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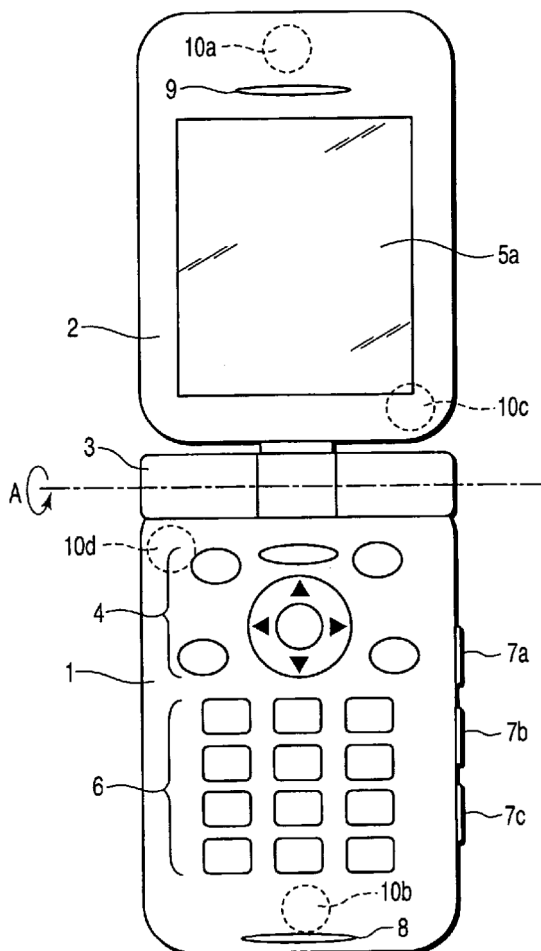
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ABSTRACT

When it is determined that the shells are set in the second state in an automatic activation mode, a TV receiver and TV display application program are activated, and a TV video signal is displayed on the main display. A full-screen display mode of displaying the TV video signal by using the full-screen display area of the main display, and a partial-screen display mode of displaying the display area of the main display by dividing the display area into a TV video display area and additional information display area are prepared. When the TV video signal is to be displayed on the main display, the TV video signal is displayed by using each of the display modes in accordance with the state of the shells.

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Tokyo (JP)(21) Appl. No.: **11/092,160**(22) Filed: **Mar. 28, 2005**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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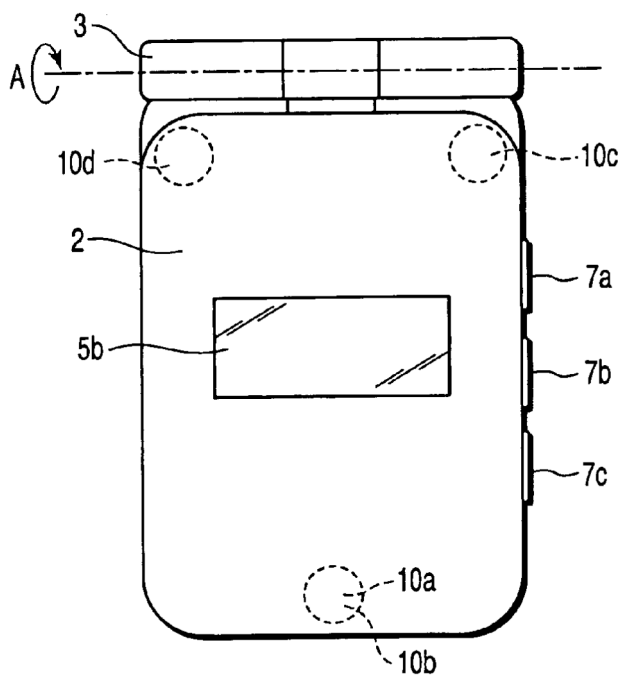


