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(54) **Wireless inductive pointer clock**

(57) A wireless inductive pointer clock (1), in the form of a wristwatch, includes a wireless inductive receiver module (10) for receiving a time code, a control circuit module (20) electrically coupled to the wireless inductive receiver module (10) for receiving the time code and converting the time code into a pointer drive signal, a movement (30) electrically coupled to the control circuit module (20) for receiving the pointer drive signal and driving by the control circuit module (20), and a pointer unit (40)

including a plurality of pointers (41) drivable by the movement (30). The wireless inductive receiver module (10) can receive the time code (hour, minute, second) from a smart phone or tablet computer, enabling the control circuit module (20) to drive the movement (30) and the pointers (41) of the pointer unit (40) so that the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock can be automatically synchronized to the time on the smart phone or tablet.

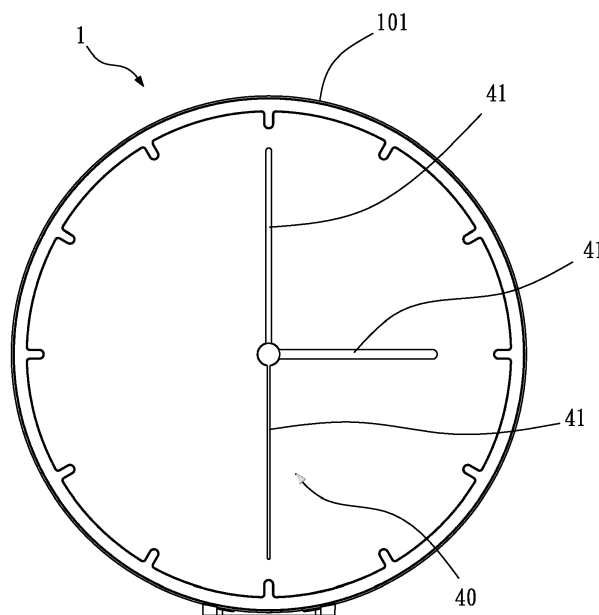


FIG. 1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

[0001] The present invention relates to clock technology and more particularly, to a wireless inductive pointer clock, which can be automatically synchronized to the time on a smart phone or tablet computer upon approaching of the smart phone or tablet computer.

2. Description of the Related Art:

[0002] A conventional pointer clock generally comprises a dial, a movement, and three hands (the hour hand, the minute hand and the second hand). The second hand, the minute hand and the hour hand are pivotally coupled to the movement, and driven by the movement to indicate the time measured.

[0003] Commercial pointer clocks use different appearance designs or dial patterns to attract consumers. However, correcting the position of the hour hand, minute hand or second hand of a conventional pointer clock can simply be achieved manually. When wishing to correct the time on a pointer clock, the user needs to remove the pointer clock from the wall for correction. After correction, the user needs to hang the pointer clock on the wall again. It is very inconvenient to adjust the indication of time in a conventional pointer clock.

[0004] Further, a radio-controlled clock is synchronized by a time code transmitted by a radio transmitter connected to an atomic clock. However, the use of a radio-controlled clock may encounter problems. If a radio-controlled clock is used in a zone between two transmitters, it sometimes picks up one signal and sometimes another. Further, a radio-controlled clock may be unable to accurately receive the time code transmitted by a radio transmitter due to environmental interferences.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. It is therefore the main object of the present invention to provide a wireless inductive pointer clock, which uses a wireless inductive receiver module to receive the time code of an electronic information device in a wireless manner, enabling the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock to be automatically synchronized to the time on the electronic information device.

[0006] To achieve this and other objects of the present invention, a wireless inductive pointer clock of the invention comprises a wireless inductive receiver module adapted for receiving a time code, a control circuit module electrically coupled to the wireless inductive receiver module and adapted for receiving the time code from the wireless inductive receiver module and converting the

time code into a pointer drive signal, a movement electrically coupled to the control circuit module and adapted for receiving the pointer drive signal from the control circuit module and driving by the control circuit module, and a pointer unit comprising a plurality of pointers drivable by the movement.

