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(54) Title: SELF-CENTERING TACTILE THUMB JOYSTICK FOR USE ON A TOUCH SCREEN

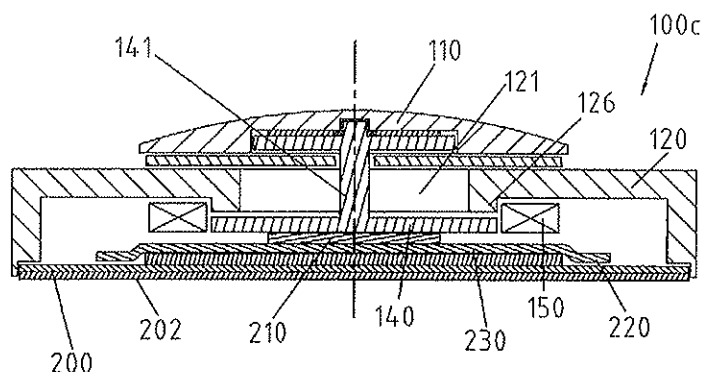


FIG. 4A

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a self-centering, tactile thumb joystick (100, 100a - 100k, 100m-100p) for use to control a virtual directional pad displayed on a touch screen of an electronic gadget. The thumb joystick (100, 100a - 100k, 100m-100p) is removeably mounted on the touch screen so that movement of a puck (140, 140a, 140d, 400) via a stem (141) and a button (110) operates the virtual directional pad to control a software running in the electronic gadget. A resilient member, in the form of an annular spring (150) or garter spring (150a), biases inwardly against a wall element (126, 126a) formed around an opening (121) of a hollow housing (120) of the thumb joystick (100, 100a - 100k, 100m-100p) centres the puck (140) when a user releases activating the button (110).