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54 Methods and apparatus for modifying a firmware variable in an electronic postage meter.

57 Methods and apparatus for modifying a firmware variable in an electronic postage meter. A program is stored e.g. in ROM (14) for operation of the electronic postage meter, data is provided e.g. in a non-volatile memory (24) external to the stored program which data is capable of modifying a variable in the program to change the action of the program, and such external data is accessed during operation of the electronic postage meter to change the action of the program in accordance with the presence of the external data.

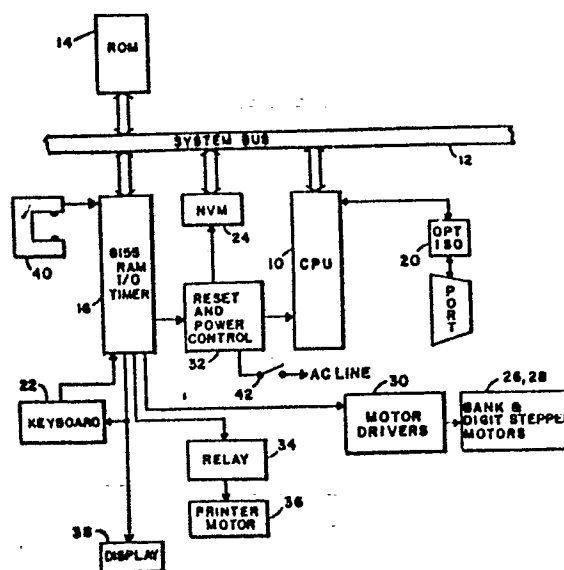


FIG. 1



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EP 83 11 2359

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)
X,D	US-A-4 301 507 (SODERBERG et al.) * Column 3, line 38 - column 5, line 32; column 11, line 11 - column 13, line 68; column 18, line 19 - column 20, line 64; figures *	1,2,4-8	G 07 B 17/02
A,D		10	
X	GB-A-2 079 223 (RONEO ALCATEL) * Page 9, line 62 - page 10, line 13; page 10, line 45 - page 11, line 31; figures *	1,2,4-8	
A		10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
X	US-A-4 280 179 (JONES et al.) * Column 13, line 55 - column 15, line 37; figures *	1,2,4-8	G 07 B G 01 G
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22-05-1987	Examiner MEYL D.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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A	US-A-4 325 440 (CROWLEY et al.) * Column 3, lines 11-35; column 14, line 42 - column 21, line 2; figures *	1,2,4- 8,10	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22-05-1987	Examiner MEYL D.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			