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Iggulden et al.

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[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING A VIDEO PLAYER TO AUTOMATICALLY LOCATE A SEGMENT OF A RECORDED PROGRAM

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[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).
This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/573,433, Dec. 15, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/304,781, Sep. 12, 1994, Pat. No. 5,696,866, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/177,813, Jan. 4, 1994, Pat. No. 5,692,093, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/002,782, Jan. 8, 1993, Pat. No. 5,333,091, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/103,067, Aug. 6, 1993, Pat. No. 5,455,630.

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[57] ABSTRACT

A video playback device includes video and audio event detectors which detect the presence of events in the video signal as it is played. When the viewer commands the device to skip past a portion of a recorded program, a processor monitors the detected events to locate an event corresponding to the beginning of a next program segment. The device then returns to that location and begins normal play. Alternatively, the viewer may manually terminate the skipping process, at which time the device automatically returns to the location of the most recently detected event.

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14 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

