

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250260436

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 14, 2025

Inventor(s)

NYHOLM; Ethan et al.

CASE FOR A TABLET SHAPED DEVICE, A METHOD FOR REMOVING A STYLUS THEREFROM AND A METHOD FOR MAKING A CASE FOR A TABLET SHAPED DEVICE

Abstract

Disclosed herein is a case for a tablet shaped device, a method for removing a stylus therefrom, and a method for making a case for a tablet shaped device.

Inventors: NYHOLM; Ethan (Bondi Beach NSW, AU), SMYTH; Cambell (Highgate Hill QLD, AU)

Applicant: STM Management Pty Ltd (Alexandria NSW, AU)

Family ID: 56409346

Appl. No.: 18/960241

Filed: November 26, 2024

Foreign Application Priority Data

AU

2016100745

May. 24, 2016

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18453732 20230822 ABANDONED child US 18960241

parent US continuation 17493403 20211004 ABANDONED child US 18453732

parent US continuation 17035562 20200928 parent-grant-document US 11139850 child US 17493403

parent US continuation 16152434 20181005 parent-grant-document US 10790867 child US 17035562

parent US continuation 15585200 20170503 parent-grant-document US 10110269 child US 16152434

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: **H04B1/3888** (20150101); **A45C11/00** (20060101); **H04M1/02** (20060101); **H04M1/18** (20060101); **H04M1/21** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC **H04B1/3888** (20130101); **A45C11/00** (20130101); **H04M1/0202** (20130101); **H04M1/21** (20130101); **A45C11/002** (20250101); **A45C11/003** (20250101); **A45C2200/15** (20130101); **H04M1/185** (20130101)

Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION [0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/453,732, filed on Aug. 22, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/493,403, filed Oct. 4, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/035,562, filed Sep. 28, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,139,850, issued Oct. 5, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/152,434, filed Oct. 5, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,790,867, issued Sep. 29, 2020, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/585,200, filed May 3, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,110,269, issued Oct. 23, 2018, which claims priority to Australian Patent Application 2016100745, filed May 24, 2016, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The disclosure herein generally relates to a case for a tablet shaped device, a method for removing a stylus therefrom, and a method for making a case for a tablet shaped device.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Cases for tablet shaped devices, examples of which include the APPLE IPAD, SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB, smartphones like the APPLE IPHONE, and some personal digital assistants, are commercially available. Some electronic tablet shaped devices have a touch screen and come with a stylus for drawing or writing on the touchscreen.

[0004] The commercially available cases for tablet shaped devices may not meet some of the needs of consumers, and may be more difficult and/or costly to manufacture than is desirable.

SUMMARY

[0005] Disclosed herein is a case for a tablet shaped device. The case comprises a body comprising a face having a tablet shaped device receiving area. The case comprises a stylus holder at a margin of the face for holding a stylus for the tablet shaped device. The stylus holder defines an elongate cavity for receiving the stylus. The stylus holder comprises at least one obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity when so received.

[0006] In an embodiment, the stylus holder may be configured such that the stylus is below the face when so held. This may protect the stylus, which may be delicate and expensive.

[0007] In an embodiment, the at least one obstructing element is attached to an elongate cavity wall. The elongate cavity wall may be outwardly bendable and resilient. The at least one obstructing element attached to the cavity wall may be outwardly movable for removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity.

[0008] In an embodiment, a discontinuity in the elongate cavity wall provides finger access to the stylus when so received.

[0009] In an embodiment, the elongate cavity wall is integral to the body.

[0010] In an embodiment, the at least one obstructing element protrudes into the elongate cavity.

[0011] In an embodiment, wherein the at least one obstructing element comprises at least one rib.

The at least one rib may be longitudinally orientated with respect to the elongate cavity.

[0012] An embodiment comprises another at least one obstructing element. The at least one obstructing element and the other at least one obstructing element may be distributed between opposite sides of the elongate cavity.

[0013] In an embodiment, the face is a rectangular face. The margin may be adjacent an edge of the rectangular face. The edge may be longer than another edge of the rectangular face.

[0014] Disclosed herein is a method for removing a stylus for a tablet shaped device from a case for the tablet shaped device. The method comprises moving the stylus towards an opening of an elongate cavity in which the stylus is received with a finger at a discontinuity in an elongate cavity wall having attached thereto an obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity. The stylus so moved engages an obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity when so received and outwardly move the obstructing element for removal of the stylus.

[0015] In an embodiment, the elongate cavity wall outwardly bends when the obstructing element is outwardly moved and subsequently springs back when the stylus is removed from the tablet shaped device.

[0016] In an embodiment, a plurality of legs are located at another face of the body. The body may warp or distort during or subsequent to manufacture. The plurality of legs may provide stability when the warped body is placed on a flat surface. The legs may significantly relax manufacturing tolerances—for example the flatness of the rear—which may assist in the control of manufacturing costs.

