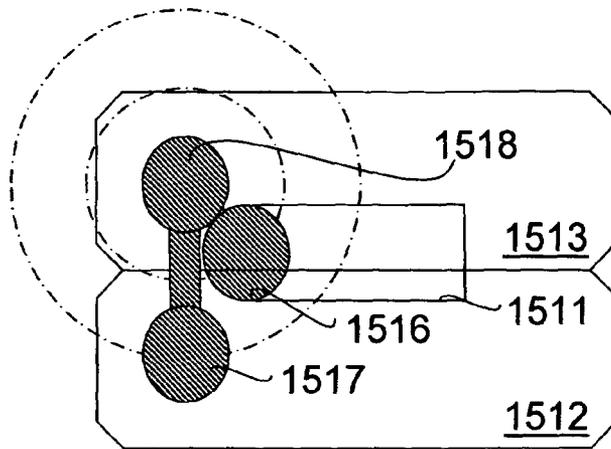


FIG. 15a

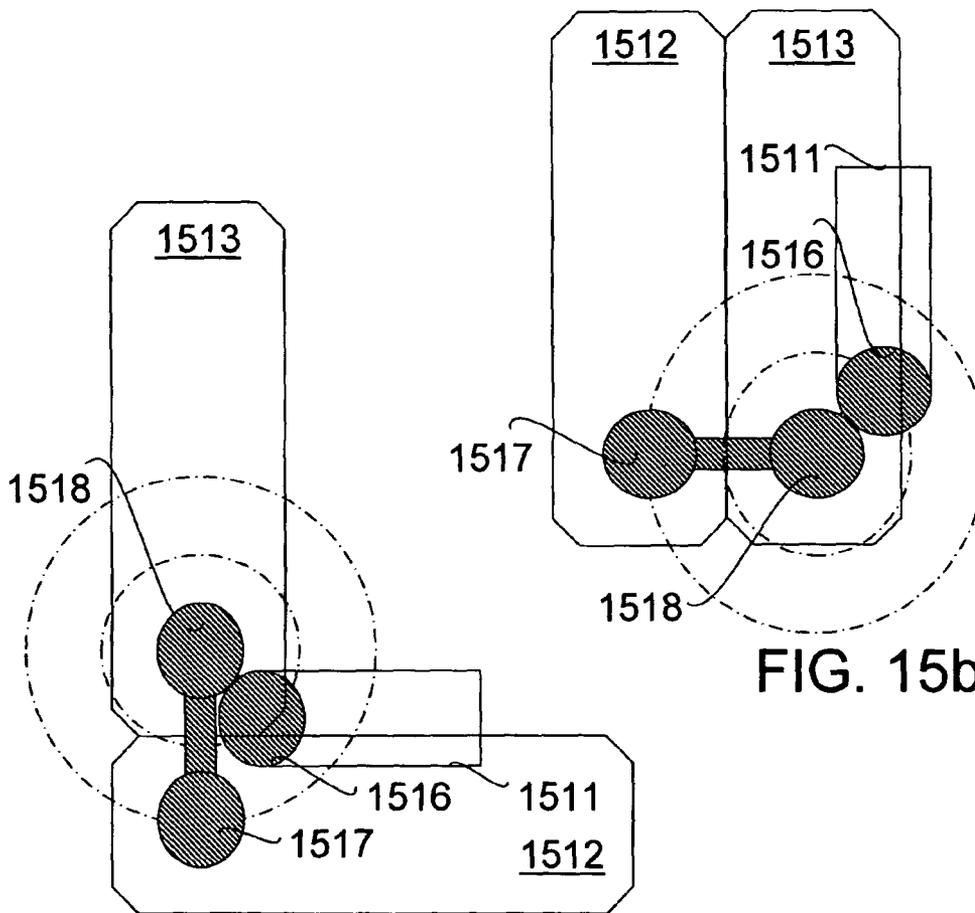


FIG. 15b

FIG. 15c

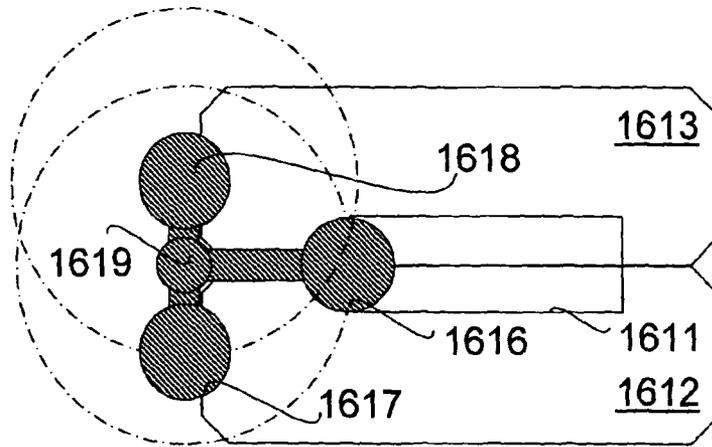


FIG. 16a

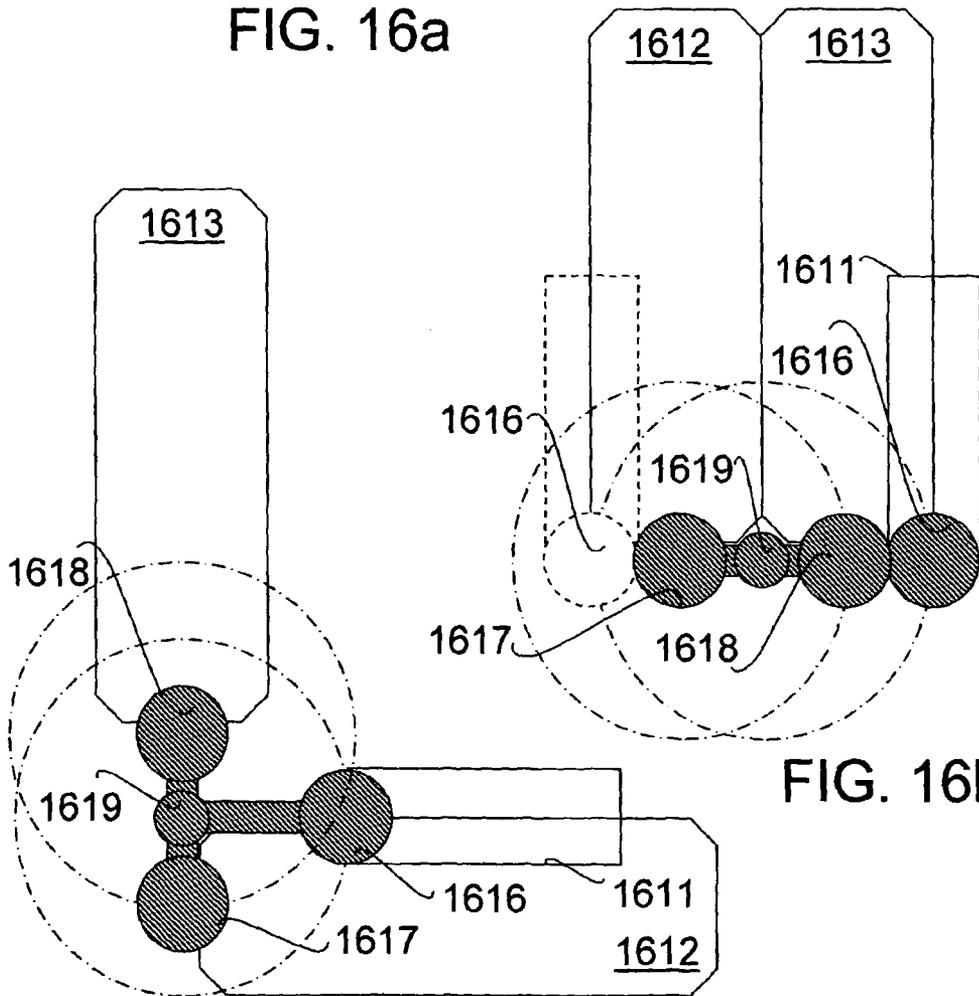


FIG. 16b

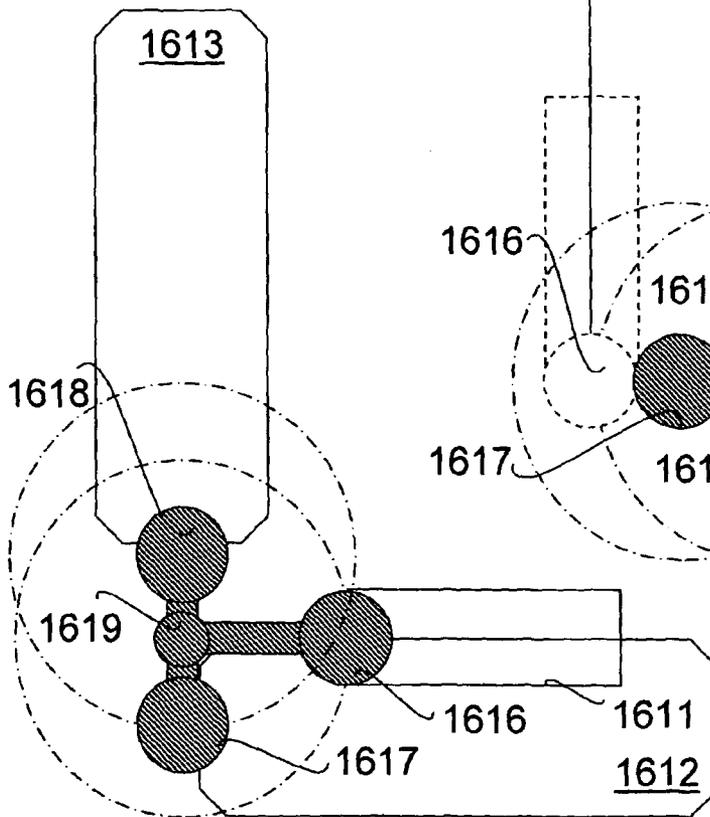


FIG. 16c

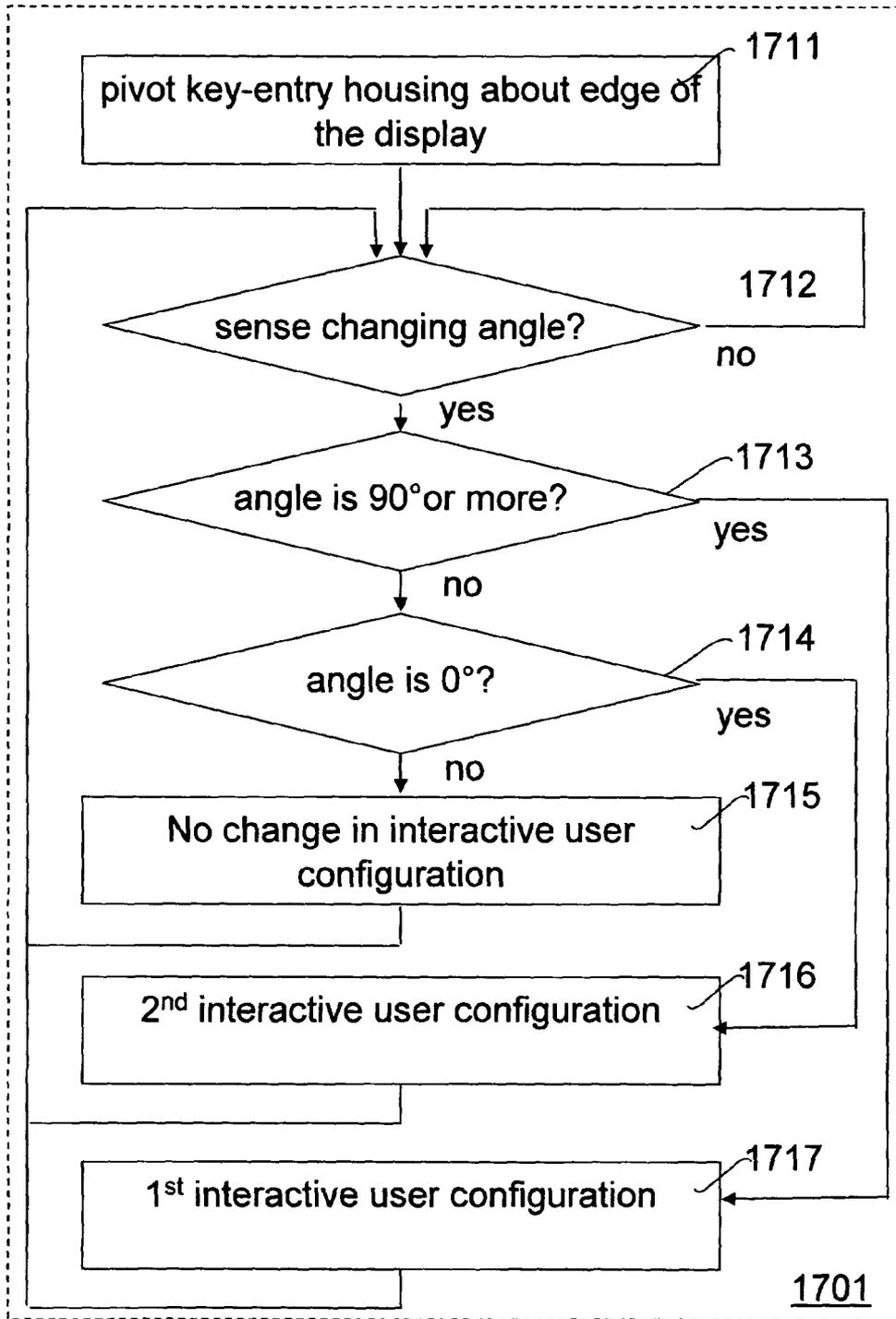


FIG. 17a

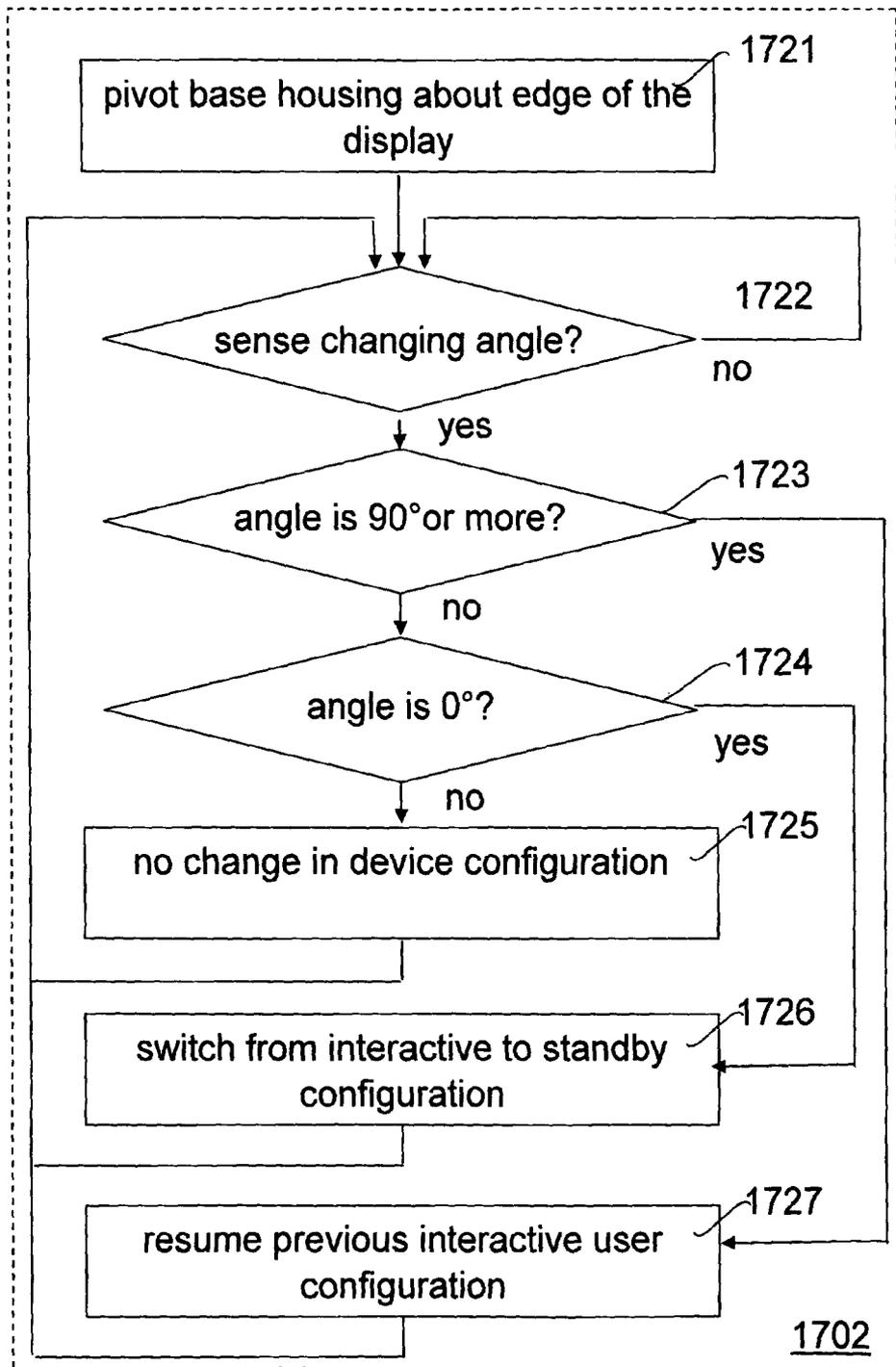


FIG. 17b

## MULTIPLE MODE DISPLAY APPARATUS

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of application U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/588,070 filed Oct. 24, 2006, currently pending, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/185,154, filed Jun. 27, 2002, issued as U.S. Pat. No. 7,126,588 on Oct. 24, 2006.

### BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Today, a personal computing and/or communicating device such as a laptop or notebook computer, for example, or a tablet or palm-held computer, has a single typical mode of use. The display of a tablet computer, for example, may be touch-sensitive for interactive user input by a stylus or pen-like device. A notebook, on the other hand, may accept interactive user input through a keyboard or a pointing device such as a mouse or a touch pad. While personal computing and/or communicating devices are rapidly changing, with new technologies for displays, pointing devices, keyboards and such, the mode of interactive user input for a particular device is typically limited to a small number of fixed functional options with some support for the addition of peripheral devices and docking configurations.

Another common characteristic of current personal computing and/or communicating devices is the importance of battery life. System manufacturers go to great lengths to conserve power and charge premiums for the latest battery technologies. Processors have design features such as automatic frequency reduction directed at limiting power consumption and display devices dim backlighting when on battery power. Systems put themselves into a standby mode after a period of no user input or when power reserves reach a critical level.

At times, it may be inconvenient for a user to have such a limited range of options. A particular user may most often need to interact with a device while holding the device in one hand, but must store or carry along one or more peripherals in order to read data from a disk or to interact with the device through a keyboard or view a full color display. If an extra battery is not readily available, the user may be forced to terminate interactive use of the device until an alternative power source is available. This situation is especially prevalent since current display devices require a significant portion of a battery's power reserves. A user carrying a notebook computer may not require a full color display or even a keyboard to read email but the device may not be so flexible as to permit easy reconfiguration.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of a computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area.

FIG. 2 illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 1 with the keyboard housing covering part of the display area to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive.

FIG. 3 illustrates one embodiment of a computing device having a pivotally attached keyboard housing.

FIG. 4 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area.

FIG. 5 illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 4 with the keyboard housing covering part of the display area to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive.

FIG. 6 illustrates another alternative embodiment of a computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area.

FIG. 7 illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 6 with the keyboard housing covering part of the display area to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive.

FIG. 8a illustrates one embodiment of a transformable computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area.

FIG. 8b illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with the keyboard housing covering part of the display area to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive.

FIG. 8c illustrates a third user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with a fully active display area and with the base housing pivotally displaced to support the device from behind the display.

FIG. 8d illustrates a fourth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with the keyboard housing pivotally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotally displaced to support the device from behind the display.

FIG. 8e illustrates a fifth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with a fully active display area and with the base housing pivotally displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 8f illustrates a sixth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with the keyboard housing pivotally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotally displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 8g illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a.

FIG. 9a illustrates an alternative embodiment of a transformable computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area.

FIG. 9b illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a with the keyboard housing covering part of the display area to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive.

FIG. 9c illustrates a third user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a with a fully active display area and with the base housing pivotally displaced to support the device from behind the display.

FIG. 9d illustrates a fourth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a with the keyboard housing pivotally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotally displaced to support the device from behind the display.

FIG. 9e illustrates a fifth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a with a fully active display area and with the base housing pivotally displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 9f illustrates a sixth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a with the keyboard housing

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pivotaly displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 9g illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. 9a.

FIG. 10 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a computing device having a pivotaly attached keyboard housing.

FIG. 11 illustrates one alternative embodiment of a user interactive configuration of a computing device in a mode of reduced power consumption with a keyboard housing covering part of the display area while another part of the display area remains visible and interactive, a base housing being pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 12 illustrates another alternative embodiment of a user interactive configuration of a computing device with a fully active display area, a base housing being pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display and a keyboard housing being pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the base housing.

FIG. 13 illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. 11 or of FIG. 12.

FIG. 14a illustrates in detail one alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device.

FIG. 14b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 14a with the keyboard housing optionally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 14c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 14a with a fully active display area, the keyboard housing being supported by the base housing which is pivotaly displaced to form an angle with display surface of substantially 90 degrees.

FIG. 15a illustrates in detail another alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device.

FIG. 15b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 15a with the keyboard housing optionally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 15c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 15a with a fully active display area, the keyboard housing being supported by the base housing which is pivotaly displaced to form an angle with display surface of substantially 90 degrees.

FIG. 16a illustrates in detail another alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device.

FIG. 16b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 16a with the keyboard housing optionally displaced to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing is pivotaly displaced to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display.

FIG. 16c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 16a with a fully active display area, the keyboard housing being supported by the base housing which is pivotaly displaced to form an angle with display surface of substantially 90 degrees.

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FIG. 17a illustrates a flow diagram for one embodiment of a process for configuring a plurality of user interactive modes of a transformable computing device.

FIG. 17b illustrates a flow diagram for one embodiment of a process for optionally configuring between a plurality of user interactive modes and a standby mode of a transformable computing device.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Disclosed herein is a multiple mode display apparatus and methods of use. One embodiment of an apparatus includes a display surface with a first and a second display area. A housing pivotaly attached with the display proximate a first edge of the housing is displaceable from a coplanar position with the surface of the display device to a position wherein an angle of at least 90 degrees between the surface of the display and the housing is formed along said first edge. In the first position, the first display area is visible and activated to receive user input or to display output, but the second display area is covered by the housing and placed in a mode of reduced power consumption. In the second position, the second display area is visible and activated to display output.

These and other embodiments of the present invention may be realized in accordance with the following teachings and it should be evident that various modifications and changes may be made in the following teachings without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than restrictive sense and the invention measured only in terms of the claims and their equivalents.

or the purpose of the following discussion of embodiments of the present invention, illustrative terms are used. Definitions for certain such illustrative terms follows.

A computing device or a communicating device may be understood to mean any one of a variety of devices for accessing data and/or communications. Examples include but are not limited to any combinations of one or more of the following: laptop computers, notebook computers; desktop computers, personal digital assistants, handheld computers, personal organizers; palmtop computers, pocket computers, cellular telephone/fax devices, game computers, digitizing tablet devices, electronic books, or digital audio recorder/players.

A keyboard or a key-entry device may be understood to mean any one of a variety of devices for keyed entry of data, including but not limited to a combination of one or more of the following: an alpha-numeric keyboard having symbols of any language; a telephone keypad having numeric or alpha-numeric keys and/or various redial, memory-dial, messaging or other function keys and optionally including a glide-point or other pointing device; a numeric keypad with various mathematical operation keys; a directional keypad with arrows, menus or selection keys; a gaming keypad; an entertainment or presentation key-entry device with various seek, scan, play, reverse, fast-forward, channel select, volume control, level control or other function keys; a cash register keyboard; or any custom key-entry device having mechanical, electronic, printed, projected or other type of keys for user interaction.

