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(54) **Electronic musical instrument controller**

(57) A MIDI-compatible musical instrument controller includes a keyboard having a plurality of keys (12) and circuitry for electronically scanning the keyboard and for producing individual key-depression signals for each key being depressed. Each of the individual key depression signals identifies the key with which is associated, commences when the key is depressed, and terminates when the key with which it is associated is released. A plurality of note tables is provided for converting each of the individual key depression signals to MIDI note-identifying information. Each note table defines each key as one or more preselected musical notes such that no two of such tables define the plurality of keys with the same MIDI note-identifying information. One of the note tables is selected in response to a user command.

Note-start circuitry, responsive to the commencement of an individual key depression signal, is provided for generating MIDI note-one signals corresponding to the one or more musical notes defined for the individual depressed key in the note table selected at the time the individual key depression signal commences. Note-stop circuitry, responsive to the termination of an individual key depression signal, is provided for generating MIDI note-off signals corresponding to the one or more musical notes defined for the individual released key in the note table which was selected during the time when the individual released key was depressed.

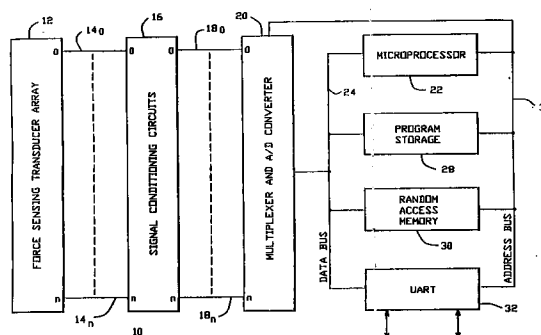


FIG.-1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 10 6076

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.6)
A	EP 0 143 578 A (CASIO COMPUTER CO LTD) 5 June 1985 * page 7, line 10 - page 8, line 24; figure 1 *	1-4, 11-13	G10H1/00 G10H1/20 G10H7/00
A	US 4 635 517 A (NAGASHIMA YOICHI ET AL) 13 January 1987 * column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 28 * * column 5, line 25 - column 6, line 17; figures 4,5 *	1-5,12, 24-28,35	
A	US 4 776 253 A (DOWNES PATRICK G) 11 October 1988 * column 6, line 1 - column 7, line 16; figure 1 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G10H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		30 September 1997	Pulluard, R
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			

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