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Retrofit remote control devices

Abstract

A control device may be configured to control an amount of power delivered to one or more electrical loads and provide various feedback associated with the control device and/or the electrical loads. The control device may be a wall-mounted device or a battery-powered remote control device. The feedback may indicate the amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads. The feedback may also indicate a low battery condition. The control device may include a light bar and/or one or more indicator lights for providing the feedback.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/493,151, filed Oct. 4, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/862,650, filed Apr. 30, 2020, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,166,354, on Nov. 2, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/613,086, filed Jun. 2, 2017, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,681,791, on Jun. 9, 2020, which claims the benefit of Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/345,449, filed Jun. 3, 2016, and Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/356,288, filed Jun. 29, 2016, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

(1) A load control system may include one or more electrical loads that a user can control via a load control device. These electrical loads may include, for example, lighting loads, HVAC units, motorized window treatment or projection screens, humidity control units, audio systems or amplifiers, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and/or the like. The electrical loads may have advanced features that may be controlled via the load control device. For example, the load control device may be used to control a lighting load to emit light of varying intensities and/or colors. A traditional load control device generally has a very simplistic user interface. For instance, there is usually no feedback mechanism for informing a user of the load control device about the type and/or amount of control being applied, and/or the operational status (e.g., battery status) of the load control device. A battery-powered load control device also frequently encounters difficulties in extending the life of the battery.

(2) Accordingly, having a more sophisticated load control device will improve a user's experience in an advanced load control system. For example, a load control device equipped with a user interface with feedback capabilities will not only allow a user to more precisely control the electrical loads associated with the load control device, but also keep the user informed about the status of the electrical loads and/or the load control device itself. As another example, a battery-powered load control device (e.g., a remote control device) that is capable of waking up to display feedback only upon detecting a user's presence within close proximity of the load control device can prolong battery life and extend the usage time of the load control device. A load control device with one or more of the aforementioned features may also be more aesthetically appealing to a user.

SUMMARY

(3) As described herein, a control device may be provided for controlling an electrical load in a load control system. The control device may include a base portion, a rotating portion, a plurality of light sources and a control circuit. The base portion may be configured to be mounted over an actuator of a mechanical switch that controls power delivered to the electrical load. The rotating portion may be configured to be rotatable about the base portion and may be used to adjust an amount of power delivered to the electrical load. The plurality of light sources may be arranged in a complete or partial loop, and be illuminated to indicate whether the amount of power delivered to the electrical load is being raised or lowered. The control circuit may be configured to generate a control signal for adjusting the amount of power delivered to the electrical load in response to a rotational movement of the rotating portion. The control circuit may be further configured to illuminate the plurality of light sources in a first manner (e.g., with a first intensity) to indicate that the amount of power delivered to the electrical load is being raised, and illuminate the plurality of light sources in a second manner (e.g., with a second intensity) to indicate that the amount of power delivered to the electrical load is being lowered.

(4) Also described herein is a control device configured to provide indications of an amount of power delivered to an electrical load. The control device may include a base portion, a rotating portion, a plurality of light sources, and a control circuit. The base portion may be configured to be mounted over an actuator of a mechanical switch that controls power delivered to the electrical load. The rotating portion may be configured to be rotatable about the base portion and may be used to adjust an amount of power delivered to the electrical load. The plurality of light sources may be arranged in a complete or partial loop on which one or indications of the amount of power delivered to the electrical load may be provided. The control circuit may be configured to generate a control signal for adjusting the amount of power delivered to the electrical load in response to a rotational movement of the rotating portion. The control circuit may be further configured to illuminate at least a subset of the light sources to create one or more illuminated portions along the complete or partial loop. The control circuit may adjust the subset of the light sources that are illuminated based on the rotational movement of the rotating portion such that the one or more illuminated portions may expand and contract along the complete or partial loop in response to the rotational movement of the rotating portion.

(5) Also described herein is a control device powered by a battery. The control device may be configured to control an electrical load in a load control system, and may include a base portion, one or more light sources, and a control unit. The base portion may be configured to be mounted over an actuator of a mechanical switch that controls power delivered to the electrical load. The one or more light sources may be configured to be illuminated to provide an indication of an amount of power delivered to the electrical load. The control unit, which may be mounted over the base portion, may be configured to control the amount of power delivered to the electrical load. The control unit may be operable to dim the one or more light sources during an idle state, and to illuminate the one or more light sources to indicate the amount power being delivered to the electrical load in response to detecting that a user is within close proximity of the control device. The detection of the user within close proximity of the control device may be implemented with a capacitive touch element and/or an electric field sensing device.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 depicts an example load control system that includes a plurality of example control devices.

(2) FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of an example control device that may be deployed as one of the control devices depicted in FIG. 1.

- (3) FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a control unit detached from a base portion.
- (4) FIG. 4 shows rear views of the control unit and the base portion depicted in FIG. 3.
- (5) FIG. 5 shows a front exploded view of an example control unit for the example control device depicted in FIG. 2.
- (6) FIG. 6 shows a rear exploded view of an example control unit for the example control device depicted in FIG. 2.
- (7) FIG. 7 shows a front view of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2.
- (8) FIG. 8 shows another front view of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a light bar fully illuminated.
- (9) FIG. 9 shows another front view of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a light bar partially illuminated at a first intensity.
- (10) FIG. 10 shows another front view of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a light bar partially illuminated at a second intensity.
- (11) FIG. 11 shows an example plot of the intensity of a light bar with respect to time in order to generate a heartbeat animation.
- (12) FIGS. 12A-12C show front views of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 when a light bar is illuminated to expand and contract in one direction to provide an intensity indication on the light bar.
- (13) FIGS. 13A-13C show another set of front views of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 when a light bar is illuminated to expand and contract from two end points to provide intensity indications on the light bar.
- (14) FIGS. 14A-14C show another set of front views of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 when multiple portions of a light bar are illuminated to provide intensity indications on the light bar.
- (15) FIGS. 15A-15C show another set of front views of the example control device depicted in FIG. 2 when multiple portions of a light bar are illuminated to provide intensity indications on the light bar.
- (16) FIGS. 16A-16C show another set of example front views of the control unit **220** when a moving indication is provided on the light bar **226** to inform a user about a present intensity of a lighting load.
- (17) FIG. 17 shows a flow diagram of an example control procedure illustrating how the control device depicted in FIG. 2 may be configured to control and indicate the intensity of one or more lighting loads.
- (18) FIG. 18A shows an example front view of the control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a low battery indicator provided on or near a control unit release tab.
- (19) FIG. 18B shows an example front view of the control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a first way to provide a low battery indicator on a light bar.
- (20) FIGS. 19A-19C show a set of example views of the control device depicted in FIG. 2 with a second way to provide a low battery indicator on a light bar.
- (21) FIG. 20 shows a flow diagram of an example operating procedure illustrating how the control device depicted in FIG. 2 may be configured to operate differently in accordance with different battery power levels.
- (22) FIG. 21 shows a simplified equivalent schematic diagram for an example remote control device that may be deployed as one of the control devices depicted in FIG. 1.
- (23) FIG. 22 shows a simplified equivalent schematic diagram for an example dimmer switch that may be deployed as one of the control devices depicted in FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (24) FIG. 1 is a simplified block diagram of an example load control system. As shown, the load control system is configured as a lighting control system **100** for control of one or more lighting

loads, such as a lighting load **102** that is installed in a ceiling-mounted downlight fixture **103** and a controllable lighting load **104** that is installed in a table lamp **105**. The lighting loads **102**, **104** shown in FIG. **1** may include light sources of different types (e.g., incandescent lamps, fluorescent lamps, and/or LED light sources). The lighting loads may have advanced features. For example, the lighting loads may be controlled to emit light of varying intensities and/or colors in response to a user command.

(25) The lighting control system **100** may include one or more control devices for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104** (e.g., controlling an amount of power delivered to the lighting loads). The lighting loads **102**, **104** may be controlled substantially in unison, or be controlled individually. For example, the lighting loads may be zoned so that the lighting load **102** may be controlled by a first control device, while the lighting load **104** may be controlled by a second control device. The control devices may be configured to turn the lighting loads **102**, **104** on and off. The control devices may be configured to control the magnitude of a load current conducted through the lighting loads so as to control an intensity of the lighting loads **102**, **104** between a low-end intensity L.sub.LE and a high-end intensity L.sub.HE, for example.

(26) The control device described herein may be, for example, a dimmer switch **110**, a retrofit remote control device **112**, a wall-mounted control device **114**, a tabletop remote control device **116**, and/or a handheld remote control device **118**. The dimmer switch **110** may be configured to be mounted to a standard electrical wallbox (e.g., via a yoke) and be coupled in series electrical connection between a power source (e.g., an alternating-current (AC) power source **105** or a direct-current (DC) power source) and a lighting load that is wired into the control path of the dimmer switch **110** (e.g., such as the lighting load **102**). The dimmer switch **110** may receive an AC mains line voltage V.sub.AC from the AC power source **105**, and may generate a control signal for controlling the lighting load **102**. The control signal may be generated via various phase-control techniques (e.g., a forward phase-control dimming technique or a reverse phase-control dimming technique). The dimmer switch **110** may be configured to receive wireless signals (e.g., from a remote control device) representative of commands to control the lighting load **102** (e.g., the intensity and/or color of the lighting load), and generate respective control signals for executing the commands. Examples of wall-mounted dimmer switches are described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Pat. No. 7,242,150, issued Jul. 10, 2007, entitled “Dimmer Having A Power Supply Monitoring Circuit”; U.S. Pat. No. 7,546,473, issued Jun. 9, 2009, entitled “Dimmer Having A Microprocessor-Controlled Power Supply”; and U.S. Pat. No. 8,664,881, issued Mar. 4, 2014, entitled “Two-Wired Dimmer Switch for Low-Power Loads”, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

(27) The retrofit remote control device **112** may be configured to be mounted to a mechanical switch (e.g., a toggle switch **122**, a paddle switch, a pushbutton switch, a “light switch,” or other suitable switch) that may be pre-existing in the lighting control system **100**. Such a retrofit solution may provide energy savings and/or advanced control features, for example without requiring significant electrical re-wiring and/or without requiring the replacement of existing mechanical switches. As an example, a consumer may replace an existing lamp with the controllable lighting load **104**, switch a toggle switch **122** that is coupled to the lighting load **104** to the on position, install (e.g., mount) the remote control device **112** onto the toggle switch **122**, and associate the remote control device **112** with the lighting source **104**. The retrofit remoted control **112** may then be used to perform advanced functions that the toggle switch **122** may be incapable of performing (e.g., such as dimming the intensity level of the light output, providing feedback to a user, etc.). As shown, the toggle switch **122** is coupled (e.g., via a series electrical connection) between the AC power source **105** and an electrical receptacle **120** into which the lighting load **104** may be plugged (e.g., as shown in FIG. **1**). Alternative, the toggle switch **122** may be coupled between the AC power source **105** and one or more of the lighting loads **102**, **104**, without the electrical receptacle **120**. The retrofit remote control device **112** may be operable to transmit the wireless signals to the

controllable light source **104** for controlling the intensity and/or color (e.g., color temperature) of the controllable light source **104**. The remote control device **112** may also be configured to transmit wireless signals for control of other electrical loads, such as for example, the volume of a speaker and/or audio system, the position of a motorized window treatment, the setpoint temperature of a heating and/or cooling system, and/or a controllable characteristic of another electrical load or device.

