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(54) **SLIDER INPUT LID ON TOUCHSCREEN**

Publication Classification

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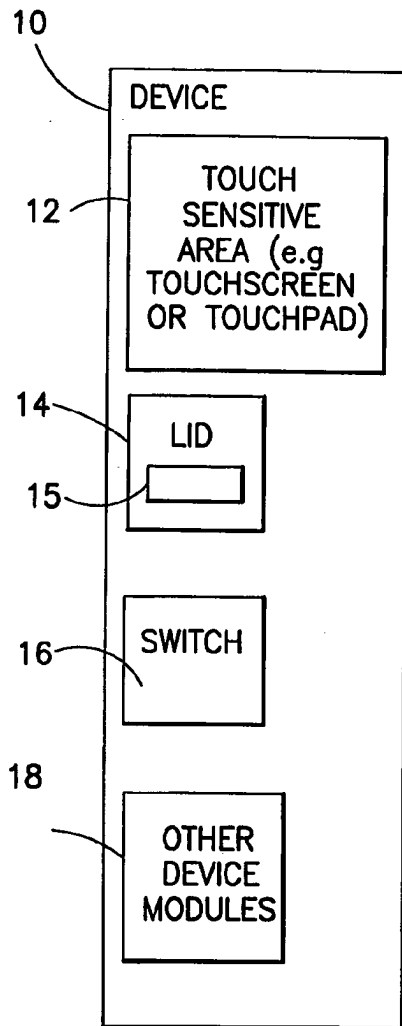
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device features a touch sensitive area, such as a touch-screen or touchpad, responsive to a first set of user interface inputs from a user; a lid arranged in relation to the touch sensitive area, having a physical guiding form for enabling the user to provide a special set of user interface inputs to the touch sensitive area that are different than the first set; and a switch for changing the functionality of the touch sensitive area to respond to the special set of user interface inputs based on the position of the lid in relation to the touch sensitive area. The physical guiding form enables the user to slide their finger on the surface of the lid for providing the special set of user interface inputs, and may be integrated into the lid or include one or more add-on pieces that are coupled on the lid.

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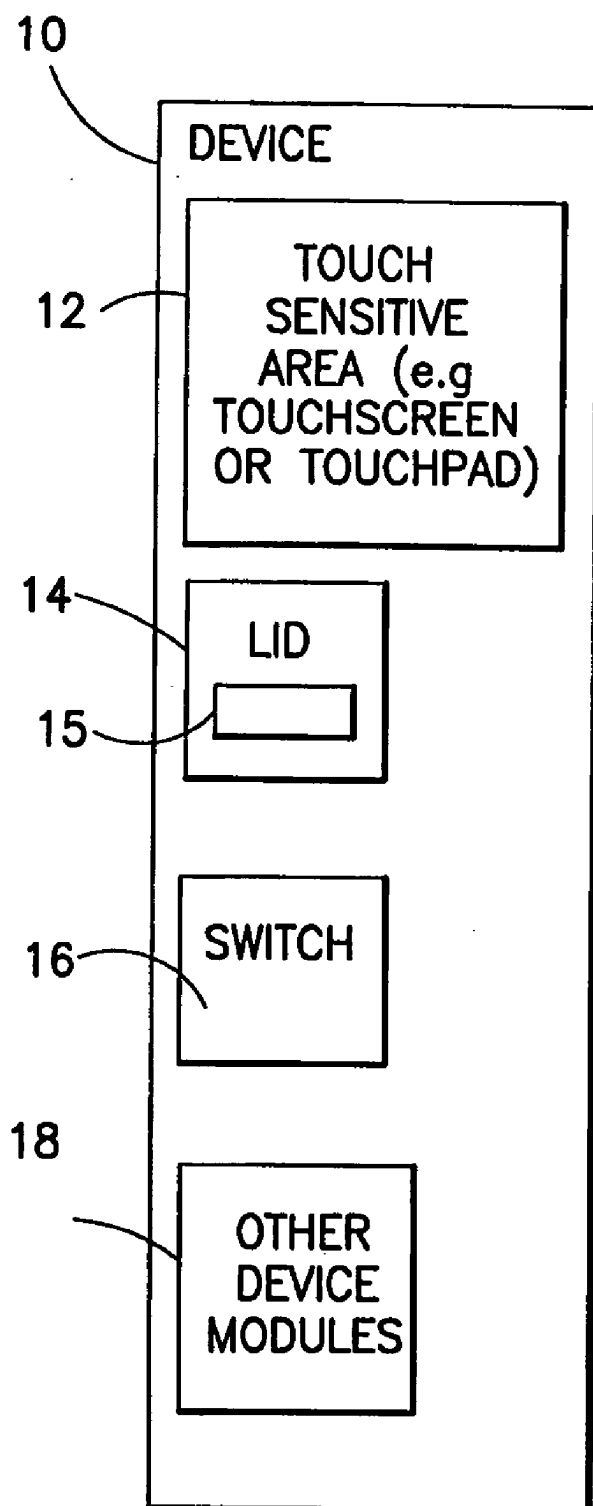


FIG.1

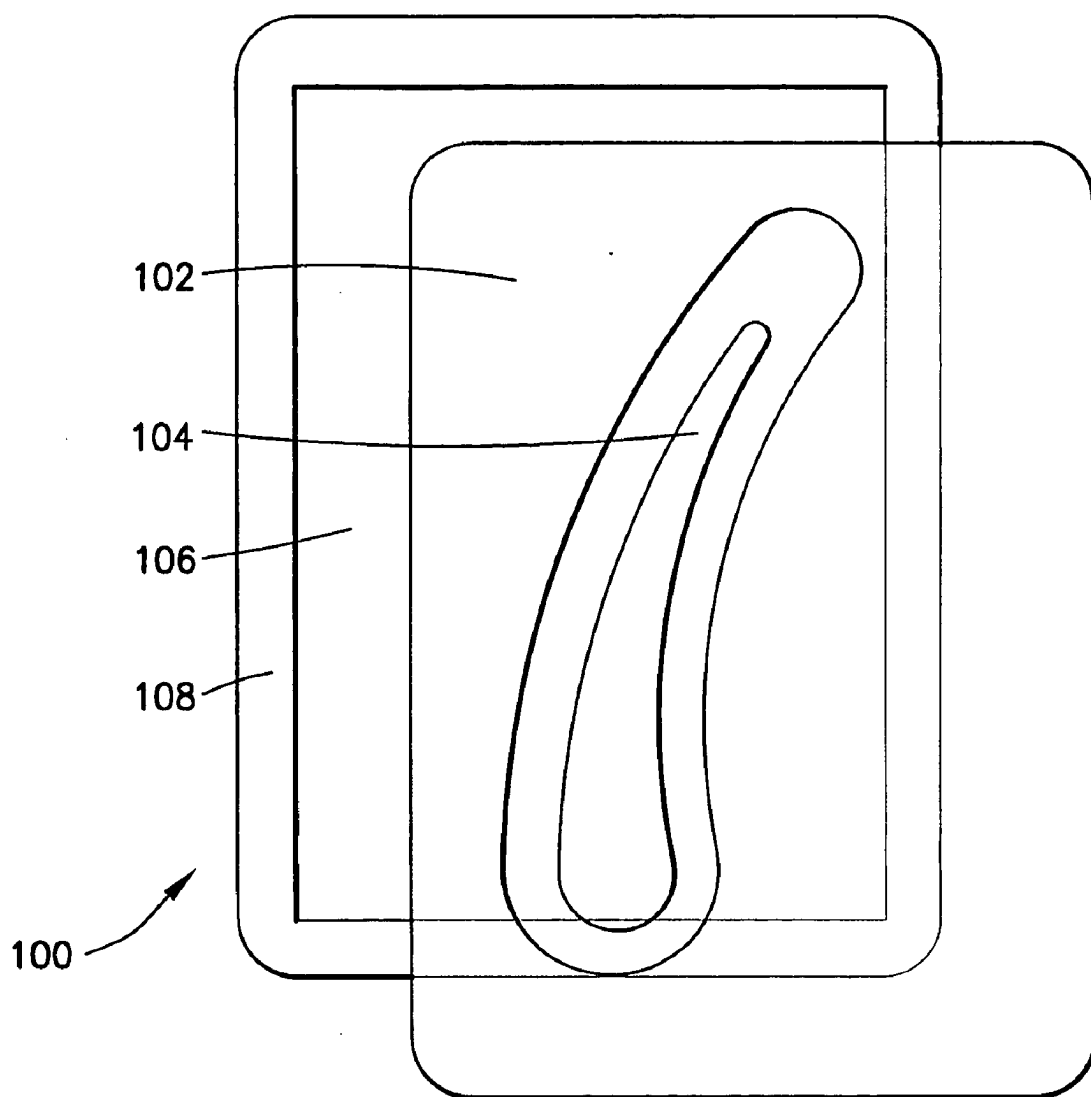


FIG. 2a

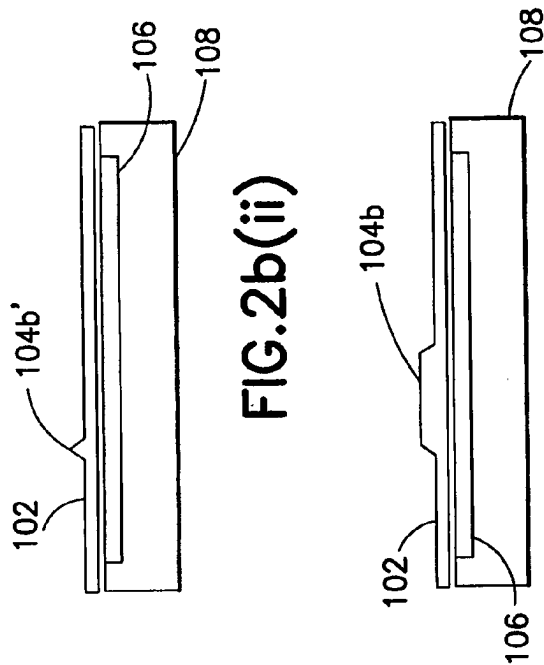


FIG. 2b(ii)

FIG. 2b(iii)

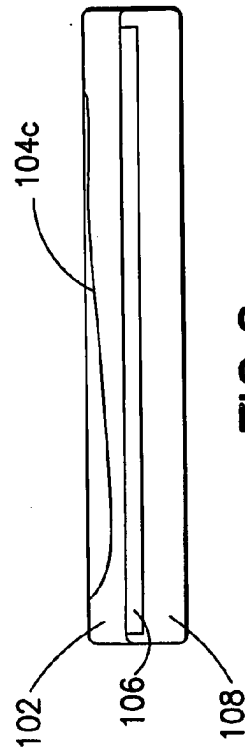


FIG. 2c

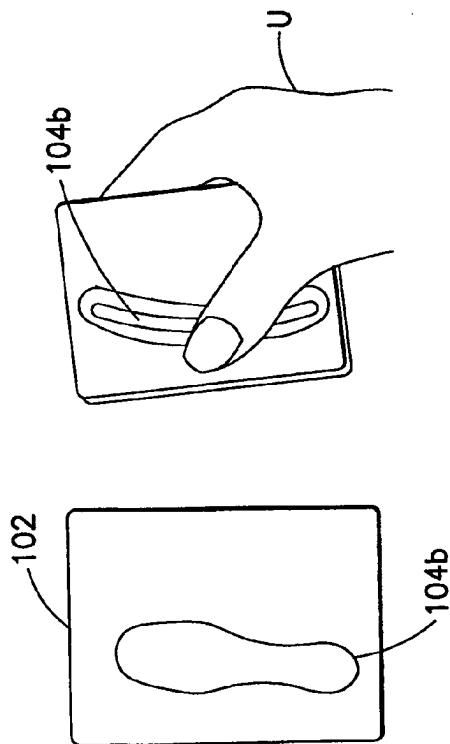


FIG. 2b(i)

FIG. 2b(iv)

