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Mouse pad

Abstract

A mouse pad can be used together with a computer mouse to improve the controllability of the computer mouse. The mouse pad includes fabric and a rigid layer.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This specification relates to a mouse pad that includes a rigid layer.

BACKGROUND

(2) A computer mouse can be operated by a user to control operations of a computing device, e.g., a desktop computer or a laptop computer. For example, the computer mouse can be a wireless computer mouse that emits wireless signals to control the operations of the computing device. A mouse pad can be used together with the computer mouse to improve the controllability of the computer mouse.

SUMMARY

(3) As described in this disclosure, implementations of a mouse pad include fabric and a rigid layer including a rigid material such as, for example, glass.

(4) Advantages of implementations of the mouse pad described in this disclosure may include those described below and elsewhere in this disclosure. The mouse pad is typically used with a computer mouse that is used to control operations of a computing device and that, in particular, can be used to control the location of a cursor represented on a user interface associated with a computing device and be used to interact with affordances displayed on the user interface.

(5) The mouse pad, by including both the fabric and the rigid layer, has advantages that derive from both of these components. For example, the mouse pad benefits from both the rigidity of the rigid layer and the user comfort provided by the fabric. The rigid layer included as part of the mouse pad provides rigidity to the mouse pad such that the computer mouse can be more easily moved across a surface of the mouse pad. Such rigidity to allows for mouse tracking with improved accuracy and minimal inconsistencies. This can, for example, ensure that movement of the cursor on the user interface more closely corresponds to a user's intent, providing the user with more precise control of the operations of a computing device. The rigidity of the rigid layer also enables rapid mouse movements with minimal user effort, which is beneficial to achieve fast reflexes in certain applications, e.g., electronic gaming (E-sports) applications.

(6) By partially defining the upper surface of the mouse pad, the fabric can provide a comfortable surface for the user to rest their hand or wrist and can provide a less abrasive surface across which the user moves their hand or wrist. The material of the fabric can be selected to generate minimal friction between the computer mouse and the mouse pad so that the user can easily move the computer mouse across the mouse pad and so that the mouse pad does not abrade the user's hand.

As compared to a mouse pad with an upper surface defined entirely by the rigid layer, the fabric can feel more comfortable to a user's hand. The fabric can occupy a majority of the upper surface of the mouse pad and can occupy a central area of the upper surface so that the computer mouse and the user's hand are generally contacting the fabric during operation of the mouse pad.

(7) Both the fabric and the rigid layer can be visible on the upper surface of the mouse pad, and these two components can have visible differences such that a user can immediately recognize that the mouse pad has technical benefits associated with both the use of fabric and the use of a rigid material, as discussed above. Moreover, because multiple materials are visible on the upper surface of the mouse pad, a designer of the mouse pad can select a pattern of how the materials are arranged on the upper surface that is more aesthetically pleasing. Furthermore, with the fabric and the rigid layer being selectively arranged on the upper surface of the mouse pad, a designer can communicate information on the mouse pad in a more aesthetically pleasing and noticeable way by, for example, including information (e.g., instructions for use, a logo, or other communicative information) on only a visible portion of one of the materials, e.g., only a visible portion of the fabric or only a visible portion of the rigid layer. The fabric and the rigid layer additionally can be arranged on the upper surface in a seamless way that can reduce the likelihood of any noticeable tactile changes as the computer mouse is moved from a part of the upper surface of the mouse pad defined by the fabric to another part of the upper surface of the mouse pad defined by the rigid layer.

(8) Advantageously, the described mouse pad maintains the same characteristics throughout its entire surface. Unlike traditional, cloth mouse pads that can wear down or become uneven during use, the described mouse pad generally maintains its surface quality for longer periods, ensuring consistent performance over time.

(9) The details of one or more implementations of the subject matter described in this specification are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other potential features, aspects, and advantages will become apparent from the description, the drawings, and the claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
(1) FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an example of a mouse pad.
(2) FIG. **2** is an illustration of an example of a mouse pad in use with an example of a computer mouse.
(3) FIG. **3** is an exploded, perspective view of an example of a mouse pad.
(4) FIG. **4**A is a top view of an example of a rigid layer.
(5) FIG. **4**B is an exploded, perspective view of the rigid layer of FIG. **4**A.
(6) FIG. **4**C is a side view of a part of the rigid layer of FIG. **4**A.
(7) FIG. **5**A is a top view of an example of a base plate of a rigid layer.
(8) FIG. **5**B is a perspective view of the base plate of FIG. **5**A.
(9) FIG. **5**C is a side view of a part of the base plate of FIG. **5**A.
(10) FIG. **6**A is a top view of an example of a protrusion of a rigid layer.
(11) FIG. **6**B is a top view of another example of a protrusion of a rigid layer.
(12) FIG. **6**C is a perspective view of the protrusion of FIG. **6**B.
(13) FIG. **6**D is a side view of the protrusion of FIG. **6**B.
(14) FIG. **7**A is a top view of an example of fabric.
(15) FIG. **7**B is a perspective top view of the fabric of FIG. **7**A.
(16) FIG. **7**C is a bottom view of the fabric of FIG. **7**A.
(17) FIG. **7**D is a perspective bottom view of the fabric of FIG. **7**A.
(18) FIG. **7**E is a bottom view of fabric and a rigid layer.

(19) FIG. **8** is a bottom view of an example of a lower portion of a mouse pad.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(20) The present disclosure describes implementations of a mouse pad that can be used together with a computer mouse or another device for providing user inputs to a computing device. A mouse pad is usually used to assist a user during operation of the computer mouse. By moving the computer mouse over the mouse pad, the user can move a cursor on a display of the computing device and sense a cursor displacement on the display. A suitable mouse pad is therefore critical for precise control of the operations of the computing device.

(21) Generally, the smoother the surface of the mouse pad, the smoother the movement of the computer mouse, and in turn, the more accurate the control of the cursor on the display. A smooth, hard, and rigid mouse pad can facilitate movement of the computer mouse over the mouse pad, allowing the user to more smoothly move the computer mouse across the mouse pad, to thereby more accurately control the movement of the cursor on the display. The smooth, hard, and rigid mouse pad can be particularly advantageous for use together with a computer mouse during electronic gaming, where timely and precise user responses over prolonged periods of play can improve performance in an electronic game.