(28) The wall-mounted remote control device **114** may be configured to be mounted to a standard electrical wallbox and be electrically connected to the AC power source **105** for receiving power. The wall-mounted remote control device **114** may be configured to receive a user input and may generate and transmit a control signal (e.g., control data such as a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104** in response to the user input. The tabletop remote control device **116** may be configured to be placed on a surface (e.g., an end table or night stand), and may be powered by a direct-current (DC) power source (e.g., a battery or an external DC power supply plugged into an electrical outlet). The tabletop remote control device **116** may be configured to receive a user input, and may generate and transmit a signal (e.g., a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104** in response to the user input. The handheld remote control device **118** may be sized to fit into a user's hand, and may be powered by a direct-current (DC) power source (e.g., a battery or an external DC power supply plugged into an electrical outlet). The handheld remote control device **118** may be configured to receive a user input, and may generate and transmit a signal (e.g., a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104** in response to the user input. Examples of battery-powered remote controls are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 8,330,638, issued Dec. 11, 2012, entitled "Wireless Battery Powered Remote Control Having Multiple Mounting Means," and U.S. Pat. No. 7,573,208, issued Aug. 11, 2009, entitled "Method Of Programming A Lighting Preset From A Radio-Frequency Remote Control," the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

(29) The control devices described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) may each include one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs) configured to be illuminated to provide feedback to a user of the control device. Such feedback may indicate, for example, a status of the lighting loads **102**, **104** such as whether the lighting loads are on or off, a present intensity of the lighting loads, and so on. The feedback may indicate a status of the control device itself such as a power status of the control device (e.g., remaining battery power). The feedback may indicate to the user that the control device is transmitting control signals (e.g., RF signals) in response to an actuation of the control device. The control device may be configured to keep the one or more light sources illuminated while the condition triggering the feedback continues to exist. The control device may be configured to illuminate the one or more light sources for a few seconds (e.g., 1-2 seconds) and then turn off the light sources (e.g., to conserve battery life).

(30) The control devices may be configured to be dim (e.g., not illuminated) the one or more light sources so that no feedback is provided when the control devices are in an idle state. The control devices may then illuminate the one or more light sources to provide the feedback in response to detecting a user within close proximity of the control devices. Such detection may be based on, for example, a finger hovering near a front surface of the control devices. The presence of the user may be detected, for example, via a capacitive touch element or an electrical field sensor comprised in the control devices.

(31) The control devices may each include a control circuit. The control circuit may be configured to be responsive to a user input and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104** based on the user input. The control data may include commands and/or other information (e.g., such as identification information) for controlling the lighting loads **102**, **104**. The control circuit may be configured to illuminate the one or more light sources to provide the feedback described herein.

(32) One or more of the control devices may include a wireless communication circuit (e.g., a radio frequency (RF) transmitter) operable to transmit and/or receive wireless signals such as RF signals **108**. The wireless signal may be used to transmit control data (e.g., a digital message) generated by the control devices to the lighting loads **102, 104** or to a central controller of the lighting control system **100**, for example. The lighting loads **102, 104** may be associated with a control device during a configuration procedure such that the lighting loads **102, 104** may be responsive to control signals transmitted by the control device. To illustrate, the association may be accomplished by actuating an actuator on the concerned lighting loads, and then actuating (e.g., pressing and holding) an actuator on the control device for a predetermined amount of time (e.g., approximately 10 seconds). Examples of a configuration procedure for associating a control device with an electrical load is described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0111491, published May 15, 2008, entitled "Radio-Frequency Lighting Control System," the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(33) The control devices may each include a memory. The memory may be used, for example, to store operational settings associated with the control device and/or the lighting loads **102, 104**. The memory may be implemented as an external integrated circuit (IC) or as an internal circuit (e.g., as part of a control circuit).

(34) The load control system **100** may include one or more of a remote occupancy sensor or a remote vacancy sensor (not shown) for detecting occupancy and/or vacancy conditions in a space surrounding the sensors. The occupancy or vacancy sensors may be configured to transmit digital messages to the lighting loads **102, 104** (e.g., via the RF signals **108**) in response to detecting occupancy or vacancy conditions. Examples of RF load control systems having occupancy and vacancy sensors are described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Pat. No. 7,940,167, issued May 10, 2011, entitled "Battery Powered Occupancy Sensor," U.S. Pat. No. 8,009,042, issued Aug. 30, 2011, entitled "Radio Frequency Lighting Control System With Occupancy Sensing," and U.S. Pat. No. 8,199,010, issued Jun. 12, 2012, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Configuring A Wireless Sensor," the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

(35) The load control system **100** may include a remote daylight sensor (not shown) for measuring a total light intensity in the space around the daylight sensor. The daylight sensor may be configured to transmit digital messages, such as a measured light intensity, to the lighting loads **102, 104** such that the lighting loads may be operable to adjust their respective intensities in response to the measured light intensity. Examples of RF load control systems having daylight sensors are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 8,451,116, issued May 28, 2013, entitled "Wireless Battery-Powered Daylight Sensor," and U.S. Pat. No. 8,410,706, issued Apr. 2, 2013, entitled "Method Of Calibrating A Daylight Sensor," the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

(36) The load control system **100** may include other types of input devices, for example, radiometers, cloudy-day sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, pressure sensors, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, air-quality sensors, security sensors, proximity sensors, fixture sensors, partition sensors, keypads, kinetic or solar-powered remote controls, key fobs, cell phones, smart phones, tablets, personal digital assistants, personal computers, laptops, time clocks, audio-visual controls, safety devices, power monitoring devices (such as power meters, energy meters, utility submeters, utility rate meters), central control transmitters, residential, commercial, or industrial controllers, or any combination of these input devices.

(37) Greater detail about the control devices (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) will be provided herein with examples of a retrofit remote control device (e.g., such as the retrofit remote control device **112** of FIG. 1). It should be appreciated, however, that features described herein in association with the retrofit remote control device may be applicable to other types of control devices, including wall-mounted dimmer switches (e.g., such as the dimmer

switch **110**), wall-mounted remote control devices (e.g., such as the wall-mounted remote control **114**), tabletop remote control devices (e.g., such as the tabletop remote control **116**), handheld remote control devices (e.g., such as the handheld remote control **118**), and/or the like.

(38) It should be further appreciated that although FIG. 1 depicts a load control system with one lighting load, the system may include more lighting loads, other types of lighting loads, and/or other types of electrical loads. For example, the load control system may include one or more of the following: a dimming ballast for driving a gas-discharge lamp; an LED driver for driving an LED light source; a dimming circuit for controlling the intensity of a lighting load; a screw-in luminaire including a dimmer circuit and an incandescent or halogen lamp; a screw-in luminaire including a ballast and a compact fluorescent lamp; a screw-in luminaire including an LED driver and an LED light source; an electronic switch, controllable circuit breaker, or other switching device for turning an appliance on and off; a plug-in load control device, controllable electrical receptacle, or controllable power strip for controlling one or more plug-in loads; a motor control unit for controlling a motor load, such as a ceiling fan or an exhaust fan; a drive unit for controlling a motorized window treatment or a projection screen; one or more motorized interior and/or exterior shutters; a thermostat for a heating and/or cooling system; a temperature control device for controlling a setpoint temperature of a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system; an air conditioner; a compressor; an electric baseboard heater controller; a controllable damper; a variable air volume controller; a fresh air intake controller; a ventilation controller; one or more hydraulic valves for use in radiators and radiant heating system; a humidity control unit; a humidifier; a dehumidifier; a water heater; a boiler controller; a pool pump; a refrigerator; a freezer; a television and/or computer monitor; a video camera; a volume control; an audio system or amplifier; an elevator; a power supply; a generator; an electric charger, such as an electric vehicle charger; an alternative energy controller; and/or the like.

(39) FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an example control device **200** that may be deployed as the dimmer switch **110** and/or the retrofit remote control device **112** (e.g., a battery-powered rotary remote control device) in the lighting control system **100**. The control device **200** may be configured to be mounted over an actuator of a standard light switch **202** (e.g., the toggle switch **122** shown in FIG. 1). The control device **200** may be installed over of an existing faceplate **206** that is mounted to the light switch **202** (e.g., via faceplate screws **208**). The control device **200** may include a base portion **210** and a control unit **220** (e.g., a control module) that may be operably coupled to the base portion **210**. The control unit **220** may be mounted over the base portion **210**, and supported by the base portion **210**. The control unit **220** may include a rotating portion **222** (e.g., an annular rotating portion) that is rotatable with respect to the base portion **210**. FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the control device **200** with the control unit **220** detached from the base portion **210**. The base portion **210** may be attached (e.g., fixedly attached) to a toggle actuator **204** and may be configured to maintain the toggle actuator **204** in the on position. The toggle actuator **204** may be received through a toggle actuator opening **212** in the base portion **210**. A screw **214** may be tightened to attach (e.g., fixedly attached) the base portion **210** to the toggle actuator **204**. In this regard, the base portion **210** may be configured to prevent a user from inadvertently switching the toggle actuator **204** to the off position when the control device **200** is attached to the light switch **202**. The control unit **220** may be released from the base portion **210**. For example, a control unit release tab **216** may be provided on the base portion **210** or on the control unit **220**. By actuating the control unit release tab **216** (e.g., pushing up towards the base portion or pulling down away from the base portion), a user may remove the control unit **220** from the base portion **210**.

(40) FIG. 4 provides rear views of the base portion **210** and the control unit **220** of the control device **200**. The control unit **220** may comprise one or more clips **228** that may be retained by respective locking members **218** connected to the control unit release tab **216** when the base portion **210** is in a locked position. The one or more clips **228** may be released from the respective locking members **218** of the base portion **210** when the control unit release tab **216** is actuated

(e.g., pushed up towards the base portion or pulled down away from the base portion) to put the base portion **210** in an unlocked position. In an example, the locking members **218** may be spring biased into the locked position and may automatically return to the locked position after the control unit release tab **216** is actuated and released. In an example, the locking members **218** may not be spring biased, in which case the control unit release tab **216** may be actuated to return the base portion **210** to the locked position.

(41) The control unit **220** may be installed (e.g., mounted) on the base portion **210** without adjusting the base portion **210** to the unlocked position. For example, the one or more clips **228** of the control unit **220** may be configured to flex around the respective locking members **218** of the base portion and snap into place, such that the control unit is fixedly attached to the base portion.

(42) The control unit **220** may be released from the base portion **210** to access a battery compartment (e.g., a battery recess) configured to hold a battery **230** that provides power to the control device **200**. The battery **230** may be held in place in various ways. For example, the battery **230** may be held by a battery retention strap **232**, which may also operate as an electrical contact for the batteries. The battery retention strap **232** may be loosened by untightening a battery retention screw **234** to allow the battery **230** to be removed and replaced. Although FIG. 4 depicts the battery **230** as being located in the control unit **220**, it should be appreciated that the battery **230** may be placed elsewhere in the control device **200** (e.g., in the base portion **210**) without affecting the functionality of the control device **200**. Further, more than one battery may be provided. For instance, a spare battery may be provided (e.g., stored inside the control unit **220**) as replacement for the battery **230**.

(43) When the control unit **220** is coupled to the base portion **210** as shown in FIG. 2, the rotating portion **222** may be rotatable in opposed directions about the base portion **210** (e.g., in the clockwise or counter-clockwise directions). The base portion **210** may be configured to be mounted over the toggle actuator **204** of the switch **202** such that the rotational movement of the rotating portion **222** may not change the operational state of the toggle actuator **204** (e.g., the toggle actuator **204** may remain in the on position to maintain functionality of the control device **200**).

(44) The control unit **220** may comprise an actuation portion **224** or the entire control unit **220** may function as an actuation portion **224**. The actuation portion **224** may comprise a part or an entirety of a front surface of the control unit **220**. In an example, the control unit **220** may have a circular surface within an opening defined by the rotating portion **222**. In another example, the rotating portion **222** and/or the surface of the control unit **220** may have a different shape (e.g., oval, square, hexagonal, etc.). The actuation portion **224** may occupy a part or an entirety of the circular surface (e.g., as a center button occupying a central area of the circular surface). The actuation portion **224** may be configured to move in toward the light switch **202** (e.g., move towards the base portion **210** along an axis perpendicular to the base portion **210**) to actuate a mechanical switch (not shown) inside the control unit **220** (e.g., as will be described in greater detail below). The actuation portion **224** may return (e.g., move away from the base portion **210** along an axis perpendicular to the base portion **210**) to an idle position after being actuated. As the actuation portion **224** moves in and out relative to the base portion **210**, the rotating portion **222** may maintain its position (e.g., remain in a same plane parallel to the plane of the base portion **210**) or move in and out with the actuation portion **224**. In an example, the front surface of the actuation portion **224** may be a touch sensitive surface (e.g., a capacitive touch surface). The touch sensitive surface may be realized by including a touch sensitive element (e.g., a capacitive touch element or an electrical field sensor) near (e.g., adjacent to) the rear surface of the actuation portion. The touch sensitive element may be actuated in response to a touch of the touch sensitive surface of the actuation portion **224** or upon detection of a user in the proximity of the touch sensitive surface.

(45) The control device **200** may be configured to transmit one or more wireless communication signals (e.g., the RF signals **108**) to a load regulation device (e.g., such as driver circuits in the lighting loads **102**, **104**). The control device **200** may include a wireless communication circuit

(e.g., an RF transceiver or transmitter) via which the one or more wireless communication signals may be sent. The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit digital messages via the one or more wireless communication signals. For example, the control unit **220** may comprise a control circuit configured to be responsive to a movement of the actuation portion **224** and/or the rotating portion **222**. The control circuit may be configured to transmit a command (e.g., a control signal) to raise the intensity of a light source in response to a clockwise rotation of the rotating portion **222** and to transmit a command (e.g., a control signal) to lower the intensity of the light source in response to a counterclockwise rotation of the rotating portion **222**. The control circuit may be configured to increase or decrease the intensity of the light source by a predetermined amount in response to a partial rotation (e.g., an approximately 45-degree rotation) of the rotating portion **222** in either a clockwise direction or a counterclockwise direction. The rotating portion **222** may be configured to return to an idle position (e.g., a center position) after the rotation of the rotating portion **222**.

(46) The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command to toggle a light source from off to on, or vice versa, in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **224**. For example, the control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command to turn the lighting loads **102**, **104** on in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **224** (e.g., if the control unit **220** possesses information indicating that the controllable light source is presently off). The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command to turn the lighting loads **102**, **104** off in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **224** (e.g., if the control unit possesses information indicating that the controllable light source is presently on). The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command to turn the controllable light source on to full intensity in response to a special actuation of the actuation portion **224** (e.g., a double tap or two actuations in quick succession). In examples, the actuation portion **224** may include separate parts for turning the lighting loads **102**, **104** on and off. For instance, the actuation portion **224** may include an on button in the upper half of the actuation portion **224** and an off button in the bottom half of the actuation portion **224**. The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command to turn the lighting loads **102**, **104** on in response to an actuation of the on button and to turn the lighting loads **102**, **104** off in response to an actuation of the off button.

(47) The control unit **220** may be configured to adjust the intensity of a lighting load to a minimum intensity in response to rotation of the rotating portion **222** and may only turn off the lighting load in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **224**. Alternatively or additionally, the control unit **220** may be configured to include a spin-to-off mode, in which the control unit **220** may turn off the lighting load after the intensity of the lighting load is controlled to a minimum intensity in response to a rotation of the rotating portion **222**. The minimum intensity at which the lighting load is to be turned off may be configured by a user. The control unit **220** may be configured to transmit a command (e.g., via one or more wireless communication signals such as the RF signal **118**) to adjust the color of a light source (e.g., the lighting loads **102**, **104**).

(48) Although description of the various operations provided herein refers generally to the control device **200** and/or the control unit **220**, it will be appreciated that the various operations may be carried out via one or more electrical components comprised in the control device **200** or the control unit **220**. For instance, the control unit **220** may comprise a control circuit configured to be responsive to a movement of the actuation portion **224** and/or the rotating portion **222**. The control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling a controllable light source in accordance with the functions described herein for the actuation portion **224** and/or the rotating portion **222**. The control circuit may be configured to cause the control data to be transmitted to the controllable light source (e.g., via a wireless communication circuit). The control circuit may be configured to trigger a feedback event (e.g., by illuminating a light bar, as described herein) in response to a user manipulation of the control device **200**. The control circuit may be configured to provide the feedback only in the presence of a user (e.g., when the user is

within close proximity of the control device **200**). The control circuit may be configured to detect and indicate that the battery power of the control device **200** is low.

(49) The control unit **220** may comprise one or more visual indicators that may be illuminated to provide feedback to a user of the control device **200**. The feedback may indicate an operational state (e.g., battery status, an operating parameter or setting, an operational mode, etc.) of the control device **200** and/or an electrical load controlled by the control device **200**. For example, the feedback may indicate an intensity of a lighting load controlled by the control device **200**. The one or more visual indicators may be illuminated by a single light source (e.g., a single LED) or by a plurality of light sources (e.g., multiple LEDs). For example, the one or more visual indicators may be implemented as a light bar **226** (e.g., that is illuminated by one or more LEDs). The light bar **226** may be placed in various locations of the control device **200**, such as between the rotating portion **222** and the actuation portion **224** (e.g., attached to a periphery of the actuation portion **224**). The light bar **226** may extend along the perimeter of the rotation portion **222** and/or the actuation portion **224**, and/or be configured to move with the actuation portion **224** (e.g., when the actuation portion is actuated). The light bar **226** may have different shapes and/or other geometric properties. For example, the light bar **226** may form a complete or partial loop, the light bar **226** may be linear (e.g., substantially linear), the light bar **226** may have an irregular shape such as an irregular curve or twist, and/or the like. As referenced herein, a loop can be but is not required to be circular or curving. A complete loop may form a circle (e.g., as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**), an oval, a rectangle, a triangle, a star, a diamond, etc., and a partial loop may include one or more parts of the forgoing structures.

(50) FIG. **5** is a front exploded view and FIG. **6** is a rear exploded view of an example control unit **300** for a control device (e.g., the control unit **220** of the control device **200** shown in FIGS. **2-4**). The control unit **300** may be configured to be operably coupled to and supported by a base portion of the control device (e.g., such as the base portion **210** of the control device **200**). The base portion may be mounted over a toggle actuator of a standard light switch.

(51) The control unit **300** may comprise an annular rotating portion **310** (e.g., such as the rotation portion **222**) and an actuation portion **312** (e.g., such as the actuation portion **224**) that may be received within an opening defined by the rotating portion. The control unit **300** may further comprise a light bar **314** (e.g., a circular light bar) attached to the actuation portion **312** around a periphery of the actuation portion. The rotating portion **310** may comprise an inner surface **316** having tabs **318** surrounding the circumference of the rotation portion. The tabs **318** may be separated by notches **320** that are configured to receive engagement members **322** of the actuation portion **312** to thus engage the actuation portion **312** with the rotating portion **310**. The control unit **300** may also comprise a bushing **324** that is received within the rotating portion **310**, such that an upper surface **326** of the bushing may contact lower surfaces **328** of the tabs **318** inside of the rotating portion.

(52) When the actuation portion **312** is received within the opening of the rotating portion **310**, the light bar **314** may be provided between the actuation portion **312** and the rotating portion **310**. When the rotating portion **312** is rotated, the actuation portion **312** and/or the light bar **314** may rotate with the rotating portion. The engagement members **322** of the actuation portion **312** may be able to move through the notches **320** in a z-direction (e.g., towards the base portion), such that the actuation portion **312** (along with the light bar **314**) may be able to move in the z-direction.

(53) The control unit **300** may further comprise a printed circuit board (PCB) (e.g., a flexible printed circuit board (PCB) **330**) that may be arranged over a carrier **332**. The flexible PCB **330** may comprise a main portion **334** on which most of the control circuitry of the control unit **300** (e.g., including a control circuit) may be mounted. The control unit **300** may comprise a plurality of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) **336** arranged around the perimeter of the flexible PCB **330** to illuminating the light bar **314**. The flexible PCB **330** may comprise a switch tab **338** that may be connected to the main portion **334** (e.g., via flexible arms **340**). The switch tab **338** may have a

mechanical tactile switch **342** mounted thereto. The switch tab **338** of the flexible PCB **330** may be configured to rest on a switch tab surface **344** on the carrier **332**. The carrier **332** may comprise engagement members **346** configured to be received within notches **348** in the bushing **324**. A ring **350** may snap to a lower surface **352** of the rotating portion to hold the control unit **300** together. The control unit **300** may further comprise clips **354** that may be attached to the carrier **332** to allow the control unit to be connected to the base portion.

(54) When the actuation portion **312** is pressed, the actuation portion **312** may move along the z-direction until an inner surface **358** of the actuation member actuates the mechanical tactile switch **342**. The actuation portion **312** may be returned to the idle position by the mechanical tactile switch **342**. In addition, the control unit **300** may comprise an additional return spring for returning the actuation portion **312** to the idle position.

(55) The control unit **300** may be powered by one or more batteries **360** adapted to be received within a battery recess **362** (e.g., a battery compartment) in the carrier **332** as shown in FIG. 6. The batteries **360** may be held in place by a battery retention strap **364**, which may also operate as a negative electrical contact for the batteries and tamper resistant fastener for the batteries. The flexible PCB may comprise a contact pad **366** that may operate as a positive electrical contact for the batteries **360**. The battery retention strap **364** may comprise a leg **368** that ends in a foot **370** that may be electrically connected to a flexible pad **372** (e.g., as shown in FIG. 5) on the flexible PCB **330**. The battery retention strap **364** may be held in place by a battery retention screw **374** received in an opening **376** in the carrier **332**. When the battery retention screw **374** is loosened and removed from the opening **376**, the flexible pad **372** may be configured to move (e.g., bend or twist) to allow the battery retention strap **364** to move out of the way of the batteries **360** to allow the batteries to be removed and replaced.

