AUTOMATIC RECEIVE MODE FOR INFRARED DEVICES

Abstract

A method and apparatus for generating an automatic receive mode for infrared devices is presented. In accordance with the invention, a battery-powered electronic appliance (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) comprises a communications interface (50) including receive mode circuitry (55) and a battery (5) that supplies power to the receive mode circuitry (55) when the receive mode circuitry (55) is enabled. Upon power up, the communication interface (50) is initialized and the receive mode circuitry (55) enabled to operate in a receive mode for a predetermined amount of time. A timer (25) times the predetermined amount of time. If the timer expires(25), the receive mode circuitry (55) is disabled to remove power from the receive mode circuitry (55), thereby conserving battery power in the device. Preferably, if the predetermined enable time expires while the receive mode circuitry (55) is currently receiving input, the predetermined enable time is extended by an extension time and the timer (25) restarted, with this process repeating until the receive mode circuitry is no longer receiving input. In a preferred embodiment, the receive mode circuitry (55) is re-enabled periodically after a predetermined disable time, and the timing process repeated, causing the receive mode circuitry (55) to be disabled again if data is not received within the predetermined enable time.

Figure 1