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(54) **PORTABLE MOTION DETECTOR AND ALARM SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/271,511, filed on Mar. 18, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,215,396, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/865,886, filed on May 30, 1997, now abandoned.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/018,829, filed on May 30, 1996.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G08B 13/08**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **340/545.1; 340/546; 340/547; 340/548; 340/539; 348/155**

(58) **Field of Search** 340/545.1, 546, 340/547, 548, 539, 531, 533; 348/143, 152, 153, 154, 155, 159, 169; 379/37, 38, 39, 44

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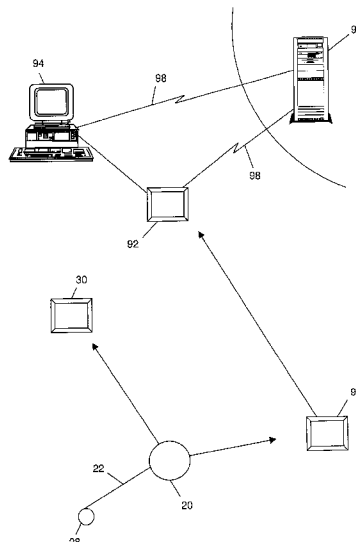
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A portable security alarm system which can be installed on a temporary basis and removed from an object whose movement is to be detected including a motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member for mounting proximate the object whose movement is to be detected, a member for selectively coupling and decoupling the motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member relative to the object whose movement is to be detected, a combined radio signal receiving and alarm generating member for receiving a signal from the combined motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member and producing an alarm, a remote control for actuating and deactuating the radio signal receiving and alarm generating member, an information gathering device adapted to receive the predetermined signal, to gather information relating to the movement, and to transmit the information, and a remote notification device adapted to receive the information from the information gathering device, to establish data communication with a remote host, and to provide the information to the remote host.

20 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



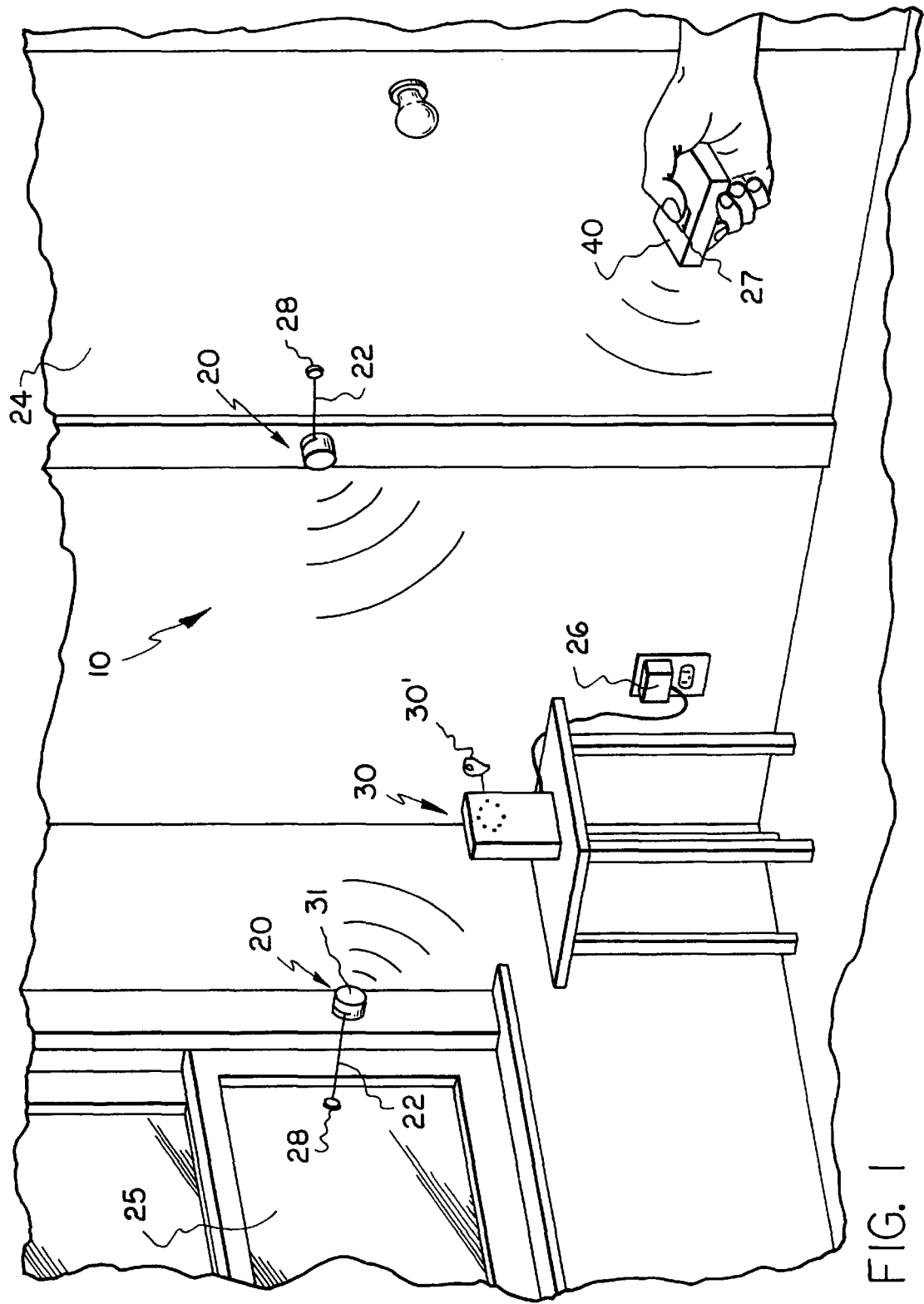
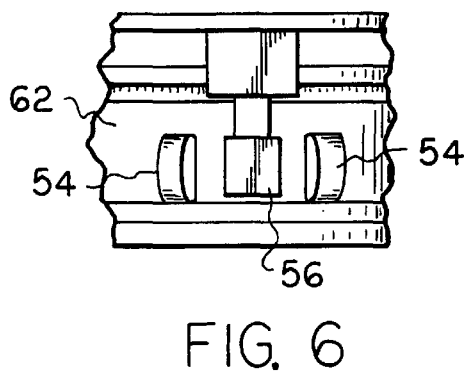
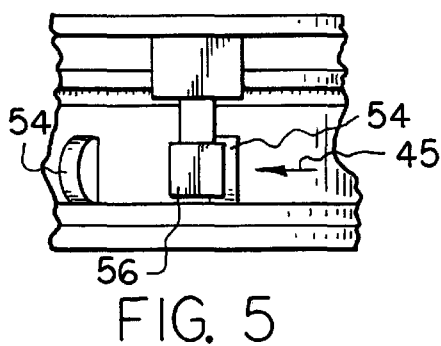
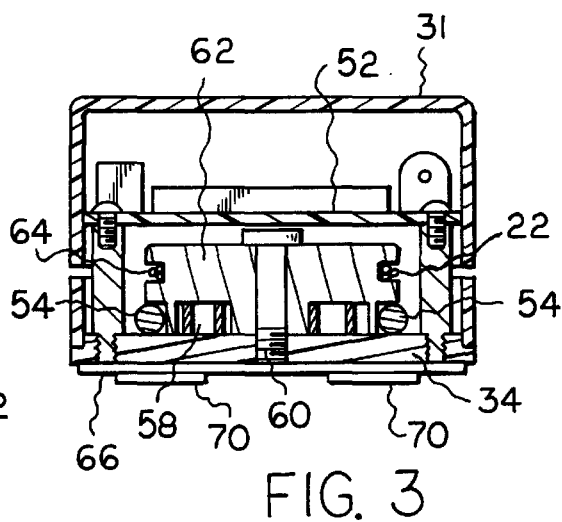
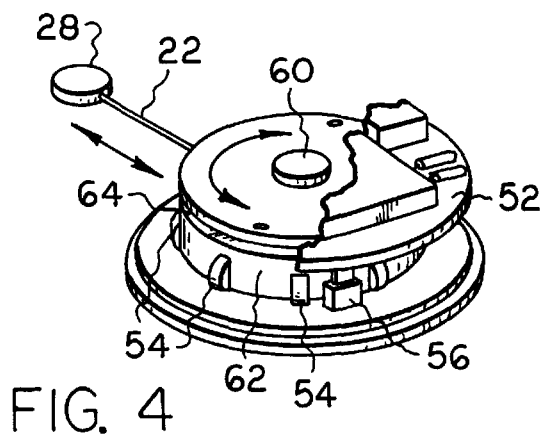
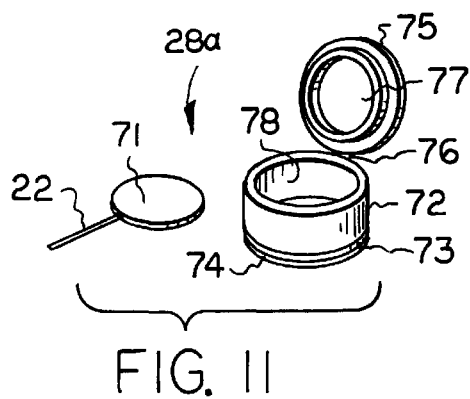
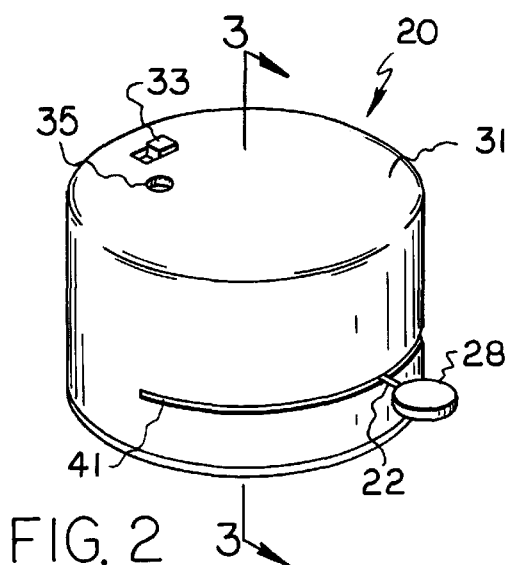
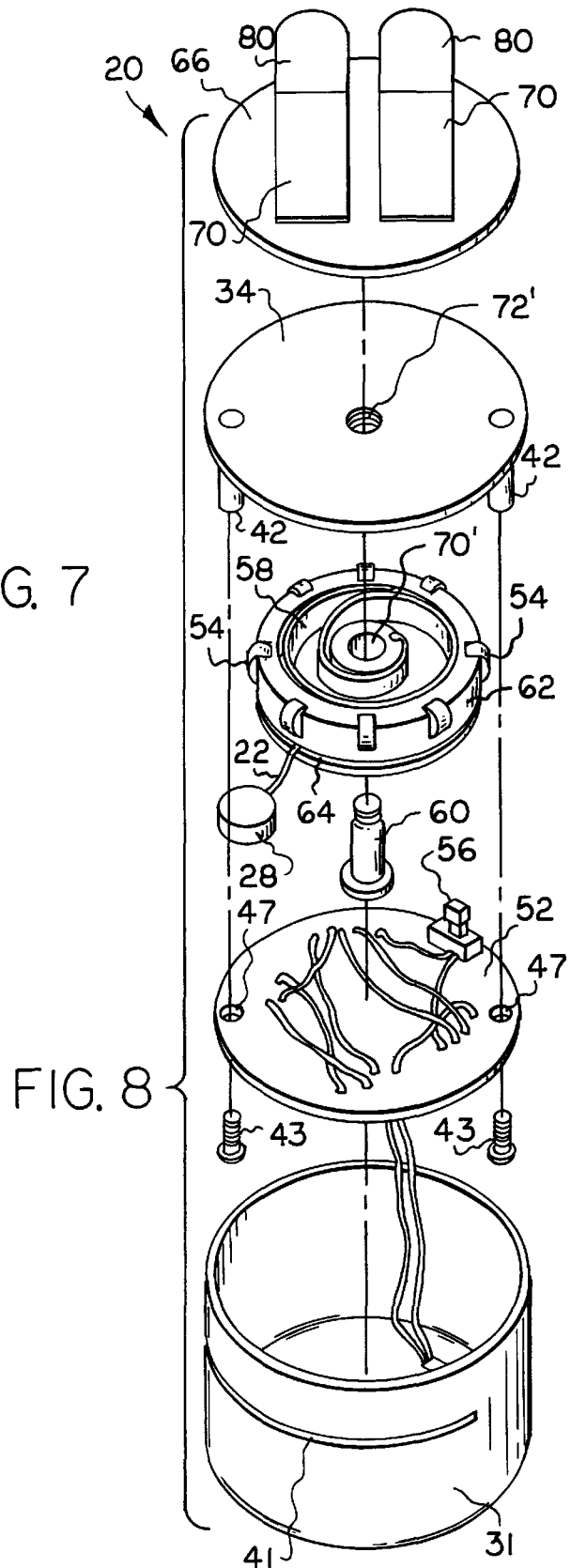
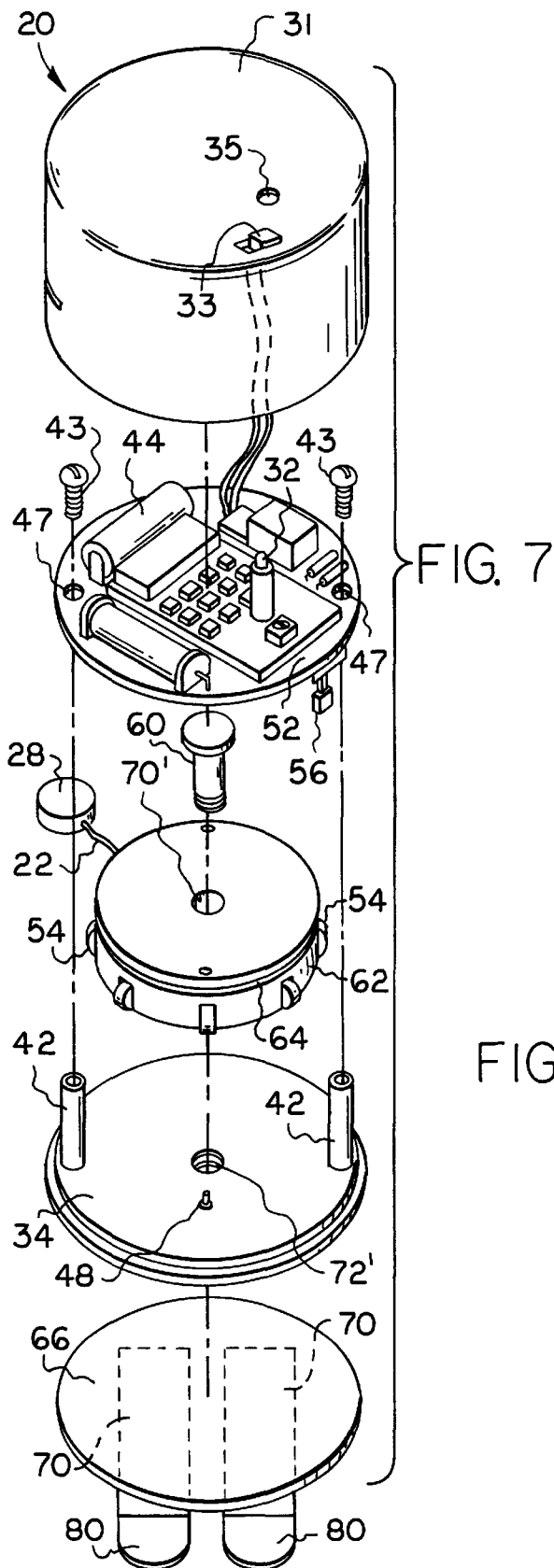