(22) FIG. **1** is an illustration of an example of a mouse pad **100**. The mouse pad **100** includes fabric **110** and a rigid layer **120** that collectively define an upper surface **104** of the mouse pad **100**. In use, a computer mouse can be placed in contact with and can move across the upper surface **104**. In particular, the computer mouse can come in contact with both the fabric **110** and the rigid layer **120**. In the example of FIG. **1**, the mouse pad **100** has a rectangular shape, although this may vary in implementations. For example, in some implementations, the mouse pad **100** can have a circular shape, an oval shape, a polygonal shape (e.g., square), or any other shape with a substantially flat upper surface.

(23) The fabric **110** partially covers an upper surface of the rigid layer **120**. That is, the fabric **110** only covers a portion of the upper surface of the rigid layer **120**. Since only a portion of the rigid layer **120** is covered by the fabric **110**, the rigid layer **120** included in the mouse pad **100** is at least partially exposed. That is, the rigid layer **120** includes one or more exposed surfaces, e.g., exposed surfaces **121-124**, that are not covered by the fabric **110**.

(24) In the example of FIG. **1**, the rigid layer **120** has four corners, and the four corners of the rigid layer **120** define the exposed surfaces, e.g., exposed surfaces **121-124**, of the rigid layer **120** that are not covered by the fabric **110** and that partially define the upper surface **104** of the mouse pad **100**. When viewed from above, i.e., viewed along an upper portion of the mouse pad **100**, both the fabric **110** and the rigid layer **120** included in the mouse pad **100** are at least partially visible.

(25) The mouse pad **100** also includes a lower portion **130** that is arranged below the fabric **110** and below the rigid layer **120**. The lower portion **130** has an upper surface that is in contact with the fabric **110**, the rigid layer **120**, or both. The lower portion **130** also has a lower surface that defines a grip surface **108** of the mouse pad **100**. The grip surface **108** provides anti-slip properties for the mouse pad **100**—when being placed on top of and in contact with a desktop or another flat surface, the lower portion **130** increases a frictional resistance to desktop to substantially prohibit slippage in the horizontal direction, such that the mouse pad **100** can be held stationary on the desktop.

(26) FIG. **2** is an illustration of an example of a mouse pad **200** and an example of a computer mouse **250**. For example, the mouse pad **200** can be the same as the mouse pad **100** of FIG. **1**, while the computer mouse **250** can be one of the example computer mouses described in U.S. Pat. No. 11,625,109, entitled "computer mouse," although in implementations the computer mouse **250** can be any computer mouse, e.g., any wired or wireless computer mouse. In use, the computer mouse can be used to permit user control of a cursor on a display of a computing device.

(27) The mouse pad **200** allows a user to more smoothly move the computer mouse **250**, to thereby more accurately control the operations of the computing device by more precisely moving a cursor on the display of the computing device. Examples of the computing device include a personal

computer, a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a tablet computer, to name just a few. For example, when used together with the mouse pad **200**, the computer mouse **250** can produce control signals used to perform any of a variety of operations including, e.g., cursor movement, single click, double click, left click, and right click operations, on the computing device.

(28) FIG. **3** is an exploded, perspective view of an example of a mouse pad **300**. For example, the mouse pad **300** can be the same as the mouse pad **100** of FIG. **1**. The mouse pad **300** includes fabric **310**, a rigid layer **320**, and a lower portion **330**.

(29) The fabric **310** is opaque. The fabric **310** can be made of any fabric which may be produced by weaving, plain weaving, or knitting. Examples of fabric include polyester, cotton, wool, silk, rayon, linen, nylon, and blends thereof.

(30) The rigid layer **320** is translucent and, in some implementations, transparent. The shape of the rigid layer **320** generally defines the shape of the mouse pad **300**. For example, in FIG. **3**, because the rigid layer **320** has a rectangular shape, the mouse pad **300** also has a rectangular shape.

(31) The fabric **310** includes an upper portion and a lower portion, as described in detail with respect to FIGS. **7**A-E. The rigid layer **320** includes an upper surface, a lower surface, and one or more lateral surfaces around a perimeter of the rigid layer **320**, as described in detail with respect to FIGS. **4**A-C.

(32) In some implementations, the rigid layer **320** is partially covered (e.g., wrapped) by the fabric **310**. In addition, the rigid layer **320** includes one or more exposed surfaces that are not covered by the fabric **310**. The one or more exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320** that are not covered by the fabric **310** include one or more first exposed surfaces, e.g., first exposed surface **322**, that are on the upper surface of the rigid layer **320** and that are visible along an upper portion of the mouse pad **300**. When viewed from above, both the upper portion of the fabric **310** and the one or more first exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320** are visible, e.g., as shown in the example of FIG. **1**.

(33) The mouse pad **300** includes an upper surface **304** which is collectively defined by the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320**—with the upper portion of the fabric **310** partially defining the upper surface **304** of the mouse pad **300**, and one or more first exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320** partially defining the upper surface **304** of the mouse pad **300**.

(34) In the example of FIG. **3**, the rigid layer has a total of four first exposed surfaces. Each of the four first exposed surfaces is positioned at a corresponding corner portion of the **4** corner portions of the mouse pad **300**. However, this may vary in implementations of the mouse pad **300**. For example, in some implementations, the rigid layer has only a single first exposed surface. This first exposed surface, in some implementations, is positioned at one of the **4** corner portions of the mouse pad **300**. Alternatively, this first exposed surface is positioned in an interior portion of the upper surface of the mouse pad **300** or a central area of the upper surface of the mouse pad **300**. As another example, in some implementations, the rigid layer has two first exposed surfaces that are positioned at two of the four corner portions of the mouse pad **300**.

