**Patent claims**

1. An input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴′, 1""""), in particular for an electronic unit, preferably for a game controller, comprising

a) an actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2‴"‴) for the actuation of the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴"′, 1‴"‴) by a user, having an actuation section (2.2, 2.2", 2.2‴, 2.2"""") accessible from outside the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴"′, 1""""), wherein

b) the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2‴"′, 2"""") can be brought into multiple actuation positions (B1, B2, B3, B1", B2"), which define an actuation range (A), by the user, wherein

c) the actuation element (2, 2"', 2"", 2"", 2‴"‴) can be displaced into the actuation positions (B1, B2, B3, B1", B2") by displacement in one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3), which in particular lie substantially in a displacement plane (V, V", V‴), and

d) electronic position detection means are provided which directly or indirectly detect an instantaneous actuation position (B1, B2, B3, B1", B2") of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2""""),

the input device being characterized in that

e) the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2‴"′, 2‴"‴) is guided, movably in an instantaneous stroke direction (HN, H1, H2, H3) that is oriented perpendicular to a respectively instantaneous displacement direction (v1, v2), in the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴"′ 1‴"‴), and

f) a control device (3, 3", 3‴, 3‴", 3‴"′) is provided, by means of which, during a displacement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2"""") in the actuation range (A) in the one or more displacement directions, a stroke movement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2"""") in the instantaneous stroke direction (HN, H1, H2, H3) is controllable or controlled in a manner dependent on the displacement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2‴"′, 2""""),

wherein the control device (3, 3", 3‴, 3"", 3‴"′) determines a stroke profile of a point of the actuating element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2‴"′, 2""""), the stroke profile referring to a path which the point of the actuating element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2‴"′, 2"""") moves along in a case of a superposed stroke movement and displacement.

2. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴"′, 1"""") as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that all instantaneous displacement directions (v1, v2) lie strictly in the displacement plane (V, V", V‴), and the instantaneous stroke directions (HN, H1, H2, H3) are thus perpendicular to the displacement plane (V, V", V‴), and oriented along a common stroke direction, in every actuation position of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2‴"‴).

3. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1"", 1‴"‴) as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2‴", 2‴"′, 2‴"‴) is mounted in the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1‴"′,

1""""), so as to be guided displaceably in the one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3) and movably in the respectively instantaneous stroke direction (HN, H1, H2, H3), by means of a guide device.

4. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1""", 1⁗) as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2⁗″) is mounted in the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1"""), displaceably in the one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3) and movably in the respectively instantaneous stroke direction (HN, H1, H2, H3), by means of an elastic element (4.3).
5. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that one of the actuation positions (B1, B2, B3, B1", B2") is a neutral position (N, N", N‴) in which the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2⁗″) is arranged in the absence of actuation.
6. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the actuation range (A) is circular, wherein the neutral position (N, N", N‴) is optionally arranged in the center of the circular actuation range (A).
7. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the control device (3, 3", 3‴, 3⁗, 3⁗′) is configured such that the actuation element (2, 2"', 2"", 2⁗′, 2⁗″) is at least partially lowerable or lowered into the input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1"", 1""") in the respectively instantaneous stroke direction (HN, H1, H2, H3) when said actuation element is displaced, in particular optionally out of the neutral position (N, N", N‴), in the one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3).
8. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the control device (3, 3", 3‴, 3⁗, 3⁗′) is configured, and interacts with the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2⁗′, 2"""), such that positive control of the stroke movement in a manner dependent on the displacement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2⁗″) in the one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3) is implemented.
9. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the control device (3, 3", 3‴, 3"", 3⁗′) comprises a control element (3.1, 3.1", 3.1‴, 3.1"") with a control surface (3.2), and the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2⁗″) has a control section (2.3) for interaction with the control surface (3.2), wherein the control surface (3.2) is configured, and arranged with respect to the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2"", 2⁗′, 2"""), such that, during the displacement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2"""") in the one or more displacement directions (V1, V2, V3), the stroke movement of the actuation element (2, 2‴, 2⁗, 2⁗′, 2⁗″) in the respectively instantaneous stroke

direction (HN, H1, H2, H3) is controllable or controlled by interaction of the control section (2.3) with the control surface (3.2).

10. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗, 1""") as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the control element (3.1, 3.1", 3.1‴, 3.1"") is arranged in the input device (1, 1"', 1⁗, 1⁗′, 1⁗⁗) such that it can be exchanged by a user, such that different control elements (3.1, 3.1", 3.1‴, 3.1"") with different control surfaces (3.2) can be inserted into the input device (1, 1‴, 1⁗, 1⁗′, 1""").
11. The input device (1, 1‴, 1"", 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that the control element (3.1, 3.1", 3.1‴, 3.1"") has an, in particular curved, control surface (3.2) for the abutment of a control section (2.3) of an actuation element (2, 2"', 2"", 2⁗′, 2⁗⁗) of the input device (1, 1‴, 1⁗, 1⁗′, 1⁗⁗).
12. An electronic unit, in particular a mobile electronic unit, having an input device (1, 1‴, 1⁗, 1⁗′, 1""") as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10.
13. The electronic unit as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that it is a game controller.
14. The electronic unit as claimed in either one of the two preceding claims for installation in a vehicle, in particular in an automobile.