

System for recording and reproducing a digital signal on/from a re-recordable record carrier.

REPLACED SHEETS -		SG
☒	Description : paged ...1... to paged ...19...	
☒	Claim(s) : paged ...20... to paged ...26...	
☒	Drawing(s) : paged ...17... to paged ...17...	
☒	Abstract : paged ... to paged ...26...	

- The invention relates to a system for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal on/from a re-recordable record carrier, comprising a recording arrangement for recording the digital audio signal in a track on the record carrier and comprising a reproducing arrangement for reproducing the digital audio signal from the track of the
- 5 record carrier,
- the recording arrangement comprising
- an input terminal for receiving the digital audio signal,
 - first conversion means for converting the digital audio signal in a data reduction step into a second digital signal comprising synchronisation information, bitallocation
- 10 information, scalefactor information and audio signal information included in subsequent frames of the second digital signal,
- second conversion means for converting the second digital signal into a third digital signal so as to enable an error correction to be carried out in the reproducing arrangement on the third digital signal read from the track,
- 15 - write means for writing the third digital signal in the track on the record carrier,
- the reproducing arrangement comprising
- read means for reading the third digital signal from the track on the record carrier,
 - third conversion means for correcting errors in the third digital signal read from the track, for generating an error-flag if it is not capable of correcting an error, and for
- 20 reconverting the third digital signal into the second digital signal,
- fourth conversion means for reconverting the second digital signal so as to obtain the digital audio signal,
 - concealment means for concealing uncorrectable errors in the digital audio signal in response to error flags generated by the error-correction means,
- 25 - an output terminal for supplying the digital audio signal, a recording arrangement and a reproducing arrangement for use in the system, and to a record carrier obtained with the recording arrangement.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced





A system in accordance with the opening paragraph has been described in the prior filed, but not yet published, Dutch patent application no. 91.00.285, reference (6) in the list of references at the end of this description. The application describes a system including recording arrangements and reproducing arrangements of the DCC type, which enable audio in digital form to be recorded and reproduced on/from a magnetic record carrier incorporated in a compact cassette like housing. The audio signal reproduced has a substantially CD quality.

The present invention enables a further improvement of the system, so that it is possible to re-record a digital audio signal partly over a terminal portion of an earlier recording, such that, during reproduction of the earlier recording and the new recording, the probability of occurrence of an audible distortion as a result of the reproduction over the boundary between the earlier and the new recording is significantly decreased.

To that purpose, the system is characterized the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing means for further processing a digital signal in the recording arrangement in response to the switching of the recording arrangement into a recording mode, so as to mutilate information included in a start portion of the third digital signal which is recorded in the track, the information included in the start portion being mutilated such that, during reproduction, the mutilated information included in the start portion of the signal read from the track, results in generating a concealment control signal during a first time interval which is applied to the concealment means so as to conceal the digital signal during said first time interval, the said first time interval at least including the start portion of the reproduced digital signal.

As an alternative, the system in accordance with the opening paragraph is characterized in that the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing means for further processing a digital signal in the recording arrangement in response to and directly preceding the termination of a recording mode, so as to mutilate information included in a terminal portion of the third digital signal which is recorded in the track, the information included in the terminal portion being mutilated such that, during reproduction, the mutilated information included in the terminal portion of the signal read from the track, results in generating a concealment control signal during a second time interval which is applied to the concealment means so as to conceal the



digital signal during said second time interval, the said second time interval at least including the terminal portion of the reproduced digital signal.

The two characterizing measures can be applied separately or in combination.

The invention is based on the recognition that, during reproduction, the
5 start portion of the second digital signal of the new recording need not be contiguous to the terminal portion of the remaining part of the second digital signal of the earlier recording.

The term 'not' contiguous' means that the boundary, in the second digital signal reproduced from the record carrier, between the original recording and the start
10 portion of the new recording is not exactly located at the boundary between two subsequent complete frames in the second digital signal, the first one of the two complete frames being the last frame of the original signal adjoining the boundary, and the second one of the two frames being the first complete frame in the second digital signal of the new recording. The two signals are not contiguous if the last frame of the
15 original signal and/or the first frame in the second digital signal of the new recording are not complete. This can lead to an incorrect reconversion in the fourth conversion means. As a result an audible distortion can occur in the reproduced audio signal.

By mutilating, during the recording step, the information included in a start portion of the new recording such that, during reproduction a concealment control
20 signal is generated so as to conceal the read-out digital signal, it has been assured that the probability of occurrence of audible distortions is reduced to substantially zero. Concealment of the digital signal can be realized in various ways. Concealment can mean: repeating previous correct signal samples or signal portions, interpolating between correct signal samples or signal portions that are located around the start
25 portion of the new recording, muting the start portion of the new recording, e.g. by setting the samples to zero.

In the same way it may be possible that the terminal portion of the original recording lies beyond the terminal portion of a new recording on the record carrier. This means that the terminal portion of the new recording is followed by the
30 remaining part of the original recording. The boundary between both can in the same way be the cause of audible distortions in the reproduced audio signal. In order to preclude this, it is preferred to mutilate the information included in a terminal portion of the new recording as well, so that, during reproduction, a concealment control signal



can be generated, so as to conceal the read-out digital signal.