FIG. 1





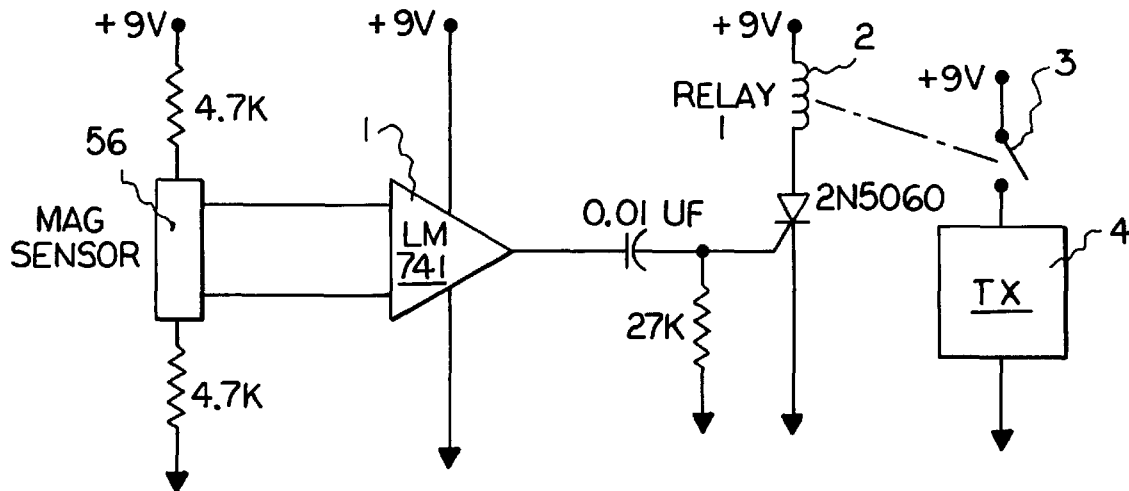


FIG. 9

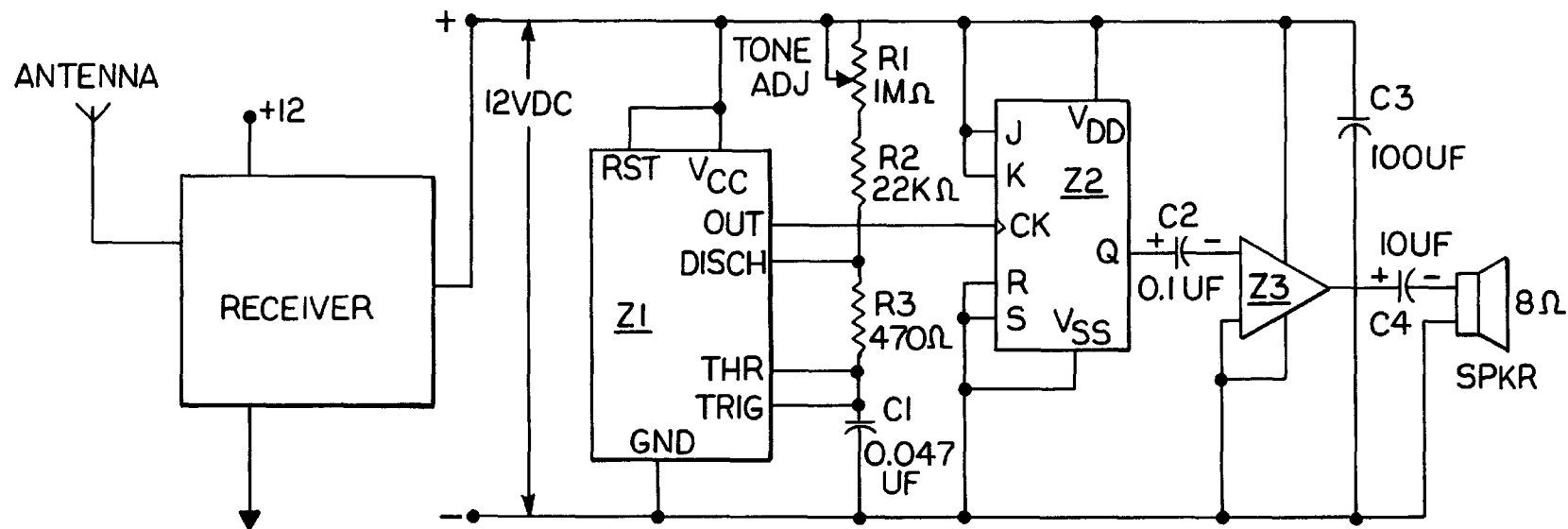


FIG. 10

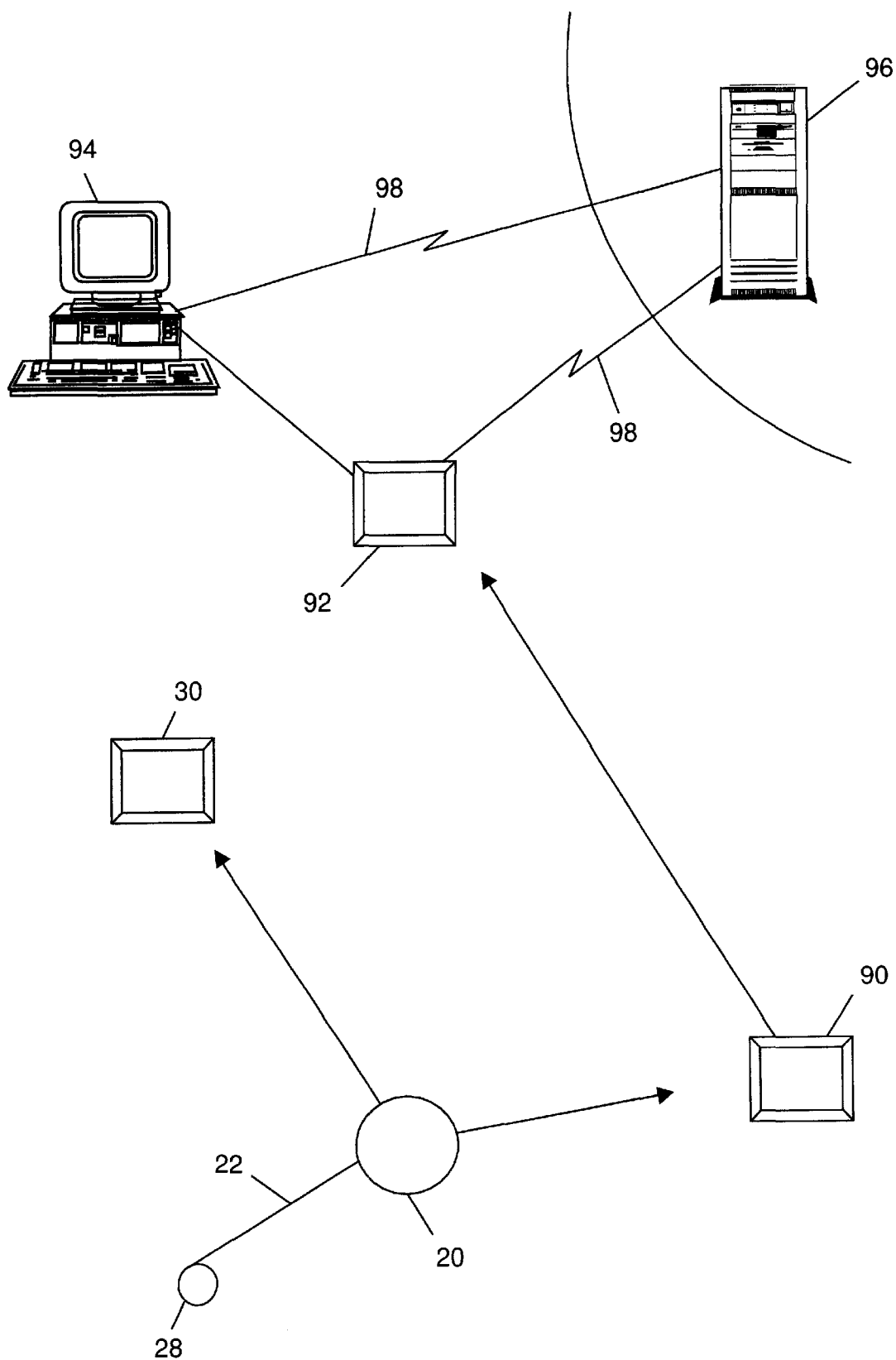


FIG. 12

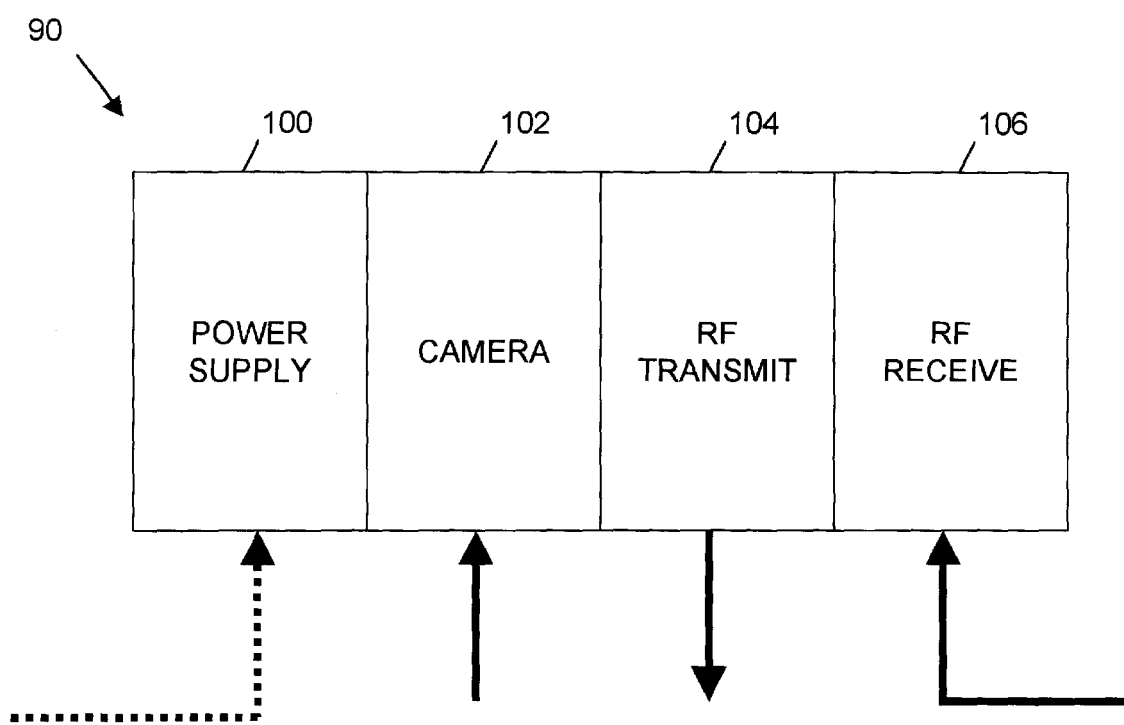


FIG. 13

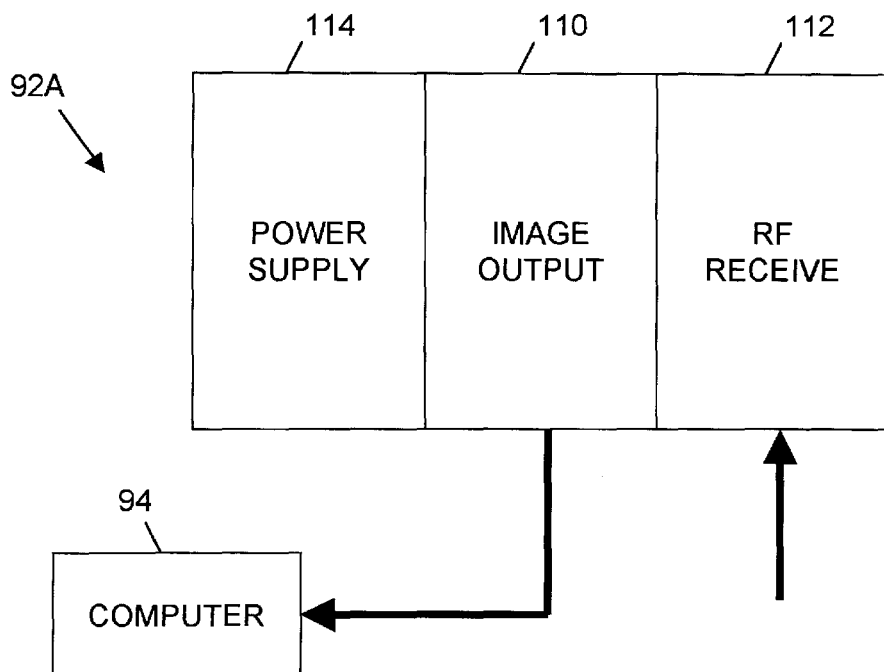


FIG. 14A

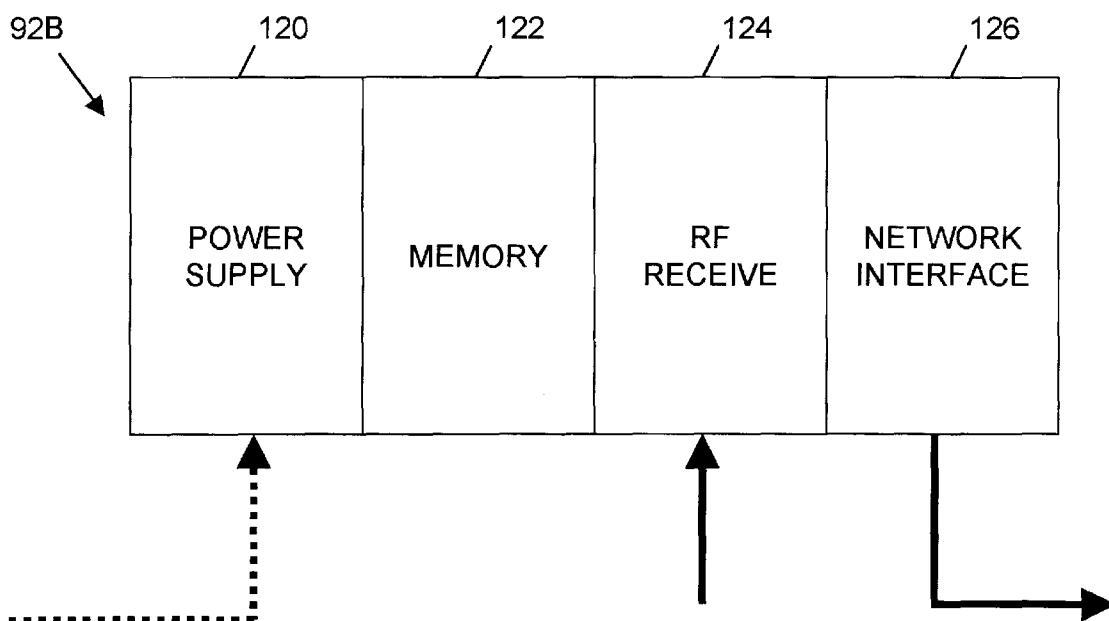


FIG. 14B

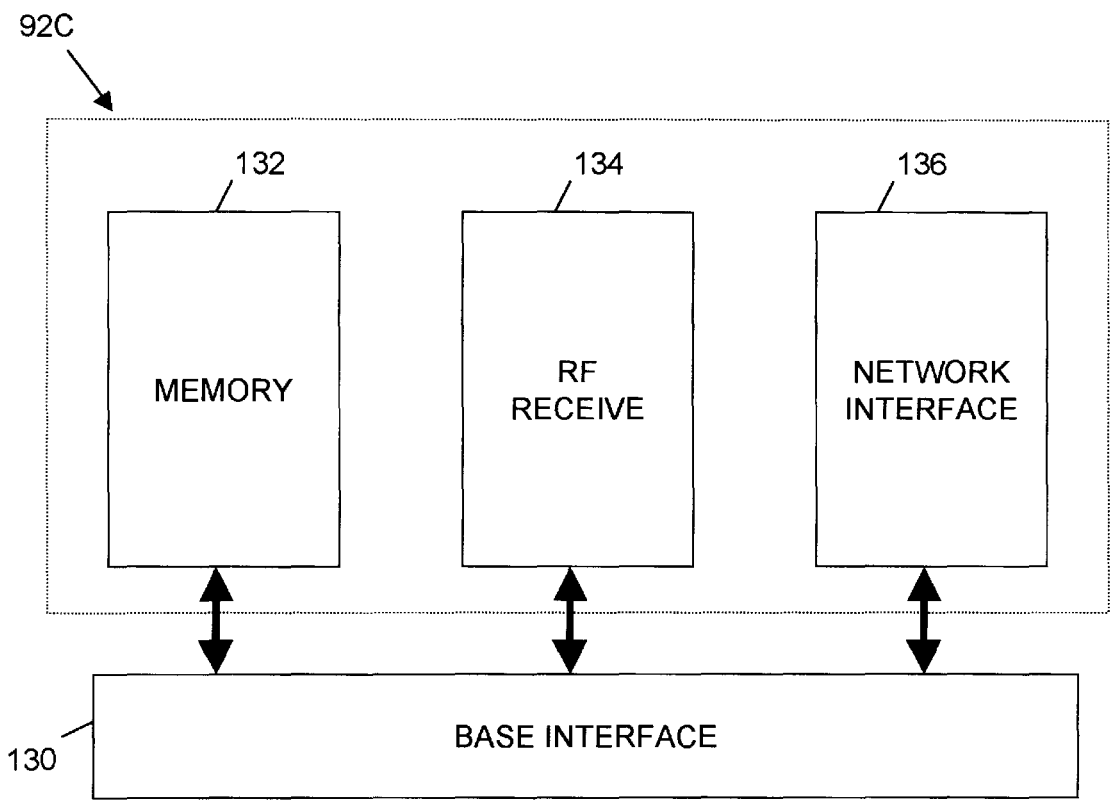


FIG. 14C

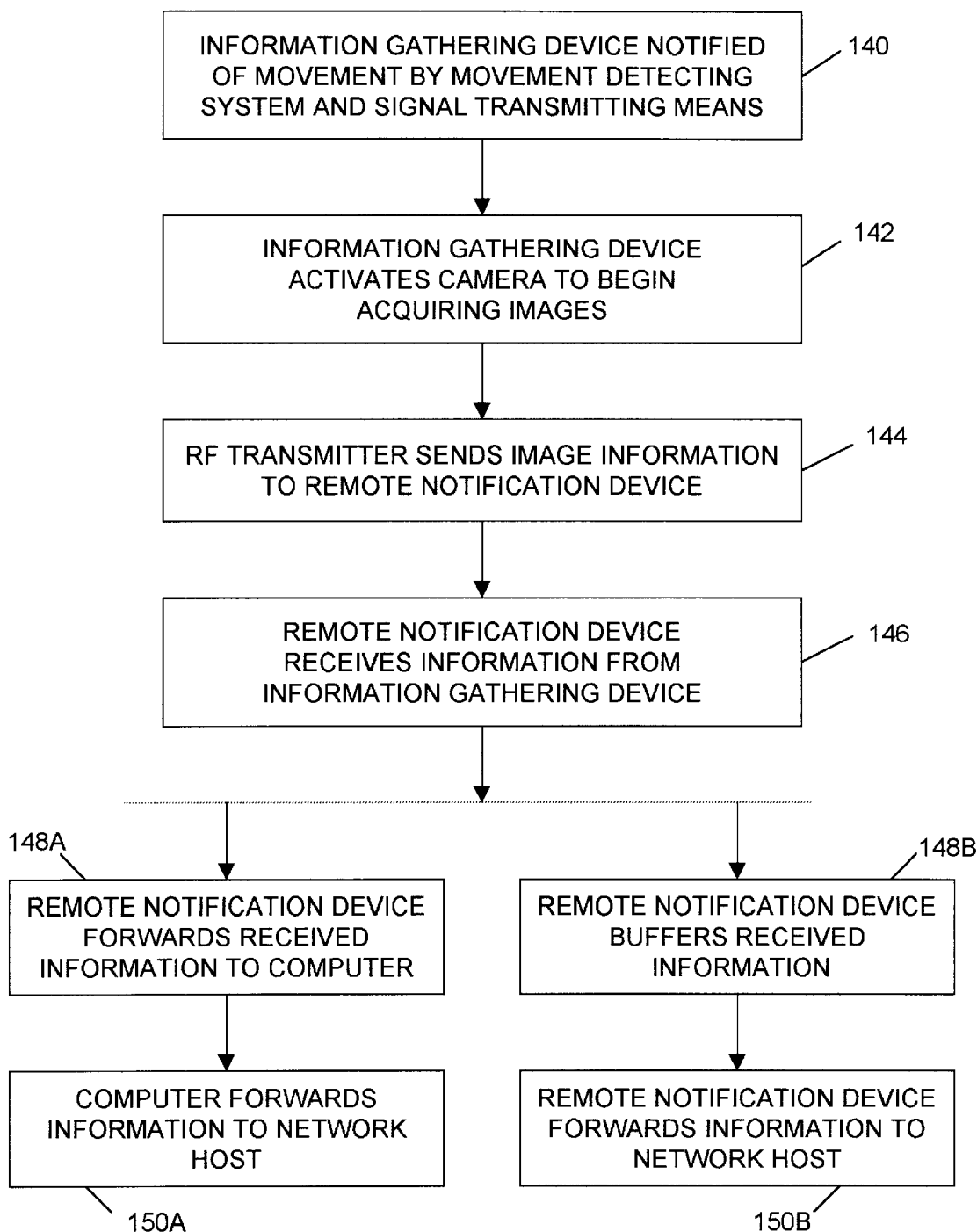


FIG. 15

**PORTABLE MOTION DETECTOR AND
ALARM SYSTEM AND METHOD**

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 09/271,511, filed Mar. 18, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,215,396, which is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 08/865,886, filed May 30, 1997, now abandoned, which is based on U.S. provisional application serial No. 60/018, 829, filed May 30, 1996.

**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY
SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates generally to an improved motion detector and alarm system for actuating an alarm device in response to movement of an object, and more particularly to a portable motion detector and alarm system which is easy to install and operate and is capable of detecting motion relative to a variety of predetermined positions.

2. Prior Art

The problem of protecting homes, businesses and other premises against unauthorized intrusions is becoming increasingly important due to the increase in vandalism, theft and even physical attacks upon the inhabitants. Various prior art systems have been developed to address the problem and numerous examples exist of alarm or warning devices. One commonly used protective system involves wiring doors and windows in such a manner that an unauthorized opening of the door or window activates an electric circuit which in turn produces an alarm.

For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,271,405 to Kitterman discloses an alarm control system for protecting a premises including a four conductor bus line leading from a master control station and extending about the interior perimeter of the premises. Sensors positioned near each port of entry to be monitored are connected in parallel relationship to the bus line. Each sensor carries a biased reel carrying line secured to a window, door, screen or the like. Disturbance of a sensor causes a magnetically responsive switch therein to generate a pulse triggering circuitry within the control station to activate the desired alarm device.

While effective, this system requires extensive wiring of the premises as a bus line must be routed about the interior perimeter of the premises between a master control station and the ports of entry at which the motion sensors are to be located. Hence, this system is time consuming and complicated to install, and installation may require expertise beyond that of the average home or business owner. Once installed, the sensors of this system are not easily relocated. Further, the system may be defeated by cutting the wires extending between the sensors and the master control station.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,781,836 to Kruper et al discloses an alarm system including a magnetic pulse generator for producing an output pulse in response to a change in magnetic flux in response to an intrusion of a designated area. A radio transmitter circuit responds to the pulse from the magnetic pulse generator by transmitting a signal to a remote receiver circuit which in turn generates a pulse for actuating an intrusion alarm circuit. The system requires a complex

linkage assembly to translate motion of the object to motion of a magnet. In addition a relatively bulky pick-up coil assembly is necessary to generate the pulse to be applied to the transmitter circuit.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,696,380 to Murphy discloses a portable alarm device with a battery or low voltage operated sound signal triggered by a magnetic reed switch which is closed to complete the circuit by a magnet attached to a movably mounted arm, the poles of the magnet being positioned perpendicular to the longitudinal dimension of the contact strips of the reed switch to cause the reed switch to close when the magnet is in either of two positions relative to the switch.

