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United States Patent [19]

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Thompson

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- [54] **LASER ENHANCED PERSONAL DATA ASSISTANT**
- [75] Inventor: **Curtis Thompson**, Salt Lake City, Utah
- [73] Assignee: **3Com Corporation**, Santa Clara, Calif.
- [21] Appl. No.: **09/036,851**
- [22] Filed: **Mar. 9, 1998**
- [51] **Int. Cl.⁷** **G06F 13/00**
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** **385/88; 235/454; 710/72**
- [58] **Field of Search** 385/88, 89, 92-94; 372/109; 235/462, 472, 454; 710/62, 63, 72-74

Primary Examiner—John D. Lee
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Workman, Nydegger & Seeley

[57] **ABSTRACT**

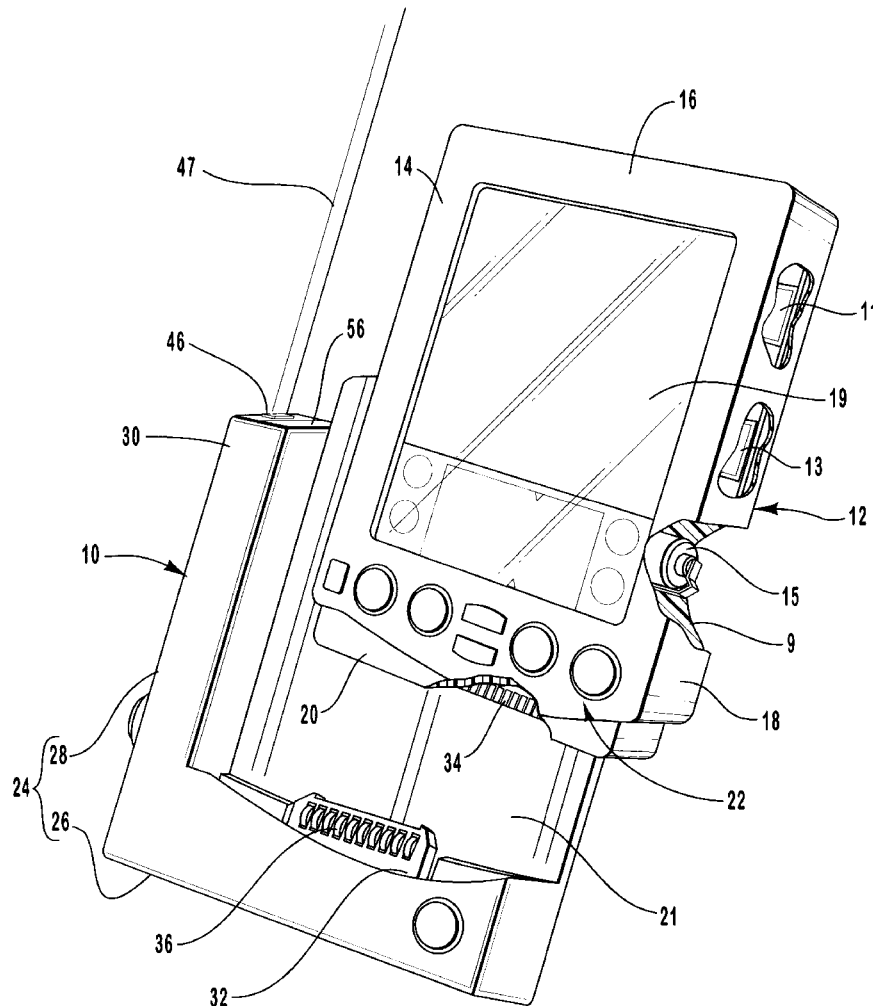
An adapter having an L-shaped housing is configured for removable attachment to a conventional PDA. The adapter is electrically coupled with the PDA and includes a laser or other light source configured to selectively emanate a light beam that can be modified into a digital signal. The digital signal can be received by a photo detector on a computer for facilitating a download of data from the PDA to the computer. The light beam from the laser can also be used as a presentation pointer. The adapter further includes a photo detector which is selectively positioned relative to the laser so that the light beam from the laser can be reflected off a bar code and received by the photo detector. The reflected signal is then converted to a digital signal which is then forwarded to the PDA for storage or access of other corresponding information.

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



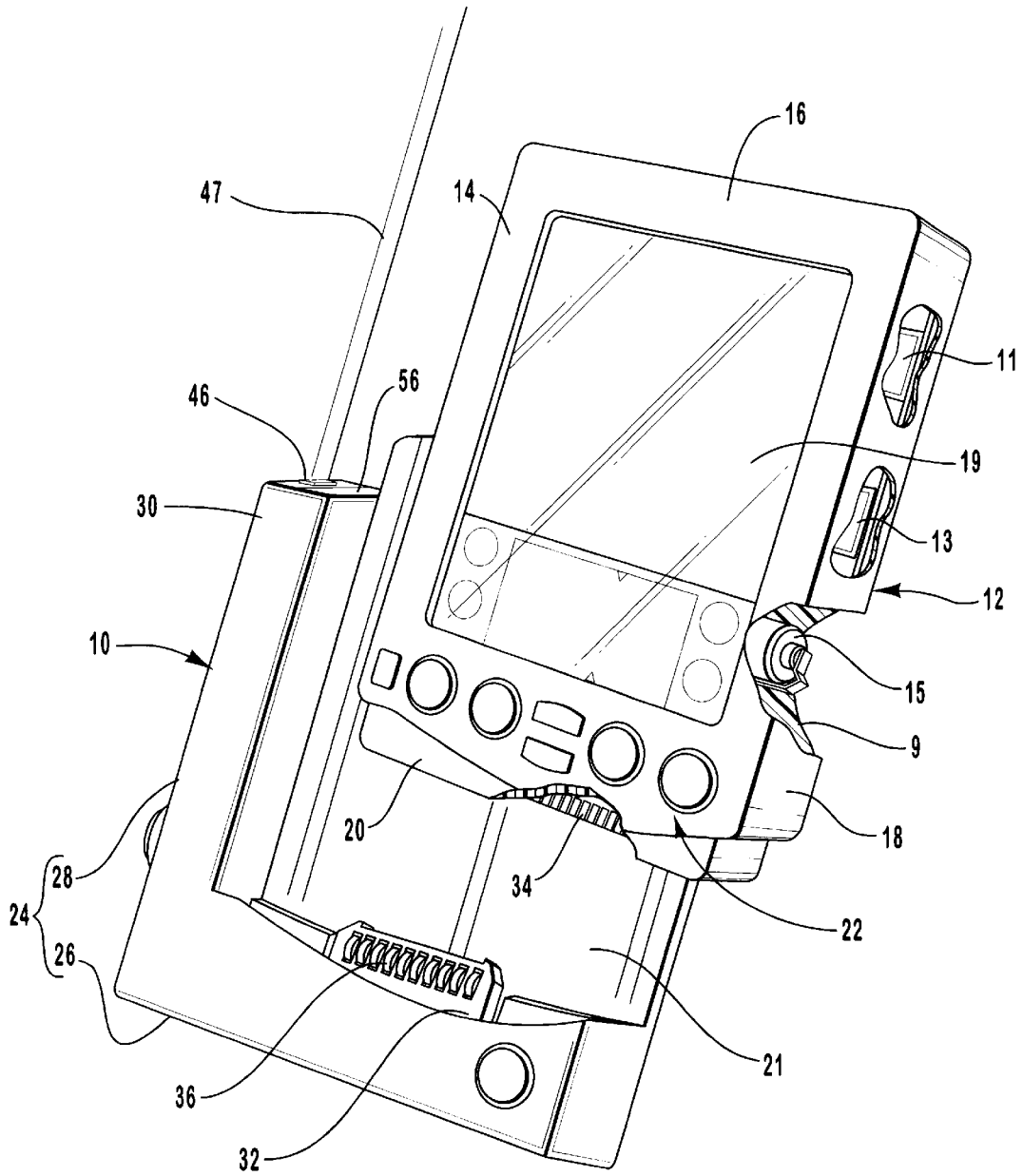


