



US00RE45568E

(19) **United States**
(12) **Reissued Patent**
Chavakula

(10) **Patent Number:** **US RE45,568 E**
(45) **Date of Reissued Patent:** **Jun. 16, 2015**

(54) **MULTI-POWER CHARGER AND BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEM**

(71) Applicant: **Anand Kumar Chavakula**, Hyattsville, MD (US)

(72) Inventor: **Anand Kumar Chavakula**, Hyattsville, MD (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **13/774,606**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 22, 2013**

3,085,150 A	4/1963	Bautsch	
3,105,183 A	9/1963	Hysler et al.	
4,160,941 A	7/1979	Bennett	
4,161,682 A	7/1979	Corvette	
4,227,092 A	10/1980	Campagnuolo et al.	
4,232,260 A	11/1980	Lambkin	
4,725,740 A	2/1988	Nakata	
5,103,157 A *	4/1992	Wright	323/275
5,220,269 A	6/1993	Chen et al.	
5,420,494 A	5/1995	Lu	
5,489,002 A	2/1996	Streff	
5,686,809 A	11/1997	Kimura et al.	
5,694,019 A	12/1997	Uchida et al.	

(Continued)

Related U.S. Patent Documents

Reissue of:

(64) Patent No.: **7,893,657**
Issued: **Feb. 22, 2011**
Appl. No.: **11/957,086**
Filed: **Dec. 14, 2007**

U.S. Applications:

(60) Provisional application No. 60/875,552, filed on Dec. 19, 2006.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01M 10/46 (2006.01)
H02J 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H02J 7/0055** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H02J 7/0055; H02J 7/0013; H02J 7/0016
USPC 320/112, 114, 115, 116, 138; 307/11, 307/21, 23, 28, 29, 46, 66
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,237,963 A	4/1941	Hawks
2,810,821 A	10/1957	Cohn

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	0887659 A2	12/1998
GB	2299457 A	10/1996
JP	408007602 A	1/1996

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Eton Corporation. Eton FR-300 Operation Manual. Jan. 15, 2005.

(Continued)

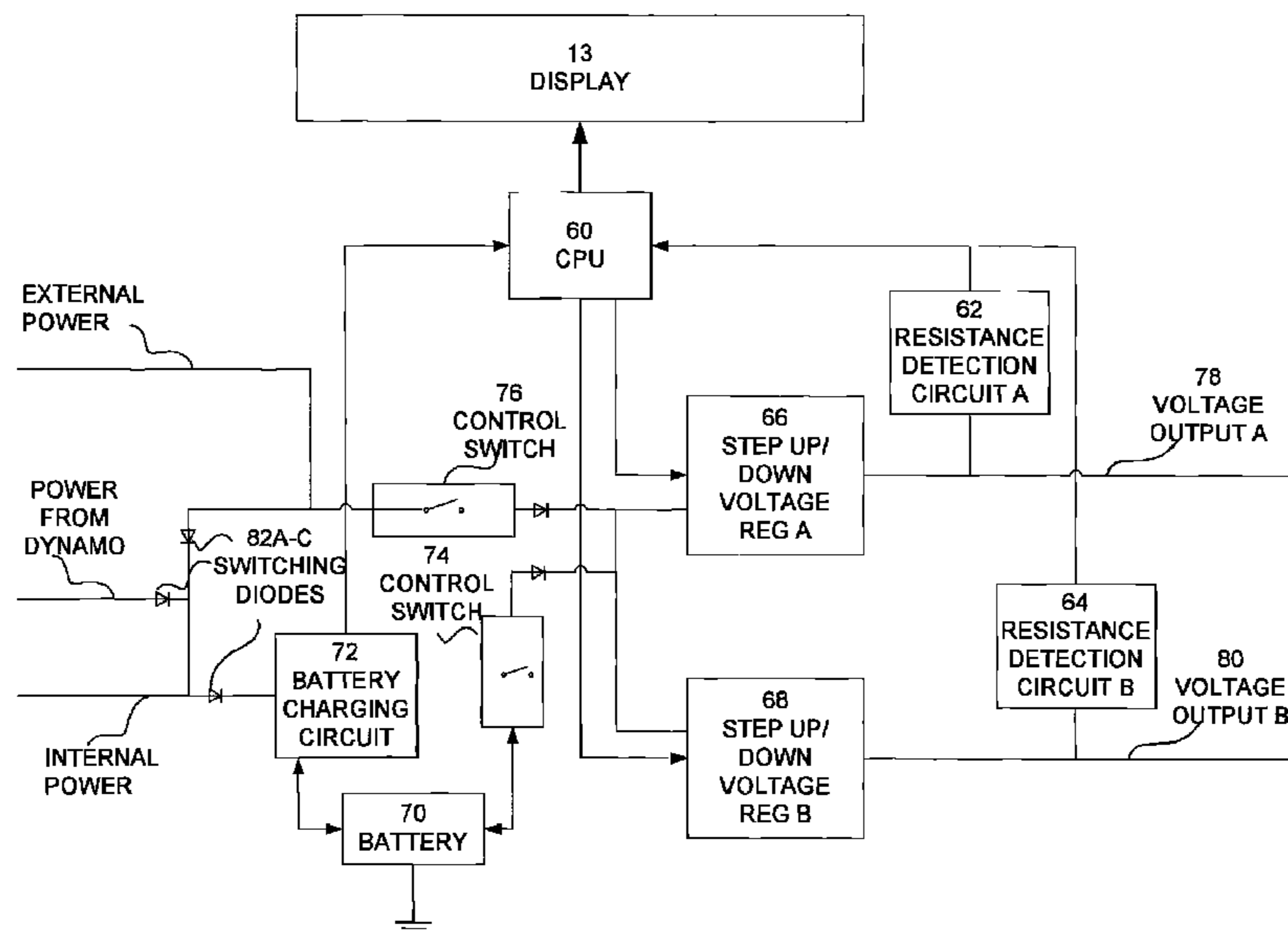
Primary Examiner — Edward Tso

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP; Peter J. Davis

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multi-power charger comprises an internal battery, receptacles for connecting one or more external power sources, and output receptacles for connecting to an electronic device. A voltage selection circuit determines an operating voltage of the first device and selects a power supply source to supply the operating voltage the device. The power supply source may be the internal battery, the external power source, or both. The operating voltage is delivered to the device via the output receptacle.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,701,067 A 12/1997 Kaji et al.
 5,929,597 A 7/1999 Pfeifer et al.
 6,137,280 A 10/2000 Ackermann
 6,160,389 A 12/2000 Watts
 6,252,706 B1 6/2001 Kaladgew
 6,327,484 B1 12/2001 Mathew
 6,472,846 B1 10/2002 Hutchinson et al.
 6,566,766 B2* 5/2003 Matsuda et al. 307/82
 6,583,601 B2 6/2003 Simoes et al.
 6,605,926 B2 8/2003 Crisp et al.
 6,690,141 B1 2/2004 Yu
 6,759,833 B1 7/2004 Chen
 6,818,035 B2 11/2004 McGahey, Jr.
 6,849,960 B2 2/2005 Hartman et al.
 6,914,340 B2 7/2005 Becker et al.
 6,930,403 B2 8/2005 Hartman et al.
 6,943,459 B2 9/2005 Hartman et al.
 6,946,817 B2 9/2005 Fischer et al.
 6,995,542 B2 2/2006 Yu et al.
 7,019,492 B1 3/2006 Baker et al.
 7,030,592 B2 4/2006 Yu
 7,049,708 B2 5/2006 Hartman et al.
 7,259,541 B2 8/2007 Yu et al.
 8,063,610 B2* 11/2011 Chavakula 320/138
 2004/0051501 A1 3/2004 Yu et al.
 2004/0090210 A1 5/2004 Becker et al.

2004/0130156 A1 7/2004 Hartman et al.
 2004/0164704 A1 8/2004 Yang
 2005/0253560 A1 11/2005 Popescu-Stanesti
 2006/0154690 A1 7/2006 Hess
 2007/0072474 A1 3/2007 Beasley
 2007/0096692 A1 5/2007 Chuang et al.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Reitz, Ken. "MT Review: Eton FR-300: It's Not Just for Emergencies!" Monitoring Times. Oct. 2005. p. 68.
 Mossberg, Walt and Katherine Boehret. "This Is a Test of Emergency Power Systems." The Digital Solution Category of the Wall Street Journal. Sep. 21, 2005. <http://allthingsd.com/20050921/emergency-power-test/>.
 Krakow, Gary. "Gadgets to help you through a hurricane." NBC News. Oct. 19, 2005. http://www.nbcnews.com/id/9437489/ns/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/t/gadgets-help-you-through-hurricane/#.U4aAICjLJts.
 Eton Corporation. FR300 Multi-Purpose Radio Specifications. 2005.
 Initial Disclosure of Invalidity Contentions in Defense of Infringement dated May 29, 2014.
 WIPO, International Search Report, PCT/US2008/086422; dated Jul. 20, 2009; 11pgs.
 International Preliminary Report on Patentability, Intl. Application PCT/US2008/086422. International Bureau of WIPO, Jun. 24, 2010 (6 pages).