A display may be understood to mean any one of a variety of devices for displaying data, images, icons, etc. It may comprise a continuous or discontinuous, flat, curved or flexible display surface including but not limited to a combination of one or more of the following technologies: liquid crystal with amorphous silicon thin-film transistor, metal-insulator-metal, or polysilicon thin-film transistor active matrix displays or liquid crystal with color super-twist nematic, double-

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layer supertwist nematic, high performance addressing, or dual scan passive matrix displays; back lit displays; electroluminescent displays; gas plasma displays; plasma addressed liquid crystal displays; digital visual interface displays; field emission displays; cathode ray tube displays; thin cold cathode displays; organic light-emitting diode displays; light-emitting polymer displays; touch screen displays using multi-wire resistive, surface wave, touch-on-tube, or infrared touch sensing; interlaced or progressive scanned displays; heads-up displays; back-projecting displays; reflective displays; or holographic autostereoscopic displays.

It will be appreciated that the invention can may be modified in arrangement and detail by those skilled in the art without departing from the principles of the present invention within the scope of the accompanying claims and their equivalents.

Turning now to FIG. 1, one embodiment of a computing device is illustrated, the computing device having a first user interactive configuration 101 with a fully active display area 114. The computing device also includes base housing 112, keyboard housing 111, and pointing device 116. In one embodiment, base housing 112 is pivotally attached with display area 114 and comprises one or more processors, and a rechargeable battery. In one embodiment, keyboard housing 111 is electrically connected with base housing 112 by wires, and in an alternative embodiment keyboard housing 111 comprises a wireless keyboard. In the first user interactive configuration 101, keyboard housing 111 forms an angle 113 with display area 114 of substantially 90 degrees or more. For one embodiment of the first user interactive configuration 101, keyboard housing 111 and pointing device 116 are both active to receive user input.

FIG. 2 illustrates a second user interactive configuration 201 of the computing device of FIG. 1 with the keyboard housing 111 covering a portion of the display area 114 to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another portion 214 of the display area remains visible and interactive. For one embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 111 is pivotally attached with display area 114, and displaced from the position of the first user interactive configuration 101 to a position substantially coplanar with display area 114 in the second user interactive configuration 201. For one alternative embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 111 is deactivated to transmit user input in the second user interactive configuration 201.

FIG. 3 illustrates one embodiment of a computing device 300 having a display device 314 and a keyboard housing 311, which is pivotally attached with display device 314 proximate edge 315. For one embodiment of computing device 300, keyboard housing 311 is pivotally displaceable about edge 315 from a first position substantially coplanar with the surface of the display device 314 wherein a bottom portion of the display area of display device 314 is visually obscured by keyboard housing 311 and is not active to display output. Keyboard housing 311 is also displaceable to a second position with the surface of display device 314 wherein the bottom portion of the display area is visible and the entire display area of display device 314 is active to display output.

FIG. 4 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a computing device having a first user interactive configuration 401 with a fully active display area 414. The computing device includes base housing 412, and keyboard housing 411. In one embodiment, base housing 412 is pivotally attached with display area 414. For one embodiment of the first user interactive configuration 401, keyboard housing 411 forms an angle 413 with display area 414 of substantially 90 degrees or

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more. For one embodiment of the first user interactive configuration 401, keyboard housing 411 is active to receive user input.

FIG. 5 illustrates a second user interactive configuration 501 of the computing device of FIG. 4 with the keyboard housing 411 covering a portion of the display area 414 to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another portion 514 of the display area remains visible and interactive. For one embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 411 is pivotally attached with display area 414, and displaced from the position of the first user interactive configuration 401 to a position substantially coplanar with display area 414 in the second user interactive configuration 501. For one alternative embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 411 is deactivated to transmit user input in the second user interactive configuration 401. For one alternative embodiment of the second user interactive configuration 501, base housing 412 is pivotally displaceable about an angle 513 with respect to display area 414 and keyboard housing 411.

FIG. 6 illustrates another alternative embodiment of a computing device having a first user interactive configuration 601 with a fully active display area 614. The computing device includes base housing 612, and keyboard housing 611. For one embodiment of the first user interactive configuration 601, keyboard housing 611 forms an angle 613 with display area 614 of substantially 90 degrees or more. For one embodiment of the first user interactive configuration 601, keyboard housing 611 is active to receive user input.

FIG. 7 illustrates a second user interactive configuration 701 of the computing device of FIG. 6 with the keyboard housing 611 covering a portion of the display area 614 to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another portion 714 of the display area remains visible and interactive. For one embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 611 is pivotally attached with display area 614, and displaced from the position of the first user interactive configuration 601 to a position substantially coplanar with display area 714 in the second user interactive configuration 701. For one alternative embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing 611 is deactivated to transmit user input in the second user interactive configuration 701.

FIG. 8a illustrates one embodiment of a transformable computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area 814 and a keyboard housing 811 pivotally attached about pivot axis 818, keyboard housing 811 forming an angle 813 with display area 814 of substantially 90 degrees or more. For one embodiment of the transformable computing device, base housing 812 is pivotally attached about pivot axis 817 with respect to display area 814, pivot axis 818 and keyboard housing 811. For one alternative embodiment of the transformable computing device, pivot axis 817 and pivot axis 818 function as a double acting hinge. For another alternative embodiment of the transformable computing device, pivot axis 818 may be divided to permit display area 814 and keyboard housing 811 to pivot independently about pivot axis 817, functioning as a pair of double acting hinges.

FIG. 8b illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. 8a with the keyboard housing 811 covering part of the display area 814 to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part 824 of the display area remains visible and interactive. Keyboard housing 811 is displaced about pivot axis 818 from the position of the first user interactive configura-

tion to a position substantially coplanar with display area **814** in the second user interactive configuration.