FIG. 1

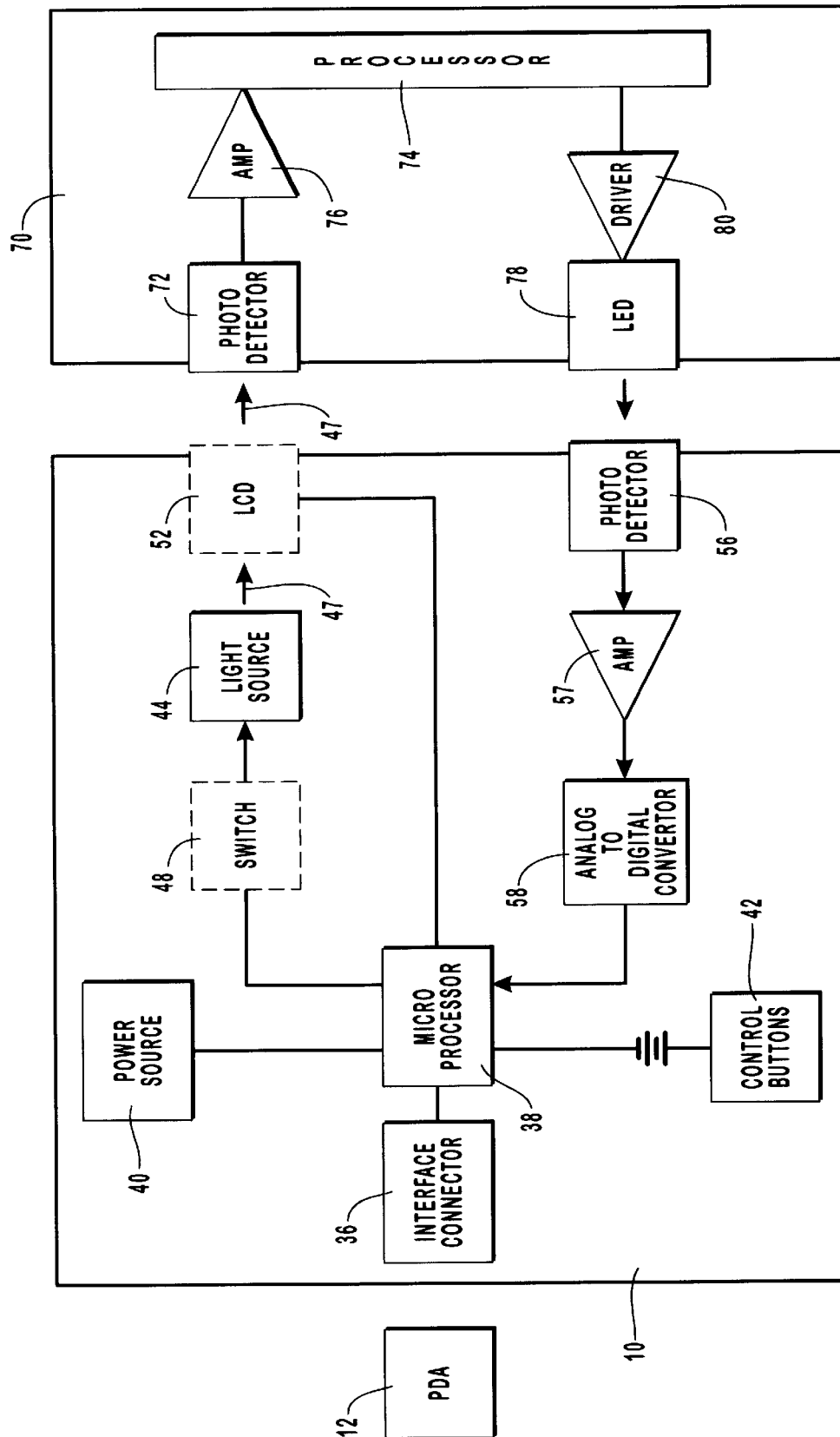


FIG. 2

