

**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

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<i>Application Number</i>	11/608,034
<i>Filing Date</i>	December 7, 2006
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Paul E. Beckmann et al.
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2614
<i>Conf No.</i>	8629
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Xu Mei
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	02103-390002/S25 (Cont.)

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)
 - a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. ☐ Other _____
 - b. ☒ Enclosed
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☒ Other One Month Extension of Time
2. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - b. ☐ Other _____
3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. ☒ Other Any deficiencies
 - b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$_____ enclosed
 - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

<i>Name (Print/Type)</i>	Charles Hieken	<i>Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)</i>	18,411
<i>Signature</i>	/charles hieken/	<i>Date</i>	14 August 2009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Paul E. Beckmann et al.	Art Unit	: 2614
Serial No.	: 11/608,034	Examiner	: Xu Mei
Filed	: December 7, 2006	Conf. No.	: 8629
Title	: INTERACTIVE SOUND REPRODUCING		

MAIL STOP AF

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO ACTION OF APRIL 17, 2009

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-67 (cancelled).

68. (new) A sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

an interface unit located at least partially within the housing configured to provide a direct interconnection to a separate audio source device having stored digital music files, wherein the interconnection includes:

(i) a direct audio signal path configured to receive audio signals corresponding to digital music files stored on the audio source device, and

(ii) a direct control signal path configured to transmit control commands to the audio source device, wherein the control signal path is separate from the audio signal path;

a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command is configured to control a function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a function of the audio source device; and

control circuitry located within the housing of the sound reproduction device and configured to receive a command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control an appropriate function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the audio source device via the direct control signal path a command corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

69. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the interface unit is configured to couple exclusively to the audio source device.

70. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the interface unit is configured to couple exclusively to a single type of audio source device.

71. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the interface unit comprises a connector.

72. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 71, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

73. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the interface unit is configured to couple to the audio source device in close proximity to said device.

74. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the interface unit is configured to couple to the audio source device adjacent to said device.

75. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68 further comprising a radio tuner located at least partially within the housing.

76. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 75 further comprising an alarm clock located at least partially within the housing.

77. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68 wherein the direct audio signal path is configured to receive analog audio signals.

78. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 77 wherein the direct control signal path is configured to transmit digital control commands.

79. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68 wherein the audio source device comprises a computer.

80. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 79 wherein the computer comprises a personal computer.

81. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68 wherein the audio source device is configured to connect to a network and receive digital music files via the network.

82. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 81 wherein the sound reproduction device is further configured to receive digital music files received by the audio source device over the network.

83. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68 wherein the second type of control command configured to be transmitted by the remote control device is a subset of control commands that the audio source device is capable of receiving.

84. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for controlling the volume of the sound reproduction device.

85. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for controlling the power setting of the sound reproduction device.

86. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for muting the sound of the sound reproduction device.

87. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 75, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

88. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the audio source device as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

89. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for playing a music file in the audio source device.

90. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for pausing the play of a music file in the audio source device.

91. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting a playlist in the audio source device.

92. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for advancing to the next music file in the audio source device.

93. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 68, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting an assemblage of music files in the audio source device based on a first type of metadata associated with the music files.

94. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 93, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

95. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 93, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

96. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 93, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

97. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 93, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a command for selecting a subset of the assemblage of music files in the audio source device based on a second type of metadata associated with the music files.

98. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 97, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

99. (new) A sound reproduction device comprising:
a housing comprising an audio system including one or more speakers and an amplifier for powering the one or more speakers;
an interface at least partially within the housing configured to directly couple to a separate audio source device having stored music files, wherein the interface is configured to receive audio signals corresponding to music files stored in the audio source device and is further configured to transmit control commands to the audio source device;
a remote control device configured to transmit at least two commands to the audio system, including a first command for controlling a function of the audio system and a second command for controlling a function of the audio source device.

100. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface is configured to couple exclusively to the audio source device.

101. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface is configured to couple exclusively to a single type of audio source device.

102. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface is configured to provide a direct device-to-device connection to the audio source device.

103. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface comprises a connector.

104. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 103, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

105. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface is configured to couple to the audio source device in close proximity to the sound reproduction device.

106. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the interface is configured to couple to the audio source device adjacent to the sound reproduction device.

107. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the audio system further comprises a radio tuner at least partially within the housing.

108. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the audio system further comprises an alarm clock at least partially within the housing.

109. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for controlling the volume of the audio system.

110. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for controlling the power setting of the audio system.

111. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for muting the sound of the audio system.

112. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 107, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

113. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the audio source device as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

114. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for playing a music file in the audio source device.

115. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for pausing the play of a music file in the audio source device.

116. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for stopping the play of a music file in the audio source device.

117. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for scanning through while playing a music file in the audio source device.

118. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting a playlist in the audio source device.

119. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for advancing to the next music file in the audio source device.

120. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting an assemblage of music files in the audio source device based on a first type of metadata associated with the music files.

121. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 120, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

122. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 120, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

123. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 120, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a command for selecting a subset of the assemblage of music files in the audio source device based on a second type of metadata associated with the music files.

124. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 123, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

125. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 123, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music composer.

126. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 123, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

127. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the audio source device comprises a disk drive.

128. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the audio source device comprises a microprocessor and a display.

129. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 99, wherein the audio source device comprises a computer.

130. (new) The sound reproduction device of claim 129, wherein the computer comprises a personal computer.

Applicant : Paul E. Beckmann et al.
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REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 44-57, 59-61 and 64 without prejudice, and submits new claims 68-130. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims are significantly different from the previously rejected claims and plainly patentable over Glick and the other prior art of record. Applicant submits a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to provide Examiner an opportunity to search these new claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Order No. 02103-390002/ S25 (Cont.).

Respectfully submitted,
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

14 August 2009
Date: _____

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title	: INTERACTIVE SOUND REPRODUCING		

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as indicated on the following pages.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EFS-WEB FILING

I hereby certify that this paper was filed with the Patent and Trademark Office using the EFS-WEB system on this date: September 23, 2011.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

68, 72-76, 78-98, 133-142. (Canceled).

143. (New) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer that is configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the computer and a network accessible by the computer, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer corresponding to the digital music files stored on the computer and audio information from the network via the computer, and (ii) transmit control signals to the computer; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command controls a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a user function of the computer,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive a control command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control a user function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a command for controlling the user function of the computer corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

144. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

145. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer in close proximity to said sound reproduction device.

146. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer adjacent to said sound reproduction device.

147. (New) The audio system of claim 143 further comprising an AM/FM radio tuner located at least partially within the housing.

148. (New) The audio system of claim 147 further comprising an alarm clock located at least partially within the housing.

149. (New) The audio system of claim 143 wherein the second type of control command configured to be transmitted by the remote control device is a subset of control commands that the computer is capable of receiving.

150. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command selected from the group consisting of commands for controlling the volume

of the sound reproduction device, controlling the power setting of the sound reproduction device, and muting the sound of the sound reproduction device.

151. (New) The audio system of claim 147, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the AM/FM radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

152. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the computer as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

153. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command selected from the group consisting of commands for causing the computer to play a music file, causing the computer to pause the play of a music file, causing the computer to select a playlist, causing the computer to select the next or previous music file, causing the computer device to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, causing the computer to repeat the play of a music file, and causing the computer to shuffle the play of selected music files.

154. (New) The audio system of claim 153, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, and the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

155. (New) The audio system of claim 153, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files.

156. (New) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

157. (New) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

158. (New) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a command for causing the computer to select a subset of the assemblage of music files based on a second type of metadata included in the music files.

159. (New) The audio system of claim 158, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

160. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

161. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

162. (New) The audio system of claim 147 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in at least two modes:

a first mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from audio information received from the computer via the connector; and

a second mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from the AM/FM radio tuner.

