

KEYPAD AND MICROPHONE ARRANGEMENT**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a keypad and microphone arrangement for a communication device. The arrangement comprises: a key having a cap portion and a stem portion; a base layer attached to the stem portion; a key circuit to recognize activation of the key; a support member to support the key and base layer; a microphone located beneath the support member; a port in the base layer extending from an upper surface of the base, through an interior of the base layer, to a lower surface of the base layer. The support member has an opening extending from its top surface, through its interior, to its bottom surface. There is also an air channel connecting the microphone to ambient air above the cap portion, the air channel comprising the port and the opening. The stem portion and the cap portion are located about the port such that the cap portion extends fully over the port. The arrangement may be used in any communication device having voice reception capabilities.

(Fig. 3)