



Tactile Button Panel for Use with Touch Screens

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The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing an EZ ACCESS touch screen system for people with disabilities.

Overview

Touch screen systems have many advantages, including simplification of the user's task and elimination of a separate keyboard. However, touch screen systems present an insurmountable barrier to many people with disabilities.

The Invention

UW-Madison researchers have developed a touch screen system that attaches a simple button fixture over a portion of the screen. This is important because virtual 'buttons' may be difficult to see or manipulate.

The buttons have clear markings that can be felt by a user. When pressed, the buttons contact the touch screen and the task is performed as usual. The button panel may be mounted permanently or fastened.

Applications

- Cross-disability access to public information and transaction machines

Key Benefits

- Provides a touch screen that is usable by a larger segment of the population, including the vision impaired and individuals who have trouble reading the text messages
- Does not affect the layout and operation of the touch screen for users who are not disabled
- Assistance is provided such that individuals familiar with the general layout of the screen can move rapidly through the system.
- Can be used on any touch screen, including personal computers, ATMs, information kiosks, cell phones, copy machines and fax machines

Additional Information

Related Technologies

- [WARF reference number P95077US provides a touch screen system with audio ridges for the vision impaired.](#)
- [WARF reference number P95259US provides additional information and an access screen that allows more general use by people with different disabilities.](#)

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Tech Fields

- [Information Technology : Computing methods, software & machine learning](#)
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