Claims:

1. Menu generation apparatus for use in a television receiver, comprising:

graphics generation means (800) for generating a graphics signal for display;

video processing means (820) for processing a video signal (R,G,B); and

picture-in-picture processing means (830) for receiving first (MAIN PIX) and second (SMALL PIX) video signals, said picture-in-picture processing means having an output coupled to said video processing means for producing a combined image comprising a main image portion and a secondary image portion;

said picture-in-picture processing means (830) deriving a secondary image signal from said video signal for use as said secondary image portion;

said video processing means (820) being coupled to said picture-in-picture processing means (830) for receiving said secondary image signal and to said graphics generation means (800) for receiving said graphics image signal and producing a combined signal which when displayed comprises a video image completely surrounded by a Stylized graphics image;

wherein said Stylized graphics image (105;205;305) includes Stylized, graphical representations of functions to be controlled, said functions being selected for control by a user; and

at least one (135) of said functions affecting the display of video signals.

2. Menu generation apparatus for use in a television receiver, comprising:

graphics generation means (800) for generating a graphics signal for display;

video processing means (820) for processing a video signal;

said video processing means (820) including switch means having a first input coupled to receive said video signal and a second input coupled to receive said graphics signal, said switch means coupling one of said signals at said inputs to an output;

picture-in-picture processing means (830) for receiving first (MAIN PIX) and second (SMALL PIX) video signals, said picture-in-picture processing means producing a combined image comprising a main image portion and a secondary image portion, said picture in picture processing means having an output coupled to said video processing means for applying a video signal thereto; and

a controller (810) for controlling said switch means, said video processing means (820), and said picture-in-picture processing means;

said controller (810) causing said video processing means (820) to operate in a first mode in which said first video signal (MAIN PIX) is selected as said main image portion and said secondary image portion is derived from said second video signal (SMALL PIX); and

said controller (810) causing said video processing means (820) to operate in a second mode in which said graphics signal is used as a main image portion and said secondary portion is derived from one of said first and second video signals;

a stylized, ~~said~~ stylized graphics image (105;205;305) including graphical representations of functions to be controlled, said functions being selected for control by a user, at least one (135) of said functions affecting the display of video signals; and

said controller (810) causing said video processor (820) to operate in a third mode in which said stylized graphics image includes a depiction of the screen (311) of a television receiver (310), and said graphics generation means (800) generates animated graphics for display on said screen of said depiction of said television receiver.

3. Menu generation apparatus for use in a television receiver, comprising:

graphics generation means (800) for generating a graphics signal for display;

picture-in-picture processing means (830) having inputs coupled to receive first (MAIN PIX) and second (SMALL PIX) video signals for producing a combined image comprising a main image portion and a secondary image portion;

video processing means (820) for processing video signals;

said video processing means (820) including fast switch means having a first input coupled to receive said combined image signal and a second input coupled to receive said graphics signal, said fast switch means coupling one of said signals at said inputs to an output; and

a controller (810) for controlling said switch means and said picture-in-picture processing means (830);

said controller (810) causing said video processor means (820) to operate in a first mode in which said first video signal (MAIN PIX) is selected as said main image portion and said secondary image portion is derived from said second video signal (SMALL PIX); and

said controller (810) causing said video processor means (820) to operate in a second mode in which said graphics signal is used as said main image portion and said secondary image portion is derived from one of said first and second video signals;

said picture-in-picture processing means (830) displaying said secondary image portion in a first screen position in said first mode, and in a second different screen position in said second mode;

a stylized graphics image (105;205;305) displayed in accordance with said graphics signal including stylized graphical representations of functions to be controlled, said functions being selectable for control by a user; and

at least one (135) of said functions affecting the display of video signals.

4. Menu generation apparatus for use in a television receiver, comprising:

graphics generation means (800) for generating a graphics signal for display;

video processing means (820) for processing a video signal;

said video processing means (820) including switch means having a first input coupled to receive said video signal and a second input coupled to receive said graphics signal for coupling one of said signals at said inputs to an output;

said graphics generation means (800) producing a stylized graphics image comprising a main image portion and a secondary image portion, said main image portion being substantially static and said secondary image portion being dynamic; and

a controller (810) for controlling said graphics generation means;

said graphics image (105;205;305) including stylized graphical representations of functions to be controlled, said functions being selected for control by a user; and

at least one (135) of said functions affecting the display of video images.