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Game controller with onboard calibration

Abstract

A game controller with onboard calibration. The game controller includes lights that illuminate to prompt the user to interact with the game controller by pressing one or more triggers and/or by moving one or more joysticks in certain directions. The game controller uses the inputs it receives from the user to calibrate the trigger(s) and/or joystick(s). The software which performs this calibration is onboard the game controller. The game controller can be calibrated without having to rely on any game console. The game controller can be calibrated while being connected to a game console, such as an older game console, that does not provide any type of game controller calibration mode for that game controller.

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Background/Summary

RELATED APPLICATION (PRIORITY CLAIM) (1) The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 63/277,304, filed Nov. 9, 2021, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

- (1) The present invention generally relates to game controllers, and more specifically relates to a game controller having onboard calibration.
- (2) Newer game consoles provide the ability to calibrate a game controller that is connected (either via wired or wireless connection) to the game console. Typically, a user will use the game controller to direct the game console enter a game controller calibration mode during which mode the game console will use the television screen to prompt the user to press certain buttons or triggers on the game controller or to move directional controls, such as joysticks, etc., in certain directions. The game console uses the game controller inputs it receives from the user to calibrate the game controller.
- (3) Older game consoles do not have a calibration mode. As such, a user has no way to calibrate his or her game controller for use with an older game console.

SUMMARY

- (4) One object of an embodiment of the present invention is to provide a game controller that has onboard calibration.
- (5) Another object of an embodiment of the present invention is to provide a game controller that can be calibrated without having to rely on any game console or television screen.
- (6) Still another object of an embodiment of the present invention is to provide a game controller that can be calibrated while being connected to a game console that does not provide any type of game controller calibration mode for that game controller.
- (7) Briefly, an embodiment of the present invention provides a game controller which includes lights that illuminate to prompt the user to interact with the game controller by pressing one or more triggers and/or by moving one or more joysticks in certain directions. The game controller uses the inputs it receives from the user to calibrate the trigger(s) and/or joystick(s). The software which performs this calibration (i.e., by illuminating the lights, receiving the inputs and calibrating the controls) is onboard the game controller. As such, the game controller can be calibrated without having to rely on any game console. The game controller can be calibrated while being connected to a game console, such as an older game console, that does not provide any type of game controller calibration mode for that game controller.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) The organization and manner of the structure and operation of the invention, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals identify like elements in which:
- (2) FIG. 1 provides a top view of a game controller that is in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, wherein the game controller includes lights that the game controller illuminates to effectively guide the user through a calibration mode; and
- (3) FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the game controller shown in FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION

- (4) While this invention may be susceptible to embodiment in different forms, there is shown in the drawings and will be described herein in detail, a specific embodiment with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered an exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to that as illustrated.
- (5) FIG. 1 provides a top view of a game controller **10** that is in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The game controller **10** has onboard calibration and at least one user interactive control. Specifically, there is software **12** that runs inside the game controller **10** that

illuminates lights **14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32** on the game controller **10** to effectively guide a user through a calibration mode by having the user press certain buttons **34**, triggers **36, 38**, etc. and move certain joysticks **40, 42**, etc. in certain directions. While the user performs these actions on the game controller **10**, the game controller **10** receives these user responses (i.e., inputs) and uses these inputs to calibrate the game controller **10**.

(6) FIG. **1** shows just one example of a game controller **10** that could employ this technology. As shown, the game controller **10** has two analog joysticks **40, 42** and two analog triggers **36, 38**, in addition to a plurality of digital push buttons **34** and a digital directional control **44**. Lights **14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32** are provided adjacent the analog controls, namely the two joysticks **40, 42** and the two triggers **36, 38**. The lights **14, 16** associated with each of the triggers **36, 38** illuminate to direct the user to press that particular trigger **36** or **38**. The lights **18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32** associated with each of the joysticks **40, 42** illuminate to direct the user to move each of the joysticks **40, 42** in certain directions. While the user performs these actions on the game controller **10**, the game controller **10** receives these user responses (i.e., inputs) and uses these inputs to calibrate the different analog inputs **36, 38, 40, 42** on the game controller **10**.

(7) Preferably, the software **12** running inside the controller **10** is configured such that the game controller **10** starts this calibration mode upon the user intentionally pressing certain buttons and/or triggers, etc. in a certain order. Alternatively, a switch or button can be provided, such as on the bottom of the game controller **10**, with which the user can interact in order to have the game controller **10** initiate the calibration mode.