(56) The control unit **300** may further comprise a magnetic strip **380** located on the inner surface **316** of the rotating portion **310** and extending around the circumference of the rotating portion. The flexible PCB **330** may comprise a pad **382** (e.g., in the form of a wing or a flap) on which a rotational sensor (e.g., a Hall effect sensor integrated circuit **384**) may be mounted. The pad **382** may be arranged perpendicular to the main portion **334** of the flexible PCB **330** as shown in FIG. 6. The magnetic strip **380** may comprise a plurality of alternating positive and negative sections, and the Hall effect sensor integrated circuit **384** may comprise two sensor circuits operable to detect the passing of the positive and negative sections of the magnetic strip as the rotating portion **310** is rotated. Accordingly, the control circuit of the control unit **330** may be configured to determine the rotational speed and direction of rotation of the rotation portion **310** in response to the Hall effect sensor integrated circuit **384**. The flexible PCB **330** may also comprise a programming tab **386** to allow for programming of the control circuit of the control unit **330**.

(57) As shown in FIG. 6, the carrier **332** may comprise an actuator opening **390** adapted to receive the toggle actuator of the light switch when the control unit **300** is mounted to the base portion. The carrier **332** may comprise a flat portion **392** that may prevent the toggle actuator of the light switch from extending into the inner structure of the control unit **300** (e.g., if the toggle actuator is particularly long). The flexible PCB **330** may also comprise an antenna **394** on an antenna tab **396** that may lay against the flat portion **392** in the actuator opening **390** (e.g., as shown in FIG. 5).

(58) The load control device described herein may be configured to include a feedback mechanism to inform a user of the load control device about the type and/or amount of control being applied, a status (e.g., remaining battery power) of the load control device, and/or an operational state of one or more electrical loads controlled by the load control device (e.g., on/off state, intensity level, etc.). Providing such a feedback mechanism may allow a user to more precisely control an electrical load, keep the user informed about the status of the electrical load and/or the load control device itself, and enhance the aesthetical appeal of the load control device.

(59) FIGS. 7-10 show front views of the control device **200** that illustrate how one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs) of the control device **200** may be illuminated to provide feedback about the

control device **200**. The one or more light sources may be controlled to illuminate the light bar **226**. The feedback may be associated with various operational aspects of the control device **200** and/or an electrical load controlled by the control device **200**. For instance, the control device **200** (e.g., a control circuit included therein) may be configured to illuminate the light bar **226** to indicate the type of control (e.g., intensity control) being applied, a direction of the control (e.g., raising or lowering an intensity), and/or an amount of adjustment (e.g., a target intensity) being made.

(60) FIG. 7 shows a front view of the control device **200** when the light bar **226** is illuminated to provide the feedback described herein. A control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to provide the feedback after the control device **200** has been activated (e.g., upon detecting a user near the control device and/or upon an actuation of the actuation portion **224** or rotating portion **222**). The feedback may indicate that the control device **200** is transmitting wireless communication signals (e.g., the RF signals **108**) in response to the activation. The control circuit may keep the light bar **226** illuminated for the duration of the event that triggered the feedback (e.g., while the rotating portion is being rotated). The control circuit may be configured to continue to illuminate the light bar **226** for a few seconds (e.g., 1-2 seconds) after the event, and then turn off the light bar **226** to conserve battery life.

(61) The light bar **226** may be illuminated to provide the feedback in different manners (e.g., different intensities and/or colors) when the rotating portion **222** is being rotated to raise or lower the intensity of the lighting load. For example, as shown in FIG. 8, the light bar **226** may be fully illuminated to and maintained at a maximum light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MAX}$ (e.g., 100%) when the rotating portion **222** is being rotated to raise the intensity of the lighting load. The light bar **226** may be illuminated to and maintained at an intensity less than the maximum light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MAX}$ (e.g., 40%) when the rotating portion **222** is being rotated to lower the intensity of the lighting load. As another example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to a first mid-level light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MID1}$ (e.g., 80%) that is less than the maximum light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MAX}$ when the rotating portion **222** is being rotated to raise the intensity of the lighting load (e.g., as shown in FIG. 9). The light bar **226** may be illuminated to a second mid-level light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MID2}$ (e.g., 40%) that is less than the first mid-level light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MID1}$ (and thus less than the maximum light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MAX}$) when the rotating portion **222** is being rotated to lower the intensity of the lighting load, as shown in FIG. 10.

(62) Similarly, the light bar **226** may be illuminated with different colors to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is being raised or lowered. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated with a red color when the intensity is raised and with a blue color when the intensity is lowered.

(63) The light bar **226** may be illuminated in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **224** to indicate that the lighting load is being toggled on or off. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to display an animation (e.g., a heartbeat animation) when the lighting load is being toggled on or off. FIG. 11 shows an example plot of the intensity of the light bar **226** with respect to time in order to generate the animation. For example, the intensity of the light bar **226** may be quickly increased to a first intensity (e.g., the first mid-level light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MID1}$ as shown in FIG. 9), quickly decreased to a second intensity (e.g., the second mid-level light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MID2}$ as shown in FIG. 10), quickly increased to a third intensity (e.g., the maximum light bar intensity $L_{sub.LB-MAX}$ as shown in FIG. 8), and then quickly turned off. When the control unit **220** is operating in a spin-to-off mode, the light bar **226** may also be illuminated to display an animation (e.g., the heartbeat animation described herein) when the intensity of the lighting load has reached a minimum intensity and is being turned off.

(64) The light bar **226** may be illuminated to further indicate an amount of adjustment being applied to the light intensity. For example, instead of illuminating the entire light bar **226**, the control circuit of the control device **200** may illuminate a portion of the light bar **226**, and adjust the length of the illuminated portion in accordance to control applied by a user. For example, when

the light bar is configured to have a circular shape, the illuminated portion may expand or contract around the circumference of the light bar **226** in response to adjustments of the light intensity. The control circuit may also be configured to adjust the intensity of the LED that is illuminating an end point of the illuminated portion to provide fine-tune adjustment of the position of the end point of the illuminated portion as will be described in greater detail below.

(65) FIGS. **12A-12C** show front views of the control device **200** when the light bar **226** is illuminated to expand and contract in one direction to provide an indication (e.g., a single indication) of the intensity of a lighting load. For example, the control device **200** may include a plurality of light sources (e.g., LEDs) configured to illuminate the light bar **226**. In response to an actuation of the control device **200** to adjust the intensity of the lighting load, the control device **200** (e.g., the control circuit included therein) may illuminate a subset of the light sources such that a portion **240** of the light bar **226** is illuminated to indicate the intensity corresponding to the actuation. The illuminated portion **240** may begin at a starting point **242** (e.g., at the bottom of the light bar **226** as shown in FIG. **12A**) and end at an end point **244** (e.g., along the circumference of the light bar **226**). The length and/or intensity of the illuminated portion **240** may be indicative of the intensity of the lighting load. The subset of light sources may be illuminated uniformly to a common intensity. Alternatively, the subset of light sources may be illuminated to different intensities. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the end point **244** of the illuminated portion of the light bar **226** to a higher intensity than the rest of the illuminated portion and may decrease the intensity of the illuminated portion towards the starting point **242**. For example, the illuminated portion of the light bar **226** may display a gradient from the brightest intensity at the end point **244** to the dimmest intensity at the starting point **242**. This way, a user may still receive feedback based on the length of the illuminated portion, but less battery power is consumed to provide the feedback. Alternatively, the dimmest intensity may be between the end point **244** and the starting point **242**.

(66) To illustrate, the control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to increase the length of the illuminated portion **240** (e.g., cause the end point **244** of the illuminated portion to move in a clockwise direction as shown in FIGS. **12A-12C**) when the intensity of the lighting load is being raised. The control circuit may be configured to decrease the length of the illuminated portion **240** (e.g., cause the end point **244** of the illuminate portion to move in a counterclockwise direction as shown in FIGS. **12A-12C**) when the intensity of the lighting load is being lowered. This way, the illuminated portion **240** may expand and contract as the intensity of the lighting load is adjusted. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is approximately 30% as shown in FIG. **12A**, approximately 60% as shown in FIG. **12B**, and approximately 90% as shown in FIG. **12C**. When the lighting load is at full intensity (e.g., approximately full intensity), the entire light bar **226** may be illuminated. When the control device **200** is configured to control multiple lighting loads, and set respective light intensities of the multiple lighting loads to different values, the control device **200** may be configured to illuminate the light bar **226** to indicate an average of the respective intensities of the lighting loads, to indicate the intensity of a lighting load nearest to the control device **200**, and/or the like.

(67) In some examples, the control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to adjust the intensity of the light source illuminating the end point **244** of the illuminated portion **240** to provide fine-tune adjustment of the position of the end point **244**. For example, the control circuit may adjust the intensity of the light source that illuminates the end point **244** between 1% and 100% to provide fine-tune adjustment of the position of the end point **244**. To illustrate, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **226** to the length shown in FIG. **12A** to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is at approximately 30%. At that point, the intensity of the light source illuminating the end point **244**) may be set at 1%. As the intensity of the lighting load is further adjusted toward 40%, the control circuit may adjust the intensity of the end point **244** between 1% and 100% with finer granularity to correspond to respective intermediate intensity levels that are

between 30% and 40%. After the intensity of the lighting load reaches 40%, the control circuit may illuminate an additional light source (e.g., to 1% intensity) to cause the length of the illuminated portion to expand. The control circuit may then adjust the intensity of the additional light source that is now illuminating the end point **244** between 1% and 100% as the intensity of the lighting load is being tuned towards a next level (e.g., 50%).

(68) The control device **200** may be configured to indicate a last-known intensity of the lighting load upon receiving a user input to turn on the lighting load. For example, before the lighting load was turned off, the control circuit **200** may store the intensity of the lighting load in a memory of the control device **200** while quickly decreasing the length of the illuminated portion **224** from the end point **244** to the starting point **242**. Subsequently, when the control device **200** is actuated to turn the lighting load back on, the control device **200** may illuminate the light bar **226** to quickly increase the length of the illuminated portion **224** to correspond to the previously stored intensity of the lighting load.

(69) In the examples described above, the display of the illuminated portion **240** may be obstructed by a user's fingers that are manipulating the control device **200**. For instance, as the user rotates the rotating portion **222** of the control device **200** to adjust the intensity of the lighting load, the user's hand may block the leading edge (e.g., the end point **244**) of the illuminated portion **240**. As a result, the user may not be able to determine whether the illuminated portion is expanding and contracting in response to the rotational movement of the rotating portion **222**, and whether the intensity of the lighting load is being adjusted properly.

