



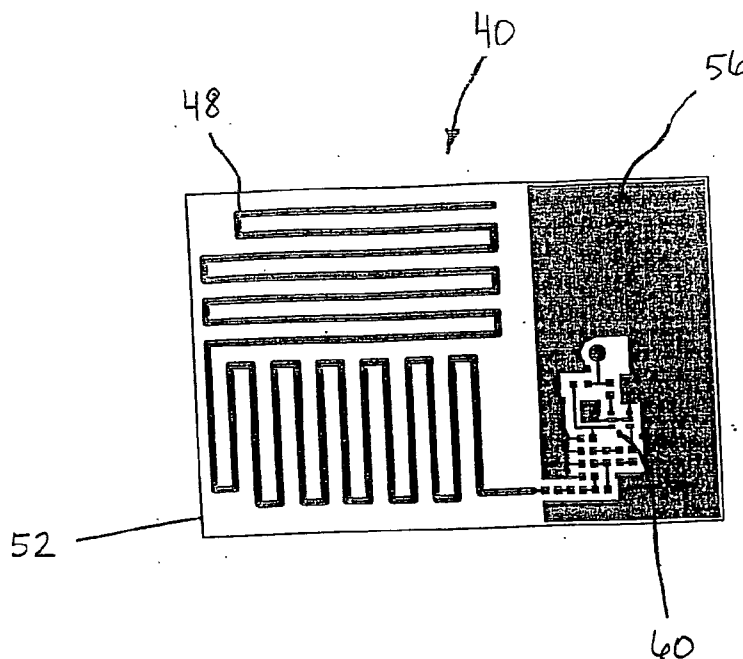
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Rabinovich et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0170610 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 3, 2006**(54) **ANTENNA SYSTEM FOR REMOTE  
CONTROL AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATION**(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 343/895; 343/702; 343/713**(75) Inventors: **Victor Rabinovich**, Richmond Hill  
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28, 2005.**Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**H01Q 1/36** (2006.01)  
**H01Q 1/24** (2006.01)(57) **ABSTRACT**

An antenna system for remote control applications comprises a communications module; an antenna assembly; and a radio frequency cable, having a first connection end and a second connection end, wherein the first connection end is coupled to the communications module and the second connection end is coupled to the antenna assembly. The antenna assembly is located a predetermined distance from the communications module, the predetermined distance substantially eliminating null regions in an antenna radiation pattern of the antenna system. An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprises an antenna assembly; a communications module; an electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the antenna assembly and a second RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the communications module, wherein the antenna assembly, the first RF cable, the second RF cable, the electronic switch assembly and the communications module form a radio frequency circuit; and a diversity RF cable, coupled to the electronic switch assembly, wherein the electronic switch assembly switches the diversity RF cable into and out of the radio frequency circuit.



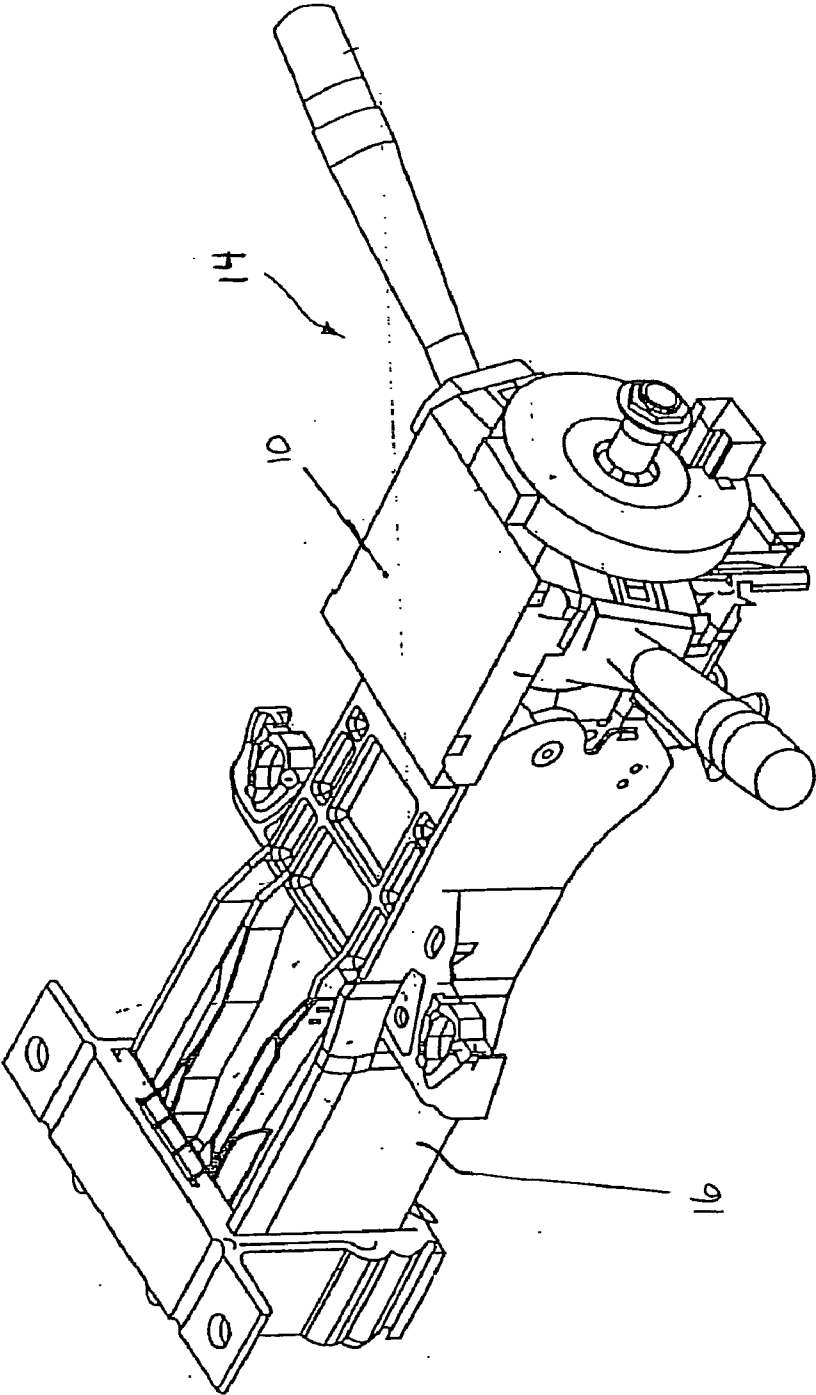


FIG. 1

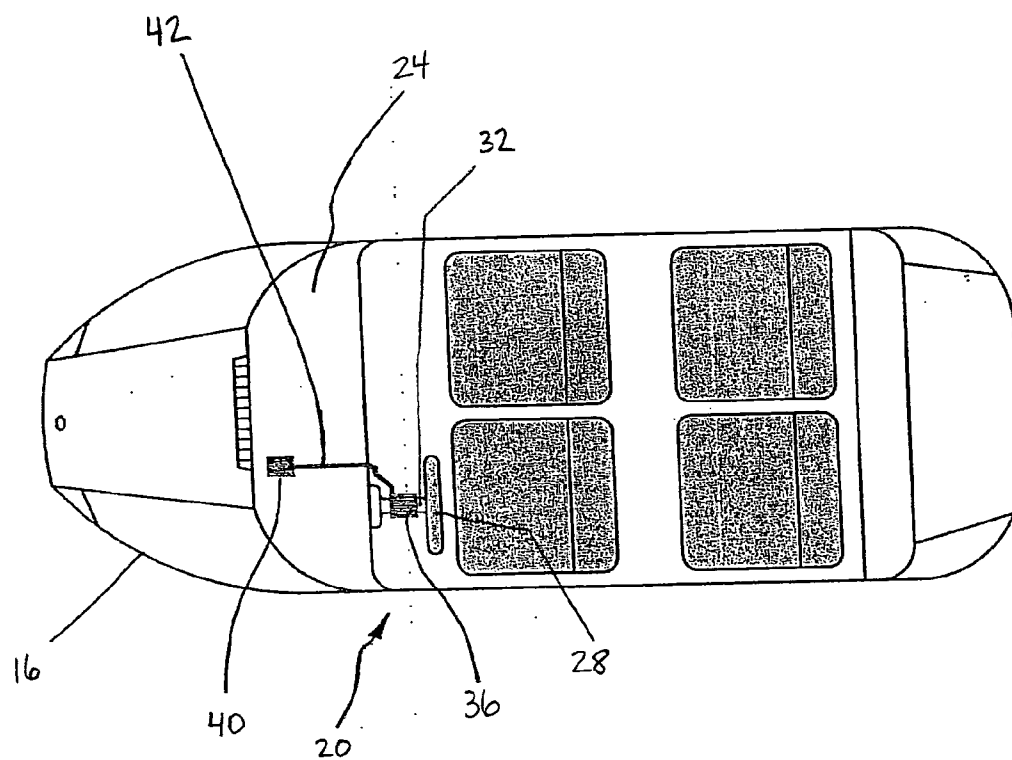


FIG. 2

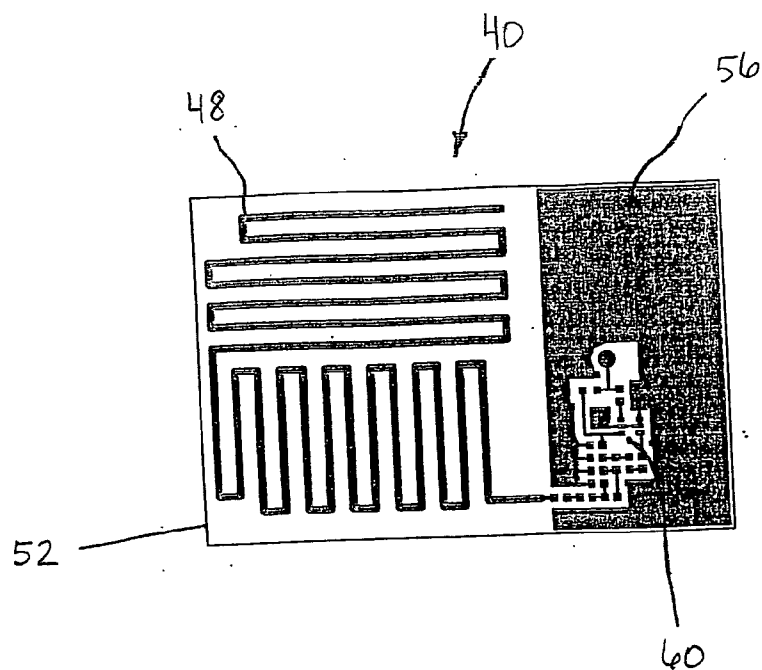


FIG. 3a

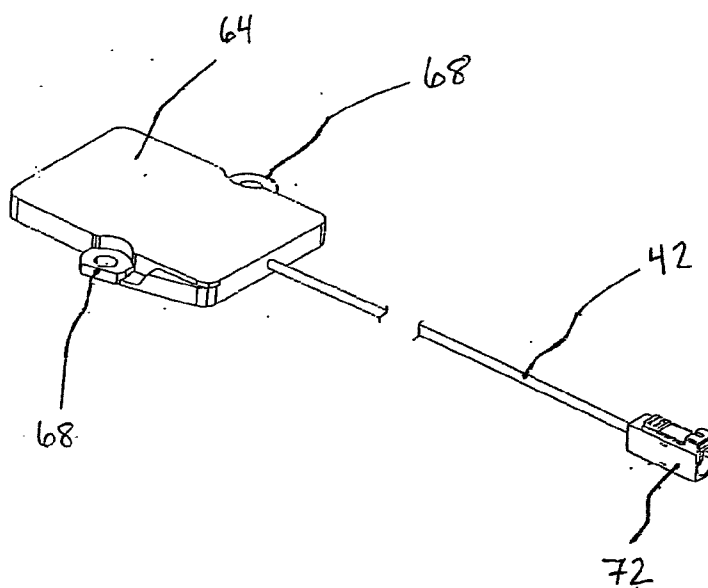


FIG. 3b

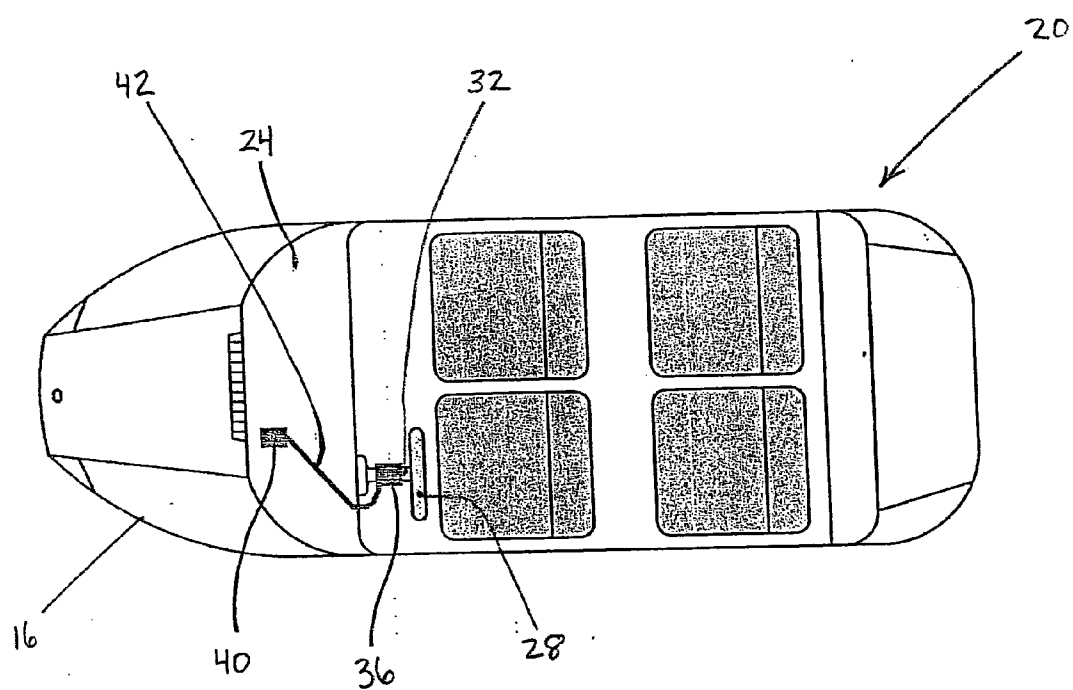


FIG. 4

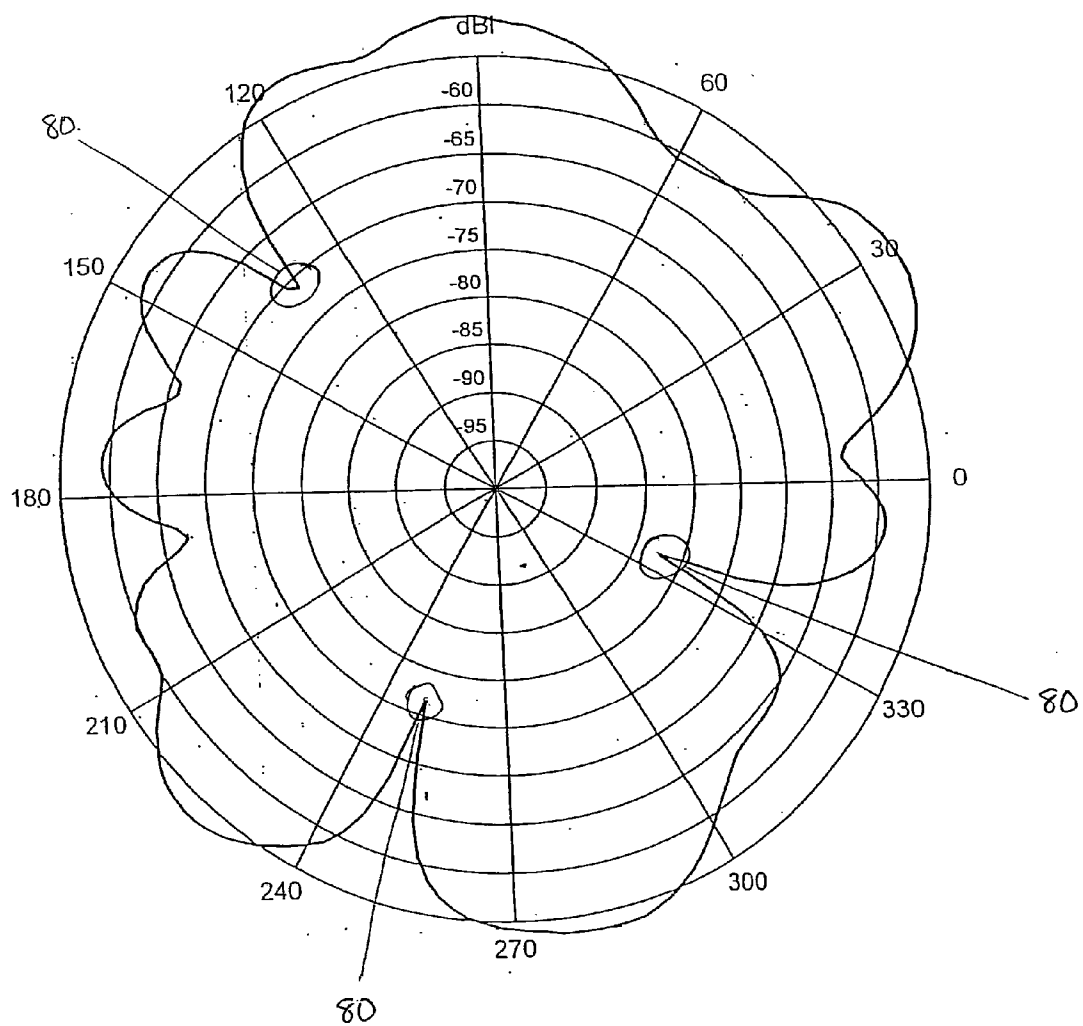


FIG. 5

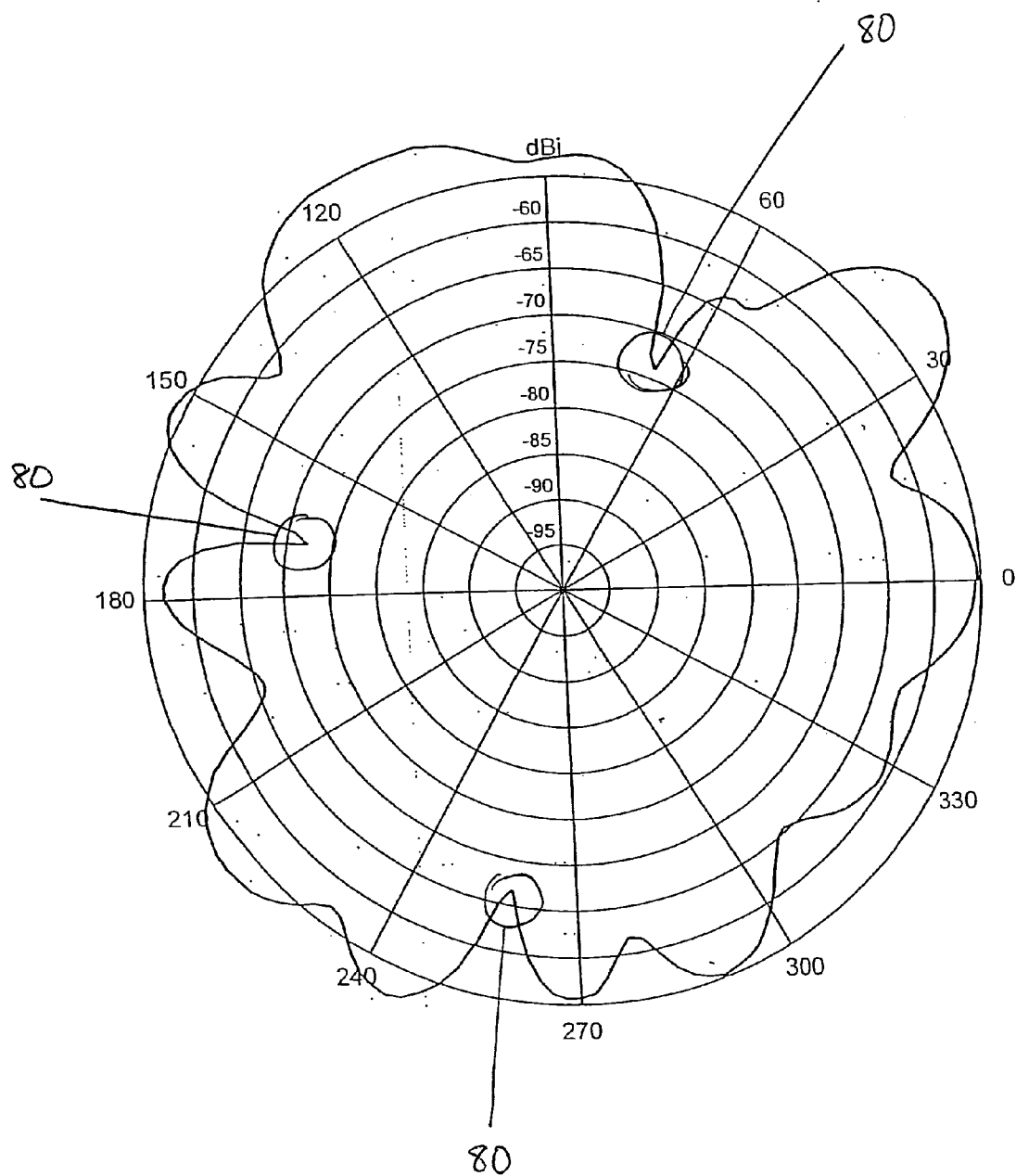


FIG. 6

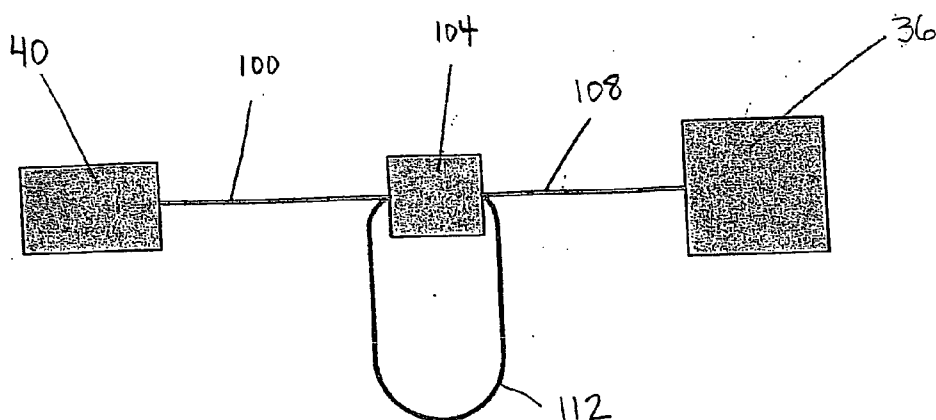


FIG. 7

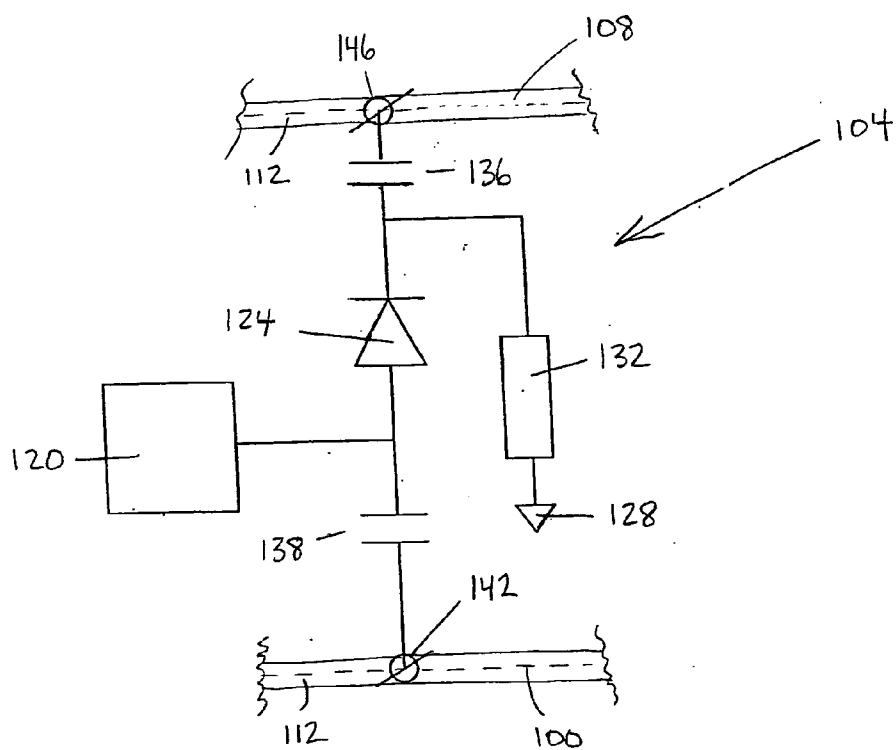


FIG. 8



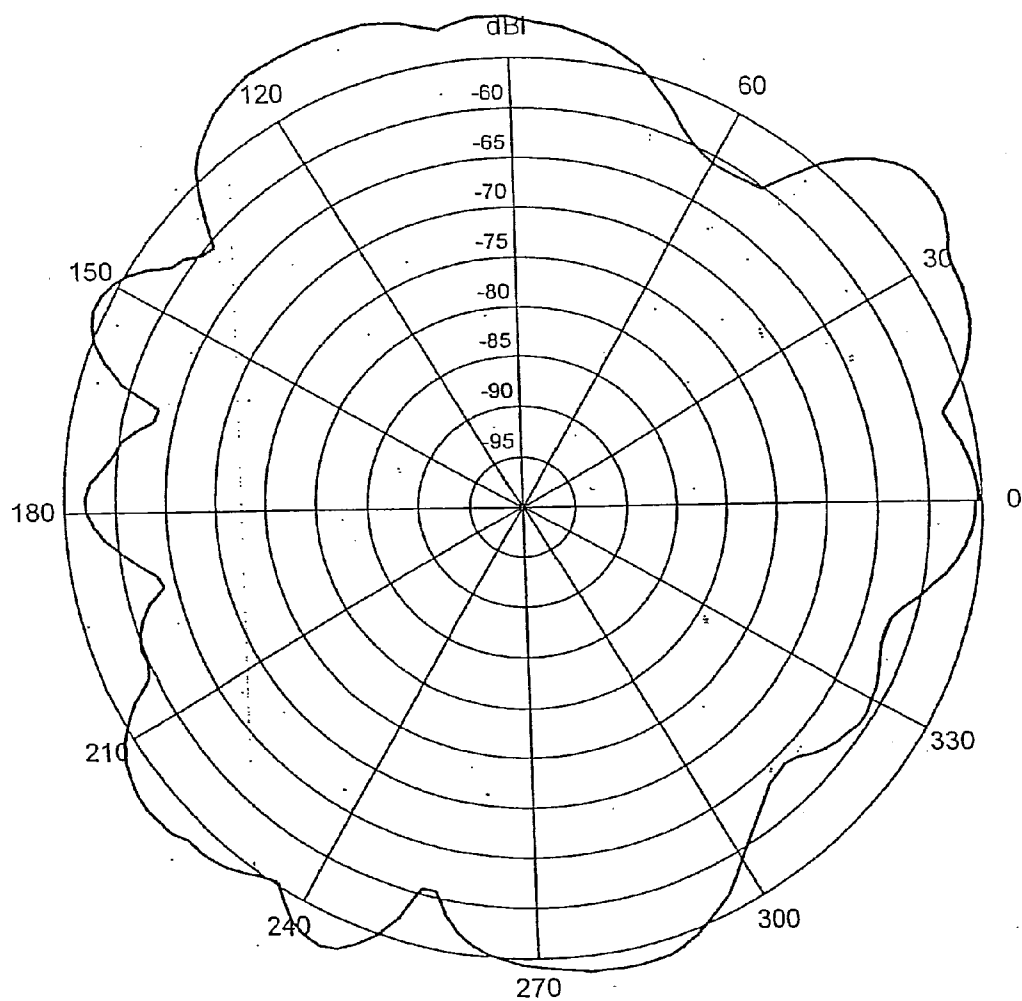


FIG. 9

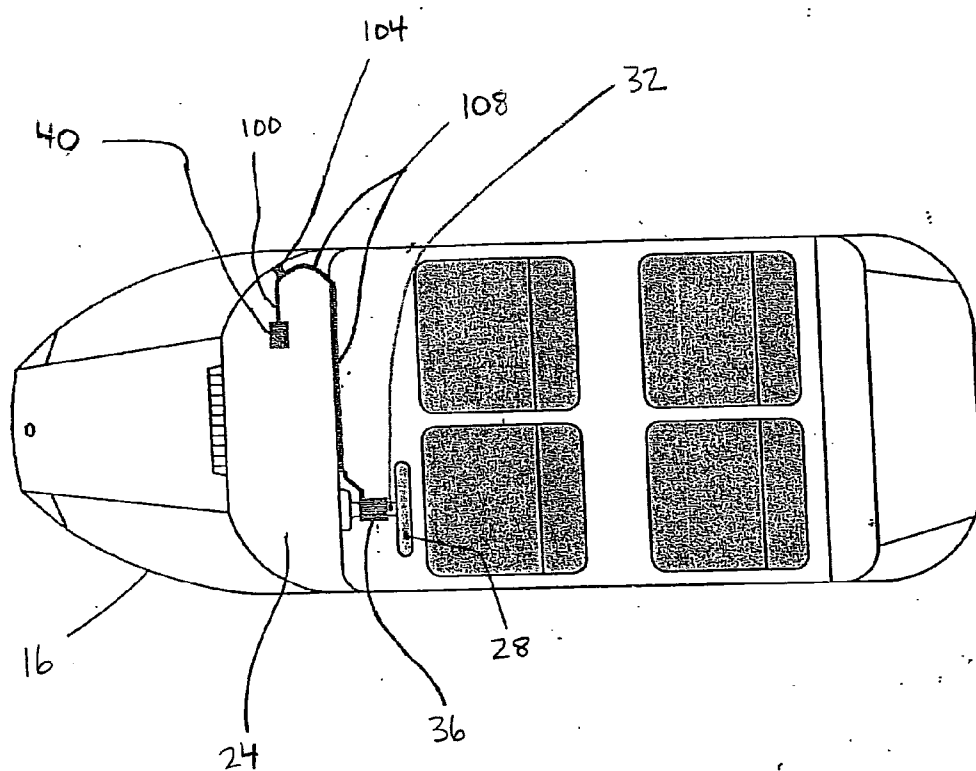


FIG. 10

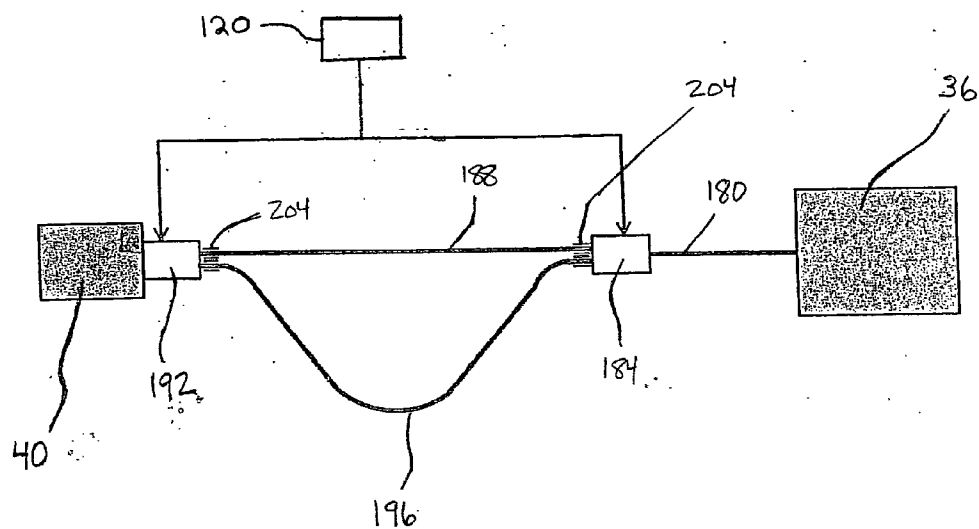


FIG. 11

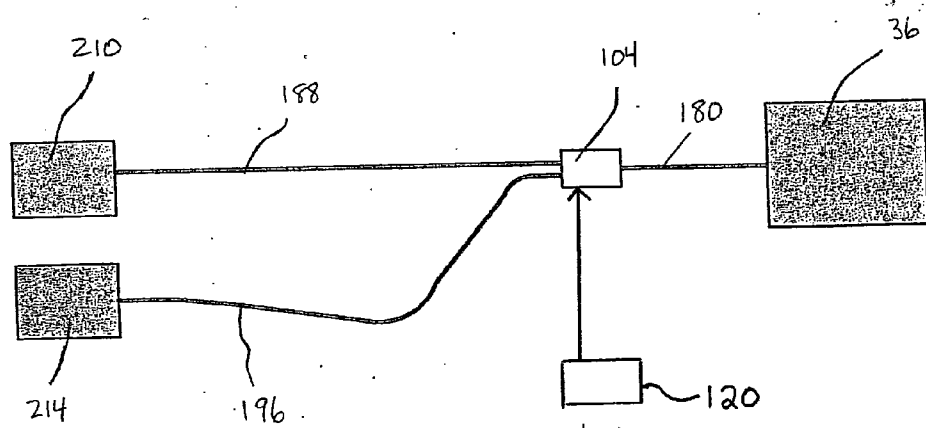


FIG. 12

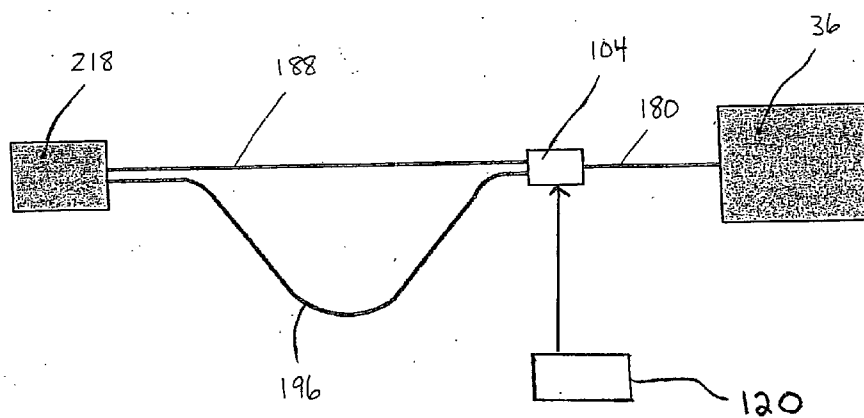


FIG. 13

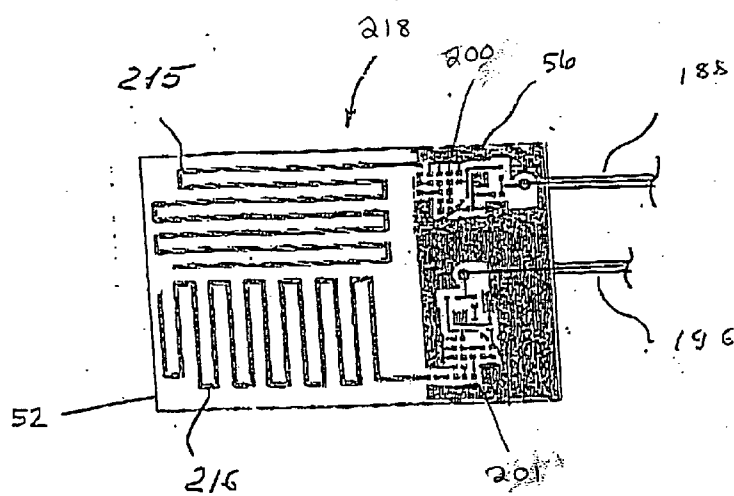


FIG. 14

## ANTENNA SYSTEM FOR REMOTE CONTROL AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATION

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/647,885 filed on Jan. 28, 2005, entitled "Antenna System for Remote Control Automotive Application."

### BACKGROUND

[0002] The present exemplary embodiment relates to a wireless apparatus. It finds particular application in conjunction with remote control operations of an automobile, including remote keyless entry (RKE) automotive communication, and will be described with particular reference thereto. However, it is to be appreciated that the present exemplary embodiment is also amenable to other like applications.

