

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to input means for apparatus of the type having a digital controller and more particularly to a key input device so designed that the kind of a key depressed is determined by the combined use of an analog-type signal and a digital-type signal.

10 The recent development in the field of semiconductors has been so remarkable that the construction of control systems with electronic circuits has advanced rapidly. Thus, the constructions of control systems and the shapes of control panels have undergone considerable changes and the constructions of their input means have also undergone changeover from the mechanical switches mainly to those types which discriminates the respective keys by means of a microcomputer through the medium of electric signals, thereby performing the control.

15 In addition, a wave of this digitization has resulted in the addition of new functions one after another and the trend has been toward increasing the number of operating keys for effecting such functions.

However, the increase in the number of such keys has resulted in an increase in the input and output terminals of the microcomputer and hence the number of peripheral circuits has been increased from the construction standpoint of the system.

20 In view of these circumstances, as shown in Fig. 1A of the accompanying drawings, attempts heretofore made to decrease the number of input and output terminals increasing in proportion to an increase in the number of operating keys has been mainly of a key-scan matrix type in which a matrix circuit is formed by an output signal system and an input signal system so as to discriminate the kinds of the respective depressed keys with the reduced inputs and outputs.

25 This type of system includes a plurality of output ports and a plurality of ordinary input terminals so that scan pulses of a controlled timing are generated from the output ports and the corresponding pulse is applied to the input terminal connected to the depressed key, thereby discriminating the key.

30 However, this system is also not a method which drastically decreases the number of the required input and output terminals and therefore it is limited by the number of the input and output terminals of the microcomputer. Thus, if these input and output terminals are used only for operating key inputting purposes, there is a shortage of the input and output terminals for the other essential control purposes. Moreover, it leads to a pressure for the capacity of the ROM of the microcomputer used with this system for scan output control purposes, etc.

35 Also, as another example of the conventional methods, there has been a system which utilizes analog inputs. As shown in Fig. 1B, this system is of an analog-to-digital conversion (A/D conversion) type in which voltages generated by the depression of the respective keys differ from one another in accordance with their kinds and each key is discriminated by converting the corresponding analog voltage to digital form.

40 Since this system includes an A/D conversion input terminal and each key is discriminated in accordance with a variation in the voltage generated by its depression, when the key at the fifth row from above in Fig. 1B is depressed, the following voltage is generated

$$V_{A/D} = \frac{5V \times (R_5 + R_6 + \dots + R_{15})}{(R_1 + R_2 + \dots + R_{15})}$$

45 However, this system is also disadvantageous in that an increase in the number of keys requires a resolution for the A/D conversion and therefore it is necessary to use high-precision resistors for generating a voltage corresponding to each key, thus making the system unfavorable from the standpoint of cost and working performance.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

55 In view of the background as mentioned above, it is an object of the present invention to provide an effective key input device so designed that operating key inputs are taken in by a novel means combining the A/D conversion system and the matrix system.

It is another object of the invention to provide an inexpensive key input device capable of easily meeting the requirement for an increase in the operating keys which is expected in future.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1A and 1B are diagrams showing conventional key input systems.

Fig. 2 is an external view of a high-frequency heating apparatus incorporating an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a circuit diagram of the apparatus of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing a detailed construction of one key input portion in the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view for explaining the operation of one key input portion in the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing the construction of the key input section in the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 7 is a diagram for explaining the control of the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing the construction of a key input section in a modification of the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 9 is a pattern diagram of the key input section in the embodiment of Fig. 2.

Fig. 10 is a pattern diagram of a key input section in another modification of the embodiment of Fig. 2.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to Fig. 2, there is illustrated a perspective view of the body of a high-frequency heating apparatus incorporating an embodiment of the invention. Numeral 1 designates the body of a high-frequency heating apparatus. A heating chamber 2 is formed inside the body 1. Disposed within the heating chamber 2 is a stirrer or turn table (not shown) for ensuring more uniform wave distribution so as to improve the finish of food. Numeral 3 designates a hinged door fitted in the opening of the heating chamber 2, and 4 a control panel arranged on the front part of the body 1 to allow the user to set a cooking sequence such as cooking power and time. The control panel 4 contains a control circuit unit 5 including a microcomputer and a keyboard 6 for feeding the intention of the user into the microcomputer. In response to the input signals or information applied from the keyboard 6, the microcomputer 5a shown in Fig. 3 performs and controls the cooking sequence in accordance with the preprogrammed contents.