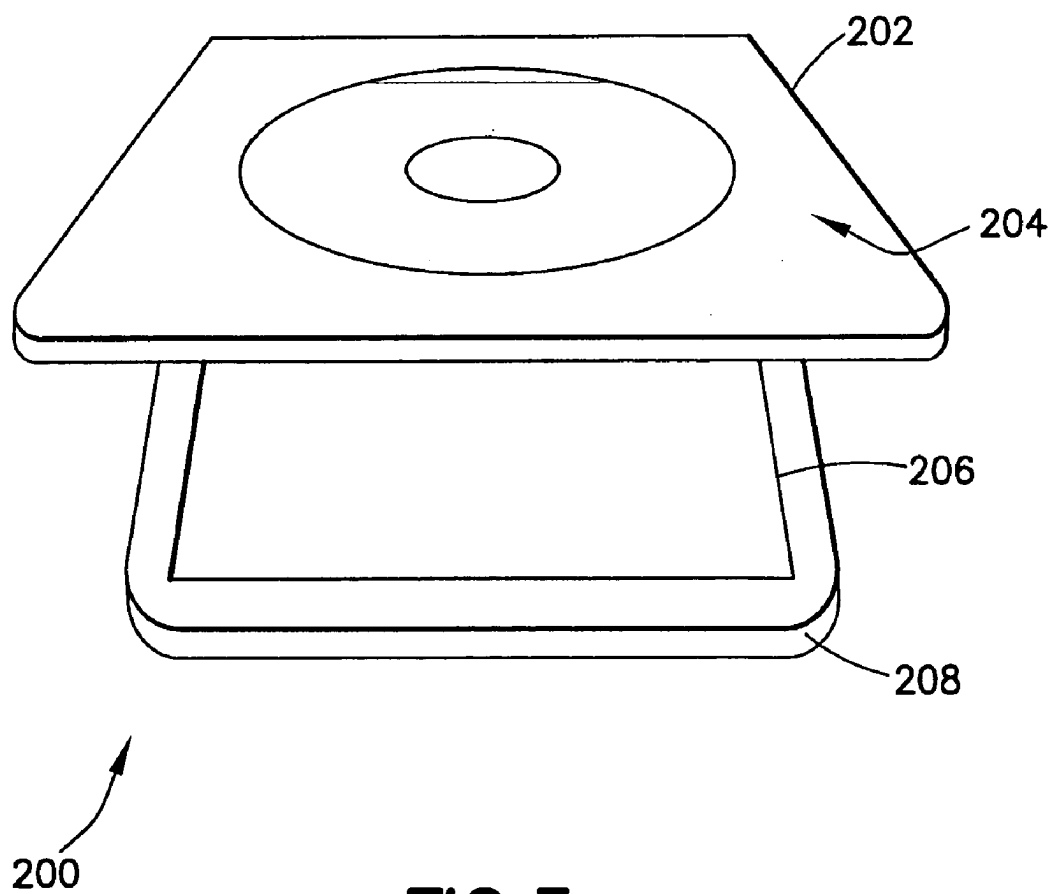


FIG. 3a

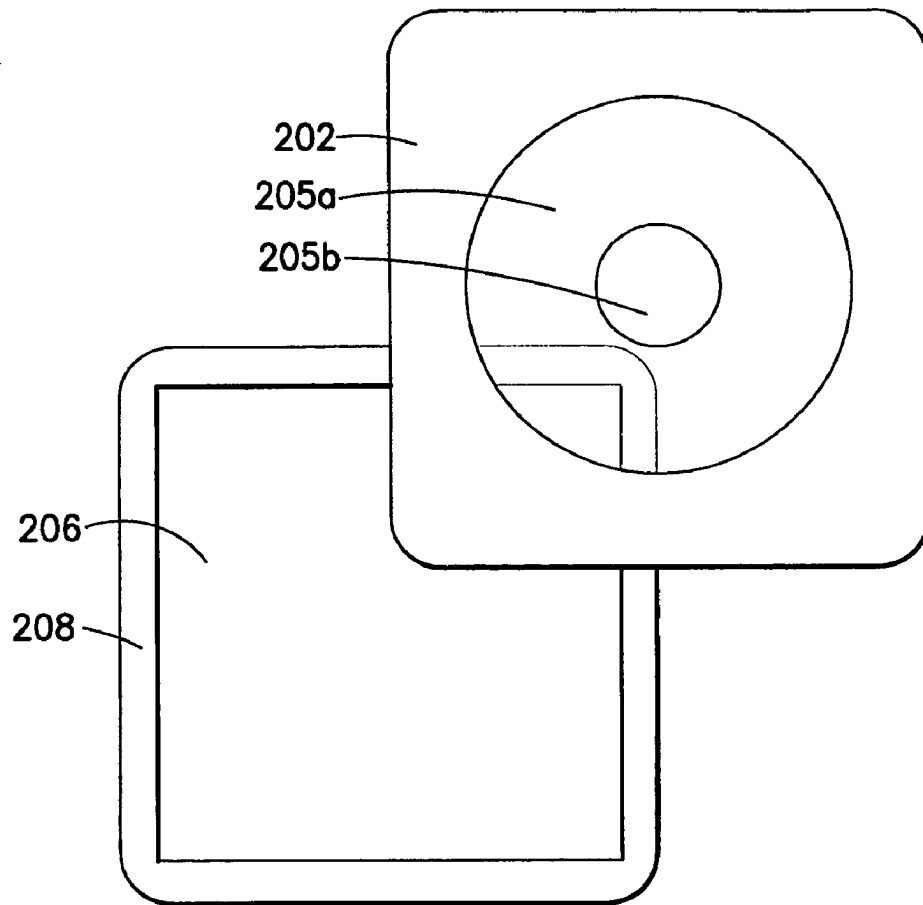


FIG. 3b

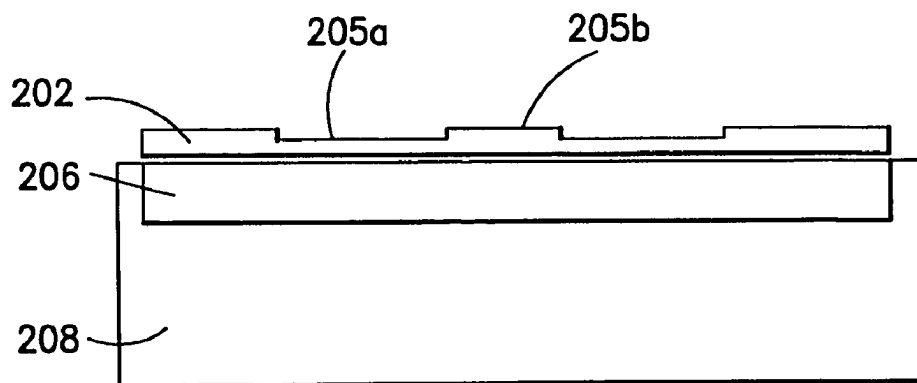


FIG. 3c

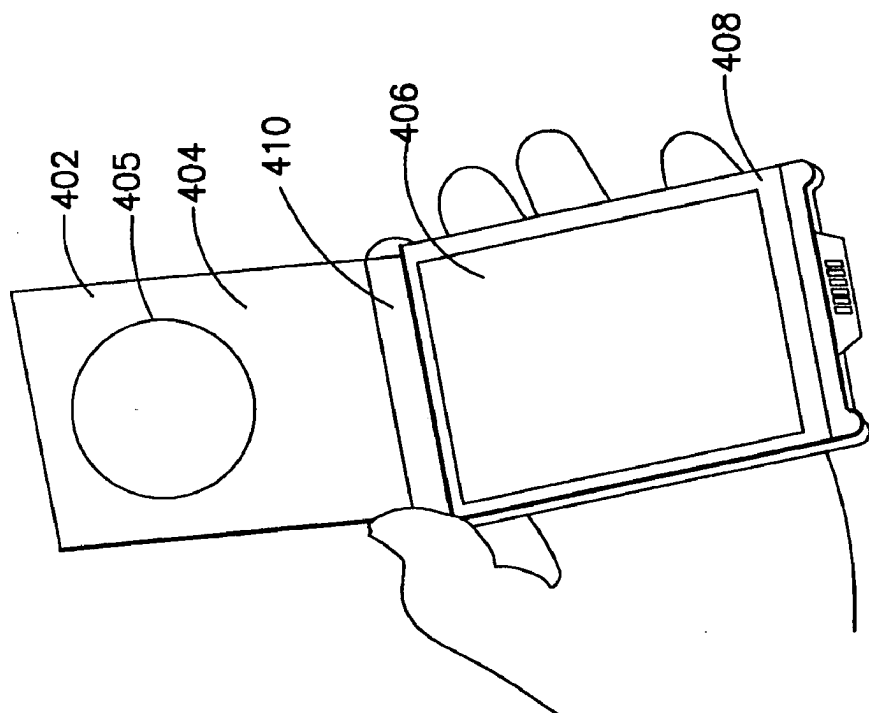


FIG. 4b

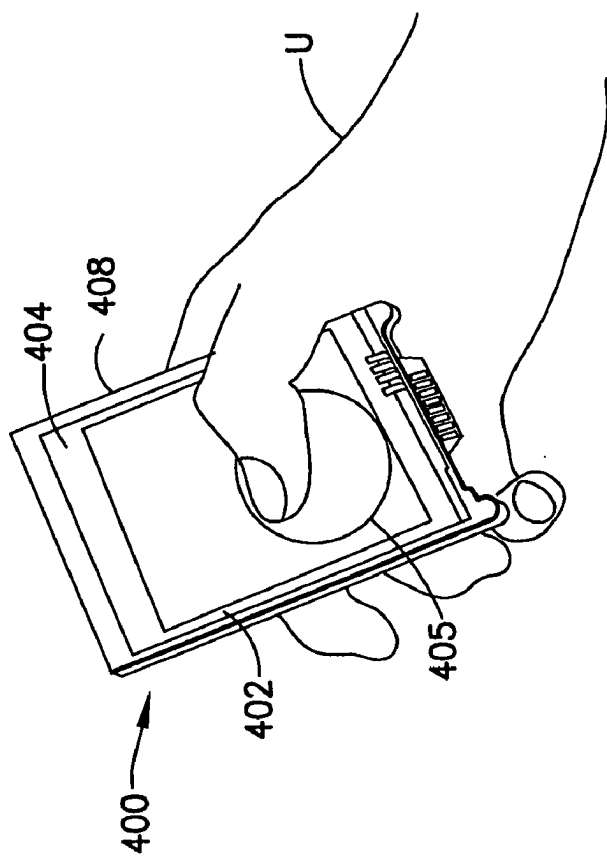


FIG. 4a

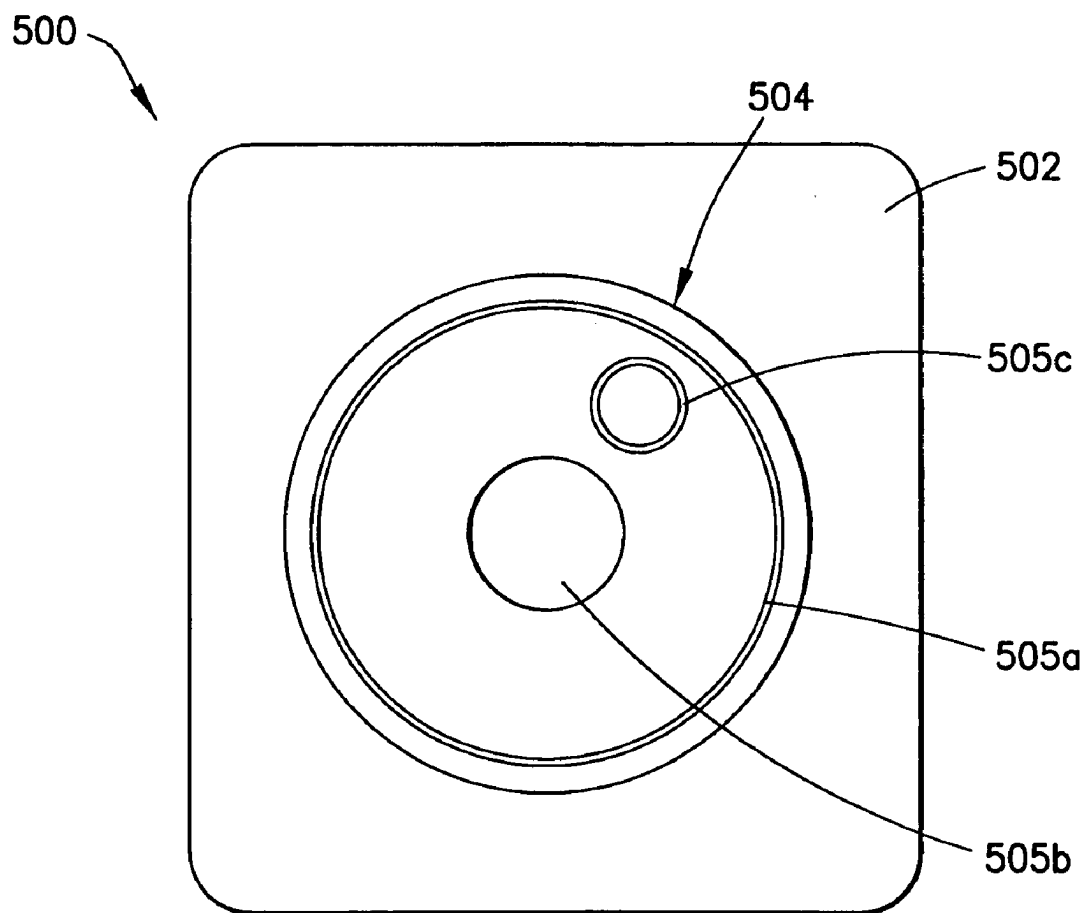


FIG.5a

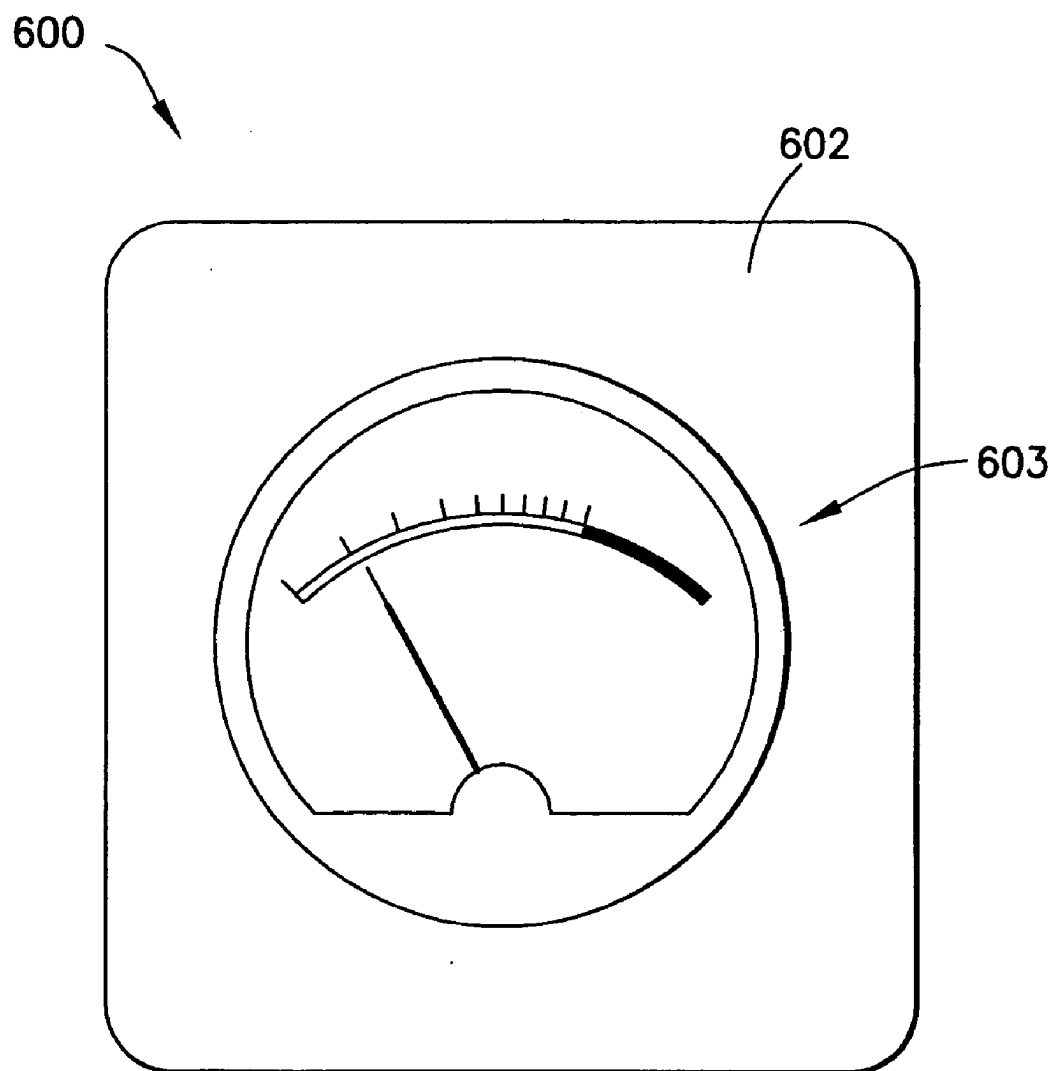


FIG.5b

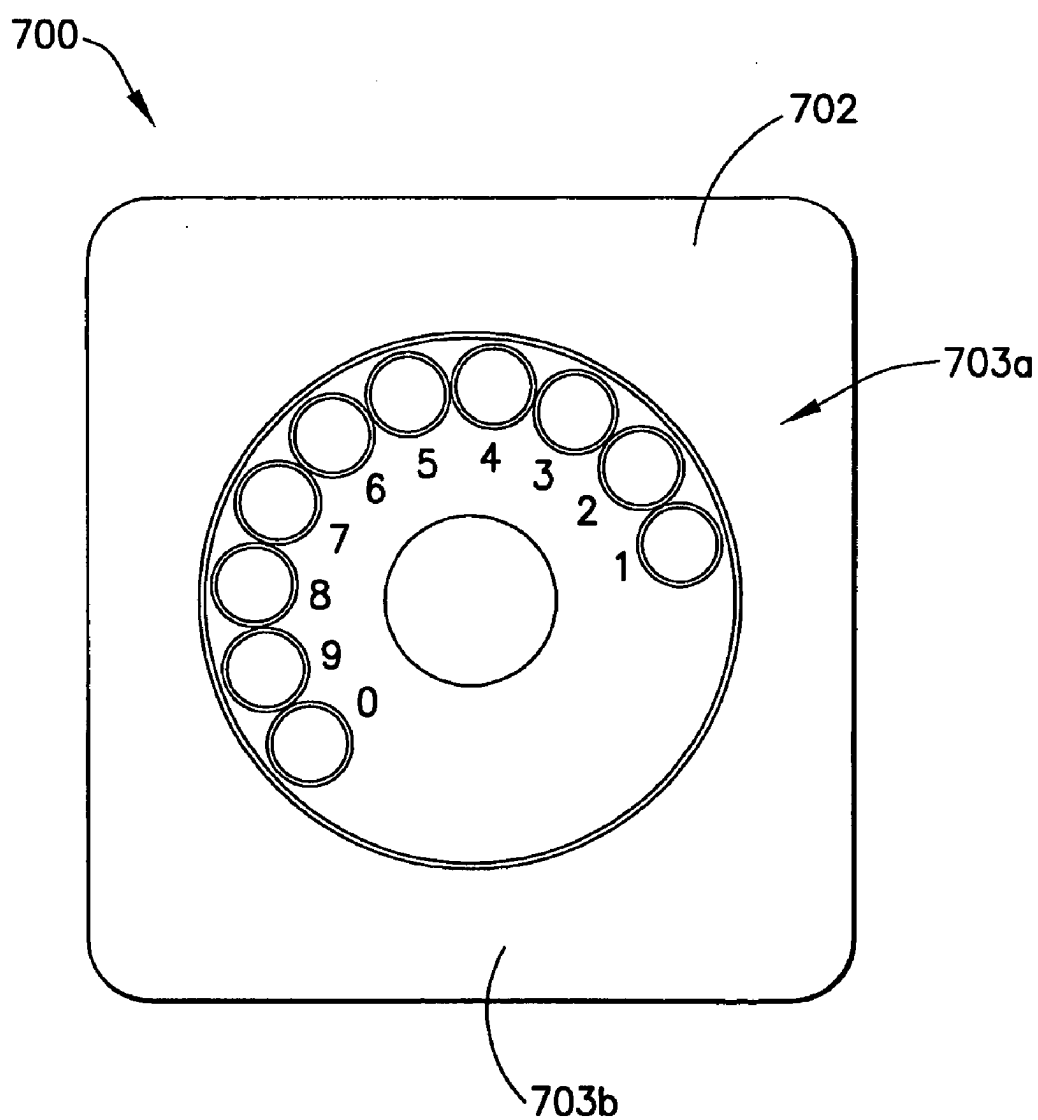


FIG. 5c

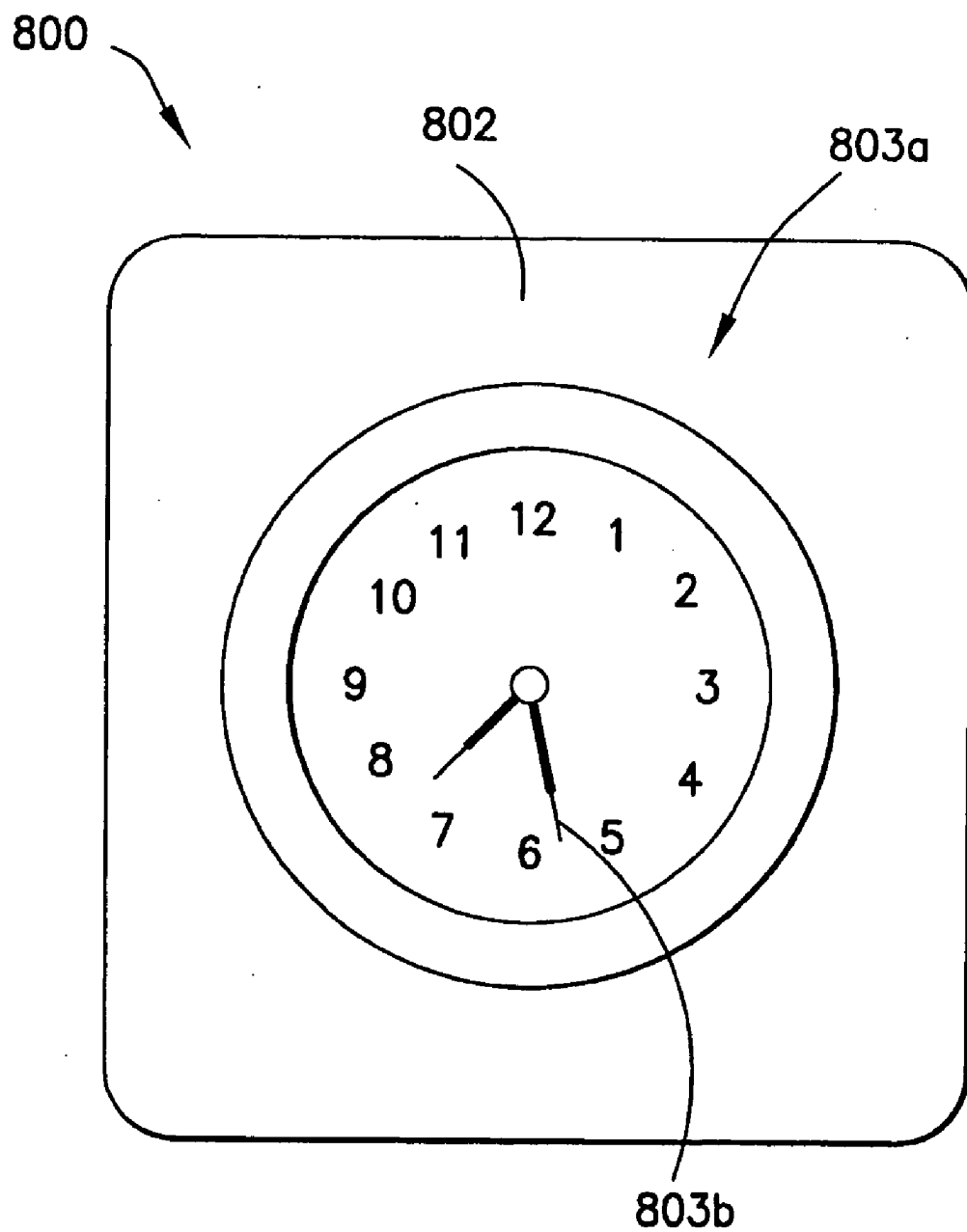


FIG. 5d

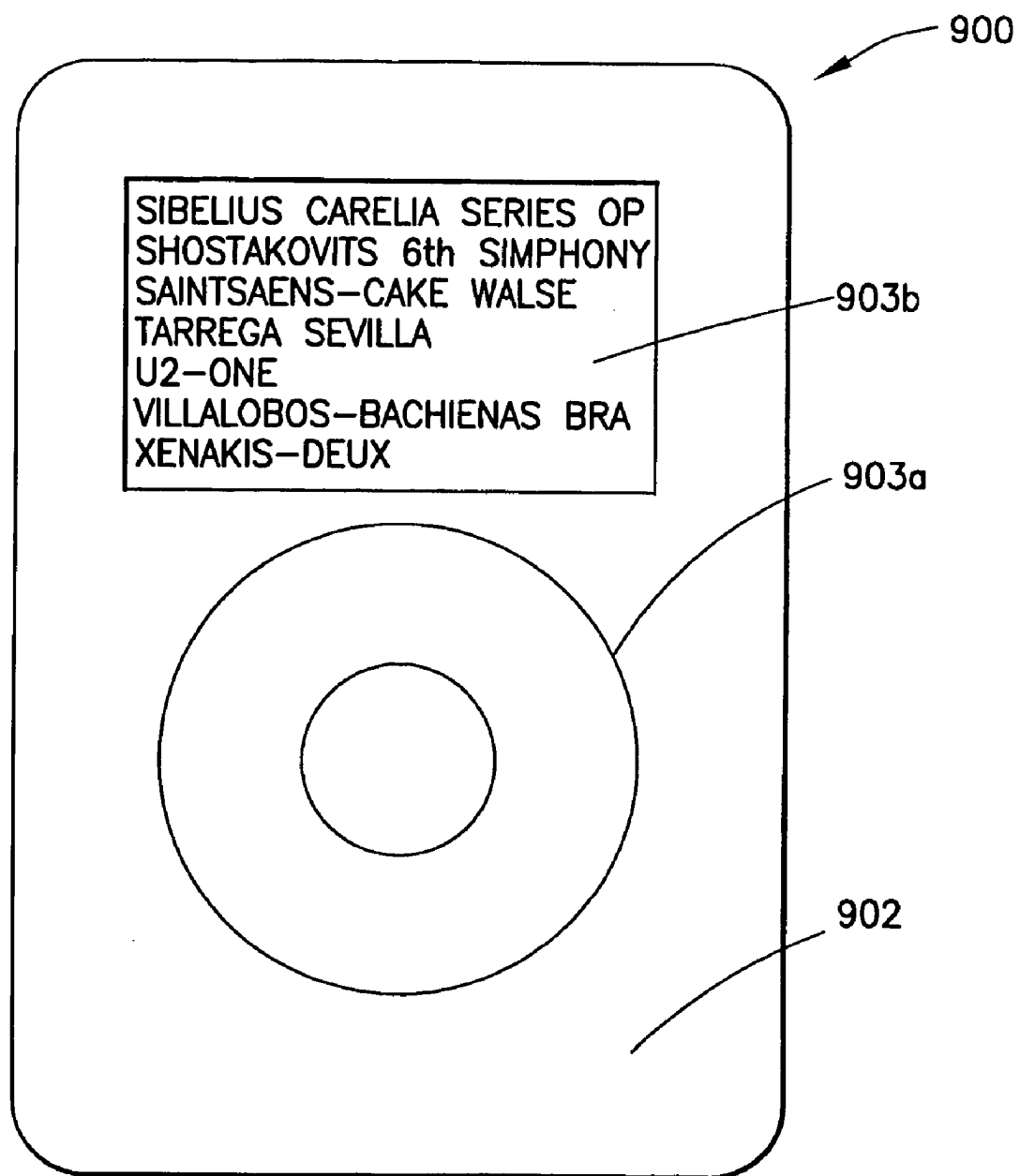


FIG.5e

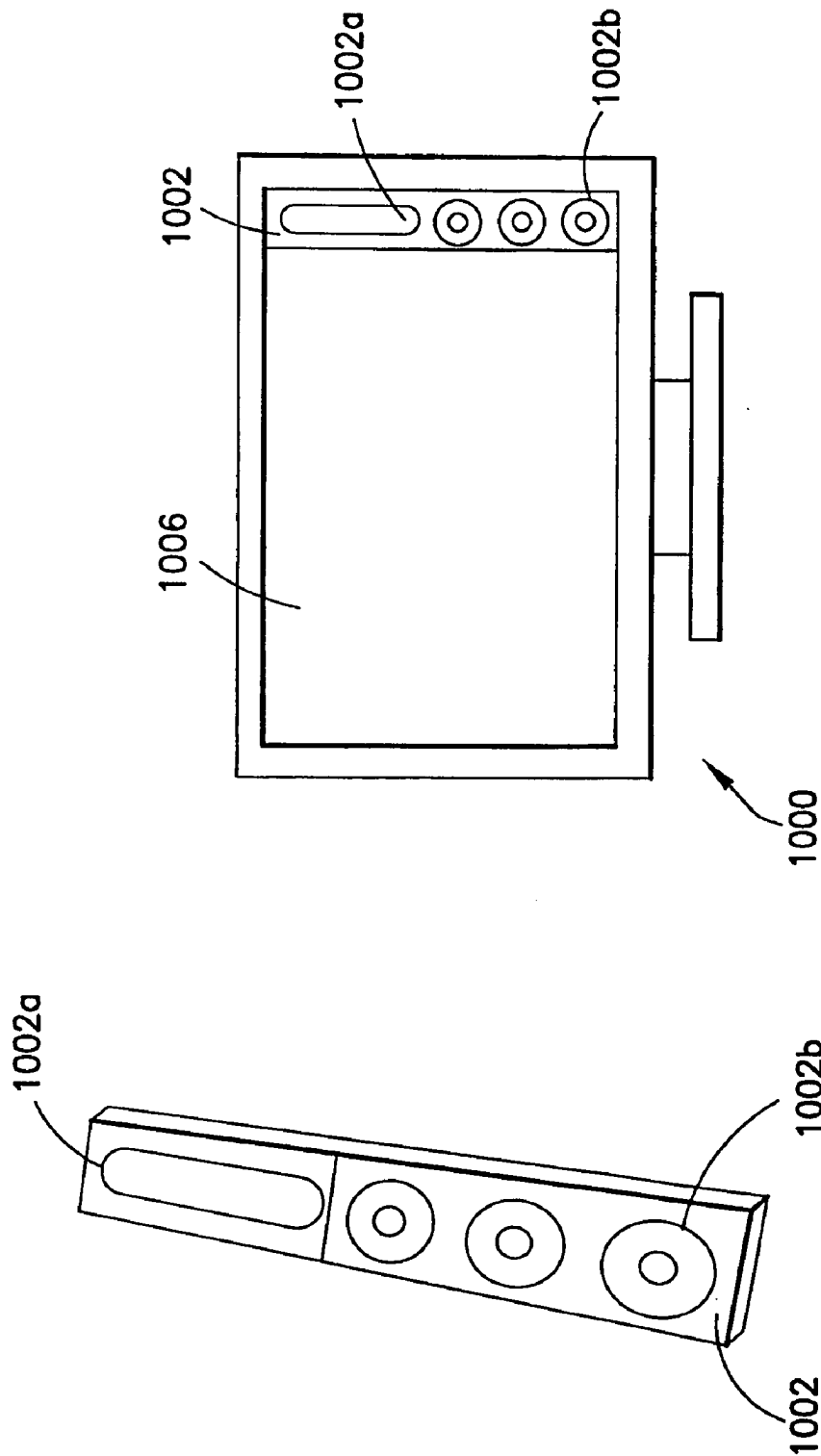


FIG. 6a

FIG. 6b

SLIDER INPUT LID ON TOUCHSCREEN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Technical Field

[0002] The present invention relates to a device having a touch sensitive area (e.g. a touchscreen or touchpad), such as a mobile device or personal computer.

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] Touchscreens of mobile device known in the art are not an optimal input method for mobile situations, because they need a stable environment, may need a separate pen for providing user inputs, and are not necessarily technically very robust.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention provides a new and unique device featuring a touch sensitive area, such as a touchscreen or touchpad, responsive to a first set of user interface inputs from a user; a lid arranged in relation to the touch sensitive area, having a physical guiding form for enabling the user to provide a special set of user interface inputs to the touch sensitive area that are different than the first set; and a switch for changing the functionality of the touchscreen to respond to the special set of user interface inputs based on the position of the lid in relation to the touch sensitive area.

[0006] The physical guiding form enables the user to slide their finger on the surface of the lid for providing the special set of user interface inputs. The physical guiding form may be integrated into the lid or include one or more add-on pieces that are coupled on or to the lid.

[0007] The lid can open with a hinge or can slide away to activate the first set of user interface inputs, which may include a traditional set of touch sensitive area user interface inputs. The lid may be interchangeable based on the application the user runs on the device or by the manufacturer. The lid may be a solid piece of plastic or other suitable material.

[0008] The special set of user interface inputs may be combined with visual graphics seen through a semi-transparent lid or an opening in a solid lid.

[0009] In one embodiment according to the present invention, a capacitive touchscreen can be temporarily turned to a convenient input slider by adding a special lid or cover on it. The lid or cover has the physical guide form on it that guides a user's finger which slides on the surface of the lid for providing the special set of user interface inputs. The lid or cover may be opened with a hinge or can be slid away to activate the traditional full touchscreen user interface inputs. This opening action automatically switches the input mode of the device and the graphics to a full screen interaction mode, including from a "music phone mode" to a "smart-phone mode". In the "music phone mode", the special set of UI inputs may include voice control, play, pause, forward, etc. In dedicated devices, the lid may also be solid. Also the lid or cover may be dedicated to a software or an application as a possible option.