FIG. 1A

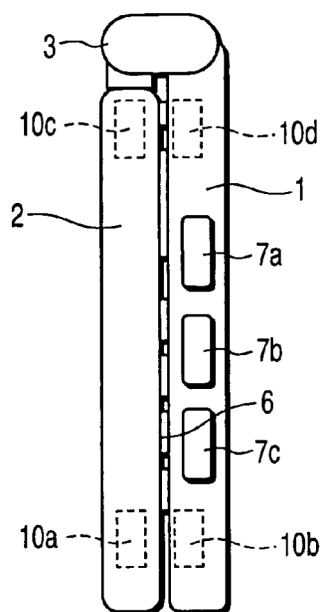


FIG. 1B

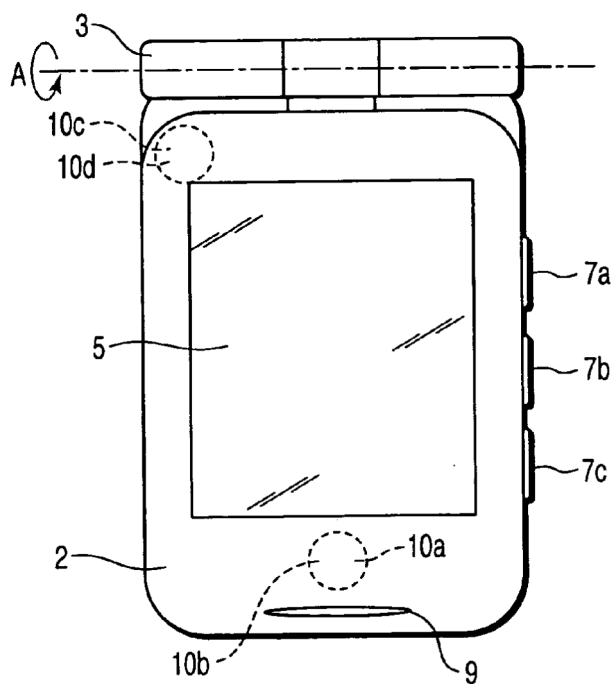


FIG. 5A

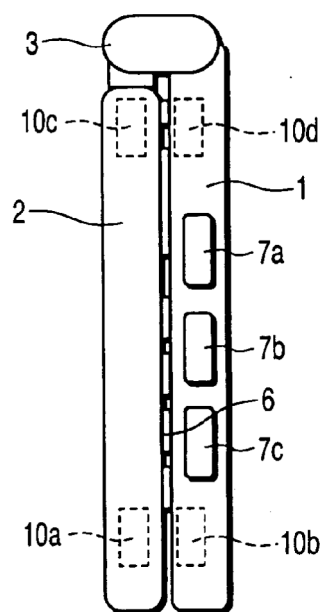


FIG. 5B

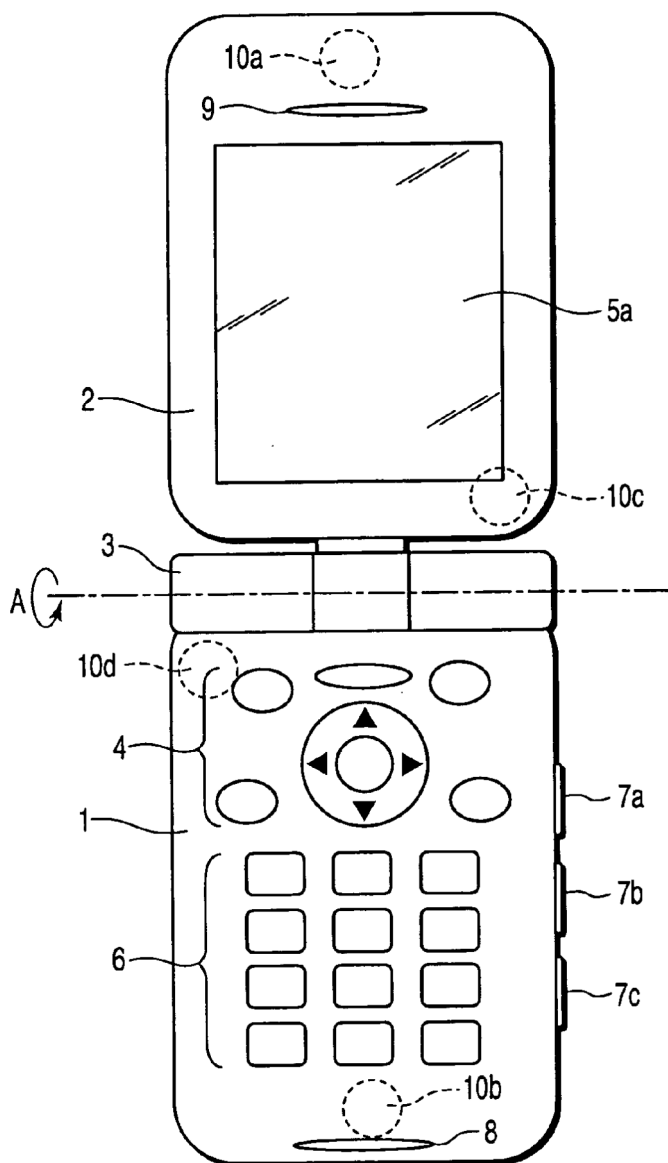


FIG. 2A

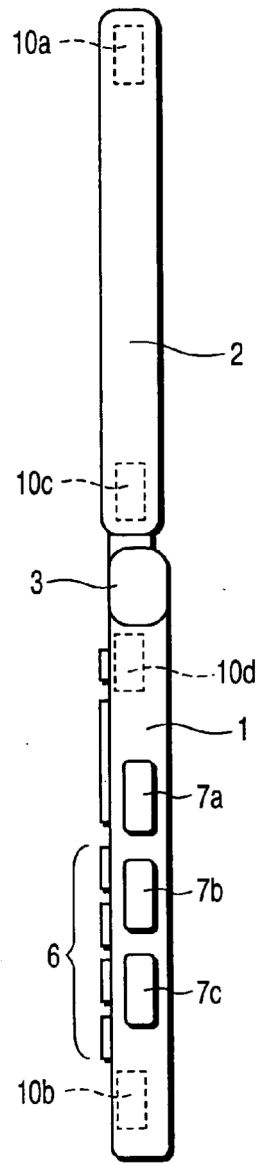


FIG. 2B

