US005422993A

United States Patent [19]

Fleming

[11] **Patent Number: 5,422,993**

[45] **Date of Patent: Jun. 6, 1995**

[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING DIRECT MANIPULATION OPERATIONS IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM**

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[21] Appl. No.: **808,858**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 17, 1991**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **G06F 3/033**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/159**; 345/163; 364/DIG. 2; 364/929.12

[58] **Field of Search** 395/155, 157, 159; 364/190, 188; 345/157, 163, 167; 340/710, 724

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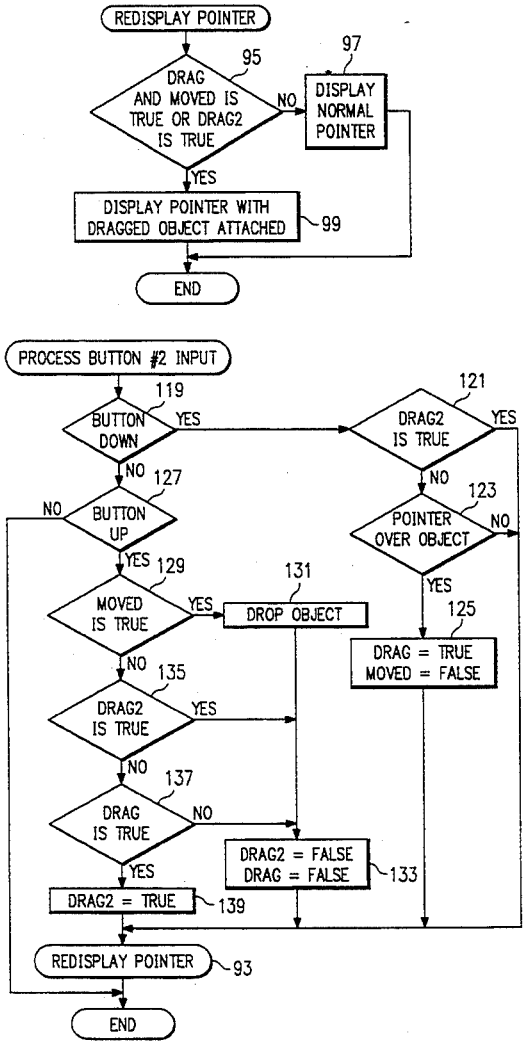
[57] **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed are a method and system for directly manipulating an icon in a data processing system. The method includes attaching a visual pointer to the icon and moving the pointer with the icon attached thereto about the display screen. While the pointer remains attached to the icon, the user can manipulate other software objects.

12 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets