

Exhibit 4

(12) **United States Patent**
Benjamin et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 13, 2004**

(54) **PLAY LIST MANAGER**

6,084,581 A * 7/2000 Hunt
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(73) Assignee: **PhatNoise, Inc.**, Los Angeles, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Robert Chevalier

(21) Appl. No.: **09/521,874**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 8, 2000**

A play list manager is disclosed that can be used to create and update play lists. The play lists can be used for audio information, visual information, or a combination of audio and visual information. The user of the play list manager creates a play list and specifies certain criteria for automatically adding tracks to the play list. When a new track is added to the environment, the system tests whether the track's properties satisfy the criteria for the play list. If so, the new track is automatically added to the play list. In one alternative, a user can select a predefined play list, whose criteria has already been created. Upon selection of the predefined play list, the play list manager accesses each track and adds the track to the play list if the track's properties satisfy the criteria for the predefined play list.

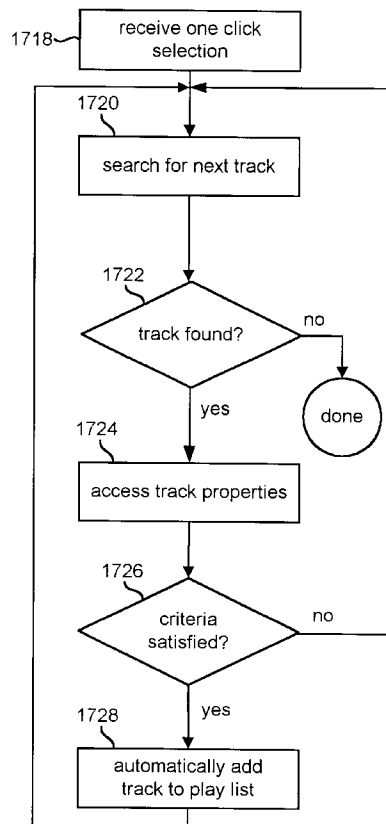
(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **H04N 5/91**; G11B 27/00
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **386/46**; 386/55
(58) **Field of Search** 386/46, 1, 4, 6,
386/52, 55, 69, 68, 83, 104, 105, 106, 125;
369/30.01; 360/13; H04N 5/91; G11B 27/00

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51 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