[0003] Modern vehicles are operated with more and more optional equipment for providing additional features and achieving more comfort. For example, remote keyless entry (RKE) systems, remote starting devices, and global positioning systems (GPS), etc. have become commonplace amenities. Often, such optional equipment is integrated within an existing steering column assembly in order to facilitate electronic control. A typical existing steering column assembly is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,731,020 to Burr. In order to integrate optional equipment into the existing steering column assembly however, existing sensor and control circuitry must be modified. As a result of this integration, an increase in cable wiring and wireless components such as antennas is often necessary to provide remote operation of the equipment. This increased wiring and associated equipment makes it difficult to arrange the existing sensor and control electronics within a limited amount of packaging room available in a vehicle.

[0004] In an integrated environment, sensor and control electronics must exist in close proximity to antennas and other wireless circuitry. However, as antenna size decreases, antenna gain decreases, making it more difficult to receive signals. Moreover, antennas and their corresponding wireless circuitry are sensitive to noise, especially noise generated in close proximity to the antenna. Devices with internal integrated antennas therefore cannot provide extended communication range because of reduced antenna size and the electromagnetic interference between the antenna and the electronic components of the sensor and control circuits.

[0005] One option to reduce electromagnetic interference and improve antenna performance is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,027,128 to Blaese which describes a dipole antenna configuration. The dipole antenna is mounted within a non-conducting housing such that dipole arms of the antenna extend outside the housing. The housing is then mounted to the vehicle, and an RF cable connects the dipole antenna to a remote keyless entry (RKE) receiver. While this configuration improves performance, the size of the dipole at 315 MHz is so large that it cannot be contained within the interior parts of the vehicle, e.g. within the vehicle integrated front panel. Indeed, the size of the dipole restricts the location of the antenna to the inside window of the vehicle.

[0006] Another antenna configuration which is slightly more compact is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,900,841 to Hirata. The vehicle antenna is a thin film antenna which adheres to ornamental plates covering the front, center, and rear pillars of a vehicle chassis. An RF cable connects the vehicle antenna to control circuitry. While the size of the antenna is smaller in this configuration, the system has reduced communication range for some angle directions because of car body shadows. The metal pillars of the vehicle chassis interfere with the antenna radiation pattern, causing reception nulls in some directions surrounding the vehicle. These reception nulls are called car body shadows.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

[0007] In accordance with one aspect of the present exemplary embodiment, an antenna system for remote control applications comprises a communications module; an antenna assembly; and a radio frequency cable, having a first connection end and a second connection end, wherein the first connection end is coupled to the communications module and the second connection end is coupled to the antenna assembly. The antenna assembly is located a predetermined distance from the communications module, the predetermined distance substantially reducing null regions in an antenna radiation pattern of the antenna system.