FIG. **8c** illustrates a third user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **8a** with a fully active display area **814** and with the base housing **812** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **817**, base housing **812** forming an angle **810** with a back surface opposite display area **814** of substantially 90 degrees to support the computing device from behind the display. Keyboard housing **811** forms an angle **813** about pivot axis **818** with the front surface of display area **814** of substantially 90 degrees or more.

FIG. **8d** illustrates a fourth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **8a** with the keyboard housing **811** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **818** to a position substantially coplanar with display area **814** to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption. While keyboard housing **811** covers part of the display area **814**, another part **824** of the display area remains visible and interactive. Base housing **812** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **817**, base housing **812** forming an angle **810** with the back surface opposite display area **814** of substantially 90 degrees to support the computing device from behind the display.

FIG. **8e** illustrates a fifth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **8a** with a fully active display area **814** and with the base housing **812** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **817** to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display. Keyboard housing **811** again forms an angle **813** about pivot axis **818** with the front surface of display area **814** of substantially 90 degrees or more.

FIG. **8f** illustrates a sixth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **8a** with the keyboard housing **811** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **818** to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing **812** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **817** to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display. While keyboard housing **811** covers part of the display area **814**, another part **824** of the display area remains visible and interactive. For one embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing **811** is deactivated to transmit user input in the coplanar position adjacent with display area **814**. For an alternative embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing **811** is activated to transmit user input in the coplanar position adjacent with display area **814** but the covered part of display area **814** is deactivated.

FIG. **8g** illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. **8a**. Keyboard housing **811** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **818** and base housing **812** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **817** to substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display area **814**. The computing device, sensing the closed position of base housing **812** with respect to display area **814** enters a second mode of reduced power consumption. For one embodiment of the computing device, keyboard housing **811** is deactivated to transmit user input and all of display area **814** is deactivated. For an alternative embodiment base housing **812** enters a standby configuration.

FIG. **9a** illustrates an alternative embodiment of a transformable computing device having a first user interactive configuration with a fully active display area **914** pivotally attached about pivot axis **918** and a keyboard housing **911** pivotally attached about pivot axis **916**, keyboard housing **911** forming an angle **913** with display area **914** of substantially 90 degrees or more. For one embodiment of the transformable computing device, base housing **912** is pivotally attached about pivot axis **917** with respect to display area **914**, pivot axis **918**, keyboard housing **911** and pivot axis **916**. For one

alternative embodiment of the transformable computing device, pivot axis **917** and pivot axis **918** function as a double acting hinge. For another alternative embodiment of the transformable computing device, pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** function as a second double acting hinge.

FIG. **9b** illustrates a second user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a** with the keyboard housing **911** covering part of the display area **914** to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption while another part **924** of the display area remains visible and interactive. Keyboard housing **911** is displaced about pivot axis **916** and also about pivot axis **918** from the position of the first user interactive configuration to a position substantially coplanar with display area **914** in the second user interactive configuration.

FIG. **9c** illustrates a third user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a** with a fully active display area **914** and with the base housing **912** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **917** forming an angle **910** with a back surface opposite display area **914** of substantially 90 degrees to support the computing device from behind the display. Keyboard housing **911** forms an angle **913** about pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** with the front surface of display area **914** of substantially 90 degrees or more.

FIG. **9d** illustrates a fourth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a** with the keyboard housing **911** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** to a position substantially coplanar with display area **914** to place the display device in a mode of reduced power consumption. While keyboard housing **911** covers part of the display area **914**, another part **924** of the display area remains visible and interactive. Base housing **912** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **917** forming an angle **910** with the back surface opposite display area **914** of substantially 90 degrees to support the computing device from behind the display.

FIG. **9e** illustrates a fifth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a** with a fully active display area **914** and with the base housing **912** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **917** and pivot axis **918** to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display. Keyboard housing **911** again forms an angle **913** about pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** with the front surface of display area **914** of substantially 90 degrees or more.

FIG. **9f** illustrates a sixth user interactive configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a** with the keyboard housing **911** pivotally displaced about pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** to a mode of reduced power consumption while the base housing **912** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **917** and pivot axis **918** to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display. While keyboard housing **911** covers part of the display area **914**, another part **924** of the display area remains visible and interactive. For one embodiment of the computing device, display area **914** is deactivated to transmit user input in the coplanar position adjacent with keyboard housing **911**. For an alternative embodiment of the computing device, part **924** of the display area **914** is activated to transmit user input in the coplanar position adjacent with keyboard housing **911** but the covered part of display area **914** and keyboard housing **911** are deactivated.

FIG. **9g** illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. **9a**. Keyboard housing **911** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **916** and pivot axis **918** and base housing **912** is pivotally displaced about pivot axis **917** and pivot axis **918** to substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display area **914**. The computing device, sens-

ing the closed position of base housing 912 with respect to display area 914 enters a standby or shut down configuration.

FIG. 10 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a computing device 1000 having a display device 1014 and a keyboard housing 1011, which is pivotally attached with display device 1014 proximate edge 1015. For one embodiment of computing device 1000, keyboard housing 1011 is pivotally displaceable about edge 1015 from a first position substantially coplanar with the surface of the display device 1014 wherein a portion of the display area of display device 1014 is visually obscured by keyboard housing 1011 and is not active to display output or to transmit user input. For one embodiment of computing device 1000, keyboard housing 1011 is active to transmit user input when in this first position. Keyboard housing 1011 is also displaceable to a second position with the surface of display device 1014 wherein the bottom portion of the display area is visible and the entire display area of display device 1014 is active to display output and to transmit user input (for example from a touch of a stylus, digit, light pen or other device).

FIG. 11 illustrates one alternative embodiment of a user interactive configuration of a computing device in a mode of reduced power consumption with a keyboard housing 1111 pivotally attached about pivot axis 1116 and covering a portion of the display area of display device 1113 while the display area 1114 remains visible and interactive, a base housing 1112 being pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1117 and pivot axis 1118 to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of display device 1113. For one embodiment keyboard housing 1111 is pivotally displaceable about a double acting hinge comprising pivot axis 1116 and pivot axis 1119 attached with base housing 1112. For another embodiment keyboard housing 1111 comprises a detachable and/or reversible keyboard. For one alternative embodiment display device 1113 is pivotally displaceable about a double acting hinge comprising pivot axis 1118 and pivot axis 1117 attached with base housing 1112. For another alternative embodiment keyboard housing 1111 is pivotally displaceable about pivot axis 1116 and/or pivot axis 1118 attached with display device 1113.