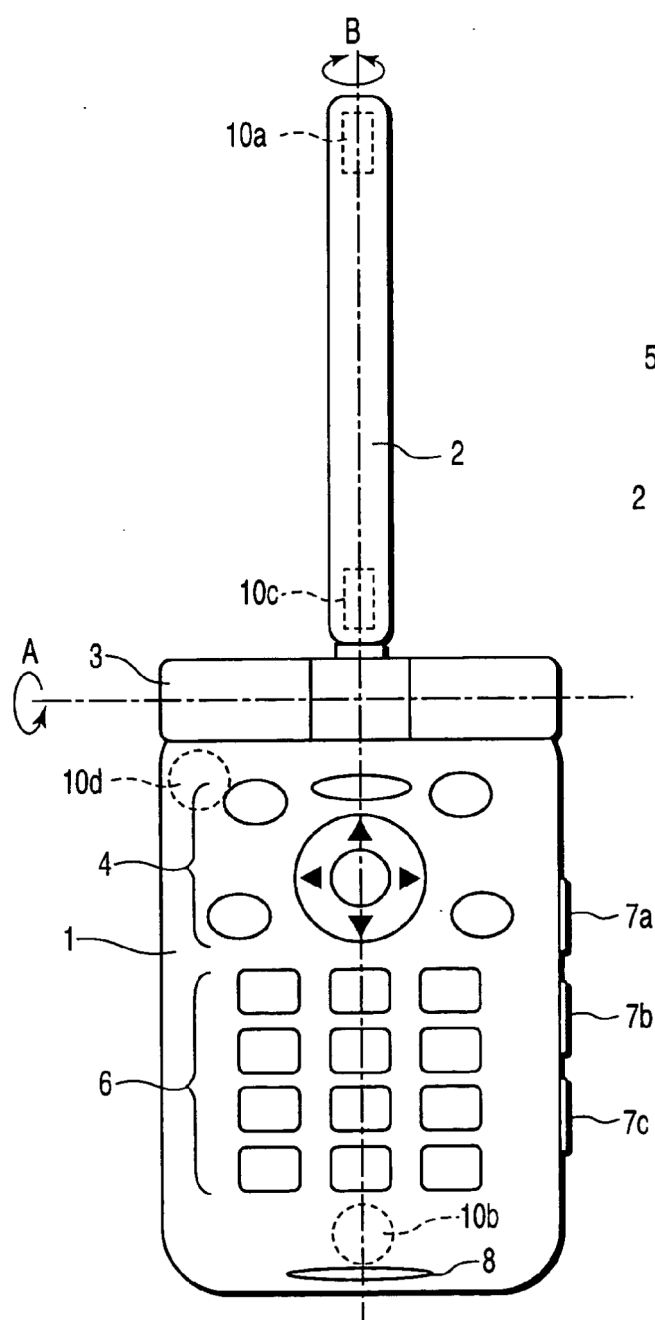


FIG. 3A

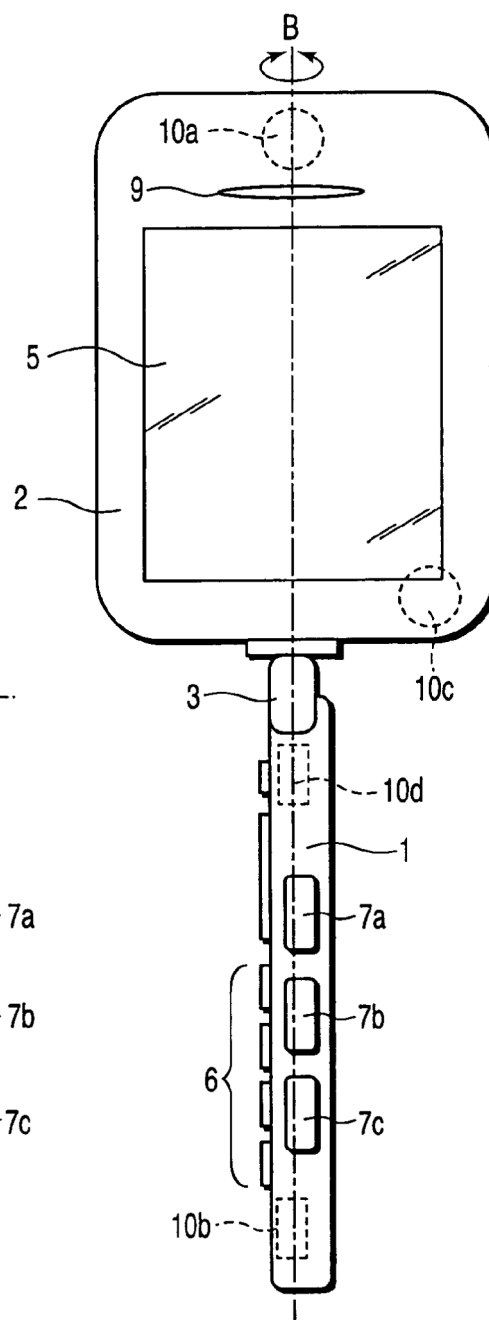


FIG. 3B

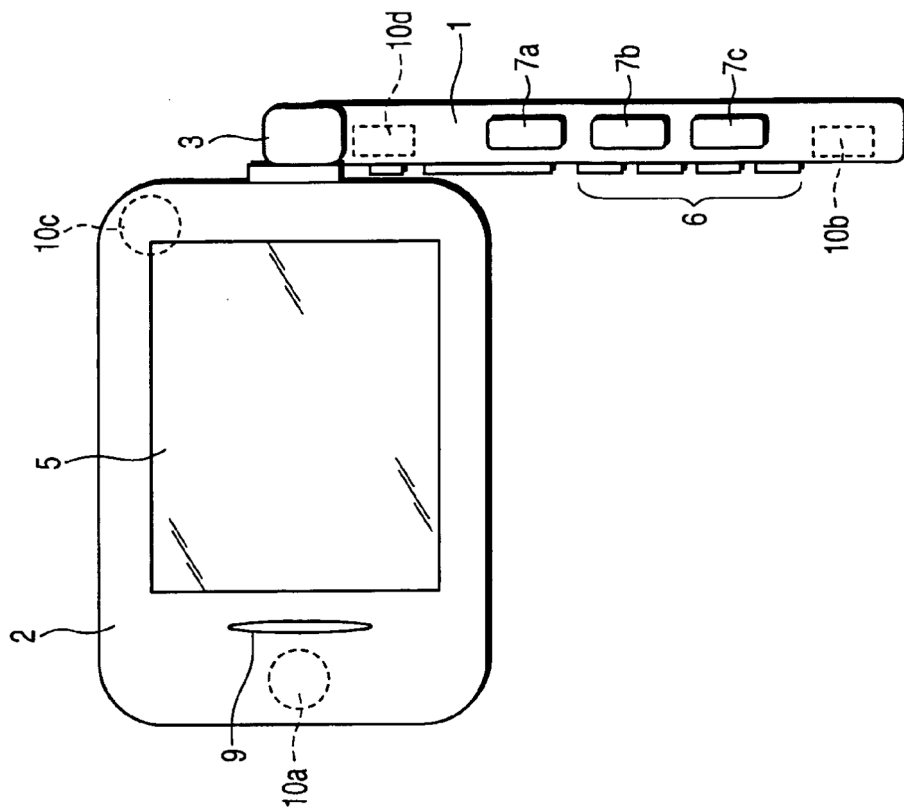


FIG. 4B

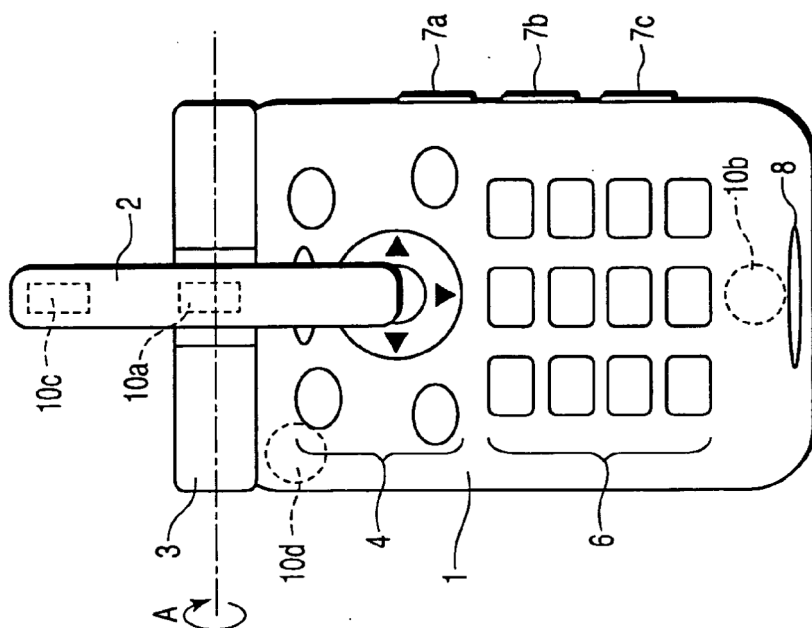


FIG. 4A

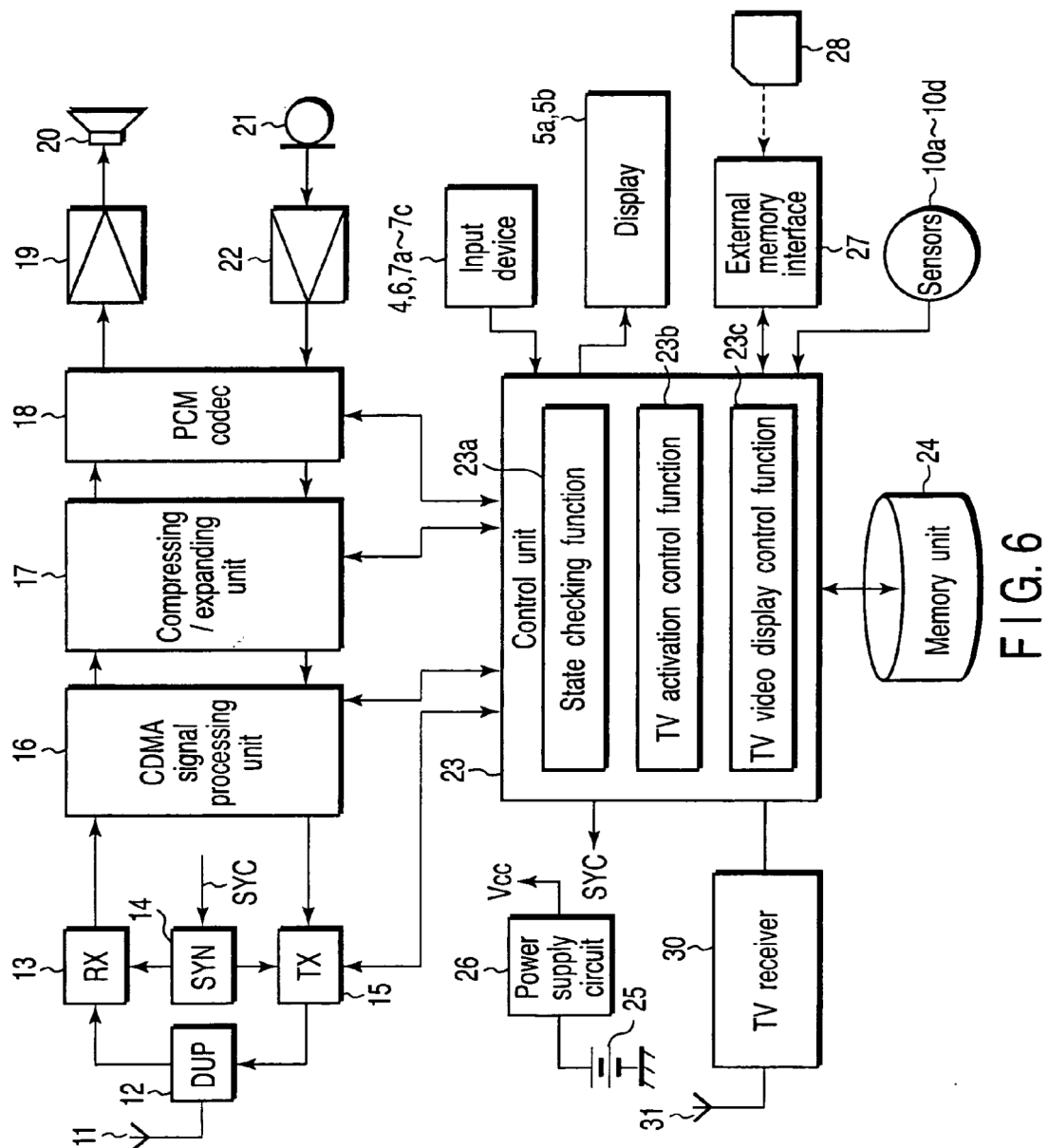
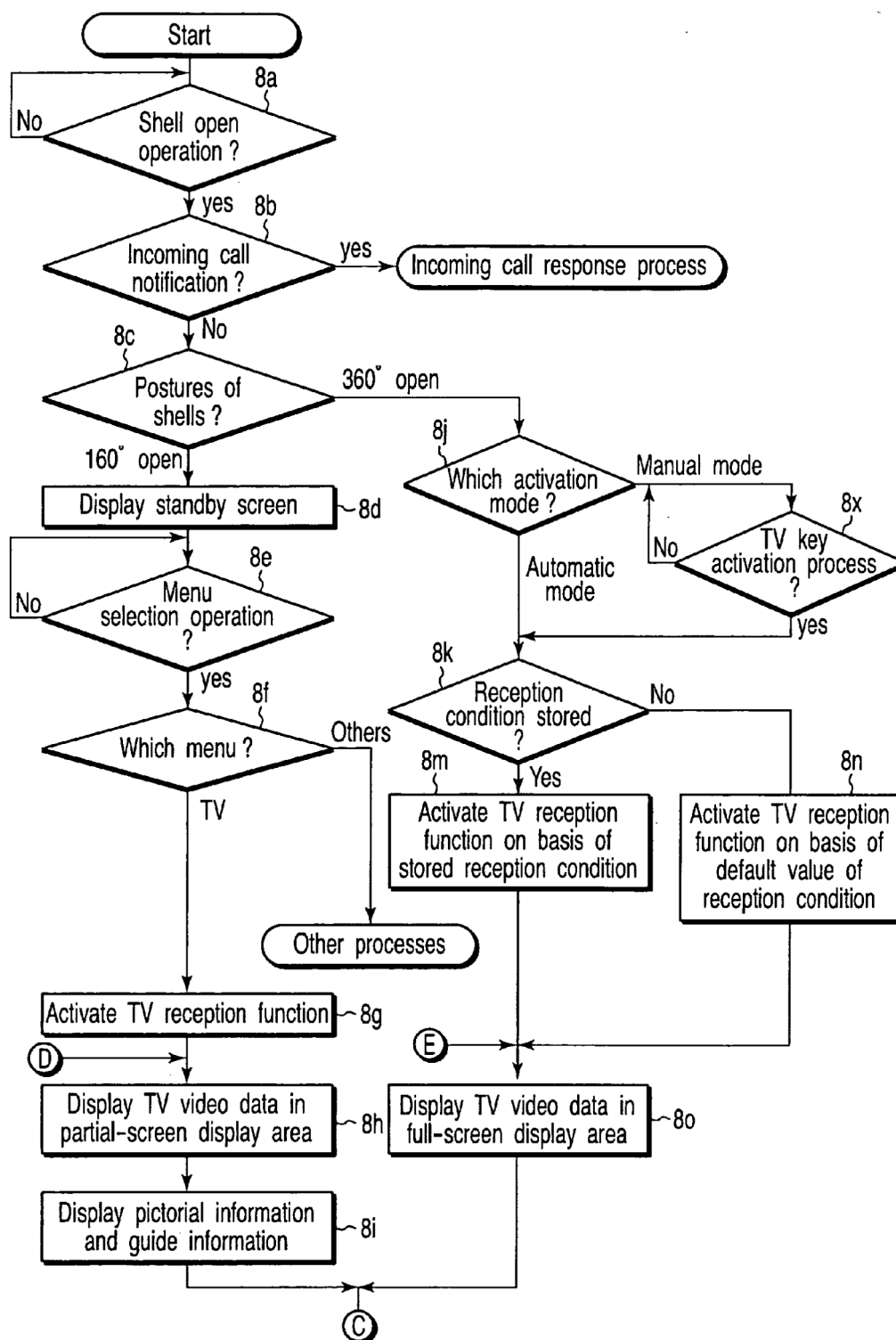


FIG. 6



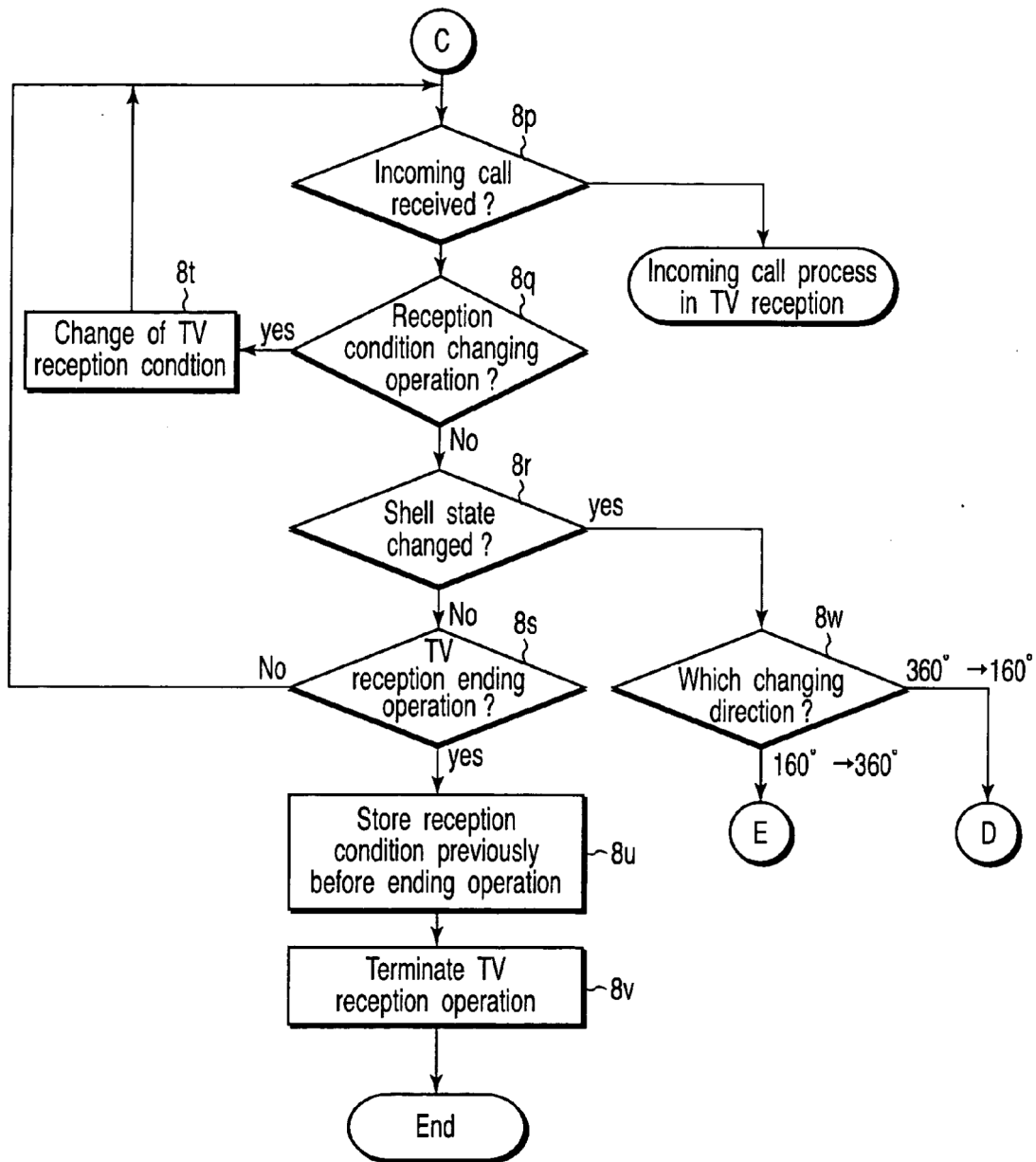


FIG. 8

FIG. 9

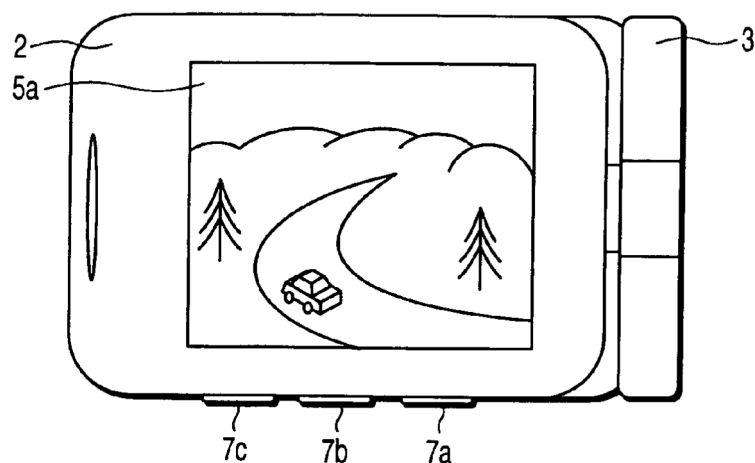
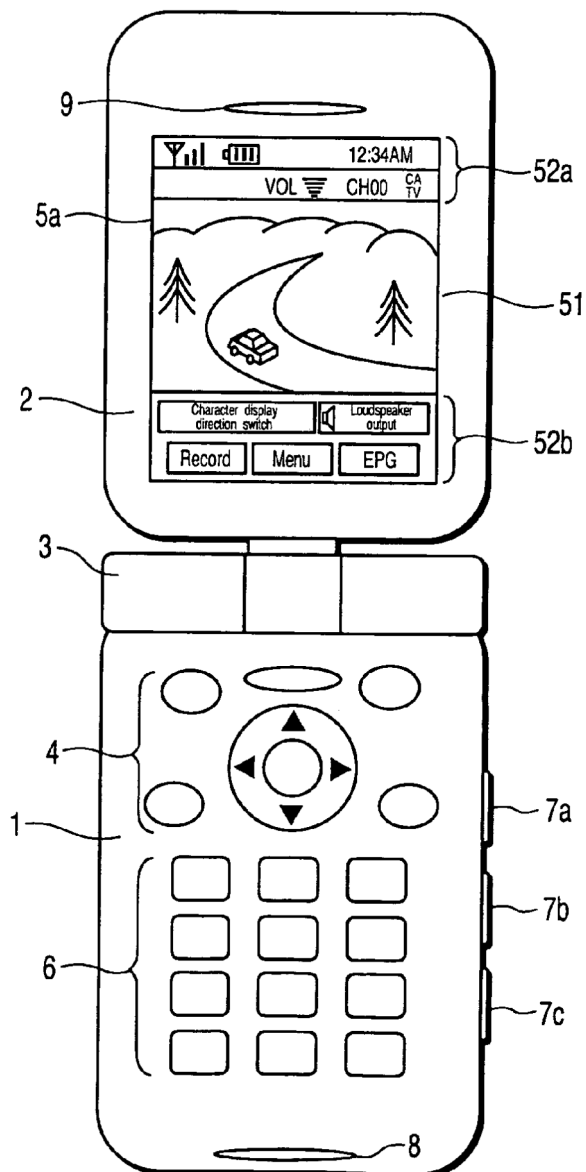


FIG. 10



FOLDING TYPE PORTABLE TERMINAL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-021837, filed Jan. 28, 2005, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a portable terminal such as a mobile telephone or personal digital assistant (PDA) and, more particularly, to a folding-type portable terminal which pivotally connects first and second housings via a hinge mechanism.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] The mainstream of portable terminals typified by mobile telephones is a so-called folding type mobile telephone obtained by connecting first and second housings via a hinge mechanism. Also, in this type of terminal, not only a terminal with its housings being open and closed from 0° to 180° but also that with a display being facing outside in a state wherein housings overlap each other via a hinge mechanism which is articulated or pivoted 360° have been developed. This type of terminal is described in Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2002-141984.