There are various possibilities to mutilate the signal to be recorded. The 'mutilation of the signal' should be interpreted in a non-restrictive sense. It includes amongst others a scrambling of the signal to be recorded. Another possibility is that the parity information, normally included in the signal to be recorded, is mutilated. This 'mutilation of the signal' results in uncorrectable errors in the signal read from the record carrier. As a result error flags are generated by the third conversion means, which activates one of the concealment methods described above. The error flags form in this case the concealment control signal, under the influence of which the concealment of the signal read out is activated.

'Mutilating the signal' however also includes a signal processing step in which additionally concealment codes are added to the signal to be recorded. Those concealment codes can be detected by a detector in the reproducing arrangement, so as to generate the concealment control signal.

As a further alternative, it should be noted that the concealment codes need not necessarily be added to the digital signal and to be recorded in the same track as the digital signal. It is equally possible to record the concealment codes in a separate track.

It should be noted that published European patent application EP 414,310 A1, reference (11) in the list of references, describes record carriers of the write-once type. Such record carriers can not be overwritten, so that a fault in the recorded signal, such as the recording of an undesirable signal, can not be corrected. The application now proposes a mutilation of the undesired signal recorded previously in a record carrier, so as to generate error flags during reproduction and to activate a muting function in response thereto. Contrary to this, the present invention proposes the 'mutilation' of the start or end portion of the new recording so as to decrease the probability of occurrence of audible distortions.

The invention will now be described in more detail in the following Figure description, in which

Figure 1 shows a prior art recording arrangement,

Figure 2 shows the format of the second digital signal,



Figure 3 shows the format of the tracks on the record carrier,

Figure 4 shows the format of the third digital signal as it is recorded in the tracks on the record carrier,

Figure 5 shows the RAM memory included in the second conversion means for carrying out the error correction coding step in the recording arrangement,

Figure 6 shows a prior art reproducing arrangement,

Figure 7 shows the second digital signal as it is read out, in the case of the read-out of an original recording (Figure 7a), in the case of a new recording made partly over an original recording (Figure 7b and 7c),

Figure 8 shows an embodiment of the part of the recording arrangement incorporating the invention,

Figure 9 shows another embodiment of a part of the recording arrangement incorporating the invention,

Figure 10 shows another format of the second digital signal,

Figure 11 an embodiment of the reproducing arrangement in accordance with the invention,

Figure 12 shows the second digital signal as it is read out, in the case of the read-out of an original recording (Figure 12a), in the case of a new recording made partly over an original recording (Figure 12b and 12c),

Figure 13 and 14 show an embodiment in which a concealment code is recorded in a separate track on the record carrier.

Figure 1 shows in (a) the first conversion means of a prior art recording arrangement. An input terminal 1 is supplied with a wide-band digital signal. In this context one may think of an audio signal having a bandwidth of about 20 kHz. The audio signal may be a stereo audio signal. In that case only one of the two signal portions (the left or right signal portion) of the stereo audio signal will be further discussed. The other signal portion will then be subject to the same process.

Input 1 is supplied with, for example, 16-bit samples of, for example, the left signal portion of the audio signal having a 44 kHz sample frequency. The audio signal is applied to a sub-band coder 2 comprising an analysis filter means. The sub-band coder 2 distributes the audio signal over M sub-bands by means of M filters i.e. a



low-pass filter LP, M-2 bandpass filters BP and a high-pass filter HP. M is equal to, for example, 32. The sample frequency of the M sub-band signals is reduced in the blocks referenced 9. In such a block the sample frequency is reduced by a factor of M. The signals thus obtained are presented at the outputs 3.1, 3.2, ... 3.M. At the output 3.1 the signal is presented in the lowest sub-band SB_1 . At the output 3.2 the signal is presented in the lowest but one sub-band SB_2 . At the output 3.M the signal is presented in the highest sub-band SB_m . The signals at the outputs 3.1 to 3.M have the form of successive samples expressed in 16-bit numbers or more, for example, 24-bit numbers. In the present exemplary embodiment the sub-bands SB_1 to SB_M are all equally wide.

However, this is not necessary. In the prior-art publication (5), Krasner, proposes a subdivision into a plurality of sub-bands whose bandwidths approximately correspond to the bandwidths of the critical bands of the human auditory system in the respective frequency areas.

The operation of the sub-band coder 2 will not be explained any further because the operation of the sub-band coding means has already been extensively discussed. For this purpose, the reader be referred to the prior-art documents (1), (5) and (7) which are assumed to be included in this application where necessary.

The sub-band signals are combined in consecutive signal blocks of q successive samples, and applied to an associated quantizer Q_1 to Q_M . In a quantizer Q_m the samples are quantized to quantized samples having a number of bits n_m smaller than 16.

Figure 1 shows how the left sub-band signals in signal blocks of q successive samples are applied to an associated quantizer Q_m . In like manner the right sub-band signals in signal blocks of q successive samples are applied to an associated quantizer (not shown). During the quantization process the signal blocks (groups) of q successive samples of the sub-band signal portions are each time quantized to a smaller number of bits. For example, q is equal to 12. In addition, the q samples are first normalized in a signal block 10. This normalization is effected by dividing the amplitudes of the q samples by the amplitude of the sample having the largest absolute value in the signal block. The amplitude of the sample having the largest amplitude in the signal block of the sub-band SB_m produces a scale factor SF_m , see document (2). Subsequently, the amplitudes of the normalized samples which are now situated in an amplitude range from -1 to +1, are quantized.



In the prior-art document (2) this quantization is extensively discussed, cf. Figs. 24, 25 and 26 and the relevant description in that document.

The quantized samples in the sub-bands SB_1 to SB_M are then presented at the respective outputs 4.1 to 4.M.

5. The outputs 3.1 to 3.M are furthermore coupled to the respective inputs 5.1 to 5.M of bit need determining means 6. The bit need determining means 6 determines for time-equivalent q -sample signal blocks of the left and right sub-band signal portions in the sub-bands SB_1 to SB_M the bit need b_m . The bit need b_m is a relative number which bears a proportion to the number of bits with which the q samples in a q -sample signal block in a sub-band signal portion should be quantized.

The bit needs b_1 to b_M derived by the bit need determining means 6, are applied to bit allocation means 7. The bit allocation means 7 determines the actual number of bits n_1 to n_M with which the q samples of the corresponding signal blocks in the sub-band signals SB_1 to SB_M are to be quantized on the basis of the bit needs b_1 to b_M . Control signals corresponding to the numbers n_1 to n_M are applied to the respective quantizers Q_1 to Q_M over the lines 8.1 to 8.M, so that the quantizers are capable of quantizing the samples with the correct number of bits.

Documents (9a) and (9b) of the list of references extensively discuss the operation of the bit need determining means 6 and the bit allocation means 7.

20 The quantized samples in the signal blocks of the sub-band signals are thereafter applied to inputs 4.1 to 4.M of a signal combining unit 14. In like manner the bit allocation information formed from the numbers n_1 to n_M , after a conversion as required, is applied to the inputs 12.1 to 12.M of the combining unit 14. Also the scale factor information formed from the scale factors SF_1 to SF_M , after a conversion as required, is applied to the inputs 11.1 to 11.M of the combining unit 14. The signal obtained at the output 17 of the signal combination unit 14 is the second digital signal, whose format is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1b shows a second section of the recording arrangement, which section further includes a second conversion means 15 in addition to the combining unit 14, as well as write means 16 for applying the signal presented at its input to the recordable record carrier. In this case this record carrier is a magnetic record carrier.

In addition to the samples, the bit allocation information and the scale factor information for the left signal portions in the sub-bands, also the samples, the bit



allocation information and the scale factor information for the right signal portions in the sub-bands are applied to the combining unit 14. The unit 14 combines the signals and accommodates them in successive frames of the second digital signal presented at its output 17.

5 Figure 2 shows the format of this second digital signal. This format is extensively discussed in document (2) of the list of references, which document is assumed to be included in the present application where deemed necessary. Fig. 2 shows the second digital signal comprising the successive frames $j-1$, j , $j+1$ and shows how a frame may be constituted. The frame comprises a first frame portion FD1 in
10 which sync information may be contained, a second frame portion FD2 in which the allocation information may be contained and a third frame portion FD3. This third frame portion first contains the scale factor information and then the samples of the quantized signals in the sub-bands. For a further description reference be made to document (2).

15 The second digital signal is applied to the input 18 of the second converter means 15. In this converter means another encoding is performed of the second digital signal so that at the reproducer side an error correction of the received information is possible. For this purpose, for example, a Reed solomon encoding and possibly an interleaving is used for the second digital signal.

20 Furthermore, the signal is encoded in such a way that the information to be recorded is suitable for recording on the record carrier. Therefore, for example, an 8-to-10 encoder can be used for the 8-bit words constituting the signal. Such an 8-to-10 conversion is described, for example, in European Patent Application 150 082, document (10) in the list of references. During this conversion the 8-bit information
25 words are converted to 10-bit codewords.

The third digital signal thus obtained is presented at the output 19. This output 19 is coupled to input 20 of the writing means 16 for writing the third digital signal in a track on the magnetic record carrier.

Fig. 3 shows the record carrier 21 with the tracks provided on the record
30 carrier. On the A side there are $n+1$ tracks $T_{a,1}$ to $T_{a,n+1}$ which are parallel with each other and run in longitudinal direction on the record carrier. The B side likewise has $n+1$ tracks $T_{b,1}$ to $T_{b,n+1}$.

The tracks $T_{a,n+1}$ and $T_{b,n+1}$ are auxiliary tracks referenced AUX in



which an auxiliary signal is recorded, as described in European Patent Application No. 436,991, reference (3) in the Reference List, and which are considered included in the present Application where deemed necessary.

Digitized and encoded audio information is recorded, together with
5 synchronization and system information in the tracks $T_{a,1}$ to $T_{a,n}$ and $T_{b,1}$ to $T_{b,n}$ on the magnetic record carrier. The audio information is included in frames in the tracks. These frames are all of substantially the same length.

Figure 4a shows a track $T_{a,i}$ and the structure of the frames in this track. The other tracks are structured in similar fashion. The format of the track is extensively
10 described in European Patent Application No. 456,299, publication (4) in the Reference List, which is considered included in the present Application where deemed necessary.

The track is constituted by consecutive frames ..., $j-1$, j , $j+1$, ... interrupted by interframe gaps IFG. The interframe gaps are extensively described in European Patent Application No. 448,160, publication (8) in the Reference List. For a
15 further explanation of these interframe gaps reference be made to that Patent Application. A frame comprises a number of information blocks ..., S_{m-1} , S_m , S_{m+1} , In the present example the frames comprise each 32 information blocks. Fig. 4b shows the contents of a block, such as the block S_m . Each block is constituted by a first block section (header) and a second block section (body). The header comprises a sync
20 word 25, a frame number FN, a block number BN and a parity word PAR. The contents of the body are both the digital information representing the recorded audio signal and parity information. The body contains 48 bytes of 10 bits each. For a further explanation reference be made to publication (4).

