

REMOTE CONTROL FOR HOME AUDIO SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A remote control unit for use with an in-home audio player adapted to play pre-recorded music stored on a semiconductor music chip storage medium. In accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention, the remote unit is a battery powered, hand held device which enables customized music selections to be made at the audio player from a distant position. The remote control unit includes an LCD display, a series of control buttons and an infrared communications interface for transmitting to and receiving data from the audio player. A docking port is included in the audio player for mating with the remote control in order to download general content information stored in memory of the audio player regarding each of the music chips which it has loaded. A processor within the remote control guides the user through a menu driven software routine for making music selections at the player. A user scrolls through the various menus by use of a navigation pointer. Soft keys on the remote take on different functions depending on the location within the menu driven software routine. For example, a user can choose to play individual music tracks according to a category of music, musical artist or specific song. Other functions of the remote include play, pause, scan (forward and reverse) and fast scan, as well as On/Off and volume control.

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