Claims:

1. A method in a frequency converter, for obtaining a symbol string (3) user input via a four-directional control device capable of receiving user inputs associated with a first direction, a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, a third direction opposite to the first direction and a fourth direction opposite to the second direction, the method comprising:

grouping ~~the~~ potential symbols into at least two symbol lists (4);

providing each of the symbol lists (4) with a switch lists symbol (6);

treating one of the symbol lists (4) as a current symbol list;

displaying at least part of at least the current symbol list;

displaying a cursor (5) indicating one of the symbols in the current symbol list, the indicated symbol being a current symbol;

receiving commands via the four-directional control device; and

based on the received commands, selectively changing the current symbol list to one of the other symbol lists, effecting relative movement between the cursor (5) and the current symbol list, and selecting the current symbol as the next symbol in the symbol string (3), wherein the method comprises:~~.~~

~~2. The method of claim 1, wherein the four-directional control device is capable of receiving user inputs associated with a first direction, a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, a third direction opposite to the first direction and a fourth direction opposite to the second direction, the method comprising:~~

~~providing each of the symbol lists with a switch lists symbol;~~

receiving via the four-directional control device a user input associated with the first direction;

in response to the user input associated with the first direction, moving the current symbol list in a third direction whereby the cursor (5) moves in the first direction relative to the current symbol list;

receiving via the four-directional control device a user input associated with the third direction;

in response to the user input associated with the third direction, moving the current symbol list in a first direction whereby the cursor (5) moves in the third direction relative to the current symbol list;

receiving via the four-directional control device a user input associated with the second direction, when the cursor (5) indicates a symbol other than one of the switch lists symbols (6);

in response to the user input associated with the second direction, when the cursor (5) indicates a symbol other than one of the switch lists symbols (6), selecting the current symbol as the next symbol in the symbol string (3);

receiving via the four-directional control device a user input associated with the second direction or the fourth direction, when the cursor (5) indicates one of the switch lists symbols (6); and

in response to the user input associated with the second direction or the fourth direction, when the cursor (5) indicates one of the switch lists symbols (6), changing the symbol list (4) to one of the other symbol lists.

3.2.The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the method comprises displaying at least part of each symbol list (4) when the cursor (5) indicates one of the switch lists symbols (6).

4.3.The method ~~according to any one~~ of claim~~s~~ 1 or~~to~~ 2~~3~~, wherein the method comprises hiding other than the current symbol list when the cursor (5) indicates a symbol other than one of the switch lists symbols (6).

5.4.The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3~~4~~, wherein each symbol list (4) contains more than 5 symbols and method comprises simultaneously displaying only 1 to 5 symbols from any one symbol list (4).

6.5.A control panel for a frequency converter, comprising:

a data structure comprising symbols grouped into at least two symbol lists (4), one of which is a current symbol list, wherein each of the symbol lists (4) contains a switch lists symbol (6);

a display (1), the display (1) configured to display at least part of at least the current symbol list and a cursor (5) indicating one of the symbols, the indicated symbol being ~~the~~a current symbol; ~~and~~

~~—~~a four-directional control device for receiving commands, wherein the four-directional control device is adapted to receive commands associated with a first, second, third and fourth directions, and wherein the four-directional control device comprises four keys (2), each adapted for receiving an individual one of the commands associated with the first, second, third and fourth directions; and

a controller configured to~~:~~

based on the received commands, selectively effect the change of the current symbol list to one of the other symbol lists, effect relative movement between the cursor (5) and the current symbol list, and select the current symbol as an input,

effect relative movement between the cursor (5) and at least the current symbol list in response to commands associated with the first and third directions,~~.~~

select the current symbol as an input in response to a command associated with the second direction,

when the cursor (5) indicates one of the switch lists symbols (6), effect the change of the current symbol list to one of the other symbol lists in response to commands associated with the second and fourth directions.

~~7.~~6.The frequency converter of claim 5~~6~~, wherein the symbol lists (4) are long relative to the size of the display (1) and only a part of each symbol list (4) is displayed at a time.

~~8.~~7. The frequency converter of claim 5~~6~~ or 6~~7~~, wherein each of the symbol lists (4) contains a switch lists symbol (6), and all of the symbol lists (4), or parts thereof, are displayed when the cursor (5) is indicating the switch lists symbol (6).

~~9.~~8. The frequency converter of claim 7~~8~~, wherein only the current symbol list, which contains the current symbol, is displayed when the cursor (5) indicates a symbol other than the switch lists symbol (6).

~~10. The frequency converter according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the four-directional control device is adapted to receive commands associated with a first, second, third and fourth directions.~~

~~11. The frequency converter of claim 10, wherein the controller is configured to effect relative movement between the cursor and at least the current symbol list in response to commands associated with the first and third directions.~~

~~12. The frequency converter of claim 10 or 11, wherein the controller is configured to select the current symbol as an input in response to a command associated with the second direction.~~

~~13. The frequency converter according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein each of the symbol lists contains a switch lists symbol and the controller is configured to, when the cursor indicates one of the switch lists symbols, effect the change of the current symbol list to one of the other symbol lists in response to commands associated with the second and fourth directions.~~

~~14. The frequency converter according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the four-directional control device comprises four keys, each adapted for receiving an individual one of the commands associated with the first, second, third and fourth directions.~~

~~15.~~9. The frequency converter according to any one of claims 5~~6~~ to 8~~14~~, configured to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~5~~.