A further explanation will be given how the serial datastream of the
25 second digital signal is converted into the third digital as it is recorded in the track.

The information included in the serial datastream of the second digital signal is divided in bytes of 8 bits long, and is stored, if needed after an interleaving step, in a RAM memory RM, see Figure 5, included in the conversion means 15. More specifically, the RAM memory RM is capable of storing the information included in
30 about 21 and 1/3 frames of the second digital signal in the part P1 of the RAM. In total a number of $a \cdot c$ of bytes of the second digital signal are stored in the a rows and c columns comprised in the part P1 of the RAM. A C_1 error correction coding step is carried out row-wise over the a rows in the RAM, so as to obtain a number of d parity



bytes for each row. Those parity bytes are stored in the part P2 of the RAM. Next a C_2 error correction coding step is carried out column-wise over the $(c+d)$ rows in the RAM, so as to obtain a number of b parity bytes for each column. Those parity bytes are stored in the part P3 of the RAM. Next, the RAM is read-out column-wise, and
5 applied to the 8-to-10 encoder. One could imagine that $(c+d)$ equals the number n , which is the number of tracks on the record carrier in which the third digital signal is to be recorded. In that case the $a+b$ bytes in a column are encoded and recorded in a corresponding one of the n tracks. The information included in each of the $c+d$ columns of the RAM could be encoded by $c+d$ corresponding 8-to-10 encoders.
10 Another possibility is that the information in the $c+d$ rows are encoded in time-multiplex by one single 8-to-10 encoder. In this last case, care should be taken that the correct running DSV is used for the encoding of the information that should be recorded in one track. The $a+b$ bytes of 10 bits each are recorded in the body of the track frames on the record carrier. Further, the header-information is added to the
15 information recorded. The n track frames that adjoin each other in the n tracks $T_{a,1}$ to $T_{a,n}$ form a tape frame.

Figure 6 shows in a diagram an embodiment of the prior art reproducing arrangement. The reproducing arrangement comprises read means 30 for reading the third digital signal from the tracks on the record carrier.

20 The read-out third digital signal is applied to an input 31 of third conversion means 32. In the means 32 first a 10-to-8 conversion is performed in an inverse way compared to the 8-to-10 encoding described above. Then an error correction operation is carried out and a possible de-interleaving of the information that has been read out. The thus decoded signal again corresponds to the second digital
25 signal as is represented in Figure 2, and is presented at an output 33. The second digital signal is applied to an input 34 of a fourth conversion means, which comprise the blocks 35 and 36. The block 35 derives from the frames shown in Figure 2 the allocation information, the scale factor information and the samples for each signal block in each sub-band. After dequantization and a multiplication by the scale factors the sub-
30 band signals SB_1 to SB_M then appear at the outputs 37.1 to 37.M. These sub-band signals are applied to inputs 39.1 to 39.M of synthesis filter means 36 which restores the original digital signal from the sub-band signals. The operation of the synthesis filter means 36 is extensively discussed in document (7) of the citation index. The original



digital signal is applied by the means 36 to an output 40 of the reproducing arrangement. For example, the left signal portion of the original digital signal is concerned here. Needless to observe that the means 35 has a further M outputs at which the sub-band signals of the right signal portion are available. Synthesis filter means (not shown) such as the filter means 36 is available for reconstructing the original right
5 signal portion from these sub-band signals.

Errors detected in the incoming information can be corrected in the third conversion means 32. If an error turns out not to be corrigible, unit 32 will generate an error flag at an output 41. This error flag is applied to a control signal input 42 of
10 concealment means in the form of an error masking system.

Error masking can be realized in various ways.

As a first possibility, an erroneous sample can be replaced by a correct previous sample. A second possibility is that an interpolation is carried out between two correct samples adjoining the erroneous sample on each side. If a number of
15 consecutive error flags occur, a muting of the audio information is required. This can be realized by setting a number of samples to a zero value.

The error masking system may be arranged between the third conversion means 32 and the means 35, as is shown in a diagram in Figure 6 by means of block 43 represented in dashed lines. Error masking in response to error flags of the correction
20 unit 32 is then performed on the second digital signal. The moment an error flag of the unit 32 occurs indicates to the masking system which information word in the serial data stream of the second digital signal of Figure 2 is erroneous.

Another option is to perform error masking by muting the audio signal as it is supplied at the output 40. This implies that the error flags are to be applied to a
25 control signal input 46 of a error masking circuit 43', indicated in Figure 6 by dashed lines, which is coupled between the output of the synthesis filter means 36 and the output 40.

Next, it is described what happens if a new recording takes place when recording over an earlier recording.

30 Figure 7a shows the serial datastream of the second digital signal, as it is read out and converted in the third conversion means, assuming that no interruption of the original recording has taken place. Subsequent frames ..., F_{j-1} , F_j , F_{j+1} , follow each other and are supplied to the output 17 by the third conversion means 14.

