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# United States Patent [19]

Yano et al.

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[54] **TOUCH DEVICE PANEL**

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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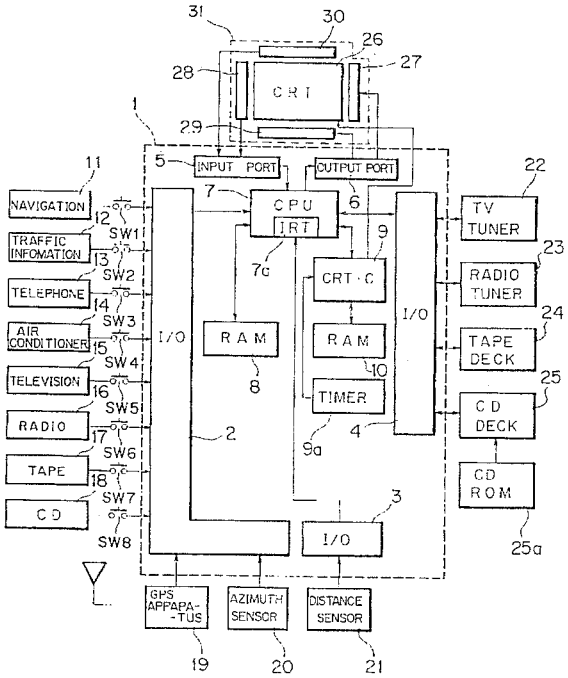
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A touch panel device for navigation of a vehicle for example an automobile. There is a display unit with a screen, and information display for visually representing desired information on the screen. A switch superimposes a switch pattern over the information on the screen and executing a predetermined control action when an operator's finger approaches the switch pattern. To remove the switch pattern after the lapse of a preset time form the visual representation of the switch pattern, erasing is used. The erasing can be accomplished for example by the actuation of a timer to remove the switch pattern. With the switch pattern removed, the entire information on the screen can be seen wholly without being concealed by the switch pattern.

**15 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**