

ABSTRACT

IDEOGRAPHIC KEYBOARD AND METHOD

An ideographic keyboard and method has an array of characters (162) are printed on one side of a panel (161, 179) and optically readable data (163, 181) corresponding to the characters is recorded on the other side of the panel. A character selector (166) is moved about the first side the panel for selective alignment with the characters, and an optical reader (169) is linked to the character selector (166) for movement about the recorded data (163, 181) in concert with the character selector. The data corresponding to a selected character is read, and a coded signal for the selected character is output in response to the data which is read. In one disclosed embodiment, the data is recorded in the form of bar coding, and the reader is a bar code reader. Precise alignment of the reader with the data for the selected character is assured by reading data from a region larger than the data field itself and extracting the character data in software.

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