(35) As illustrated in FIG. **3**, in some implementations, the first exposed surface **322** can have a rectangular shape with four edges when viewed in the vertical direction. In these implementations, the first exposed surface **322** has a first edge **331** that at least partially defines an outer perimeter of the upper surface of the mouse pad. The first exposed surface also has a second edge **332** that extends along a perimeter of the upper portion of the fabric **310**. The first edge **331** and the second edge **332** are perpendicular to one another. In this manner, the first edge **331** and the second edge **332** at least partially defines the rectangular shape of the first exposed surface **322**. In some implementations, the first exposed surface **322** has a curved edge (e.g., a fillet) connecting the first edge **331** and the second edge **332**.

(36) Moreover, the one or more exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320** that are not covered by the fabric **310** include one or more second exposed surfaces, e.g., second exposed surface **324**, that are on the lower surface of the rigid layer **320** and that are visible along a lower portion of the mouse pad **300**. When viewed from bottom, at least the one or more second exposed surfaces of the rigid

layer **320** are visible (the lower portion of the fabric **310** may not be visible because it is obstructed by the lower portion **330**).

(37) Much like the first exposed surfaces, in various implementations, the rigid layer can have a total of four or fewer second exposed surfaces, e.g., three second exposed surfaces or two second exposed surfaces. In some implementations, the second exposed surface **332** can have a rectangular shape with four edges when viewed in the vertical direction. These four edges can, in some implementations, be interconnected by one or more curved edges (e.g., fillets).

(38) In some implementations, the one or more first exposed surfaces and the one or more second exposed surfaces are aligned in the vertical direction, i.e., aligned along a height of the rigid layer **320**. For example, the exposed surface **322** and the exposed surface **324** can occupy the same region of the rigid layer **320** on opposite surfaces, i.e., the upper and lower surfaces, respectively, of the rigid layer **320**. In some implementations, the one or more first exposed surfaces can have an identical shape, size, or both. In some implementations, the one or more second exposed surfaces can have an identical shape, size, or both. In some implementations, each of the one or more first exposed surfaces can have an identical shape, size, or both as each of the one or more second exposed surfaces.

(39) In some implementations, the first exposed surface **322** has a length between 10 and 60 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 60 millimeters, between 20 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, about 35 millimeters, etc.) along a longitudinal dimension (length) of the mouse pad **300**.

(40) In some implementations, the first exposed surface **322** has a length between 10 and 40 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 30 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, between 20 and 30 millimeters, about 20 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, etc.) along a latitudinal dimension (width) of the mouse pad **300**.

(41) In implementations where the one or more first exposed surfaces and the one or more second exposed surfaces are aligned in the vertical direction, the second exposed surface **324** similarly has a length between 10 and 60 millimeters along the longitudinal dimension (length) of the mouse pad **300**, and a length between 10 and 40 millimeters along the latitudinal dimension (width) of the mouse pad **300**.

(42) The upper portion of the fabric **310** extends along a portion of the upper surface of the rigid layer **320**. The upper portion of the fabric **310** does not extend along the entirety of the upper surface of the rigid layer **320**, e.g., it does not extend into the one or more first exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320**. The lower portion of the fabric **310** extends along a portion of the lower surface of the rigid layer **320**. The lower portion of the fabric **310** does not extend along the entirety of the lower surface of the rigid layer **320**, e.g., it does not extend into the one or more second exposed surfaces of the rigid layer **320**. In this manner, the fabric **310** partially covers (e.g., wraps around) the rigid layer **320**.

(43) The fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** are secured to one another. An adhesive can be applied to at least part of the fabric **310**, the rigid layer **320**, or both to aid in securing the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** together. For example, the adhesive can be a solid adhesive, e.g., a pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) (e.g., an optical clear adhesive (OCA)), an epoxy adhesive, or an acrylic adhesive, or a liquid adhesive, e.g., an epoxy or urethane resin.

(44) The lower portion **330** is opaque. The lower portion **330** can be made of a rubber material, a silicone material, a resin material, or another elastic material. For example, the lower portion **330** can include a single rubber layer that is formed by molding or multiple rubber layers that are formed by laminating.

(45) The lower portion **330** is arranged below the fabric **310** and below the rigid layer **320**. The lower portion **330** has an upper surface that faces toward the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320**. Similarly, an adhesive can be applied to at least part of the upper surface of the lower portion **330** to aid in adhering the lower portion **330** to the fabric **310**, the rigid layer **320**, or both. The lower

portion **330** has a lower surface that faces away from the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** and that defines a grip surface **308** of the mouse pad **100**. When the mouse pad **300** is placed on top of a working surface (e.g., a surface of a desk or a table) the grip surface **308** comes in contact with the working surface and reduces relative movement between the mouse pad **300** and the working surface.

(46) Generally, the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** are situated on the lower portion **330**, such that at least a portion of the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** overlaps at least a portion of the lower portion **330**. The portion of the fabric **310** and the rigid layer **320** that overlaps the portion of the lower portion **330** may include the part of the upper surface of the lower portion **330** to which adhesive was applied.

(47) FIG. **4**A is a top view of an example of a rigid layer **420**. For example, the rigid layer **420** can be the same as the rigid layer **120** of FIG. **1**. In FIG. **4**A, the rigid layer **420** has a rectangular shape with four rounded corners when viewed in the vertical direction.

(48) In implementations, the rigid layer **420** includes a base plate **421** and one or more protrusions. In the example shown in FIG. **4**A, the rigid layer **420** includes four protrusions **422**A, **422**B, **422**C, and **422**D on the base plate **421**.

(49) The base plate **421** is translucent and, in some implementations, transparent. The base plate **421** can include glass. Hence it may also be referred to as a glass plate. In some implementations, the base plate **421** is made of or includes a glass material. For example, the base plate **421** can be made of a sapphire glass, crystal glass, tempered glass, or other glass material that is translucent, e.g., transparent. In some implementations, the base plate **421** is made of a composite material that is translucent, e.g., transparent. For example, the base plate **421** can be made of a fiberglass material that includes glass fibers and a resin binder that holds the individual glass fibers together. In other implementations, the base plate includes another rigid material besides glass, such as metal, wood, a hard plastic, or other rigid material.

(50) The one or more protrusions are translucent and, in some implementations, transparent. In some implementations, the one or more protrusions are made of different translucent, e.g., transparent material than the base plate. For example, the one or more protrusions can be made of a polymer material (e.g., polycarbonate, plastic (e.g., acrylic), polyethylene terephthalate, or other appropriate polymer material that can be translucent or transparent. In some implementations, the one or more protrusions are made of the same glass material that is included in the base plate.

(51) The base plate **421** has a rectangular shape when viewed in the vertical direction. The one or more protrusions are located around a perimeter of the base plate **421**, e.g., at the corner portions of the base plate **421**. Each protrusion **422**A-D also has a rectangular shape when viewed in the vertical direction. In some implementations, the one or more protrusions can have an identical shape, size, or both.

(52) The rigid layer **420** can have a width between 100 and 600 millimeters (e.g., between 100 and 500 millimeters, between 200 and 500 millimeters, between 300 and 600 millimeters, between 300 and 500 millimeters, between 350 and 500 millimeters, at least 300 millimeters, at least 350 millimeters, at least 400 millimeters, about 370 millimeters, about 420 millimeters, etc.), a length between 100 and 800 millimeters (e.g., between 100 and 700 millimeters, between 200 and 700 millimeters, between 200 and 600 millimeters, between 300 and 600 millimeters, between 400 and 600 millimeters, between 400 and 500 millimeters, at least 400 millimeters, at least 450 millimeters, about 430 millimeters, about 490 millimeters, etc.).

(53) The width of the rigid layer **420** refers to a dimension of the rigid layer **420** along a latitudinal dimension of the mouse pad. The length of the rigid layer **420** refers to a dimension of the rigid layer **420** along a longitudinal dimension of the mouse pad.

(54) Each rounded corner of the rigid layer **420** can have a radius of curvature between 1.0 and 6.0 millimeters (e.g., between 1.0 and 5.0 millimeters, between 1.0 and 4.0 millimeters, between 2.0 and 3.0 millimeters, about 3.0 millimeters, about 2.75 millimeters, etc.).

(55) FIG. **4**B is an exploded, perspective view of the rigid layer **420** of FIG. **4**A. The rigid layer **420** includes a base plate **421**. The base plate **421** includes an upper surface **423** and a lower surface **424**. The upper surface **423** and the lower surface **424** of the base plate **421** are substantially planar and parallel to each other. The one or more protrusions, e.g., protrusions **422**A, **422**B, **422**C, and **422**D, of the rigid layer **420** extend upwardly from the upper surface **423** of the base plate **421**, i.e., extend away from the lower surface **424** of the base plate **421**.

(56) In some implementations, the one or more protrusions are affixed to the upper surface **423** of the base plate **421**. For example, the base plate and each of the one or more protrusions can be manufactured as individual parts, and then the one or more protrusions are affixed to the upper surface of the base plate with use of adhesive, which can be any one of the adhesives mentioned above. In other implementations, the one or more protrusions are integral to the base plate **421**. For example, the base plate and the one or more protrusions can be manufactured altogether in one manufacturing process like casting.

(57) FIG. **4**C is a side view of a part of the rigid layer **420** of FIG. **4**A. In the example of FIG. **4**C, the base plate **421** has a curved edge along its perimeter when viewed in the horizontal direction. In other examples, however, the base plate **421** can have an edge with a different shape, e.g., a vertical edge, along its perimeter when viewed in the horizontal direction.

(58) The base plate **421** of the rigid layer **420** can have a thickness (or height) between 1 millimeter and 10 millimeters (e.g., between 1 and 8 millimeters, between 1 and 7 millimeters, between 1 and 5 millimeters, between 1 and 3 millimeters, about 2 millimeters, about 3 millimeters, about 5 millimeters, about 7 millimeters, about 10 millimeters, etc.).

(59) The protrusion **422**A of the rigid layer **420** can have a rectangular shape when viewed in the horizontal direction. The vertical edge of the protrusion **422**A aligns with the edge of the base plate **421**. For example, FIG. **4**C, the vertical edge of the protrusion **422**A aligns with the tangent of the corner break on the base plate **421**.

(60) The protrusion **422**A can have a thickness (or height) between 0.1 millimeters and 2 millimeters (e.g., between 0.1 millimeters and 1.5 millimeters, between 0.1 millimeters and 1 millimeter, between 0.2 and 1 millimeter, between 0.2 and 0.6 millimeter, about 0.2 millimeters, about 0.3 millimeters, about 0.5 millimeters, about 0.7 millimeters, about 1 millimeter, etc.).

(61) Therefore, the rigid layer **420** can have an overall thickness (or height) between 1.1 millimeters and 12 millimeters, e.g., about 3.5 millimeters, about 5 millimeters, about 6.5 millimeters, etc. Generally, however, the protrusion **422**A is thinner than the base plate **421**. For example, the thickness of protrusion **422**A relative to the base plate **421** is less than 80%, 60%, 40%, 20%, or less, of the thickness of the base plate **421** of the rigid layer **420**.

(62) FIG. **5**A is a top view of an example of a base plate **521**. FIG. **5**B is a perspective view of the base plate **521** of FIG. **5**A. FIG. **5**C is a side view of a part of the base plate **521** of FIG. **5**A. For example, the base plate **521** can be the same as the base plate **421** of FIG. **4**A. In FIG. **5**A, the base plate **521** has a rectangular shape with four rounded corners when viewed in the vertical direction. The base plate **521** can have a width between 100 and 600 millimeters (e.g., between 100 and 500 millimeters, between 200 and 500 millimeters, between 300 and 600 millimeters, between 300 and 500 millimeters, between 350 and 500 millimeters, at least 300 millimeters, at least 350 millimeters, at least 400 millimeters, about 370 millimeters, about 420 millimeters, etc.), a length between 100 and 800 millimeters (e.g., between 100 and 700 millimeters, between 200 and 700 millimeters, between 200 and 600 millimeters, between 300 and 600 millimeters, between 400 and 600 millimeters, between 400 and 500 millimeters, at least 400 millimeters, at least 450 millimeters, about 430 millimeters, about 490 millimeters, etc.).

(63) In some implementations, as illustrated in FIG. **5**A, the base plate **521** can have graphics and/or text **531** etched, printed, or otherwise decorated on the upper surface of the base plate **521**. Analogously, the base plate **521** can have graphics and/or text **531** etched, printed, or otherwise decorated on the lower surface of the base plate **521**. For example, the graphics and/or text **531** can

represent an iconography. As used herein, an "iconography" refers to visual images, symbols, illustrations, pictorial material, artwork or modes of representation collectively associated with a particular person, group, entity or subject matter. Examples of iconography include logos, trademarks, service mark, to name just a few.

(64) FIG. **6**A is a top view of an example of a protrusion **622**A. For example, the protrusion **622**A can be the same as one of the protrusions, e.g., the protrusion **422**A or the protrusion **422**C, of FIG. **4**A. The protrusion **622**A has a rectangular shape with four corners when viewed in the vertical direction. In some implementations, all of the four corners are rounded. In some implementations, some of the four corners are rounded. For example, in FIG. **6**A, the top left corner and its diametrically opposite corner (the bottom right corner) are rounded. In some implementations, none of the four corners is rounded.

(65) Each rounded corner of the protrusion **622**A can have a radius of curvature between 1.0 and 6.0 millimeters (e.g., between 1.0 and 5.0 millimeters, between 1.0 and 4.0 millimeters, between 2.0 and 3.0 millimeters, about 3.0 millimeters, about 2.62 millimeters, about 2.75 millimeters, etc.). In some implementations, all rounded corners of the protrusion **622**A have the same radius of curvature while in other implementations, a rounded corner of the protrusion **622**A has a different radius of curvature than another rounded corner of the protrusion **622**A.

(66) The protrusion **622**A can have a width between 10 and 40 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 30 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, between 20 and 30 millimeters, about 20 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, etc.), a length between 10 and 60 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 60 millimeters, between 20 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, about 35 millimeters, etc.).

(67) The width of the protrusion **622**A refers to a dimension of the protrusion **622**A along a latitudinal dimension of the mouse pad. The length of the protrusion **622**A refers to a dimension of the protrusion **622**A along a longitudinal dimension of the mouse pad. In some implementations, the length of the protrusion **622**A is greater than the width of the protrusion **622**A.

(68) FIG. **6**B is a top view of an example of a protrusion **622**B. For example, the protrusion **622**B can be the same as one of the protrusions, e.g., the protrusion **422**B or the protrusion **422**D, of FIG. **4**A. The protrusion **622**B has a rectangular shape with four corners when viewed in the vertical direction. In some implementations, all of the four corners are rounded. In some implementations, some of the four corners are rounded. For example, in FIG. **6**B, the top right corner and its diametrically opposite corner (the bottom left corner) are rounded. In some implementations, none of the four corners is rounded.

(69) Each rounded corner of the protrusion **622**B can have a radius of curvature between 1.0 and 6.0 millimeters (e.g., between 1.0 and 5.0 millimeters, between 1.0 and 4.0 millimeters, between 2.0 and 3.0 millimeters, about 3.0 millimeters, about 2.62 millimeters, about 2.75 millimeters, etc.). In some implementations, all rounded corners of the protrusion **622**B have the same radius of curvature while in other implementations, a rounded corner of the protrusion **622**B has a different radius of curvature than another rounded corner of the protrusion **622**B.

(70) The protrusion **622**B can have a width between 10 and 40 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 30 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, between 20 and 30 millimeters, about 20 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, etc.), a length between 10 and 60 millimeters (e.g., between 10 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 60 millimeters, between 20 and 50 millimeters, between 20 and 40 millimeters, about 25 millimeters, about 30 millimeters, about 35 millimeters, etc.).

(71) FIG. **6**C is a perspective view of the protrusion **622**B of FIG. **6**B. FIG. **6**D is a side view of the protrusion **622**B of FIG. **6**B. The protrusion **622**B includes an upper surface **631**, a lower surface **632**, and four lateral surfaces **632**, **633**, **634**, and **635** around a perimeter of the protrusion **622**B. The length of the lateral surface **633** can define the width of the protrusion **622**B, while the length

of the lateral surface **634** can define the length of the protrusion **622**B.

(72) The upper surface **631** and the lower surface **632** of the protrusion **622**B are substantially planar and parallel to each other. The upper surface **631** of the protrusion **622**B faces away from the base plate of the rigid layer. The lower surface **632** of the protrusion **622**B faces toward the base plate of the rigid layer. For example, when manufactured as individual parts, adhesive can be applied on the lower surface **632** of the protrusion **622**B to affix the protrusion **622**B to the upper surface of the base plate.

(73) The upper surface **631** of the protrusion **622**B generally defines a first exposed surface of the rigid layer that is visible along an upper portion of the mouse pad. In some implementations, the upper surface **631** of the protrusion **622**B can define the entirety of one of the first exposed surfaces of the rigid layer. For example, the upper surface **631** can define the entirety of the first exposed surface **322** of FIG. **3**. In this example, the lateral surface **634** can define the first edge **331** of the first exposed surface **322**, while the lateral surface **636** can define the second edge **332** of the first exposed surface **322**. In this manner, assuming the rigid base layer has a total of four protrusions, a total area of the one or more first exposed surfaces is less than 10%, 8%, 6%, 4%, 2%, 1%, or less, of a total area of the upper surface of the mouse pad.

(74) The lower surface **632** of the protrusion **622**B generally defines a second exposed surface of the rigid layer that is visible along a lower portion of the mouse pad. In some implementations, the lower surface **632** of the protrusion **622**B can define the entirety of one of the second exposed surfaces, e.g., second exposed surface **324** of FIG. **3**, of the rigid layer.