FIG. 12 illustrates another alternative embodiment of a user interactive configuration of a computing device with a fully active display area 1214, a base housing 1212 being pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1217 and pivot axis 1218 to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of the display 1213, and a keyboard housing 1211 being pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1216 and pivot axis 1219 to a coplanar position adjacent with the base housing 1212. For one embodiment of the computing device, the entire display area 1214 of display 1213 is active to display output and to transmit user input.

FIG. 13 illustrates a closed standby or shut down configuration of the computing device of FIG. 11 or of FIG. 12. A keyboard housing is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1316 and optionally about pivot axis 1319. Base housing 1312 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1317 and pivot axis 1318. Both are displaced to substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display 1313. For one embodiment of the computing device, sensing the closed position of base housing 1312 with respect to display 1313, base housing 1312 enters a standby or shut down configuration.

FIG. 14a illustrates in detail one alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device. Keyboard housing 1411 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1418 and optionally about pivot axis 1417. Base housing 1412 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1417 and pivot axis 1418. Both are displaced to

substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display 1413. For one embodiment of the computing device, sensing the closed position, base housing 1412 enters a standby or shut down configuration.

FIG. 14b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 14a with keyboard housing 1411 optionally displaced about pivot axis 1418 and pivot axis 1417 to a mode of reduced power consumption while base housing 1412 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1417 and pivot axis 1418 to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of display 1413.

FIG. 14c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 14a with a fully active display 1413, keyboard housing 1411 being supported by base housing 1412 which is pivotally displaced to form an angle of substantially 90 degrees with the front surface of display 1413.

FIG. 15a illustrates in detail another alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device. Keyboard housing 1511 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1516 and pivot axis 1518. Base housing 1512 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1517 and pivot axis 1518. Both are displaced to substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display 1513. For one embodiment of the computing device, sensing the closed position, base housing 1512 enters a standby or shut down configuration.

FIG. 15b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 15a with keyboard housing 1511 displaced about pivot axis 1516 and pivot axis 1518 to a mode of reduced power consumption while base housing 1512 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1517 and pivot axis 1518 to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of display 1513.

FIG. 15c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 15a with a fully active display 1513 pivotally attached about pivot axis 1518, keyboard housing 1511 pivotally attached about pivot axis 1516 to pivot axis 1518, and being supported by base housing 1512, which is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1517 and pivot axis 1518 to form an angle of substantially 90 degrees with the front surface of display 1513.

FIG. 16a illustrates in detail another alternative embodiment of a closed, standby or shut down configuration of a transformable computing device. Both keyboard housing 1611, pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1616 and pivot axis 1619; and base housing 1612, pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1617, are displaced to substantially coplanar positions adjacent with display 1613. Base housing 1612 enters a standby or shut down configuration.

FIG. 16b illustrates in detail a user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 16a with keyboard housing 1611 optionally displaced about pivot axis 1616 and pivot axis 1619 to a mode of reduced power consumption while base housing 1612 is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1617 and pivot axis 1618 to a coplanar position adjacent with the back surface of display 1613.

FIG. 16c illustrates in detail another user interactive configuration of the transformable computing device of FIG. 16a with a fully active display 1613 pivotally attached about pivot axis 1618, keyboard housing 1611 pivotally attached about pivot axis 1616 to pivot axis 1619, and being supported by base housing 1612, which is pivotally displaced about pivot axis 1617 and pivot axis 1618 to form an angle of substantially 90 degrees with the front surface of display 1613.

FIG. 17a illustrates a flow diagram for one embodiment of a process for configuring a plurality of user interactive modes

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of a transformable computing device. Processing blocks that perform process 1701 and other processes herein disclosed may comprise dedicated hardware or software or firmware operation codes executable by general purpose machines or by special purpose machines or by a combination of both.

In processing block 1711 a key-entry housing is being pivoted about an edge of a display. Processing then proceeds in processing block 1712. In processing block 1712 a check is performed to see if a change in angle is sensed. If not, processing continues in processing block 1712 until a change is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1713 where the angle is checked to see if it is substantially ninety (90) degrees or more. If so, processing proceeds in processing block 1717 where the first interactive user configuration is initiated and processing then continues in processing block 1712 until another change in angle is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1714 where the angle is checked to see if it is substantially zero (0) degrees. If so, processing proceeds in processing block 1716 where the second interactive user configuration is initiated and processing then continues in processing block 1712 until another change in angle is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1715 where no change in interactive user configuration is initiated and processing returns to processing block 1712 until a new change in angle is sensed.

FIG. 17b illustrates a flow diagram for one embodiment of a process 1702 for optionally configuring between a plurality of user interactive modes and a standby mode of a transformable computing device. In processing block 1721 a key-entry housing is being pivoted about an edge of a display. Processing then proceeds in processing block 1722. In processing block 1722 a check is performed to see if a change in angle is sensed. If not, processing continues in processing block 1722 until a change is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1723 where the angle is checked to see if it is substantially ninety (90) degrees or more. If so, processing proceeds in processing block 1727 where the previous interactive user configuration is resumed and processing then continues in processing block 1722 until another change in angle is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1724 where the angle is checked to see if it is substantially zero (0) degrees. If so, processing proceeds in processing block 1726 where the current interactive user configuration is switched to a standby configuration and processing then continues in processing block 1722 until another change in angle is sensed. Otherwise, processing proceeds in processing block 1725 where no change in device configuration is initiated and processing returns to processing block 1722 until a new change in angle is sensed.

The above description is intended to illustrate preferred embodiments of the present invention. From the discussion above it should also be apparent that especially in such an area of technology, where growth is fast and further advancements are not easily foreseen, the invention can may be modified in arrangement and detail by those skilled in the art without departing from the principles of the present invention within the scope of the accompanying claims and their equivalents.