[0006] Also, a portable terminal which includes a built-in television tuner to have a function of displaying received television video data on a display, and a portable terminal which has a function of playing back recorded data or video content stored in a recording medium such as a memory card or a hard disk have been developed. This type of apparatus allows the user to view a television program and playback the video content while mobile communication is off. Hence, the range of applications for the portable terminal increases.

[0007] However, the conventional portable terminal having the above television reception function and the video content playback function generally has a mobile communication function serving as a main function, and the television reception function and the video content playback function serving as sub-functions. Hence, when the television reception function and the video content playback function are to be performed, the user must select these function menus on a menu window by a key operation, and this operation is very cumbersome.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] Accordingly, an advantage of an aspect of the present invention to provide a folding-type portable terminal which can easily and quickly activate a video display function such as a television reception function or a video content playback function without any key operation by a user, thus improving operability.

[0009] To achieve the above advantage, one aspect of the present invention is to provide a folding-type portable terminal which pivotally connects a first housing having a display to a second housing via a connection mechanism can set a state of the first housing with respect to the second

housing in a first state, second state, and third state. The first state is a state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing inside, i.e., a state wherein the housings are folded with the display being hidden. The second state is a state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing outside, i.e., a state wherein the housings are folded with the display being exposed. The third state is a state wherein the housings are open so that the display is exposed. In accordance with the aspect of the present invention, the portable terminal detects a change in state of the first housing with respect to the second housing. If it is detected that the state has changed from the first or third state to the second state, a image signal is received or read out from a memory to automatically active displaying the video signal on the display.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

[0010] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention, and together with the general description given above and the detailed description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0011] **FIGS. 1A and 1B** are views showing a first state of a mobile telephone as an embodiment of a portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0012] **FIGS. 2A and 2B** are views showing a second state of the mobile telephone as the embodiment of the portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0013] **FIGS. 3A and 3B** are views showing a third state of the mobile telephone as the embodiment of the portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0014] **FIGS. 4A and 4B** are views showing a fourth state of the mobile telephone as the embodiment of the portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0015] **FIGS. 5A and 5B** are views showing a fifth state of the mobile telephone as the embodiment of the portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0016] **FIG. 6** is a block diagram showing a circuit configuration of the mobile telephone as the embodiment of the portable terminal according to the present invention;

[0017] **FIG. 7** is a flowchart showing the first half of a procedure and contents of a television reception/display control performed by the portable telephone shown in **FIG. 6**;

[0018] **FIG. 8** is a flowchart showing the second half of a procedure and contents of the television reception/display control performed by the portable telephone shown in **FIG. 6**;

[0019] **FIG. 9** is a view showing a display example of a television video signal in a full-screen display mode in accordance with the television reception/display control shown in **FIG. 7**; and

[0020] **FIG. 10** is a view showing the display example of the television video signal in a partial-screen display mode in accordance with the television reception/display control shown in **FIG. 7**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0021] An embodiment of a portable terminal according to the present invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying drawing.

[0022] **FIGS. 1A and 1B to FIGS. 5A and 5B** are views showing the outline of a mobile telephone according to the embodiment of the present invention. In **FIGS. 1 to 5**, reference symbols A and B denote front and side views, respectively.

[0023] This mobile telephone is a portable communication terminal obtained by connecting first and second housings **1** and **2** via an articulated hinge mechanism **3**. Note that the first and second housings **1** and **2** are referred to as shells hereinafter.

[0024] On the front of the first shell **1**, an input device and microphone hole **8** are formed. The input device includes dial keys **6**, function keys **4**, side key **7a**, and TV key **7c**. The side key **7a** and the TV key **7c** are arranged on the side of the first shell **1**. The function keys **4** include a multifunction key having the functions of a transmission key, end key, scheduling key, clear key, and cursor keys. The TV key **7c** is used to activate a television reception function.

[0025] A main display **5a** and a loudspeaker hole **9** are formed on the front of the second shell **2**, and a sub-display **5b** and a camera (not shown) are arranged on the back of the second shell **2**. Each of the main display **5a** and sub-display **5b** includes a backlight on the back side of a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel. The main display **5a** is used to display all display data such as phone book data, television video data, camera video data, mail data, and pictorial information. Alternatively, the sub-display **5b** is mainly used to display the pictorial information.

[0026] The articulated hinge mechanism **3** has a function of pivoting the second shell **2** in the direction of an arrow A with respect to the first shell **1**, and that of pivoting the second shell **2** in the direction of an arrow B with respect to the first shell **1**. This articulated hinge mechanism **3** can change the state of the shells **1** and **2** as follows.

[0027] That is, **FIGS. 1A and 1B** show a state (first state) wherein the shells **1** and **2** overlap each other with the main display **5a** facing inside. **FIGS. 2A and 2B** show a state (third state) wherein the second shell **2** is pivoted in the direction of the arrow A to obtain a 160° open state with respect to the first shell **1** to expose the dial key **6**, function keys **4**, and main display **5a**. **FIGS. 3A and 3B** show a state (fourth state) wherein the second shell **2** is pivoted in the direction of the arrow B from the above third state to obtain a 90° open state. **FIGS. 4A and 4B** show a state (fifth state) wherein the second shell **2** is pivoted in the direction of the arrow A from the above fourth state to obtain a 90° open state. **FIGS. 5A and 5B** show a state (second state) wherein the second shell **2** is pivoted through 90° in the direction of the arrow B from the above fifth state, and then pivoted in the opposite direction of the arrow A to cause the shells **1** and **2** to overlap each other with the main display **5a** facing outside.

[0028] Also, the first and second shells **1** and **2** include sensors **10a** to **10d** for detecting the state of the shells **1** and **2**. Each of the sensors **10a** to **10d** comprises, e.g., a magnetic

sensor to output a detection signal in the state wherein the sensors are close to each other in a predetermined distance. Of the sensors **10a** and **10d**, the pair of sensors **10a** and **10b** are used to check whether the mobile telephone is in a state wherein the first and second shells **1** and **2** overlap each other (i.e., the above first state or second state), or any other states. The pair of sensors **10c** and **10d** are used to check whether the mobile telephone is in the first state or second state.

[0029] The circuit of the mobile telephone is arranged as follows. **FIG. 6** is a block diagram showing a circuit configuration of the mobile telephone.

[0030] That is, a radio signal transmitted from a base station (not shown) is received by an antenna **11**, and input to a receiving circuit (RX) **13** via a duplexer (DUP) **12**. The receiving circuit **3** mixes the received radio signal with a local oscillation signal output from a frequency synthesizer (SYN) **14**, thereby down-converting the signal into an intermediate-frequency signal. The receiving circuit **3** processes this intermediate-frequency signal by quadrature demodulation, and outputs a reception baseband signal. Note that the frequency of the local oscillation signal generated by the frequency synthesizer **14** is designated by a control signal SYC output from a control unit **23**.

[0031] The reception baseband signal is input to a CDMA signal processing unit **16**. The CDMA signal processing unit **16** includes a RAKE receiver. The RAKE receiver despreads a plurality of passes included in the reception baseband signal by using spread codes. The signals of these despread passes are synthesized after their phases are arbitrated. In this manner, reception packet data having a predetermined transmission format is obtained. This reception packet data is input to a compressing/expanding unit (to be referred to as a compander hereinafter) **17**.

[0032] The compander **17** demultiplexes the output reception packet data from the CDMA signal processing unit **16** into media data by a multiplexer/demultiplexer. The compander **17** individually decodes these demultiplexed media data. For example, in a speech mode, audio data such as speech contained in the reception packet data is decoded by a speech codec. Also, if video data is contained in the reception packet data as in a videophone mode, this video data is decoded by a video codec.

