

(54) **MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEM WITH COLOR CODED COMPONENTS**

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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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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **710/100**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 439/488, 489, 439/490; 395/281

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A microcomputer system facilitates the connection of peripheral devices to a computer unit with a plurality of external ports for connecting to external peripheral devices. In one embodiment of the invention, a set of adhesive strips is attached to positions adjacent to the ports. Each strip in the set has a distinct color. Another embodiment of the invention includes an adhesive strip having a plurality of color coded regions, each of the color coded regions being placed adjacent to a separate one of the external ports.

The microcomputer system also contains at least one peripheral device. The device is designed to be electrically matched to one of the ports. In one embodiment of the present invention, the peripheral device contains a cable and a plug. The plug has a color which is substantially the same as the strip color associated with the matching port. Thus, a user merely has to match the color of the plug to the color of the strip in order to determine the correct way to connect the peripheral device to the computer unit. Alternately, the cable instead of the plug can be color coded or both the cable and the plug can be color coded. In yet another embodiment of the invention, one or more adhesive strips each also have a commonly used icon, identifying the peripheral device whose plug is designed to connect with the external port, adjacent to which the adhesive strip has been attached.

**8 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**

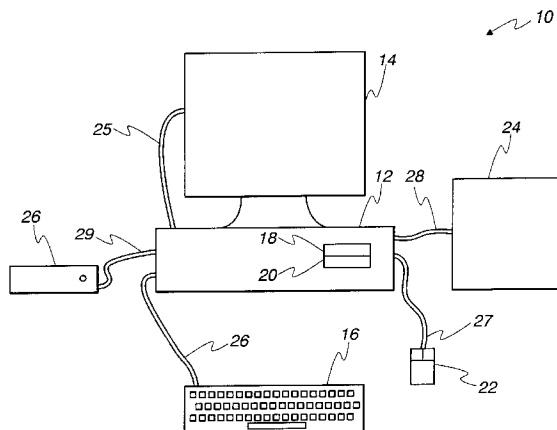


Fig. 1

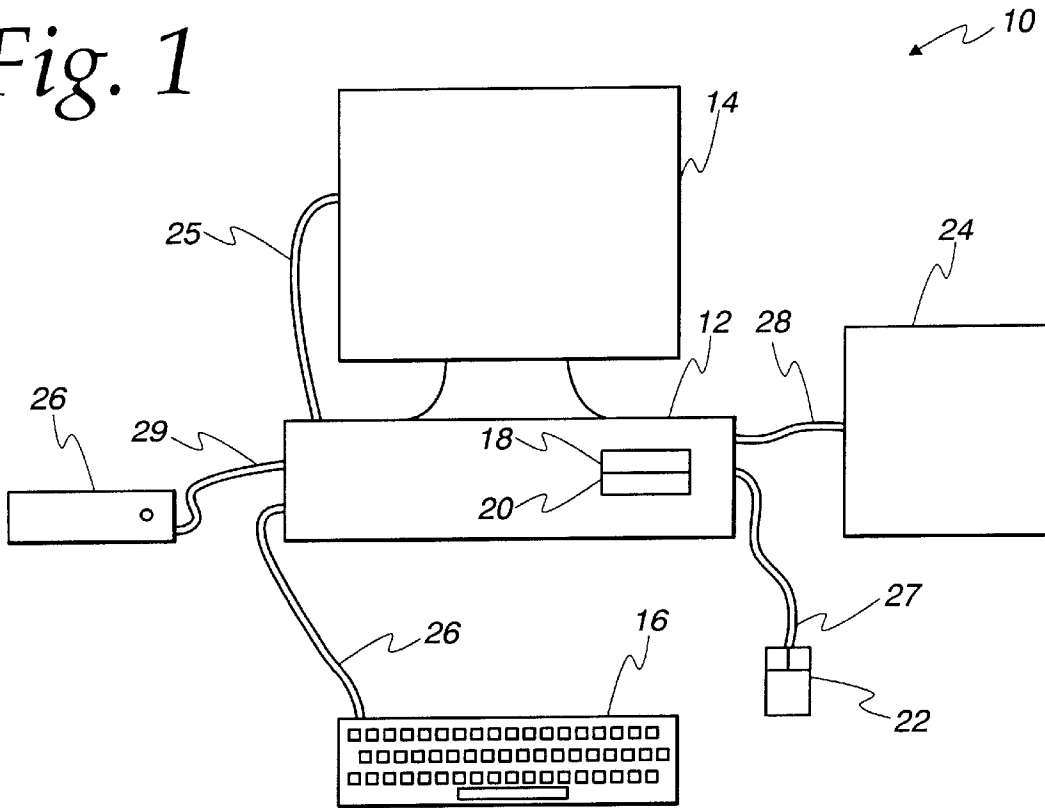


Fig. 2A

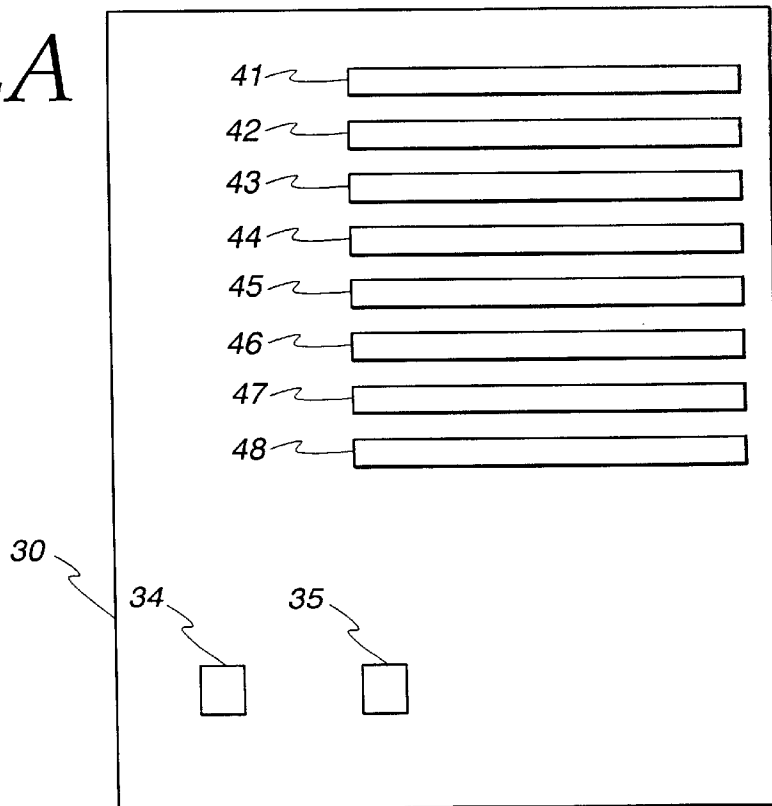


Fig. 2B

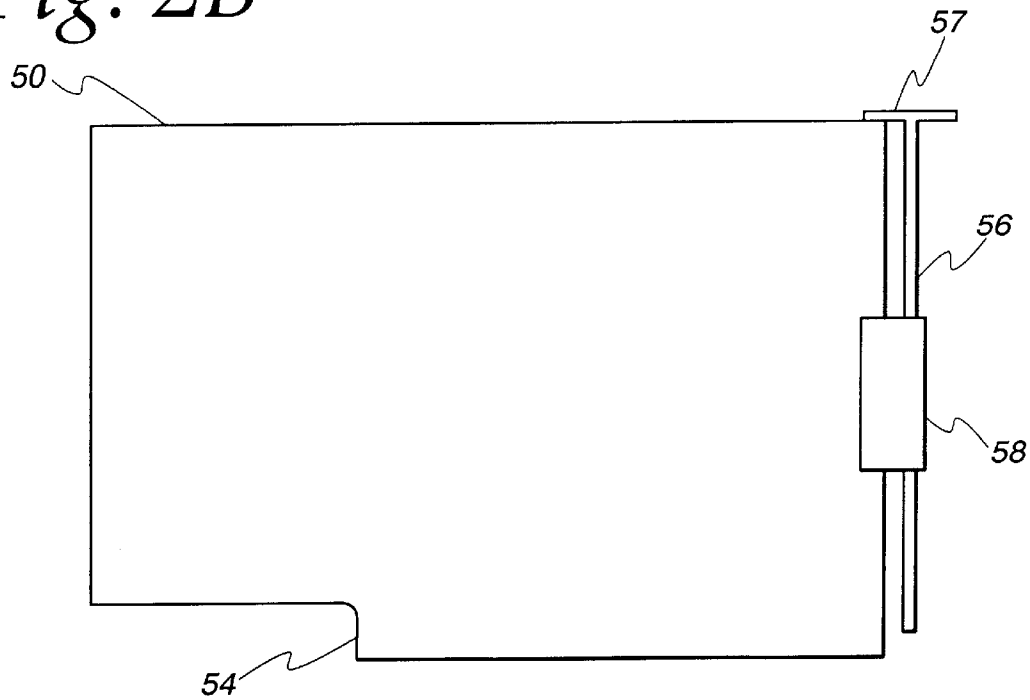
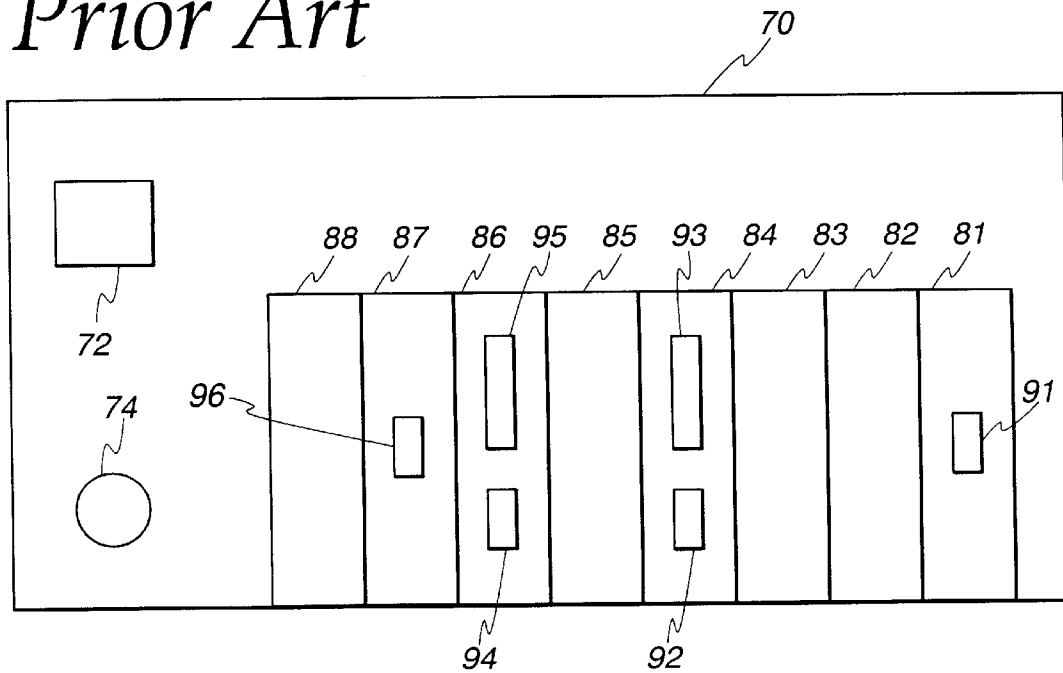


