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signal during transition from sleep to suspend mode.

Fig. 16 illustrates operation of host control and drive status signals, and particularly is a timing diagram of each signal during resume from suspend mode.

Fig. 17 is the hardware configuration of a magneto optical disk drive for carrying out the present invention.

Fig. 18 is an isometric view of a portable computer, and particularly illustrating a usable state with LCD opened.

Fig. 19 is an isometric view of the portable computer, and particularly illustrating a state in which the case interior is exposed with LCD and the keyboard opened.

8. Abstract

An expansion device detachably installed into a computer system (host) and capable of quickly and precisely in response to a series of operations for power management at the host.

When a computer system enters a power save mode such as suspend to interrupt the power to the expansion device, the system will loose working data being stored in RAM as first data saving means and the contents of registers within an interface circuit which forms part of a interface means.

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Thus, the context information of a task which has been executed by the expansion device is lost. The expansion device pertinent to the present invention has flash memory as second data saving means, which is non-volatile. This flash memory can retain these context information even if power supply is suspended. In accordance with a method for controlling the expansion device pertinent to the present invention, the status of the expansion device (including the working data within RAM and the contents of registers within the interface circuit) is saved in flash memory before the computer system enters suspend mode. Furthermore, according to the method for controlling the expansion device pertinent to the present invention, the contents of flash memory are restored into each component of the computer system before the system initiates resume operation.