[0033] A digital audio signal obtained by the decoding process is input to a PCM coding unit (to be referred to as a PCM codec hereinafter) **18**. The PCM codec **18** decodes, by PCM, the digital audio signal output from the compander **17**, and outputs an analog audio signal. This analog audio signal is amplified by an amplifier **19**, and output from a loudspeaker **20**.

[0034] Note that when an audio playback mode is set, the control unit **23** reads corresponding audio contents from a memory unit **24**. The read audio contents is decoded, amplified, and output from the loudspeaker **20** via the PCM codec **18** and the reception amplifier **19**.

[0035] A digital video signal decoded by the compander **17** is input to the control unit **23**. The control unit **23** displays the digital video signal output from the compander **17** on the main display **5a** via a video RAM. Note that the control unit **23** displays not only received video data but also video data

of an image sensed by a camera (not shown) on the main display **5a** via the video RAM.

[0036] When the reception packet data is e-mail, the compander **17** outputs this e-mail to the control unit **23**. The control unit **23** stores the e-mail in the memory unit **24**. In accordance with a display operation performed on the input device **5** by the user, the control unit **23** reads the e-mail from the memory unit **24**, and displays the read e-mail on the main display **5a**. Note that the sub-display **5b** displays information indicating the operation mode of the apparatus, incoming call notification information, and information indicative of the residual amount or charged state of a battery **25**.

[0037] A speech signal of a speaker input to a microphone **21** in the speech mode is amplified to an appropriate level by a transmission amplifier **22**, coded into a digital audio signal by PCM by the PCM codec **18**, and input to the compander **17**. Also, an output video signal from the camera (not shown) is converted into a digital signal by the control unit **23**, and input to the compander **17**. Note that e-mail formed by the control unit **23** is also input from the control unit **23** to the compander **17**.

[0038] The compander **17** detects the energy amount of the input speech from the digital audio signal output from the PCM codec **18**, and determines a transmission data rate on the basis of the detection result. Then, the compander **17** codes the digital audio signal into a signal having a format corresponding to the transmission data rate, thereby generating audio data. Also, the compander **17** codes the digital video signal output from the control unit **23**, and generates video data. The multiplexer/demultiplexer multiplexes these audio data and video data in accordance with a predetermined transmission format to generate transmission packet data, and outputs this transmission packet data to the CDMA signal processing unit **16**. Note that when e-mail is output from the control unit **23**, this e-mail is also converted into packet data.

[0039] The CDMA signal processing unit **16** spreads the spectrum of the output transmission packet data from the compander **17** by using a spread code allocated to a transmission channel, and outputs the signal to a transmitting circuit (TX) **15**. The transmitting circuit **15** modulates the signal having the spread spectrum by using a digital modulation method such as quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK). The transmitting circuit **15** synthesizes the modulated transmission signal with the local oscillation signal generated from the frequency synthesizer **14**, thereby up-converting the signal into a radio signal. Then, the transmitting circuit **15** amplifies the radio signal to a high frequency so that the transmission power level designated by the control unit **23** is obtained. The amplified radio signal is supplied to the antenna **11** via the duplexer **12**, and transmitted from the antenna **11** to the base station.

[0040] The mobile telephone of this embodiment includes a television receiver (TV receiver) **30**. The TV receiver **30** receives, e.g., a terrestrial television video signal via an antenna **31**, and converts the received television video signal into a digital television video signal. The control unit **23** displays this television video signal on the main display **5a**.

[0041] The mobile telephone of this embodiment also includes an external memory interface **27**. This external

memory interface **27** has a slot for the insertion and extraction of a memory card **28**. Under the control of the control unit **23**, the video content data are read out from the memory card **28** inserted in the slot. The control unit **23** decodes and plays back the readout video content data, and displays the data on the main display **5a**.

[0042] A power supply circuit **26** generates, from an output from a battery **25**, a predetermined operating power supply voltage Vcc, and supplies this voltage to the individual circuits. Note that the battery **25** is charged by a charging circuit (not shown). The memory unit **24** uses, e.g., an EEPROM or hard disk as a memory unit.

[0043] The control unit **23** includes, e.g., a microcomputer (central processing unit [CPU]). As control functions according to the present invention, the control unit **23** has a state checking function **23a**, TV activation control function **23b**, and TV video display control function **23c**. These functions are implemented by allowing the microcomputer to execute programs.

[0044] The state checking function **23a** checks the state of the first and second shells **1** and **2** on the basis of detection signals output from the sensors **10a** to **10d**. For example, on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10a** and **10b**, the state checking function **23a** checks whether the state of the first and second shells **1** and **2** is in the first state (FIGS. **1A** and **1B**), the second state (FIGS. **5A** and **5B**), or any other states (e.g., the third state shown in FIGS. **2A** and **2B**). Alternatively, on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10c** and **10d**, the state checking function **23a** checks whether the state of the first and second shells **1** and **2** is in the first state (FIGS. **1A** and **1B**), or the second state (FIGS. **5A** and **5B**).

[0045] The TV activation control function **23b** includes manual and automatic activation modes as a TV activation mode to alternatively set these modes in accordance with the user's selection. When the state checking function **23a** determines that the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (FIGS. **5A** and **5B**) in the automatic activation mode, the TV receiver **30** is automatically activated.

[0046] When the television video signal received by the TV receiver **30** is to be displayed on the main display **5a**, the TV video display control function **23c** selects a full-screen or partial-screen display mode on the basis of the shell state check result obtained by the state checking function **23a**. For example, when the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (FIGS. **5A** and **5B**), the TV video display control function **23c** selects the full-screen display mode. The full-screen display area of the main display **5a** is set as a television video display area to display the television video signal on this full-screen display area. In this case, the display direction of the television video signal is set so that the main scanning direction of the signal is the long-side direction of the full-screen display area of the main display **5a**.

[0047] Alternatively, when the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state (FIGS. **2A** and **2B**), the TV video display control function **23c** selects the partial-screen display mode. A TV video display area **51** is set at the center in the vertical direction of the main display **5a**, and the television video signal is displayed on this TV video display area **51**. In this case, the display direction of the television video signal

display is set so that the main scanning direction is the short-side direction of the full-screen display area of the main display **5a**. Additionally, additional information display areas **52a** and **52b** are set on the upper and lower portions in the vertical direction of the main display **5a**. The pictorial information and guide information are displayed in the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**.

[0048] Next, the reception/display operation of the television video signal performed by the mobile telephone as described above will be described. **FIGS. 7 and 8** show flowcharts showing a control procedure and control contents by the control unit **23**.

[0049] In the state (the first state shown in **FIGS. 1A and 1B**) wherein the first and second shells **1** and **2** are closed with the main display **5a** facing inside, the control unit **23** monitors the opening operation of the shells **1** and **2** in step **8a** on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10a** and **10b**.

[0050] Assume that the user opens the first and second shells **1** and **2** in this state. When recognizing that the shells **1** and **2** are open on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10a** and **10b**, in step **8b**, the control unit **23** checks whether the incoming call notification operation is performed. If the incoming call notification operation is performed, the control unit **23** determines that the shells **1** and **2** may be opened to respond to the incoming call, and the flow advances to the incoming call response process.

[0051] In contrast to this, if the incoming call notification operation is not performed, the control unit **23** checks the state of the shells **1** and **2** in step **8c**. The state of the shells **1** and **2** is checked by the state checking function **23a** on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10a** to **10d**. For example, when the detection signals from the sensors **10a** and **10b** and those from the sensors **10c** and **10d** are both low, the control unit **23** determines that the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state in **FIGS. 2A and 2B**, the fourth state in **FIGS. 3A and 3B**, or the fifth state in **FIGS. 4A and 4B**. However, since the shells **1** and **2** is not quite using in the fourth or fifth state, the state checking function **23a** determines that the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state (e.g., 160° open state). In contrast to this, when the detection signals from the sensors **10a** and **10b** are low, and the detection signals from the sensors **10c** and **10d** are high, the state checking function **23a** determines that the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state in **FIGS. 5A and 5B**, i.e., the state wherein the shells **1** and **2** overlaps each other with the main display **5a** facing outside.

[0052] (1) Shell is Opened to Second State (360°)

[0053] First, the case wherein the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (open 360°) shown in **FIGS. 5A and 5B** after opening operation will be described.

