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Tretiakoff et al.

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[54] TACTILE DISPLAY DRIVEN BY SHAPE MEMORY WIRES

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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"Final Report for NIH Grant No. 2 R44 EY06512-02", submitted by TiNi Alloy Company, Feb. 9, 1990.

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[57] ABSTRACT

[22] Filed: **Mar. 24, 1995**

Tactile display comprising an array of dots, preferably arranged in rows and columns, capable of showing both Braille characters and two-dimensional tactile graphics, in which the displacement of the dots is obtained by the action of opposite shape memory wires, one for each direction of displacement.

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G09B 21/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **434/114; 434/113; 340/407.1**

[58] Field of Search **434/112, 113, 434/114; 340/407.1, 407.2; 116/DIG. 17**

The tactile dots are kept in their raised or recessed positions by the action of elastic locking mechanisms, energy being used only to change the dot pattern.

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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- 5,086,287 2/1992 Nutzel 434/112 X
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The thickness, weight and power requirement of the display allow its use in conventional electronic notebooks, as a replacement or a complement to ordinary displays, when used by visually handicapped people.

8 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