163. (New) The audio system of claim 162 further comprising one or more control buttons on the housing, wherein at least one of the control buttons is configured to control a user function of the computer via the connector when the sound reproduction device is operating in

the first mode, and configured to control a user function of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is operating in the second mode.

164. (New) The audio system of claim 162 further comprising a plurality of preset buttons, wherein the preset buttons are assignable to a first set of user-defined playlists when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the first mode, and assignable to broadcast frequencies of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the second mode.

165. (New) The audio system of claim 164 further comprising a scrolling button that, when activated, is configured to assign the plurality of preset buttons to a second set of user-defined playlists.

166. (New) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and from the network via the computer and (ii) a separate control signal path configured to transmit the control signals to the computer.

167. (New) The audio system of claim 143 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to control commands received from the computer.

168. (New) The audio system of claim 167 wherein control commands to the computer and control commands from the computer to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

169. (New) An audio system configured to connect to a separate audio source device that has a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:
a housing;
one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;
an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;
control circuitry located within the housing; and
a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the audio source device, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the audio source device, and (ii) transmit control signals to the audio source device; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command controls a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a user function of the audio source device relating to control of audio information,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive a control command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control a user function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the audio source device, via a signal path of the connector, a command for controlling the user function of the audio source device corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

170. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the audio source device is a computer.

171. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

172. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the audio source device in close proximity to said sound reproduction device.

173. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the audio source device adjacent to said sound reproduction device.

174. (New) The audio system of claim 169 further comprising an AM/FM radio tuner located at least partially within the housing.

175. (New) The audio system of claim 174 further comprising an alarm clock located at least partially within the housing.

176. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command selected from the group consisting of commands for controlling the volume of the sound reproduction device, controlling the power setting of the sound reproduction device, and muting the sound of the sound reproduction device.

177. (New) The audio system of claim 174, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the AM/FM radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

178. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for selecting the audio source device as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

179. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command selected from the group consisting of commands for causing the audio

source device to play a music file, causing the audio source device to pause the play of a music file, causing the audio source device to select a playlist, causing the audio source device to select the next or previous music file, causing the audio source device to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, causing the audio source device to repeat the play of a music file, and causing the audio source device to shuffle the play of selected music files.

180. (New) The audio system of claim 179, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for causing the audio source device to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, and the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

181. (New) The audio system of claim 179, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a command for causing the audio source device to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files.

182. (New) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

183. (New) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

184. (New) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a command for causing the audio source device to select a subset of the assemblage of music files based on a second type of metadata included in the music files.

185. (New) The audio system of claim 184, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

186. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

187. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

188. (New) The audio system of claim 169 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in at least two modes:

a first mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from audio information received from the audio source device via the connector; and

a second mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from the AM/FM radio tuner.

189. (New) The audio system of claim 188 further comprising one or more control buttons on the housing, wherein at least one of the control buttons is configured to control, via the connector, a user function of the audio source device relating to control of audio information when the sound reproduction device is operating in the first mode, and configured to control a user function of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is operating in the second mode.

190. (New) The audio system of claim 188 further comprising a plurality of preset buttons, wherein the preset buttons are assignable to a first set of user-defined playlists when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the first mode, and assignable to broadcast frequencies of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the second mode.

191. (New) The audio system of claim 190 further comprising a scrolling button that, when activated, is configured to assign the plurality of preset buttons to a second set of user-defined playlists.

192. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the audio source device and (ii) a separate control signal path configured to transmit the control signals to the audio source device.

193. (New) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to control commands received from the audio source device.

194. (New) The audio system of claim 193, wherein control commands to the audio source device and control commands from the audio source device to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

195. (New) An audio system configured to connect to a separate audio source device, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the audio source device, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the audio source device, (ii) transmit control signals to the audio source device, and (iii) transmit control signals from the audio source device to the sound reproduction device; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command controls a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a user function of the audio source device,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive a control command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control a user function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the audio source device, via a signal path of the connector, a command for controlling a user function of the audio source corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

196. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio source device is a computer.

197. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the audio source device and (ii) a separate control signal path configured to transmit the control signals to the audio source device.

198. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

199. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

200. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information comprises digital music files stored on the audio source device.

201. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the control signals transmitted to the audio source comprise control commands.

202. (New) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the control signals transmitted from the audio source device comprise control commands.

203. (New) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer that has a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, and is configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the computer and a network accessible by the computer, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;
control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer corresponding to the digital music files stored on the computer and audio information from the network via the computer, (ii) transmit control signals to the computer, and (iii) transmit control signals from the computer to the sound reproduction device; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command controls a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a user function of the computer,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive a control command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control a user function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a command for controlling the user function of the computer corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

204. (New) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and from the network via the computer and (ii) a separate control signal path configured to transmit the control signals to the computer.

205. (New) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

206. (New) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

207. (New) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the control signals transmitted to the audio source device comprise control commands.

208. (New) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the control signals transmitted from the audio source device comprise control commands.

209. (New) A system comprising:

(A) an audio source device having a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, and comprising:

(a) a storage device configured to store a plurality of digital music files, each music file including at least a first and second type of metadata that characterizes the music file; and

(b) a display for displaying a user connector configured to present a first assemblage of the plurality of music files in a first set of groups according to the first type of metadata associated with the music files, and, in response to a user selection of a group in the first assemblage, present a second assemblage of the music files in the selected group, wherein the second assemblage presents the music files in the selected group in a second set of groups according to the second type of metadata associated with the music files in the selected group;

(B) a sound reproduction device comprising:

(a) a housing;

(b) one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

(c) an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

(d) control circuitry located within the housing; and

(e) a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the

audio source device, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the audio source device, and (ii) transmit control signals to the audio source device; and

(C) a remote control device configured to transmit at least a first type of control command and a second type of control command to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of control command controls a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of control command is configured to control a user function of the audio source device relating to control of audio information,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive a control command from the remote control and, in response to receiving such a command:

(i) control a user function of the sound reproduction device when a control command of the first type is received, and

(ii) transmit to the audio source device, via a signal path of the connector, a command for controlling the user function of the audio source device corresponding to the received control command when a control command of the second type is received.

210. (New) The system of claim 209, wherein the audio source device further comprises:

(a) a processor; and

(b) instructions stored on a computer-readable media that, when executed, cause the processor to:

(i) assemble the plurality of music files into a first set of groups based on the first metadata associated with each respective music file; and

(ii) assemble the plurality of music files into a second set of groups based on the second metadata associated with each respective music file.

211. (New) The system of claim 209, wherein the audio source device is a computer.

212. (New) The system of claim 209, wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to control commands received from the audio source device.

213. (New) The system of claim 212, wherein control commands to the audio source device and control commands from the audio source device to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

214. (New) The system of claim 209, wherein the audio source device is further configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the audio source device and a network accessible by the audio source device; and wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to received, via the connector, audio information from the audio source device corresponding to the digital music files and audio information from the network.

215. (New) The system of claim 209, wherein the sound reproduction system is further configured to receive, via the connector, control signals from the audio source device.

216. (New) The system of claim 215, wherein the control signal received from the audio source device comprises a control command.

217. (New) The system of claim 214, wherein the sound reproduction device further includes an audio source.

218. (New) The system of claim 217, wherein the audio source of the sound reproduction device comprises an AM/FM radio tuner.

REMARKS

Claims 68, 72-76, 78-98, and 133-142 were the subject of a Notice of Allowance mailed February 28, 2011. Applicant subsequently withdrew those claims from issue and filed an RCE application to permit consideration of additional prior art. In this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 68, 72-76, 78-98, and 133-142, and includes new claims 143-218. No new matter has been added.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.