[0054] In this case, the flow advances to step **8j**, and the control unit **23** checks whether the activation mode is the manual or automatic activation mode. If the automatic activation mode is set as a result of this check, the control unit **23** checks in step **8k** whether the reception display condition used in the previously preceding viewing is stored. If the previously preceding reception display condition is stored, the TV receiver **30** is activated in accordance with the stored reception display condition, and the TV display application program is activated, in step **8m**. In contrast,

when the previously preceding reception display condition is not stored, the TV receiver **30** is activated in accordance with the default value of the reception display condition set when shipped, and the TV display application program is activated, in step **8n**. That is, when the automatic activation mode is set, the TV reception/display function is automatically activated by opening the shells **1** and **2** to obtain the 360° open state. Note that this previously preceding reception display condition includes a channel setting for each region, a volume setting of the previously preceding viewing, channel information of the previously preceding viewing, and the like.

[0055] Upon activating the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program, the flow advances to step **8o**, and the control unit **23** displays the TV video signal received by the TV receiver **30** on the main display **5a**. In this case, the full-screen display mode is used as the display mode. That is, the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** is set as the TV video display screen. Then, the display direction of the TV video signal may be so set as to match the main scanning direction of the TV video signal with the long-side direction of the full-screen display area. In this manner, the TV video signal may be displayed in a landscape mode by using the full-screen display area of the main display **5a**. **FIG. 9** shows an example of the display result.

[0056] Note that in the state wherein the TV video signal is displayed in the full-screen display area, the volume information and channel information are displayed on the TV video for a predetermined time (e.g., 2 sec) when the volume is adjusted or the channel is switched. Also, when the incoming call has received in the state wherein the TV video signal is displayed on the full-screen display area, the incoming call notification information (e.g., an icon) is displayed on the TV video.

[0057] In contrast, when the manual activation mode is set as the activation mode, the flow advances to step **8x**, and the control unit **23** monitors the TV activating operation. When the user operates the TV key **7c** in this state, the flow advances to step **8k**, and the control unit **23** checks whether the reception display condition used in the previously preceding viewing is stored. In accordance with the check result, in step **8m** or **8n**, the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program are activated. That is, the TV reception/display function is manually activated.

[0058] If in the manual activation mode is set as the activation mode, an electronic program application (not shown) may be activated, and the program may be selected in a state wherein the electronic program is displayed on the main display **5a** by the application. The TV receiver **30** can be activated on the channel corresponding to the channel information of the selected program.

[0059] (2) Shell is Opened to Third State (160°)

[0060] Next, the case wherein the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state (160° open) shown in **FIGS. 2A and 2B** will be described.

[0061] In this case, the flow advances to step **8d**, and the control unit **23** displays a standby screen on the main display **5a**, and monitors a menu selection operation. Assume that in this state, the user selects the menu, and selects the TV reception menu from a plurality of menu items. Thus, the control unit **23** checks the type of the selected menu in step

8f. If the selected menu is the TV reception menu, the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program are activated in step **8g**. Note that when the reception display condition used in the previously preceding viewing is stored, the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program are activated in accordance with the stored reception display condition.

[**0062**] With this process, when the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program are activated, the flow advances to step **8h**, and the control unit **23** displays the TV video signal received by the TV receiver **30** on the main display **5a**. In this case, the partial-screen display mode is used as the display mode.

[**0063**] That is, as shown in **FIG. 10**, the TV video display area **51** is set about the center of the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** in the vertical direction. Then, the display direction of the TV video signal may be set so as to match the main scanning direction of the TV video signal with the short-side direction of the full-screen display area. In this manner, the TV video signal is displayed on the TV video display area **51** set about the center of the full-screen display area.

[**0064**] Also, the control unit **23** sets the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b** on the upper and lower portions on the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** in step **8i**. The pictorial information and guide information are displayed in the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**. As the pictorial information, as shown in **FIG. 10**, information representing a reception field strength, the remaining battery life, and the present time are displayed. Also, as the guide information, a plurality of menu items corresponding to the TV reception are displayed in addition to volume information and channel information. As shown in **FIG. 10**, this menu items include "record", "menu", "EPG", "character display vertical/horizontal direction switching", and "loudspeaker output".

[**0065**] (3) Various Operations During TV Reception Display Operation

[**0066**] During the TV reception display operation, the control unit **23** also executes the following process. **FIG. 8** is a flowchart showing a control procedure and control contents.

[**0067**] That is, while monitoring the reception of incoming call in step **8p**, the control unit **23** monitors the changing operation of the reception display condition in step **8q**, and the change of the state of the shells **1** and **2** in step **8r**. Also, the control unit **23** monitors a TV reception ending operation in step **8s**. When the reception display condition such as the volume and channel is changed in this state, the control unit **23** changes the reception display condition in accordance with the changing operation in step **8t**.

[**0068**] Alternatively, assume that the change of the state of the shells **1** and **2** is detected. The change of the state is detected on the basis of the detection signals from the sensors **10a** to **10d**. In this case, the flow advances to step **8w**, and the control unit **23** checks the state changing direction. If the changing direction of the shells **1** and **2** is from **360°** to **160°**, the control unit **23** determines that the state of the shells **1** and **2** is changed from the second state in **FIGS. 5A and 5B** to the third state in **FIGS. 2A and 2B**.

Then, the flow advances to steps **8h** and **8i**, and the display control is performed in the partial-screen display mode.

[**0069**] That is, in step **8h**, the TV video display area **51** is set at the center in the vertical direction in the display area of the main display **5a**, and the TV video signal is displayed in the landscape mode in the TV video display area **51**. Additionally, in step **8i**, the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b** are set in the upper and lower parts of the full-screen display area of the main display **5a**, and the pictorial information and the guide information are displayed in these additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**.

[**0070**] In other words, when the state of the shells **1** and **2** changes from the second state in **FIGS. 5A and 5B** to the third state in **FIGS. 2A and 2B**, the display mode of the TV video signal in the main display **5a** is switched from the full-screen display mode to the partial-screen display mode, and the display direction of the TV video signal changed from the long side to the short side. Also, the pictorial information representing the reception field strength and the residual amount of the battery, the information representing the volume and channel, and the plurality of menu items corresponding to TV reception are displayed in the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**.

[**0071**] Alternatively, assume that the state of the shells **1** and **2** changes from **160°** to **360°**. In this case, the control unit **23** determines that the state of the shells **1** and **2** changes from the third state in **FIGS. 2A and 2B** to the second state in **FIGS. 5A and 5B**. The flow advances to step **8o** in **FIG. 7**, and the control unit **23** performs the display control in the full-screen display mode. That is, the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** may be set as the TV video display screen. Then, the display direction of the TV video signal may be so set as to match the main scanning direction of the TV video signal with the long-side direction of the full-screen display area.

[**0072**] Therefore, when the state of the shells **1** and **2** is changed from **160°** to **360°**, the direction of the TV video signal may be changed from the short side to the long side in the main display **5a**, and displayed in the full-screen display area of the main display **5a**.

[**0073**] When the TV reception ending operation is complete, the flow advances from step **8s** to step **8u**, and the control unit **23** stores the reception display condition of the previously preceding operation in the memory of the control unit **23**. The TV display application program is ended in step **8v**, and then the operation of the TV receiver **30** is stopped. The reception display condition stored in the memory of the control unit **23** is used as an initial operation condition for activating the TV receiver **30** and the TV display application program in the next activating operation of the TV reception/display function.

[**0074**] Note that when an incoming call is received during the TV reception display operation, the following process is performed. The incoming call includes the reception of an incoming call and e-mail.

[**0075**] That is, when the incoming call is received during the TV reception display operation, the control unit **23** checks whether the current state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state (**160°** open), or in the second state (**360°** open). When the result indicates that the state of the shells

1 and **2** is in the third state (160° open), a message or icon (incoming call notification information) representing the reception of the incoming call is displayed in the additional information display area **52a** of the main display **5a**. After a predetermined time (e.g., 2 seconds) from the display of this incoming call notification information, a caller name may be displayed in the additional information display area **52a**. Note that this caller name can be displayed by reading out a corresponding caller information from a phone book memory in the memory unit **24** on the basis of a caller phone number or address included in the incoming call data. After that, the incoming call notification information and the caller name may be displayed alternately every 2 seconds.

[0076] Assume that the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (360° open). The control unit **23** checks whether an incoming message recording area set in the memory unit **24** has a free storage area. If the incoming message recording area does not have any free area, the control unit **23** may generate the display data (incoming call notification data) of a message or icon representing the reception of the incoming call. The generated incoming call notification data is displayed on the TV video data in the main display **5a**. After a predetermined time (e.g., 2 seconds) from the display of the incoming call notification information, the caller name may be displayed, and the incoming call notification information and the caller name may be displayed alternately every 2 sec as in the case wherein the shells are open 160°.

[0077] When the state of the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (360° open), and a free area is provided in the incoming message recording area, the incoming message recording process is performed. That is, the display data of the message or icon representing the reception of the incoming call may be displayed on the displayed TV video data in the main display **5a**. After a predetermined time (e.g., 2 seconds) from the display of the display data, the caller name may be displayed. Then, after a predetermined time (e.g., 2 seconds) from the display of the caller name, the guide information for the incoming message recording operation may be generated, and the generated guide information is displayed on the TV video data in the main display **5a**. After that, the incoming call notification information, the caller name, and the guide information for the incoming message recording operation may be repeated in turn every 2 seconds. Note that the guide information may be displayed by using the icon.

[0078] Assume that the user continuously presses a side key **7b** for a predetermined time, i.e., performs long key pressing for the side key **7b** in the state wherein the display operations are repeated. The control unit **23** transmits the guidance message prompting the caller to incoming message recording of the message after the response process, by using an automatic answering control function (not shown). Then, the message transmitted from the caller is stored in the incoming message recording area of the memory unit **24**.

[0079] Note that the present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment. For example, in this embodiment, the mobile telephone employs the articulated hinge mechanism **3**. However, the present invention can be applied to the portable terminal which employs a uniaxial type hinge mechanism which can pivot 360° in one direction.

[0080] In this embodiment, the TV reception display operation is exemplified. However, the present invention can

be applied to the video contents which are stored in the memory unit to be read out and displayed. For example, when it is detected that the shells **1** and **2** is in the second state (360° open), the control unit **23** reads the video content from the memory card **28** via the external memory interface **27**. After decoding the video contents, the decoded video contents are displayed in the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** as shown in FIG. 9.

[0081] When the shells **1** and **2** is in the third state (160° open) as shown in FIG. 10, the decoded video contents are displayed in the partial display area **51** of the main display **5a**. Additionally, the pictorial information representing the operation state of the mobile telephone, and the guide information corresponding to the playback operation of the video contents are displayed in the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b** of the main display **5a**.

[0082] Note that the video content may be displayed by being read from not only the external memory such as the memory card **28** but also the memory unit **24**.

[0083] Also, in this embodiment, the display area of the main display **5a** is separated into the TV video display area **51** and the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b** in the third state (160° open). However, the present invention is not limited to this. The full-screen display mode for displaying the TV video signal in the full-screen display area of the main display **5a** is prepared in addition to the partial-screen display mode, to selectively use the partial-screen and full-screen display modes in accordance with the user's selection.

[0084] In addition to this, the type and arrangement of the portable terminal, the shape of the display for displaying the TV video signal, the position and size of the TV video display area **51** and the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**, the type and display form of the pictorial information and the guide information in the additional information display areas **52a** and **52b**, and the like, can be variously modified when practiced without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

[0085] In conclusion, the present invention is not directly limited to the above embodiment, but can be implemented, when practiced, by modifying the constituent elements without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Also, various inventions can be formed by appropriately combining a plurality of constituent elements disclosed in the embodiment. For example, some of all the constituent elements disclosed in the embodiment may also be deleted. Furthermore, constituent elements over different embodiments may also be appropriately combined.

[0086] Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable terminal which pivotally connects a first housing via a connection mechanism to a second housing having a display, comprising:

a first control unit configured to detect states of the portable terminal, the states includes a first state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing inside, a second state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing outside, and a third state wherein the display is exposed in an intermediate state between the first state and the second state,

a display control unit configured to display the image; and

a second control unit configured to active a application program if the first control unit detects that the state changes from the first state or the third state to the second state.

2. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the display control unit reads the image received by a television receiver, and displays the read image on the display.

3. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the display control unit reads the image read out from a memory unit, and displays the read image on the display.

4. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein the second control unit includes setting means for setting a first activation mode of automatically activating the display control unit, and a second activation mode of activating the display control unit in accordance with a user's key operation, and

activation means for activating the display control unit if first control unit is detected that the state changes from the first state or the third state to the second state in the first activation mode.

5. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein

the second control unit includes end detection means for detecting a display ending operation of the image,

memory unit configured to write in a memory a display condition of the image previously before the display ending operation is terminated, in accordance with the detection of the display ending operation, and

re-set means for re-setting the display condition of the image obtained by the reactivation, on the basis of the display condition stored in the memory if reactivating the display control unit after the display ending operation is terminated.

6. A portable terminal having a first housing and a second housing having a main display on a first surface, where the first housing and the second housing is pivotally connected via a connection mechanism, comprising:

means for detecting states of the portable terminal, the states include a first state where the main display is covered by the first housing, a second state where a second surface opposite to the first surface is covered by the first housing, and third state where the first and second surface are not covered by the first housing,

a display control unit configured to display the image; and

means for activating a application program if the detecting means detects that the portable terminal is in the second state.

7. The portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein the display control unit reads the image received by a television receiver, and displays the read image on the display.

8. The portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein the display control unit reads the image read out from a memory unit, and displays the read image on the display.

9. The portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein the activating means includes setting means for setting a first activation mode of automatically activating the display control unit, and a second activation mode of activating the display control unit in accordance with a user's key operation, and in accordance with a user's key operation, and

means for activating the display control unit if the detecting means is detected that the state changes from the first state or the third state to the second state in the first activation mode.

10. The portable terminal according to claim 6, wherein

the activating means includes end detection means for detecting a display ending operation of the image,

memory unit configured to write in a memory a display condition of the image previously before the display ending operation is terminated, in accordance with the detection of the display ending operation, and

re-set means for re-setting the display condition of the image obtained by the reactivation, on the basis of the display condition stored in the memory if reactivating the display control unit after the display ending operation is terminated.

11. A portable terminal which pivotally connects a first housing via a connection mechanism to a second housing having a display, comprising:

a control unit configured to detect states of the portable terminal, the states includes a first state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing inside, a second state wherein the housings overlap each other with the display facing outside, and a third state wherein the display is exposed in an intermediate state between the first state and the second state,

a first display control unit configured to display a read image in a full-screen display area of the display if the control unit detects that the state of the first housing with respect to the second housing is in the second state; and

a second display control unit configured to display the read image in a limited first partial-screen display area in a display area of the display if the control unit detects that the state of the first housing with respect to the second housing is in the third state.

12. The portable terminal according to claim 11, further comprising

a third display control unit configured to display additional information in a second partial-screen display area except at least the first partial-screen display area of the display area of the display if the control unit detects that the state of the first housing with respect to the second housing is in the third state.

13. The portable terminal according to claim 11, wherein the display includes a rectangular display area,

the first display control unit configured to set a display direction to match a main scanning direction of the read image with a long-side direction of a full-screen display area if the read image is displayed on the full-screen display area of the display.

14. The portable terminal according to claim 12, wherein the display includes a rectangular display area,

the first display control unit configured to set a display direction to match a main scanning direction of the read image with a long-side direction of a full-screen display area if the read image is displayed on the full-screen display area of the display.

15. The portable terminal according to claim 11, wherein the display includes a rectangular display area,

the second display control unit configured to set a display direction to match a main scanning direction of the image with a short-side direction of a full-screen display area if the read image is displayed on the first partial-screen display area of the display.

16. The portable terminal according to claim 12, wherein the display includes a rectangular display area,

the second display control unit configured to set a display direction to match a main scanning direction of the image with a short-side direction of a full-screen display area if the read image is displayed on the first partial-screen display area of the display.

17. The terminal according to claim 11, wherein the second display control unit includes

setting means for setting a partial-screen display mode of displaying the image in the first partial-screen display area, and a full-screen display mode of displaying the image in the full-screen display area, in accordance with a user's operation, and display means for displaying the image in the first partial-screen display area if the partial-screen display mode is set, and displaying the image in the full-screen display area if the full-screen display mode is set.

18. The terminal according to claim 12, wherein the second display control unit includes

setting means for setting a partial-screen display mode of displaying the image in the first partial-screen display area, and a full-screen display mode of displaying the image in the full-screen display area, in accordance with a user's operation, and display means for displaying the image in the first partial-screen display area if the partial-screen display mode is set, and displaying the image in the full-screen display area if the full-screen display mode is set.

19. The portable terminal according to claim 12, wherein the third display control unit configured to display at least one of guide information corresponding to a display operation of the image, and pictorial information corresponding to an operation state of the portable terminal in the second partial-screen display area.

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