Fig. 3 shows a circuit diagram for the apparatus of Fig. 2. The apparatus includes a magnetron 7 serving as a high-frequency oscillator, a transformer 8 for supplying power to the magnetron 7, and switches 9a and 9b for switching on and off the power supplied to the transformer 8 to switch on and off the high-frequency output of the magnetron 7.

The microcomputer 5a includes ordinary input terminals K_1 to K_4 and an A/D conversion input terminal A/D_1 and the terminals are wired in correspondence to the respective keys of the keyboard 6. Also connected to the keyboard 6 is a + voltage (+ 5 V) which serves as a power supply for the microcomputer 5a and as an A/D conversion input power supply. The keyboard 6 includes a plurality of keys such as cooking power keys, cooking time keys and a start key and each of the keys has a separate switch function. These switch functions serve to open and close the circuits of the input terminals ($K_1 \sim K_4$, A/D_1) of the microcomputer 5a.

Referring to Fig. 4, there is illustrated the construction of the switch function of one key portion in the keyboard 6. Numeral 10 designates a panel showing the positions of the keys and providing an external appearance. The panel 10 is designed so that it can be recognized easily by the user. Numeral 11 designates a conductive sheet forming contacts for the switch functions, 12a spacer providing contact gaps, arranged to ensure the insulation for those portions other than the contact portions of the keys and also formed with an opening at its portions corresponding to each contact portion to cause the conductive sheet 11 to directly face the openings, and 13 a pattern sheet having a plurality of contact patterns formed thereon to touch the conductive sheet 11 through the spacer 12 in response to the depression of the respective keys. In addition, a reinforcing sheet 14 is provided to reinforce the whole assembly.

Also, the conductive sheet 11 is connected to the metal portion of the high-frequency heating apparatus body with small screws or the like and the control circuit unit 5 is similarly connected electrically to the heating apparatus body, thereby connecting the 5-volt power supply of the microcomputer 5a to the conductive sheet 11 of the keyboard 6 through the metal portion of the heating apparatus body.

With the construction described above, the operation of the embodiment will now be described. When food is placed in the heating chamber 2 and any one of the keys on the keyboard 6 of the control panel 4 is depressed to set the desired cooking time or power, as shown in Fig. 5, the conductive sheet 11 is bent and the power of + 5 V is applied to the plurality of patterns formed on the pattern sheet 13 through the opening in the spacer sheet 12 and the conductive sheet 11.

Next, the operation of the signal system will be described with reference to Fig. 6 showing a connection diagram for the patterns on the pattern sheet 13 of the keyboard 6 and the microcomputer 5a. In the case of Fig. 6, the keys include 16 different ones so that if, for example, the POWER key is depressed, the voltage of 5 V is applied to the ordinary input terminal K_1 of the microcomputer 5a by the pattern P_2 of Fig. 6 and also the divided voltage by ladder resistor R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_x is applied to the A/D conversion input terminal A/D₁ through the pattern P_1 . In Fig. 6, the resolution of this ladder circuit is selectively set to four levels and therefore the voltage applied to the microcomputer 5a through the input terminal A/D₁ changes in response to the depression of the respective keys as follows.

(In case of POWER, S_{12} , S_{13} , S_{14})

$$A/D_1 = 5 \text{ V (designated as a level 1)}$$

(In case of S_{21} , S_{22} , S_{23} , S_{24})

$$A/D_1 = 5 \times \frac{R_x}{R_x + R_1} \text{ (designated as a level 2)}$$

(In case of S_{31} , S_{32} , S_{33} , S_{34})

$$A/D_1 = 5 \times \frac{R_x}{R_x + R_1 + R_2} \text{ (designated as a level 3)}$$

(In case of S_{41} , S_{42} , S_{43} , S_{44})

$$A/D_1 = 5 \times \frac{R_x}{R_x + R_1 + R_2 + R_3} \text{ (designated as a level 4)}$$

On the other hand, the keys are also connected in groups of four keys each to the ordinary input terminals K_1 , K_2 , K_3 and K_4 , respectively, and the matrix table of Fig. 7 is prepared in accordance with the various combinations of two input signals. In other words, the microcomputer 5a discriminates each key in accordance with the corresponding combination of two different input signals.