[0010] Options and benefits of the present invention include the following:

[0011] The ability to provide suitable forms for dedicated inputs, including passive physical domes, rotating parts, etc.;

[0012] The ability to provide single components for bridges;

[0013] No active moving parts, only passive forms where the fingers slide easily;

[0014] With dedicated software, a dedicated combination of input components may be provided onto a display, which is comparable to custom PC keyboards for video editing, for instance.

[0015] Potential applications, such as music, media, editing tools, adjusting, tuning, photo editing etc., including gaming and other innovative interaction methods providing software.

[0016] Very slight variants are possible and useful: For example, a ½ millimeter rise or recess on the display does not block display area visually, but already helps to find things by touch.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0017] The drawing includes the following Figures, that are not necessarily drawn to scale:

[0018] FIG. 1 shows a basic block diagram of the device according to the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 2a shows the main parts of one embodiment of the device having a slider shaped lid according to the present invention.

[0020] FIG. 2b(i) shows a user holding the device shown in FIG. 2a.

[0021] FIGS. 2b(ii) and 2b(iii) show side view of the device shown in FIG. 2b(i).

[0022] FIG. 2b(iv) shows a top view of the device shown in FIG. 2b(i).

[0023] FIG. 3a shows another embodiment of the device having a rotator lid according to the present invention.

[0024] FIG. 3b shows the main parts of the embodiment of the device shown in FIG. 3a.

[0025] FIG. 3c shows the rotator lid construction of the device shown in FIG. 3a.

[0026] FIG. 4a shows another embodiment of the device having a rotator lid in the closed position according to the present invention.

[0027] FIG. 4b shows the rotator lid in FIG. 4a in the open position according to the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 5a shows another embodiment of the device having a semi-transparent lid with a volume control view according to the present invention.

[0029] FIG. 5b shows another embodiment of the device having a semi-transparent lid with a music level illustration according to the present invention.

[0030] FIG. 5c shows another embodiment of the device having a semi-transparent lid with a dial view according to the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 5d shows another embodiment of the device having a semi-transparent lid with a clock view according to the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 5e shows another embodiment of the device having a semi-transparent lid and transparent window according to the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 6a shows another embodiment of a PC screen lid according to the present invention.

[0034] FIG. 6b shows another embodiment of the device having the PC screen lid shown in FIG. 6a arranged thereon as an adjustable bridge.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

FIG. 1: The Basic Invention

[0035] FIG. 1 shows the basic invention of a new and unique device generally indicated as **10**, featuring a touch sensitive area, such as touchscreen or touchpad **12**, responsive to a first set of user interface inputs from a user **U** (see FIG. 2b or 4); a lid **14** arranged in relation to the touchscreen or touchpad **12**, having a physical guiding form **15** for enabling the user to provide a special set of user interface inputs to the touchscreen or touchpad **12** that are different than the first set; and a switch **16** for changing the functionality of the touchscreen or touchpad **12** to respond to the special set of user interface inputs based on the position of the lid **14** in relation to the touchscreen or touchpad **12**.

[0036] According to the present invention, the physical guiding form **15** enables the user to slide their finger on the surface of the lid **14** for providing the special set of user interface inputs. The physical guiding form may be integrated into the lid **14** or include one or more add-on pieces that are coupled to or on the lid **14**.

[0037] The lid **14** can open with a hinge or can slide away to activate the first set of user interface inputs, which may include a traditional set touchscreen of user interface inputs. The lid may be interchangeable based on the application the user runs on the device **10**. The lid may be solid, transparent or some combination thereof.

[0038] The special set of user interface inputs may also be combined with visual graphics seen through a semi-transparent lid or an opening in a solid lid, consistent with that shown and described herein.

[0039] The touch sensitive area may take the form of a capacitive touchscreen or touchpad, which are both known in the art, although the scope of the invention is intended to include other types or kinds of touch sensitive areas, touchscreens or touchpads either now known or later developed in the future.

[0040] The switch **16** may include, or form part of, the hinge or slide away member, which are known in the art, although the scope of the invention is intended to include other types or kinds of switches either now known or later developed in the future.

[0041] The device **10** may include other device modules **18** such as one or more processor or control modules for processing user interface inputs control and data signals received from and/or provided to the touchscreen, switch control signals received from and/or provided to the switch, as well as other functionality for implementing the present invention shown and described herein. Such processor or control modules may be implemented using hardware, software, or a combination thereof. In a typical software implementation, such a processor or control module may include a microprocessor-based architecture having a microprocessor, a random access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), input/output devices and control, data and address buses connecting the same. A person skilled in the art of programming would be able to program such a microprocessor-based implementation to perform the functionality described herein without undue experimentation. The other device modules **18** may also include other modules or circuits that are known in the art and do not form part of the present invention, including but not limited to input/output modules or circuits, keyboard modules or circuits, audio modules or circuits, transceiver modules or circuits, etc.

FIGS. 2a, 2b, 2c

[0042] FIGS. 2a, 2b, 2c show one example of a device generally indicated as **100** according to the present invention, where the lid **14** is a slider shaped lid **102** and the physical guide form takes the form of a slider rise/recess **104**. As shown, the slider shaped lid **102** is arranged in relation to a touchscreen **106** that forms part of a housing **108** of the device **100**.

[0043] In FIGS. 2b(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), the slider rise/recess **104** of FIG. 2a is shown as a slider rise **104b** and the physical guide form **15** includes a sharp slider edge **104b'**.

[0044] In FIG. 2c, the slider rise/recess **104** of FIG. 2a is shown as a slider recess **104c** and the physical guide form **15** includes a depression in the slider lid **102**.

[0045] In either case, the physical guiding form enables the user to slide their finger on the surface of the slider shaped lid **102** for providing the special set of user interface inputs.

[0046] In operation, when the slider lid **102** is in the open position, traditional touchscreen user interface (UI) may be in use. In contrast, when the slider lid **102** is in the closed position, the special set of touchscreen UI may be in use. For example, when the device is in a user's pocket, the lid is typically closed, and only limited functions are available, with help of physical capacitive form for simplified "blind use". The physical slider input form **104** on the top of the capacitive touchscreen **106** enables large movements in interaction by the user.

[0047] It is noteworthy that the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular type, kind, shape or size of the physical guide form on the lid. Embodiments are envisioned using other types, kinds, shapes or sizes of the physical guide forms than those shown and described herein, as well as using more than one physical guide forms on the lid.

FIGS. 3a, 3b, 3c

[0048] FIGS. 3a, 3b, 3c show another example of a device generally indicated as **200** according to the present inven-

tion, where the lid **14** is a rotator lid **202** and the physical guide form takes the form of a semi-transparent masking generally indicated as **204**, having a transparent scroll area **205a** and a virtual-physical select button **205b**. As shown, the rotator lid **202** is arranged in relation to a touchscreen **206** that forms part of a housing **208** of the device **200**. The semi-transparent masking **204** is placed on the touchscreen **206** for providing special input and visual effects to the device **200**.

[0049] When the rotator lid **202** is open as shown in FIG. **3a**, the device **202** provides full interaction with traditional touchscreen UI for the user.

[0050] When the rotator lid **202** is closed, only the music and media scroller **205a**, and the select button **205b** in middle of it, are in use for providing the special set of UI inputs in the form of, for example, the special input and visual effects.

[0051] In one particular embodiment, the device may be switched between a smartphone mode or a musicphone mode depending on the position of the lid **202**. In effect, the rotator lid **202** masks the capacitive touchscreen so that a round area is left interactive. This form is suitable for media-, menu- or music scrolling, volume adjusting, etc. The form and feel of the lid **202** enables using several functions without seeing the device **200** or touchscreen display **206**. Moreover, the semi-transparent lid **202** with the fully transparent scroll area **205a** enables also many visual effects and creative design with UI elements.

[0052] In practice, the switch **14** (FIG. **1**) may take the form of a mode switch that can be realised based on a physical switch or capacitive recognition, which are techniques both known in the art. The scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular type or kind of mode switch either now known or later developed in the future.