* cited by examiner

FIGURE 1

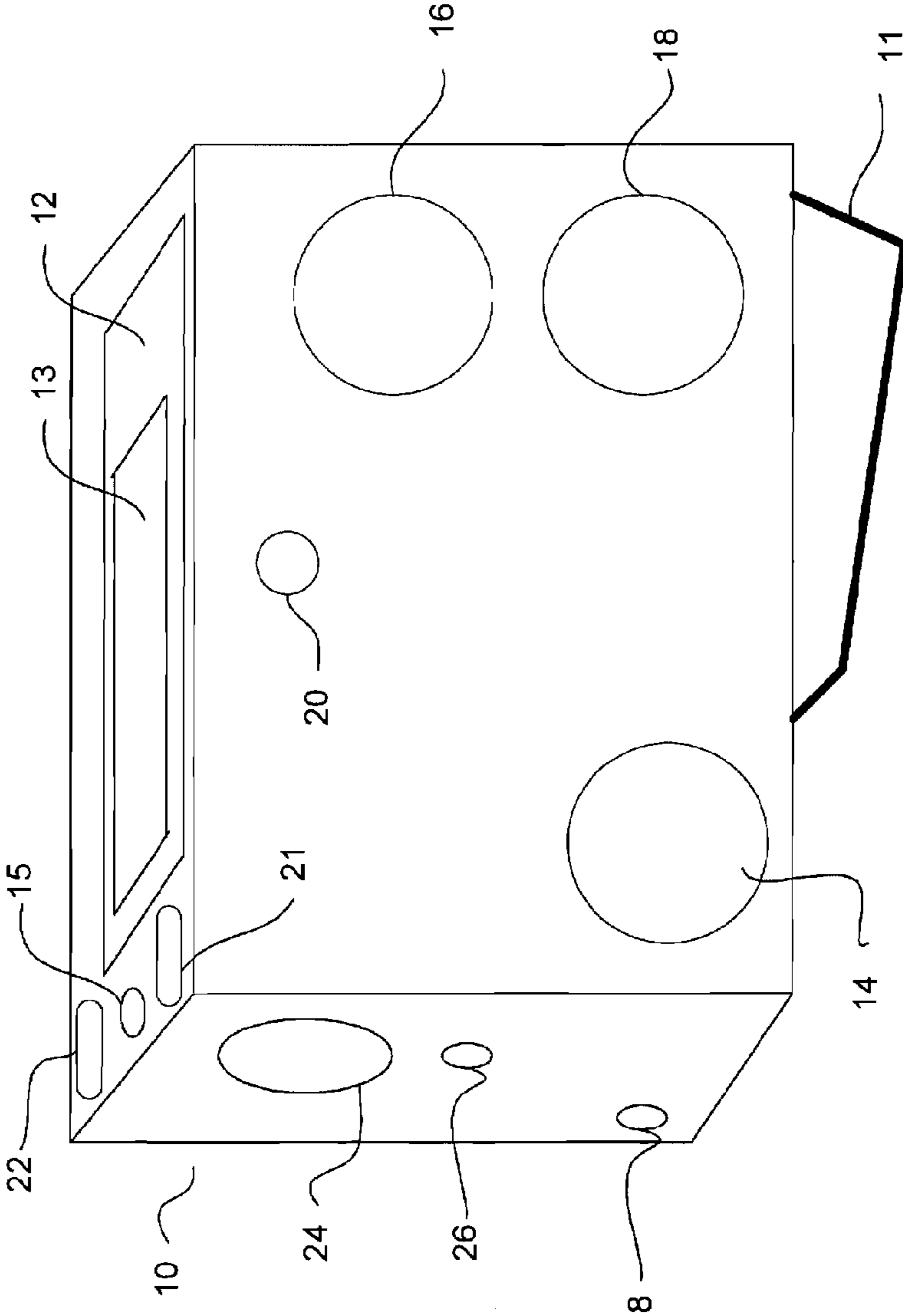


FIGURE 2

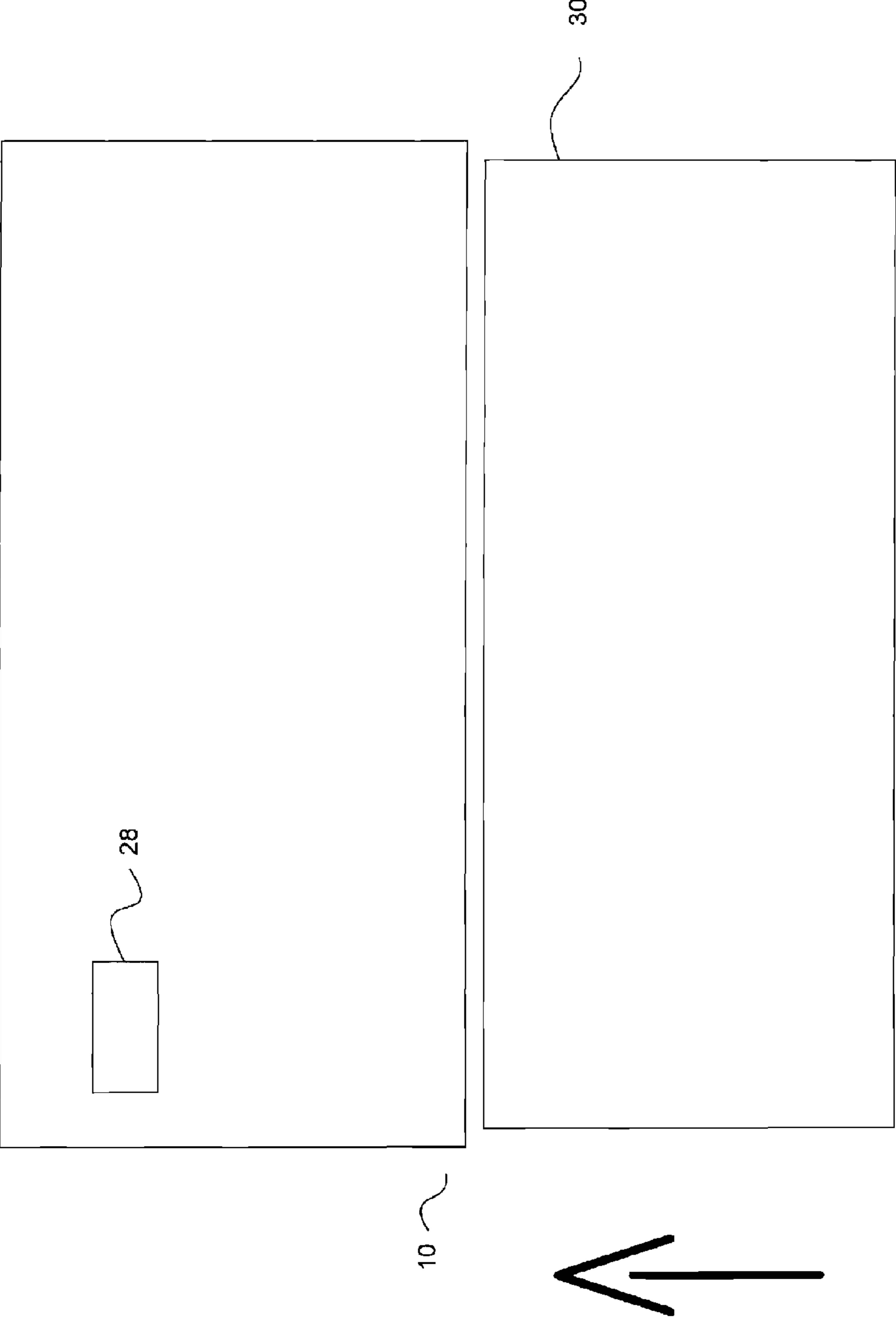


FIGURE 3