(70) The control device **200** (e.g., the control circuit included therein) may control the manner in which the light bar **226** is illuminated to reduce the likelihood that a user's action may interfere with the intensity indication. For example, the control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to cause the end point **244** of the illuminated portion **240** (e.g., as shown in FIGS. 12A-12C) to move at a faster or slower angular speed than that of the rotating portion **222** when the rotating portion is rotated. To illustrate, a user may, within a unit of time, rotate the rotating portion **222** by x degrees in order to adjust the intensity (e.g., raise or lower) of the lighting load. In response, the control circuit may, within the same unit of time, cause the end point **244** of the illuminated portion **240** to move by $x+y$ or $x-y$ degrees (e.g., in clockwise or counterclockwise direction) such that the leading edge of the illuminated portion **240** represented by the end point **244** may move faster (e.g., ahead of) or slower (e.g., lagging behind) the user's hand. This way, despite obstruction by a user's hand, the user may still notice changes in the illuminated portion **240** to know that control is being applied properly.

(71) When the end point **244** of the illuminated portion **240** is configured to move faster than (e.g., ahead of) the rotating portion **222**, the control circuit of the control device **200** may scale the full intensity range of the lighting load over less than a 360-degree rotation of the rotating portion **240** so that the illuminated portion **240** may expand or contract over the entire circumference of light bar **226** as the intensity of the lighting load is being adjusted between the low-end and high-end of an intensity range. For example, the control circuit may be configured to scale the full intensity range of the lighting load over a 210-degree rotation of the rotating portion **222**, such that when a rotational movement of the rotating portion **222** reaches 210 degrees, the illuminated portion **240** may cover the entire circumference of the light bar (e.g., 360 degrees) to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load has reached a maximum intensity. Such a technique may also reduce the amount of rotation required to adjust the intensity of the lighting load between the low-end and the high-end. For example, the user may be able to adjust the intensity over a greater range with less wrist movement.

(72) The control device **200** (e.g., a control circuit included therein) may be configured to illuminate a portion of the light bar **226** and cause the length of the illuminated portion to expand and contract (e.g., simultaneously from both end points of the illuminated portion) to indicate the intensity of the lighting load. The illuminated portion may be illuminated uniformly to a common

intensity. Alternatively, different sections of the illuminated portion may be illuminated to different intensities. For example, the end point **244** of the illuminated portion of the light bar **226** may be illuminated to a higher intensity than the rest of the illuminated portion and the intensity of the illuminated portion may be decreased towards the starting point **242**. This way, a user may still receive feedback based on the length of the illuminated portion, but less battery power is consumed to provide the feedback.

(73) FIGS. **13A-13C** show example front views of the control unit **220** when an illuminated portion **250** of the light bar **226** is controlled to expand and contract from both end points **254A**, **254B** of the illuminated portion **250** to indicate the intensity of a lighting load. As shown, when the control device **200** is manipulate to raise the intensity of the lighting load, the control circuit of the control device **200** may cause end points **254A**, **254B** of the illuminated portion **250** to move (e.g., simultaneously) in respective clockwise and counterclockwise directions such that the length of the illuminated portion **250** is extended to indicate that the light intensity is being raised. Similarly, when the control device **200** is manipulate to lower the intensity of the lighting load, the control circuit may cause end points **254A**, **254B** of the illuminated portion **250** to move (e.g., simultaneously) in respective counterclockwise and clockwise directions such that the length of the illuminated portion is shortened to indicate that the light intensity is being lowered. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to indicate that the present intensity of the lighting load is approximately 20% as shown in FIG. **13A**, approximately 60% as shown in FIG. **13B**, and approximately 90% as shown in FIG. **13C**. When the lighting load is at a full intensity (e.g., approximately full intensity), the end points **254A**, **254B** may meet at the top of the light bar **226**, such that the light bar **226** is fully illuminated. The amount and/or speed of movement at end points **254A**, **254B** may be the same or may be different. The illuminated portion **250** may be centered around a vertical axis of the control device **200** when the control device is installed. As such, the illuminated portion **250** may provide multiple intensity indications (e.g., on both the left half and the right half of the light bar **226**). Using such a mechanism, the likelihood of a user's hand obstructing the intensity indication may be reduced.

(74) In the example shown in FIGS. **13A-13C**, when the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load on, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to quickly increase the length of the illuminated portion **250** (e.g., from both end points **254A**, **254B**) to correspond to a last-known intensity of the lighting load before the lighting load was turned off. The control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to store the last-known intensity of the lighting load in memory before the lighting load is turned off. When the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load off, the light bar **226** may be controlled to quickly decrease the length of the illuminated portion **250** (e.g., from both end points **254A**, **254B** toward the center of the illuminated portion **250**) to indicate that the lighting load is being turned off. Prior to decreasing the length of the illuminated portion **250**, the control device **200** may be configured to store the intensity of the lighting load in memory.

(75) The control device **200** (e.g., a control circuit included therein) may be configured to illuminate multiple portions of the light bar **226** to provide multiple indications of the intensity of the lighting load. FIGS. **14A-14C** show example front views of the control unit **220** when multiple portions of the light bar **226** are illuminated to show multiple intensity indications on the light bar **226**. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to generate a first illuminated portion **260A** to indicate the intensity of the lighting load on a first portion of the light bar **226** (e.g., on the left half of the light bar **226**) and a second illuminated portion **260B** to indicate the intensity of the lighting load on a second portion of the light bar **226** (e.g., on right half of the light bar **226**). The control circuit of the control device **200** may adjust the lengths, colors, and/or brightness levels of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** in response to changes in the intensity of the lighting load. The lengths, colors, and/or brightness levels of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may indicate the intensity of the lighting load. The illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may be illuminated

uniformly to a common intensity. Alternatively, different sections of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may be illuminated to different intensities. For example, the control circuit may illuminate end points **264A**, **264B** of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** to a higher intensity than the rest of the illuminated portions and may decrease the intensity of the illuminated portion towards the bottom of the light bar **226**. This way, a user may still receive feedback based on the lengths of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B**, but less battery power is consumed to provide the feedback.

(76) As shown in FIGS. **14A-14C**, the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may start from different starting points, e.g., **262A** and **262B**, respectively. The starting point **262A** may be at the bottom of the light bar **226**. The starting point **262B** may be at the top of the light bar **226**. The first illuminated portion **260A** may end at the end point **264A** on the left half of the light bar **226**, and the second illuminated portion **260B** may end at the end point **264B** on the right half of the light bar **226**. As such, the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may occupy positions of the light bar **226** that are diagonally across from each other (e.g., the illuminated portions may be centered along a diagonal axis of the control device **200** upon installation).

(77) The first and second illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may have identical lengths that indicate the intensity of the lighting load. As the intensity of the lighting load is increased, the end point **264A** of the first illuminated portion **260A** may move along the left half of the light bar **226** in the clockwise direction to extend the length of the first illuminated portion **260A**, while the end point **264B** of the second illuminated portion **260B** may move along the right half of the light bar **226** in the clockwise direction to extend the length of the second illuminated portion **260B**. As the intensity of the lighting load is decreased, the end point **264A** of the first illuminated portion **260A** may move along the left half of the light bar **226** in the counterclockwise direction to shorten the length of the first illuminated portion **260A**, while the end point **264B** of the second illuminated portion **260B** may move along the right half of the light bar **226** in the counterclockwise direction to shorten the length of the second illuminated portion **260B**. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is approximately 20% as shown in FIG. **14A**, approximately 60% as shown in FIG. **14B**, and approximately 90% as shown in FIG. **14C**. When the lighting load is at a full intensity (e.g., approximately full intensity), end point **264A** may meet starting point **262B** at the top of the light bar **226**, and end point **264B** may meet starting point **262A** at the bottom of the light bar **226**, such that the light bar **226** is fully illuminated.

(78) In the example shown in FIGS. **14A-14C**, when the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load on, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to quickly increase the respective lengths of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** from starting points **262A**, **262B** to end points **264A**, **264B** such that the lengths of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** may correspond to a last-known intensity of the lighting load before the lighting load was turned off. The last-known intensity of the lighting load may be stored by the control device **200** in memory before the lighting load was turned off. When the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load off, the light bar **226** may be controlled to quickly decrease the respective lengths of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B** (e.g., from end points **264A**, **264B** toward starting points **262A**, **262B**) to indicate that the lighting load is being turned off. Prior to decreasing the lengths of the illuminated portions **260A**, **260B**, the control device **200** may be configured to store the intensity of the lighting load in memory.

(79) If the control device **200** is configured to control multiple lighting loads and set different intensities for the multiple lighting loads, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to indicate an average intensity level of the lighting loads. Alternatively, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to indicate the highest or lowest intensity among the multiple lighting loads, to indicate a default intensity, e.g., approximately 50%, to indicate the intensity of a lighting load nearest to the control device **200**, etc.

(80) FIGS. **15A-15C** show another set of example front views of the control unit **220** when more than one portion of the light bar **226** is illuminated to provide multiple intensity indications. As

shown, two portions **270A**, **270B** of the light bar **226** may be illuminated. The illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may occupy locations of the light bar **226** that are horizontally across from each other (e.g., illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may be centered along a horizontal axis of the control device). The control circuit of the control device **200** may adjust the lengths, colors, and/or brightness levels of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** in response to changes in the intensity of the lighting load. The lengths, colors, and/or brightness levels of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may indicate the intensity of the lighting load. The illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may be illuminated uniformly to a common intensity. Alternatively, different sections of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may be illuminated to different intensities. For example, the control circuit may illuminate end points **271A**, **271B**, **273A**, **273B** of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** to a higher intensity than the rest of the illuminated portions and may decrease the intensity of the illuminated portion **270A**, **270B** towards the left and right sides of the light bar **226**. This way, a user may still receive feedback based on the lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B**, but less battery power is consumed to provide the feedback.

(81) As shown in FIGS. **15A-15C**, in response to the intensity of the lighting load being raised (e.g., via a rotational movement of the rotating portion **222** in a clockwise direction), the control circuit of the control device **200** may cause each of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** to expand (e.g., simultaneously at both end points) along the circumference of the light bar **226** so that the lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** are extended to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is being raised. When the intensity of the lighting load is lowered (e.g., via a rotational movement of the rotating portion **222** in a counterclockwise direction), the control circuit may cause each of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** to contract (e.g., simultaneously at both end points) so that the lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** are shortened to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is being lowered. For example, the light bar **226** may be illuminated in the aforementioned manner to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is approximately 10% as shown in FIG. **15A**, approximately 60% as shown in FIG. **15B**, and approximately 90% as shown in FIG. **15C**. When the lighting load is at a full intensity (e.g., approximately full intensity), the entire light bar **226** may be illuminated.

(82) In the example shown in FIGS. **15A-15C**, when the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load on, the light bar **226** may be illuminated to quickly increase the respective lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** such that the lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** may correspond to a last-known intensity of the lighting load before the lighting load was turned off. The last-known intensity of the lighting load may be stored by the control device **200** in memory before the lighting load was turned off. When the control device **200** is actuated (e.g., via the actuation portion **224**) to turn the lighting load off, the light bar **226** may be controlled to quickly decrease the respective lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B** (e.g., from respective end points of each illuminated portion toward the center of the illuminated portion) to indicate that the lighting load is being turned off. Prior to decreasing the lengths of the illuminated portions **270A**, **270B**, the control device **200** may be configured to store the intensity of the lighting load in memory.