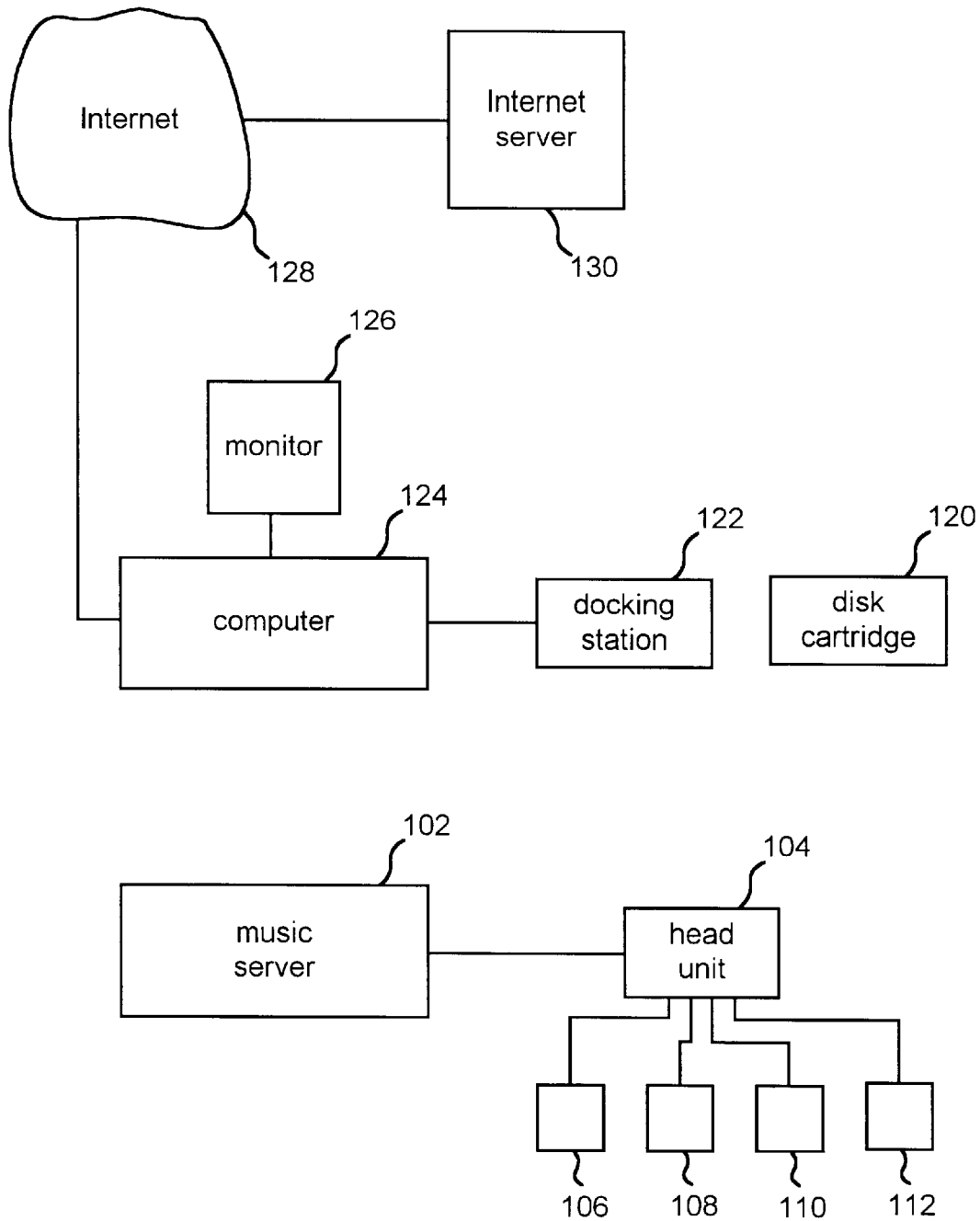


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

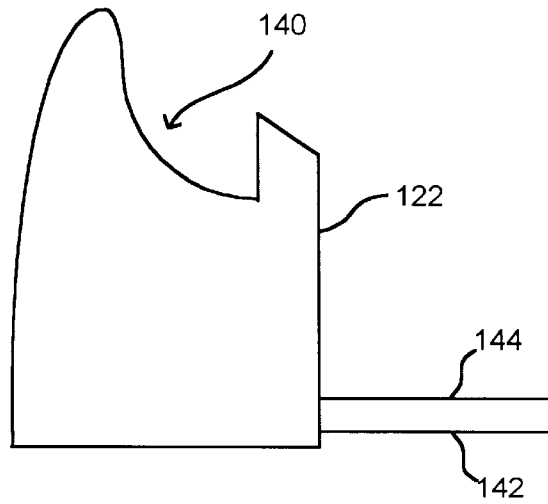
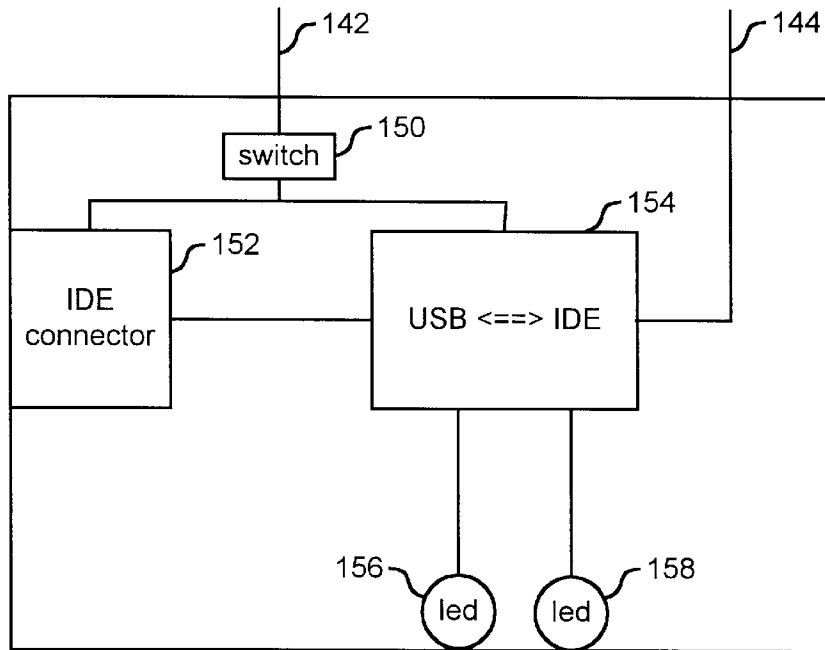