[0008] In accordance with another aspect of the present exemplary embodiment, an antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprises an antenna assembly; a communications module; an electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the antenna assembly and a second RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the communications module, wherein the antenna assembly, the first RF cable, the second RF cable, the electronic switch assembly and the communications module form a radio frequency circuit; and a diversity RF cable, coupled to the electronic switch assembly, wherein the electronic switch assembly switches the diversity RF cable into and out of the radio frequency circuit.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a communications module in a vehicle;

[0010] FIG. 2 is a top view of a vehicle using one exemplary embodiment of the present concept;

[0011] FIG. 3a is a meander line circuit board antenna pattern for use in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2; and

[0012] FIG. 3b is the housing for the antenna element of FIG. 2;

[0013] FIG. 4 shows the top view of a vehicle using another exemplary embodiment of the present concept;

[0014] FIG. 5 are experimental results of the horizontal plane radiation pattern of the antenna arrangement of the device shown in FIG. 2 with the transmitter having a horizontally polarized antenna;

[0015] FIG. 6 are experimental results of the horizontal plane radiation pattern of the antenna arrangement of the device shown in FIG. 4 with the transmitter having a horizontally polarized antenna;

[0016] FIG. 7 shows one exemplary embodiment of an antenna diversity system of the present concept;

[0017] FIG. 8 is a detail view of the electrical RF switch of FIG. 7;

[0018] FIG. 9 shows the average antenna radiation pattern of the antenna arrangement of FIG. 11;

[0019] FIG. 10 shows another exemplary embodiment of the present concept;

[0020] FIG. 11 shows another exemplary embodiment of the present concept;

[0021] FIG. 12 shows another exemplary embodiment of the present concept;

[0022] FIG. 13 shows another exemplary embodiment of the present concept; and

[0023] FIG. 14 is a detailed view of the dual antenna assembly shown in FIG. 13.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0024] With reference to FIG. 1, shown is a vehicle steering assembly such as that described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,731,020 to Burr, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Communications module 10 is mounted on top of steering column 14. Communications module 10 is grounded to the vehicle chassis 16.

[0025] With reference to FIG. 2, shown is a top view of a typical vehicle implementing one exemplary embodiment of the present concept. Vehicle 20 has a vehicle integrated front panel 24. A steering wheel 28 is mounted on steering column assembly 32. Remote keyless entry (RKE) module 36 is mounted on top of the steering column assembly 32, and is grounded to the vehicle chassis 16. Antenna assembly 40 is separate from the RKE module 36 and is mounted under the vehicle integrated front panel 24. RF cable 42 connects the RKE module 36 to the antenna assembly 40.

[0026] The described assembly commonly operates in a 300 MHz to 500 MHz frequency range. It is to be appreciated, however, that the concepts described may be used in other frequency ranges. While the following description centers on a remote keyless entry (RKE) module, other remote control devices may also benefit from the present innovations, both within and outside of the automotive industry.

[0027] Turning now to FIG. 3a, a more detailed view of the antenna assembly 40 is shown. Antenna assembly 40 includes a first antenna arm 48, which is deposited on one side of a printed circuit board 52. A second antenna arm 56, i.e. a ground antenna arm, is deposited on the other side of the printed circuit board 52. Optionally, electronic components 60 are placed on the side of the printed circuit board 52 containing the first antenna arm 48, and are grounded to the second antenna arm 56. Electronic components 60 electrically couple both the first antenna arm 48 and the second antenna arm 56 to the RF cable 42.

[0028] Printed circuit board 52 is constructed from any dielectric substrate material known in the art and is much smaller than the wavelength of the received signal. First antenna arm 48 may be a monopole, meander line, simple loop, fractal tree, etc. or other antenna structure known in the

art. Electronic components 60 may include a matching circuit to match the antenna impedance to a known value, typically 50 ohms output antenna impedance, in order to facilitate connections to other circuitry. Electronic components 60 may optionally contain amplifier circuitry in order to provide extended communication range.

[0029] With reference to FIG. 3b, shown is a housing for the antenna assembly. Antenna assembly 40 (not shown) is encased in case (of communication module) 64. Case holders 68 allow mounting of the case 64 to the space located under the vehicle integrated front panel 24. RF cable 42 connects the antenna assembly 40 that is encased in case 64 to other electronic components, e.g. the RKE module, through connector 72. The size of the case 64 is approximately 8 cm in length, 6 cm in width, and 0.8 cm in height. Case 64 and case holders 68 are constructed from plastic. In the present when reference is made to antenna assembly 40, the assembly may be encased in case 60.

[0030] Referring again to FIGS. 2 and 3a, the antenna assembly 40, RF cable 42, and RKE module 36 together with the vehicle chassis 16 form an antenna resonance system. Specifically, the RF cable 42, RKE module 36, and the vehicle chassis 16 effectively act as part of the second antenna arm 56. Thus, the antenna assembly, which includes the RF cable 42, extends the communication range of the entire system. The antenna resonance system receives radio frequency signals from a remote entry device, e.g. a fob key. The radio frequency signals are sent to the remote keyless entry (RKE) module, where the signals are decoded and further processing occurs.

[0031] The first antenna arm 48, shown in FIG. 3a, is an unbalanced antenna type. Unbalanced antennas are affected by the radio frequency current flowing through the electrically connected RF cable and vehicle chassis, such that a significant amount of radiation emanates from the RF cable. Therefore, this direct connection of an unbalanced antenna to an RF cable is not common. However, this connection enhances the antenna performance, particularly the antenna gain. For example, the moment-based electromagnetic simulation software package, IE3D, available from Zeland Software, was used to calculate radiation efficiency. The radiation efficiency of the unbalanced antenna of FIG. 3a alone was 0.15. When an RF cable with a horizontal length of 25 cm was added, as described, to the unbalanced antenna, the radiation efficiency increased to 0.5.

[0032] With an unbalanced antenna type, the placement of the attached RF cable affects the radiation efficiency of the antenna. In the antenna system of FIG. 2, the length of the RF cable is kept to a minimum, basically running in a substantially linear line along the steering column assembly from the RKE module to the antenna assembly. An alternate arrangement is shown in FIG. 4, where the length of the RF cable is greater than the distance running in a substantially linear line from the RKE module to the antenna assembly. This longer length, creating a slack in the RF cable, changes the antenna radiation pattern. FIGS. 5 and 6 show the antenna directionality pattern for the antenna system arrangements in FIGS. 2 and 4, respectively. An antenna directionality pattern plot describes the relative strength of the radiated field in various directions from the antenna. In FIGS. 5 and 6, the plot is in polar format. Radii are in decibels and angles from the antenna being measured are in

degrees. As the positioning of the RF cable within the vehicle and the length of the RF cable change, the antenna directionality pattern changes, and accordingly, the null points **80** occur at different observation angles. These changes of the radiation pattern with RF cable length and positioning are exploited in an antenna diversity system described below.

[0033] Turning now to **FIG. 7**, one exemplary embodiment of an antenna diversity system of the present concept is shown. First RF cable **100** couples antenna assembly **40** to an electronic switch assembly **104**. Second RF cable **108** couples electronic switch assembly **104** to remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36**. Diversity RF cable **112** is also connected to electronic switch assembly **104**.

[0034] **FIG. 8** shows a schematic of the electronic switch assembly **104**. Simple Astable Oscillator **120** is electrically connected to pin diode **124**, which is also electrically connected to ground **128** through resistor **132**. Capacitors **136** and **138** couple the leads of the pin diode **124** to RF cabling connections **142** and **146**, respectively. RF cabling connection **142** connects to first RF cable **100** and also to one end of diversity RF cable **112**. RF cabling connection **146** connects to second RF cable **108** and also to the other end of diversity RF cable **112**.

[0035] With reference to **FIGS. 7 and 8**, the antenna diversity system switches diversity RF cable **112** into and out of the antenna system. During the time when the output voltage of the astable oscillator is maximum, typically at 5V, first RF cable **100** and second RF cable **108** provide the connection from antenna assembly **40** to RKE module **36**. That is, diversity RF cable **112** is not part of the antenna resonant system. However, when the output voltage of the astable oscillator is at minimum, typically 0 v, first RF cable **100**, second RF cable **108**, and diversity RF cable **112** provide the connection from antenna assembly **40** to RKE module **36**. In this case, the diversity RF cable **112** is part of the antenna resonant system.

[0036] To accurately receive a signal transmitted from a transmitter, e.g. a Fob key, the time duration in which the oscillator is at maximum and minimum must be at least two times more than the time that is necessary to transmit the activation protocol from the transmitter (Fob key). During transmission, i.e. when the Fob key button is pressed, the activation protocol must be sent at least four times. In this way, it is guaranteed that, for any time delay between transmitting the start of the activation protocol and switching of the diversity RF cable, a full transmission of the activation protocol will be received twice. The first time, the protocol will be received with the antenna system not including the diversity RF cable, and the second time, the protocol will be received with the antenna system including the diversity RF cable. Thereby, the communication between the transmitter and antenna system is improved.

[0037] Turning now to **FIG. 9**, shown is the antenna directionality pattern of the above-described diversity antenna system. This diversity antenna directionality pattern is the overlap of the curves in **FIGS. 5 and 6**. The nulls present in **FIGS. 5 and 6** are no longer present in the diversity antenna directionality pattern of **FIG. 9**. By eliminating these nulls, the antenna directionality pattern is improved. This improvement translates into better communication range for the antenna system, where range is the

distance between a transmitter and antenna with a remote control module which can be activated.

[0038] Another way to look at the antenna directionality patterns of **FIGS. 5, 6, and 9** is by examining the communication range of the antenna along different azimuth angle directions. Along a direction where a null occurs, the range of the antenna (in meters) will be less than the range of the antenna along a direction where no null occurs. It is known that the range  $D$  can be expressed by the following equation:  $D^n = q * F(\theta)$ , where  $F(\theta)$  is the antenna directionality at the azimuth angle direction  $\theta$ ,  $q$  is a coefficient that depends on both the noise level of the system and the operation frequency, and  $n$  depends on the environment. For example,  $n$  can be chosen equal to approximately 2.0 for free space (e.g., non-urban environment and approximately 3.0 for an urban environment. Assuming that the average directionality value corresponds to the range of 100 m, the curve of **FIG. 5** results in 28% of the angle points (over 360 angle degrees) having a range of less than 63 m, 8% of the angle points having a range of less than 40 m, 3% of the angle points having a range of less than 25 m, 1.5% with less than 16 m, and 0.5% with less than 10 m. However, using the same values for the **FIG. 9** curve, 12% of the angle points have a range of less than 63 m and no angle points have a range of less than 40 m, 25 m, 16 m, or 10 m. In other words, under the diversity system, the antenna may receive a signal from a source that is greater than 40 m away in all directions, whereas in the non-diversity system, the antenna will not be able to receive a signal at some angles at 40 m away from the same source. Thus, the range performances of the antenna diversity system of the present concept are significantly improved.

[0039] With reference to **FIG. 10**, shown is another exemplary embodiment of the present concept. Vehicle has a vehicle integrated front panel **24**. A steering wheel **28** is mounted on steering column assembly **32**. Remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36** is mounted on top of the steering column assembly **32**, and is grounded to the vehicle chassis **16**. Antenna assembly **40** is separate from the RKE module **36** and is mounted under the vehicle integrated front panel **24**. First RF cable **100** connects an electronic switch assembly **104** to the antenna assembly **40**. Electronic switch assembly **104** is grounded to the vehicle chassis **16**. Second RF cable **108** connects electronic switch assembly **104** to RKE module **36**.

[0040] Electronic switch assembly **104** switches the vehicle chassis **16** into and out of the antenna resonant system, providing two different effective RF cable lengths between the circuit board and the vehicle chassis. When switch **104** is open antenna assembly includes the circuit board ground plus the cable part **100** plus cable part **108** plus the vehicle chassis **16**. When switch **104** is closed to the vehicle chassis **16**, the antenna assembly includes circuit board ground plus cable part **100** plus vehicle chassis **16**. So, for two different switch positions we have two different antenna assemblies and therefore two different antenna patterns with dips in different angle directions as seen in **FIGS. 5 and 6**. These two antenna patterns are combined in the diversity antenna system which results in the antenna pattern in **FIG. 9** which eliminates the nulls.

[0041] During the time when the output voltage of the astable oscillator **120** is maximum, typically at 5V, the pin

diode **124** of the electronic switching assembly **104** grounds the first RF cable **100** to the vehicle chassis **16**. However, when the output voltage of the astable oscillator **120** is at minimum, typically 0 v, first RF cable **100** and second RF cable **108** provide the connection from antenna assembly **40** to RKE module **36**. Therefore, during one transmission of the activation protocol, the diversity antenna resonant system is formed of a radio frequency circuit including antenna assembly **40**, first RF cable **100**, and vehicle chassis **16**. During the second transmission of the activation protocol, the diversity antenna resonant system includes antenna assembly **40**, first RF cable **100**, second RF cable **108**, and the vehicle chassis **16**.

[0042] Turning now to **FIG. 11**, shown is another embodiment of the present concept. First RF cable **180** connects remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36** to first electronic switch assembly **184**. First diversity RF cable **188** connects first electronic switch assembly **184** to an identical second electronic switch assembly **192**, such that first RF diversity cable **188** runs in a substantially linear direction from the first electronic switch assembly **184** to the second electronic switch assembly **192**. Second electronic switch assembly **192** is coupled to antenna assembly **40**. Second diversity RF cable **196** also connects first electronic switch assembly **184** to second electronic switch assembly **192**. Second diversity RF cable **196** is of a length that is greater than the substantially linear distance between the first electronic switch assembly **184** and the second electronic switch assembly **192**. Synchronization circuit **120** connects to first electronic switch assembly **184** and to second electronic switch assembly **192**. Optionally, ferrite beads **204** may be attached to both ends of the first diversity RF cable **188** and the second diversity RF cable **196**.

[0043] The first and second electronic switch assemblies act to switch between the first diversity RF cable **188** and the second diversity RF cable **196**. The different lengths of the first and second diversity RF cables provide the diversity in the antenna directionality pattern. The synchronization circuit **120** which in one embodiment may be a simple astable oscillator, acts to synchronize the operation of the first electronic switch assembly **184** and second electronic switch assembly **192**. When the voltage applied to switches **192** and **184** by the synchronization circuit **120** is equal to, for example, approximately 5 volts, the antenna **40** is connected to the RKE module **36** through cable **188**, however when voltage is equal to, for example, approximately 0 volts antenna **40** is connected to the RKE module **36** through cable **196**. It is to be appreciated that other voltage values may be used, dependant on the particular implementation and use.

[0044] With reference to **FIG. 12**, another exemplary embodiment of the present concept is shown. First RF cable **180** couples remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36** to electronic switch assembly **104**. Synchronization circuit **120** connects to electronic switch assembly **104**. First diversity RF cable **188** couples electronic switch assembly **104** to first antenna assembly **210**, such that first diversity RF cable **188** runs in a substantially linear direction from the electronic switch assembly **104** to the first antenna assembly **210**. Second diversity RF cable **196** couples electronic switch assembly **104** to second antenna assembly **214**. Second diversity RF cable **196** is of a length that is greater than the

substantially linear distance between the electronic switch assembly **104** and the first antenna assembly **210**.

[0045] The electronic switch assembly **104** switches between two antenna resonant systems, one being formed of first antenna assembly **210**, the first diversity RF cable **188**, and the first RF cable **180**, the second being formed of second antenna assembly **214**, second diversity RF cable **196**, and first RF cable **180**. Each antenna resonant system has a different antenna radiation pattern and different antenna gain characteristic. Thus, electronic switch assembly **104**, in switching between the two resonant systems, provides antenna diversity reception to the remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36**.

[0046] With reference now to **FIG. 13**, another exemplary embodiment of the present concept is shown. In this embodiment, rather than using two antenna assemblies, circuitry for two antennas is deposited on the same printed circuit board. Circuitry for two antennas (shown in **FIG. 14**) is deposited on dual antenna assembly **218**. First RF cable **180** couples remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36** to electronic switch assembly **104**. Synchronization circuit **120** connects to electronic switch assembly **104**. First diversity RF cable **188** couples electronic switch assembly **104** to a first antenna circuitry of dual antenna assembly **218**, such that first diversity RF cable **188** runs in a substantially linear direction from the electronic switch assembly **104** to the dual antenna assembly **218**. Second diversity RF cable **196** couples electronic switch assembly **104** to second antenna circuitry of dual antenna assembly **218**. Second diversity RF cable **196** is of a length that is greater than the substantially linear distance between the electronic switch assembly **104** and the dual antenna assembly **218**.