[0007] When approaching an electronic information device, such as smart phone or tablet computer to the wireless inductive pointer clock, the wireless inductive receiver module of the wireless inductive pointer clock receives the time code (hour, minute, second) of the electronic information device, enabling the control circuit module to drive the movement and the pointers of the pointer unit so that the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock is automatically synchronized to the time on the smart phone or tablet.

[0008] Other advantages and features of the present invention will be fully understood by reference to the following specification in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference signs denote like components of structure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009]

FIG. 1 is a schematic front view of a wireless inductive pointer clock in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a system block illustrating the wireless inductive pointer clock in operation with an electronic information device in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a circuit diagram of the wireless inductive pointer clock in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0010] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, a wireless inductive pointer clock **1** in accordance with the present invention is shown. The wireless inductive pointer clock **1** comprises a wireless inductive receiver module **10** adapted for receiving a time code signal wirelessly, a control circuit module **20** electrically connected with the wireless inductive receiver module **10** and adapted for receiving and processing the time code signal from the wireless inductive receiver module **10** and converting it into a pointer drive signal, a movement **30** electrically connected with the control circuit module **20** and adapted for receiving the pointer drive signal from the control circuit module **20** and driving by the control circuit module **20**, and a pointer unit **40**, which comprises a plurality of pointers **41** drivable by the movement **30**.

[0011] Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3 again, an electronic information device **50** is used for allowing the user to control the settings of the wireless inductive pointer clock

1. The electronic information device **50** can be a smart phone, tablet computer, or any of a variety of other mobile electronic devices.

[0012] The electronic information device **50** comprises a time code module **51**, and a wireless inductive transmitter module **52**. The time code module **51** can be a smart phone application software, comprising a time code (hour, minute, second) stored in the electronic information device **50**. If the time code stored in the electronic information device **50** is not the standard time on one specific time zone, the user needs to use the time code module **51** for setting the time code to become the standard time so that the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** can be tuned to the standard time. The wireless inductive transmitter module **52** is electrically connected to the time code module **51** for sending out the time code provided by the time code module **51**. Further, the wireless inductive transmitter module **52** matches with the wireless inductive receiver module **10** of the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** for the transmission of the time code in a wireless manner.

[0013] In application, operate the electronic information device **50** to input a time code (hour, minute, second) and to send out the inputted time code in a wireless manner. The transmitted time code (hour, minute, second) is then received by the wireless inductive receiver module **10** wirelessly. Upon receipt of the time code, the wireless inductive receiver module **10** provides the time code to the control circuit module **20** for processing, causing the control circuit module **20** to drive the movement **30** of the pointer clock **1** in moving the pointers **41** of the pointer unit **40** to the set position. Thus, the user can correct the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** by means of the electronic information device **50** conveniently in a wireless manner without touching the wireless inductive pointer clock **1**, or removing the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** from the wall.

[0014] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2 again, in one embodiment of the present invention, the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** comprises a housing **101** that defines therein an accommodation chamber for accommodating the wireless inductive receiver module **10**, the control circuit module **20**, the movement **30** and the pointer unit **40**. Further, the housing **101** can be variously configured, providing a decorative design to attract people's eyes.

[0015] Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3 again, in the present preferred embodiment, the wireless inductive receiver module **10** employs NFC (Near Field Communication) technology. However, this configuration is not a limitation. In other embodiments of the present invention, the wireless inductive receiver module **10** can be configured subject to Bluetooth, WiFi or ZigBee specifications.

[0016] As stated above, the invention uses the pointer drive signal of the control circuit module **20** to drive the pointers **41** of the pointer unit **40** to the respective set positions subject to the time code provided by the electronic information device **50**. During the operation, the control circuit module **20** resets the pointers **41** to the

reference position, for example, 12 o'clock position (any hours position from 1 through 12 can be selectively used as the reference position), and computes the time code through a parameter calculation to generate a pointer drive signal for driving the pointers **41** to the correct time position.

[0017] Therefore, the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** further comprises a pointer benchmarking circuit **21** electrically coupled to the control circuit module **20** for generating a positioning signal when the control circuit module **20** resets the pointers **41** to the reference position. After received the positioning signal from the pointer benchmarking circuit **21**, the control circuit module **20** computes the time code and then generates a pointer drive signal to drive the pointers **41** of the pointer unit **40** to the respective set positions, and thus, the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock **1** is synchronized to the time on the electronic information device **50**. The aforesaid reference position can be any hours position from 1 through 12.

[0018] Thus, the wireless inductive pointer clock of the invention has the features and advantages as follows:

1. When kept in proximity to the wireless inductive transmitter module, such as the NFC antenna induction zone, of the smart phone or tablet computer, the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock is automatically synchronized to the time on the smart phone or tablet computer, and thus the time indication of the wireless inductive pointer clock can be automatically corrected without removal from the wall.
2. Low cost, easy processing, power saving, no RF production certification trouble.
3. When approaching the electronic information device (smart phone or tablet computer) to the wireless inductive pointer clock, the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock is synchronized to the time on the electronic information device, eliminating the problems of the use of a radio-controlled clock that is synchronized by a time code transmitted by a radio transmitter connected to an atomic clock.

[0019] In conclusion, the wireless inductive pointer clock of the invention uses the wireless inductive receiver module to receive a time code from an electronic information device in a wireless manner, and the control circuit module to control the positioning of the pointers, and thus, the time on the wireless inductive pointer clock can be automatically synchronized to the time on the electronic information device.

[0020] Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A wireless inductive pointer clock, comprising:

a wireless inductive receiver module adapted for receiving a time code; 5
 a control circuit module electrically coupled to said wireless inductive receiver module and adapted for receiving said time code from said wireless inductive receiver module and converting said time code into a pointer drive signal; 10
 a movement electrically coupled to said control circuit module and adapted for receiving said pointer drive signal from said control circuit module and driving by said control circuit module; 15
 and
 a pointer unit comprising a plurality of pointers drivable by said movement.

2. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an electronic information device adapted to provide said time code to said wireless inductive receiver module in a wireless manner. 20

3. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 2, wherein said electronic information device is selected from the group of smart phones and tablet computers. 25

4. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 3, wherein said electronic information device comprises a time code module having stored therein said time code, and a wireless inductive transmitter module electrically coupled with said time code module and adapted for transmitting said time code to said wireless inductive receiver module in a wireless manner. 30

5. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 4, wherein said time code module is a smart phone application software adapted for setting said time code as a standard time. 35

6. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 4, wherein said wireless inductive transmitter module of said electronic information device matches with said wireless inductive receiver module of said wireless inductive pointer clock for the transmission of said time code. 40

7. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a housing, said housing defining therein an accommodation chamber adapted for accommodating said wireless inductive receiver module, said control circuit module, said movement and said pointer unit. 45

8. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wireless inductive receiver module is configured subject to one of NFC (Near Field Communication), Bluetooth, WiFi and ZigBee specifications. 50

9. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wireless inductive pointer clock further comprises a pointer benchmarking circuit electrically coupled to said control circuit module for generating a positioning signal when said control circuit module resets said pointers of said pointer unit, said control circuit module computing said time code and then generating said pointer drive signal to drive said pointers of said pointer unit after received said positioning signal from said pointer benchmarking circuit. 55

10. The wireless inductive pointer clock as claimed in claim 9, wherein said pointer reference position is one of the hours positions from 1 through 12.

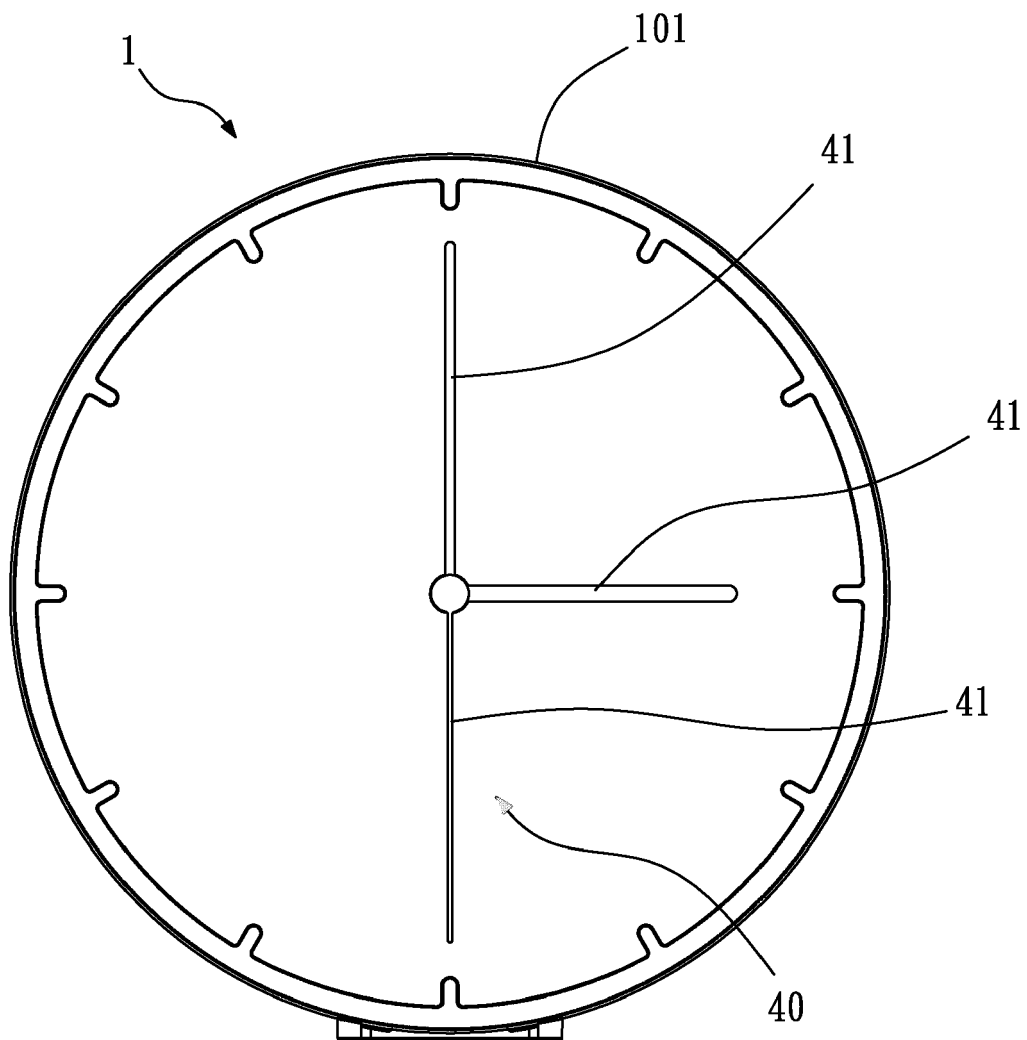


FIG. 1

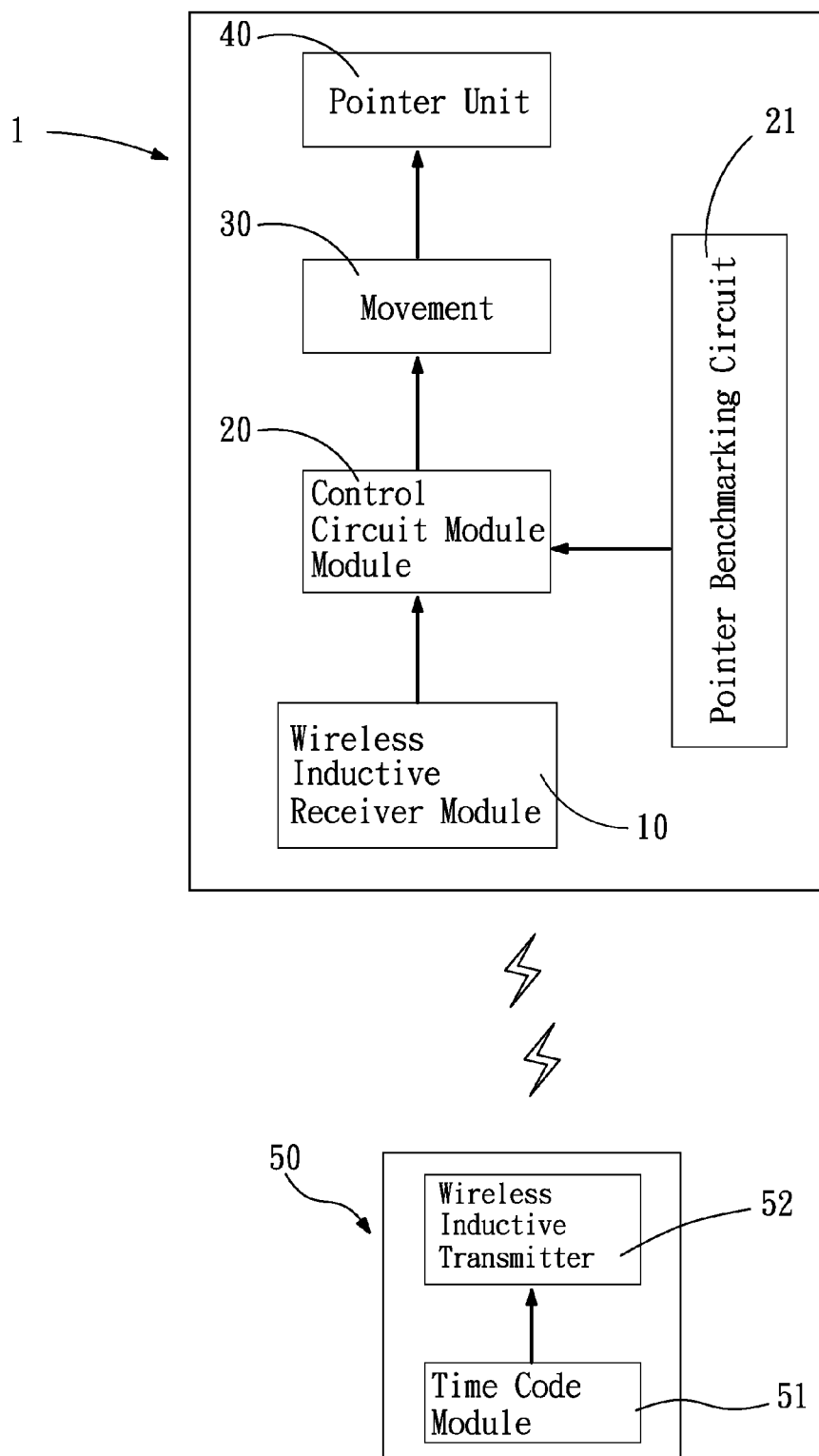


FIG. 2

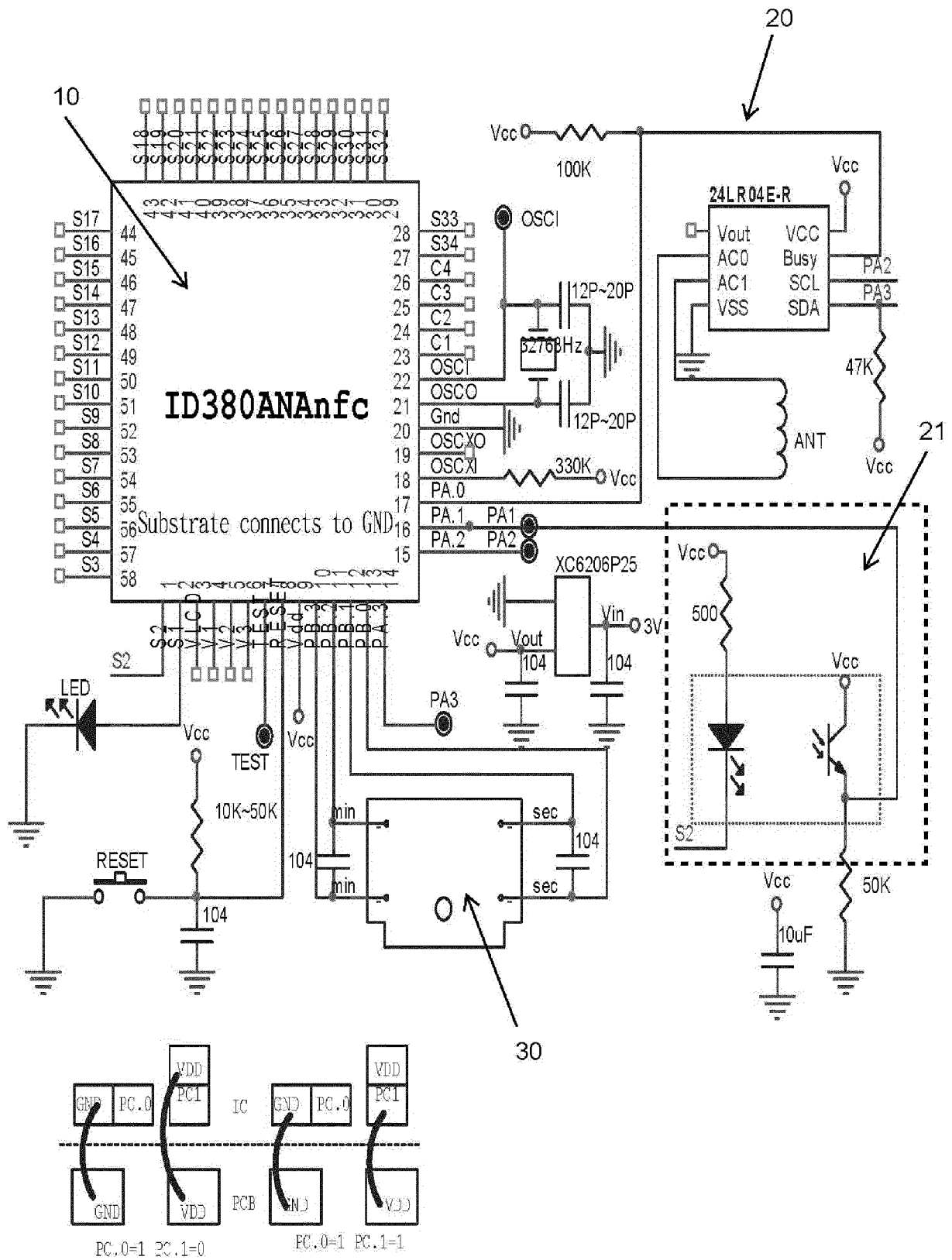


FIG. 3



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 14 19 2244

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2013/303087 A1 (HAUSER PETER [US] ET AL) 14 November 2013 (2013-11-14) * paragraphs [0002], [0044] - [0065], [0123] - [0125] * * figures 1-3,6,11,26,27,29 *	1-10	INV. G04R20/26 G04G7/00
X	"PROXIMITY FAQ: Perpetual calendar chronograph with bluetooth powered by Eco-Drive technology", 30 September 2014 (2014-09-30), pages 1-34, XP055199361, Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.citizenwatch.com/en-us/files/2014/09/Proximity-FAQ.pdf [retrieved on 2015-07-01] * Cover page 1 * * point 1); page 2 * * point 15); page 4 * * point 62); page 14 * * points 67) and 68); page 16 * -----	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) G04R G04G H04W
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 2 July 2015	Examiner Couteau, Olivier
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2013303087	A1	14-11-2013	NONE

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82