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Abstract

AUTOMATIC RECEIVE MODE PROCESS ~~FOR INFRARED DEVICES~~

Disclosed is a A method ~~and apparatus for generating an automatic receive mode for infrared devices is presented. In accordance with the invention,~~ a for conserving power in a battery-powered electronic appliance (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) ~~comprises an infrared~~ having 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 of the appliance, the communications interface (50) is initialized, and the receive mode circuitry (55) is enabled to operate in a receive mode ~~for a predetermined amount of time~~. A ~~timer (25) times the~~ predetermined ~~amount of~~ enable time is then timed. When the predetermined enable time expires, the receive mode circuitry is disabled. ~~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.~~

(FIG. 1)