More specifically, in the previously mentioned cases the POWER key corresponds to the level 1 and the associated input is a K_1 input. On the other hand, the key S_{33} corresponds to the level 3 and the associated input is a K_3 input. The microcomputer 5a determines first the kind of the ordinary input ($K_1 \sim K_4$) and it then determines the level of the A/D conversion input, thereby determining the kind of the depressed key. Also, the POWER, S_{12} , S_{13} and S_{14} keys, connected to the voltage of the level 1, are each placed in the preferential position in the corresponding row. For instance, when the POWER and S_{21} keys are depressed simultaneously, the voltage of the level 1 is generated at the A/D₁ terminal and the smaller the level number the higher the priority level is. Therefore, the preferential keys can be attained by simply determining the corresponding matrix positions and there is no need to increase the ROM capacity and the RAM capacity for any program.

Thus, in accordance with the present embodiment, the key scanning input terminals of the microcomputer 5a can be reduced as compared with the conventional key matrix system and also any increased number of the keys on the keyboard can be easily met with by increasing the A/D resolution levels for A/D conversion inputs. In addition, there is no need to use the output terminals for key scan outputs of the microcomputer 5a and therefore it is possible to expand the utilization of sensors, switches, etc., and the number of control functions. Also, the output terminals of the microcomputer 5a are ensured amply and therefore the degree of freedom of designing is increased from the program designing standpoint of the microcomputer 5a with the resulting effect of causing some superfluous portion in the ROM capacity of the microcomputer 5a and allowing additional utilization thereof.

Also, in accordance with the invention, the application of voltage to the patterns is effected only when any key is depressed and therefore the invention is advantageous with respect to the problem of interpattern migration which is encountered in the construction of the actual membrane. Moreover, as shown by the embodiment, only the reduced resolution levels are required for the A/D conversion resolution and this is a great advantage from the accuracy standpoint of forming a resistor pattern on the actual membrane.

Referring now to Fig. 8, a second embodiment of the invention will be described. This embodiment shows a case in which the number of keys is increased by two times by simply adding a single A/D conversion input terminal.

In other words, the number of keys can be doubled by combining the similar matrix with the additional A/D conversion input terminal and using the same ordinary input terminals K_1 and K_2 without any addition.

The corresponding key discrimination table is as shown in Fig. 8. Also, the same dividing resistors R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_x for A/D conversion may be used for the terminals A/D₁ and A/D₂ or the dividing resistors for the two may be different from each other, and the provision of these dividing resistors can be realized easily.

Referring now to Fig. 9, the construction of the patterns formed on the pattern sheet 13 of the keyboard 6 will be described. With the key contact portions on the pattern sheet 13, the pattern P_1 and the patterns P_2 , P_3 , P_4 and P_5 are respectively arranged in comb form. The group of ladder resistors R_1 , R_2 and R_3 prepared by, for example, forming carbon to the desired thickness, width, etc., to provide a high resistance value can be formed on a part of the pattern P_1 by the same operation as the other patterns. Since the present invention requires no increase in the resolution of the ladder resistors, the precision attained by this carbon resistor method can be considered sufficient for the ladder resistors. In addition, these resistors can be easily attained by the operation of printing and baking carbon on the pattern sheet 13. Also, as mentioned previously, the resistance value can be increased by decreasing the width of the carbon pattern and conversely the resistance value can be reduced by increasing the width of the carbon pattern. Also, with a view to reducing the resistance value, the patterns other than the resistors R_1 , R_2 and R_3 may be formed with carbon mixed with such material as silver, thereby producing patterns having a very small resistance value. Also, a resist RG is placed at each of the points where the patterns overlap one another to prevent the patterns from contacting with one another. In other words, by using these techniques, the provision of the ladder resistor group of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 of a high resistance value and the patterns P_1 , P_2 , P_3 , P_4 and P_5 of a low resistance value and the provision of the resist portions RG at the pattern intersections can be easily effected.

Thus, there is an advantage from the cost point of view and also the number of the wires used for connecting the keyboard 6 and the microcomputer 5a is reduced to five (5) as compared with the eight (8) wires in the conventional key matrix system.