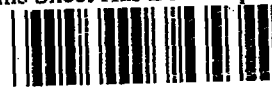


Figure 7b shows the serial datastream of the second digital signal at the output 17 in the case that a new recording has taken place over a terminal part of the original recording. The boundary in the serial datastream of the second digital signal, between the remaining portion of the original recording and the start portion of the new recording is at the location indicated by B. The first frame F_1 in the serial datastream of the new recording already begins before the frame F_{j-1} of the original recording is terminated. Reconversion of the second digital signal into the various samples for the various subbands, is realized in the block 35 by detecting the allocation information in the second frame portions FD2 and counting the bits in the portion of the third frame portion FD3 that comprise the samples. In the same way, the samples are retrieved from the third frame portion of the frame F_{j-1} . During reconverting, the block 35 is not aware of the fact that the boundary B exists between the original recording and the new recording, and thus continues counting the bits in the serial datastream past the location B. This results in an erroneous reconversion of the frame F_{j-1} in the block 35, so that an audible distortion occurs in the audio signal supplied at the output 40. At the time t_s , which is the start of the frame F_j of the original recording, the reconversion circuit expects to receive a new sync signal. As no such sync signal is detected, it waits until the next detection of a sync signal, which is the sync signal of the frame F_2 of the new recording. The audible distortion thus at least lasts during the occurrence of the frames F_{j-1} and F_1 . Reconversion could now be resumed by reconverting the information contained in frame F_2 . If the reconversion circuit requires at least two sync signals lying at the correct distance in time from each other, reconversion is resumed at a later time interval after having received the at least two frames F_2 and F_3 .

Figure 7c shows another situation, where an original recording is partly overwritten by a new recording. It should be noted that the beginning of the new recording need not begin exactly with a complete frame, such as the frame F_1 in Figure 7b. Figure 7c shows that the new recording starts with an incomplete frame F_1' .

The reason for this is that the first conversion means, comprising the elements 2, 10, 14, and the second conversion means 15 are only loosely synchronized. This means that, during recording, the start of the encoding of the second digital signal in the second conversion means 15 need not exactly coincide with the start of a frame in the second digital signal.

As a result, during reproduction, the block 35 continues counting the bits

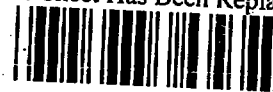


in the serial datastream past the location B, without noticing the boundary between the original and the new recording. An audible distortion occurs, which distortion again at least lasts from the start of the frame F_{j-1} until the information in the frame F_2 has been received.

5 Figure 8 shows that part of a first embodiment of the recording arrangement incorporating the invention. Figure 8 shows the second part of the recording arrangement of Figure 1b. The arrangement further includes signal processing means, in the form of a scrambler 50, having an input 54 coupled to the output 19 of the second conversion means 15. The scrambler 50 is for scrambling the third digital signal in the
10 recording arrangement during a first specific time interval in response to the switching of the recording arrangement into a recording mode. This switching into the recording mode is activated by a user pushing a recording button (not shown). A central processing unit 51 detects the actuation of the record button and generates a switching control signal at an output 52 which control signal is applied to a controllable switch
15 53. The switch 53 is positioned in the down position under the influence of the control signal, so as to couple the output 55 of the scrambler 50 to the input 20 of the write means, so that the information included in a start portion of the third digital signal recorded in the track is mutilated. The information included in the start portion is mutilated such that, during reproduction, the application to the third conversion means
20 of the mutilated information included in the start portion read from the track, results in generating error flags at the output 41 of the third conversion means 32 so as to mute the digital signal during said first specific time interval. As a result no audible distortion occurs in the digital audio signal at the output 40 of the reproducing arrangement. From what has been said previously with respect to Figure 7b and 7c, the muting of the audio
25 signal should at least cover the time interval in which the information corresponding to the erroneously decoded frames F_{j-1} and F_1 in the second digital signal is supplied to the output of the circuit 36, see Figure 6.

 Preferably, only the information contained in the bodyportion of one or a number of consecutive track frames is scrambled, whilst the information contained in
30 the header portion of a track frame remains unaffected. This makes it possible to maintain synchronization during read out.

 In a second embodiment of the recording arrangement in accordance with the invention, the parity information added to the audio data in the second conversion



means 15, is mutilated, or scrambled. Figure 9 shows a further detailed embodiment of the second conversion means, denoted by the reference numeral 15'. The conversion means 15' comprise a parity generator in the form of error correction coding unit ERCO 60, having an input coupled to an output of RAM memory RM and an output coupled to a terminal of a switch 53 as well as to an input of a scrambler 50. An output of the scrambler 50 is coupled to a second terminal of the switch 53. A third common terminal of the switch 50 is coupled to an input of the RAM memory RM. The parity generator 60 generates the C_1 and C_2 parity codewords as a result of the audio data included in the part P1 of the memory RM, which is applied to its input. With the switch 53 in the position as shown in Figure 9, the generator 60 supplies the parity information to the memory RM for storing the C_1 codewords in the part P2 and the C_2 parity words in the part P3 of the memory RM.

The central processing unit 51 detects the actuation of the record button and generates a switching control signal at an output 52 which control signal is applied to the controllable switch 53. The switch 53 is positioned in the down position under the influence of the control signal, so as to couple the output 55 of the scrambler 50 to the input of the memory RM. All the parity information included in the parts P2 and P3 of the memory RM can be scrambled. This results during reproduction in the generation of error flags and a muting of the audio signal during a first time interval that equals the time interval corresponding to the length of time of the audio information included in a tape frame.

Another possibility is to inhibit the calculation of the parity information for the parts P2 and P3 of the memory RM. Inhibiting the calculation of the parity information for the audio information included in the part P1 of the memory RM, means that the parts P2 and P3 in the memory RM still comprise the parity information corresponding to the audio information that was previously stored in the part P1. This parity information has no relation to the audio information newly stored in the part P1. Thus, during reproduction, again error flags will occur, leading to a muting of the audio signal.

But not all the parity information in the parts P2 and P3 of the memory RM need to be scrambled. It suffices to scramble, or mutilate, so many parity codewords in the parts P1 and P2 that a sufficient length of audio information, covering the transition between the two recordings, is muted during reproduction.



Still another possibility is to scramble at least part of the audio data included in the part P1, so that this in the same way leads to the generation of a sufficient number of error flags during reproduction, resulting in a muting of the audio signal.

5 In again another embodiment, the recording arrangement is adapted to insert concealment codes in the signal to be recorded, such that those concealment codes can be detected during reproduction. Upon detection of one or more concealment codes, the muting circuit 43 or 43' mutes the audio signal during the first specific period of time.

10 Figure 10 shows a frame in the second digital signal, generated by the first conversion means. The third frame portion FD3 is now further divided so as to include a fifth frame portion FD5 behind the portion of the frame comprising the samples. The format of the frame has been described extensively with reference to Figure 23 in European patent application no. 402,973, reference (2). The concealment
15 code can now be inserted in the fifth frame portion of a frame, more specifically in the sixth frame portion FD6 of the said frame in the second digital signal. Another possibility is to insert the concealment code in the system information (SYS INFO) in the first frame portion FD1 of the frame.

The concealment code can be in the form of one bit which is located on a
20 fixed location in the frame. If the bit is logical '1', this can mean that the concealment code is present. A bit which is logical '0' means that no concealment code is present.

In the case that the concealment code is inserted in the frame portion FD6, that is, at the end of the frame, it would suffice to include the concealment code in the first frame F_1 or F_1' , see Figure 7b or 7c respectively, of the new recording.
25 Preferably, the concealment code is inserted in a number of frames of the second digital signal by the first conversion means, more specifically by the unit 14 in Figure 1b, so that during reproduction at least the frame F_1 or F_1' , see Figure 7b and 7c respectively, contain the concealment code.

In the case that the concealment code is inserted in the first frame part
30 FD1, it is necessary to insert the concealment code in at least the first two frames F_1 and F_2 of the new recording, so that also in the case of the situation described in Figure 7c, the concealment code can be detected during reproduction.

Again it should be noted that, in order to conceal the distortion, the



specific first time interval during which concealing takes place should cover at least the time interval during which the information corresponding to the incorrectly decoded frames F_{j-1} and F_1 or F_1' is supplied to the output of the element 36, see Figure 11.

Figure 11 shows an embodiment of the reproducing arrangement which is capable of detecting the concealment codes, so as to activate the concealment function during the specific period of time. The fourth conversion means 35 that receive the second digital signal including the frames, such as the frame of Figure 10, is capable of detecting the concealment code. Upon detection of the concealment code, the means 35 generate a concealment control signal at the output 41', which signal is applied to the control input 46 of the concealment circuit 43', so as to conceal the audio signal during the specific period of time.

Concealing the signal can again mean a muting of the audio signal, which is in fact what Figure 11 shows. Another possibility is that the frame F_{j-2} lastly decoded correctly, is repeated, or that an interpolation is carried out.

Now, it will be described what happens at the end of the new recording, more specifically, in the situation where a terminal portion of the original recording is not overwritten by the new recording and thus still is present after the end of the new recording on the record carrier.

Figure 12a shows the second digital signal generated at the output 33 of the third conversion means 32 when reproducing the original recording. This Figure 12a in fact equals the Figure 7a. Figure 12b and 12c show situations where the original recording has been partly overwritten, so that a boundary B exists between the terminal part of the new recording and the remaining part of the original recording. In Figure 12b, the new recording ends with a complete frame F_p . In Figure 12c, the new recording ends with an incomplete frame F_p' .

In order to preclude the occurrence of disturbances in the audio signal reproduced as a result of the presence of the boundary B, one of the measures described above can be applied at the termination of the new recording, in response to the user activating the 'record stop' button on the recording arrangement.

Thus, a concealment function is activated during a specific second period of time so as to conceal the audio signal during reproduction past the boundary B. The second specific period of time should at least cover the time interval in which the information corresponding with the incorrectly decoded frames F_p' and F_j , see Figure



12c, are supplied to the output of the circuit 36. The length of the first time interval can be taken equal to the second time interval.

In addition to the measures described above, it is advisable to start the new recording with an audio signal of very low (zero) level, and to fade the audio level in to the required level. In the same way it is advisable to terminate the new recording with an audio level that is faded out to a zero level.

A further embodiment is shown in figure 13, and shows the recording of the concealment code cc in the auxiliary track $T_{a.n+1}$ of the record carrier 21. The recording arrangement comprises an auxiliary signal source 70 for generating the auxiliary signal. The auxiliary signal includes table of contents (TOC) information, such as the sequence numbers of the musical items and position information relating to the start positions of the musical items recorded on the record carrier. The position information can be in the form of timing information. The auxiliary information is supplied to a first input of a signal combination unit 72, which has an output coupled to a read head 73. The arrangement further comprises a concealment code generator 71 which generates a concealment code cc under the influence of a control signal supplied by the central processing unit 51 via its output 52 to the generator 71. The control signal at the output 52 is generated in response to the arrangement being switched into the recording mode, which switching into the recording mode is detected by the central processing unit 51. The concealment code is supplied to a second input of the combination unit 72. The head 73 records the auxiliary signal and the concealment code (if present) in the AUX track $T_{a.n+1}$.

