retention element **500** situated at a first end **510** of the guide **450**. The first retention element **500** provides a recess **520**.

When the electronic device **100** is placed in the TABLET position, the securing element **330** is partially inserted into the recess **520**. The recess **520** is sized so that the first retention element **500** applies a downward force against the securing element **330**. As a result, the coupling member **300** is maintained in this position even during rotation of the display **110**. The securing element **330** is disengaged from the recess **520** only when lateral forces are applied to translate the display **110**.

As shown, the guide **450** further comprises a second retention element **530** situated at a second end **540** of the guide **450**. The second retention element **530** is generally identical in construction to the first retention element **500** and provides a recess **550** sized to receive the securing element **330** of the coupling member **300**.

As shown in FIG. **9**, a cross-sectional view of the guide **450** positioned within the second body **140** of FIG. **8** along a cross-sectional line B—B is shown. Two flanges **560** and **570** may be attached to sidewalls **580** of the guide **450**. These flanges **560** and **570** extend inward toward each other so that the distance (d**1**) between flanges **560** and **570** is wider than any side of the shaft **310**, most notably a cross-sectional length of the shaft **310**. The distance (d**2**) between sidewalls **580** of the guide **450** is of sufficient length to allow rotation of the securing element **330**, but prevents unwanted lateral movement (i.e., rocking) of the coupling member **300**.

II. Modes of Operation

FIGS. **10**–**15** illustrate exemplary embodiments of the electronic device **100** being transformed from use as a tablet PC to a portable computer. This is accomplished through rotation and translation of the display **110** as described below.

Referring now to FIG. **10**, an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed in a TABLET position is shown. Herein, the display **110** is mounted on the body case **120** via the coupling member and covers almost the total footprint of the body case **120**, excluding the raised area **133** of the first body **130** and an area along the end **146** of the second body **140**. The display **110** covers at least one-half of the footprint of the first body **130** and one-half of the footprint of the second body **140**. As shown, over seventy percent (70%) of each of these footprints is covered. Of course, it is contemplated, however, that the display **110** may be configured to cover any of these areas **133** and **146** as well.

As shown in FIG. **11**, the display **110** is horizontally rotated. Herein, the keyboard **210**, integrated into the first body **130**, is partially exposed. In addition, more surface area of the second body **140** is exposed, while the first and second openings **400** and **420** still remain covered by the display **110**.

Referring now to FIG. **12**, an overhead view of an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed in an INTERMEDIARY position is shown. Herein, the display **110** is now substantially orthogonal to its orientation when the electronic device **100** was in the TABLET position. As shown, the display **110** is placed in a third position and substantially centered over the body case **120** and continues to cover the hinge **150**, which precludes vertical rotation of the second body **140**. However, a portion of the keyboard **210** is visible.

After rotation of the display **110** by approximately ninety degrees (90°) in the CCW direction, the display interconnect **430** has moved along the first perimeter edge **402** of the first opening **400** from the first retention area **410** to the second retention area **412**.

In addition, the coupling member still remains in the expanded portion **424** of the second opening **420** despite being rotated by ninety degrees (90°) in the CCW direction. In particular, the shaft **310** is rotated accordingly, and therefore, is now situated in a "width-wise" orientation where none of the sides of the shaft **310** that are perpendicular to the linear channel portion **422** exceed the width of the channel portion **422**.

Referring to FIG. **13**, a cross-sectional view of the electronic device of FIG. **12** along a cross-sectional line A—A is shown. Herein, the securing element **330** is rotated, but is still retained within the recess **520** formed by the first retention element **500**.

Referring to FIG. **14**, an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed into the SELF-SUPPORTING position is shown. In general, the display **110** is adjusted by moving the coupling member along the channel portion **422** of the second opening **420**. As a result, the display **110** is positioned to clear the hinge **150** and exposes the entire first body **130**, including the cursor control device **200** and keyboard **210**. This enables the second body **140**, along with the display **110**, to be vertically rotated in accordance with the hinge **150**. During such rotation, the protrusions **132** of the first body **130** would operate as legs in balancing and maintaining angled positioning of the display **110**. Also, they prevent the second body **140** from being improperly inverted.

Referring now to FIG. **15**, a cross-sectional view of the electronic device **100** of FIG. **14** along cross-sectional line A—A is shown. Herein, the securing element **330** of the coupling member **300** becomes disengaged from the recess **520**. The coupling member **300** is moved from the first end **510** to the second end **540** of the guide **450**. Thereafter, the securing element **330** is inserted into the second recess **550** formed by the second retention element **530**.

While certain exemplary embodiments of the invention have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely illustrative of and not restrictive on the broad aspects of various embodiments of the invention, and that these embodiments not be limited to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described, since various other modifications are possible.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device, comprising:

a hinge;

a body case having a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being coupled to the first portion by the hinge and adapted to be vertically rotated;

a display mounted over the body case, the display being placed in a first position to prevent the vertical rotation of the second portion, and placed in a second position to enable vertical rotation of the second portion relative to the first portion; and

a coupling member coupled to the body case and the display, the coupling member being adapted to horizontally rotate and translate the display between the first position and the second position.

2. The electronic device according to claim **1**, further comprising a keyboard deployed within the first portion, the keyboard being covered by the display when placed in a TABLET position and being partially covered by the display when the display placed in the first position.