US005474457A

United States Patent [19]

Bromley

[11] **Patent Number: 5,474,457**

[45] **Date of Patent: Dec. 12, 1995**

[54] **INTERACTIVE TALKING PICTURE MACHINE**

[76] Inventor: **Eric Bromley**, 4 Watson Dr., West Simsbury, Conn. 06092

[21] Appl. No.: **74,775**

[22] Filed: **Jun. 9, 1993**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G09B 5/06**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **434/311**; 434/308

[58] **Field of Search** 434/311, 310, 434/309, 308, 342, 321

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,953,859	9/1960	Fink	434/342 X
3,154,862	11/1964	Culpepper, Jr. .	
3,212,199	10/1965	Clark .	
3,382,588	5/1968	Serrell et al. .	
3,408,749	11/1968	Brudner	434/310
3,447,370	8/1968	Silverman .	
3,466,758	9/1969	Miller .	
3,666,872	5/1972	Powell et al.	434/310
3,693,268	9/1972	Thompson	434/310
3,715,811	2/1973	Thompson et al.	434/310
3,729,836	5/1973	Mayeda .	
3,757,322	9/1973	Barkan et al. .	
3,780,450	12/1973	Podkopaer et al. .	
3,789,136	1/1974	Haith et al. .	
3,884,565	5/1975	Tanno .	
3,964,188	6/1976	Dimitracopoulos .	
3,984,923	10/1976	Rawson et al. .	
4,079,431	3/1978	Marut .	
4,288,537	9/1981	Knetzger .	
4,425,099	1/1984	Naden	434/311 X
4,457,719	7/1984	Dittakavi et al. .	
4,464,118	8/1984	Scott et al. .	
4,466,801	8/1984	Dittakavi et al. .	
4,482,329	11/1984	Shindo	434/342
4,703,573	11/1987	Montgomery et al. .	
4,778,391	10/1988	Weiner .	
4,884,974	12/1989	Desnet .	
4,968,255	11/1990	Lee et al. .	
4,997,374	3/1991	Simone .	
5,001,696	3/1991	Baldwin .	
5,059,126	10/1991	Kimball .	
5,167,508	12/1992	McTaggart .	

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Fixed Format Instruction Delivery System, Fox, R. G. and Ludeman, C. P. (Authors), IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, International Business Machines Corporation (Publishers), Armonk, N.Y., vol. 18, No. 1, Jun. 1975, pp. 157–163.

Primary Examiner—Gene Mancene
Assistant Examiner—Jeffrey A. Smith
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Fishman, Dionne & Cantor

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An electronic talking picture machine is presented which permits human operators to cause speech or sound accompaniment and branching (or alternate) story lines which affect the outcome of a story. In a preferred embodiment, the speech, sound and branching (or alternate) story line information is enclosed as a bar code printed on a picture story belt. The picture story belt is enclosed in a cartridge which contains a mechanism to "roll" the belt from one spool to another so that a sequence of pictures may be viewed. The bar code contains information as to speech, such as conversation narration, questions and answers and sound (other than speech). The information on the bar coded picture story belt is entered into the electronic talking picture machine by inserting the cartridge into a cartridge holding area containing conventional photo optical sensors which "reads" the code when the belt is moved to expose the next picture in the sequence. The electronic talking picture machine has a plurality of controls to allow the human reader to advance the story, control branching, story lines, answer questions and to make certain pictured characters speak to make sounds.

20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets