

APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING AUDIBLE  
INSTRUCTIONS OR STATUS INFORMATION FOR  
USE IN A DIGITAL TELEVISION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A digital television system receives transmitted television information in the form of a stream digital packets representing video and audio information in compressed form. A packet transport unit (1507) routes the digital packets to respective digital video and audio signal processing sections according to header information contained in the packets. The digital processing sections (1511,1513) decode and decompress the respective packets to form sequences of digital words (Y,U,V,L,R) which are subsequently converted to analog form. Apparatus for providing audible messages, such as operating instructions and status information, in tone or voice form includes a memory (1529) for storing digital representations of the audible messages in the same compressed form which the transmitted audio packets have, and a controller (1527) for selectively directing the digital representations to the packet transport unit (1507) when it is desired to provide the audible messages. The digital representations of the audible messages are automatically routed by the transport unit (1507) to the digital audio signal processing section (1513) which will decode and decompress the digital representation of the audible messages in the same manner as it does the transmitted audio packets. As a result, analog versions of the audible messages will be produced.

Figure 1