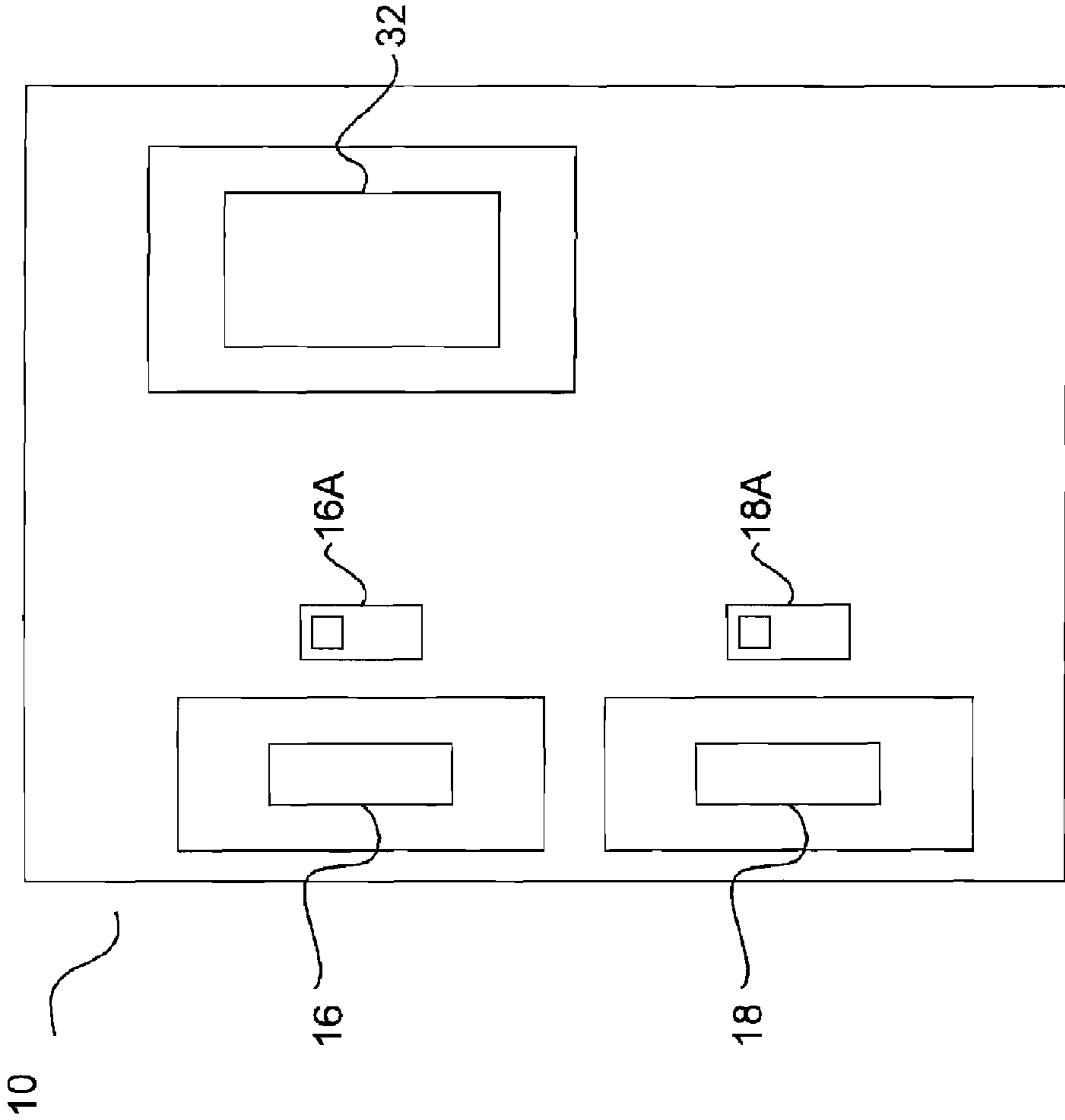


FIGURE 4

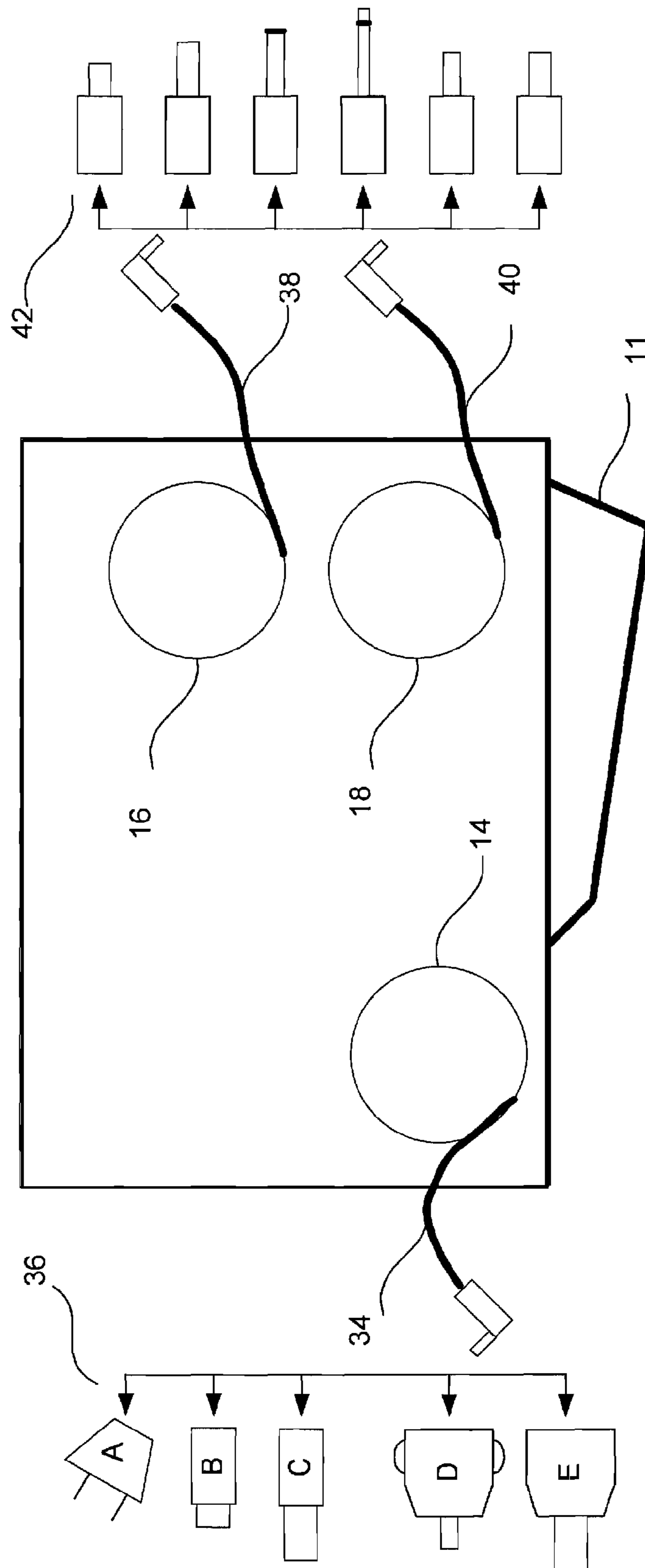


FIGURE 5

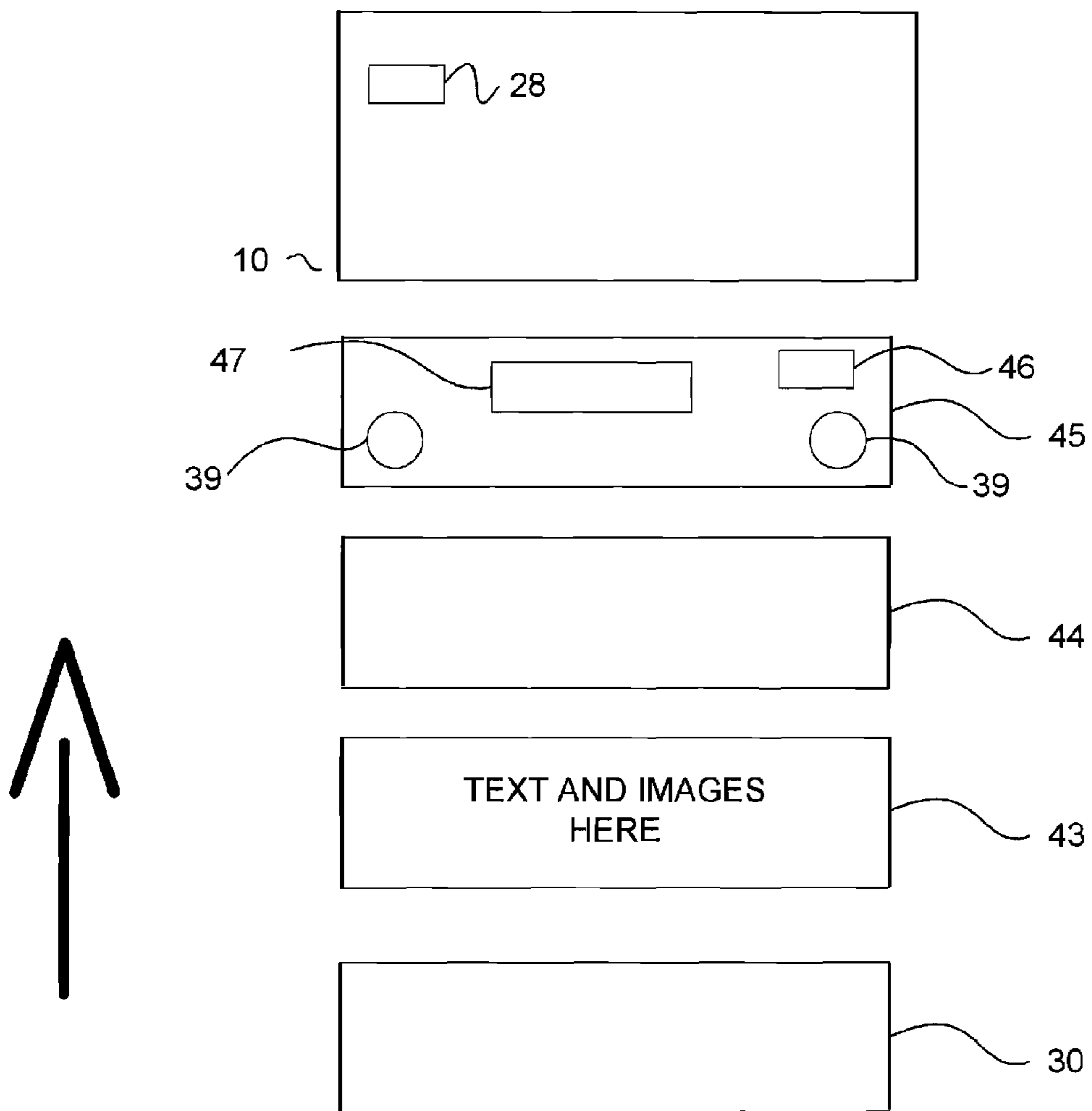


FIGURE 6

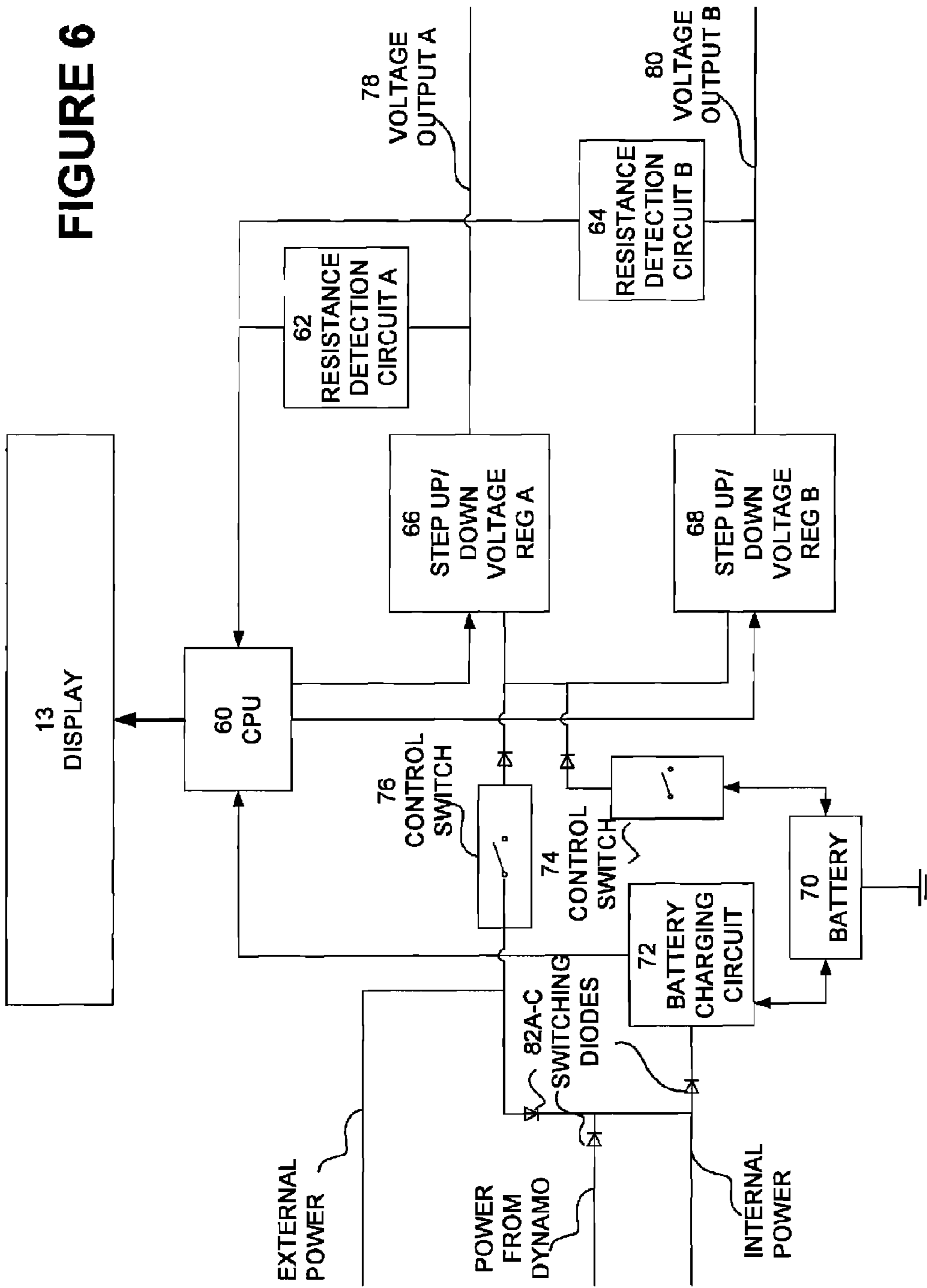


FIGURE 7

12
CONTROL
PANEL

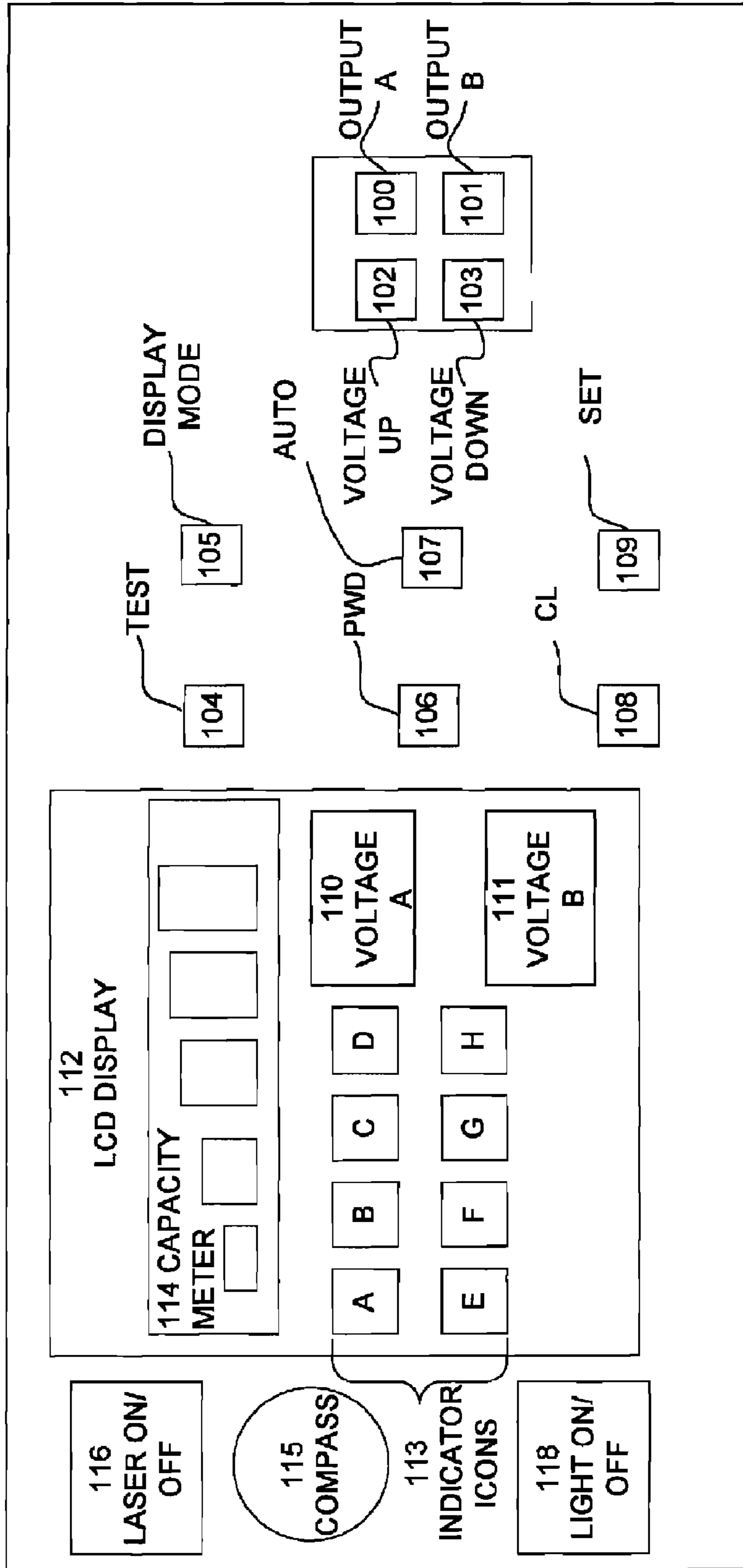


FIGURE 8A