Moreover, the construction of this invention has the effect of greatly improving the quality in that excepting when any key is depressed so that the conductive sheet 11 supplied with 5 V is brought into contact with the pattern sheet 13 through the spacer sheet 12, no voltage is applied to the patterns on the pattern sheet 13 and the A/D conversion pattern P_1 and the ordinary input patterns P_2 , P_3 , P_4 and P_5 are all at the same potential, thereby preventing the occurrence of migration caused in the silver material which has been used frequently for such patterns.

Referring now to Fig. 10, there is illustrated a second embodiment of the pattern sheet 13 in which a pattern P_V connected to the 5-volt power supply is formed as a third contact pattern on the pattern sheet 13, and the conductive sheet 11 simply forms a conductive film which is supplied with no voltage. With this construction, when any key is depressed, the patterns P_1 and P_V and any one of the patterns P_2 to P_5 are connected through the conductive sheet 11 and the depressed key is discriminated by the previously mentioned operation.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that the key input apparatus with digital control means according to the invention has the following effects.

(1) The number of the microcomputer input terminals can be reduced as compared with the conventional key matrix system and also any increase in the number of the keyboard keys can be easily dealt with by increasing the resolution levels for the A/D conversion input terminal.

(2) Since the key matrix is formed by the ordinary input terminals and the A/D conversion input terminal, any increase in the number of the keys can be easily realized by simply increasing either of the two terminals which affords it.

(3) Since the key matrix is formed by the ordinary input terminals and the A/D conversion input terminal, the A/D conversion accuracy need not be enhanced as compared with the conventional key input formed by the A/D conversion input terminal only and therefore the patterned resistors can be easily formed in

the membrane, thereby easily realizing the key matrix without increasing the cost.

(4) Since the microcomputer output terminals are utilized in no way in contrast to the conventional key matrix system, it is possible to utilize these output terminals to effect the expansion of control functions such as the utilization and increase of the external devices such as sensors and switches and hence it is possible to meet any requirements more sophisticatedly.

(5) Due to the reduced number of the lead-out patterns as compared with the conventional key matrix system, it is possible to reduce the number of the pins of the connector for connecting the membrane and the key board.

(6) Since the construction of this invention is such that the voltage is applied only when any key is depressed, and that when no key is depressed, there is no potential difference, no migration is caused among the patterns, thereby simplifying the pattern designing of the membrane.

(7) Since no key scanning output terminals for the microcomputer are used at all as compared with the conventional key matrix system, the program for key scanning purposes can be eliminated and the margin of the ROM capacity of the microcomputer can be increased.

(8) The device can be constructed by simply arranging the high-priority keys and this can be realized without burdening the ROM with any program.

(9) Since the conductive sheet is extended below the whole lower surface of the character sheet and it is then connected directly to the apparatus for grounding, the device is not easily affected by any external noise such as static electricity.

Claims

1. A key input device comprising:

control circuit means (5) including a microcomputer (5a) having an analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) and a plurality of direct input terminals (K₁, K₂, K₃, K₄) and having programming functions; and

a keyboard (6) for applying input signals to said microcomputer (5a),

said keyboard (6) including a plurality of separate key contact patterns (P₁, P₂, P₃, P₄, P₅), a first group of said contact patterns connected through one of a plurality of predetermined resistances to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) and a second group connected directly to said direct input terminals (K₁, K₂, K₃, K₄), and

a plurality of keys (POWER, S₁₂ - S₁₄, S₂₁ - S₂₄, S₃₁ - S₃₄, S₄₁ - S₄₄), each of said keys corresponding to a selected one of said key contacts patterns in each of said groups for applying simultaneously when depressed a voltage to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) directly or through one or more resistors (R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄), forming said predetermined resistances, and to one of said direct input terminals (K₁ to K₄) directly,

whereby said microcomputer (5a) discriminates said depressed key by analysis of the presence of said voltage at said direct input terminals (K₁-K₄) and by analysis of the resulting voltage value at said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁).

