

ABSTRACT**PEN COMPUTER**

A pen computer (1) includes an elongated pen barrel (10) having a writing end provided with a rotatable ball bearing (15) that serves as a ballpoint writing tip (16).
5 The pen barrel (10) can be held on one hand for forming characters on a writing surface via the ball bearing (15). First and second encoding assemblies (2, 2') are mounted on the writing end of the pen barrel (10), encode
10 movement of the ball bearing (15) along X and Y directions, and generate X-axis and Y-axis drive signals corresponding to encoded movement of the ball bearing (15) along the X and Y directions. A processor (33) is configured to operate as a character
15 recognition unit (331). The processor (33) is disposed in the pen barrel (10), and is connected to the encoding assemblies (2, 2') to receive the X-axis and Y-axis drive signals therefrom. The processor (33) identifies the characters formed on the writing surface from the
20 X-axis and Y-axis drive signals, and generates computer codes that are assigned to the characters identified thereby.

Figure 1