

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
15 June 2023 (15.06.2023)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2023/106999 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
H01H 13/705 (2006.01) *G06F 3/02* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/SG2021/050782

(22) International Filing Date:
10 December 2021 (10.12.2021)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN,
KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO,
NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW,
SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,

(54) Title: INPUT KEY ASSEMBLY AND INPUT DEVICE

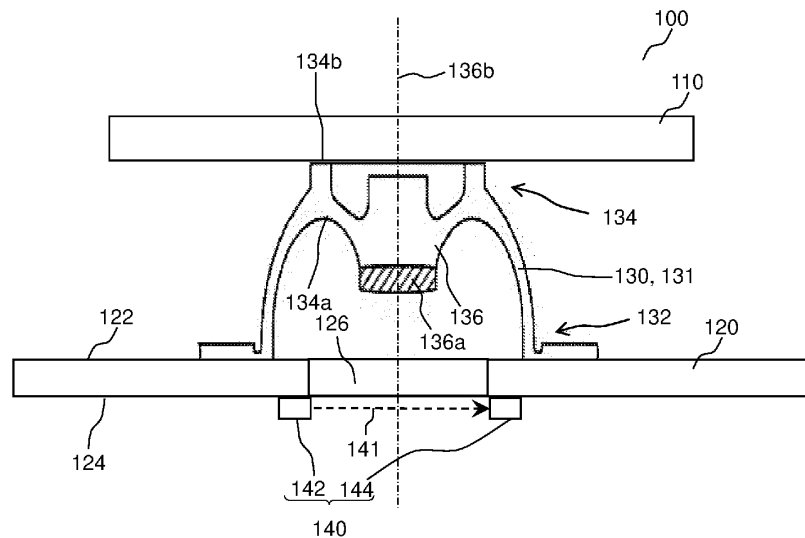


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: An input key assembly including: a keycap; a substrate; an elastic deformable shell-like structure disposed between the substrate and the keycap; and an optical sensing arrangement disposed on the substrate to transmit a light beam and sense an interruption to the light beam. The elastic deformable shell-like structure includes a peripheral base portion in abutment with the substrate; an apex portion in abutment with the keycap; and a plunger-like element extending away from underneath the apex portion, wherein a free-end of the plunger-like element is opaque. The elastic deformable shell-like structure and the optical sensing arrangement are arranged in a manner such that the free-end of the plunger-like element interrupts the light beam when the keycap is depressed to deform the elastic deformable shell-like structure for collapsing the apex portion relative to the peripheral base portion to move the plunger-like element along a longitudinal axis of the plunger-like element.

WO 2023/106999 A1

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UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *in black and white; the international application as filed contained color or greyscale and is available for download from PATENTSCOPE*