

**HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICE INCLUDING CROSS APPLICATION
USE OF PHONE RELATED INPUTS, AND ASSOCIATED METHOD**

ABSTRACT

5 An improved handheld electronic device and an associated method provide added convenience for the user by enabling the user to quickly and easily initiate telephone related functions from applications other than the device's phone and address book applications using a dedicated phone related key. The device includes a plurality of use states and each one of the use states has an associated function that is to be initiated upon depression of the phone related key. When the phone related key is depressed, the current use state is determined and the function that is associated with the current use state is executed.

(Fig. 3)