Fig. 3



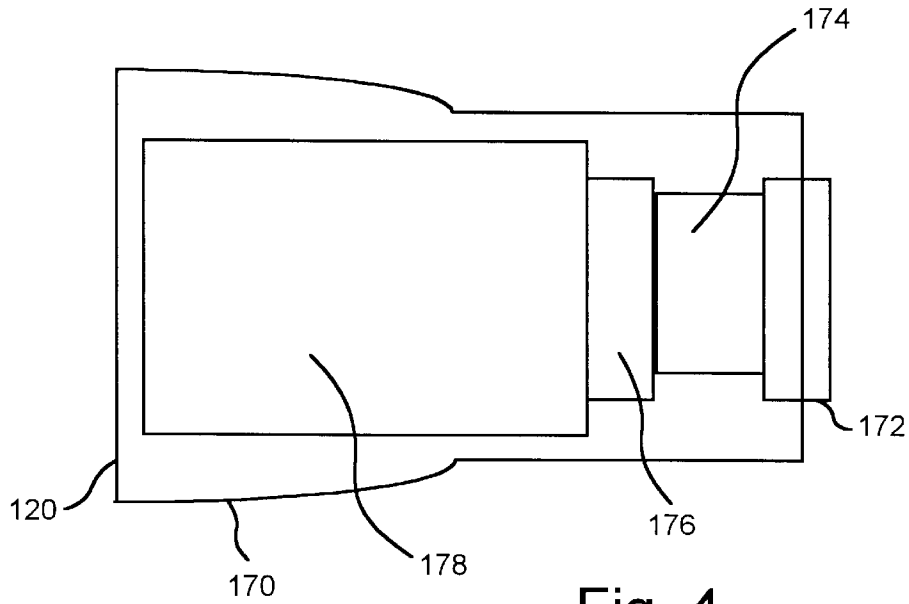


Fig. 4

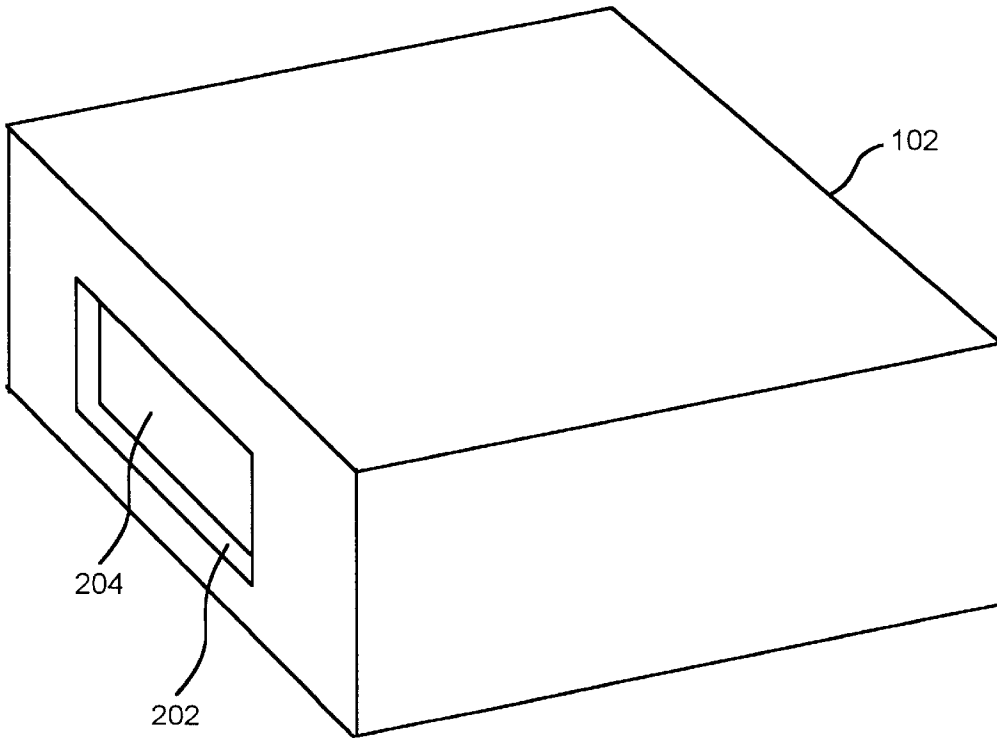


Fig. 5

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