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Comments _____

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5 May 1995

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YOUR REF.

European Patent Office
Directorate General 2
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VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Sirs,

European Patent Application No. 90 902 741.9-2202
Richard A. Lang

Referring to the Communication dated 3 March 1995, further processing of this application is hereby requested. The required has been paid today by telex, a copy of which is enclosed. The omitted act is completed by the enclosed response to the Official Communication dated 22 April 1994.

Yours faithfully

HECTOR, Annabel Mary
Professional Representative
Association No. 105

Encl.

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await conf.

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Application No. 90902741.9
Response to Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC

Replacement pages 10, 12 to 22, 26 to 33 and 34 of the claims are filed herewith in triplicate. Pages 11, 23 to 25 and 35 to 37 are cancelled. The claims have been amended in accordance with items 2(c) and (d) and 3 of the Communication. Thus claims 40 to 46 and 89 to 101 have been deleted, and claims 111, 113, 115, 117 to 120, 122, 125, 128, 129 and 131, dependent upon deleted claims, have also been deleted. Claims 145, 146, 147, 148 and 102 have been made dependent on previous claims 73 (now claim 66), as new claims 7-77 and 87. The other claim have been re-numbered accordingly. The deleted subject matter is not abandoned unconditionally, and the right is reserved to file a divisional application.

Regarding the objection under item 1, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the passage on page 12, line 15 to page 13, line 11 of the description, where it is clearly stated that the video program is communicated or transmitted at an accelerated rate in less time that would be taken to view the program (see in particular page 12, lines 23 to 33). Therefore it is submitted that no new subject matter has been introduced.

Regarding item 2(a) the received audio/video source information is compressed into a time representation thereof and then stored into the random access storage means in order to facilitate subsequent burst source information in a time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time (the time required to view) representation of the audio/video source information, as set forth at page 12, lines 28-33 of the description. Thus, the compression described at page 7, lines 5-27 of the description results in the claimed time compressed representation of the audio/video source information.

Regarding item 2(b), apparatus claim 57, for instance, recites that the compressor/decompressor means is capable of compressing digital audio/video source information into a time compressed representation thereof and also of decompressing the time compressed representation into a decompressed real time representation thereof. Under control of the central processing unit, audio/video source information may be stored as either a time compressed representation thereof or as a decompressed real time representation thereof, the latter being required at such time as the user desires to view the audio/video source information. In answer to the Examiner's query regarding memories 13 and 29, memory 13 is used to store audio/video source information following compression or decompression, while RAM 29 is employed for interim data storage during the compression/decompression process, as set forth in detail at page 15, line 13, through page 16, line 2 of the description.

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In response to the objections under item 4, we have the following comments. The invention as now claimed provides an audio/video transceiver in which an analog and/or digital audio/video program can be received from a variety of sources. If the audio/video program is received in analog format, it may be converted to digital format, compressed into a time compressed digital format, and stored in a random access storage. If the audio/video program is received in digital format, it may then be directly compressed into the time compressed digital format and stored in the random access storage. The time compressed digital format program stored in the random access storage may then be edited and restored in the random access storage. It may then be decompressed and downloaded onto a removable storage medium in either analog or digital format. Alternatively, it may be transmitted over a burst time period to a second remotely located transceiver via any of a number of transmission mediums. For example, a 2-hour real time audio/video program may be so transmitted over a burst time period of only 5-30 seconds.

Therefore, a user of the transceiver of the present invention may, for example, select an audio/video program for his evenings viewing entertainment from a remotely located audio/video library. The selected program may then be transmitted to the user's transceiver over the burst time period of 5-30 seconds, where it is stored in time compressed digital format in the random access storage of his transceiver. His transceiver is then operative for decompressing the program so received and stored into either an analog or digital format for direct viewing by the user.

These very important features of the invention as now claimed are simply not shown or suggested by either D1 or D2. Document D1 teaches only the storage and transmission of still images. No time elements are associated with still images. Thus, as one would expect and as correctly recognised by the Examiner, D1 contains no showing or suggestion whatsoever of transmitting audio/video information in a time compressed form. Furthermore, it is submitted that the mathematical assertions made by the Examiner to support his conclusion that the CD-player apparatus of D1 is capable of transmitting time compressed audio and/or video information are incorrect. D1 at column 2, section 2, line 11 states that a complete TV picture (still frame image) requires 828 Kbytes of storage. Therefore, using the Examiner's 150 Kbytes/second CD transceiver rate, 5.52 seconds are required to access a single uncompressed video frame. This is totally unlike the transceiver apparatus of the present invention which receives and/or transmits entire full motion video programs at an accelerated rate as the result of time compression of those full motion video programs, and the claimed structure for accomplishing that result. Furthermore, D1 contains no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of transmitting information away from the apparatus, as specifically taught and claimed by the present invention.