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said keyboard (6) is a membrane-type keyboard,

said keyboard (6) including a character sheet (10) indicating positions of a plurality of keys (POWER, S₁₂ - S₁₄, S₂₁ - S₂₄, S₃₁ - S₃₄, S₄₁ - S₄₄), a conductive sheet (11) having a conductive lower surface and arranged below said character sheet (10), a spacer sheet (12) arranged below said conductive sheet (11) and formed with a plurality of openings each corresponding to one of said keys, and a contact sheet (13) arranged below said spacer sheet (12) and formed with first and second groups of contacts, with one contact of each of said groups provided for each of said keys,

each contact of said first group being connected to a corresponding one of said direct input terminals (K₁-K₄) of said microcomputer (5a) through a low-resistance pattern (P₂, P₃, P₄, P₅), and each contact of said second group being connected to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) of said microcomputer (5a) directly or through one or more resistors (R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄) printed on said contact sheet (13),

said conductive sheet (11) being connected to a power source of said microcomputer (5a) whereby when said character sheet (10) is pressed at anyone of said key positions, said conductive sheet (11) simultaneously contacts one contact of each of said first and second contact groups through one of said openings formed in said spacer sheet, thereby connecting said power source through said conductive sheet to said contacts of said first and second groups.



the membrane, thereby easily realizing the key matrix without increasing the cost.

(4) Since the microcomputer output terminals are utilized in no way in contrast to the conventional key matrix system, it is possible to utilize these output terminals to effect the expansion of control functions such as the utilization and increase of the external devices such as sensors and switches and hence it is possible to meet any requirements more sophisticatedly.

(5) Due to the reduced number of the lead-out patterns as compared with the conventional key matrix system, it is possible to reduce the number of the pins of the connector for connecting the membrane and the key board.

(6) Since the construction of this invention is such that the voltage is applied only when any key is depressed, and that when no key is depressed, there is no potential difference, no migration is caused among the patterns, thereby simplifying the pattern designing of the membrane.

(7) Since no key scanning output terminals for the microcomputer are used at all as compared with the conventional key matrix system, the program for key scanning purposes can be eliminated and the margin of the ROM capacity of the microcomputer can be increased.

(8) The device can be constructed by simply arranging the high-priority keys and this can be realized without burdening the ROM with any program.

(9) Since the conductive sheet is extended below the whole lower surface of the character sheet and it is then connected directly to the apparatus for grounding, the device is not easily affected by any external noise such as static electricity.

Claims

1. A key input device comprising:

control circuit means (5) including a microcomputer (5a) having an analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) and a plurality of direct input terminals (K₁, K₂, K₃, K₄) and having programming functions; and

a keyboard (6) for applying input signals to said microcomputer (5a),

said keyboard (6) including a plurality of separate key contact patterns (P₁, P₂, P₃, P₄, P₅), a first group of said contact patterns connected through one of a plurality of predetermined resistances to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) and a second group connected directly to said direct input terminals (K₁, K₂, K₃, K₄), and

a plurality of keys (POWER, S₁₂ - S₁₄, S₂₁ - S₂₄, S₃₁ - S₃₄, S₄₁ - S₄₄), each of said keys corresponding to a selected one of said key contacts patterns in each of said groups for applying simultaneously when depressed a voltage to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) directly or through one or more resistors (R₁, R₂, R₃, R_x), forming said predetermined resistances, and to one of said direct input terminals (K₁ to K₄) directly,

whereby said microcomputer (5a) discriminates said depressed key by analysis of the presence of said voltage at said direct input terminals (K₁-K₄) and by analysis of the resulting voltage value at said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁).

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said keyboard (6) is a membrane-type keyboard,

said keyboard (6) including a character sheet (10) indicating positions of a plurality of keys (POWER, S₁₂ - S₁₄, S₂₁ - S₂₄, S₃₁ - S₃₄, S₄₁ - S₄₄), a conductive sheet (11) having a conductive lower surface and arranged below said character sheet (10), a spacer sheet (12) arranged below said conductive sheet (11) and formed with a plurality of openings each corresponding to one of said keys, and a contact sheet (13) arranged below said spacer sheet (12) and formed with first and second groups of contacts, with one contact of each of said groups provided for each of said keys,

each contact of said first group being connected to a corresponding one of said direct input terminals (K₁-K₄) of said microcomputer (5a) through a low-resistance pattern (P₂, P₃, P₄, P₅), and each contact of said second group being connected to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D₁) of said microcomputer (5a) directly or through one or more resistors (R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄) printed on said contact sheet (13),

said conductive sheet (11) being connected to a power source of said microcomputer (5a) whereby when said character sheet (10) is pressed at anyone of said key positions, said conductive sheet (11) simultaneously contacts one contact of each of said first and second contact groups through one of said openings formed in said spacer sheet, thereby connecting said power source through said conductive sheet to said contacts of said first and second groups.



