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Reading Berkshire, RG1 2BN(GB)(54) **Character keyboards.**

(57) A keyboard suitable for a typewriter, word processor, computer terminal and the like consists of an array of keys corresponding to the characters of an alphabet arranged in distinct adjacent zones (11 to 19). The zones (11 to 19) may be delineated by boundaries (21, 22 or 30) or may be intrinsically defined by the nature of the characters they contain. The zones (11 to 19) are arranged in rows. The vowel characters of the alphabet are located in one or more adjacent zones (15) which are not in the top or bottom rows and which do not extend to either lateral extreme of the array.

Peripheral characters or keys are preferably larger than central characters or keys and the characters in each zone, in the top row and in the bottom row are preferably alphabetically related.

The keyboard is faster to use than a Qwerty layout for an untrained operator and results in fewer errors, and touch-typing is faster to learn on the keyboard.

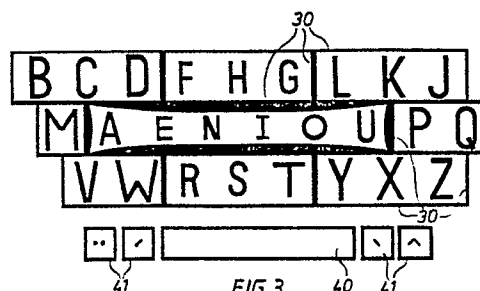


FIG. 3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
A	US-A-3 698 533 (H.C. ILLIG) * Column 2, line 38 - column 3, line 22; figure 1 *	1,7-9, 11-14, 16-18, 22,23	B 41 J 5/10
A	FR-E- 33 948 (L. MAHOUT) * Whole document *	1,20	
A	US-A-1 652 464 (O. TYBERG) * Whole document *	2,3	
A	GB-A-1 255 754 (M.E. OLSEN) * Page 1, line 78 - page 2, line 35; figures 1-2 *	4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
			B 41 J G 09 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19-07-1983	Examiner VAN DEN MEERSCHAUT G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	