[0017] In the context of the present application, the term stylus encompasses a hand-held tool used by a user to interact with a touch sensitive area (for example a touch sensitive screen) of the tablet shaped device. An example of a stylus may, but not necessarily, comprise an elongated shaft having opposite ends and a touch sensitive area interaction point at at least one of the opposite ends. The point may be rounded. A stylus may be active, passive, or haptic, for example.

[0018] Any of the various features of each of the above disclosures, and of the various features of the embodiments described below, can be combined as suitable and desired.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0019] Embodiments of a case for a tablet computer will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying figures in which:

[0020] FIG. 1 shows a front bottom isometric view of an embodiment of a case for a tablet computer.

[0021] FIG. 2 shows another side front bottom isometric view of the case for the tablet computer.

[0022] FIG. 3 shows a rear bottom isometric view of the case for the tablet computer.

[0023] FIG. 4 shows a top view of the case for the tablet computer.

[0024] FIG. 5 shows a rear view of the case for the tablet computer.

[0025] FIG. 6 shows a left side view of the case for the tablet computer.

[0026] FIG. 7 shows a detail of the case for the tablet computer.

[0027] FIG. 8 shows another detail of the case for the tablet computer.

[0028] FIGS. 9 and 10 show rear and front perspective views of another embodiment of a case for a tablet computer that has a flap.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0029] The FIGS. 1-8 show various views of a case for a tablet shaped device in the form of a case for an electronic tablet shaped device, the case being generally indicated by the numeral 10. The

case **10** comprises a body **12** comprising a face **14** having a tablet shaped device receiving area **18**. The case **10** comprises a stylus holder **20** at a margin **22** of the face **14** for holding a stylus (e.g. Apple Pencil) for the tablet shaped device. The stylus holder **20** defines an elongate cavity **24** in the form of a groove for receiving the stylus. The stylus holder **20** comprises at least one obstructing element **26** arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity **24** when so received.

[0030] The stylus holder **20** is configured such that the stylus is below the face when so held. The depth of the bottom **27** of the elongate cavity is, in this but not all embodiments, at least (and may be greater than) a transverse dimension of the stylus or another stylus usable on a tablet shaped device receivable by the case for a tablet shaped device **10**.

[0031] The at least one obstructing element **26** is attached to an elongate cavity wall **28** in the form of an outer edge cavity wall. The elongate cavity wall **28** can be outwardly bent and is resilient.

[0032] The elongate wall may be bent in a direction orthogonal to a normal to the face **14**. Alternatively or additionally, the obstructing element may be resilient. The at least one obstructing element **26** attached to the cavity wall **28** is outwardly movable, when the cavity wall **28** bends outwardly, for removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity **24**. A discontinuity **30** in the elongate cavity wall **28** provides finger access to the stylus when so received. The discontinuity may cut into the bottom wall **27** of the elongate cavity **24**. The discontinuity is intermediate opposite edges of the case **10**, in this embodiment located at the centre of the margin **22**.

[0033] In this but not all embodiments, the elongate cavity wall **28** is integral to the body **12**. The at least one obstructing element **26** protrudes into the elongate cavity **24**, however it may alternatively be above the elongate cavity **24**.

[0034] The at least one obstructing element **26** comprises at least one rib **26**, however the at least one obstructing element may take the form of a bump, bulge or generally any suitable form. The at least one rib **26** is longitudinally orientated with respect to the elongate cavity **24**, however it may not be in an alternative embodiment. In this but not necessarily all embodiments, the rib **26** is located at an edge of the elongate cavity to form a lip. The at least one obstructing element **26** and another at least one obstructing element **34** are distributed between opposite sides **36,38** of the elongate cavity **24**.

[0035] The face **14** is a rectangular face **14**, notwithstanding rounded corners. The margin **22** is adjacent an edge **40** of the rectangular face **14** that is longer than another edge **42** of the rectangular face **14**.

[0036] An embodiment of a method for removing the stylus for the tablet shaped device from a case **10** for the tablet shaped device will now be described. The stylus is moved towards an opening **44** of the elongate cavity **24** in which the stylus is received with a finger at the discontinuity **30** in the elongate cavity wall **28** having attached thereto an obstructing element **26** arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity **24**. The stylus so moved engages the obstructing element **26** arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity **24** when so received and outwardly move the obstructing element **26** for removal of the stylus.

[0037] The elongate cavity wall **28** outwardly bends when the obstructing element **26** is outwardly moved and subsequently springs back when the stylus is removed from the tablet shaped device.

[0038] In this but not necessarily all embodiment, the body has a perimeter wall **46** and a rear wall **48** that protect the tablet shaped device when so received by the tablet shaped device receiving area **18**. The perimeter wall **46** and the rear wall **48** have a plurality of optional ports **50** for cable or other access to the tablet shaped device when received.

