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(12) United States Patent MacPhail

(54) METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DISPLAYING STATUS OF CRITICAL INDICATORS ON DIVERSE DISPLAY DEVICES

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

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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- - 345/736, 764, 771, 772, 835, 837, 846, 977; 700/27; 710/15, 17, 18, 19

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Primary Examiner-John Cabeca

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(45) Date of Patent:

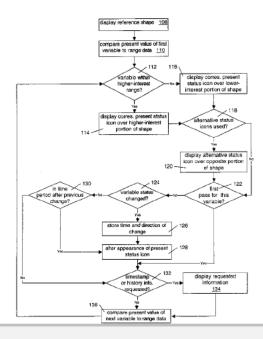
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(57) ABSTRACT

In a system and method for displaying status of critical indicators or variables, icons representing the indicators are displayed in superposition with a reference shape. The reference shape is divided into "higher-interest" and "lowerinterest" portions, such that display of an icon over the higher-interest portion of the reference shape indicates a higher-interest value of the corresponding variable. The reference shape is preferably elongated horizontally, with its upper portion designated as the higher-interest portion and its lower portion designated the lower-interest portion. Each monitored variable may be allocated a vertical "slice" of the reference shape, such that the position of the corresponding icon when the variable is in the higher-interest state is laterally aligned with the position of the icon when the variable is in the lower-interest state. In some embodiments, a single icon representing the present status of the corresponding variable is positioned over either the higherinterest or lower-interest portion of the reference shape. Alternatively, two icons may be used for each variable, where one is positioned over the higher-interest portion and the other over the lower-interest portion. This representation is believed to make the status of each monitored variable visible at a glance. The simplicity of the representation may allow it to be used effectively on various computational devices, including those with small, monochrome displays.

28 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



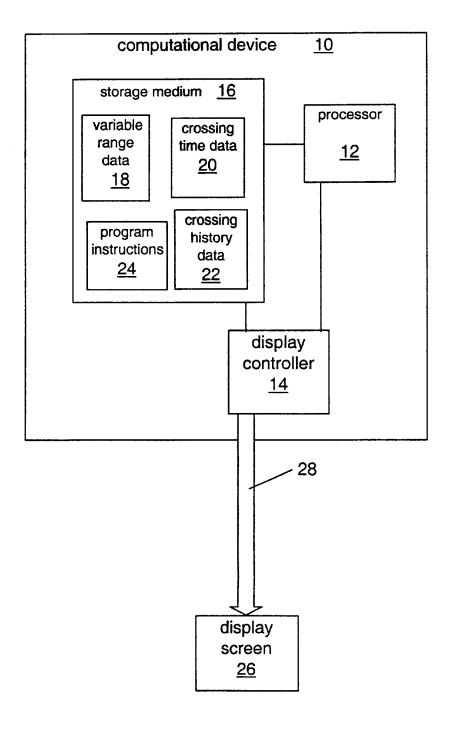
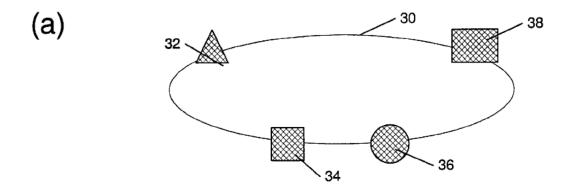
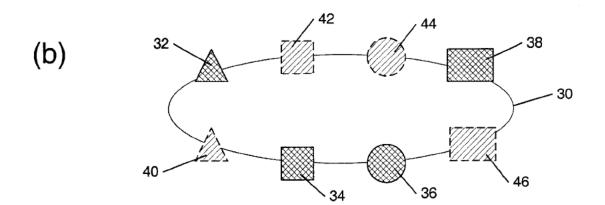


Fig. 1

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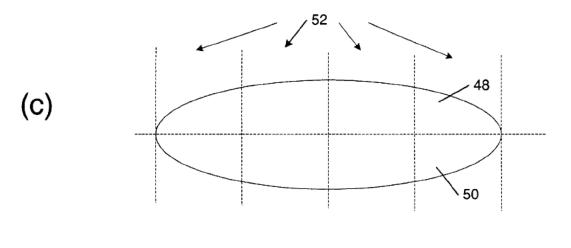
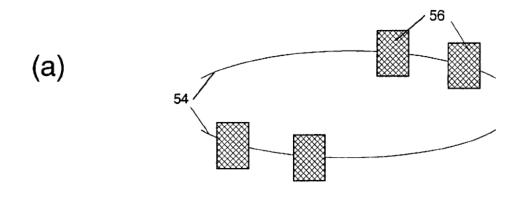
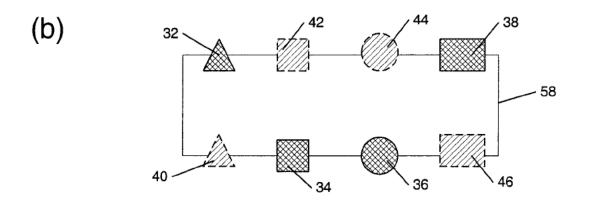
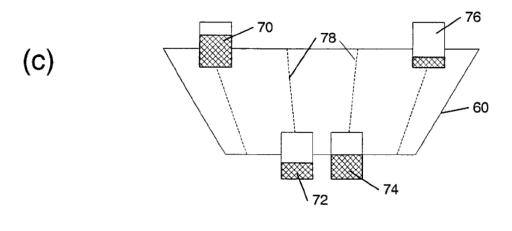


Fig. 2

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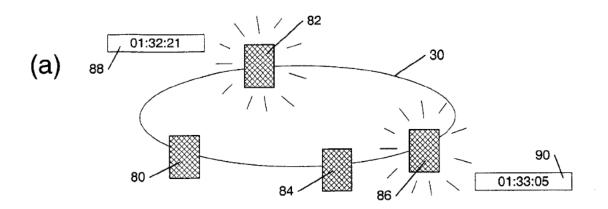


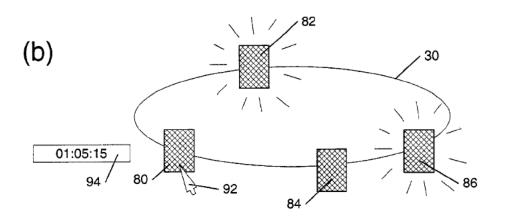


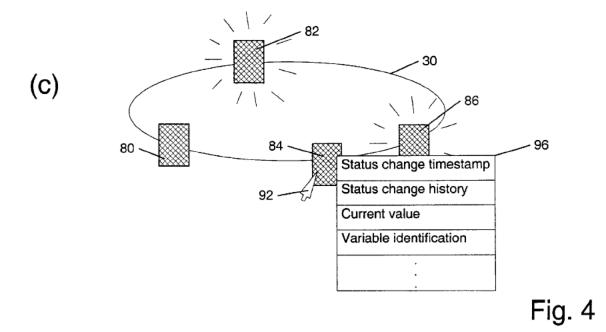




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