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It is of advantage to configure the input device, for example, the control bar, so that its surface is not smooth but rather roughened, so as to prevent contact from slipping out of place during operation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be described by way of a preferred embodiment with reference to the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of the device in accordance with the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a side view of the switch/control bar.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The output device, such as, for example, a tactile display, also termed Braille bar, consists of a housing 1 and a Braille module row 2 on the housing surface 3. Arranged in the front narrow side 4 of the housing is the switch bar 5 protruding through the housing slot 7 by its control/key bar 6 and the knurled edge 6.1 thereof.

The mode of operation for one switching position each of the control/key bar 6 in one direction of movement in each case will now be described:

When the control/key bar 6 is thumbed downwards in the direction 8, the switch bar 5 pivots around the fulcrum 9 downwards, thereby clicking ON the key 10, whereas when the control/key bar 6 is moved upwards in the direction 11, the switch bar 5 pivots around the fulcrum 9 upwards, thereby clicking ON the key 12.

Due to the horizontal displacement of the switch bar 5 with the aid of the control/key bar 6 in the fulcrum 9 to the right in the direction 13, the key 14 is clicked ON, and when moved to the left in the direction 15 the key 16 is clicked ON.

The mode of operation of the device in accordance with the invention for two specific positions each of the control/key bar 6 in one direction is as follows:

When the control/key bar 6 is thumbed downwards in the direction 8.1, the switch bar 5 pivots around the fulcrum 9 beyond the latching position of the first plane, thereby clicking ON the key 10.1, whereas when the control/key bar 6 is thumbed upwards in the direction 11.1, the switch bar 5 pivots around the fulcrum 9, likewise beyond the latching position of the first plane, and clicks ON the key 12.1.

Due to the horizontal displacement of the switch bar 5 with the aid of the key bar 6 in the fulcrum 9 to the right in the direction 13.1, the key 14.1 located adjacent to the key 14 is clicked ON, and when moved in the direction 15.1, the key 16.1 adjacent to the key 16 is clicked ON.

Resetting the control bar to zero each time occurs by the return force of the keys, e.g. by means of a spring element. By double-clicking the keys, the number of control pulses for inputting can easily be multiplied.

In the case of very long Braille bars 2, the switch bar 5 with assigned key bar 6 may be divided to make for a stable arrangement.

The invention thus provides a one or multi-part elongated multi-switch which is capable of being enabled on the Braille bar in the same way (with the same function) from any reading position, thereby achieving the object as cited at the outset.

What is claimed is:

1. A data input/read-out device comprising:

- a) at least one output element, more particularly a Braille element, for outputting Braille data by correspondingly changing the surface profile; and

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b) at least one input element for inputting data, the input element being positionable in at least three different positions to thus enter data; wherein

c) the maximum spacing between the at least one input element and the at least one output element does not exceed a specific maximum value so that the input element and the output element can be touched or actuated simultaneously by one hand to trigger several different control commands independently of the position of the hand.

2. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said input element is a control bar running substantially parallel to said output elements.

3. The device as set forth in claim 2, wherein said control bar consists of at least two independently actuatable control bar elements.

4. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said input element is shiftable in a first direction.

5. The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said input element is movable in a second direction.

6. The device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said second direction is roughly perpendicular to said first direction.

7. The device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said input element is positionable into at least three different positions for thus entering three different data.

8. The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the surface of said input element is not smooth.

9. A data input/read-out device comprising:

a) a Braille module row for outputting Braille data by correspondingly changing the surface profile; and

b) at least one input element running parallel to said braille module row for inputting control pulses,

c) said input element being positionable into three different positions, wherein

d) said input element is formed by a control bar, and

e) the spacing between said control bar and said Braille module row is defined so that every braille module of said row and said control bar can be simultaneously touched with one hand and thereby actuated to trigger control pulses independently of said positions by means of said control bar.

10. The device as set forth in claim 9, wherein said control bar consists of at least two independently actuatable control bar elements.

11. The device as set forth in claim 9, wherein said input element is shiftable in a first direction.

12. The device as set forth in claim 11, wherein said input element is movable in a second direction.

13. The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein said second direction is roughly perpendicular or to the said first direction.

14. The device as set forth in claim 12, wherein said input element is positionable into at least three different positions for entering three different data.

15. The device as set forth in claim 11, wherein said input element is positionable into at least three different positions in said first direction for entering three different information.

16. The device as set forth in claim 9, wherein the surface of said input element is not smooth.

17. A data input/read-out device comprising:

at least one output element, more particularly a Braille element, for outputting Braille data by correspondingly changing the surface profile; and

at least one input element for inputting data, the input element being positionable in different positions to thus enter data, wherein