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D2 teaches an apparatus and method for rapidly creating a custom tape of musical pieces selected from a music library. The compression taught in D2 does not result in a reduction of the amount of digital data used to represent the source signal. In fact, the compression described in D2 simply alters the analog bandwidth of the audio signal into a standard video bandwidth, as set forth at column 14, lines 21-25 and 30-45 and in Figure 2 of D2. The purpose of this bandwidth transformation is to enable storage of the audio signal using standard video components such as video laser disc. D2 contains absolutely no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of data reduction or of the transmission of data over a communications network, again as now specifically claimed.

It is therefore submitted that the invention as now claimed is both new and inventive in the light of the prior art.

Regarding item 5, it is respectfully requested that formal revision of the specification in this respect be deferred until the scope of the claims has been agreed.

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CASH AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

PLEASE DEBIT THE FOLLOWING FEE FROM OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NUMBER 2805-0010

EP NO: 90902741.9-2202
APPLICANT: RICHARD A. LANG

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of said audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means; and

external video tape recorder means, coupled to said output means, for storing the selectively decompressed time compressed representation of said audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means.

37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 comprising editing means, coupled to said random access storage means, for editing said time compressed representation of said audio/video source information and for then storing the edited time compressed representation of said audio/video source information in said random access storage means.

38. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said input means and output means comprises microwave transceiver means, coupled to a microwave link, for receiving said audio/video source information over said microwave link and for transmitting said time compressed audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means over said microwave link.

39. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the random access storage means comprises an optical disc, a semiconductor memory, a bubble memory, digital paper, or one or more magnetic discs.

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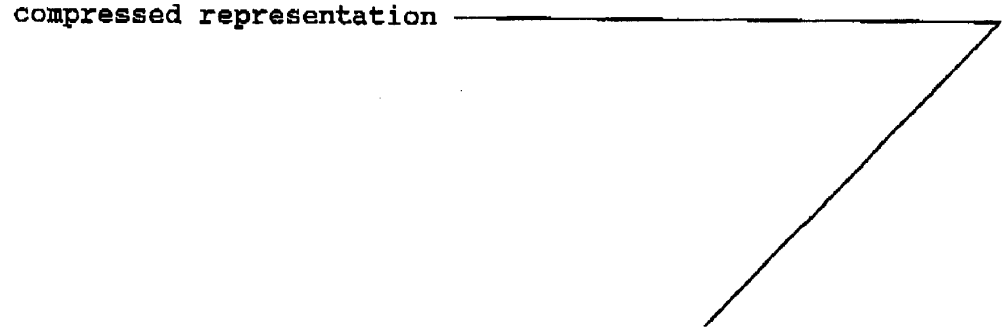
40. An audio/video information transfer network comprising a plurality of audio/video transceivers coupled via one or more communications links, each of the audio/video transceivers comprising:

input means for receiving audio/video source information;

compression means, coupled to said input means, for compressing said audio/video source information into a time compressed representation



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thereof having an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said audio-video source information; and

random access storage means, coupled to said compression means, for storing the time compressed representation of said audio/video source information; and

output means, coupled to storage means and to one of said one or more communications links, for receiving the time compressed format representation of said audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means for transmission in said burst time period to another one of said plurality of audio/video transceivers.

41. A network as claimed in claim 40 wherein said input means of one of said plurality of audio/video transceivers comprises a fiber optic input port, said output means of another one of said plurality of audio/video transceiver apparatus comprises a fiber optic output port, and one of said one or more communication links comprises a fiber optic transmission line coupled between said fiber optic input port and said fiber optic output port.

42. A network as claimed in claim 40 wherein said output means of one of said plurality of audio/video transceiver apparatus comprises a modem and one of said one or more communications links comprises a telephone transmission line.

43. A network as claimed in claim 40 wherein at least one of said audio/video transceivers comprises recording means, including a removable recording medium, coupled to said random access storage means, for storing the time compressed representation of said

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audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means onto said removable recording medium.

44. A network as claimed in claim 40 wherein at least one of said audio/video transceivers comprises:

decompression means, coupled to said random access storage means, for decompressing the time compressed representation of said audio/video source information stored in said random access storage means; and

recording means, including a removable recording medium, coupled to said decompression means, for storing the decompressed time compressed format representation of said audio/video source information onto said removable recording medium.

45. A network as claimed in claim 43 or 44 wherein said recording means comprises a video tape recorder and said removable recording medium comprises magnetic tape.

46. A network as claimed in claim 43 or 44 wherein said recording means comprises a write once read many (WORM) optical disc drive and said removable recording medium comprises one or more WORM discs.

47. A network as claimed in claim 43 or 44 wherein said recording means comprises an erasable optical disc drive and said hard copy storage medium comprises one or more erasable optical discs.

48. A network as claimed in any one of claims 40 - 47 wherein the random access storage means comprises an optical disc memory or a semiconductor memory.

49. A network as claimed in any one of claims 40 - 47 wherein said random access storage means of one of said plurality of audio/video transceiver apparatus stores a library comprising a multiplicity of items of

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audio/video source information in said time compressed representation for selective transmission in said associated burst time period to another one of said audio/video transceivers.

