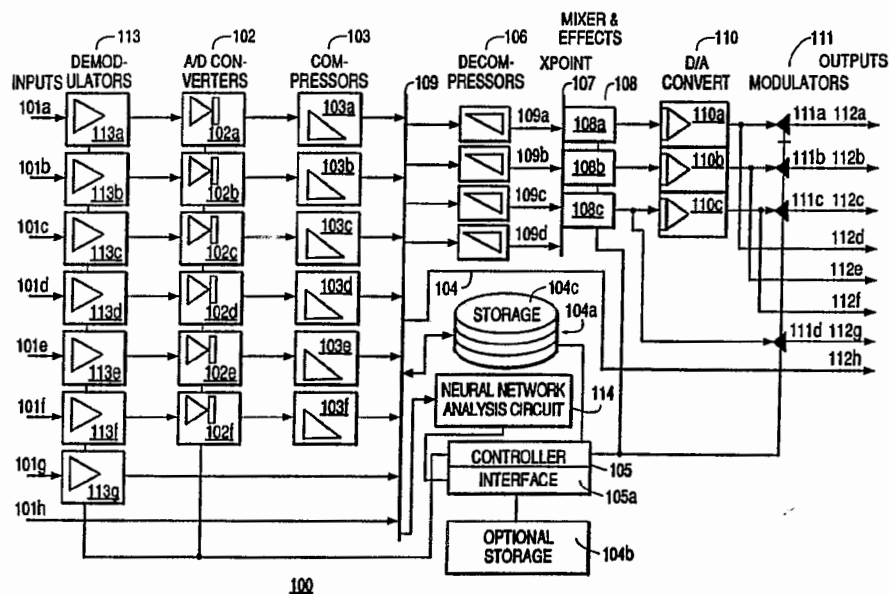


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(54) Title: LARGE CAPACITY, RANDOM ACCESS, MULTI-SOURCE RECORDER PLAYER



(57) Abstract

An audio/video recorder system receives a plurality of transmission signals each containing program information and simultaneously stores the received transmission signals. The system can be controlled by user input to allow for automatic recording of selected programs simultaneously input from multiple sources, reconfiguration of stored programs, and routing of stored programs to selected outputs.

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LARGE CAPACITY, RANDOM ACCESS,
MULTI-SOURCE RECORDER PLAYER

Background of the Present Invention

The present invention relates generally to a large capacity, random access, multi-source audio and video recorder player which is capable of receiving a plurality of simultaneous input signals and which allows a user to view and/or to record selected ones of the plurality of input signals.

Currently, television viewers for the most part have little flexibility with regard to when broadcast programming may be viewed. The broadcaster's schedule is the user's schedule. The video cassette recorder (VCR) is the only device which allows a user to control the recording of programs and the time of viewing programs, by replaying recorded programs. The VCR allows the user to pre-set recording for a specific program by selecting the specific date, time, and channel that the program is broadcast. Such features allow the user to record without being present and to replay the recorded material at another time.

However, current VCRs have limited storage capacity and only single source capability and therefore do not provide the user with a great degree of flexibility and control over program recording. Moreover, conventional VCRs require constant attention for selection and recording of each program. Furthermore, a conventional VCR can only record one program at a time, while a typical household can receive many programs from multiple sources simultaneously.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide large capacity multiple source recording with random access, thus affording the user greater flexibility and control over the recording and replaying of programs.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a large capacity recorder player which allows continuous recording of a program with automatic erasure, such that the material recorded first is automatically erased first when the multi-source recorder player storage reaches capacity. This feature greatly reduces the need for constant user attention and provides multiple viewing options.

Another object of the present invention is to allow the user to record from multiple channels individually, serially, or simultaneously.

Another object of the present invention is to allow the user to view programs while simultaneously recording one or more other programs.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-source recorder player whereby the user can modify stored programs.

Another object of the present invention is to allow the user to record from multiple channels and from multiple distribution sources simultaneously.

Still another object of the present invention is to allow the recorder to adapt to the viewing habits of the user by analyzing selected criteria.

A further object of the present invention is to record material continuously to allow random retention of chosen program segments.

Yet another object of the present invention is to permit the user to mix multiple stored programs into a composite form.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and obtained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Summary of the Invention

To achieve the objects in accordance with the purposes of the present invention, as embodied and described herein, the audio/video recorder system of the present invention comprises input port means for receiving a plurality of transmission signals each containing program information, and storage means, coupled to the input port means, for simultaneously storing the plurality of received transmission signals.

The present invention further comprises an audio/video recorder system comprising input port means for receiving a plurality of transmission signals each containing program information; storage processing means, coupled to the input port means, for storing the program information in the plurality of received transmission signals; and playback means, coupled to the storage means, for retrieving and playing desired program information from the stored received transmission signals, for playing program information simultaneously with the storing of program information by the storage processing means, and for playing different program information simultaneously.

The present invention further comprises an audio/video recording device for simultaneously storing information from a plurality of sources, the recorder comprising input

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