The fees for excess claim fees are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-23-2011/

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Paul E. Beckmann et al. Art Unit : 2614
Serial No. : 11/608,034 Examiner : Xu Mei
Filed : December 7, 2006 Conf. No. : 8629
Title : INTERACTIVE SOUND REPRODUCING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as indicated on the following pages.

CERTIFICATE OF (A) MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL OR (B) TRANSMISSION
I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is either (A) addressed as set out in 37 CFR §1.1(a) and being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage, or (B) being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(d) or via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(a)(4), on the date indicated below.

June 1, 2012

Date of Deposit or Transmission

/Judith Witzel/

Signature

Judith Witzel

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

68, 72-76, 78-98, 133-142. (Canceled).

143. (Previously presented) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer that is configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the computer and a network accessible by the computer, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer corresponding to the digital music files stored on the computer and audio information from the network via the computer, and (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a command to control a user function of the computer,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

- (i) control the user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and
- (ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a command of the second type.

144. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

145. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer in close proximity to said sound reproduction device.

146. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer adjacent to said sound reproduction device.

147. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143 further comprising an AM/FM radio tuner located at least partially within the housing.

148. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 147 further comprising an alarm clock located at least partially within the housing.

149. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143 wherein the signal representing the second type of command configured to be transmitted by the remote control device corresponds to a subset of commands that the computer is capable of receiving.

150. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command selected from the group consisting of commands for controlling the volume of the sound reproduction device, controlling the power setting of the sound reproduction device, and muting the sound of the sound reproduction device.

151. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 147, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for selecting the AM/FM radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

152. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for selecting the computer as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

153. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command selected from the group consisting of commands for causing the computer to play a music file, causing the computer to pause the play of a music file, causing the computer to select a playlist, causing the computer to select the next or previous music file, causing the computer device to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, causing the computer to repeat the play of a music file, and causing the computer to shuffle the play of selected music files.

154. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 153, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, and the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

155. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 153, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files.

156. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

157. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

158. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 155, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select a subset of the assemblage of music files based on a second type of metadata included in the music files.

159. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 158, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

160. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

161. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

162. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 147 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in at least two modes:

a first mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from audio information received from the computer via the connector; and

a second mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from the AM/FM radio tuner.

163. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 162 further comprising one or more control buttons on the housing, wherein at least one of the control buttons is configured to control a user function of the computer via the connector when the sound reproduction device is operating in the first mode, and configured to control a user function of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is operating in the second mode.

164. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 162 further comprising a plurality of preset buttons, wherein the preset buttons are assignable to a first set of user-defined playlists when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the first mode, and assignable to broadcast frequencies of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the second mode.

165. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 164 further comprising a scrolling button that, when activated, is configured to assign the plurality of preset buttons to a second set of user-defined playlists.

166. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and from the network via the computer and (ii) a separate signal path configured to transmit to the computer the signals for controlling the computer.

167. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to signals received from the computer.

168. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 167 wherein signals to the computer and signals from the computer to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

169. (Previously presented) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer that has a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer, and (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a command to control a user function of the computer relating to control of audio information,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

(i) control the user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a command of the second type.

170. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the computer is a personal computer.

171. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector comprises a dedicated cable.

172. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer in close proximity to said sound reproduction device.

173. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connector is configured to couple to the computer adjacent to said sound reproduction device.

174. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169 further comprising an AM/FM radio tuner located at least partially within the housing.

175. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 174 further comprising an alarm clock located at least partially within the housing.

176. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command selected from the group consisting of commands for controlling the volume of the sound reproduction device, controlling the power setting of the sound reproduction device, and muting the sound of the sound reproduction device.

177. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 174, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for selecting the AM/FM radio tuner as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

178. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for selecting the computer as the audio source for the sound reproduction device.

179. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command selected from the group consisting of commands for causing the computer to play a music file, causing the computer to pause the play of a music file, causing the computer to select a playlist, causing the computer to select the next or previous music file, causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, causing the computer to repeat the play of a music file, and causing the computer to shuffle the play of selected music files.

180. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 179, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files, and the assemblage is based on information about the music genre.

181. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 179, wherein the remote control is configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select an assemblage of music files based on a first type of metadata included in the music files.

182. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music artist.

183. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the album associated with the music files.

184. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 181, wherein the remote control is further configured to transmit a signal representing a command for causing the computer to select a subset of the assemblage of music files based on a second type of metadata included in the music files.

185. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 184, wherein the assemblage is based on information about the music genre, and the subset is based on information about the music artist.

186. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

187. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

188. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169 wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in at least two modes:

a first mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from audio information received from the computer via the connector; and

a second mode wherein the sound reproduction device produces audible sound from the AM/FM radio tuner.

189. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 188 further comprising one or more control buttons on the housing, wherein at least one of the control buttons is configured to control, via the connector, a user function of the computer relating to control of audio information when the sound reproduction device is operating in the first mode, and configured to control a user function of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is operating in the second mode.

190. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 188 further comprising a plurality of preset buttons, wherein the preset buttons are assignable to a first set of user-defined playlists when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the first mode, and assignable to broadcast frequencies of the AM/FM radio tuner when the sound reproduction device is configured to operate in the second mode.

191. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 190 further comprising a scrolling button that, when activated, is configured to assign the plurality of preset buttons to a second set of user-defined playlists.

192. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and (ii) a separate signal path configured to transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer.

193. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to signals received from the computer.

194. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 193, wherein signals to the computer and signals from the computer to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

195. (Previously presented) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer, (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer, and (iii) receive signals from the computer; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a command to control a user function of the computer,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

(i) control the user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a command of the second type.

196. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the computer is a personal computer.

197. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and (ii) a separate signal path configured to transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer.

198. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

199. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

200. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the audio information comprises digital music files stored on the computer.

201. (Canceled).

202. (Canceled).

203. (Previously presented) An audio system configured to connect to a separate computer that has a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, and is configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the computer and a network accessible by the computer, the audio system comprising:

(A) a sound reproduction device comprising:

a housing;

one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

control circuitry located within the housing; and

a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer corresponding to the digital music files stored on the computer and audio information from the network via the computer, (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer, and (iii) receive signals from the computer; and

(B) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a command to control a user function of the computer,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

(i) control the a user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a command of the second type.

204. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the connection includes (i) an audio signal path configured to receive the audio information from the computer and from the network via the computer and (ii) a separate signal path configured to transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer.

205. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the audio information is in digital form.

206. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the audio information is in analog form.

207. (Canceled).

208. (Canceled).

209. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

(A) a computer having a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, and comprising:

(a) a storage device configured to store a plurality of digital music files, each music file including within the music file at least a first and second type of metadata that characterizes the music file; and

(b) a display for displaying a user interface configured to present a first assemblage of the plurality of music files in a first set of groups according to the first type of metadata associated with the music files, and, in response to a user selection of a group in the first assemblage, present a second assemblage of the music files in the selected group, wherein the second assemblage presents the music files in the selected group in a second set of groups according to the second type of metadata associated with the music files in the selected group;

(B) a sound reproduction device comprising:

(a) a housing;

(b) one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;

(c) an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;

(d) control circuitry located within the housing; and

(e) a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths

configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer, and (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer; and

(C) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a command to control a user function of the computer relating to control of audio information,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

(i) control the user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a control command of the second type.

210. (Previously presented) The system of claim 209, wherein the computer further comprises:

(a) a processor; and

(b) instructions stored on a computer-readable media that, when executed, cause the processor to:

(i) assemble the plurality of music files into a first set of groups based on the first metadata associated with each respective music file; and

(ii) assemble the plurality of music files into a second set of groups based on the second metadata associated with each respective music file.

211. (Previously presented) The system of claim 209, wherein the computer is a personal computer.