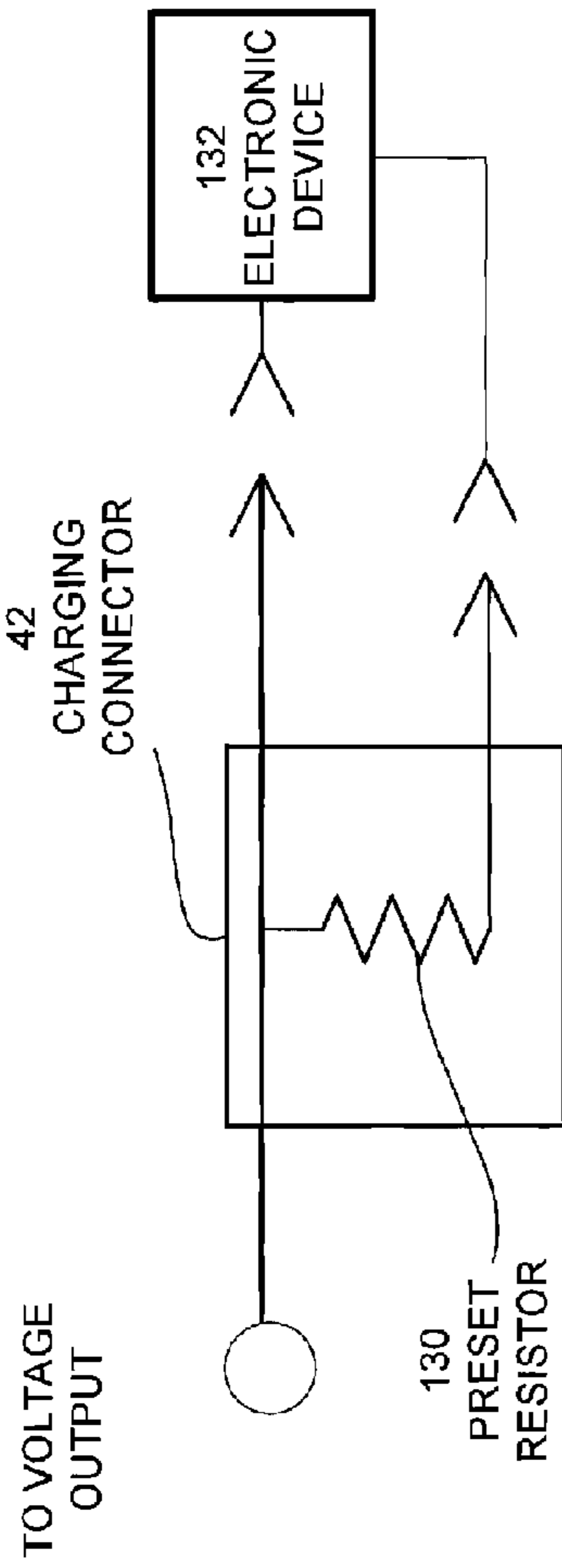


FIGURE 8B

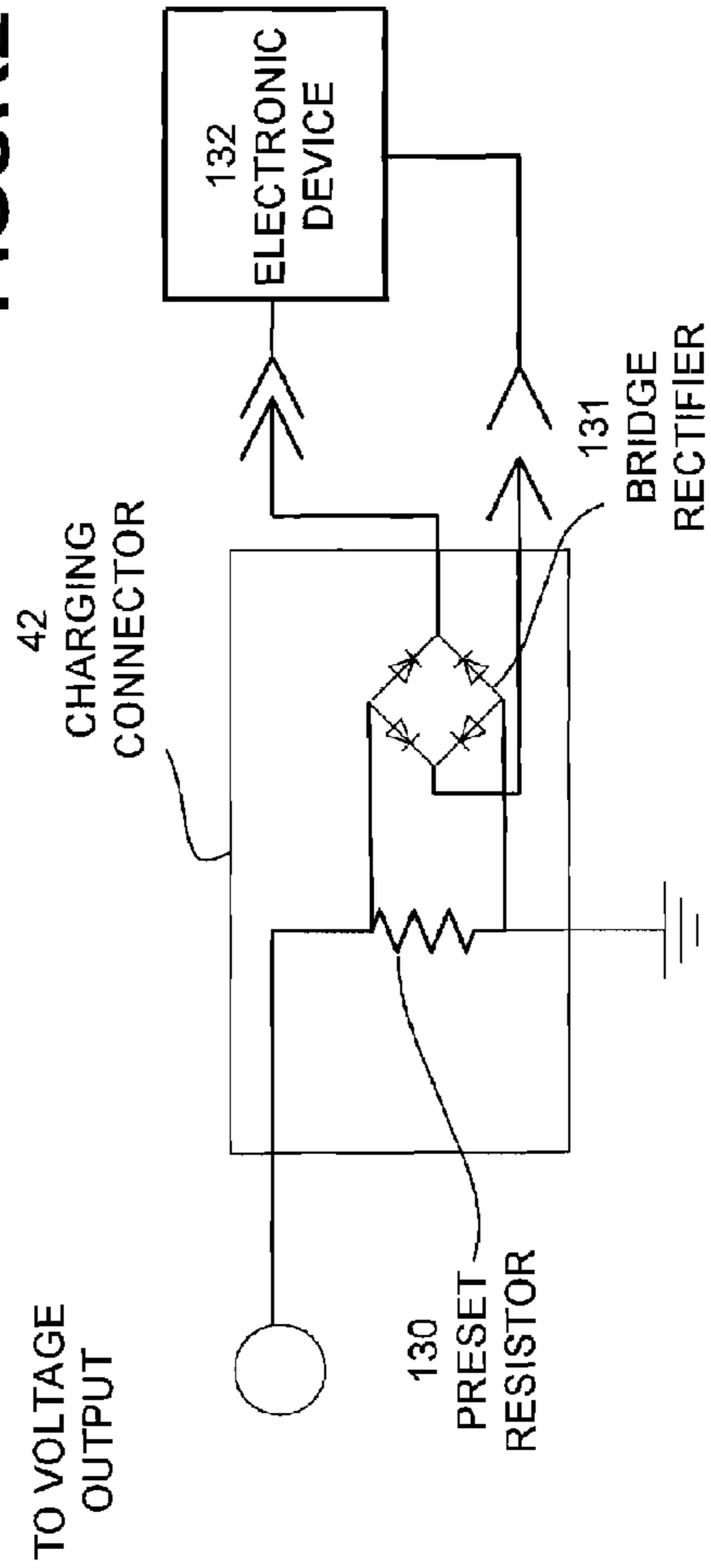
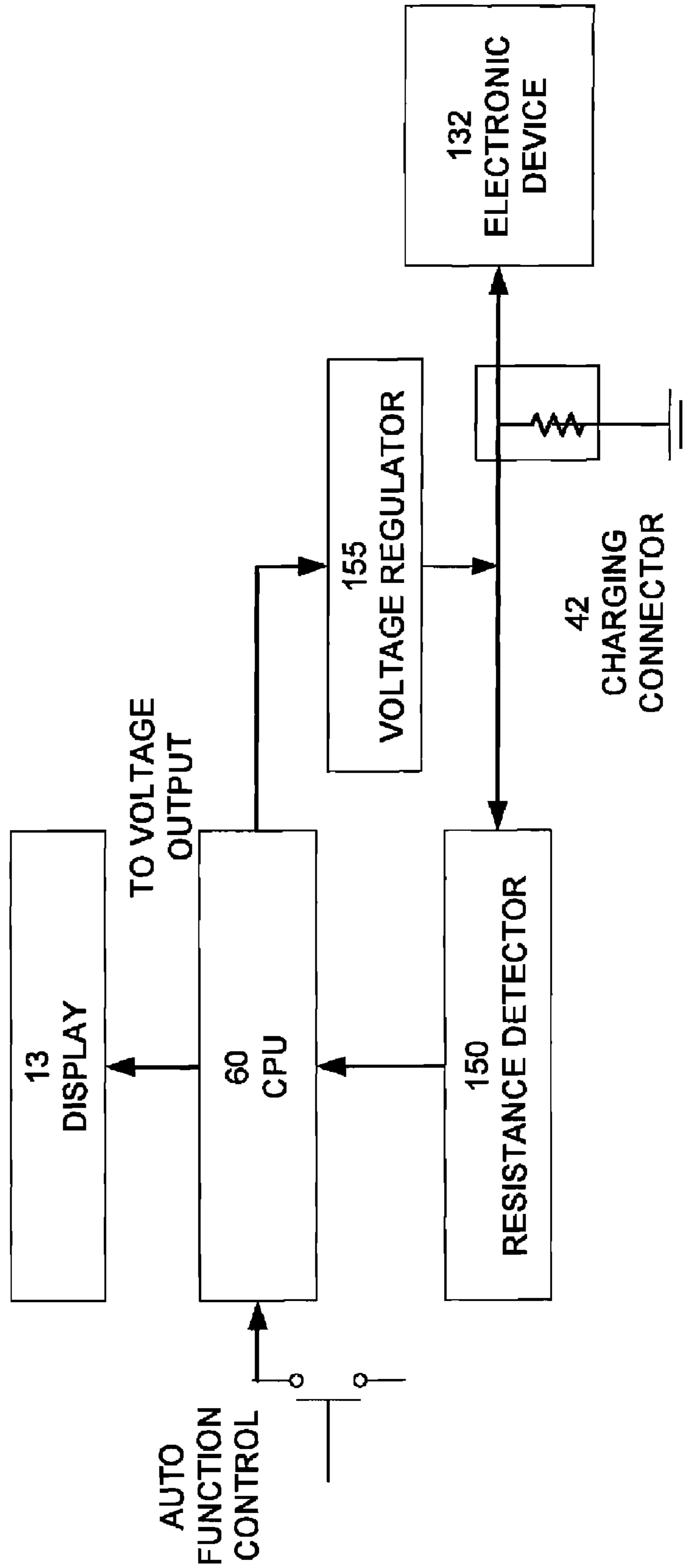


