

The novelty relates to a remote control unit for electronic leisure apparatuses.

The remote control of the operating functions of electronic leisure apparatuses by means of wireless controls is known.

For example, there are remote control units for television receivers, for video recorders and hifi units. There is a direct, mutually dependent functional connection here between television receiver and video recorder, since during reproduction the items of information stored in the video-recorder are visible or audible only via a television receiver. If both units are remotely controllable, a separate remote control unit is assigned to each of them, i.e. two remote control units have to be employed in order to achieve optimum reproduction of a transmission recorded on a magnetic tape. The video recorder receives via its remote control unit the switching-on and the start and channel selection commands and there are transmitted to the television receiver via the remote control unit assigned to it the analogous actuating variables such as switching-on/off, volume, picture brightness, colour contrast. If it is desired to search for different sections on a magnetic tape, two remote control units have to be manipulated the whole time, in order to achieve an optimum setting or reproduction as the case may be.

The controlling of different apparatuses by means of a single remote control is already known from DE-A-3 003 425.

Remote control units have moreover acquired today, particularly in the case of microprocessor units, a number of operating functions which go far beyond the mere functions of television and video remote controls.

In order to restrict the diversity of operation and uncertainty which this may involve, the problem arises of creating a single remote control unit custom-made for several types of apparatus.

This problem is solved by the novelty set out in the claims.

The advantages bestowed by this invention stem from the possibility of being able to mix elements of differing values as required and being able to operate both units of apparatus with only one remote control unit. The covering of parts of a receiver in order to avoid operating errors is already known per se from Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 5, No. 71 (E57) (746) 15th May 1981 (JP-A-5 624 822).

The invention will be explained with reference to Figures 1 to 4.

Fig. 1 shows the novel remote control unit programmed for the remote operation of a television receiver;

Fig. 2 shows the novel remote control unit programmed for the remote operation of a video recorder;

Fig. 3 shows an embodiment variant of the novel remote control unit;

Fig. 4 shows the slide provided for the programming.

The novel remote control unit is sub-divided into three operating segments 1 - 3. For example, there are accommodated in the upper segment 1 the common operating elements with which both the television receiver and the video recorder are to be remotely operated, e.g. for the channels and the tuner functions. In the middle segment 2 are located the operating elements which are designed solely for video recorder mode, such as start, stop, advance, return, record, playback, and the lower segment 3 is geared specifically to the television receiver functions, such as colour contrast and picture brightness.

The slide 4 has at its lateral edges runner-type structures 8 with which it is arranged slidable in slots 5 provided in the remote control unit.

Thus the slide is slidable in such a way that it passes over the two lower segments 2, 3 and in covering one of these two lower segments exposes the other segment. If the slide 4 is pushed over the middle segment 2, segments 1 and 3 are exposed, i.e. the television receiver can be remotely operated. If the slide 4 is pushed over segment 3, segments 1 and 2 are exposed, which means that the control elements for the video recorder are now exposed. Since the respective segment not required is covered by the slide, operating errors are prevented. Precise operation of the remote control unit is guaranteed even in an only moderately lighted room.

An advantageous development of the novel remote control unit consists in providing the operating segments geared specifically to the individual apparatuses with a switching on or off capability, and with this switch-over simultaneously changing the code of the remote control signal so that only the operating functions or apparatuses are actuated.

In order therefore to switch the remote control unit respectively to television or video recorder mode, a switch (not represented here) in the remote control unit is actuated in a novel way during the displacement of the slide 4 by a lug 7 arranged on one of the two runner-type structures 8 and projecting into the remote control unit through the one slot 5 in the remote control unit. If the slide 4 is located above the lower segment 3, the operating elements for the video recorder are switched on. If the slide 4 is located above segment 2, on the other hand, the operating elements for the television receiver are switched on. The common operating elements of the upper operating segment 1 are always switched on.

It goes without saying that the operating segments can also be sub-divided in another sequence. The slide 4 can also be arranged so as to slide laterally, encompassing the remote control unit, in slots 6 in the remote control unit (Fig. 3).

It is similarly conceivable that other electronic leisure apparatuses can be combined in varying arrangements in the same manner.

Claims

1. Remote control unit for electronic leisure apparatuses, in which the means for the remote operation of a plurality of electronic leisure apparatuses are combined in a single remote control unit, characterized in that the remote control unit is sub-divided into operating segments for apparatuses with common operating elements and operating segments for apparatuses with operating elements designed functionally only for these apparatuses, and that by means of a slide (4) individual operating segments can be covered and the functions thereby actuated be switched on/off.
2. Remote control unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the means for the remote operation of a television receiver and a video recorder are combined in the single remote control unit.
3. Remote control unit according to claim 2, characterized in that in one (1) of the operating segments there are located the operating elements for common operating functions of the video recorder and the television receiver, in a second operating segment (2) the operating elements for the video recorder, and in a third operating segment (3) the operating elements for the television receiver.
4. Remote control unit according to claim 3, characterized in that the slide (4) has at its lateral edges runner-type structures (8) with which it can be displaced in slots (5) provided in the remote control unit.
5. Remote control unit according to claim 4, characterized in that the switching on/off takes place by means of a switch located in the remote control unit and actuatable with the slide (4).
6. Remote control unit according to claim 4, characterized in that the switching on/off takes place by means of a switch located outside on the casing of the remote control unit and actuatable with the slide (4).
7. Remote control unit according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that a lug (7) located on the runner-type structure (8) of the slide (4) actuates the switch.