212. (Previously presented) The system of claim 209, wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to respond to signals received from the computer.

213. (Previously presented) The system of claim 212, wherein signals to the computer and signals from the computer to the sound reproduction device are transmitted via a signal path of the connector.

214. (Previously presented) The system of claim 209, wherein the computer is further configured to provide audio information from any one of a plurality of sources, including digital music files stored on the computer and a network accessible by the computer; and wherein the sound reproduction device is configured to received, via the connector, audio information from the computer corresponding to the digital music files and audio information from the network.

215. (Canceled).

216. (Canceled).

217. (Previously presented) The system of claim 214, wherein the sound reproduction device further includes an audio source.

218. (Previously presented) The system of claim 217, wherein the audio source of the sound reproduction device comprises an AM/FM radio tuner.

219. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the computer is a personal computer.

220. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the computer is a personal computer.

221. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 143, wherein the sound reproduction device further comprises a digital to analog converter configured to convert digital audio information from the computer to analog representations of the audio information for reproduction by the sound reproduction device.

222. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 169, wherein the sound reproduction device further comprises a digital to analog converter configured to convert digital audio information from the computer to analog representations of the audio information for reproduction by the sound reproduction device.

223. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 195, wherein the sound reproduction device further comprises a digital to analog converter configured to convert digital audio information from the computer to analog representations of the audio information for reproduction by the sound reproduction device.

224. (Previously presented) The audio system of claim 203, wherein the sound reproduction device further comprises a digital to analog converter configured to convert digital audio information from the computer to analog representations of the audio information for reproduction by the sound reproduction device.

225. (Previously presented) The system of claim 209, wherein the sound reproduction device further comprises a digital to analog converter configured to convert digital audio information from the computer to analog representations of the audio information for reproduction by the sound reproduction device.

226. (New) A system comprising:

(A) a computer having a plurality of user functions, a subset of the user functions relating to control of audio information, and comprising:

- (a) a processor;
- (b) a display; and
- (c) a storage device configured to store a plurality of digital music files, each music file including within the music file at least a first and second type of metadata that characterizes the music file,

the storage device further including instructions that, when executed by the processor, present a user interface on the display that shows a first assemblage of the plurality of music files in a first set of groups according to the first type of metadata associated with the music files, and, in response to a user selection of a group in the first assemblage, shows a second assemblage of the music files in the selected group, wherein the second assemblage presents the music files in the selected group in a second set of groups according to the second type of metadata associated with the music files in the selected group;

- (B) a sound reproduction device comprising:
 - (a) a housing;
 - (b) one or more speakers located at least partially within the housing;
 - (c) an amplifier located within the housing for powering the one or more speakers;
 - (d) control circuitry located within the housing; and
 - (e) a connector located at least partially within the housing that is configured to provide a physical and electrical connection exclusively between the sound reproduction device and the computer, wherein the connection includes one or more signal paths configured to (i) receive audio information from the computer, and (ii) transmit to the computer signals for controlling the computer; and

- (C) a remote control device configured to transmit signals representing at least a first type of command from a user and a second type of command from a user to the sound reproduction device, wherein the first type of command is a command to control a user function of the sound reproduction device and the second type of command is a

command to control a user function of the computer relating to control of audio information,

wherein the control circuitry is configured to receive the signals from the remote control and, in response to receiving such signals:

(i) control the user function of the sound reproduction device when the user issues a command of the first type, and

(ii) transmit to the computer, via a signal path of the connector, a signal for controlling the user function of the computer when the user issues a control command of the second type.

Applicant : Paul E. Beckmann et al.
Serial No. : 11/608,034
Filed : December 7, 2006
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Attorney's Docket No.: 02103-0390002 / S25 US1

REMARKS

Claims 143-200, 203-206, 209-214, and 217-225 are pending. New independent claim 226 has been added to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.

The fees for excess claim fees are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 1, 2012/

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