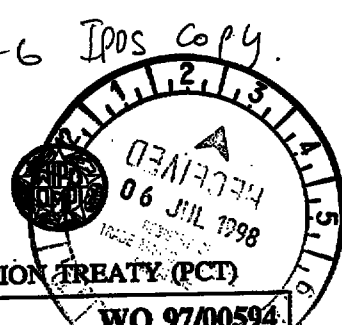
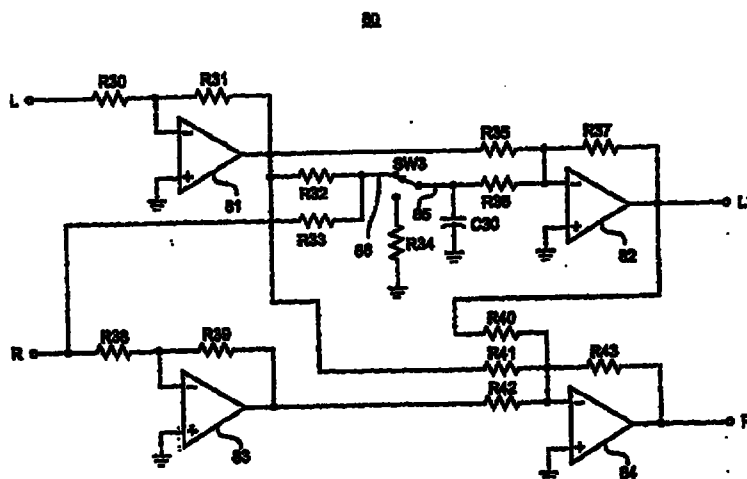


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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SPATIALLY ENHANCING STEREO AND MONOPHONIC SIGNALS



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus is disclosed which spatially enhances stereo signals without sacrificing compatibility with monophonic receivers. In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a stereo enhancement system (60b) is implemented using only two op-amps (51, 52) and two capacitors (C₁ and C₂) and may be switched between a spatial enhancement mode and a bypass mode. In other embodiments, simplified stereo enhancement systems are realized by constructing one of the output channels as the sum of the other output channel and the input channels. In other embodiments, a pseudo-stereo signal is synthesized and spatially enhanced according to stereo speaker crosstalk cancellation principles. In yet other embodiments, the respective spatial enhancements of monophonic signals and stereo signals are integrally combined into a single system capable of blending, in a continuous manner, the enhancement effects of both.