FIGURE 9A



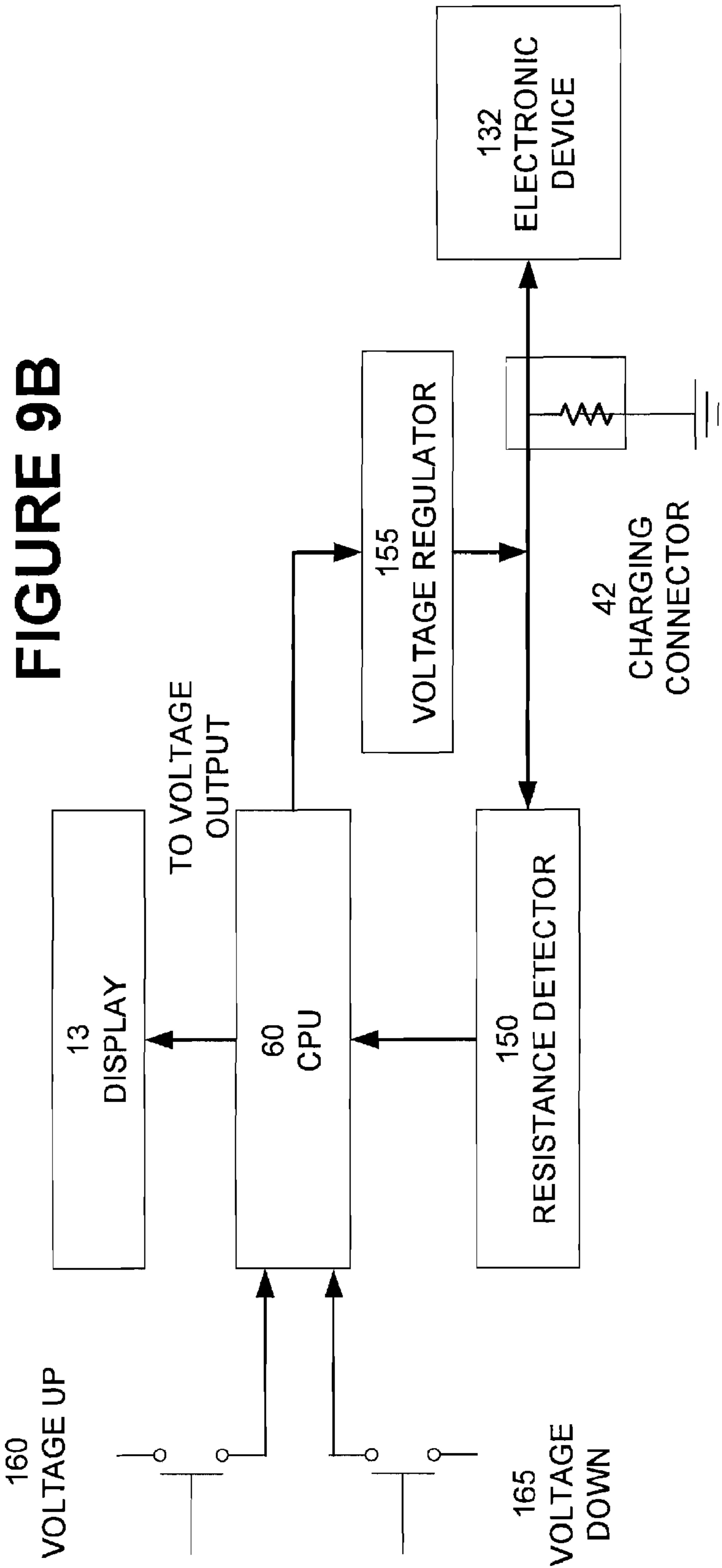


FIGURE 10

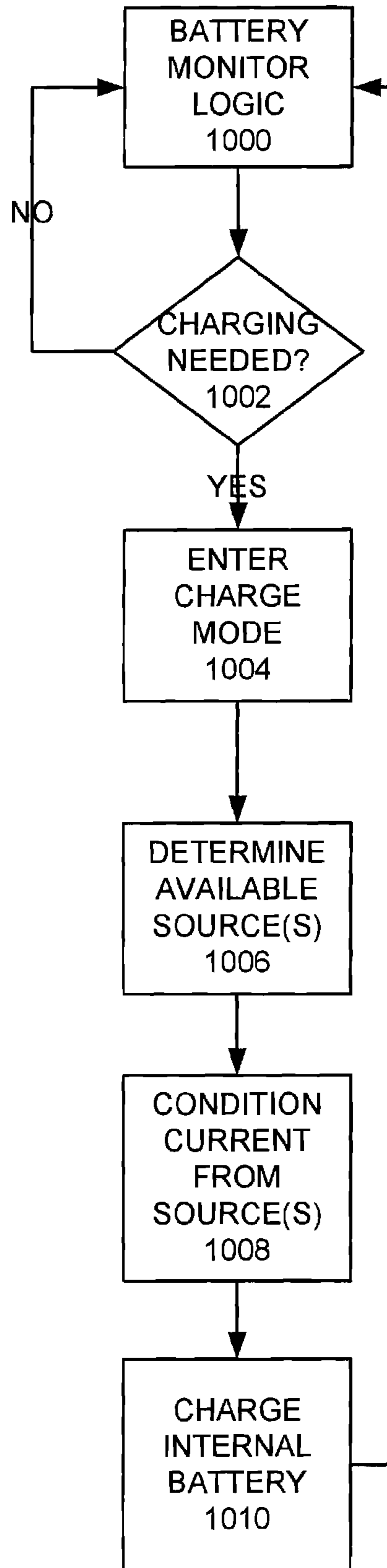
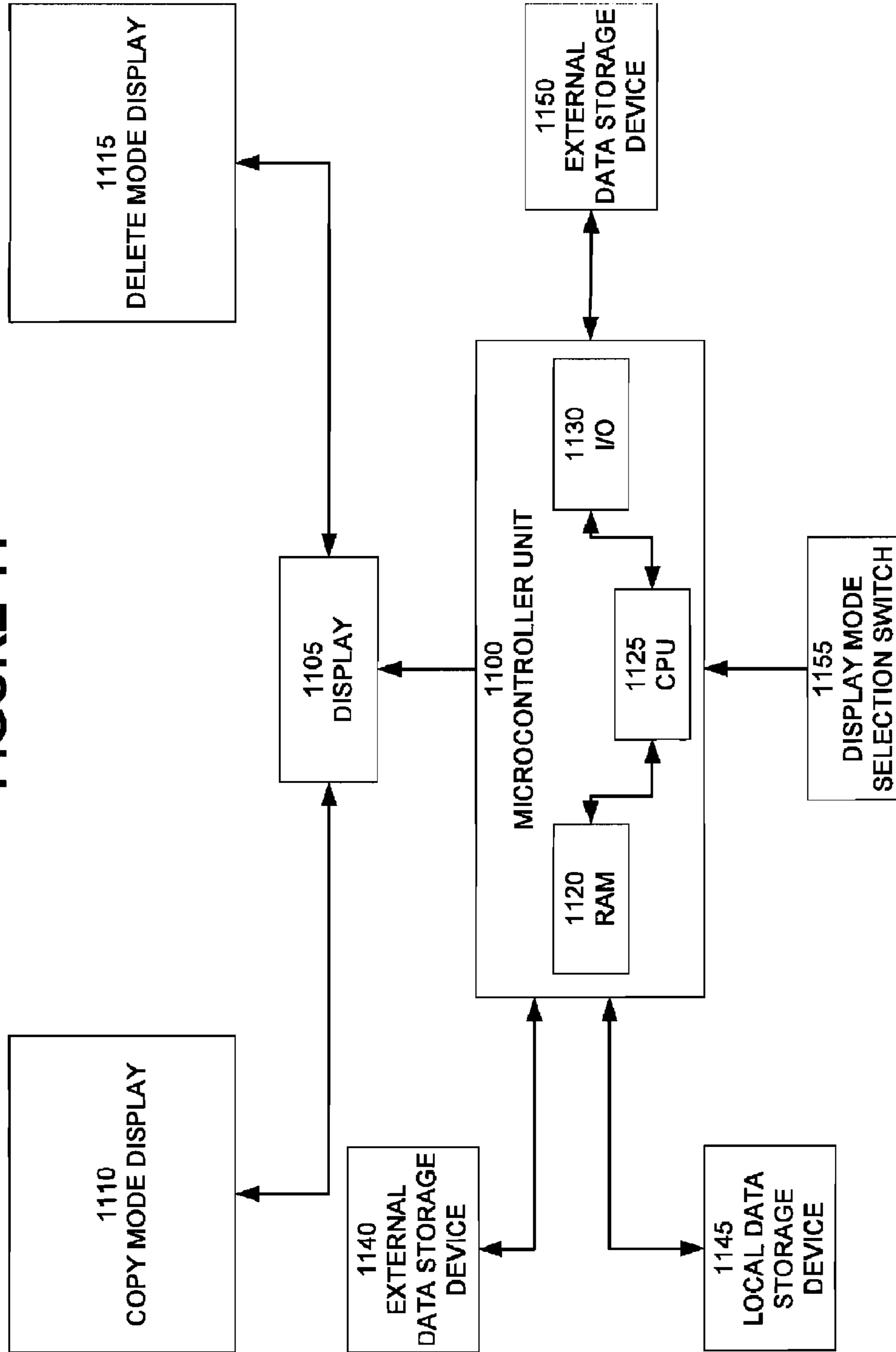


FIGURE 11



MULTI-POWER CHARGER AND BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEM

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue; a claim printed with strikethrough indicates that the claim was canceled, disclaimed, or held invalid by a prior post-patent action or proceeding.

This application claims priority from Provisional Patent Application No. 60/875,552, filed Dec. 19, 2006 whose contents are incorporated herein in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Since the advent of mobile and portable electronic devices for various applications, many types of charging systems have been designed or developed to supplement power to mobile electronic devices and/or to recharge the batteries of those systems. Those power sources include crank type/dynamo chargers, solar chargers, battery packs, AC/DC chargers, and any combination of these various features. While they have been useful to some degree, many of these so called universal multi-function chargers are not both practical and portable. That is, the devices as implemented are either functionally useful but not truly portable or portable but not fully or optimally functional in their various design embodiments internally and or externally.

What would be truly useful would be a multi-power battery charger and battery backup system that enables universal connectivity and portability without sacrificing one for the other. Such a system would permit manual or automatic specification of charging characteristics and be able to accept single, multiple and simultaneous power inputs for charging purposes and do so automatically without user intervention or be selectable as desired by a user. It would be additionally useful for the multi-power charger to enable the transfer of data between various devices.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a Multi-power Charger/backup system (MPC) according to an embodiment.

FIG. 2 illustrates additional elements of the Multi-power Charger (MPC) according to an embodiment.

FIG. 3 illustrates a side view of the MPC according to an embodiment.

FIG. 4 illustrates deployment of input and output cables according to an embodiment.

FIG. 5 illustrates exemplary removable surfaces that may be used in with the MPC according to an embodiment.

FIG. 6 illustrates a block diagram of components of the MPC according to an embodiment.

FIG. 7 illustrates a control panel of the MPC according to an embodiment.

FIGS. 8A and B illustrate block diagrams of an auto detect CPU circuit of the MPC according to embodiments.

FIG. 9A illustrates a block diagram of the logical components of an automatic voltage selection circuit according to an embodiment hereof.

FIG. 9B illustrates a block diagram of the logical components of a manual voltage selection circuit according to an embodiment hereof.

FIG. 10 illustrates control logic according to an embodiment.

FIG. 11 illustrates additional circuitry to enable an MPC to perform data management functions according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 illustrates a block diagram of a multi-power charger/backup system (MPC) according to an embodiment. The MPC 10 comprises a compartmented case comprising a control panel 12 whereby the functionality of the MPC 10 is controlled. The control panel 12 has an integral LCD display 13 which displays the various functions and capabilities of the MPC 10. The MPC's internal CPU is designed to handle charging from a wide variety of voltages ranging from about 1.9 volts to 24 volts or more as desired with the appropriate watts and amperage that is suitable to various portable devices that use such power requirements by user selection. The MPC 10 further comprises retractable power output cables contained in a generally wheel-like structure 16, 18 for providing or transmitting power to portable devices. The wheel-like structures 16, 18 are removable to facilitate replacement of cables that have failed or use cables that are configured to implement the data transfer and data exchange features described below. Additionally, the MPC 10 further comprises a retractable input cable contained in a wheel-like structure 14 for receiving input power from electrical sources to provide battery charging for an internal battery (see FIG. 3, [28] 32). The wheel-like structure 14 is removable to facilitate replacement of a cable that has failed or use a cable that is configured to implement the data transfer and data exchange features described below. The top portion of the MPC further comprises an actuation button 22 to actuate an internal flashlight 24 and an actuation button 21 for actuating an internal laser pointer 26. The MPC also has an attachment point 20 to which a belt clip can be inserted (not shown), so that the MPC 10 can be carried wherever the user desires. A receptacle 8 is provided for connection of an external recharging device that provides the appropriate voltage and current for recharging the battery (see FIG. 3, [28] 32).

In an embodiment, a compass 15 is provided. This placement is highly useful as the user can easily see the compass in the MPC if that MPC is being worn on the belt, for example.

As a further methodology to charge the internal battery of the MPC 10, a dynamo internal to the MPC (not shown) is provided. The dynamo is turned by hand crank 11, which is actuated by a squeezing motion by the user. This hand crank handle is in the shape of a scissor-like form to enable one-handed crank motion as opposed to a two-handed type crank motion i.e., one hand to hold a crank unit and the other hand to rotate a handle clock-wise to actuate crank based dynamo charging. The design of the MPC's crank handle enables a user to hold the MPC by the thumb of one hand and crank with the other fingers of the same hand. This design also better enables the crank action to fit the position of a user when seated. In other words, the up and down motion is located to one end of the handle only and the other end fitted with a pivot connected to the charger frame.

FIG. 2 illustrates additional elements of the MPC according to an embodiment. The MPC 10 further comprises a removable external face 30 which can be, in various embodiments, a solar cell which provides a charge to the internal battery or other removable power chargeable services or attachable/insertable devices that can be inserted in the same slot as the solar panel as described below. The MPC 10

comprises a slot having electrical contacts **28**, which contacts allow for connectivity to internal circuits of the MPC **10** as further described below.

FIG. **3** illustrates a side view of the MPC **10**. The wheel-like structures **16**, **18** are illustrated in their respective compartments with covers removed (covers not illustrated). As described above, wheel-like structures **16**, **18** each comprise a retractable power output cable. A polarity switch **16A** allows a user to change the polarity of the voltage delivered via the power output cable stored on wheel-like structure **16**. A polarity switch **18A** allows a user to change the polarity of the voltage delivered via the power output cable stored on wheel-like structures **18**. [A] Internal battery [28] **32** is accessible in a compartment (illustrated with battery cover removed).