(83) In one or more of the examples shown in FIGS. **13A-15C**, the control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to adjust the intensity of the light sources illuminating the end points of the illuminated portions (e.g., the illuminated portions **250**, **260A**, **260B**, **270A**, **270B**) to provide fine-tune adjustment of the positions of the end points. For example, the control circuit may adjust the intensity of the light sources that illuminate the endpoints (e.g., end points **254A**, **254B**, **264A**, **264B**, **271A**, **271B**, **273A**, **273B**) between 1% and 100% to provide fine-tune adjustment of positions the end points. To illustrate, the control circuit may illuminate portions of the light bar **226** to specific lengths to indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is at approximately 30%. At that point, the intensity of the light sources illuminating the end points may be set at 1%. As the intensity of the lighting load is further adjusted toward 40%, the control circuit may adjust the

intensity of the end points between 1% and 100% with finer granularity to correspond to respective intermediate intensity levels between 30% and 40%. After the intensity of the lighting load reaches 40%, the control circuit may illuminate additional light sources (e.g., to 1% intensity) to cause the lengths of the illuminated portions to expand. The control circuit may then adjust the intensity of the light sources that are now illuminating the end points between 1% and 100% as the intensity of the lighting load is being fine-tuned toward a next level (e.g., 50%).

(84) FIGS. **16A-16C** show another set of example front views of the control unit **220** when a moving indication is provided on the light bar **226** to inform a user about the present intensity of the lighting load. The moving indication **280** may be provided, for example, by alternately illuminating different subsets of the included light sources (e.g., different individual LEDs) in response to adjustments of the light intensity. Illuminating subsets of the light sources as opposed to illuminating an increasingly large number of light sources may reduce the amount of power (e.g., battery power) required for provided the intensity feedback. To illustrate, when the intensity of the lighting load is at the low-end, the control circuit may illuminate a light source (e.g., a single LED) located at the bottom of light bar **226** to provide the indication **280** near the bottom of the light bar **226**. As the light intensity is increased, the control circuit may illuminate different individual light sources (e.g., different individual LEDs) located along the circumference of the light bar **226** in succession so that the indication **280** may move along the light bar **226** in a clockwise direction, as shown in FIGS. **16A-16C**. The position of the indication **280** may correspond to the present intensity of the lighting load and as such may serve as an indication of the present intensity. For instance, the indication shown in FIG. **16A** may indicate that the intensity of the lighting load is approximately 30%, and the indications shown in FIGS. **16B** and **16C** may indicate that the light intensity is approximately 60% and 90%, respectively. Similarly, when the light intensity is decreased, the control circuit may alternately illuminate the different individual light sources (e.g., the different individual LEDs) in an opposite direction (e.g., a counterclockwise direction) to indicate that the light intensity is being lowered.

(85) The indication **280** described above may be controlled to move continuously around the circumference of the light bar **226** or skip around the circumference in discrete steps to provide feedback about an amount of power delivered to an electrical load. For example, the control device **200** may be configured to control an electrical load the power of which can only be controlled to discrete levels. One such electrical load may be a ceiling fan with four speeds (e.g., a full speed and three intermediate speeds). As a result, the control circuit of the control device **200** may control the amount of power delivered to the fan to four discrete levels (e.g., 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%) corresponding to the four speeds. In such scenarios, the control circuit of the control device **200** may provide feedback about the amount of power delivered to the fan (e.g., regarding the speed of the fan) by illuminating discrete segments of the light bar **226**. For instance, in response to setting the power delivered to the fan to 25%, the control circuit may illuminate a first set of light sources (e.g., a first LED) located near the 90-degree position of the light bar **226**. In response to setting the power delivered to the fan to 50%, the control circuit may illuminate a second set of light sources (e.g., a second LED) located near the top (e.g., the 180-degree position) of the light bar **226**. Similarly, feedback for 75% power and 100% power may be provided at the 270-degree and 360-degree positions of the light bar **226**, respectively.

(86) FIG. **17** shows a flow diagram of an example control procedure **400** illustrating how the control device **200** may be configured to control and indicate the intensity of one or more lighting loads. The control circuit of the control device **200** may perform the control procedure **400** periodically, for example, each time the control circuit receives a signal indicative of a user input. The control circuit may start at **410**, and receive a signal at **412** indicating that a rotational movement of the rotating portion **222** has been applied by a user. In response to the signal, the control circuit may, at **414**, determine a corresponding intensity for the one or more lighting loads. The determination may be made, for example, by querying the one or more lighting loads (e.g.,

requesting a current intensity level from the lighting load(s) or using a last-known intensity stored by the control device **200**. Further, the control circuit may determine, at **416**, feedback to be provided to the user. For example, when the determined intensity falls between a high-end intensity and a low-end intensity, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **226** as described herein to indicate the determined intensity. The control circuit may then transmit, at **418**, a control signal to the lighting load(s) (e.g., via a wireless communication circuit, either directly or indirectly via a system controller) to cause the lighting load(s) to adjust their intensities accordingly. When the determined intensity is at the high-end or the low-end, the control circuit may act differently and/or provide additional feedback to the user. For example, the control circuit may be configured to provide additional feedback to alert the user that the intensity of the lighting load(s) has reached a maximum or minimum value. The feedback may include, for example, a haptic feedback, a visual feedback (e.g., strobing the light bar **226**), an audible feedback (e.g., playing a special sound), and/or the like. Further, the control circuit may be configured to not transmit a control signal to the lighting load(s) since the intensity is already at the boundary of the intensity range.

(87) The control device **200** (e.g., the control circuit included therein) may be configured to dim (e.g., turn off) the light bar **226** when the control device **200** is in an idle state (e.g., to conserve battery). The control device **200** may be configured to enter such an idle state, for example, upon detecting that a user of the control device is no longer within close proximity of the control device **200** or that no actuation of the control device has been applied for a certain time period.

Subsequently, when the control device **200** detects an actuation of the control device **200** and/or determines that a user has entered the vicinity of the control device **200**, the control device **200** may illuminate the light bar **226** to indicate the intensity of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **200**.

(88) The control device **200** may include a capacitive touch element or an electric field sensor (e.g., installed in or behind a front surface of the control device) that is capable of detecting a user's presence near the control device. For example, the control device may dim the light bar **226** (e.g., turn off the light bar **226**) when the control device **200** is in the idle state. As a user walks close to the control device **200** and/or reaches for the control device **200** (e.g., before the user actually makes physical contact with the control device **200**), the capacitive touch element or the electric field sensor may sense the proximity of the user, and signal that to the control circuit. The exact distance (e.g., between the user's finger or hand and the control device **200**) that may trigger the signaling may vary, for example, depending on the property of the capacitive touch element or the electric field sensor employed. In response to receiving the signaling, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **226** to provide an indication of the present intensity of the lighting load. If the lighting load is in an off state when the user reaches for the control device **200**, the control device **200** may not illuminate the light bar **226** or the control device **200** may illuminate the light bar **226** to reflect a last-known intensity of the lighting load before the lighting load was turned off. The control device may illuminate (e.g., to a low intensity) the light bar **226** and/or one or more other light sources (e.g., which may be configured to provide backlighting to a front surface of the control device **200**) so that the control device **200** may become visible to the user.

(89) The orientation of the control device **200** may be considered when implementing the features described herein. For example, the control device **200** may be configured to determine its orientation (e.g., via a sensor or through programming during association), and control how feedback is provided based on the determined orientation. In an example, the control device **220** may use the orientation of the control device to determine which portion of the light bar **226** should be illuminated so that intensity feedback may be displayed consistently. Examples of a control device capable of determining its orientations are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 10,134,268, issued Nov. 20, 2018, entitled "Remote Load Control Device Capable of Orientation Detection," the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(90) A user of the control device **200** may customize the manner in which intensity feedback is

provided. For example, the user may select, during a configuration process of the control device **200**, which of the feedback mechanisms shown in FIGS. 7-15C is to be used for intensity indication. Further, although the light bar **226** is shown and described in the examples as having a substantially circular shape and extending along the circumference of the rotating portion **222**, it will be appreciated that the light bar **226** may have a different shape, location, and/or other geometric properties without affecting the features described herein. Moreover, the light bar **226** is described herein only as an example of how feedback may be provided to a user of the control device **200**. Other feedback mechanisms are also within the scope of this disclosure. For example, instead of the light bar **226**, a single light source (e.g., a single LED) may be illuminated in different manners (e.g., in terms of intensity and/or color) to indicate that the intensity of a lighting load is being raised or lowered.

(91) The control device **200** may be powered by a battery (e.g., such as the battery **230**). The battery may be stored in a battery compartment (e.g., the battery recess **362**). Access to the battery compartment may be provided via a battery removal device such as the control unit release tab **216**. As described above, a user may actuate the control unit release tab **216** (e.g., by pushing up toward the base portion **210** or pulling down away from the base portion **210**) to remove the control unit **220** from the base portion **210**. The user may then loosen the battery retention strap **232** to remove and replace the battery (e.g., as shown in FIG. 4).

(92) The control device **200** may be configured to detect a low battery condition (e.g., via a battery power sensing circuit) and provide an indication of the low battery condition such that a user of the control device **200** may be alerted to replace the battery. Examples of battery power sensing circuits are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 8,950,461, issued Feb. 10, 2015, entitled "Motorized Window Treatment," the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(93) The control device **200** may include a low battery indicator that may be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., red or other colored LEDs) to direct a user's attention to a low battery condition and/or the location of a battery removal device (e.g., the control unit release tab **216**). The low battery indicator may be provided on or near the battery removal device to highlight the battery removal device. FIG. 18A show an example front view of the control device **200** with a low battery indicator provided on or near the control unit release tab **216**. The control unit release tab **216** may include a translucent (e.g., transparent, clear, and/or diffusive) material and may be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs) located above and/or to the side of the control unit release tab **216** (e.g., inside the control unit **220**). The translucent material may permit the passage of light from the one or more light sources when illuminated, and remain minimally visible when not illuminated. The illumination may be steady or flashing (e.g., in a blinking manner) such that the low battery condition may catch a user's attention. The illumination may also direct the user to the control unit release tab **216**, which may be used to access the battery compartment to replace the battery.

(94) The low battery indicator may also be provided via the light bar **226**, for example, by illuminating one or more portions of the light bar **226**. FIG. 18B shows an example front view of the control device **200** with a low battery indicator provided on the light bar **226**. As shown, a bottom portion **272** of the light bar **226** may be illuminated when a low battery condition is detected. The length of the illuminated portion **272** may indicate the amount of battery power remaining (e.g., 10%). To distinguish from the illumination used as intensity feedback, and/or to attract a user's attention, the bottom portion **272** may be illuminated with a different color (e.g., via a red LED) and/or a special pattern (e.g., flashing). The control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to stop displaying intensity feedback on the light bar **226** and to instead provide the low battery indicator on the light bar **226** after determining that a low battery condition has occurred.