(8) As a specific example with regard to the game controller **10** shown in FIG. **1**, the software **12** could be configured such that when the game controller **10** enters the calibration mode the light **14** associated with the left trigger **36** illuminates. After the user presses the left trigger **36**, the light **14** associated with the left trigger **36** goes out and the light **16** associated with the right trigger **38** illuminates. After the user presses the right trigger **36**, the light **16** associated with the right trigger **38** goes out and one of the lights **18** associated with the left joystick **40** illuminates. Specifically, preferably the top light **18** associated with the left joystick **40** illuminates. After the user presses the left joystick **40** up, the top light **18** goes out and the light **20** to the right of the left joystick **40** illuminates. After the user presses the left joystick **40** the right, the light **20** goes out and the light **22** to the bottom of the left joystick **40** illuminates. After the user presses the left joystick **40** down, the light **22** goes out and the light **24** to the left of the left joystick **40** illuminates. After the user presses the left joystick **40** to the left, the light **24** goes out and the light **26** to the top of the right joystick **42** illuminates. After the user presses the right joystick **42** up, the light **26** goes out and the light **28** to the right of the right joystick **42** illuminates. After the user presses the right joystick **42** the right, the light **28** goes out and the light **30** to the bottom of the right joystick **42** illuminates. After the user presses the right joystick **42** down, the light **30** goes out and the light **32** to the left of the right joystick **42** illuminates. After the user presses the left joystick **42** to the left, the light **32** goes out and the calibration mode is complete. At that point, all the lights **14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32** could blink a couple times to indicate to the user that the game controller **10** was successfully calibrated. This is just one example of how the software **12** could be programmed and just one example of the specific controls that could be provided on the game controller **10**. Of course, countless possibilities exist while still staying very much within the scope of the present invention. For example, different controls can be provided on the game controller **10** and/or the lights could illuminate in a different order. Furthermore, FIG. **1** shows lights being provided in four directions (up, down, right, left) for each of the joysticks **40, 42**, lights can be provided for even more directions than that, such as diagonal. Regardless, the game controller **10** is configured to use the lights on the controller **10** to direct the user to perform certain actions on the game controller **10** and the game controller **10** receives these user responses (i.e., inputs) and uses them to calibrate the controls **36, 38, 40, 42** on the game controller **10**.

(9) Regarding what powers the game controller, the game controller **10** could be wireless and be

configured to be powered by batteries. As such, the game controller **10** would not have to be connected to any game console to be calibrated. On the other hand, the game controller **10** could be configured to be hardwired to a game console and receive its power from the game console. Either way, the game controller **10** has software **12** onboard that is configured to perform the calibration and that calibration is not performed by the game console but rather by the game controller **10** itself.

(10) FIG. **2** is a block diagram of the game controller **10** shown in FIG. **1** and is self-explanatory. The software **12** which runs the calibration is stored in memory **50** inside the game controller **10** and is run by a processor **52**. There is a console interface **54** configured to interface with a game console. The “other components” **56** indicated in FIG. **2** could be other components not specifically related to the invention, such as force feedback components, as well as other components that are conventional regarding game controllers.

(11) The game controller **10** has onboard calibration. As such, the game controller **10** can be calibrated without having to rely on any game console or television screen. The game controller **10** can be calibrated while being connected to a game console, such as an older game console that does not provide any type of game controller calibration mode for that game controller.

(12) While a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is envisioned that those skilled in the art may devise various modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A game controller comprising: at least one light; at least one user interactive control; memory; software stored in the memory; and a processor, said processor configured to run the software to illuminate the at least one light to prompt the user to interact with the at least one user interactive control in order to calibrate the game controller, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises at least one trigger, wherein the game controller is configured to illuminate the at least one light to facilitate calibration of the at least one trigger.
2. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises at least one joystick, wherein the game controller is configured to illuminate the at least one light to facilitate calibration of the at least one joystick.
3. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the game controller is configured to use inputs the game controller receives from the user via the at least one user interactive control to calibrate the at least one user interactive control.
4. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the game controller is configured to be calibrated without having to rely on any game console or television screen.
5. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the game controller is configured to be calibrated while being connected to a game console that does not provide any type of game controller calibration mode for the game controller.
6. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises a joystick, wherein the at least one light comprises a plurality of lights adjacent the joystick, wherein the game controller illuminates the plurality of lights adjacent the joystick to prompt a user to move the joystick in different directions in order to calibrate the joystick.
7. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one light comprises a plurality of lights, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises at least one button, the at least one trigger and at least one joystick, wherein the software runs inside the game controller to illuminate lights on the game controller to guide a user through a calibration mode by having the user press the at least one button, press the at least one trigger, and move the at least one joystick in certain directions, wherein while the user performs these actions on the game controller, and the game controller uses these actions to calibrate the game controller.

8. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the software is configured such that the game controller starts a calibration mode upon the user intentionally interacting with the at least one interactive control in a certain order.
 9. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises at least one joystick, wherein the at least one light comprises a plurality of lights adjacent the joystick, wherein the game controller illuminates the plurality of lights in an order to facilitate calibration of the at least one joystick.
 10. The game controller as recited in claim 1, further comprising a console interface that is configured to interface with a game console.
 11. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the software stored in the memory is configured to provide that the game controller has onboard calibration.
 12. The game controller as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises at least one analog control and at least digital control, wherein the at least one light is adjacent the at least one analog control.
 13. A game controller comprising: at least one light; at least one user interactive control; memory; software stored in the memory; and a processor, said processor configured to run the software to illuminate the at least one light to prompt the user to interact with the at least one user interactive control in order to calibrate the game controller, wherein the at least one user interactive control comprises two analog joysticks, two analog triggers, a plurality of digital push buttons and a digital directional control.
 14. A game controller comprising: at least one light; at least one user interactive control; memory; software stored in the memory; and a processor, said processor configured to run the software to illuminate the at least one light to prompt the user to interact with the at least one user interactive control in order to calibrate the game controller, wherein the at least one interactive control comprises at least two analog joysticks, wherein the at least one light is provided adjacent the at least two analog joysticks, the at least one light illuminates to direct the user to perform actions on the game controller, and the game controller receives these user inputs and uses these inputs to calibrate the at least two analog joysticks.
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