FIG. **4** illustrates deployment of DC input and output cables according to an embodiment. Retractable cables **38**, **40** provide power to a variety of mobile devices, such as PDA's, MP3 players, a GPS device, notebook computer, cell phones, and other mobile devices. An inventory of output DC charging plugs **42** is provided so that any variety of mobile devices may be charged. Retractable cable **34** allows a cable to be connected through input plugs **36** to an external power supply. Illustrated in FIG. **4** are an AC adapter plug **36A**, a Firewire connector **36B**, a USB connector **36C**, a car power adapter **36D**, and an airplane adapter **36E**. The illustrated connectors are not intended to be limiting and other sources of power may be connected to the retractable cable **34** to provide power to charge the internal battery of the MPC and to provide power to cables **38** and **40**.

FIG. **5** illustrates exemplary removable surfaces that may be used in conjunction with a MPC according to an embodiment. The MPC **10** comprises a slot having electrical contacts **28** that engage connector pins of various panel-style devices. In an embodiment, the panel-styled device is a solar panel and the pins function as a "charge-in" connector. In another embodiment, the panel-style device is a digital music player and the pins function as a "charge out" connector. In yet another embodiment, the panel-style device comprises a storage medium and the connector pins enable data transfer and exchange through and within the MPC.

In an embodiment, a removable surface comprises a solar cell **30** that can be inserted into the MPC slot so as to make contact with the electrical contacts **28**. The solar cell **30** is capable of converting solar energy to electrical energy, charging the internal battery of the MPC (see FIG. **3**, [28] **32**). In yet another embodiment, the slot will accommodate additional types of solar cells that may exist in the future. This interchangeable solar cell **44** slides into the slot of MPC **10** to provide charging to the internal battery.

In another embodiment, a promotional/sponsor insert **43** is inserted into the slot of the MPC. This sponsor insert **43** comprises advertising/images germane to the advertising needs of a particular sponsor. When inserted into the slot of MPC **10**, the sponsor insert **43** makes contact with the electrical charge contacts for power **28** and displays messages and images indicative of a particular sponsor.

In still another embodiment of the removable surface, a game interface **45** is provided to allow a user to have entertainment from the device at various times. The game interface **45** slides into the slot of MPC **10** and provides selection means **46** for selecting a particular type of game. The game is then displayed on an LCD display **47** integrated with game interface **45**. Controls for the game **48** are provided in a touch screen area of the game interface **45**, so that the game can be played by the user.

The exemplary removable surfaces described above are not meant to be limiting. For example, other such surfaces may include an MP3 player, a clock with alarm, a calculator, a GPS receiver and a PDA. These devices, all of which require charging to operate, operate off the internal battery of the MPC while at the same time having their own batteries charged.

FIG. **6** illustrates a block diagram of the logical components of an MPC according to an embodiment. Display **13** is responsive to signals received from CPU **60**. CPU **60** is responsive to the position of modes setting switches (see, FIG. **7**, **100-109**), to resistance detection circuit A **62** and resistance detection circuit B **64**, and to battery charging circuit **72**. Control switches **74** and **76** direct power from internal and external sources respectively to charge the internal battery **70** or to provide power to voltage output A **78** and voltage output B **80**.

External, internal solar, and dynamo power sources are connected in parallel switching diodes **82A**, **82B**, and **82C**. The switching diodes select the activate source to connect to the battery charging circuit automatically without any manual switching or selection. If more than one source of power is connected and activated at the same time, the switching diodes can compare which is the highest voltage source and will switch to that source automatically. This way the lower voltage source will be cut off.

Resistance detection circuit **62** detects the resistance of a charging plug (see, FIG. **8**, **42**). In an automatic mode, CPU **60** controls step up/down voltage regulator A **66** to provide a voltage to voltage output A **78** that is determined by the detected resistance. Resistance detection circuit B **64** operates in the same manner.

In a manual mode, CPU **60** is responsive to voltage up and down controls (see, FIG. **7**, **100-103**) to control the output of step up/down voltage regulator A **66** and step up/down voltage regulator B **68**.

The polarity of voltage output A **78** and voltage output B **80** can be changed via polarity switches (not illustrated in FIG. **6** but illustrated in FIG. **3** as elements **16A** and **16B**).

FIG. **7** illustrates a control panel of the MPC according to an embodiment. The control panel **7** comprises an LCD display **112** and a series of control buttons. Output buttons **100**, **101** control the interface of the MPC to at least two different devices. It should be noted that the fact that two output buttons are illustrated is not meant as a limitation. The internal logic and functioning of the MPC can allow more than two devices to be powered and/or charged by the MPC. Thus, the presence of two buttons is illustrative only and is not meant as a limitation. Once a particular output device is selected, voltage adjust buttons, **102**, **103** are used to manually adjust the voltage (if necessary) that is reaching the device that is being powered by the MPC. A further display control button **105** is provided to select a charging mode, a data transfer/exchange mode, a data delete mode and a display appearance mode. The charging and data modes are described in detail below. The appearance mode allows a user to control the backlighting of the LCD screen **112** so that it can be visible in different environments. A test button **104** is provided to allow a user to determine if all the functions of the MPC are operating correctly as depicted on the LCD screen **112**. A set button **109** is provided to lock the voltage that has been manually selected by a user to charge a targeted mobile device for further charging. The MPC can operate in an automatic mode by depressing an auto function button **107**. This auto function button **107** allows the MPC **10** to automatically detect and provide appropriate charging to the selected output and therefore to the device being charged. The MPC is in effect an AC-DC

5

adapter, a DC-DC adapter, and a USB/Firewire-DC adapter to further transmit and provide user selected power voltage ranging from about 1.9 volts to 24 volts and related watts and amperage to various power chargeable devices. It is also a multi-source internal battery rechargeable charger that can automatically use or select any one or more than one type of simultaneous charging through AC, DC, USB, Firewire, Solar and Handcrank/dynamo through its integrated CPU processor to optimally charge the MPC itself and any device (s) attached to it.

As described below (FIG. 10) the detection of the input source is automatic and governed by processor logic. When an input cable is used to connect either to an AC, DC or USB/Firewire source, the processor senses the type of power it receives and automatically converts that power to the type necessary to charge the portable unit that has been selected by the user based on the plug or bridge selected or by the power requirements of the portable unit that are selected by the user via the control panel.

The LCD buttons or, control panel, with the exception of the flashlight **118** and laser light **116**, are also locked automatically when the hand crank is activated as a power source. This feature prevents an accidental change of voltage during charging operations as the user can potentially use the thumb or other fingers to place on the control panel's button area to hold the MPC when the crank that is located directly below the MPC is activated. In an embodiment, a HOLD button (not illustrated) can be used to manually lock the buttons or control functions to prevent accidental change of voltage or other operational features in other environments. When this is activated, the processor senses this and will not allow a change in operations until that function is released. A compass **115** is also illustrated.

In yet another embodiment, the MPC may use the manual and automatic function in combination to of detecting and charging a target mobile device. In yet another embodiment, the MPC stores and recalls the last voltage selected manually in the manual mode so that a user can easily select this method voltage selection repeatedly without having to specifically select the same voltage that is constantly used. In another embodiment, the MPC's breaching plug's preset voltage limitation output used in the AUTO DETECT mode can be overridden in the manual mode. This allows for the same plug(s) which has a preset voltage limitation in the AUTO DETECT mode to be used for a different voltage selection that a different mobile device may require in the manual mode, thus allowing for a wider use and connectivity of the same plugs. It should also be noted that, since more than one portable unit can be charged at the same time, a user can select either the manual or automatic modes for charging in any combinations various portable devices. Thus, a manual mode may be selected to specify charging characteristics for one unit and an automatic mode can be used to select charging characteristics for the second unit and in any combination, allowing for a more universal type charging of diverse electrical or electronic mobile devices.

Additional buttons PWD **106** and CL **108** are provided. PWD **106** (Power Detect) button is used to instantly check the current level of battery power in the MPC and this is displayed in the capacity meter **114**. The capacity meter operates in a "power-saver" mode so that it does no use electrical energy unnecessarily. The CL **108** (CLEAR) button is used to clear current display of a previously selected voltage setting that might have been made in the MANUAL mode.

The display **112** comprises a number of different areas to allow a user to determine that the MPC is functioning properly. A capacity meter **114** is shown which indicates in a bar

6

graph form the amount of charge that is present in the internal battery of the MPC **10**. Another area depicts how the internal battery of the MPC battery is being charged. For example, icons indicate whether the MPC is being charged from an external source **113C**, from solar energy **113B**, or from hand cranking **113A**. It should be noted again that the internal battery of the MPC can be charged by multiple means simultaneously as controlled by the internal logic without the need for the user to select a particular method of internal charging.

The control panel of the MPC also comprises a button **118** that controls a flashlight (see FIG. 1, **24**) and a button **116** that controls a laser pointer (see FIG. 1, **26**) as desired. The display **112** further comprises an area showing the output voltage to the devices that are to be charged. Voltage A **110** displays the voltage at output A and voltage B **111** displays the voltage at output B. This voltage indication area also provides a flashing indicator when charging an external device that a particular voltage is taking place. It should be noted that these various indications on display screen **112** are not meant as limitations. The purpose of the display screen **112** is to provide a user with a complete indication of the functioning of the MPC at any given point in time.

The MPC can automatically select which way to charge its internal rechargeable battery when either connected to an AC, DC, USB/Firewire, solar or hand crank method of charging its internal battery. This way it is also possible to charge external devices that are connected to the MPC via its output cables or any device that may be present in its side multimedia/solar panel slot. In other words, user selection is not necessary to select a particular source of charging as it is automatic. The external power sources and the two internal power sources like the hand crank dynamo and solar cell panel can produce a charging current through a switching diode and battery charging circuit connected to the internal rechargeable battery in parallel. As such, all of the sources can give the charging current to the battery simultaneously without any manual selection or switching. Additionally, while current is being provided to charge the battery, current may also simultaneously be provided to charge or power a device connected to the MPC output cables from one or more of the external power sources.

FIG. 8A illustrates a block diagram of an auto detect charging connector CPU circuit of the MPC according to an embodiment. Referring to FIGS. 6 and 8, a charging connector **42** comprises a preset resistor **130**. As described below, preset resistor **130** is used by the MPC **10** in an automatic mode to select an output voltage to charge electronic device **132**.

