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Okada et al.

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[54] **APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ASSISTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS TO GENERATE GRAPHICAL DATA IN A COMPUTER**

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[57] ABSTRACT

[51] **Int. Cl.**⁷ **H04B 3/36**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **340/407.2; 340/407.1; 340/825.19; 434/112; 434/113**

[58] **Field of Search** **340/407.1, 407.2, 340/825.19; 434/112, 113, 114, 115**

In order to assist a visually impaired person to generate digital image data in a computer, a plurality of graph components are provided each of which is tactually recognized by the visually impaired person. A touch graph is generated using the graph components on a plate-like member by the visually impaired person. The touch graph is acquired into a computer using an input interface such as a digital still camera. Subsequently, a computer software analyzes the digital image data so as to define each of the graph components and logical relationship between the graph components. The analyzed digital image data is stored in a memory within the computer.

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19 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

