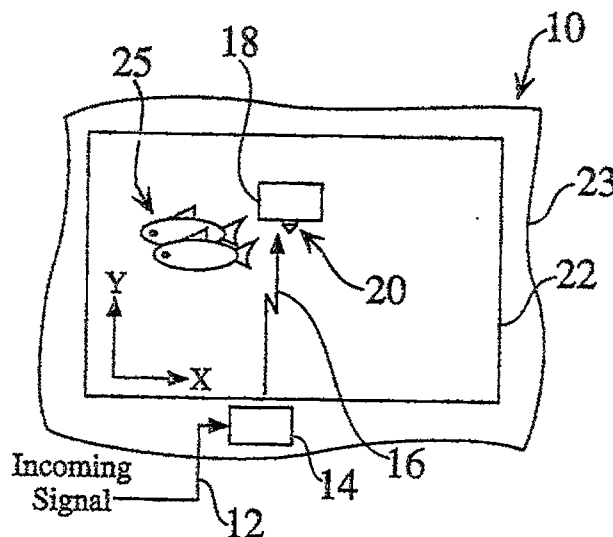




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(54) Title: ROBOTIC PLOTTER SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A robotic plotting system (10) is provided, in which a robotic plotter (18) having a printhead (18) is placed on a substantially flat horizontal surface (24) upon a recording medium (22), and is directed across the medium (22) by ranging signals (16) transmitted to the printhead (18) from the periphery of the recording medium (22). In one embodiment, the robotic printhead (18) includes a motorized drive mechanism (26, 28) that propels it across the surface of the recording medium (22) in a controlled manner, for example using microwave control signals (16). Thus, a user can place a piece of paper (22) of any size on a flat surface (23) such as a table or floor, and the printhead (18) is propelled across the surface (23) and is directed by signals (16) beamed between the printhead (18) and a control mechanism (14). In this manner, a large-surface-area plotting system (10) is provided in the form of a small hand-held device.