Figure 13 further shows the top half of the record carrier. The original recording is indicated by the portions of the tracks being hatched by lines from top left to bottom right. The portions of the tracks being hatched from top left to bottom right as well as from top right to bottom left indicate the new recording. Clearly visible is the concealment code, which is indicated by the black spot cc, and which is located in the start portion of the new recording of the auxiliary signal.

Figure 13 further shows the reproducing arrangement, which now includes a concealment code detector 75. During reproduction, the detector 75 detects the concealment code and generates the concealment control signal which is supplied to the control signal input 46 of the concealment means 43'.

Figure 14 shows the recording of the concealment code cc on the terminal



part of the aux track $T_{a,n+1}$ in response to the termination of the recording mode over a previous recording. Again the portions of the tracks being hatched by lines from top left to bottom right indicate the original recording. The portions of the tracks being hatched from top left to bottom right as well as from top right to bottom left indicate
5 the new recording. Clearly visible is the concealment code, which is indicated by the black spot cc, and which is located in the terminal portion of the new recording of the auxiliary signal.

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CLAIMS:

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1. A system for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal on/from a re-recordable record carrier, comprising a recording arrangement for recording the digital audio signal in a track on the record carrier and comprising a reproducing arrangement for reproducing the digital audio signal from the track of the record
- 5 carrier,
- the recording arrangement comprising
- an input terminal for receiving the digital audio signal,
 - first conversion means for converting the digital audio signal in a data reduction step into a second digital signal comprising synchronisation information, bitallocation

10 information, scalefactor information and audio signal information included in subsequent frames of the second digital signal,

 - second conversion means for converting the second digital signal into a third digital signal so as to enable an error correction to be carried out in the reproducing arrangement on the third digital signal read from the track,

15 - write means for writing the third digital signal in the track on the record carrier, the reproducing arrangement comprising

 - read means for reading the third digital signal from the track on the record carrier,
 - third conversion means for correcting errors in the third digital signal read from the track, for generating an error-flag if it is not capable of correcting an error, and for

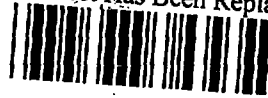
20 reconverting the third digital signal into the second digital signal,

 - fourth conversion means for reconverting the second digital signal so as to obtain the digital audio signal,
 - concealment means for concealing uncorrectable errors in the digital audio signal in response to error flags generated by the error-correction means,

25 - an output terminal for supplying the digital audio signal,
- characterized in that the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing means for further processing a digital signal in the recording arrangement in response to the switching of the recording arrangement into a recording mode, so as to mutilate



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information included in a start portion of the third digital signal which is recorded in the track, the information included in the start portion being mutilated such that, during reproduction, the mutilated information included in the start portion of the signal read from the track, results in generating a concealment control signal during a first time interval which is applied to the concealment means so as to conceal the digital signal during said first time interval, the said first time interval at least including the start portion of the reproduced digital signal.

2. A system for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal on/from a re-recordable record carrier, comprising a recording arrangement for recording the digital audio signal in a track on the record carrier and comprising a reproducing arrangement for reproducing the digital audio signal from the track of the record carrier,
- the recording arrangement comprising
- an input terminal for receiving the digital audio signal,
 - 15 - first conversion means for converting the digital audio signal in a data reduction step into a second digital signal comprising synchronisation information, bitallocation information, scalefactor information and audio signal information included in subsequent frames of the second digital signal,
 - second conversion means for converting the second digital signal into a third digital
 - 20 signal so as to enable an error correction to be carried out in the reproducing arrangement on the third digital signal read from the track,
 - write means for writing the third digital signal in the track on the record carrier, the reproducing arrangement comprising
 - read means for reading the third digital signal from the track on the record carrier,
 - 25 - third conversion means for correcting errors in the third digital signal read from the track, for generating an error-flag if it is not capable of correcting an error, and for reconverting the third digital signal into the second digital signal,
 - fourth conversion means for reconvertng the second digital signal so as to obtain the digital audio signal,
 - 30 - concealment means for concealing uncorrectable errors in the digital audio signal in response to error flags generated by the error-correction means,
 - an output terminal for supplying the digital audio signal,
- characterized in that the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing



- means for further processing a digital signal in the recording arrangement in response to and directly preceding the termination of a recording mode, so as to mutilate information included in a terminal portion of the third digital signal which is recorded in the track, the information included in the terminal portion being mutilated such that, during reproduction, the mutilated information included in the terminal portion of the signal read from the track, results in generating a concealment control signal during a second time interval which is applied to the concealment means so as to conceal the digital signal during said second time interval, the said second time interval at least including the terminal portion of the reproduced digital signal.
- 10 3. A system for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal on/from a re-recordable record carrier, comprising a recording arrangement for recording the digital audio signal in a track on the record carrier and comprising a reproducing arrangement for reproducing the digital audio signal from the track of the record carrier,
- 15 the recording arrangement comprising
- an input terminal for receiving the digital audio signal,
 - first conversion means for converting the digital audio signal in a data reduction step into a second digital signal comprising synchronisation information, bitallocation information, scalefactor information and audio signal information included in subsequent
 - 20 frames of the second digital signal,
 - second conversion means for converting the second digital signal into a third digital signal so as to enable an error correction to be carried out in the reproducing arrangement on the third digital signal read from the track,
 - a signal source for generating an auxiliary signal,
 - 25 - write means for writing the third digital signal in the track on the record carrier and for writing the auxiliary signal in an auxiliary track on the record carrier, the reproducing arrangement comprising
 - read means for reading the third digital signal from the track on the record carrier and for reading the auxiliary signal from the auxiliary track on the record carrier,
 - 30 - third conversion means for correcting errors in the third digital signal read from the track, for generating an error-flag if it is not capable of correcting an error, and for reconverting the third digital signal into the second digital signal,
 - fourth conversion means for reconverting the second digital signal so as to obtain the