Fig. 3  
Prior Art



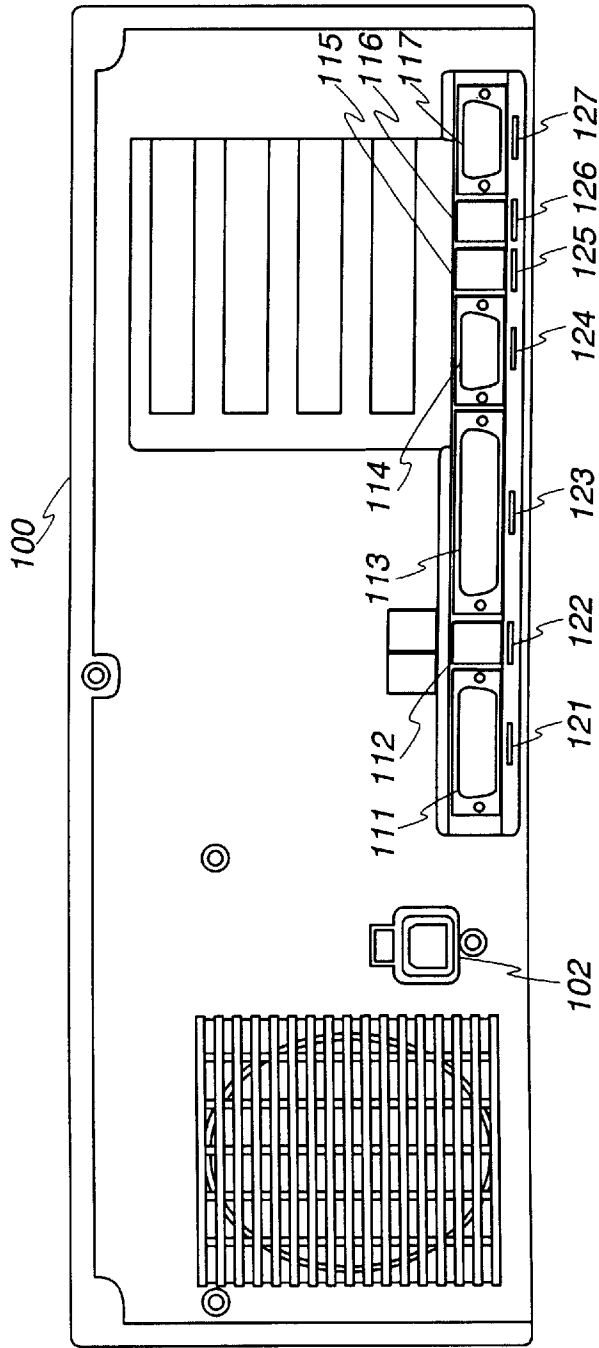


Fig. 4A

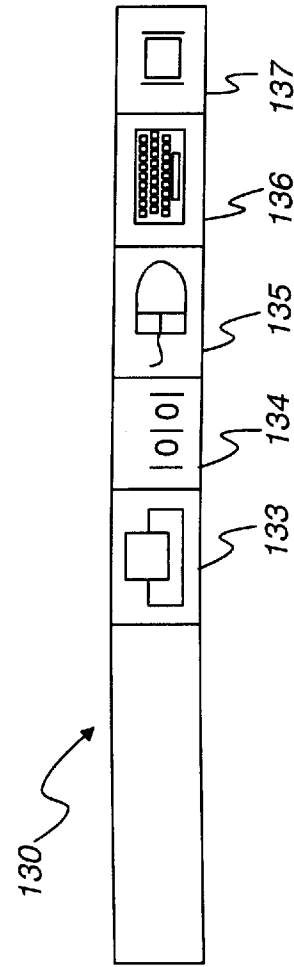


Fig. 4B

Fig. 5

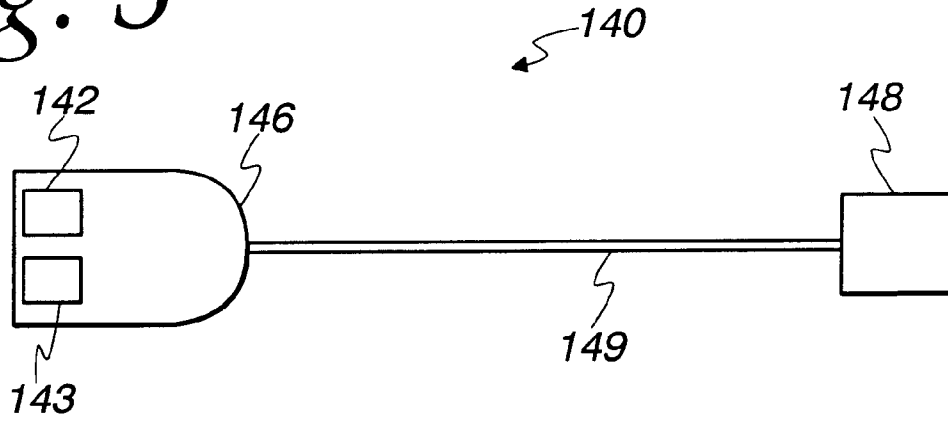
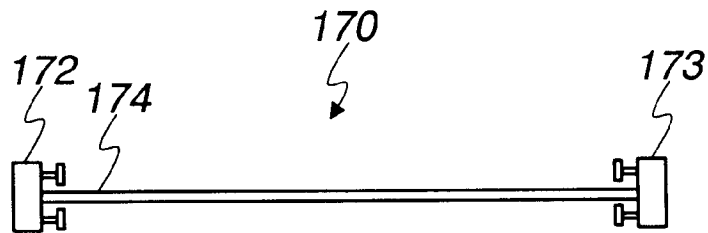


Fig. 6



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