(75) FIG. **7**A is a top view of an example of fabric **710**. FIG. **7**B is a perspective top view of the fabric of FIG. **7**A. For example, the fabric **710** can be the same as the fabric **110** of FIG. **1**. The fabric **710** includes an upper portion **720**. In some implementations, the fabric **710** has consistent thickness throughout the upper portion **720**. In some implementations, the thickness of the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** is about equal to the thickness (or height) of the one or more protrusions, e.g., protrusions **622**A of FIG. **6**A, of the rigid layer.

(76) Because the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** extends along a portion of the upper surface of the rigid layer, and the one or more protrusions extend upwardly from the upper surface of the base plate of the rigid layer, having about equal thickness can ensure that the upper surface of the mouse pad is substantially planar, and that there is no or minimal difference in height across the upper surface. This in turn facilitates a smoother movement of a computer mouse across the mouse pad.

(77) In FIG. **7**A, the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** includes a first edge **721**, a second edge **722**, a third edge **723**, and a fourth edge **724**. The first edge **721** and the second edge **722** are parallel to one another. The first edge **721** (and, analogously, the second edge **722**) can have a length that is less than the length of the rigid layer. The third edge **723** and the fourth edge **724** are parallel to one another. The third edge **723** (and, analogously, the fourth edge **724**) can have a length that is less than the width of the rigid layer. The first edge **721** and the third edge **723** are perpendicular to one another. The second edge **722** and the fourth edge **724** are perpendicular to one another. The first **721**, second **722**, third **723**, and fourth **724** edges at least partially define a rectangular shape. In this manner, the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** has a rectangular shape when viewed from above.

(78) The upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** defines a plurality of cutouts at the four corners of the rectangular shape. The plurality of cutouts allow the first exposed surfaces of the rigid layer to be visible when viewed from above. In FIG. **7**A, the upper portion **720** includes a first cutout **731** at the corner defined by the first edge **721** and the fourth edge **724**, a second cutout **732** at the corner defined by the fourth edge **724** and the second edge **722**, a third cutout **733** at the corner defined by the second edge **722** and the third edge **723**, and a fourth cutout **734** at the corner defined by the first edge **721** and the third edge **723**.

(79) In some implementations, the cutouts **731**, **732**, **733**, and **734** have an identical shape, size, or both. In some implementations, each cutout has about identical shape, size, or both as one of the

protrusions of the rigid layer. For example, when viewed in the vertical direction, each cutout can have a rectangular shape that generally match the rectangular shape of a protrusion. Thus, for example, each cutout can have a width between 10 and 40 millimeters, and a length between 10 and 60 millimeters.

(80) FIG. 7C is a bottom view of the fabric **710** of FIG. **7**A. FIG. **7**D is a perspective bottom view of the fabric **710** of FIG. **7**A. For example, the fabric **710** can be the same as the fabric **110** of FIG. **1**. The fabric **710** includes a lower portion **730**. In some implementations, the fabric **710** has consistent thickness throughout the lower portion **730**. In some implementations, the thickness of the lower portion **730** of the fabric **710** is about equal to the thickness of the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710**.

(81) The lower portion **730** of the fabric **710** extends along a portion of the lower surface of the rigid layer. The lower portion **730** of the fabric **710** includes a plurality of flaps connected to the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** by respective side portions **761**, **762**, **763**, **764** of the fabric **720**. Each side portion of the fabric **710** extends along a corresponding one of the four lateral surfaces of the rigid layer.

(82) The plurality of flaps can each be folded inwardly, i.e., away from the upper portion **720**, to partially cover the lower surface of the rigid layer. For example, an adhesive can be applied to an inner surface of each of the plurality of flaps to aid in adhering the fabric **710** and the rigid layer together.

(83) In FIG. **7**C, the lower portion **730** includes a first flap **741** connected to the upper portion **720** by a side portion **761** of the fabric **710** that extends along a lateral surface of the rigid layer that is in parallel with the first edge **721**, a second flap **742** connected to the upper portion **720** by a side portion **762** of the fabric **710** that extends along a lateral surface of the rigid layer that is in parallel with the second edge **722**, a third flap **743** connected to the upper portion **720** by a side portion **763** of the fabric **710** that extends along a lateral surface of the rigid layer that is in parallel with the third edge **723**, and a fourth flap **744** connected to the upper portion **720** by a side portion **764** of the fabric **710** that extends along a lateral surface of the rigid layer that is in parallel with the fourth edge **724**. In this manner, the first flap **741** and the second flap **742** extends along the longitudinal edges (first edge **721** and second edge **722**, respectively) of the rigid layer, while the third flap **743** and the fourth flap **744** extends along the latitudinal edges (third edge **723** and fourth edge **724**, respectively) of the rigid layer.

(84) Much like the upper portion **720**, the lower portion **730** defines a plurality of cutouts. The plurality of cutouts allow the second exposed surfaces of the rigid layer to be visible when viewed from bottom. In FIG. **7**C, the lower portion **730** includes a first cutout **751** at the corner defined by the first flap **741** and the fourth flap **744**, a second cutout **752** at the corner defined by the fourth flap **744** and the second flap **742**, a third cutout **753** at the corner defined by the second flap **742** and the third flap **743**, and a fourth cutout **754** at the corner defined by the first flap **741** and the third flap **743**.

(85) In some implementations, the plurality of flaps are spaced apart from one another along the lower surface of the rigid layer. In some implementations, the plurality of flaps have an identical shape. In some implementations, the plurality of flaps include a flap that has a triangular shape, where the edge of the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** defines a base of the triangular shape. In some implementations, the plurality of flaps include a flap that has a trapezoidal shape, where the edge of the upper portion **720** of the fabric **710** defines a base of the trapezoidal shape. For example, in FIG. **7**C, each flap has an isosceles trapezoidal shape narrowing toward the center of the fabric **710**.