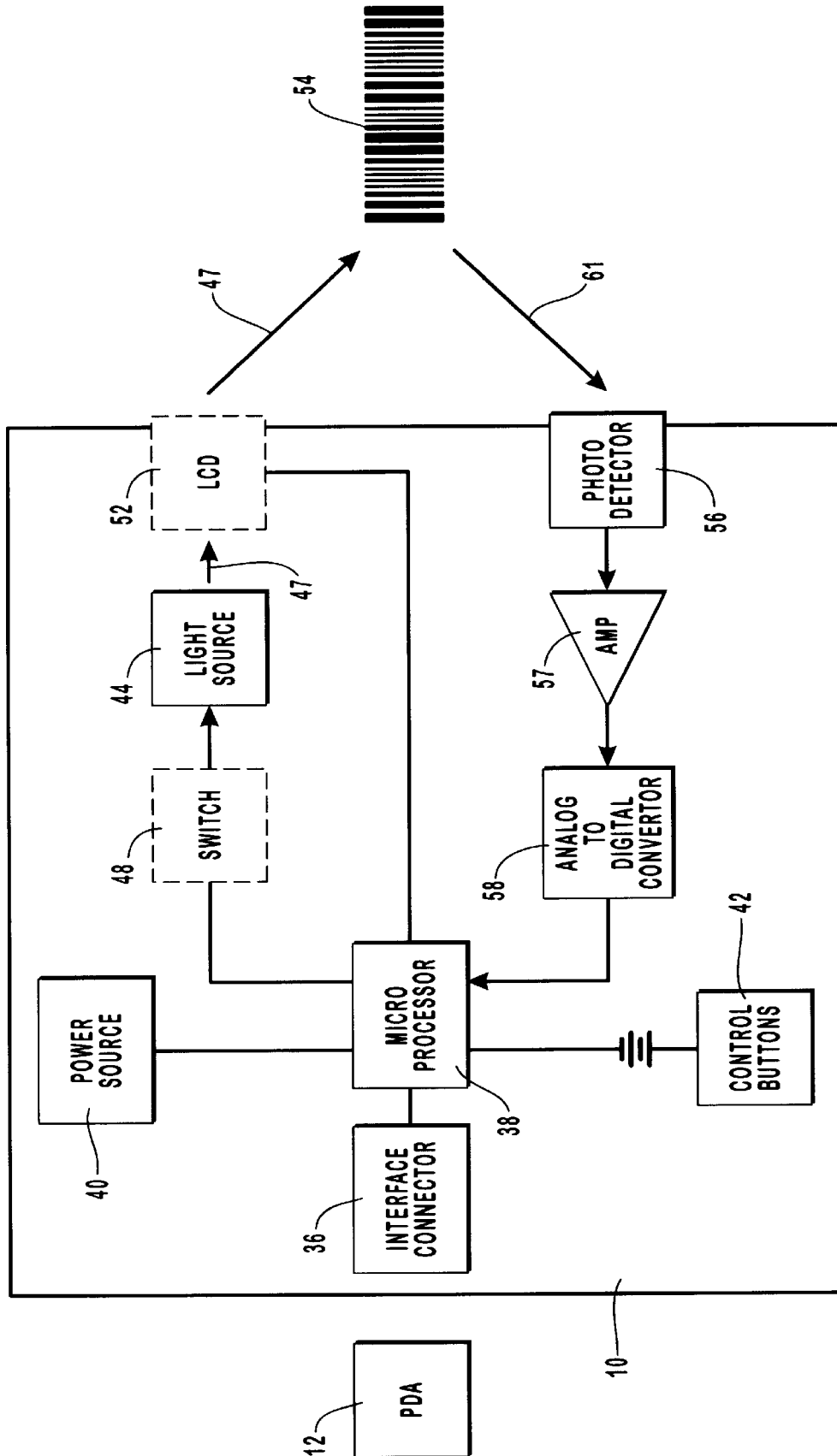


FIG. 3

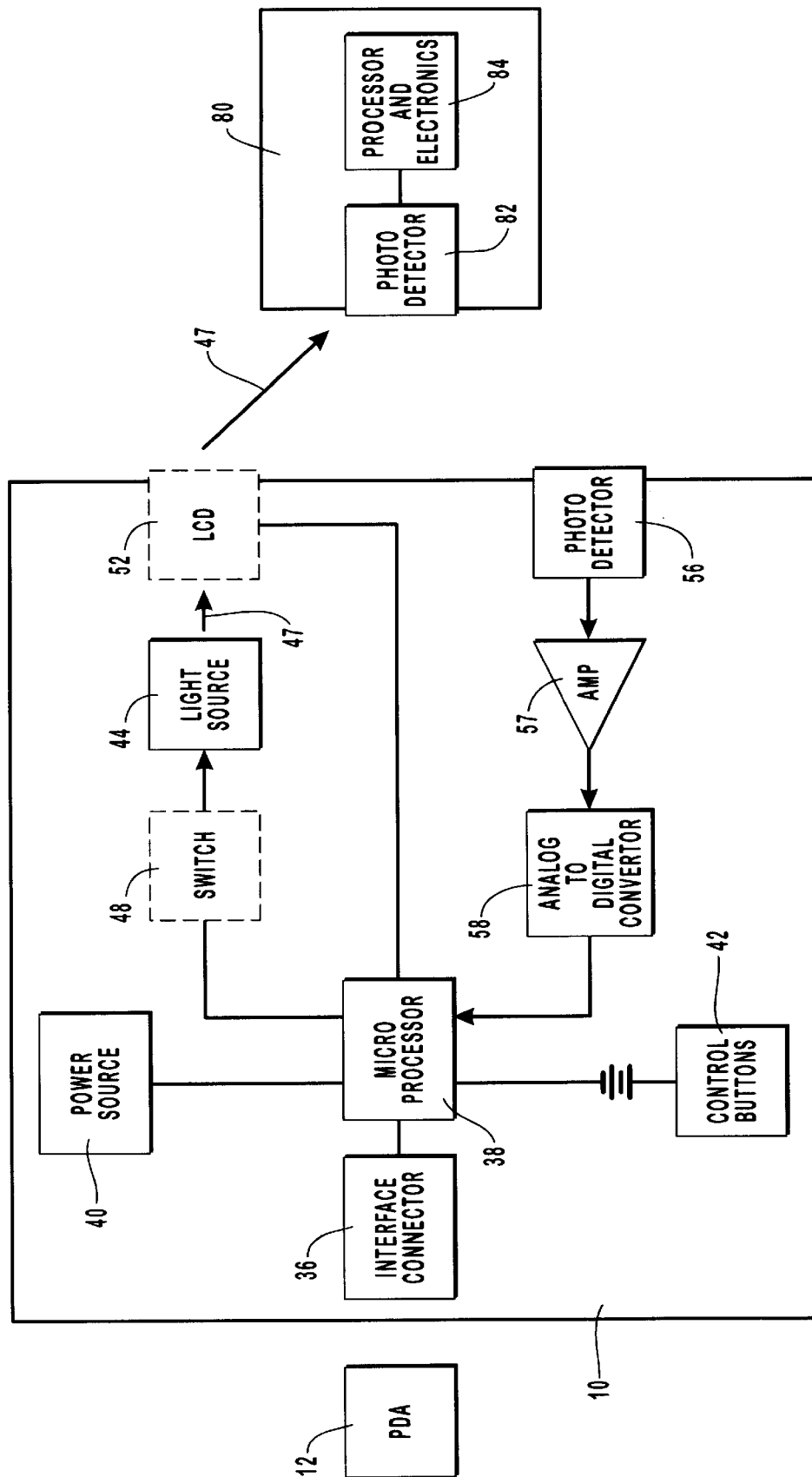


FIG. 4

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