

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1 and 3-13 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended. New claims 12 and 13 are added.

Request for Withdrawal of the Finality of the Office Action

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action mailed on March 4, 2015 because a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is concurrently filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 5-11 are rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2010/0156844 A1 to Paleczny et al. (hereinafter Paleczny) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2011/0095975 A1 to Hwang (hereinafter Hwang).

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action alleges that an operation unit (6) of the present application corresponds to an overlay (114) of Paleczny, and thus a vibrating body of Paleczny is provided to the operation unit. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Referring to claim 1, the vibrating body (7) is provided on a portion of a back surface of the operation unit, the portion being a region on which the detecting unit is not located. On the other hand, the vibrating body (actuator 120) of Paleczny is

provided not on the operation unit (overlay 114), but on a supported tray (212) that supports the overlay (114) and a display (112).

In amended claim 1 of the present application, a distance from the vibrating body (7) to the operation unit (6) is short, even when an amount of the expansion and contraction motion of the vibration body (7) is somewhat small. In other words, even when the value of a voltage applied to the vibrating body (7) is somewhat small, a sufficient tactile sensation can be transmitted to the user.

Moreover, the Office Action alleges that a flexible portion (8) of the present application corresponds to spacers (216) of Paleczny, and thus a flexible portion of Paleczny is provided over a whole circumference of the frame body. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

While the flexible portion (8) of the present application supports the operation unit (6) (see Figure 5 of the present application), the spacers (216) of Paleczny do not support the overlay (114) that correspond to the operation unit of the present application, but support the supported tray (212) (see Figure 2 of Paleczny). Annotated versions of Figure 5 of the present application and Figure 2 of Paleczny are shown below for comparison.

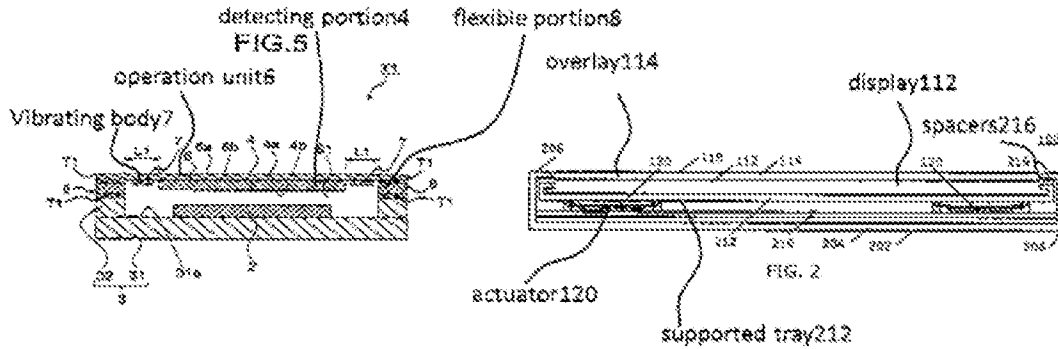


Fig. 5 of Present application

Fig. 2 of *Paleczny*

Paleczny therefore fails to disclose or suggest the features defined by amended claim 1 of the present application. Hwang fails to disclose or suggest the feature that the vibrating body is provided on a portion of a back surface of the operation unit, the portion being a region on which the detecting unit is not located, as described in amended claim 1, and therefore fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Paleczny*. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for at least these reasons.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under pre-AIA 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Paleczny* in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2009/0243817 A1 to Son (hereinafter Son). Son fails to disclose or suggest the feature that the vibrating body is provided on a portion of a back surface of the operation unit, the portion being a region on which the detecting unit is not located, as described in amended claim 1, and therefore fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Paleczny*.

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Application No.: 13/881,248

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 3-4 are allowable over the cited references for at least these reasons.

Claims 3-13 are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, and therefore the Applicant believes these claims are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons provided above.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 3-11 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephonic interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure