12. In these embodiments the first switch **24** can be mounted on a first plate **28** and the second switch **26** can be mounted on a second plate **29** facing the first plate **28**. Further, in the embodiments shown in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the lower part **44** of the control lever **38** can present a second operating portion (not shown), opposite to the operating portion **60** and, respectively, **62** to operate the second switch **26**. In the embodiment of FIGS. **7** to **10**, the pin **52** can be provided with a second head **55**, to operate the second switch **26** and in the embodiment of FIGS. **11** and **12** the block **40** of upper part of the control lever **38** can operate, with its opposing surfaces, both the switches **24** and **26**.

As a further alternative of the present invention, as schematically indicated in FIG. **14**, both the switches **24** and **26** can be operated by the push button lever **80**. In the plan view of FIG. **14**, the push button lever **80** is illustrated in a central rest position in which none of the two switches **24** or **26** is operated. The push button lever **80** can be pushed downwardly in the direction indicated by the arrow **82** to operate a first of said switches **24**, **26** or pulled upwardly in the direction indicated by the arrow **81** to operate the other of said switches. The push button lever **80** can operate the switches **24** and **26** in any known manner, by means of either a pivotable or sliding movement, or any others kind of movement.

Naturally, without prejudice to the principle of the invention, the constructional details and embodiments may vary widely in relation to what is described and illustrated herein purely as an example, without however departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the accompanying claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A control lever attached to a support body, mounted on a bicycle handlebar adjacent to a brake lever, for operating at least one switch of a bicycle electric device, said control lever is movable in at least two directions, and positioned so that movement in a first direction brings said lever into operating contact with said at least one switch and movement in a second direction has no operating influence on said at least one switch.

2. A control lever according to claim **1**, wherein said at least two directions are substantially perpendicular to each other.

3. A control lever according to claim **1**, wherein said lever is movable in a third direction and positioned so that movement of the lever in a third direction brings said lever into operating contact with a second switch.

4. A control lever according to claim **1**, wherein said movement in the first direction for operating said first switch is performed by a first lever part and said movement in a second direction having no influence on said first switch is performed by a second lever part.

5. A control lever according to claim **3**, wherein said movement in a third direction for bringing said lever into operating contact with said second switch is performed by a first lever part.

6. A control lever according to claim **5**, wherein a second lever part is movable with respect to said first lever part.

7. A control lever according to claim **6**, wherein said first lever part is fixed to a supporting body of said bicycle.

8. A control lever according to claim **6**, wherein said second lever part is articulated on said first lever part around a pivoting axis.

9. A control lever according to claim **8**, wherein said first lever part acts on said first switch by pivoting around a second axis in the first direction.

10. A control lever according to claim **9**, wherein said first lever part acts on said second switch by pivoting around said second axis in a second direction.

11. A control lever according to claim **10**, wherein said first pivoting axis is substantially perpendicular with respect to said first axis.

12. A control lever according to claim **9** further comprising an articulation pin having a head for operating said first switch.

13. A control lever according to claim **12**, wherein said articulation pin has two opposite heads for operating, respectively, said first and said second switch, respectively.

14. A control lever according to claim **8** further comprising elastic means operatively associated between the first lever part and the second lever part.

15. A control lever according to claim **8**, wherein the first lever part comprises an elastically deformable element.

16. A control lever according to claim **8**, wherein the first lever part acts on said first switch by means of sliding means.

17. A control lever according to claim **8**, wherein the first lever part acts on said first switch by means of elastic means.

18. A control lever according to claim **3**, wherein the lever is provided with at least one operating portion for operating at least one of said switches.

19. A control lever according claim **18**, wherein a second lever part is provided with at least one operating portion for operating at least one of said switches.

20. A control lever according to claim **1**, wherein said at least one switch controls the gear change of a bicycle.

21. A control lever according to claim **1**, wherein said lever is positioned behind a bicycle brake lever.

22. A control lever according to claim **21**, wherein said second movement which does not influence the switch is the braking movement of the brake lever.

23. An electric control device for a motor-driven derailleur for bicycles, comprising a supporting body provided with means for fixing the supporting body to a bicycle handlebar and a first switch for controlling an upshift of a gear and a second switch for controlling a down shift of a gear, wherein both of said electric switches are operated by a single lever attached to the support body.

24. Electric control device according to claim **23**, wherein said single lever presents a central rest position in which none of said electric switches is operated.

25. Electric control device according to claim **24**, wherein said single lever operates one of said electric switches when moved in a first direction and operates the other of said electric switches when moved in the substantially opposed direction.

26. Electric control device according to claim **23**, wherein said single lever is hinged on said supporting body.

27. Electric control device according to claim **23**, wherein said single lever is hinged on a bicycle brake control lever.

28. Electric control device according to claim **23**, wherein said single lever is a control lever positioned behind a bicycle brake control lever.

29. Electric control device according to claim **26**, wherein said single lever is a push button lever positioned substantially perpendicular to a brake control lever of the bicycle.

30. An electric control device for a motor-driven derailleur for bicycles, comprising:

a supporting body provided with means for fixing it to a bicycle handlebar,

a pair of electric switches to control the gear change, carried by the supporting body, and

a gear change lever that can be operated manually to control at least one of said switches,

wherein the gear change lever comprises:

a first part connected to the supporting body in order to allow shift of the gear change lever between a position at rest and an operating position of said first switch, and

a second part hinged to the first part.

31. Device according to claim 30, wherein said first part is hinged to the supporting body around an axis orthogonal or substantially orthogonal in relation to a pivotal axis between the first part and the second part.

32. Device according to claim 30, wherein said first part comprises an elastically deformable element.

33. Device according to claim 32, wherein said elastically deformable element comprises a metal lamina with a base fixed to the supporting body and an elastically deformable branch hinged to which is the second part.

34. Device according to claim 30, wherein said first part comprises a block mounted slidably in relation to the supporting body along a rectilinear direction.

35. Device according to claim 30, wherein said block is mounted slidably on guide means carried by the supporting body.

36. Device according to claim 35 further comprising elastic means tending to push said block towards a rest position.

37. Device according to claim 31, wherein one of said axes is parallel or substantially parallel to the pivotal axis of a brake control lever.

38. Device according to claim 37, wherein the pivotal axis between the first and the second part is parallel or substantially parallel to a pivotal axis of the bicycle brake control lever.

39. Device according to claim 30, wherein the first and the second part of the gear change lever are hinged to each other by means of a pin with at least one head facing at least one of said switches.

40. Device according to claim 30, wherein the second part of the gear change lever has an operating portion facing at least one of said switches.

41. Device according to claim 30, wherein the first part of the gear change lever has an operating portion facing at least one of said switches.

42. Device according to claim 30 further comprising a return spring operatively positioned between the supporting body and the first part of the gear change lever.

43. Device according to claim 42 further comprising a second return spring operatively positioned between the first and the second part of the gear change lever.

44. Device according to claim 30, further comprising a third electric switch suitable to control operation of a cycle computer.

45. Device according to claim 30, wherein said electric switches are mounted on a supporting plate in turn mounted on the supporting body.

46. Device according to claim 45, wherein the aforesaid electric switches are positioned on opposite faces of said supporting plate.

47. Device according to claim 30, wherein said gear change lever is movable in a first direction to operate a first switch and in a second direction to operate a second switch.

48. Device according to claim 30, wherein said switches are mounted on opposite sides with respect to the gear change lever.

49. Device according to claim 48, wherein said switches are mounted on respective plates facing each other.

50. Device according to claim 30, wherein said gear control lever is positioned behind a brake control lever hinged to the supporting body.

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