

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 322 514
A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **88115127.8**(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **H01H 13/70**(22) Date of filing: **15.09.88**(30) Priority: **30.12.87 US 139679**(43) Date of publication of application:
05.07.89 Bulletin 89/27(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
12.09.90 Bulletin 90/37(71) Applicant: **Hewlett-Packard Company**
3000 Hanover Street
Palo Alto California 94304(US)(72) Inventor: **Spreadbury, Brian G.**
3434 NW Maxine Circle
Corvallis, OR 97330(US)
Inventor: **Kinser, Ralph W., Jr.**
1117 SE Park Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97330(US)(74) Representative: **Liesegang, Roland, Dr. et al**
FORRESTER & BOEHMERT
Widenmayerstrasse 4
D-8000 München 22(DE)(54) **Keyboard switch system.**

(57) A keyboard (10) is described including a rigid base member (12) with a pattern of depressions (14) in it, electrical circuitry (16) on a flexible support carried by the base member, and a plurality of domes (24) covering the circuitry. The electrical circuitry defines a plurality of open switches (17) in registry with the pattern of depressions in the base.

The pattern of domes is in registry with the open switches. The underside of each dome includes a conductive surface which will complete a connection across a switch when the dome is depressed, whereby the switch circuitry is deflected downwardly into a depression in the base member.

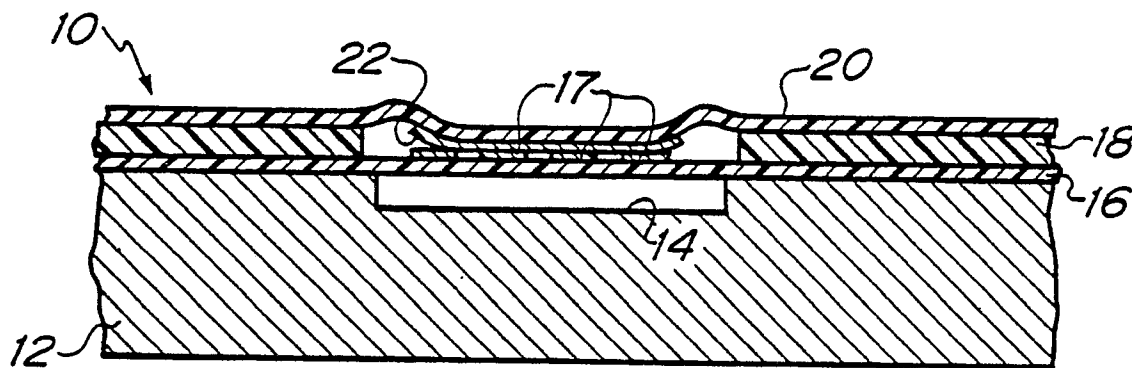


Fig 2

EP 0 322 514 A3



EP 88 11 5127

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	EP-A-241906 (WILHELM RUF KG) * column 3, line 52 - column 4, line 12; figures 1, 3 *	1, 6	H01H13/70
Y		3	
A		2	
Y	EP-A-233296 (FUJI RUBBER CO. LTD.) * paragraph 2; figure 1 *	3	
A		4	
A	DERWENT ABSTRACT 75-57743W (35) &JP-A-50009098 (KOJUNDO KAGAKU KEN)	4	
A	EP-A-210973 (SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT ÖSTERREICH) * column 1, line 43 - column 2, line 12; figure 1 *	5, 7, 8	
A	GB-A-2039417 (GUMMI MAAG AG) * abstract; figure 2 *	1-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			H01H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 27 JUNE 1990	Examiner DIOU, J
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 I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			