

PORTABLE 2-BYTE CHARACTER ENCODING**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A hardware module includes a character map, a font and control codes in accordance with an established national standard for printing characters, to supplement or replace similar information stored in a printer in accordance with another established standard. Connection of the module to the printer changes the personality of the printer, from a printer operating in accordance with one standard for printing one set of characters, such as printing simplified Chinese characters used in mainland China in accordance with a GuoBiao Standard, to a printer operating in accordance with a second standard for printing another set of characters, such as printing traditional Chinese characters in accordance with a Chinese National Standard.

Figure 4