[0039] The perimeter wall **46** has a resilient lip **53** located at a distal end thereof. The perimeter wall **46** and the tablet shaped device receiving area **18** define a cavity in which the tablet shaped device is held by the resilient lip **53**. The opening of the cavity is constricted by the resilient lip **53**. The tablet shaped device may be inserted into the cavity by squeezing it through the opening defined by the resilient lip **53**. The resilient lip **53** deforms to accommodate the passage of the

tablet shaped device, and recoils back into shape subsequent to passage of the tablet shaped device. In another embodiment the tablet shaped device may be held to the tablet shaped device receiving area **18** by at least one elastic strap or generally by any suitable fastener.

[0040] The tablet shaped device receiving area **18** has an optional inner lining in the form of a inner felt lining. The inner lining provides a relatively soft surface to reduce scratching of the tablet shaped device. Other embodiments may not have an inner lining or may have another suitable lining material.

[0041] The rear of the body **12** has another face **54** that has a plurality of legs **52** projecting therefrom. The legs **52** provide stability when the case **10** is resting on a flat surface with the legs **52** on the flat surface. The surface may be, for example, a bench top table top, or any other suitable surface at which a user may place the case and use the tablet shaped device held therein.

[0042] The case **10** may be made using generally any suitable method. An embodiment of making a case for a tablet shaped device has the step of forming a body comprising at least a first material. The step of forming the body may comprise forming the body by an injection moulding process.

[0043] At least one polymer—for example a polyurethane, polycarbonate or generally any suitable polymer—may be injected into a mould configured for production of the body. The illustrated embodiment has a body formed by injection moulding. The body has a polycarbonate exterior and a polyurethane interior. The polyurethane is relatively soft for receiving the tablet shaped device. The relatively resilient polyurethane facilitates insertion and removal of the device and providing a degree of shock resistance against knocks and falls. The polycarbonate exterior forms a hard protective shell.

[0044] FIGS. **9** and **10** show rear and front perspective views of another embodiment of a case for a tablet computer **100** that has a flap **102**. The case **100** is generally identical to the case **10** of FIGS. **1-8** unless otherwise described or illustrated. The flap **102** comprising a distal portion **104** in the form of a wing that is magnetically attracted to the body **106**, and configurable between a first configuration in which the flap covers the tablet shaped device receiving area and the distal portion **104** is wrapped around an edge **108** of the body **106** and contacts the back face such that the flap is secured by the magnetic attraction of the distal portion **108** to the body **106**, and a second configuration in which the flap **102** is folded to form a stand secured by the magnetic attraction of the distal portion **104** to the body.

[0045] When the flap **102** is in the first configuration, it protects a front of the tablet shaped device when received by the receiving area. The case **100**, when the flap **102** is in the second configuration, supports the tablet shaped device when received at an elevated angle with respect to a case supporting surface.

[0046] Securement of the flap **102** by the magnetic attraction may facilitate relatively easy and rapid reconfiguration between the first configuration and the second configuration.

[0047] The distal portion **104** comprises a distal portion magnet having a magnetic orientation in the first configuration that is reversed in the second configuration. The distal portion magnet may be attracted to a first body magnet in the first configuration and, in the second configuration, to a second body magnet having a magnetic orientation that is reversed with respect to the first body magnet.

[0048] In the second configuration the flap is folded and located at the first face. The flap comprises a first rigid sheet that in the second configuration is a base of the stand. The flap may comprise a second rigid sheet that in the second configuration is a brace of the stand.

[0049] Variations and/or modifications may be made to the embodiments described without departing from the spirit or ambit of the invention. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive. Reference to a feature disclosed herein does not mean that all embodiments must include the feature.

[0050] Prior art, if any, described herein is not to be taken as an admission that the prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in any jurisdiction.

[0051] In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word “comprise” or variations such as “comprises” or “comprising” is used in an inclusive sense, that is to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

Claims

1. A case for a tablet shaped device, the case comprising: a body comprising a face having a tablet shaped device receiving area; and a stylus holder at a margin of the face for holding a stylus for the tablet shaped device, the stylus holder defining an elongate cavity for receiving the stylus and comprising at least one obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity when so received.
 2. A case for a tablet shaped device defined by claim 1 wherein the at least one obstructing element is attached to an elongate cavity wall that is outwardly bendable and resilient whereby the at least one obstructing element attached thereto is outwardly movable for removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity.
 3. A case defined by claim 2 wherein a discontinuity in the elongate cavity wall provides finger access to the stylus when so received.
 4. A method for removing a stylus for a tablet shaped device from a case for the tablet shaped device, the method comprising moving the stylus towards an opening of an elongate cavity in which the stylus is received with a finger at a discontinuity in an elongate cavity wall having attached thereto an obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity, wherein the stylus so moved engages an obstructing element arranged to obstruct removal of the stylus from the elongate cavity when so received and outwardly move the obstructing element for removal of the stylus.
 5. A method defined by claim 4 wherein the elongate cavity wall outwardly bends when the obstructing element is outwardly moved and subsequently springs back when the stylus is removed from the tablet shaped device.
-