(86) FIG. **7**E is a bottom view of fabric **710** and a rigid layer **760**. For example, the fabric **710** can be the same as the fabric **110** of FIG. **1**, and the rigid layer **760** can be the same as the rigid layer **120** of FIG. **1**. The bottom view of the fabric **710** and the rigid layer **760** is shown with the lower portion of the mouse pad removed to expose the underlying portion of the fabric **710** and the rigid

layer **760** that overlaps the lower portion of the mouse pad. As shown, the plurality of flaps **741**, **742**, **743**, and **744** included in the lower portion **730** of the fabric **710** folds inwardly, i.e., away from the upper portion of the fabric, to partially cover the lower surface of the rigid layer **760** that faces toward the lower portion of the mouse pad. In this manner, the fabric **710** partially covers (e.g., wraps around) the rigid layer **760**.

(87) FIG. **8** is a bottom view of an example of a lower portion **830** of a mousepad. For example, the lower portion **830** can be the same as the lower portion **130** of FIG. **1**. In some implementations, the lower portion **830** is thinner than the base plate of the rigid layer. For example, the thickness of the lower portion **830** can be no greater than 80%, 60%, 50%, or less of the thickness of the base plate of the rigid layer.

(88) Much like the upper portion of the fabric, when viewed in the vertical direction, the lower portion **830** of the mousepad has a rectangular shape with a plurality of cutouts at corners of the rectangular shape. The plurality of cutouts (together with the plurality of cutouts of the lower portion **730** of the fabric **730**) allow the second exposed surfaces of the rigid layer to be visible when viewed from bottom.

(89) In FIG. **8**, the lower portion **830** of the mousepad includes a first edge **821**, a second edge **822**, a third edge **823**, and a fourth edge **824**. The first edge **821** and the second edge **822** are parallel to one another. The first edge **821** (and, analogously, the second edge **822**) can have a length that is less than the length of the rigid layer. The third edge **823** and the fourth edge **824** are parallel to one another. The third edge **823** (and, analogously, the fourth edge **824**) can have a length that is less than the width of the rigid layer. The first edge **821** and the third edge **823** are perpendicular to one another. The second edge **822** and the fourth edge **824** are perpendicular to one another. The first **821**, second **822**, third **823**, and fourth **824** edges at least partially define a rectangular shape. In this manner, the lower portion **830** has a rectangular shape when viewed in the vertical direction.

(90) The lower portion **830** of the mousepad defines a plurality of cutouts at the four corners of the rectangular shape. In FIG. **8**, the lower portion **830** includes a first cutout **831** at the corner defined by the first edge **721** and the fourth edge **824**, a second cutout **832** at the corner defined by the fourth edge **824** and the second edge **822**, a third cutout **833** at the corner defined by the second edge **822** and the third edge **823**, and a fourth cutout **834** at the corner defined by the first edge **821** and the third edge **823**.

(91) In some implementations, the cutouts **831**, **832**, **833**, and **834** have an identical shape, size, or both. In some implementations, each cutout has about identical shape, size, or both as one of the protrusions of the rigid layer. For example, when viewed in the vertical direction, each cutout can have a rectangular shape that generally match the rectangular shape of a protrusion. Thus, for example, each cutout can have a width between 10 and 40 millimeters, and a length between 10 and 60 millimeters.

(92) In some implementations, the corner of the cutout is rounded. The rounded corner of the cutout can have a radius of curvature between 1.0 and 6.0 millimeters (e.g., between 1.0 and 5.0 millimeters, between 1.0 and 4.0 millimeters, between 2.0 and 3.0 millimeters, about 3.0 millimeters, about 2.62 millimeters, about 2.75 millimeters, etc.). In some implementations, the rounded corners of the cutouts have the same radius of curvature while in other implementations, a rounded corner of a cutout has a different radius of curvature than a rounded corner of another cutout.

(93) A number of implementations have been described. While this specification contains many specific implementation details, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of what is being claimed, which is defined by the claims themselves, but rather as descriptions of features that may be specific to particular implementations of particular inventions. It will be understood that various modifications may be made.

(94) Computers (e.g., the computing device to which the computer mouse is connected) suitable for the execution of a computer program can be based on general or special-purpose microprocessors

or both, or any other kind of central processing unit. Generally, a central processing unit will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a central processing unit for executing instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data. The central processing unit and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special-purpose logic circuitry.

(95) Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to, one or more mass storage devices, and be configured to receive data from or transfer data to the mass storage devices. The mass storage devices can be, for example, magnetic, magneto-optical, or optical disks, or solid state drives. However, a computer need not have such devices. Moreover, a computer can be embedded in another device, e.g., a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile audio or video player, a game console, a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, or a portable storage device, e.g., a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive, to name just a few.

(96) To provide for interaction with a user, the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented on one or more computers having, or configured to communicate with, a display device (e.g., that displays the cursor controllable by the computer mouse), e.g., a LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor, or a virtual-reality (VR) or augmented-reality (AR) display, for displaying information to the user, and an input device by which the user can provide input to the computer, e.g., a keyboard and a pointing device, e.g., a mouse, a trackball, a touchpad, and examples of the computer mouse **250** described in this disclosure.

(97) Certain features that are described in this specification in the context of separate implementations can also be implemented in combination in a single implementation. Conversely, various features that are described in the context of a single implementation can also be implemented in multiple implementations separately or in any suitable subcombination. Moreover, although features may be described above as acting in certain combinations and even initially be claimed as such, one or more features from a claimed combination can in some cases be excised from the combination, and the claim may be directed to a subcombination or variation of a subcombination.

(98) Accordingly, other implementations are within the scope of the claims.

Claims

1. A mouse pad comprising: fabric comprising an upper portion that partially defines an upper surface of the mouse pad; a rigid layer comprising one or more exposed surfaces that partially define the upper surface of the mouse pad, wherein the rigid layer comprises: a base plate comprising glass, and one or more protrusions on the base plate comprising the one or more exposed surfaces, wherein a thickness of the fabric is about equal to a height of the one or more protrusions of the rigid layer; and a grip surface on a lower portion of the mouse pad.

2. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the fabric is opaque, and the rigid layer is translucent.

3. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the base plate comprises an upper surface and a lower surface, the upper surface and the lower surface of the base plate being substantially planar.

4. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions are affixed to the upper surface of the base plate.

5. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions are integral to the base plate.

6. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the height of the one or more protrusions relative to the base plate is less than 20% of a height of the base plate of the rigid layer.

7. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein a thickness of the lower portion of the mouse pad is no greater than 50% of the height of the base plate of the rigid layer.

8. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the one or more exposed surfaces are one or more first exposed surfaces visible along an upper portion of the mouse pad, and the rigid layer comprises one or more second exposed surfaces visible along a lower portion of the mouse pad.

9. The mouse pad of claim 8, wherein the one or more first exposed surfaces and the one or more second exposed surfaces are aligned along a height of the rigid layer.

10. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the mouse pad is rectangular and comprises four corner portions, and the one or more exposed surfaces of the rigid layer comprises an exposed surface positioned at a corner portion of the four corner portions of the mouse pad.

11. The mouse pad of claim 10, wherein the one or more exposed surfaces of the rigid layer comprises a plurality of exposed surfaces, and each of the plurality of exposed surfaces is positioned at a corresponding corner portion of the four corner portions of the mouse pad.

12. The mouse pad of claim 11, wherein the exposed surface comprises an edge at least partially defining an outer perimeter of the upper surface of the mouse pad.

13. The mouse pad of claim 12, wherein the edge is a first edge, and the exposed surface comprises a second edge extending along a perimeter of the upper portion of the fabric.

14. The mouse pad of claim 13, wherein the exposed surface comprises a rectangular shape at least partially defined by the first edge and the second edge.

15. The mouse pad of claim 14, wherein the exposed surface comprises a curved edge connecting the first edge and the second edge.

16. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the exposed surface has a dimension in a range of 20 mm to 30 mm along a longitudinal dimension of the mouse pad.

17. The mouse pad of claim 16, wherein the exposed surface has a dimension in a range of 20 mm to 30 mm along a latitudinal dimension of the mouse pad.

18. The mouse pad of claim 17, wherein the dimension of the exposed surface along the longitudinal dimension of the mouse pad is greater than the dimension of the exposed surface along the latitudinal dimension of the mouse pad.

19. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein a total area of the one or more exposed surfaces is less than 2% of a total area of the upper surface of the mouse pad.

20. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the one or more exposed surfaces comprise four exposed surfaces.

21. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein: the upper portion of the fabric extends along an upper surface of the rigid layer and comprises first, second, third, and fourth edges at least partially defining a rectangular shape, the first and second edges being parallel to one another, and the third and fourth edges being parallel to one another, and the upper portion of the fabric defines a plurality of cutouts at corners of the rectangular shape.

22. The mouse pad of claim 21, wherein the fabric comprises a lower portion extending along a lower surface of the rigid layer.

23. The mouse pad of claim 22, wherein the lower portion of the fabric comprises a plurality of flaps connected to the upper portion of the fabric.

24. The mouse pad of claim 23, wherein the plurality of flaps are spaced apart from one another along the lower surface of the rigid layer.

25. The mouse pad of claim 23, wherein the plurality of flaps comprises a flap having an isosceles trapezoidal shape.

26. The mouse pad of claim 23, wherein the plurality of flaps comprises first, second, third, and fourth flaps, the first and second flaps extending along longitudinal edges of the mouse pad, and the third and fourth flaps extending along latitudinal edges of the mouse pad.

27. The mouse pad of claim 21, wherein the lower portion of the fabric and the upper portion of the fabric are connected by a side portion of the fabric, the side portion of the fabric extending along one or more lateral surfaces of the rigid layer.

28. The mouse pad of claim 1, wherein the one or more protrusions are made of plastic.

29. A mouse pad comprising: fabric comprising an upper portion that partially defines an upper surface of the mouse pad; a rigid layer comprising a plurality of exposed surfaces that partially define the upper surface of the mouse pad; and a grip surface on a lower portion of the mouse pad,

wherein the mouse pad is rectangular and comprises four corner portions, each of the plurality of exposed surfaces is positioned at a corresponding corner portion of the four corner portions of the mouse pad, and an exposed surface of the plurality of exposed surfaces comprises an edge at least partially defining an outer perimeter of the upper surface of the mouse pad.

30. The mouse pad of claim 29, wherein the edge is a first edge, and the exposed surface comprises a second edge extending along a perimeter of the upper portion of the fabric.

31. The mouse pad of claim 30, wherein the exposed surface comprises a rectangular shape at least partially defined by the first edge and the second edge.

32. The mouse pad of claim 31, wherein the exposed surface comprises a curved edge connecting the first edge and the second edge.

33. A mouse pad comprising: fabric comprising an upper portion that partially defines an upper surface of the mouse pad; a rigid layer comprising one or more exposed surfaces that partially define the upper surface of the mouse pad; and a grip surface on a lower portion of the mouse pad, wherein the upper portion of the fabric extends along an upper surface of the rigid layer and comprises first, second, third, and fourth edges at least partially defining a rectangular shape, the first and second edges being parallel to one another, and the third and fourth edges being parallel to one another, and wherein the upper portion of the fabric defines a plurality of cutouts at corners of the rectangular shape.

34. The mouse pad of claim 33, wherein the fabric comprises a lower portion extending along a lower surface of the rigid layer.

35. The mouse pad of claim 34, wherein the lower portion of the fabric comprises a plurality of flaps connected to the upper portion of the fabric.

36. The mouse pad of claim 35, wherein the plurality of flaps are spaced apart from one another along the lower surface of the rigid layer.

37. The mouse pad of claim 35, wherein the plurality of flaps comprises a flap having an isosceles trapezoidal shape.

38. The mouse pad of claim 35, wherein the plurality of flaps comprises first, second, third, and fourth flaps, the first and second flaps extending along longitudinal edges of the mouse pad, and the third and fourth flaps extending along latitudinal edges of the mouse pad.

39. The mouse pad of claim 33, wherein the lower portion of the fabric and the upper portion of the fabric are connected by a side portion of the fabric, the side portion of the fabric extending along one or more lateral surfaces of the rigid layer.