[0053] Further, embodiments are envisioned in which the construction can be combined with vibro-tactual and/or audio feedback in response to UI inputs.

FIGS. **4a**, **4b**

[0054] FIGS. **4a**, **4b** show another example of a device generally indicated as **400** according to the present invention, where the lid **14** is a rotator lid **402** and the physical guide form takes the form of a transparent lid generally indicated as **404**, having an opening **405**. The transparent lid **404** is shown as a plastic plate, although the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular type or kind of material being used for the lid. For example, embodiments are envisioned using other types or kind of materials either now known or later developed in the future. As shown, the rotator lid **402** is arranged in relation to a touchscreen **406** that forms part of a housing **408** of the device **400**. The rotator lid **402** is placed on the touchscreen **406** for providing the special set of UI inputs, consistent with that shown and described herein.

[0055] As shown, the device **400** has an adhesive tape **410** as a hinge. Adhesive tapes are known in the art and the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to any particular type or kind thereof for using as the hinge. For example, embodiments are envisioned using other types or kind of adhesive tapes either now known or later developed in the future.

FIGS. **5a** to **5e**

[0056] FIGS. **5a** to **5e** show, by way of example, different embodiments having different types of semi-transparent lids with different types of views and different types of visual graphics.

[0057] FIG. **5a** shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **500** having a semi-transparent lid **502** similar to the rotator lid shown in FIGS. **3a**, **3b** which may be used as a volume control for adjusting the volume of the device **500**. In this case, the volume adjusts with an interactive virtual volume knob. The visual knob graphics **505c** are placed or displayed on the round touch area **505a**, and other information on the semi-transparent area such as **505b**. The volume can be easily adjusted with the finger by turning the knob **505c** even if the device **500** is in the pocket of the user. Although the embodiment is described in relation to controlling the volume of the device, the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to the same. For example, embodiments are envisioned for controlling other types or kinds of functionality of the device either now known or later developed in the future, including but not limited to controlling the bass, treble and/or balance of the device.

[0058] FIG. **5b** shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **600** having a semi-transparent lid **602** which may be used as a music level illustration generally indicated as **603** for displaying the music level of the device **600**. The visual graphics are seen through the semi-transparent lid **602**. Although the embodiment is described in relation to controlling the music level of the device, the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to the same. For example, embodiments are envisioned for controlling other types or kinds of functionality of the device either now known or later developed in the future, including but not limited to controlling and displaying the graphic equalization of the music of the device.

[0059] FIG. **5c** shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **700** having a semi-transparent lid **702** with a phone dial view generally indicated as **703a** which may be used to make phone calls on the device **700**. The dialed number **703b** may be shown on the inactive cover part of the lid. Although the embodiment is described in relation to make phone calls on the device, the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to the same. For example, embodiments are envisioned for providing other types or kinds of functionality on the device either now known or later developed in the future, including but not limited to providing calculator functionality, etc.

[0060] FIG. **5d** shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **800** having a semi-transparent lid **802** with a clock view generally indicated as **803a** which may be used to provide the time on the device **800**. The time and/or alarm can be set by moving the clock hands **803b** directly on the interactive area. Although the embodiment is described in relation to show the time on the device, the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to the same. For example, embodiments are envisioned for displaying other types or kinds of functionality on the device either now known or later developed in the future, including but not limited to displaying the temperature, etc.

[0061] FIG. **5e** shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **900** having a semi-transparent lid **902** with a rotator lid opening **903a** for providing "limited" touch

interaction and a transparent window **903b** for showing data in a small display related, for example, to music playing on the device, such as the name of the song, as well as some other device functionality. Although the embodiment is described in relation to show data related to music playing on the device, the scope of the invention is not intended to be limited to the same. For example, embodiments are envisioned for displaying other types or kinds of information on the device either now known or later developed in the future, including but not limited to displaying stock or weather information being broadcast on the device, etc.

FIGS. 6a, 6b

[0062] FIGS. 6a, 6b shows an embodiment of a device generally indicated as **1000** in the form of a PC having a screen lid **1002** arranged on a touchscreen **1006**. The screen lid **1002** has a slide opening (or “bridge”) **1002a** and one or more rotator lid openings **1002b** for implementing functionality related to the touchscreen, including adjusting the colour balance. The screen lid **1002** can easily be turned onto and off the display using a hinge (not shown).

The Scope of the Invention

[0063] It should be understood that, unless stated otherwise herein, any of the features, characteristics, alternatives or modifications described regarding a particular embodiment herein may also be applied, used, or incorporated with any other embodiment described herein.

[0064] Although the invention has been described and illustrated with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, the foregoing and various other additions and omissions may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

1. A device comprising:
 - a touch sensitive area responsive to a first set of user interface inputs from a user;
 - a lid arranged in relation to the touch sensitive area, having a physical guiding form for enabling the user to provide a special set of user interface inputs to the touch sensitive area that are different than the first set; and
 - a switch for changing the functionality of the touch sensitive area to respond to the special set of user interface inputs based on the position of the lid in relation to the touch sensitive area.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the physical guiding form enables a user to slide their finger on the surface of the lid for providing the special set of user inputs.
3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the touch sensitive area is a capacitive touchscreen device or a touchpad.
4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the lid can open with a hinge or can slide away to activate a full set of touch sensitive area user interface functionality.
5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the opening of the lid automatically switches the input mode and graphics to full screen interaction mode, including changing the functionality from a “music phone mode” to a “smartphone mode”, and vice versa when the lid is closed.
6. A device according to claim 4, wherein the opening of the lid automatically switches a software program or other application.

7. A device according to claim 4, wherein the lid is a solid piece of plastic or other suitable material.

8. A device according to claim 3, wherein the physical guiding form is integrated into the lid or includes one or more add-on pieces that are coupled on the lid.

9. A device according to claim 1, wherein the lid or the physical guiding form is interchangeable according to applications the user runs on the device.

10. A device according to claim 1, wherein the physical guiding form is a rotator lid or a slider lid for providing music, media or browsing user inputs.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the rotator lid includes a piece of transparent material such as plastic with a rotator form.

12. A device according to claim 10, wherein the rotator lid includes a plastic plate with a round hole for guiding a user finger for providing user inputs.

13. A device according to claim 1, wherein the lid has an adhesive tape as a hinge.

14. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is a personal computer (PC), and the lid is an adjusting bridge add-on for the PC touchscreen.

15. A device according to claim 1, wherein the lid is a masking lid placed on the touch sensitive area for providing special input and visual effects.

16. A device according to claim 15, wherein the masking lid includes a semi-transparent mask, a transparent scroll area, a virtual-physical select button, or some combination thereof.

17. A device according to claim 3, wherein the physical guiding form is a rise or recess in or on the lid.

18. A device according to claim 17, wherein the rise includes a sharp slider edge.

19. A device according to claim 17, wherein the rise includes a flat slider edge.

20. A device according to claim 17, wherein the recess is a curved recess.

21. A device according to claim 14, wherein the adjusting bridge add-on includes one or more slider openings, one or more rotator openings, or some combination thereof.

21. A device according to claim 1, wherein the special set of user inputs includes dedicated inputs, for applications involving video, music, photo, media, using editing tools such as adjusting or tuning.

22. A device according to claim 1, wherein the special set of user inputs are combined with a vibro-tactile and/or audio response.

22. A device according to claim 1, wherein the special set of user interface inputs are combined with visual graphics seen through a semi-transparent lid.

23. A device according to claim 22, wherein the visual graphics include analogue control view, such as a volume view, a dial view, a clock view or a meter view.

24. A device according to claim 22, wherein the visual graphics include a digital control view.

25. A device according to claim 22, wherein the visual graphics include an alphanumeric view containing information related to the graphic user input.

26. A device according to claim 1, wherein the lid is moved to one position for operating the touch sensitive area with the first set of user interface inputs, and moved to another position for operating the touch sensitive area with the special set of user interface inputs.

* * * * *