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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 84305404.0

51 Int. Cl.⁴: H 01 H 13/70

22 Date of filing: 08.08.84

30 Priority: 11.08.83 GB 8321689

43 Date of publication of application:
06.03.85 Bulletin 85/10

88 Date of deferred publication of search report: 10.04.85

84 Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE

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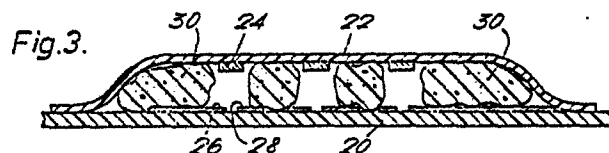
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54 **Membrane switches.**

57 A membrane switch panel has a printed circuit base board (20) carrying bare copper electrical circuitry (26) and contacts (26 & 28). A flexible, non-elastomer, laminar membrane (22) overlays the board (20) and also carries a bare-copper contact (24). An electrically insulating spacer (3) is provided between the board (20) and the membrane, but is provided with an opening to allow the contact (24) upon local depression of the membrane to bridge the contacts (26 & 28) in the base board (20).

The membrane (22) is adhesively sealed to the base board (20) enclosing an atmosphere of limited tarnishing ability for the contacts (20, 26 & 28) to maintain a low contact resistance and allow non-precious metals to be used for contacts.





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. 4)
Y	RADIO FERNSEHEN ELEKTRONIK, vol. 32, no. 6, June 1983, page 341, Berlin, DD; "Folienmembranschalter" * page 341, right-hand column, paragraph 3 *	1-7, 11 -14, 24	H 01 H 13/70
Y	--- L.B. HUNT et al.: "Electrical contacts", 1946, pages 74, 85, 86, Johnson, Matthey & Co. Ltd., London, GB; * pages 74, 85, 86 *	1-4, 17 -19	
A	--- US-A-3 862 381 (CHOMERICS) * column 3, lines 19-28 *	1, 23	
A	--- AT-B- 370 912 (H. BAYER) * page 3, lines 24-27 *	1, 8-10 , 20-22	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4) H 01 H 13/70 H 01 H 1/02
A	--- US-A-4 338 502 (SHARP) * column 1, lines 49-52 *	1, 15	
A	--- US-A-4 314 114 (OAK) * abstract *	1, 16	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 08-11-1984	Examiner LIBBERECHT L.A.
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			