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(71) Applicant: **Johnson, Colin Francis**
18 Rakatau Place
Ruakaka(NZ)

(72) Inventor: **Smith, Glen David**
38b, Fairway Drive
Whangarei(NZ)
Inventor: **Parr, Michael John**
Karawai Street
Marsden Village, Ruakaka(NZ)
Inventor: **Johnson, Colin Francis**
18, Rakatau Place
Ruakaka,(NZ)

(74) Representative: **Dearing-Lambert, Peter Richard**
Dearing-Lambert & Co. 109 High Street
Ibstock Leicestershire LE6 1LJ(GB)

(54) Electronic control unit.

(57) An electronic control unit has means for receiving an external inhibit code signal (20), an internal code generator (10), means for comparing (30) the external inhibit code signal with a signal or signals produced from the internal code generator, and means for inhibiting (40) the operation of an alarm device which device will be activated if a correct external inhibit code signal is not received periodically by the control unit. A binary digital code word of 27 bits is described, of which the first 13 bits consist of a unique code, and the last 14 bits are synchronisation bits. This enables the external code signal to be synchronised with the internal code signal. The electronic control unit has been developed for use as a security switch, enabling the external code generator to be provided either in the form of a key or key-card which is placed in physical contact with a lock controlled by the electronic control unit, or in the form of a transmitter which transmits the appropriate code signal to a receiver which controls an alarm device, such that if the receiver does not receive the correct inhibit code signal at specified intervals, the alarm circuit will no longer be prevented from operating, and an alarm will be activated, or the alarm circuit can be used to disable the device, for example to disable the ignition of a motor vehicle.

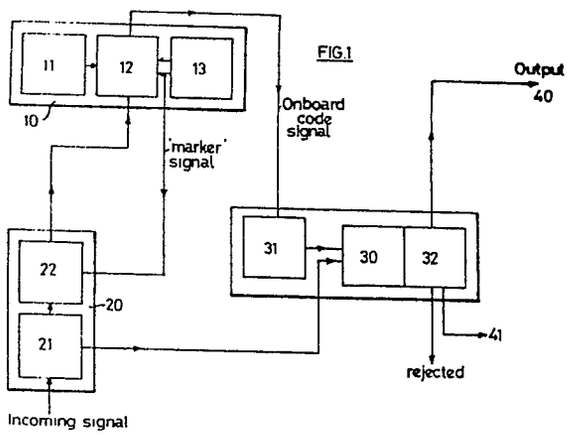

FIG.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 30 3461

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-4 246 573 (L. A. KISS) * figures 1,3,5; column 3, lines 14-68 * ---	1	G 08 B 13/22
X	GB-A-1 595 797 (H. J. PUSHMAN) * figures 1,2; page 1, lines 11-27; page 1, lines 89-98 * ---	2	
X	EP-A-0 218 251 (BAYERISCHE MOTORENWERKE) * figure 1; abstract; page 4, lines 10-31 * ---	2	
X	US-A-4 260 982 (A. P. DEBENEDICTIS et al.) * figures 1,3; abstract; column 4, lines 45-52 * ---	3	
Y	GB-A-2 023 896 (I.C. MOLLER) * figure 1; page 2, lines 28-40; page 2, line 110 - page 3, line 18 * ---	4	
Y	US-A-4 290 055 (D. E. FURNEY et al.) * figures 1,2; abstract * ---	4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) G 08 B B 60 R E 05 B G 01 S
A		5	
Y	US-A-4 206 449 (A. A. GALVIN et al.) * figure 1; abstract * ---	5	
P,Y	EP-A-0 242 983 (UNISYS CORP.) * figure 1; page 3, bottom part * -----	5	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN	18-10-1989	DANIELIDIS S

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