

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(21) Application number: 84307136.6

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: **G 05 G 1/08**
G 05 G 1/24

(22) Date of filing: 17.10.84

(30) Priority: 31.10.83 US 546808

(43) Date of publication of application:
17.07.85 Bulletin 85/29

(88) Date of deferred publication of search report: 02.10.85

(64) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

(71) Applicant: **International Business Machines Corporation**
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, N.Y. 10504(US)

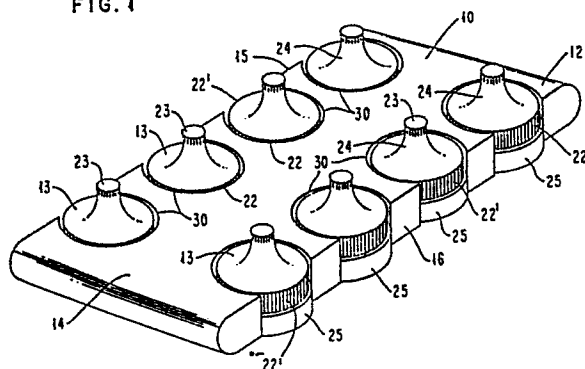
(72) Inventor: **Lucente, Samuel A**
P O Box 383
Glenford New York 12433(US)

(74) Representative: **Richards, John Peter**
IBM United Kingdom Patent Operations Hursley Park
Winchester, Hants, SO21 2JN(GB)

(54) **Control device with a rotary control knob.**

(57) A control device comprises a housing (10) with at least one circularly symmetric control knob (13) recessed into a surface (14) of the housing and mounted for rotation about its axis of symmetry. The knob has a partially exposed circumferential edge (22) at one side of the housing and an external axial projection whose tip (23) has a diameter less than that of the circumferential edge. At least a substantial portion of the external surface (24) of the knob between the tip (23) and the edge (22) slopes outwardly from the tip to the edge, the sloping surface preferably being concave and extending continuously from the tip to the edge. The control device may be a valuator for an interactive graphics terminal, and include a plurality of the said knobs disposed along each of two opposite parallel sides of the housing.

FIG. 1





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)
X	US-A-1 597 067 (DIENNER J.A.) * The whole document *	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	G 05 G 1/08 G 05 G 1/24
A	US-A-3 385 944 (MACKIEWICZ et al.) * Figure 1; column 4, lines 36-50 *	1, 4, 5, 6	
A	DE-A-2 615 470 (MIELE AND CIE.) * Claim 2 *	2	
A	GB-A-2 079 417 (ALPS ELECTRIC CO.)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			G 05 G H 01 C H 01 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 24-06-1985	Examiner HARRISON M.C.
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			