



BY E-mail
& Mail

March 24, 2011

George Drakopoulos
1973 boul. Perrot
N.D. de l'île Perrot (Qc) J7V 8P4

Subject: Provisional Patent Application
Title: MULTIMEDIA SERVER DEVICE
Inventor: DRAKAPOULOS, George; HANNA, Max
Owner: DRAKAPOULOS, George; HANNA, Max
Our file: 1415-B01.US

Sir,

In the above matter, we enclose for approval and signature, the documents necessary to the filing of the above-mentioned application.

We would ask you to revise these documents and indicate in red ink any corrections, modifications and/or additions considered necessary and return the latter to us.

In addition, we would like you to complete Figure 2 of the drawings to make it realistic such that most used, or useful, connections between external multimedia devices (called 'multimedia drivers' in the text of the application) are automatically made via the unpowered board, i.e. the output of the DVD/RW unit and the Blu-ray player are connected to an input of the TV, or the output of the VHS player is connected to the input of the DVD/RW unit, etc. If you have any question, do not hesitate to call the undersigned.

If the documents are as desired, we would ask that the documents be signed and dated in blue ink at "Sign Here" and returned to us together with the balance owing of \$2,789.29 on our Statement of Account enclosed after which we shall immediately attend to the filing of the application. Complete copies of the documents as filed will thereafter be transmitted to you.

Awaiting to hear from you in the very near future, we remain,

Yours very truly,

PROTECTIONS EQUINOX

A blue ink signature of Franz Bonsang, consisting of a stylized 'F' and 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Franz Bonsang, Patent Agent

Encl. Texte & drawings
Statement

L03

MULTIMEDIA SERVER DEVICE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a multimedia server device, and is more particularly concerned with a multimedia server device automatically
5 interconnecting different media drivers connected thereto.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Systems to interconnect a plurality of media drivers (such as a television, a multi-speaker sound system, a DVD/RW player, a VHS player, a Blu-ray™
10 player, a digital card driver, a satellite/cable tuner, an external data storage device, a computer, a domotic server, etc.) to a main server are known to the art, but always require the server to be powered to allow interconnection combinations between the different media drivers connected thereto, for the independent selection or the activation of these combinations.

Furthermore, in order to be user-friendly and easily usable by any user, being
15 tuned with these type of interrelations between media drivers or not, such interconnections may need to occur simultaneously without having to worry about having proper connections between the media drivers.

Accordingly, an improved multimedia server device is required.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 It is therefore a general object of the present invention to provide an improved multimedia server device that automatically interconnects different media drivers connected thereto.

An advantage of the present invention is that the multimedia server device allows the some compatible different media drivers, independently connectable
25 to one another, to be automatically interconnected to each other via their respective connectors once mated with their respective I/O connector sets of

the device, thereby preventing a user from directly connecting the two drivers to one another whenever required, with the media drivers being all connected to an unpowered circuit board allowing the automatic usual interconnections there between.

- 5 Another advantage of the present invention is that the multimedia server device allows for a plurality of connection combinations or states between different media drivers, with the combinations simultaneously occurring or not, and with these combinations that may occur even when the server device, or main printed circuit board (PCB) or often called mother or main board (MB) thereof, is
10 unpowered.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a multimedia server device for automatically interconnecting a plurality of media drivers connectable thereto, the device comprising:

- a housing supporting a plurality of sets of interface connectors for
15 receiving mating connectors of corresponding said plurality of media drivers; and
- an unpowered pre-wired connection circuit board mounting on and having a plurality of sets of terminals mounted thereon, each said terminal of each said terminal set connecting to a respective one said
20 interface connector of a corresponding said connector set;
- at least one said terminal set being connected to another one said terminal set for interconnecting corresponding said media drivers connected to corresponding said connector sets.

Conveniently, the.

- 25 Conveniently, the.

Typically, the.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a careful reading of the detailed description provided herein, with appropriate reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the description in association with the following figures, in which similar references used in different figures denote similar components, wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a multimedia server device in accordance with an embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of the unpowered pre-wired circuit board of the multimedia server device of Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference to the annexed drawings the preferred embodiments of the present invention will be herein described for indicative purpose and by no means as of limitation.

