

41

pressure forces on said first sensing surface, said first range of z coordinates provided only if said range of pressure forces are greater than a first threshold pressure;

a second transducer having a second sensing surface, said second transducer being coupled to said second surface portion of said body and being capable of detecting both positions and a range of pressure forces at said positions on said second sensing surface, wherein second transducer is further capable of providing a second range of z coordinates of opposite polarity to said first range of z coordinates in response to said range of forces on second sensing surface, said second range of z coordinates provided only if said range of pressure forces are greater than a second threshold pressure.

2. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 1 wherein said first transducer detects a first position on said first sensing surface producing a first x,y coordinate and a second position on said first sensing surfaces producing a second x,y coordinate.

3. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 2 further comprising a first edge transducer having a first edge sensing surface positioned at least partially around a periphery of said first sensing surface, said first edge transducer being coupled to said first surface portion of said body and being capable of detecting a force on said first edge sensing surface.

4. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 3 further comprising a second edge transducer having a second edge sensing surface positioned at least partially around a periphery of said second sensing surface, said second edge transducer being coupled to said second surface portion of said body and being capable of detecting a force on said second edge sensing surface.

5. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 4, wherein said first edge transducer provides a continuation control signal in response to said force applied to said first edge sensing surface, wherein said continuation control signal commands a continuation of movement in a direction determined by said first detected x,y coordinate and said second detected x,y coordinate.

6. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 5 wherein said first and second sensing surfaces and said first and second edge sensing surfaces are approximately a rectangular shape.

7. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 6, wherein said first edge sensing surface is tactilely distinguished from said first sensing surface and said second edge sensing surface is tactilely from said second sensing surface.

8. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 6, wherein said first edge sensing surface is raised from said first sensing surface and said second edge sensing surface is raised from said second sensing surface.

9. The multiple coordinate controller device as recited in claim 6 wherein said second transducer detects a third and fourth position on said second sensing surface.

10. A multiple coordinate controller device comprising:
a three-dimensional body having a first surface portion and a second surface portion which is not coplanar with said first surface; and

a sensor consisting essentially of;

a first transducer having a first sensing surface, said first transducer being coupled to said first surface portion of said body and being capable of detecting both positions and a range of pressure forces at said positions on said first sensing surface, wherein said

42

first transducer is further capable of providing a first range of z coordinates at a detected x,y coordinate in response to said first range of forces, said first range of z coordinates provided only if said range of pressure forces are greater than a first threshold pressure;

a second transducer having a second sensing surface, said second transducer being coupled to said second surface portion of said body and being capable of detecting both positions and a range of pressure forces at said positions on said second sensing surface, wherein said second transducer is further capable of providing a second range of z coordinates of opposite polarity for said first range of z coordinates in response to said second range of forces, said second range of z coordinates provided only if said range of pressure forces are greater than a second threshold pressure;

whereby said sensor is capable of providing x,y and z coordinates from said first transducer and said second transducer, and

whereby, said first sensing surface and said second sensing surface do not substantially deform under pressure.

11. A two sided controller comprising:

a body having a first surface and an opposing second surface, said first surface and said second surface having dimensions that are substantially greater than a separation between said first surface and said second surface;

a first sensor assembly supported by said first surface and including a first generally flat pressure sensor surrounded, at least in part, by a first generally flat edge pressure sensor;

a second sensor assembly supported by said second surface and including a second generally flat pressure sensor surrounded, at least in part, by a second generally flat edge pressure sensor;

wherein said body is sized to be contacted on said first sensor assembly with the thumb of a hand and simultaneously on said second sensor assembly with a finger of said hand.

12. A wedge shaped controller comprising:

a body having a front edge surface having a first area, a back edge surface having a second area less than said first area, and a pair of side edge surfaces coupling said front edge surface to said back edge surface, whereby said body has a wedge shaped with angled side edges;

a first sensor assembly supported by said front edge surface and including a first generally flat pressure sensor surrounded, at least in part, by a first generally flat edge pressure sensor; and

a second sensor assembly supported by one of said pair of side edge surfaces and including a second generally flat pressure sensor surrounded, at least in part, by a second generally flat edge pressure sensor.

13. A wedge shaped controller as recited in claim 12 further comprising:

a third sensor assembly supported by the other of said pair of side edge surfaces and including a third generally flat pressure sensor surrounded, at least in part, by a third generally flat edge pressure sensor.

14. A wedge shaped controller as recited in claim 12 wherein said body further has a top surface and a bottom surface, and is provided with a pressure sensor on at least one of said top surface and said bottom surface.