(95) FIGS. 19A-19C show example views of the control device **200** illustrating another way to

provide the low battery indicator on the light bar **226**. As shown, the control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to, upon detecting a low battery condition, illuminate multiple portions of the light bar **226** in alternation (e.g., to imitate an animation) to alert a user about the low battery condition and/or to direct the user's attention to the battery removal device (e.g., the control unit release tab **216**). For example, after detecting the low battery condition, the control circuit may illuminate a first set of two portions **227A**, **227B** of the light bar **226** for a brief period. The control circuit may then dim (e.g., turn off) the portions **227A**, **227B**, and illuminate a second set of two portions **227C**, **227D** of the light bar **226** that are located below the portions **227A**, **227B**. After illuminating the portions **227C**, **227D** for a brief period, the control circuit may dim (e.g., turn off) those portions, and illuminate a bottom portion **227E** of the light bar **226** above the control unit release tab **216** to inform the user of the location of the control unit release tab **216**. The control circuit may be configured to repeat the foregoing pattern/animation periodically until the low battery condition is mitigated.

(96) Although the battery removal device and the low battery indicator are described in the examples herein as being located at the bottom of the control device **200**, it should be appreciated that the battery removal device (e.g., the battery release tab **216**) and/or the low battery indicator may occupy other locations of the control device including, for example, anywhere around the perimeter of the base portion of the control device **200** (e.g., the top or a side of the base portion). Consequently, the illumination pattern shown in FIGS. **19A-19C** may be adjusted, for example to point upward or sideways so that a user may follow the pattern to locate the battery removal device.

(97) The low battery indicator may also be provided on a front surface of the control device **200** such as a front surface of the actuation portion **224**. For example, in response to detecting a low battery condition, the control circuit of the control device **200** may cause an area of the front surface of the actuation portion **224** to be backlit (e.g., by one or more LEDs) to display indicia (e.g., texts or graphics) that alert a user about the low battery condition. The control circuit may cause the indicia to become dim (e.g., turned off) when the low battery condition is resolved.

(98) The orientation of the control device **200** may be considered for low battery indication. For example, when providing low battery indication on the light bar **226**, the control device **220** may determine its orientation (e.g., via a sensor or through programming during association), and adjust the illumination pattern/animation illustrated in FIGS. **19A-19C** in accordance with the determination to ensure that the pattern/animation points in the direction of the battery removal device (e.g., downward, upward, sideways, etc.).

(99) The control device **200** may adjust its operation based on the amount of battery power remaining. FIG. **20** is a flow diagram of an example operating procedure **500** that illustrates how the control device **200** may operate differently in accordance with different battery power levels. The control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to perform the operating procedure **500** periodically, for example, every time the control circuit of the control device **200** wakes up from an idle state. As shown, the control device **200** (e.g., a control circuit of the control device) may start at **510**, and measure the amount of remaining battery power at **520** via a battery power sensing circuit. The control circuit may determine, at **530**, whether the remaining battery power is equal to or above a first power threshold $P_{sub.TH1}$ (e.g., 20% of full capacity). If the answer is yes (e.g., there is more than 20% of battery power left), the control circuit may, at **532**, display intensity feedback on the light bar **226** in response to a user's manipulation of the control device **200**, as described herein. The control circuit may further transmit control signal(s) (e.g., via a wireless communication circuit) to effectuate the intensity adjustment desired by the user. The control circuit may be regarded as operating in a normal mode when the remaining battery power is equal to or above the first power threshold $P_{sub.TH1}$ (e.g., 20% of full capacity). The control circuit may be configured to not provide a low battery indication while the control circuit is operating in the normal mode.

(100) If the control circuit determines, at **530**, that the remaining battery power is less than

P.sub.TH1 (e.g., there is less than 20% of power left), the control circuit may further determine, at **540**, whether the remaining battery power is equal to or above a second power threshold P.sub.TH2 (e.g., 5% of full capacity). If the answer at **540** is yes (e.g., there is less than 20% but more than 5% of power left), the control circuit may, at **542**, stop displaying intensity feedback on the light bar **226** in response to a user's manipulation of the control device **200** (e.g., in order to conserve battery power). The control circuit may continue to transmit control signal(s) at this stage via the wireless communication circuit. As such, the control functions of the control device **200** may remain operational. The control circuit may be regarded as operating in a low battery mode when the remaining battery power is below the first power threshold P.sub.TH1 (e.g., 20% of full capacity). The control circuit may be configured to provide a low battery indication while operating in the low battery mode, as described herein.

(101) If the control circuit determines, at **540**, that the remaining battery power is less than P.sub.TH2 (e.g., there is less than 5% of power left), the control circuit may, at **544**, stop both intensity feedback and the transmission of control signal(s) in response to a user's manipulation of the control device **200**, before exiting at **550**. At this stage, the control circuit is substantially shut down (e.g., except to display the low battery indication).

(102) The control circuit of the control device **200** may be configured to use different mechanisms to provide the low battery indications in accordance with different levels of remaining battery power. For example, the control device **200** may be configured to provide low battery indications using the light bar **226** (e.g., as described with reference to FIGS. **18B** and **19A-19C**) if the remaining battery power is between P.sub.TH1 and P.sub.TH2. After the remaining battery power falls below P.sub.TH2, the control device **200** may provide the low battery indications on the control unit release tab **216**, as shown in FIG. **18A**.

(103) The control device **200** may be configured to dim (e.g., turn off) the low battery indicator when the control device **200** is in an idle state (e.g., to conserve battery). As described above, the control device **200** may enter such an idle state upon detecting that a user of the control device is no longer within close proximity of the control device **200** or that no actuation of the control device has been applied for a certain time period. Subsequently, when the control device **200** detects an actuation of the control device **200** and/or determines that a user has entered close proximity of the control device **200**, the control device **200** may check the remaining battery power and illuminate the battery indicator in response to detecting a low battery condition (e.g., less than 20% battery power remaining). As described herein, the control device **200** may include a capacitive touch element or an electric field sensor (e.g., installed in or behind a front surface of the control device) that is capable of detecting a user's presence near the remote control device. The exact distance (e.g., between the user's hand and the control device **200**) that may trigger the detection may vary, for example, depending on the property of the capacitive touch element or the electric field sensor employed. In an alternative implementation, the control device **200** may wake up periodically (e.g., even when no user is detected near the control device **200**) to check the remaining battery power and illuminate the battery indicator in response to detecting a low battery condition.

(104) While the control device **200** has been described with reference to the retrofit remote control device **112** having the rotating portion **222**, the actuation portion **224**, and the light bar **226**, other control devices, such as a wall-mounted dimmer switch, may also be configured with similar rotating portions, actuation portions, and light bars as described herein.

(105) The rotating portion **222**, the actuation portion **224**, and the light bar **226** of the control device **200** shown and described herein have circular shapes. However, the rotating portion **222**, the actuation portion **224**, and the light bar **226** of the control module **200** could have other shapes. For example, the rotating portion **222** and the actuation portion **224** may each have a rectangular shape, a square shape, a diamond shape, a triangular shape, an oval shape, a star shape, or any suitable shape. The front surface of the actuations portions **224** and/or the side surfaces of the rotating portion **222** may be planar or non-planar. In addition, the light bar **226** may have an alternative

shape, such as a rectangular shape, a square shape, a diamond shape, a triangular shape, an oval shape, a star shape, or any suitable shape. The light bar **226** may each be a complete loop, a partial loop, a broken loop, a single linear bar, a linear or circular array of visual indicators, and/or other suitable arrangement. The surfaces of the control device **200** may be characterized by various colors, finishes, designs, patterns, etc.

(106) FIG. **21** is a simplified equivalent schematic diagram of an example control device **600** (e.g., a remote control device), which may be deployed as control devices **112**, **114**, **116**, or **118** of the load control system **100**, for example. The control device **600** may include a control circuit **630**, a rotational sensing circuit **632**, one or more actuators **634** (e.g., buttons and/or switches), a capacitive touch or electric field sensing device **636**, a wireless communication circuit **638**, a memory **640**, a battery **642**, and/or one or more LEDs **644**. The memory **640** may be configured to store one or more operating parameters (e.g., such as battery power thresholds P.sub.TH1 and P.sub.TH2) of the control device **600**. The battery **642** may provide power to one or more of the components shown in FIG. **21**.

(107) The rotational sensing circuit **632** may be configured to translate a force applied to a rotating mechanism (e.g., such as the rotating portion **222** of the control device **200**) into an input signal and provide the input signal to the control circuit **630**. The rotational sensing circuit **632** may include, for example, one or more magnetic sensors (e.g., such as Hall-effect sensors (HES), tunneling magnetoresistance (TMR) sensors, anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) sensors, giant magnetoresistance (GMR) sensors, reed switches, or other mechanical magnetic sensors), a mechanical encoder, an optical encoder, and/or a potentiometer (e.g., a polymer thick film or other resistive trace on a printed circuit board). The rotational sensing circuit **632** may also operate as an antenna of the control device **600**. The one or more actuators **634** may include a button or switch such as the actuation portion **224** of the control device **200**. The actuators **634** may be configured to send input signal(s) to the control circuit **630** in response to actuations of the actuators **634** (e.g., in response to movements of the actuator **634**). The capacitive touch or electric field sensing device **636** may be configured to detect a user's presence within close proximity of the control device **600**, and signal the detection to the control circuit **630**.

(108) It should be noted that, although depicted as including all of the rotational sensing circuit **632**, the actuators **634**, and the capacitive touch or electric field sensing device **636**, the control device **600** may include any combination of the foregoing components (e.g., one or more of those components).

(109) The control circuit **630** may be configured to translate the input signals provided by the rotational sensing circuit **632**, the actuators **634**, and/or the capacitive touch or electric field sensing device **636** into control data (e.g., digital control signals) for controlling one or more electrical loads. The control circuit **630** may cause parts or all of the control data (e.g., digital control signals) to be transmitted to the electrical loads via the wireless communication circuit **638**. For example, the wireless communication circuit **638** may transmit a control signal including the control data to the one or more electrical loads or to a central controller of the concerned load control system. The control circuit **630** may illuminate the LEDs **644** to present a light bar (e.g., such as the light bar **226**) and/or one or more indicators (e.g., such as the low battery indicator described herein) to provide feedback about various states or conditions of the control device **600** and/or the electrical loads.

(110) FIG. **22** is a simplified block diagram of an example control device **700** (e.g., a dimmer switch) that may be deployed as the dimmer switch **110** of the load control system **100**. The control device **700** may include a hot terminal H that may be adapted to be coupled to an AC power source **702**. The control device **700** may include a dimmed hot terminal DH that may be adapted to be coupled to an electrical load, such as a lighting load **704**. The control device **700** may include a controllably conductive device **710** coupled in series electrical connection between the AC power source **702** and the lighting load **704**. The controllably conductive device **710** may control the

power delivered to the lighting load. The controllably conductive device **710** may include a suitable type of bidirectional semiconductor switch, such as, for example, a triac, a field-effect transistor (FET) in a rectifier bridge, two FETs in anti-series connection, or one or more insulated-gate bipolar junction transistors (IGBTs). An air-gap switch **729** may be coupled in series with the controllably conductive device **710**. The air-gap switch **729** may be opened and closed in response to actuations of an air-gap actuator (not shown). When the air-gap switch **729** is closed, the controllably conductive device **710** is operable to conduct current to the load. When the air-gap switch **729** is open, the lighting load **704** is disconnected from the AC power source **702**.

(111) The control device **700** may include a control circuit **714**. The control circuit **714** may include one or more of a processor (e.g., a microprocessor), a microcontroller, a programmable logic device (PLD), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), or any suitable controller or processing device. The control circuit **714** may be operatively coupled to a control input of the controllably conductive device **710**, for example, via a gate drive circuit **712**. The control circuit **714** may be used for rendering the controllably conductive device **710** conductive or non-conductive, for example, to control the amount of power delivered to the lighting load **704**.

(112) The control circuit **714** may receive a control signal representative of the zero-crossing points of the AC main line voltage of the AC power source **702** from a zero-crossing detector **716**. The control circuit **714** may be operable to render the controllably conductive device **710** conductive and/or non-conductive at predetermined times relative to the zero-crossing points of the AC waveform using a phase-control dimming technique. Examples of dimmers are described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Pat. No. 7,242,150, issued Jul. 10, 2007, entitled Dimmer Having a Power Supply Monitoring Circuit; U.S. Pat. No. 7,546,473, issued Jun. 9, 2009, entitled Dimmer having a microprocessor-controlled power supply; and U.S. Pat. No. 8,664,881, issued Mar. 4, 2014, entitled Two-wire dimmer switch for low-power loads, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

(113) The control device **700** may include a memory **718**. The memory **718** may be communicatively coupled to the control circuit **714** for the storage and/or retrieval of, for example, operational settings, such as, battery power thresholds $P_{sub.TH1}$, $P_{sub.TH2}$. The memory **718** may be implemented as an external integrated circuit (IC) or as an internal circuit of the control circuit **714**. The control device **700** may include a power supply **720**. The power supply **720** may generate a direct-current (DC) supply voltage $V_{sub.CC}$ for powering the control circuit **714** and the other low-voltage circuitry of the control device **700**. The power supply **720** may be coupled in parallel with the controllably conductive device **710**. The power supply **720** may be operable to conduct a charging current through the lighting load **704** to generate the DC supply voltage $V_{sub.CC}$.

(114) The control circuit **714** may be responsive to inputs received from actuators **730** and/or a rotational position sensing circuit **740**. The control circuit **714** may control the controllably conductive device **710** to adjust the intensity of the lighting load **704** in response to the input received via the actuators **730** and/or the rotational position sensing circuit **740**.

(115) The rotary position sensing circuit **740** may be configured to translate a force applied to a rotating mechanism (e.g., such as the rotating portion **222**) into an input signal and provide the input signal to the control circuit **714**. The rotational position sensing circuit **740** may include, for example, one or more magnetic sensors (e.g., such as Hall-effect sensors (HES), tunneling magnetoresistance (TMR) sensors, anisotropic magnetoresistance (AMR) sensors, giant magnetoresistance (GMR) sensors, reed switches, or other mechanical magnetic sensors), a mechanical encoder, an optical encoder, and/or a potentiometer (e.g., a polymer thick film or other resistive trace on a printed circuit board). The rotational position sensing circuit **740** may also operate as an antenna of the control device **700**. The actuators **730** may include a button or switch such as the actuator **224**. The actuators **730** may be configured to send input signal(s) to the control

circuit **714** in response to actuations of the actuators **730** (e.g., in response to movements of the actuators **730**). A capacitive touch or electrical field sensing device **750** may be configured to detect a user's presence within close proximity of the control device **700**, and signal the detection to the control circuit **714**. The control circuit **714** may be configured to translate the input signals received from the actuators **730**, the rotational position sensing circuit **740**, and/or the capacitive touch or electrical field sensing device **750** into control data (e.g., one or more control signals). Some or all of the control data may be transmitted to the lighting load **704** or a central controller of the load control system.

(116) It should be noted that, although depicted as including all of the rotational sensing circuit **740**, the actuators **730**, and the touch sensitive device **750**, the control device **700** may include any combination of the foregoing components (e.g., one or more of those components).

(117) The control device **700** may comprise a wireless communication circuit **722**. The wireless communication circuit **722** may include for example, a radio-frequency (RF) transceiver coupled to an antenna for transmitting and/or receiving RF signals. The wireless communication circuit **722** may also include an RF transmitter for transmitting RF signals, an RF receiver for receiving RF signals, or an infrared (IR) transmitter and/or receiver for transmitting and/or receiving IR signals. The wireless communication circuit **722** may be configured to transmit a control signal that includes parts or all of the control data (e.g., a digital message) generated by the control circuit **714** to the lighting load **704**. As described herein, the control data may be generated in response to a user input to adjust one or more operational aspects of the lighting load **704**. The control data may include a command and/or identification information (e.g., such as a unique identifier) associated with the control device **700**. In addition to or in lieu of transmitting the control signal to the lighting load **704**, the wireless communication circuit **722** may be controlled to transmit the control signal to a central controller of the lighting control system.

(118) The control circuit **714** may be configured to illuminate visual indicators **760** (e.g., LEDs) to provide feedback about the lighting load **704** and/or the control device **700**. The visual indicators **760** may be configured to form a light bar and/or other types of visual displays.

(119) Although described with reference to a lighting load and an intensity of the lighting load, one or more embodiments disclosed herein may be used with other electrical loads (e.g., such as an audio system) and for controlling an amount of power delivered to those electrical loads (e.g., to thus control the volume of an audio system). A single control circuit or multiple control circuits may be adapted to realize the control functionalities described herein.

Claims

1. A control device for controlling an intensity level of a lighting load in a load control system, the control device comprising: a printed circuit board (PCB) comprising a control circuit and a plurality of light sources, wherein the plurality of light sources are arranged around a perimeter of the PCB; a light bar configured to be illuminated by the plurality of light sources; and a substantially circular rotating portion, wherein the light bar is configured to extend along a perimeter of the rotating portion to form a substantially circular light bar; wherein the control circuit is configured to control an amount of power delivered to the lighting load to control a present intensity level of the lighting load, and wherein the control circuit is further configured to dim the light bar during an idle state; and wherein the control circuit is configured to, in response to detecting that a user is within close proximity of the control device, determine whether the lighting load is in an off state or an on state, wherein, when the lighting load is in the on state, the control circuit is configured to illuminate at least a subset of the plurality of light sources to form an illuminated portion on the light bar to indicate the present intensity level of the lighting load, and when the lighting load is in the off state, the control circuit is configured to illuminate at least a subset of the plurality of light sources to form the illuminated portion on the light bar to indicate a

last-known intensity level of the lighting load before the lighting load was turned off, and wherein, when the lighting load is on, the control circuit is further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar based on the present intensity level of the lighting load such that the illuminated portion expands or contracts along the light bar in response to adjustments in the intensity level of the lighting load.

2. The control device of claim 1, further comprising: a controllably conductive device coupled in series electrical connection between an alternating-current (AC) power source and the lighting load and configured to control the intensity level of the lighting load; wherein the control circuit is configured to generate the control signal for controlling the controllably conductive device in response to a user input received via the control device.

3. The control device of claim 2, further comprising: a hot terminal adapted to be coupled to the AC power source; and a dimmed hot terminal adapted to be coupled to the lighting load; wherein the controllably conductive device is electrically coupled between the hot terminal and the dimmed hot terminal.

4. The control device of claim 2, further comprising: a power supply electrically coupled in parallel with the controllably conductive device and configured to conduct a charging current through the lighting load for generating a direct-current (DC) supply voltage for powering the plurality of light sources and the control circuit.

5. The control device of claim 1, further comprising: an actuation portion, wherein the control circuit is further configured to generate a control signal for turning the lighting load on and off in response to the actuation portion being actuated.

6. The control device of claim 1, further comprising: a wireless communication circuit configured to transmit digital messages to the lighting load; and a direct-current (DC) power source configured to power the plurality of light sources, the control circuit, and the wireless communication circuit.

7. The control device of claim 6, wherein the DC power source comprises a battery.

8. The control device of claim 6, wherein the control device comprises a tabletop remote control device that is configured to be placed on a surface.

9. The control device of claim 6, wherein the control device comprises a handheld remote control device that is configured to fit within a user's hand.

10. The control device of claim 6, further comprising: a base portion configured to be mounted over an actuator of a mechanical switch that controls power delivered to the lighting load.

11. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is configured to dim the light bar by turning off the plurality of light sources during the idle state.

12. The control device of claim 1, further comprising: an actuation portion; and a capacitive touch element configured to detect that a user is within close proximity of the control device, wherein the capacitive touch element is located adjacent to a rear surface of the actuation portion.

13. The control device of claim 1, further comprising an electric field sensor configured to detect that a user is within close proximity of the control device.

14. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is configured to, in response to detecting that a user is within close proximity of the control device, illuminate the plurality of light sources to form a single illuminated portion on the light bar, the control circuit further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that an end point of the single illuminated portion moves in a first direction along the light bar when the intensity level of the lighting load is raised, the control circuit further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that the end point of the single illuminated portion moves in a second direction along the light bar when the intensity level of the lighting load is lowered, the second direction being opposite to the first direction.

15. The control device of claim 14, wherein the control circuit is configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that the end point of the single illuminated portion moves at a greater angular speed than that of the rotating portion when the rotating portion is being rotated

to adjust the intensity level of the lighting load.

16. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is configured to, in response to detecting that a user is within close proximity of the control device, illuminate the plurality of light sources to form a single illuminated portion on the light bar, the control circuit configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that a length of the single illuminated portion is extended from two end points of the single illuminated portion when the intensity level of the lighting load is raised, the control circuit further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that the length of the single illuminated portion is shortened from the two end points of the single illuminated portion when the intensity level of the lighting load is lowered.

17. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is configured to, in response to detecting that a user is within close proximity of the control device, illuminate the plurality of light sources to form multiple illuminated portions on the light bar, the control circuit further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that a length of each of the illuminated portions is extended from both end points of the each of the illuminated portions when the intensity level of the lighting load is raised, the control circuit further configured to adjust the illuminated portion of the light bar such that the length of each of the illuminated portions is shortened from both end points of the each of the illuminated portions when the intensity level of the lighting load is lowered.

18. The control device of claim 17, wherein each of the illuminated portions are centered along a diagonal axis of the control device or a horizontal axis of the control device when the control device is installed.

19. The control device of claim 17, wherein a length of the illuminated portion is indicative of the intensity of the lighting load.

20. The control device of claim 1, further comprising: a carrier, wherein the PCB is arranged over the carrier.

21. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control circuit is configured to determine the subset of the plurality of light sources to illuminate based on the user being within close proximity of the control device.

22. The control device of claim 1, wherein, before the lighting load was turned off, the control circuit is configured to store the last-known intensity of the lighting load in a memory of the control device.