The invention claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a first housing, the first housing including a touch-sensitive display on a first side of the first housing that is to receive user input when the apparatus is in a first position;  
a second housing, the second housing including a keyboard on a first side of the second housing that is to receive keyed entry of data to be displayed on the touch-sensitive display, a second side of the first housing opposite

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the first side of the first housing at least partially being obscured by the second housing in the first position; and a third housing that includes at least one processor and that is pivotally attached to the first housing and to the second housing, wherein

the first position comprises the first housing substantially in a coplanar position to the second housing, which at least partially obscures the touch-sensitive display of the first housing in the first position, and

wherein the touch-sensitive display is operable in a second position, the second position comprising the first housing substantially in a second non-coplanar position to the second housing, the touch-sensitive display being visible in the second position, the second housing operable at least partially as a base stand in the second position.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the touch-sensitive display is operable in a third position, the third position comprising the first housing substantially in a first non-coplanar position to the second housing, the touch-sensitive display being visible in the second position, the second housing operable at least partially as a base stand in the third position.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein an angle separating a second side of the first housing and a second side of the second housing is substantially 90 degrees or more.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the keyboard is not functional in the third position.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the keyboard is functional in the second position.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the third housing includes a pointing device for receiving user input.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to enter a low power mode in response to the apparatus being arranged in a fourth position, the first, second, and third housings being substantially coplanar in the fourth position.

8. An apparatus comprising:

a first housing, the first housing including a touch-sensitive display on a first side of the first housing that is to receive user input when the apparatus is in a first position;

a second housing including a keyboard on a first side of the second housing that is to receive keyed entry of data to be displayed on the touch-sensitive display, a second side of the first housing opposite the first side of the first housing at least partially being obscured by the second housing in the first position; and

a third housing that includes at least one processor and that is pivotally attached to the first housing and to the second housing, wherein the first position comprises the first housing substantially in a first non-coplanar position to the second housing, the touch-sensitive display being visible in the first position, the second housing operable at least partially as a base stand in the first position, and wherein the touch-sensitive display is operable in a second position, the second position comprising the first housing substantially in a second non-coplanar position to the second housing, the touch-sensitive display being visible in the second position, the second housing operable at least partially as a base stand in the second position.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a third position for the apparatus comprises the first housing substantially in a coplanar position to the second housing, which at least partially obscures the touch-sensitive display of the first housing in the first position.

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10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein an angle separating a second side of the first housing and a second side of the second housing is substantially 90 degrees in the first position.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the third housing includes a pointing device for receiving user input.

12. An apparatus, comprising:

a first hinge and a second hinge to attach a base housing to a display having a front surface and a back surface, the base housing including a top surface and a bottom surface, the top surface having a keyboard disposed thereon, the first and second hinge capable to pivot the display to obtain a plurality of user interactive modes, wherein the plurality of user interactive modes includes but is not limited to:

a first user interactive mode with the top surface of the base housing substantially adjacent to the back surface of the display;

a second user interactive mode with the front surface of the display within a substantially 90 degree angle from the top surface of the base housing;

a third user interactive mode with the bottom surface of the base housing within a substantially 90 degree angle from the back surface of the display; and

a fourth user interactive mode with the bottom surface of the base housing at an angle from the back surface of the display to support the device from behind the display.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the first user interactive mode comprises a tablet and the second user interactive mode comprises a notebook.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the front surface of the display is to display images, and wherein the front surface of the display comprises a liquid crystal, backlit, light emitting display that is touch sensitive to accept interactive user input.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the base housing is to house at least one or more of a touch pad disposed below a keyboard, one or more processors, and a rechargeable battery.

16. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising: a keyboard; and a pointing device, wherein the keyboard and the pointing device are to receive user input.

17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein covering a portion of a display area of the display places the apparatus in a reduced power consumption state while another portion of the display area remains interactive.

18. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising: a keyboard, which is to be deactivated for transmitting user input as the apparatus is moved to a particular one of the modes.

19. An apparatus, comprising:

a base comprising a top surface and a bottom surface;

a display coupled to the base including a front surface and a back surface; and

a keyboard disposed on the top surface of the base, wherein the apparatus is capable of:

a first mode comprising the bottom surface of the base positioned substantially adjacent to the back surface of the display with the keyboard deactivated;

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a second mode comprising the top surface of the base within a substantially 90 degree angle from the front surface of the display;

a third mode comprising the base within a substantially 90 degree angle from the back surface of the display; and

a fourth mode comprising the base at an angle behind the back surface of the display to support the computing device.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is further capable of receiving user input from a pointing device provided on the base.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the front surface of the display is to display images, and wherein the front surface of the display comprises a liquid crystal, back-lit, light emitting, display that is touch sensitive to accept interactive user input.

22. A method, comprising:

pivoting a display of a multimode computing device including a base attached to the display to obtain a plurality of user interactive modes, the base including a top surface and a bottom surface, the top surface having a keyboard disposed thereon, wherein the display comprises a front surface and a back surface, and wherein the plurality of user interactive modes includes but is not limited to:

a first user interactive mode with the top surface of the base substantially adjacent to the back surface of the display;

a second user interactive mode with the front surface of the display within a substantially 90 degree angle from the top surface of the base;

a third user interactive mode with the bottom surface of the base within a substantially 90 degree angle from the back surface of the display; and

a fourth user interactive mode with the bottom surface of the base at an angle from the back surface of the display to support the device from behind the display.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the first user interactive mode comprises a tablet and the second user interactive mode comprises a notebook.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the front surface of the display is to display images, and wherein the front surface of the display comprises a liquid crystal, back-lit, light emitting display that is touch sensitive to accept interactive user input.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the base is to house at least one or more of a touch pad disposed below a keyboard, one or more processors, and a rechargeable battery.

26. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

placing the multimode computing device in a reduced power consumption state in response to a portion of a display area of the display being covered while another portion of the display area remains interactive.

27. The method of claim 22, further comprising: deactivating a keyboard for transmitting user input as the multimode computing device is moved to a particular one of the interactive modes.

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