

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURELAPTOP COMPUTER HAVING INTEGRATED KEYBOARD, CURSOR
CONTROL DEVICE AND PALM RESTFIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention pertains to the field of computer systems. More particularly, the present invention relates to a laptop computer having an integrated keyboard, cursor control device and palm rest.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Laptop computers are presently designed with a keyboard and a display all in one package. The keyboard is mounted next to the front edge of the laptop computer and the display is usually rotatably hinged to the housing which contains the keyboard, with most of the hardware for the laptop computer being contained in the same housing. A few laptop computers also include a built-in cursor control device, which is separate
15 from the keyboard but part of the laptop computer's housing; the cursor control device is typically mounted to the left or right of the keyboard (although an isopoint cursor control device is often mounted below the spacebar of the keyboard), and the keyboard is again next to the front edge of the laptop computer. The cursor control device allows the user to control
20 the position of a cursor or pointer on the display screen of the computer. It is often expeditious to use a cursor control device where, for example, the user is required to repetitively choose software options displayed on the display or may desire to input data in a graphics format into the computer system (e.g. drawing images on the computer's display).

25 One prior type of a cursor control device is commonly referred to as a "mouse" which is shown in U. S. Pat. No. 4,464,652. Such mouse is a small hand-held box-like device which is coupled to the computer system by a cable and placed adjacent to the keyboard. The mouse contains a domed portion housing a ball which is free to rotate within the dome against a
30 smooth and flat surface, which is typically a desktop. The operation of the mouse thus requires a flat, smooth surface (next to the keyboard of the

