

Invention Title

Character input method for one-handed remote controls

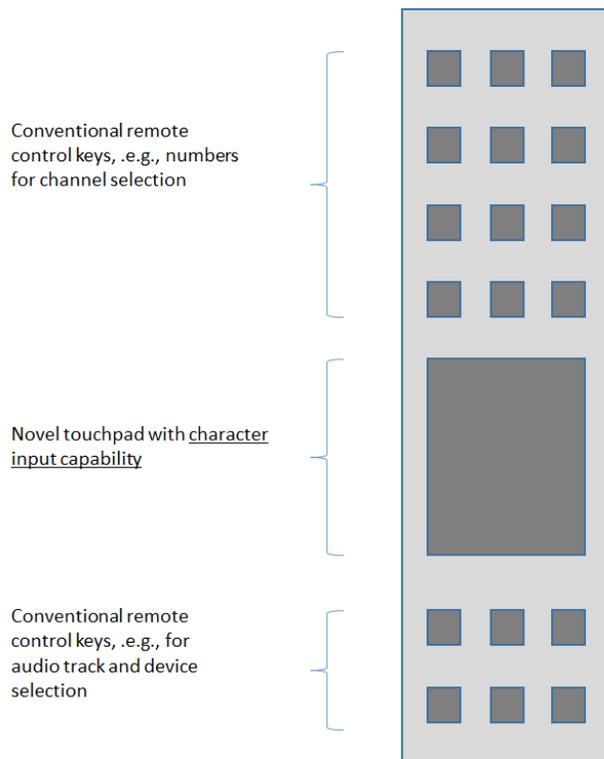
Invention Summary

We propose to add a touch-sensitive pad (called touchpad from here on) to a single-handed remote control. The touchpad and the associated circuitry have the capability to recognize letters that are being drawn on it. This input method is far faster and more convenient than selecting individual characters from a large grid of characters, using the arrow and other navigation keys.

Invention Description

We propose to add a touch-sensitive pad (called touchpad from here on) to a single-handed remote control. The touchpad and the associated circuitry have the capability to recognize letters that are being drawn on it. This input method is far faster and more convenient than selecting individual characters from a large grid of characters, using the arrow and other navigation keys.

The character input method is especially convenient for program and content selection; entering movie titles, directors' or actors' names as well as content search across a media library (whether file-based or streaming, user-owned or online). A possible implementation would locate a small touchpad where the user's thumb can conveniently reach it, enabling the user to quickly and conveniently enter characters.



An advanced system could recognize partially drawn letters as soon as the character is sufficiently unique.

In addition, this system is easily adaptable to multiple languages and alphabets, since all of the character recognition capability is handled by software.

Invention Commercial Value/Customers

Greater convenience for customer in entering characters for a variety of applications:

- Entering movie title or other criteria (director, actor) in VoD or other video library systems
- Direct channel selection via entering the first few letters (e.g., entering "FO" will jump to FOX)
- Convenient and much more rapid character input for setup purposes, e.g.:
 - o WiFi hotspot SSID and password
 - o Connecting to networked drives
 - o Input of user credentials for MSO and telco services

Invention Differences

There are existing remote controls and portable keyboards with touchpad capability, but all are intended for two-handed handheld use or lap top use.

Portable keyboards (mostly with Bluetooth) that have an added touchpad near the numeric key block, either instead of or in addition to a set of cursor keys, have existed for a number of years. These are typically miniaturized QWERTY keyboards with a built-in touchpad on the side and are not intended for single-handed use.

Other keyboards with touch capability typically include a touch-sensitive LCD display. These superimpose a QWERTY-style keyboard or use another overlay type of approach.

However, these remotes with built-in touchpad use the touchpad for navigation only, not for character input or character recognition capability.

To the best of our knowledge (based on an exhaustive Google search), we believe that there are no existing remote controls intended for single-handed use that also utilize the touchpad for character input.