A need remains for a motion detection and signal generating system which is small in size, easily transportable, easy to install and which can sense motion relative to any desired initial position of an object. An additional desirable capability of the foregoing system would be to provide information about the detected motion to a remote location, such as a law enforcement or other security agency.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the invention to provide a system for detecting the movement of an object comprising: an object whose movement is to be detected, movable magnet means coupled to the object such that movement of the object results in movement of said movable magnet means, and means for detecting movement of the movable magnet means and providing an indication of the movement. The means for detecting is in communication with the movable magnet means.

The system further includes radiating means for wirelessly transmitting a predetermined signal in response to the indication of movement, the radiating means being coupled to the means for detecting. The object whose movement is to be detected may be coupled to the movable magnet means by a wire means which can also serve as the radiating means.

The system further includes means for receiving the predetermined signal, the means for receiving being separate from and located at a distance from the radiating means. The system preferably includes means for generating an alarm signal when the predetermined signal is received by the means for receiving. The alarm signal thus generated may be audible, visual or electronic and may include speakers, warning horns, lamps and the like.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a method of detecting movement of one or more objects comprising the steps of: a) coupling each object whose movement is to be detected to a corresponding movable magnet such that movement of any object results in movement of the corresponding magnet; b) detecting the motion of the corresponding magnet; c) transmitting a predetermined signal in response to the detected motion, and, d) receiving the predetermined signal at a distance from the object, or objects, whose motion is to be detected.

The method may include the further step of providing an alarm signal when the predetermined signal is received by the receiver means. The alarm signal may be audible, visible, or may be an electronic alarm signal which is transmitted to a remote alarm center via a telecommunications means such as a telephone line.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a movement detection and alarm system which may be affixed to a wide variety of objects including inside doors, outside gates, garage doors, children's barriers such as "baby gates", valuable wall hangings and paintings, and countless other objects.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a movement detection and alarm system which is portable and is easily packed in a suitcase and transported with a traveler to be later installed on motel or hotel room doors and windows whenever additional protection is desired by the traveler.

It is a further object of the invention to provide movement information to a remote location, such as a law enforcement or security agency.

The present invention relates to a portable security alarm system which can be installed on a temporary basis and removed from an object whose movement is to be detected comprising a motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member, means for selectively coupling and decoupling said motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member relative to said object whose movement is to be detected, and a combined radio signal receiving and alarm generating member for receiving a signal from said combined motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member and producing an alarm. The alarm system also preferably includes a remote control member for selectively actuating and deactuating said combined radio signal receiving and alarm generating member. The alarm system also preferably includes an information gathering device for gathering movement information and a remote notification device for providing the movement information to a remote location.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL
VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The foregoing and other objects and features of the present invention will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are, therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope, the invention will be described with additional specificity and detail through use of the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a pictorial diagram showing the components of the system according to the present invention as they appear in use.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the motion sensing and transmitting means of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of the motion sensing and transmitting means of the present invention taken along lines 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the interior of the motion sensing and transmitting means of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a close-up view of the sensing means.

FIG. 6 is a close-up view of the movable magnet means.

FIG. 7 is an exploded top perspective view of the motion sensing and transmitting means of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is an exploded bottom perspective view of the motion sensing and transmitting means of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a transmitting means according to the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of a receiver means according to the present invention.

FIG. 11 is an exploded view of the structure for affixing the outer end of the retractable wire to the object whose movement is to be detected.

FIG. 12 is a functional block diagram showing the system of the invention including a remote notification device and an information gathering device.

FIG. 13 is a detailed functional block diagram showing details of the information gathering device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 14A is a detailed functional block diagram showing details of a first embodiment of the remote notification device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 14B is a detailed functional block diagram showing details of a second embodiment of the remote notification device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 14C is a detailed functional block diagram showing details of a third embodiment of the remote notification device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 15 is a flow diagram showing operational steps performed by the information gathering and remote notification devices of FIG. 12.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
INVENTION

The following detailed description of the embodiments of the present invention, as represented in FIGS. 1–15, is not intended to limit the scope of the invention, as claimed, but is merely representative of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention. The presently preferred embodiments of the invention will be best understood by reference to the drawings, wherein like parts are designated by like numerals throughout.

FIG. 1 shows, in pictorial block diagram form, the major components of the movement detecting device and alarm system 10 of the present invention. The system is comprised of at least one movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20, including a retractable wire means 22, a receiver means 30 and a remote control means 40.

More than one movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 may be utilized in implementing the system of the present invention. One movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 may be placed on each object whose movement it is desired to detect. For example, in a room with four windows 25 and two doors 24, six movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 may be utilized, one on each window and one on each door. However, only one receiver means 30 is necessary regardless of the number of movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 used. There is no limit to the number of movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 which may be used with one receiver.

Each movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 is coupled to one object, such as a door 24, or window 25, whose movement is to be detected. In a preferred embodiment, the coupling means is a retractable wire 22 which extends from movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 to the object, 25 or 24, whose movement is to be detected. One end of retractable wire 22 is affixed to the object and the other is coupled to movable magnets (best illustrated in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6) located inside casing 31 of movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20. Typical means of affixing the end of retractable wire 22 to an object include VELCRO tabs, glue, removable tape, and the like.

Receiver means 30 is configured to receive a predetermined signal which is wirelessly transmitted by movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20 whenever the object whose movement is to be detected, is displaced from a predetermined position. The object whose movement is to be detected need not be in any particular position when the end of retractable wire 22 is affixed thereto. If the object is a window, such as depicted at 25, the window may be closed,

5

or it may be partially or fully open, when retractable wire **22** is affixed. Any displacement from its position when retractable wire **22** is affixed will be detected and alarmed.

Accordingly, a window may be left in a partially open position, as for example, to provide fresh air to a room, while the occupant attends to other matters, or sleeps. Any displacement from the partially open position will cause the alarm signal to be generated. Even in a situation wherein an intruder reached into the window and removed movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20** from the window, the predetermined signal would be transmitted and the alarm signal generated, thus warning the occupant of an intrusion.

Receiver **30** can be any receiver known in the art capable of receiving the signal transmitted through retractable wire **22**. In response to the transmitted signal, receiver **30** initiates a local alarm which can be audible or visual. In addition, receiver **30** may initiate contact with police, medical, rescue or other emergency facilities or agencies. Receiver **30** can be AC powered and may be equipped with an on/off switch. Receiver **30** need not be co-located with movement detection and signal transmitting means **20** and can be positioned anywhere within reception distance of the transmitted signal. Receiver means **30** may be positioned anywhere about the room or the area to be protected and may be placed up to a distance of 150 ft. to 200 ft. or greater from movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**.

In a preferred embodiment receiver means **30** is powered by alternating current (AC). Therefore, it must be located such that a power cord, or an extension thereof, can be extended to the nearest AC outlet. Alternate embodiments of receiver means **30** may be powered by battery, or may include battery backup means to supply power to receiver **30** in the event of a power failure.

In a preferred embodiment receiver means **30** is a commercially available BLACK WIDOW receiver unit, or similar units, which may be purchased off-the-shelf from various electronics supply companies such as Whitney Electronics or Holsfelt Electronics. An AC adapter such as that depicted at **26** in FIG. 1 may be used to provide the correct operating voltage for receiver means **30**. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention a BLACK WIDOW RF receiver Model #2.CL manufactured by LCD Co. of California was used as a receiver. FIG. 10 shows a schematic diagram, of a type well understood by those of ordinary skill in the electronics arts, of a receiver unit suitable for use in the present invention.

Returning to FIG. 1, the system of the present invention may also include a remote control unit **40** which may be purchased from the same source as receiver means **30**. Remote control means **40** controls the operating state of receiver means **30**. That is, remote control means **40** may be used to electronically enable or disable receiver means **30** such that the response of receiver **30** to the signal transmitted by retractable wire **22** can be controlled. Remote control means **40** preferably includes a panic button which, when depressed or otherwise enabled, transmits a signal which instantly activates the alarm function of receiver means **30**. The means for activating can be a switch **27** which may be operated by hand to cause remote control unit **40** to activate the alarm signal, or to discontinue the alarm signal after it has been activated by either the predetermined signal or the remote control unit **40** itself.

This feature serves as a "panic" button, i.e., a means of triggering the alarm within receiver **30** to attract attention or call for aid in the presence of other emergencies. When it is

6

desired to discontinue the alarm signal, switch **27** may be set to a position which causes the previously activated alarm signal to stop. Such remote control units and receivers are well known in the electronic arts and are commonly used in other electronics applications. Accordingly, remote control unit **40** is also readily available from commercial sources and may be purchased and utilized in the system of the present invention "off-the-shelf." The transmitter circuit of remote control unit **40** may be used as a model for transmitter **4** (FIG. 9) of the movement detector and signal transmitting means **20** of the present invention such that both transmit the proper signal for receiver means **30**.

This feature may also serve as a means of testing the system **10** to determine its operational status, i.e., ready to operate (or armed), or malfunctioning. If switch **27** is manually set by the operator to a position designed to activate the alarm signal within receiver **30**, and no alarm signal is produced, a malfunction condition is present. If the alarm signal within receiver **30** is produced, the system **10** may be considered "armed" or ready to operate.

Once system **10** is configured as desired, i.e., each movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20** is positioned on a corresponding object whose motion is to be detected, and receiver **30** is armed, any movement of window **25** or door **24** will cause a predetermined signal to be radiated from movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20** and wirelessly transmitted to receiver **30**. Receiver **30** will receive the transmitted predetermined signal and provide an alarm signal in response. In the embodiment shown the alarm signal is an audio signal provided through one or more speakers located within receiver **30**.

Turning now to FIG. 2 there is shown a perspective view of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**, including casing **31**, switch **33**, retractable wire affixing means **28** and retractable wire **22**. Casing **31** may include an opening **35** for allowing visible light, as from a lamp or an LED **32**, to be seen by the naked eye. The illumination of such a lamp, or light emitting means, gives an operator a visible indication of the operational status of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**.

Casing **32** further includes a slotted opening **41** through which retractable wire **22** and retractable wire affixing means **28** may be disposed. This allows flexibility in positioning retractable wire **22** on an object relative to the position of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**.

FIG. 3 shows a cross sectional view of the movement detecting and signal transmitting means depicted in FIG. 2, taken along lines 3—3 of FIG. 2. Casing **31** surrounds the internal components. The major internal components of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20** are: an electronic circuit board **52**, a rotatable frame **62** for supporting magnet means **54**, a supporting-base means **34** and a rear panel **66**. Rotatable frame **62** includes a channel means **64**, wherein retractable wire means **22** may be disposed, and wrapped around rotatable frame **62**. Also shown is spring means **58** (best illustrated in FIG. 8) for maintaining constant tension on wire means **22** as wire means **22** is pulled closer, or further from casing **31**. The foregoing components are coupled together by pin means **60** (best illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8).

As shown in FIG. 4 retractable wire means **22** is in communication at one end with rotatable frame **62**. Rotatable frame **62** includes one or more movable magnets **54**, preferably opposite pole magnets which are spaced from each other and disposed within rotatable frame **62**. The

preferred embodiment includes 8 such magnet means **54** spaced equidistantly from each other around rotatable frame **62**. Magnet means **54** may be of a type commonly available commercially from sources such as Radio Shack. One such magnet means suitable for use in a preferred embodiment of the present invention is a common $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter earth magnet available from Radio Shack, part number 64-1895.

Rotatable frame **62** is preferably a circular supporting frame which is provided with a central opening **70** about which rotatable frame **62** rotates. Rotatable frame **62** is adapted to include a channel **64** for receiving retractable wire **22**. Channel **64** extends about the circumference of rotatable frame **62** and allows retractable wire **22** to be wrapped about rotatable frame **62** in a manner similar to that of a string wrapped around a yo yo. The end of retractable wire **22** is in contact with rotatable frame **62** may be affixed to rotatable frame **62** by traditional means such by knotting the end of retractable wire **22** and inserting it into a notch within channel **64**, or by wrapping and tying one end of retractable wire **22** securely around channel **64**. Retractable wire **22** must be secured such that slippage of retractable wire **22** within channel **64** is avoided. Other means of securing one end of retractable wire **22** within channel **64** will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Magnet means **54** may be inserted into openings (not shown) in rotatable frame **62** and held in place by means of glue, or other suitable affixing means. The openings into which magnet means **54** are inserted should provide a snug fit for magnet means **54** such that movable magnet means **54** will remain securely in place throughout the life of system **10**.

FIGS. 7 and 8 show exploded views from the top and bottom, respectively, of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**. As shown in the figures, case **31** and rear panel **66** enclose the components of movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**. On/off switch **33** provides a means for connecting and disconnecting power from battery **44** from the components residing on electronic circuit board **52**. Battery **44** may be a common 9V battery of a size suitable for disposition within case **31**. Other battery means, such as miniature batteries, may be utilized to construct smaller embodiments of the present invention. Such means will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

Electronic circuit board **52** includes means **56** for detecting movement of movable magnet means **54**. Means **56** for detecting movement of movable magnet means **54** may be a magnetic field sensor such as a KMZ10B available from Phillips Semiconductors. A schematic diagram of a type readily understood by those skilled in the electronics arts illustrating a preferred circuit connection for means **56** for detecting movement, is provided in FIG. 9.

The circuit depicted in FIG. 9 operates generally as follows. When the object whose movement is to be detected moves in any direction, retractable wire **22** either extends or retracts (as best depicted in FIG. 1). When the object moves toward movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**, retractable wire **22** recoils toward movement detecting and signal transmitting means **20**, and vice versa.

As retractable wire **22** moves, movable magnets **54** rotate. When movable magnet means **54** are displaced from their resting position, a change in the magnetic field surrounding movable magnet means **54**, with respect to magnetic field sensor **56** occurs. FIG. 6 shows two rotatable magnet means **54** in one possible resting position with respect to magnetic field sensor **56**. FIG. 5 shows movable magnet means **54** as

they move in direction **45**, as shown by the arrow, past magnetic field sensor **56**. It is the change of the position of movable magnets relative to magnetic field sensor **56** which is detected by magnetic field sensor **56**.

Returning to FIG. 9, magnetic field sensor **56** senses the change in the magnetic field and provides a signal representing the change, to comparator **1**, in this case a common LM **741**. The output of comparator **1** causes relay **2** to energize closing contact **3** and enabling battery power to operate radiating means, i.e., transmitter **4**. The circuitry of transmitter **4** can be any available transmitter configuration known in the art which is capable of transmitting a signal through retractable wire **22** and which can be configured to fit on transmitter circuit board **52**.

Transmitter **4** generates a predetermined signal which is in turn radiated and wirelessly transmitted to receiver **30**. In a preferred embodiment, the output of transmitter **4** is coupled to wire means **22**, which serves as a transmit antenna. Retractable wire **22** can be a suitable length of wire, cable, or any other electrically conductive material.

As will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art, electronic circuit board **52**, as embodied in the circuit diagram circuit of FIG. 9 has many equivalents. It is not intended that the invention be limited to the particular circuit depicted in FIG. 9.

Returning now to FIGS. 7 and 8 electronic circuit board **52** may also include a lamp **32** which illustrates when switch **33** is turned to the "on" position and power from battery **44** is applied to the electronic components residing on circuit board **52**. Electronic circuit board **52** is adapted to include openings **47** through which fastening means **43**, which may be conventional screws, are passed as shown.

Rotatable frame **62**, including retractable wire channel **64** and magnet means **54** is located beneath electronic circuit board **52**. Rotatable frame **62** includes a central opening **70** through which central fastening means **60** is passed. Beneath rotatable frame **62** lies supporting base means **34** which is adapted to include a central threaded opening **72** for receiving the threaded end of central fastening means **60**. Threaded nuts **42** receive fastening means **43**, and act as spacers to hold rotatable frame **62** sufficiently distant from supporting base means **34** to allow rotatable frame **62** to rotate. In this manner circuit board **52**, rotatable frame **62**, and supporting base means **34** are coupled together such that rotatable frame **62** may rotate freely about central fastening means **60**.

FIG. 8 shows spring means **58** as it appears coiled around the interior of rotatable frame **62**. Spring means **58** is secured at one end to supporting base means **34** by means of pin **48**. Spring means **58** is thereby positioned to maintain tension on retractable wire means **22**, as rotatable frame **62** rotates. Thus spring means **58** provides the retraction mechanism for retractable wire means **22**.

In accordance with the portability aspect of the present invention, the above-described structure has been modified as follows. First of all, rear panel **66** of casing **31** (FIGS. 3 and 8) has pressure-sensitive adhesive strips **70** thereon which can be pressed into firm engagement with a window-sill or door jamb (FIG. 1) and which will leave no marks when removed. Strips **70** are marketed under the trademark COMMAND of the 3M Company. The 3M COMMAND strips **70** have pressure-sensitive adhesive on both surfaces. One surface adheres to rear panel **66** and the other surface adheres to the fixed surface proximate the object whose movement is to be detected. Tabs **80** of strips **70** extend outwardly beyond panel **66** and they do not have any adhesive on their opposite sides. After the panel **66** has been

adhesively secured to a surface and it is desired to demount the movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20, it is merely necessary to grasp each tab 80 and pull it away from panel 66 in the direction of the longitudinal axis of each strip and substantially parallel to the surface of panel 66. This will release the strips 70 from the surface on which member 20 is mounted and it may also release them from panel 66. Strips 70 preferably are applied to the rear panel 66 every time the member 20 is to be mounted. Any other suitable pressure-sensitive adhesive may be used. The main objective is that the mounting causes the signal transmitting means 20 be firmly mounted in a manner such that it will not move while mounted but which permits it to be removed so that it can be transported to another location.

In accordance with the present invention, the retractable wire-affixing means 28a of FIG. 11 includes a disc 71 affixed to the outer end of wire 22 and an anchor member in the form of cup member 72 having pressure-sensitive adhesive 73 mounted on its underside which is covered by release paper 74. Cup member 72 also includes a cover 75 which is connected to cup member 72 by a molded hinge 76. The cover has a disc-like protrusion 77 having an outer edge which fits in tight engagement with the inner wall 78 of cup-like member 72 when the cover is in a closed position. The cup member 72 is a commercial product sold under the trademark CROWN BOLT of the Crown Bolt, Inc. company of Corritos, Calif., except that it does not have the pressure-sensitive adhesive thereon, which has been added in accordance with the present invention. It will be appreciated that other types of anchor members can be used instead of a cup member 72. Such devices may include a small hook or post mounted on a base having pressure-sensitive adhesive thereon in an analogous manner similar to adhesive 73. Also, as an alternative, disc 28 may have a hole therein so that it is essentially a ring which may be mounted on a simple post having a base with pressure-sensitive adhesive thereon, as noted above. Also, the post may have a bulbous outer end so that it looks like a collar button. Also, if desired, the outer end of wire 22 may be formed in a loop which may be placed on a post or hook. In fact, any suitable arrangement can be used wherein a small unobtrusive member, such as the foregoing anchor members, may be securely fastened to the member whose movement is to be detected and an attachment member may be formed on the end of the wire 22 which can be removably fastened to the small unobtrusive member.

In use, the cup anchor member 72 is securely adhesively affixed to an object whose movement is to be detected, such as a window or door, as shown by wire-affixing means 28 of FIG. 1, after the release paper 74 has been removed from pressure-sensitive adhesive 73. Thereafter, while the cover 75 is in the position shown in FIG. 11, the disc 71 at the end of wire 22 is inserted into the cavity of cup 72 and the lid 75 is closed. The other types of anchor members can be used as alternates to the cup anchor member. Thus, the system is in a position to operate as described above.

When the person who has temporarily used the portable system desires to leave the place where the system has been installed and take the portable system with him, he need merely deactivate the system and thereafter open lid 75 to remove disc 71 and permit wire 22 to retract disc 71 back to a position wherein it abuts the casing 31. The cylindrical cup 72 is merely left in position on the window or door jamb, and it is substantially unobtrusive inasmuch as its overall diameter is only about 3/8" and its height is about 1/4". The other types of anchor members described above may also be left where they were adhesively secured to the movable member.

As noted above, the system of the present invention can be carried in a brief case, purse or overnight case from place to place. In this respect, the total weight of a preferred embodiment is approximately 20 ounces, and it has a volume which occupies a very small portion of a brief case, suitably sized purse or a suitcase.

While the foregoing portion of the specification has designated wire 22 as being an antenna, it will be appreciated that a suitable antenna may be incorporated within housing 31 and the element 22 may be a suitable high strength string-like member made of suitable plastic or any other suitable material.

Turning now to FIG. 12, an enhanced version of the movement detecting device and alarm system 10 is shown wherein motion detection information is collected in response to the detection of movement and provided to a remote facility, such as a law enforcement or security agency. FIG. 12 functionally illustrates several of the components discussed above relative to FIGS. 1-11; namely, the above-described movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20, the retractable wire 22, the retractable wire affixing means 28, and the receiver 30. FIG. 12 further illustrates an information gathering device 90 and a remote notification device 92. Also shown is an optional computer platform 94. A remote network computer host is further represented at 96. It will be seen that the remote notification device 92 communicates with the network computer host 96, either directly or through the optional computer platform 94, via communication links 98.

In preferred embodiments of the invention, as shown by way of example in FIG. 13, the information gathering device 90 comprises a D.C. power supply 100, a camera 102, an RF transmitter 104, and an RF receiver 106. The power supply 100 can be constructed using any suitable constant voltage source, including a rechargeable battery or an AC/DC transformer. A voltage level of 12 Volts should be sufficient to power the information gathering device 90. The camera 102 preferably has low lumen capability and the ability to capture live video images or sequential still images at a selectable frame rate. The camera 102, moreover, should be small and unobtrusive. For video images, the camera 102 will typically be an analog device. For still images, the camera 102 can be implemented as a digital device. In that case, the camera will include a memory implemented using a conventional RAM (Random Access Memory) or flash memory chip (or plug-in card). A memory size of about 16 MB (MegaBytes), expandable to 256 MB, should be sufficient for this purpose. The RF transmitter 104 is adapted to transmit image information captured by the camera 102. If the camera 102 is an analog device, such as an analog video camera, the RF transmitter 104 will transmit analog RF signals. If the camera 102 is a digital device, such as a digital still camera, the RF transmitter 104 will transmit digital RF signals or analog RF signals following digital-to-analog conversion of the camera images.

It will be appreciated that there are a number of commercially available surveillance products that can be used to implement the power supply 100, the camera 102 and the RF transmitter 104. One such product is the Xcam2™ video camera kit available at the www.X10.com Internet website. This product integrates a color analog video camera that can transmit live color video (and audio) signals up to 100 feet, a microphone (for audio signal generation), and a 2.4 GHz. transmitter into a single device of relatively small size.

The RF receiver 106 can be implemented using the RF receiving circuit components of the previously-described

11

receiver 30 (see e.g., FIG. 10). It is tuned to receive RF transmissions from the signal transmitting means 20, and in particular, the predetermined signal sent by the signal transmitting means 20 in response to movement of the retractable wire affixing means 28.

The remote notification device 92 can be implemented in several ways according to preferred embodiments of the invention. In one embodiment, shown in FIG. 14A, the computer 94 is used. The remote notification device of this embodiment, designated by reference numeral 92A, is a unit that includes an RF receiver 112 and a suitable output 110 (e.g., a USB port, serial connector, or other suitable interface) for feeding information received from the information gathering device 90 to the computer 94. Power may be received from the computer 94 via a suitable power input (not shown), or the device 92A may include its own power supply 114. The latter may be a rechargeable battery or an AC/DC transformer. The RF receiver 112 operates at the frequency of the RF transmitter 104 in the information gathering device 90. It is adapted to receive and process either analog or digital transmissions, depending, on the nature of the RF transmitter 104.

In the embodiment of FIG. 14A, the computer 94 includes a network interface (e.g., an analog or digital modem, an Ethernet card, or other suitable device) and appropriate control software. In particular, the software must be capable of establishing/maintaining a connection to the remote host 96 and forwarding information thereto that is received from the information gathering device 90. The XRay Vision Internet Kit™ available at the aforementioned www.X10.com Internet website is one product that can be used to implement the remote notification device 92A according to the instant embodiment. This product includes an integrated RF receiver and USB converter to capture and manage images received from the X10™ wireless video camera referred to above. Software that is provided with the product is adapted to forward the received images to any suitable remote network host, either in real time if the remote host is so equipped, or via e-mail.

In a second embodiment of the remote notification device 92, shown in FIG. 14B, the device, referred to by reference numeral 92B, is a stand-alone unit that does not require the computer 94. It includes a D.C. power supply 120, a memory 122, an RF receiver 124, and a network interface 126. The power supply 120 can be constructed using any suitable constant voltage source, including a rechargeable battery or an AC/DC transformer. A voltage level of 12 Volts should be sufficient to power the remote notification device 92. The memory 122 can be implemented using a conventional RAM or flash memory chip (or plug-in card). A memory capacity of about 4 to 16 MB, expandable to 256 MB or more, should be sufficient for the remote notification device 92. The RF receiver 124 operates at the frequency of the RF transmitter 104 in the information gathering device 90. It is adapted to receive and process either analog or digital transmissions, depending on the nature of the RF transmitter 10. The network interface 126 can be implemented using a conventional analog modem, a digital modem (e.g., ISDN), or an Ethernet card, any of which are connected or connectable to a data network, such as the public Internet. A wireless interface such as a cellular transmitter/receiver adapted to communicate cellular digital packet data could also be used. The interface might alternatively comprise a Bluetooth or Home RF (e.g. Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11b)) device that communicates over an air interface with another local device (e.g., a computer or cellular telephone) containing any of the foregoing network interface devices.

12

In a third embodiment of the remote notification device 92, shown in FIG. 14C, the device, referred to by reference numeral 92C, comprises various functional devices that plug in as modules to a suitable base interface 130. If the base interface 130 is a computer, the plug-in modules could be implemented as PC or PCMIA cards. Other base interfaces include the DVi family of set top devices from Motorola Corporation. In either case, the plug-in modules could include a memory module 132, an RF receiver module 134, and a network interface module 136. Power for these modules would be typically provided by the base interface 130. The memory module 132 can be implemented using a conventional RAM or flash memory chip (or plug-in card). A memory capacity of about 4 to 16 MB, expandable to 256 MB or more, should be sufficient for the remote notification device 92C. The RF receiver module 134 operates at the frequency of the RF transmitter 104 in the information gathering device 90. It is adapted to receive and process either analog or digital transmissions, depending on the nature of the RF transmitter 104. The network interface module 136 can be implemented using a conventional analog or digital modem, an Ethernet card, or any other suitable device.

Referring now to FIG. 15, the operation of information gathering device 90 and the remote notification device 92 will now be described. In step 140, the information gathering device 90 is notified of a movement event by receiving (at the RF receiver 106) a predetermined signal from the movement detecting and signal transmitting means 20. The information gathering device then activates its camera 102 to begin acquiring pictures in step 142. The camera 102 is preferably aimed at the vicinity of the retractable wire affixing means 28, such that the cause of the movement will be viewable. In step 144, the RF transmitter 104 begins sending image information to the remote notification device 92. If the information gathering device also includes a microphone, the RF transmitter 104 will also send audio information to the remote notification device 92.

In step 146, the remote notification device 92 receives the information transmitted by the information gathering device at its RF receiver 112/124/134 (see FIGS. 14A, 14B, and 14C, respectively). If the remote notification device is implemented according to FIG. 14A, it forwards the received information to the computer 94 in step 148A. The computer 94 then establishes a network connection, as necessary, and forwards the information to the remote host 96 in step 150A. If the remote notification device is implemented according to FIGS. 14B or 14C, it buffers the received information in its memory 122/132 in step 148B. In step 150B, the remote notification device establishes a network connection, as necessary, and forwards the information to the remote host 96.

The remote host 96 can be implemented as an Internet host that responds to the information received from the remote notification device 92 as either an information processing point or a store-and-retrieval point. For example, the host 96 might be a server at a security agency that displays the received information on a monitor for viewing by a security agent. Alternatively, the information could be forwarded, via email or the like, to the owner of the premises where the system 10 is located, or elsewhere. Still further, the host 96 might itself be an email server that receives the information from the remote notification device 92 as an attachment to an email addressed to the owner of the premises under surveillance, or elsewhere.

While the invention has been described in conjunction with various embodiments, they are illustrative only.

13

Accordingly, many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to persons skilled in the art in light of the foregoing detailed description. The foregoing description is intended to embrace all such alternatives and variations falling with the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for detecting the movement of an object and providing information relative to said movement to a remote location comprising an object whose movement is to be detected, a detector adapted to detect movement of said object and provide an indication of said movement, a first transmitter associated with said detector and adapted to wirelessly transmit a predetermined signal in response to said indication, an information gathering device adapted to receive said predetermined signal, to gather information relating to said movement, and to transmit said information, and a remote notification device adapted to receive said information from said information gathering device, to establish data communication with a remote host, and to provide said information to said remote host.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said information gathering device comprises a camera aimed toward said object.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said camera is a digital camera and said information gathering device comprises a memory for storing digital images generated by said camera.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said information gathering device comprises a wireless transmitter for wirelessly transmitting said information.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said remote notification device includes a wireless receiver for receiving said information.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said remote notification device includes a network interface for communicating said information to a remote network host.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said network interface comprises one of an analog modem, a digital modem, or a network interface card.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein said remote notification device communicates said information to a local computer to which said remote notification device is connected.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said computer comprises a network interface for communicating said information to a remote host.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said information includes one or more of image information and audio information.

11. A system for detecting the movement of an object comprising an object whose movement is to be detected, movable magnet means coupled to said object such that movement of said object results in movement of said movable magnet means, means for detecting movement of said movable magnet means and, providing an indication of said movement, said means for detecting being in communication with said movable magnet means, radiating means for wirelessly transmitting a predetermined signal in response to

14

said indication, said radiating means being coupled to said means for detecting, means for receiving said predetermined signal, said means for receiving being separate from and located at a distance from said radiating means, an information gathering device adapted to receive said predetermined signal, to gather information relating to said movement, and to transmit said information, and a remote notification device adapted to receive said information from said information gathering device, to establish data communication with a remote host, and to provide said information to said remote host.

12. A portable security alarm system which can be installed on a temporary basis and removed from an object whose movement is to be detected comprising a motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member, means for selectively coupling and decoupling said motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member relative to said object whose movement is to be detected, a combined radio signal receiving and alarm generating member for receiving a signal from said combined motion detecting and radio signal transmitting member and producing an alarm, an information gathering device adapted to receive said predetermined signal, to gather information relating to said movement, and to transmit said information, and a remote notification device adapted to receive said information from said information gathering device, to establish data communication with a remote host, and to provide said information to said remote host.

13. A portable security alarm system as set forth in claim 12 wherein said information gathering device comprises a digital camera and said information comprises image data.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said information gathering device comprises a wireless transmitter for wirelessly transmitting said information.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said remote notification device includes a wireless receiver for receiving said information.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said remote notification device includes a network interface for communicating with a remote network host.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said network interface comprises one of an analog modem, a digital modem, or a network interface card.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein said remote notification device communicates said information to a local computer to which said remote notification device is connected.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said computer comprises a network interface for communicating said information to a remote host.

20. The system of claim 12 wherein said information includes one or more of image information and audio information.

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