digital audio signal,
- concealment means for concealing uncorrectable errors in the digital audio signal in
response to error flags generated by the error-correction means,
- an output terminal for supplying the digital audio signal,
5 characterized in that the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing
means for further processing the auxiliary signal in the recording arrangement in
response to the switching of the recording arrangement into a recording mode, so as to
add at least one concealment code to a start portion of the auxiliary signal which is
recorded in the auxiliary track, the reproducing arrangement further comprising detector
10 means for detecting the at least one concealment code in the auxiliary signal read from
the track, for generating a concealment control signal during a first time interval in
response to the at least one concealment code detected and for supplying the
concealment control signal to the concealment means so as to conceal the digital signal
during said first time interval, the said first time interval at least including the start
15 portion of the reproducing digital signal.

4. A system for recording and reproducing a digital audio signal on/from a
re-recordable record carrier, comprising a recording arrangement for recording the
digital audio signal in a track on the record carrier and comprising a reproducing
arrangement for reproducing the digital audio signal from the track of the record
20 carrier,
the recording arrangement comprising
- an input terminal for receiving the digital audio signal,
- first conversion means for converting the digital audio signal in a data reduction step
into a second digital signal comprising synchronisation information, bitallocation
25 information, scalefactor information and audio signal information included in subsequent
frames of the second digital signal,
- second conversion means for converting the second digital signal into a third digital
signal so as to enable an error correction to be carried out in the reproducing
arrangement on the third digital signal read from the track,
30 - a signal source for generating an auxiliary signal,
- write means for writing the third digital signal in the track on the record carrier and
for writing the auxiliary signal in an auxiliary track on the record carrier,
the reproducing arrangement comprising





- read means for reading the third digital signal from the track on the record carrier and for reading the auxiliary signal from the auxiliary track on the record carrier,
 - third conversion means for correcting errors in the third digital signal read from the track, for generating an error-flag if it is not capable of correcting an error, and for
 - 5 reconverting the third digital signal into the second digital signal,
 - fourth conversion means for reconverting the second digital signal so as to obtain the digital audio signal,
 - concealment means for concealing uncorrectable errors in the digital audio signal in response to error flags generated by the error-correction means,
 - 10 - an output terminal for supplying the digital audio signal,
- characterized in that the recording arrangement further comprises signal processing means for further processing the auxiliary signal in the recording arrangement in response to and directly preceding the termination of a recording mode, so as to add at least one concealment code to a terminal portion of the auxiliary signal which is
- 15 recorded in the auxiliary track, the reproducing arrangement further comprising detector means for detecting the at least one concealment code in the auxiliary signal read from the track, for generating a concealment control signal during a second time interval in response to the at least one concealment code detected and for supplying the concealment control signal to the concealment means so as to conceal the digital signal
- 20 during said second time interval, the said second time interval at least including the terminal portion of the reproduced digital signal.

5. A system as claimed in Claim 1 or in Claim 1 and 2, characterized in that the signal processing means comprise signal combining means for additionally adding at least one concealment code to the start portion of the second or third digital

- 25 signal, the reproducing arrangement further comprising detector means for detecting the at least one concealment code in the second or third digital signal read from the track and for generating the concealment control signal during said first time interval in response to the at least one concealment code detected.

6. A system as claimed in Claim 2 or in Claim 1 and 2, characterized in

- 30 that the signal processing means comprise signal combining means for additionally adding at least one concealment code to the terminal portion of the second or third digital signal, the reproducing arrangement further comprising detector means for detecting the at least one concealment code in the second or third digital signal read




from the track and for generating the concealment control signal during said second time interval in response to the at least one concealment code detected.

7. Recording arrangement for use in a system as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims.
- 5 8. Recording arrangement as claimed in Claim 7, for use in a system as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the signal processing means comprise scrambling means for scrambling at least a part of the start portion of the third digital signal.
9. Recording arrangement as claimed in Claim 8, for use in a system as
10 claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the scrambling means being further adapted to scramble at least a part of the terminal portion of the third digital signal.
10. Recording arrangement as claimed in Claim 8, the second conversion means being adapted to add parity information to the second digital signal, characterized in that the signal processing means is adapted to mutilate parity information included in
15 the start portion of the third digital signal.
11. Recording arrangement as claimed in Claim 10, for use in a system as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the signal processing means further being adapted to mutilate parity information included in the terminal portion of the third digital signal.
- 20 12. Recording arrangement as claimed in Claim 7, for use in a system as claimed in Claim 3, 4, 5 or 6, characterized in that the signal processing means comprise signal combining means for additionally adding concealment codes to the auxiliary signal or to the second or third digital signal.
13. Re-recordable record carrier obtained with the recording arrangement as
25 claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that it includes concealment codes recorded in a track.
14. Reproducing arrangement for use in a system as claimed in Claim 3, 4, 5 or 6.

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