Reference is now made to Figure 1 which shows a schematic diagram of a multimedia server device, shown generally as 10, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, for automatically interconnecting a plurality of media drivers 12 connectable thereto.

The device 10 comprises a housing 20 that supports a plurality of sets 22 of interface I/O (input/output) connector(s) 24 to receive mating connectors 14 of a corresponding one of the media drivers 12, such as a television 12a, a video camera 12b, a DVD/RW (Digital-Video Disk/ Readable Writable) player 12c, a VHS (Video Home System) player 12d, a Blu-ray™ player 12e, a digital card driver 12f, a satellite/cable tuner 12g, an external data storage device 12h, a computer 12i, a domotic server 12j, a CD (Compact Disk)/ digital video music player 12k, etc. Although not specifically shown, each connector set 22 is a typical connector type connector required by the corresponding media driver 12, as an HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) connector or a component video/ audio connector set, or an S-Video (Super Video) connector with an optic fiber audio connector, for an HD (High-Definition) television, and the like.

As shown more specifically in Figure 2, an unpowered pre-wired connection circuit board 30 that mounts on the housing 20 has a plurality of sets 32 of terminals 34 mounted thereon. Each terminal 34 of each terminal set 32 connects to a respective interface connector 24 of a corresponding connector set 22. At least one, preferably multiple terminal sets 32 are connected to other terminal sets 32 to interconnect corresponding media drivers 12 connected to the corresponding connector sets 22. In order to allow even more interconnections between the different media drivers 12, for enhanced functionality of the multimedia server 10, the unpowered circuit board 30 typically further includes a plurality of interface terminal sets 32', one for each terminal set 32, that connects the output signal(s) of the respective media drivers 12 to a main board 36 that is the core of the multimedia server 10. The main board 36 receives all the commands from the user, via different input hardware 38, such as control buttons 38a typically located on a front panel 40 of the housing 20, a preferably wireless keyboard 38b, a preferably wireless remote control 38c, or the like. At least one, preferably a plurality of speakers 42 are connected to the main board 36 for digital processing thereof and to allow the preferably processed sound of the selected media driver(s) 12 to be played thereon, if desired. Although not shown, additional speakers could be connected to the multimedia server 10, such as speakers located in different rooms of a building, such that different media 12 could be simultaneously played in different rooms. For example, one could watch TV in the living room while the CD music could be listened to in the basement area, or the like.

Typically, the unpowered board 20 also includes a terminal set 32 for connection with a remote personal computer 12' or the like, for automatic connection with the other media drivers 12 connected to the multimedia server 10. Such a computer 12' could also be used to command/ control the main board 36 and the multimedia server 10.

Typically, the multimedia server 10 has a plurality of internal media drivers 12 already incorporated into the housing 20 and preferably accessible from the front panel 40, and additional external media drivers 12 are connected to the

connector sets 22 whenever required, depending on the desired configuration of the server 10.

Still referring to Figure 2, the automatic interconnections between the different media drivers 12 connected to the respective terminal sets 32, which is
5 preferably suited for the external media drivers 12, uses wires (or traces) 44 on the unpowered circuit board 30, connecting preferably OUT terminals 34 of media playing drivers 12 to the corresponding IN terminals 34 of the recording or output media driver(s) 12. Accordingly, the actual multimedia server 10 does not need to be powered to have signals flowing from one external media driver
10 12 to another one.

Although the multimedia server device provided by the present invention have been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is to be understood that the disclosure has been made by way of example only and that the present
15 invention is not limited to the features of the embodiments described and illustrated herein, but includes all variations and modifications within the scope and spirit of the invention as hereinabove described.

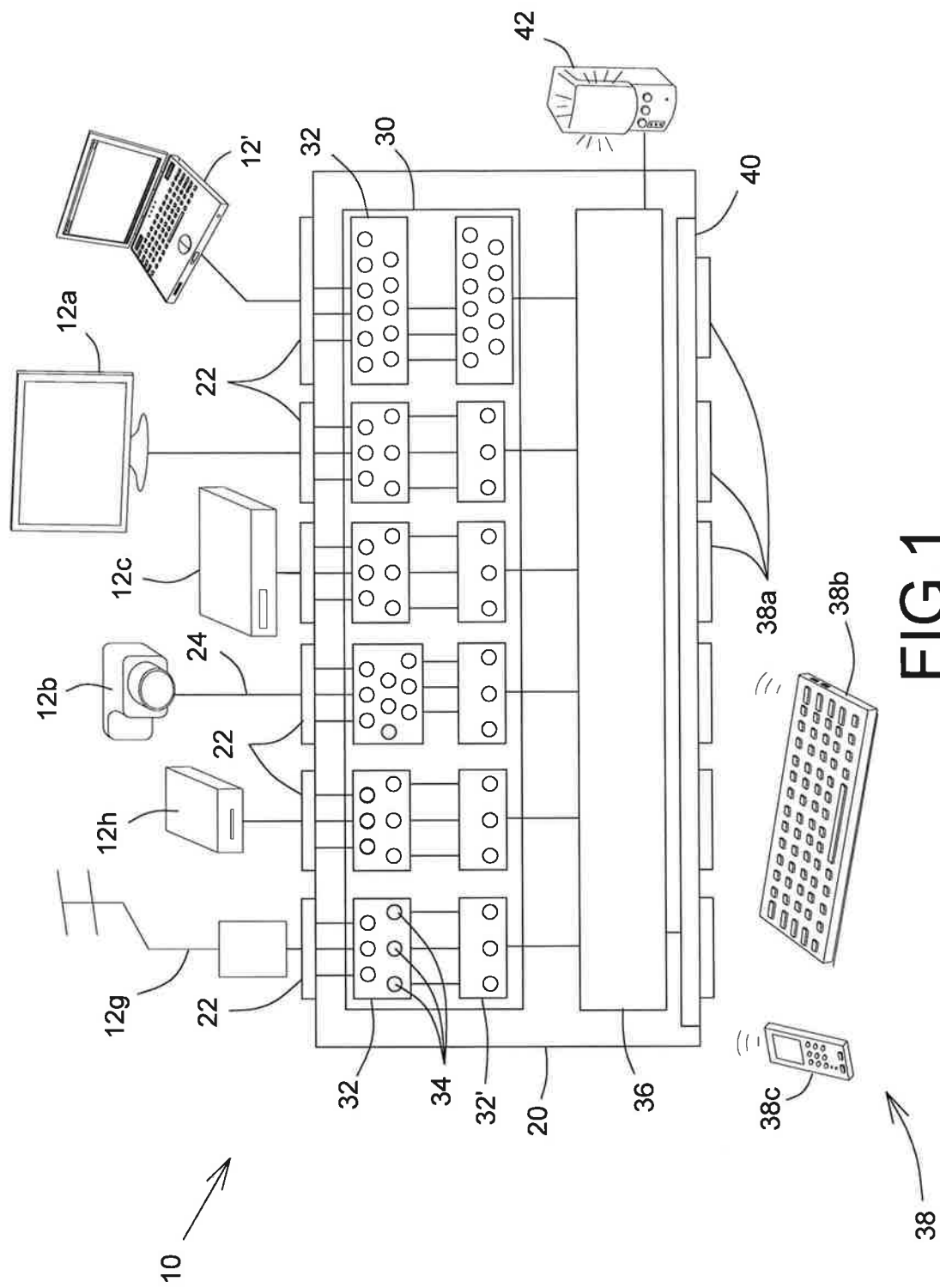


FIG. 1

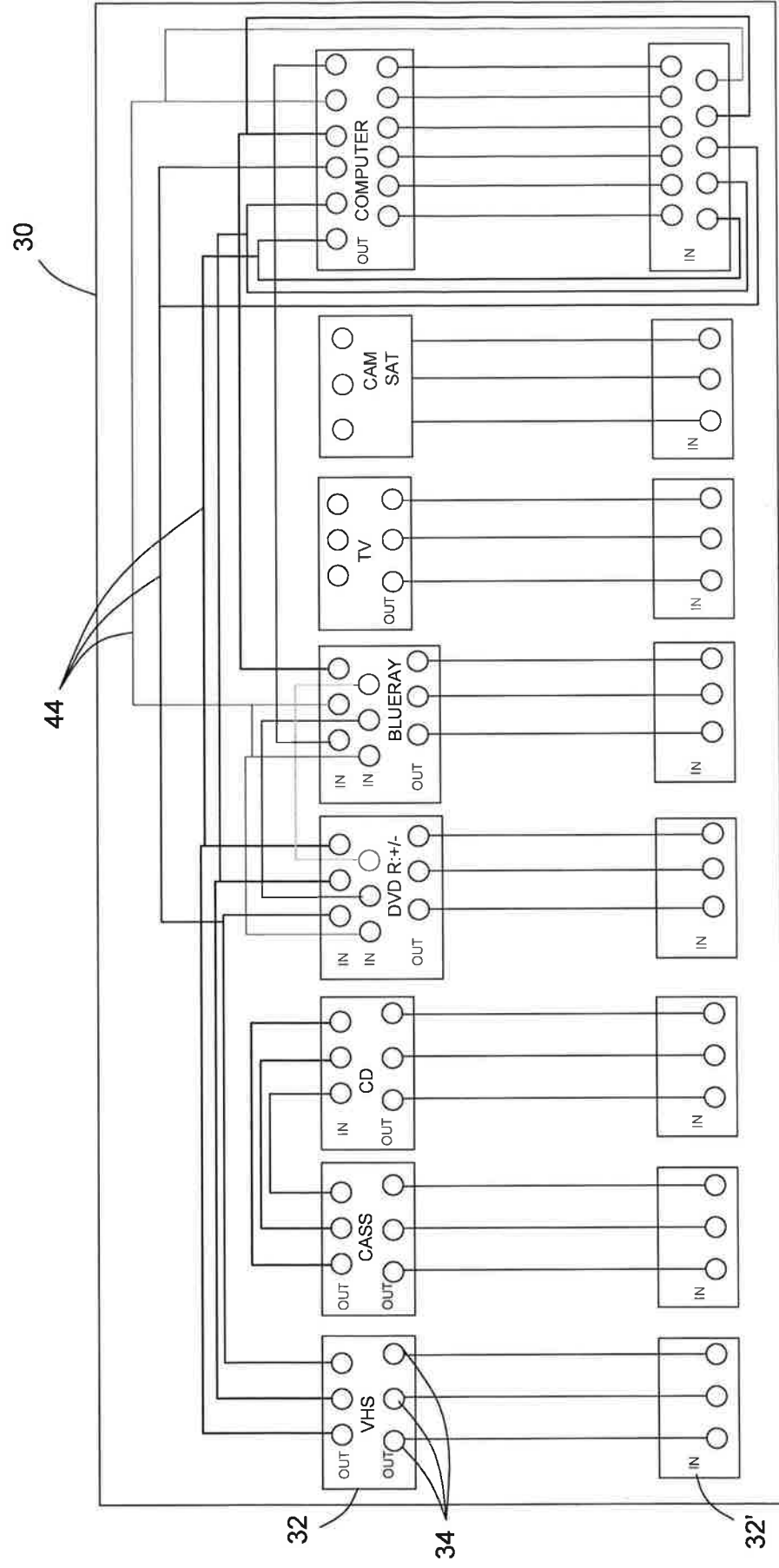


FIG.2



BREVETS ET MARQUES DE COMMERCE
PATENTS & TRADE MARKS



STATEMENT

Progressive Contract

Date : 2011-03-24

Client : DRA5682

File No : 1415-B01.US

M. George Drakopoulos

1973 boul. Perrot
N.D. de l'île Perrot (Qc) J7V 8P4
Tel.: M:514-425-3627 B: 781-16
Fax :

Title : (TBD) MULTIMEDIA SOUND-SERVER
Inv(s) : DRAKAPOULOS, George; HANNA, Max
Applicant : DRAKAPOULOS, George; HANNA, Max

Date	Reference	Currency	Contract	Invoice	Payment	Balance
2011-01-12	DRA5682B	CAD	5 789,29	0,00	0,00	5 789,29 \$
2011-01-20	DRA5682B		0,00	0,00	-3 000,00	2 789,29 \$