3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said resistors (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4) are resistance patterns printed in an open space among said groups of contact portions on said contact sheet (13) to generate a plurality of different resistance values.
- 5 4. A device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said power source voltage is applied to said first and second contact groups only upon depression of said contact sheet, thereby maintaining said groups at an equal potential in absence of depression.
- 10 5. A device according to anyone of claims 2 to 4, wherein said conductive sheet (11) is connected to the power source of said microcomputer (5a) and to a ground of an apparatus (1) employing said keyboard (6).
- 15 6. A device according to one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said contact sheet (13) is formed with first, second and third groups of contacts with one contact of each of said groups provided for each of said keys, each contact of said first group being connected to a corresponding one of said direct input terminals (K_1 - K_4) of said microcomputer (5a) through a low-resistance pattern (P_2 , P_3 , P_4 , P_5), each contact of said second group being connected to said analog-digital conversion input terminal (A/D_1) of said microcomputer (5a) through one of a plurality of resistance means printed on said contact sheet (13) and said contacts of said third contact group being connected to a power source of said microcomputer (5a) whereby when said character sheet (10) is depressed at any of the key positions, said conductive sheet (11) simultaneously contacts one contact of each of said first, second and third contact groups through one of said openings formed in said spacer sheet (12).
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Patentansprüche

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1. Tasteneingabeeinrichtung enthaltend:

eine Steuerschaltungseinrichtung (5) mit einem einen Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) und eine Anzahl von Direkteingangsanschlüssen (K_1 , K_2 , K_3 , K_4) aufweisenden und mit Programmierfunktionen versehenen Mikrocomputer (5a); und

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eine Tastatur (6) zum Zuführen von Eingangssignalen zu dem Mikrocomputer (5a),

wobei die Tastatur (6) eine Anzahl von getrennten Tastenkontaktmustern (P_1 , P_2 , P_3 , P_4 , P_5) enthält, wobei eine erste Gruppe der Kontaktmuster über einen von einer Anzahl von vorgegebenen Widerstandswerten an den Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) angeschlossen ist und eine zweite Gruppe direkt an die Direkteingangsschlüsse (K_1 , K_2 , K_3 , K_4) angeschlossen ist, und

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eine Anzahl von Tasten (POWER, S_{12} - S_{14} , S_{21} - S_{24} , S_{31} - S_{34} , S_{41} - S_{44}), wobei jede der Tasten einem ausgewählten einen der Tastenkontaktmuster jeder der Gruppen entspricht zur gleichzeitigen Zuführung einer Spannung beim Niederdrücken direkt oder über einen oder mehrere der die vorgegebenen Widerstandswerte bildenden Widerstände (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4) zu dem Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) und direkt zu einem der Direkteingangsanschlüsse (K_1 - K_4),

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wobei der Mikrocomputer (5a) die niedergedrückte Taste durch Analyse des Vorhandenseins der Spannung an den Direkteingangsanschlüssen (K_1 - K_4) und durch Analyse des sich ergebenden Spannungswerts an dem Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) diskriminiert.

2. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der die Tastatur (6) eine Membrantastatur ist,

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wobei die Tastatur (6) ein die Positionen einer Anzahl von Tasten (POWER, S_{12} - S_{14} , S_{21} - S_{24} , S_{31} - S_{34} , S_{41} - S_{44}) anzeigendes, mit Schriftzeichen versehenes Flächengebilde (10), ein eine leitende untere Oberfläche aufweisendes und unter dem mit Schriftzeichen versehenen Flächengebilde (10) angeordnetes leitendes Flächengebilde (11), ein unter dem leitenden Flächengebilde (11) angeordnetes und mit einer Anzahl von jeweils einer der Tasten entsprechenden Öffnungen versehenes Abstandsflächengebilde (12) und ein unter dem Abstandsflächengebilde (12) angeordnetes und mit ersten und zweiten Gruppen von Kontakten versehenes Kontaktflächengebilde (13) aufweist, wobei ein Kontakt von jeder der Gruppen für jede der Tasten vorgesehen ist,

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wobei jeder Kontakt der ersten Gruppe über ein Muster (P_2 , P_3 , P_4 , P_5) mit niedrigem Widerstand an einen entsprechenden einen der Direkteingangsanschlüsse (K_1 - K_4) des Mikrocomputers (5a) angeschlossen ist und jeder Kontakt der zweiten Gruppe direkt oder über einen oder mehrere auf das Kontaktflächengebilde (13) aufgedruckte Widerstände (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4) an den Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) des Mikrocomputers (5a) angeschlossen ist,

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wobei das leitende Flächengebilde (11) mit einer Stromquelle des Mikrocomputers (5a) verbunden



ist, wodurch beim Drücken des mit Schriftzeichen versehenen Flächengebildes (11) an irgendeiner der Tastenpositionen das leitende Flächengebild (11) durch eine der in dem Abstandsflächengebild ausgebildeten Öffnungen gleichzeitig einen Kontakt von jeder der ersten und zweiten Kontaktgruppen kontaktiert, wodurch die Stromquelle durch das leitende Flächengebild mit den Kontakten der ersten und zweiten Gruppen verbunden wird.

3. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei der die Widerstände (R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4) in einem offenen Bereich innerhalb der Gruppen von Kontaktbereichen auf das Kontaktfächengebild (13) aufgedruckte Widerstandsmuster zur Erzeugung einer Anzahl von verschiedenen Widerstandswerten sind.

4. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 2 oder 3, bei der die Stromquellenspannung nur beim Niederdrücken des Kontaktfächengebildes an die ersten und zweiten Kontaktgruppen angelegt wird, wodurch die Gruppen beim Fehlen eines Niederdrückens auf einem gleichen Potential gehalten werden.

5. Einrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, bei der das leitende Flächengebild (11) mit der Stromquelle des Mikrocomputers (5a) und mit einer Erdung eines Geräts (1) bei dem die Tastatur (6) verwendet wird, verbunden ist.

6. Einrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 5, bei der das Kontaktfächengebild (13) mit ersten, zweiten und dritten Gruppen von Kontakten versehen ist, wobei ein Kontakt jeder der Gruppen für jede der Tasten vorgesehen ist, jeder Kontakt der ersten Gruppe über ein Muster (P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5) niedrigen Widerstands mit einem entsprechenden einen der Direkteingangsanschlüsse ($K_1 - K_4$) des Mikrocomputers (5a) verbunden ist, jeder Kontakt der zweiten Gruppe über eine von einer Anzahl von auf das Kontaktfächengebild (13) aufgedruckten Widerstandseinrichtungen mit dem Analog-Digital-Umwandlungseingangsanschluß (A/D_1) des Mikrocomputers (5a) verbunden ist und die Kontakte der dritten Kontaktgruppe mit einer Stromquelle des Mikrocomputers (5a) verbunden sind, wodurch das leitende Flächengebild (11) beim Niederdrücken des mit Schriftzeichen versehenen Flächengebildes (10) an irgendeiner der Tastenpositionen gleichzeitig einen Kontakt von jeder der ersten, zweiten und dritten Kontaktgruppe durch eine der in dem Abstandsflächengebild (12) ausgebildeten Öffnungen kontaktiert.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'entrée à touches, comprenant

des moyens de commande à circuits (5) contenant un micro-ordinateur (5a) qui présente une borne d'entrée de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1) et une pluralité de bornes d'entrée directe (K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) et qui a des fonctions de programmation; et

un clavier (6) pour appliquer des signaux d'entrée audit micro-ordinateur (5a),

ledit clavier (6) comportant une pluralité de motifs distincts de contact pour touche (P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5), un premier groupe de ces motifs de contact étant connecté, par l'intermédiaire de l'une parmi une pluralité de résistances prédéterminées, à ladite borne d'entrée de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1) et un second groupe étant connecté directement auxdites bornes d'entrée directe (K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4), et

une pluralité de touches ($POWER, S_{12}-S_{14}, S_{21}-S_{24}, S_{31}-S_{34}, S_{41}-S_{44}$), chacune de ces touches correspondant à un motif sélectionné parmi lesdits motifs de contact dans chacun desdits groupes, pour appliquer simultanément, lorsqu'elle est enfoncée, une tension à ladite borne de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1), directement ou par l'intermédiaire d'une ou de plusieurs résistances (R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4) constituant lesdites résistances prédéterminées, et, directement, à l'une desdites bornes d'entrée directe (K_1 à K_4),

d'où il résulte que ledit micro-ordinateur identifie ladite touche enfoncée par analyse de la présence de ladite tension auxdites bornes d'entrée directe (K_1 à K_4) et par analyse de la valeur de tension résultante sur ladite borne d'entrée de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1).

2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit clavier (6) est un clavier du type à membrane,

ledit clavier (6) contenant une feuille de caractères (10) indiquant des positions d'une pluralité de touches ($POWER, S_{12}-S_{14}, S_{21}-S_{24}, S_{31}-S_{34}, S_{41}-S_{44}$), une feuille conductrice (11) présentant une surface inférieure conductrice et disposée au-dessous de ladite feuille de caractères (10), une feuille d'écartement (12) qui est disposée au-dessous de ladite feuille conductrice (11) et dans laquelle est formée une pluralité d'ouvertures correspondant chacune à l'une desdites touches, et une feuille de



contacts (13) qui est disposés au-dessous de ladite feuille d'écartement (12) et dans laquelle sont formés des premier et second groupes de contacts, un contact de chacun de ces groupes étant associé à chacune desdites touches,

chaque contact dudit premier groupe étant connecté à une borne correspondante parmi lesdites bornes d'entrée directe (K_1 - K_4) dudit micro-ordinateur (5a) par l'intermédiaire d'un motif ayant une faible résistance (P_2 , P_3 , P_4 , P_5), et chaque contact dudit second groupe étant connecté à ladite borne d'entrée de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1) dudit micro-ordinateur (5a) directement ou par l'intermédiaire d'une ou de plusieurs résistances (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4) imprimées sur ladite feuille de contacts (13),

ladite feuille conductrice (11) étant connectée à une source de courant dudit micro-ordinateur (5a), d'où il résulte que, quand ladite feuille de caractères (10) est pressée au niveau de l'une quelconque des positions de touche, ladite feuille conductrice (11) entre simultanément en contact avec un contact de chacun desdits premier et second groupes de contacts à travers l'une desdites ouvertures formées dans ladite feuille d'écartement, ce qui établit, par l'intermédiaire de ladite feuille conductrice, la connexion entre ladite source de courant et lesdits contacts desdits premier et second groupes.

3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel lesdites résistances (R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4) sont des motifs de résistance imprimés dans un espace libre parmi lesdits groupes de motifs de contact sur ladite feuille de contacts (13), de façon à produire une pluralité de valeurs de résistance différentes.

4. Dispositif selon la revendication 2 ou 3, dans lequel la tension de ladite source de courant n'est appliquée auxdits premier et second groupes de contacts que lorsqu'une pression est exercée sur ladite feuille de contacts, d'où il résulte que lesdits groupes sont maintenus à un potentiel égal en l'absence de pression.

5. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4, dans lequel ladite feuille conductrice (11) est connectée à la source de courant dudit micro-ordinateur (5a) et à une masse de l'appareil (1) qui est équipé dudit clavier (6).

6. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 5, dans lequel des premiers, second et troisième groupes de contacts sont formés sur ladite feuille de contacts (13), un contact de chacun de ces groupes étant associé à chacune desdites touches, chaque contact dudit premier groupe étant connecté à une borne correspondante parmi lesdites bornes d'entrée directe (K_1 - K_4) dudit micro-ordinateur (5a) par l'intermédiaire d'un motif ayant une faible résistance (P_2 , P_3 , P_4 , P_5), chaque contact dudit second groupe étant connecté à ladite borne d'entrée de conversion analogique-numérique (A/D_1) dudit micro-ordinateur par l'intermédiaire d'une résistance parmi une pluralité de résistances imprimées sur ladite feuille de contacts (13), et lesdits contacts dudit troisième groupe de contacts étant connectés à une source de courant dudit micro-ordinateur (5a), d'où il résulte que, lorsqu'une pression est exercée sur ladite feuille de caractères (10) au niveau de l'une quelconque des positions de touche, ladite feuille conductrice (11) entre simultanément en contact avec un contact de chacun desdits premier, second et troisième groupes, à travers l'une desdites ouvertures formées dans ladite feuille d'écartement (12).