FIG. 8B illustrates a block diagram of an auto detect charging connector CPU circuit of the MPC that utilizes a bridge rectifier according to an embodiment. Referring to FIGS. 6 and 8, a charging connector **42** comprises a preset resistor **130**. As described below, preset resistor **130** is used by the MPC **10** in an automatic mode to select an output voltage to charge electronic device **132**. In this embodiment, bridge rectifier **131** automatically determines the polarity of the voltage required by electronic device **132**.

FIG. 9A illustrates a block diagram of the logical components of an automatic voltage selection circuit according to an embodiment hereof. MPC comprises internal control logic embodied in instructions in the CPU **60**. The CPU **60**, when operating in an automatic mode, receives a signal indicative of the resistance of preset resistor **130** (see FIG. 8, **130**) in charging connector **42** from resistance detector **150**. CPU **60** provides preset voltage control instructions to voltage regulator **155**, which establishes a voltage for electronic device **132**.

FIG. 9B illustrates a block diagram of the logical components of a manual voltage selection circuit according to an embodiment hereof. In this mode, the signal of resistance detector 150 is disregarded by CPU 60. The CPU 60 is responsive to voltage up controller 160 and voltage down controller 165. Once the correct voltage is selected using the up-down controllers, the voltage is set by pressing the "SET" button on the control panel (FIG. 7, 109).

Referring now to FIG. 10, the MPC control logic is illustrated. The MPC, upon being turned on, launches control logic to monitor the status of the MPC. Battery control monitor logic 1000 constantly checks the charge level of the internal battery of the MPC and determines if charging is needed 1002. If no charge is needed, the battery monitor control logic 1000 continues to monitor the charge level of the internal battery.

If it is determined that charging is needed 1002, the controller enters the charge mode 1004 and searches for what sources(s) of energy are available 1006. In an embodiment of the MPC charging sources can be wall current, solar cell, or hand cranked electrical source.

Depending on the source available, the controller conditions the current from the source 1008 and applies a charge to the internal MPC battery 1010. The control logic can accept current from multiple sources simultaneously and condition those sources so that battery charging can continue regardless of the sources from which the energy is coming. During charging, the battery control monitor logic 1000 continues to monitor the internal battery status so that charging continues only when needed.

FIG. 11 illustrates additional circuitry to enable an MPC to perform data management functions according to an embodiment. Microcontroller unit 1100 RAM 1120, CPU 1125, and I/O 1130. Microcontroller unit 1100 is connected to display 1105, which produces a copy mode display 1110 and a delete mode display 1115 in response to a display mode selection switch 1155. Microcontroller unit 1100 routes data to and from external data storage devices 1140 and 1150 and internal data storage device 1145. By way of illustration and not as a limitation, an external data storage device may be a computer, a PDA, an MP3 player, a cell phone, or a flash memory device. The local storage device may be an MP3 player or memory device that is connected to the MPC through connector 28 illustrated in FIG. 5. It should be noted that the MPC can operate as a standalone device for transferring data between other hand held devices such as PDA's, cell phones, iPods and the like that are connected to its various ports. It does not have to be connected to a computer to effect the data transfer/exchange contemplated herein or it can also be connected to a computer to effect the transfer of data between the various devices attached to it and the computer to which it may be connected to.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the present invention may be, without limitation, embodied in other specific forms without departing from the scope of the invention disclosed and that the examples and embodiments described herein are in all respects illustrative and not restrictive. Those skilled in the art of the present invention will recognize that other embodiments using the concepts described herein are also possible. Further, any reference to claim elements in the singular, for example, using the articles "a," "an," or "the" is not to be construed as limiting the element to the singular. Moreover, a reference to a specific time, time interval, and instantiation of scripts or code segments is in all respects illustrative and not limiting.

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-power charger comprising:

an internal battery;
a first input receptacle for connecting to a first external power source;
a first output receptacle for connecting to a first device;
a voltage selection circuit, wherein the voltage selection comprises logic for:
determining a first operating voltage of the first device;
selecting a first power supply source to supply the first operating voltage of the first device, wherein the first power supply source is at least one of the group consisting of the internal battery and the first external power source; and
delivering the first operating voltage to the first output receptacle.

2. The multi-power charger of claim 1, wherein the first external power source is selected from the group consisting of an AC adapter, a computer power supply via a Firewire connection, a computer power supply via a USB connection, a vehicle battery via a power adapter, and an airplane electrical system via a power adapter.

3. The multi-power charger of claim 1, wherein the first device is selected from the group consisting of an PDA, an MP3 player, a GPS device, notebook computer, and a cell phone.

4. The multi-power charger of claim 1 further comprising a second output receptacle for connecting to a second device and wherein the voltage selection further comprises logic for:
determining a second operating voltage of the second device; selecting a second power supply source to supply the second operating voltage of the second device, wherein the second power supply source is at least one of the group consisting of the internal battery and the first external power source; and
delivering the second operating voltage to the second output receptacle while simultaneously delivering the first operating voltage to the first output receptacle.

5. The multi-power charger of claim 4, wherein the first device and the second device are each selected from the group consisting of an PDA, an MP3 player, a GPS device, notebook computer, and a cell phone.

6. The multi-power charger of claim 4, wherein the first external power source is selected from the group consisting of an AC adapter, a computer power supply via a Firewire connection, a computer power supply via a USB connection, a vehicle battery via a power adapter, and an airplane electrical system via a power adapter.

7. The multi-power charger of claim 1 further comprising a second external power source and wherein the voltage selection circuit further comprises logic for:
selecting a first power supply source to supply the first operating voltage of the first device, wherein the first power supply source is selected from the group consisting of the first internal power source, the first external power source, and the second external power source; and
delivering the first operating voltage to the first output receptacle.

8. The multi-power charger of claim 7, wherein the first external power source and the second external power source are each selected from the group consisting of an AC adapter, a computer power supply via a Firewire connection, a computer power supply via a USB connection, a vehicle battery via a power adapter, and an airplane electrical system via a power adapter.

9

9. The multi-power charger of claim 1 further comprising an internal charging circuit, wherein the internal charging circuit comprises logic for:

receiving power from an internal charging source;
receiving power from the first external power source via the first input receptacle;

determining whether the internal battery is discharged;
if the internal battery is discharged, then determining whether the first external power source and the internal charging source are of sufficient capacity to deliver the first operating voltage of the first device and provide power to the internal battery;

if the first external power source and the internal charging source are of sufficient capacity to deliver the first operating voltage of the first device and to provide power to the internal battery, then providing power to the internal battery from at least one of the internal charging source and the first external power source;

determining when the internal battery is fully charged; and
if the internal battery is fully charged, ceasing providing power to the internal battery.

10. The multi-power charger of claim 9, wherein the first internal charging source is selected from the group consisting of a solar panel and a hand-cranked dynamo.

11. The multi-power charger of claim 9, wherein the first external power source is selected from the group consisting of an AC adapter, a computer power supply via a Firewire connection, a computer power supply via a USB connection, a vehicle battery via a power adapter, and an airplane electrical system via a power adapter.

12. The multi-power charger of claim 1 further comprising an internal charging circuit, wherein the internal charging circuit comprises logic for:

receiving power from an internal charging source;
receiving power from the first external power source via the first input receptacle;

receiving power from the second external power source via the second input receptacle;

determining whether the internal battery is discharged;
if the internal battery is discharged, then determining whether the first external power source, the second external power source, and the internal charging source are collectively of sufficient capacity to deliver the first operating voltage of the first device and provide power to the internal battery;

if the first external power source, the second external power source, and the internal charging source are collectively of sufficient capacity to deliver the first operating voltage of the first device and provide power to the internal battery, then providing power to the internal battery from at least one of the internal charging source, the first external power source, and the second external power source;

determining when the internal battery is fully charged; and
if the internal battery is fully charged, ceasing providing power to the internal battery.

13. The multi-power charger of claim 11, wherein the first external power source and the second external power source are each selected from the group consisting of an AC adapter, a computer power supply via a Firewire connection, a computer power supply via a USB connection, a vehicle battery via a power adapter, and an airplane electrical system via a power adapter.

14. The multi-power charger of claim 1, wherein the first device comprises a first device battery, wherein the multi-power charger further comprising an external charging circuit and wherein the external charging circuit comprises logic for:

10

determining whether the first device battery is discharged;
if the first device battery is discharged, then providing power to the first device battery via the first output receptacle;

determining whether the first device battery is fully charged; and

if the first device battery is fully charged, ceasing providing power to the first device battery.

15. The multi-power charger of claim 4, wherein the first device comprises a first device battery and the second device comprises a second device battery, wherein the multi-power charger further comprising an external charging circuit and wherein the external charging circuit comprises logic for:

determining whether the first device battery is discharged;
if the first device battery is discharged, then providing power to the first device battery via the first output receptacle;

determining whether the first device battery is fully charged; and

if the first device battery is fully charged, ceasing providing power to the first device battery;

determining whether the second device battery is discharged;

if the second device battery is discharged, then providing power to the second device battery via the second output receptacle;

determining whether the second device battery is fully charged; and

if the first device battery is fully charged, ceasing providing power to the second device battery.

16. A portable rechargeable device for the charging of other portable rechargeable devices, comprising:

a compartment for an onboard rechargeable battery;
a first power input interface for connecting to a first external power source;

a first power output interface for connecting to another portable rechargeable device;

a first alternate onboard power source;
circuitry for recharging said onboard rechargeable battery from one or more of said first external power source and said first alternate onboard power source;

circuitry for selecting a power source from among two or more active power sources and for providing power from said selected power source to one or more of said rechargeable battery and said first power output interface.

17. A portable rechargeable device according to claim 16, further comprising:

circuitry for automatically detecting whether one or more of said first external power source, and said first alternate onboard power source are an active power source.

18. A portable rechargeable device according to claim 16, further comprising:

a second alternate onboard power source.

19. A portable rechargeable device according to claim 16, further comprising:

circuitry for automatically detecting a highest voltage from among active power sources.

20. A portable rechargeable device according to claim 16, further comprising:

circuitry for automatically providing power from said detected higher voltage power source to said first power output interface for charging another portable rechargeable device.