[0047] The electronic switch assembly **104** switches between two antenna resonant systems, one being formed of the first antenna circuitry of the dual antenna assembly **218**, first diversity RF cable **164**, and first RF cable **180**, the second being formed of second antenna circuitry of the dual antenna assembly **218**, second diversity RF cable **196**, and first RF cable **180**. Each antenna resonant system has a different antenna radiation pattern and different antenna gain characteristic. Thus, electronic switch assembly **104**, in switching between the two resonant systems, provides antenna diversity reception to the remote keyless entry (RKE) module **36**.

[0048] Turning now to **FIG. 14**, provided is a more detailed view of the dual antenna assembly shown in **FIG. 13** as **218**. Antenna assembly **218** includes a first antenna **215** connected to the first diversity RF cable **188** through an antenna matching circuit **200**. Antenna assembly **218** includes a second antenna **216** connected to the second diversity RF cable **196** through an antenna matching circuit **201**. Ground plane **56** is common for the first antenna and the second antenna. Both antennas are placed on the same circuit board **52**.

[0049] The exemplary embodiment has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments. Obviously, modifications and alterations will occur to others upon reading and understanding the preceding detailed description. It is intended that the exemplary embodiment be construed as including all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims or the equivalents thereof.



We claim:

1. An antenna system for remote control applications comprising:

a communications module,

an antenna assembly, and

a radio frequency cable, having a first connection end and a second connection end, wherein the first connection end is coupled to the communications module and the second connection end is coupled to the antenna assembly, wherein the antenna assembly is located a predetermined distance from the communications module, the predetermined distance substantially reducing null regions in an antenna radiation pattern of the antenna system.

2. The antenna system of claim 1 wherein the communications module is a remote keyless entry (RKE) module.

3. The antenna system of claim 2 wherein the antenna assembly further comprises:

a printed circuit board,

a first antenna arm, deposited on the printed circuit board; and

a second antenna arm, deposited on the printed circuit board.

4. The antenna system of claim 3 wherein the antenna assembly further comprises a matching circuit deposited on the printed circuit board.

5. The antenna system of claim 3 wherein the antenna assembly further comprises an amplifier circuit deposited on the printed circuit board.

6. The antenna system of claim 2 wherein the antenna assembly is attached to a vehicle integrated front panel and wherein the remote keyless entry (RKE) module is attached to a vehicle steering assembly.

7. The antenna system of claim 6 wherein the radio frequency cable runs in a substantially linear direction from the remote keyless entry (RKE) module to the antenna assembly.

8. The antenna system of claim 6 wherein the radio frequency cable connecting the remote keyless entry (RKE) module to the antenna assembly is of a length substantially greater than the linear distance from the remote keyless entry (RKE) module to the antenna assembly, wherein the substantially greater length increases the radiation efficiency of the antenna assembly.

9. An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprising:

an antenna assembly,

a communications module,

an electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the antenna assembly and a second RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the communications module, wherein the antenna assembly, the first RF cable, the second RF cable, the electronic switch assembly and the communications module form a radio frequency circuit; and

a diversity RF cable, coupled to the electronic switch assembly, wherein the electronic switch assembly switches the diversity RF cable into and out of the radio frequency circuit.

10. The antenna diversity system of claim 9 wherein the communications module is a remote keyless entry (RKE) module.

11. The antenna diversity system of claim 10 wherein the electronic switch assembly further comprises:

a pin diode, having a first terminal and a second terminal, a ground node,

a resistor, connected between the second terminal of the pin diode and the ground node,

an oscillator, connected to the first terminal of the pin diode,

a first capacitor, having a first lead and a second lead, the first lead of the first capacitor connected to the first terminal of the pin diode, and the second lead of the first capacitor connected to both the second RF cable and a first end of the diversity RF cable, and

a second capacitor, having a first lead and a second lead, the first lead of the second capacitor connected to the second terminal of the pin diode, and the second lead of the second capacitor connected to both the first RF cable and a second end of the diversity RF cable.

12. An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprising:

an antenna assembly,

a communications module, and

an electronic switch assembly, attached to a car chassis, wherein a first RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the antenna assembly and a second RF cable couples the electronic switch assembly to the communications module, wherein the antenna assembly, the first RF cable, the second RF cable, the electronic switch assembly and the communications module form a radio frequency circuit, and wherein the electronic switch assembly switches the car chassis into and out of the radio frequency circuit.

13. The antenna diversity system of claim 12 wherein the communications module is a remote keyless entry (RKE) module.

14. The antenna diversity system of claim 13 wherein the electronic switch assembly further comprises:

a pin diode, having a first terminal and a second terminal, a ground node,

a resistor, connected between the second terminal of the pin diode and the ground node,

an oscillator, connected to the first terminal of the pin diode,

a first capacitor, having a first lead and a second lead, the first lead of the first capacitor connected to the first terminal of the pin diode, and the second lead of the first capacitor connected to both the second RF cable and a first end of the diversity RF cable, and

a second capacitor, having a first lead and a second lead, the first lead of the second capacitor connected to the second terminal of the pin diode, and the second lead of the second capacitor connected to both the first RF cable and a second end of the diversity RF cable.

**15.** An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprising:

a communications module,

an antenna assembly,

a first electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the first electronic switch assembly to the communications module,

a second electronic switch assembly, coupled to the antenna assembly, and wherein a first diversity RF cable and a second diversity RF cable couple the second electronic switch assembly to the first electronic switch assembly, wherein the first diversity RF cable runs in a substantially linear direction from the first electronic switch assembly to the second RF switch assembly, and the second diversity RF cable is of a length greater than the linear distance from the first electronic switch assembly to the first electronic switch assembly, in order that the second diversity RF cable forms an arc, thereby increasing the radiation efficiency of the second diversity RF cable; and

a synchronization circuit coupled to the first electronic switch assembly and the second electronic switch assembly, wherein the synchronization circuit synchronizes the first and second electronic switch assemblies.

**16.** The antenna diversity system of claim 15 wherein the communications module is a remote keyless entry (RKE) module.

**17.** The antenna diversity system of claim 16 wherein at least one ferrite bead is placed on the first diversity RF cable and wherein at least one ferrite bead is placed on the second diversity RF cable.

**18.** An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprising:

a communications module,

an electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the first electronic switch assembly to the communications module,

a first antenna assembly, wherein a first diversity RF cable couples the first antenna assembly to the electronic switch assembly, and wherein the first diversity RF cable is of a first length, and

a second antenna assembly, wherein a second diversity RF cable couples the second antenna assembly to the electronic switch assembly, the second diversity RF cable having a second length which is greater than the first length of the first diversity RF cable, wherein the second diversity RF cable has a different radiation pattern than the first diversity RF cable, and wherein the electronic switch assembly switches between the first antenna assembly and the second antenna assembly.

**19.** The antenna diversity system of claim 18 wherein the communications module is a remote keyless entry (RKE) module.

**20.** An antenna diversity system for remote control applications comprising:

a remote keyless entry (RKE) module,

an electronic switch assembly, wherein a first RF cable couples the first electronic switch assembly to the remote keyless entry (RKE) module, and

a dual antenna assembly, having a first antenna circuitry and a second antenna circuitry, wherein a first diversity RF cable couples the first antenna circuitry of the dual antenna assembly to the electronic switch assembly, and a second diversity RF cable couples the second antenna circuitry of the dual antenna assembly to the electronic switch assembly, the first diversity RF cable having a first length, and the second diversity RF cable is of a second length which is greater than the first length of the first diversity RF cable, wherein the second diversity RF cable has a different radiation pattern than the first diversity RF cable.

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