50. An audio/video transceiver apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving analog and/or digital audio/video source information;

analog to digital converter means for converting analog audio/video source information received at said input means to corresponding digital audio/video source information;

digital to analog converter means for converting digital audio/video source information received at said input means to corresponding analog audio/video source information;

compressor/decompressor means for compressing digital audio/video source information received at said input means or said corresponding digital audio/video source information received from said analog to digital converter means into a time compressed representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information, said time compressed representation having an associated time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information, said compressor/decompressor means being further operative for decompressing said time compressed representation into a decompressed real time representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information;

central processing unit means for controlling operation of said compressor/decompressor means;

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random access storage means for storing said time compressed representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information and for storing said decompressed real time representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information;

controller means for enabling communication between said compressor/decompressor means, said central processing unit means, and said random access memory means; and

output means for receiving said time compressed representation of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information stored in sid random access storage means for transmission away from said audio/video transceiver apparatus.

51. An apparatus as claimed in claim 50 comprising time base generator mean for supplying timing information for association with the time compressed representation of the digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information.

52. An apparatus as claimed in claim 50 comprising audio/video recording means including a recording medium for recording said analog or corresponding analog audio/video source information onto the recording medium.

53. An apparatus as claimed in claim 50 further comprising audio/video recording means, including a recording medium, for recording said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information onto said recording medium.

54. An apparatus as claimed in claim 52 or 53 wherein the recording medium comprises magnetic tape.

55. An apparatus as claimed in claim 53 wherein

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the recording medium comprises a CD-ROM or a WORM or an erasable optical disc.

56. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 50 -55 comprising audio/video recording and playback means coupled to the input means for providing said analog and/or digital audio/video source information.

57. An apparatus as claimed in any of claims 50 - 55 comprising high speed bus means coupled to the input means, and wherein the input means comprises auxiliary digital input means for receiving the digital audio/video source information.

58. An apparatus as claimed in claim 57 wherein the high speed bus means comprises an optical bus.

59. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 50 -55 comprising high speed bus means coupled to said input means, and wherein said input means comprises fiber optic means for receiving said digital audio/video source information.

60. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 50 -56 comprising high speed bus means, and wherein said analog to digital converter means, digital to analog converter means, compressor/decompressor means, central processing unit means, and controller means are coupled to said random access storage mean via said high speed bus means.

61. An apparatus as claimed in claim 60 comprising RGB converter means for converting information stored in said random access storage means to an RGB format, and wherein said output means comprises RGB output means for receiving RGB format information from said RGB converter means.

62. An apparatus as claimed in claim 60 wherein said output means comprise audio/video transmitter/receiver means coupled to said high speed bus for receiving said time compressed representation

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of said digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information stored in said audio/video transceiver apparatus.

63. An apparatus as claimed in claim 62 wherein the audio/video transmitter/receiver mean comprises a modem for coupling to a telephone transmission line, or a fiber optic transceiver for coupling to a fiber optic transmission line.

64. An apparatus as claimed in claim 50 comprising:

digital control unit means, said digital control unit means comprising:

additional central processing unit means;

read-only memory means coupled to said additional central processing unit means for storing microinstructions defining a plurality of selected editing functions; and

additional controller means for enabling communication between said additional central processing unit means and said read-only memory means; and

said additional central processing unit means being operative for selectively executing the microinstructions stored in said read-only memory means to perform one or more of said plurality of selected editing functions.

65. An apparatus as claimed in claim 64 wherein said digital control unit means is coupled to said random access storage means.

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66. A method for handling audio/video source information, the method comprising:

receiving audio/video source information;

compressing the received audio/video source information into a time compressed representation thereof having an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of the received audio/video source information;

storing said time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information; and

transmitting, in said burst time period, the stored time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information to a selected destination.

67. A method as in claim 66 further comprising the steps of:

editing the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information; and

storing the edited time compressed representation of said audio/video source information.

68. A method as in claim 67 further comprising the step of monitoring the stored, time compressed representation of said audio/video source information during editing.

69. A method as in claim 66 wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting said time compressed representation of said audio-video source information over an optical channel.

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70. A method as in claim 66 wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting said time compressed representation of said audio/video source information over a telephone transmission channel.

71. A method as in claim 66 wherein the step of storing comprises storing the time compressed representation of said audio/video source information on an optical disk.

72. A method as in claim 66 wherein the step of storing comprises storing the time compressed representation of said audio/video source information in a semiconductor memory.

73. A method as in claim 66, wherein the audio/video source information comprising a multiplicity of video frames in the form of one or more full motion video programs.

74. A method as in claim 73, wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting said time compressed representation of said audio/video source information over a microwave channel.

75. A method as in claim 73, wherein the step of storing comprises storing the time compressed representation of said received audio/video source information in a bubble memory.

76. A method as in claim 73, wherein the step of storing comprises storing the time compressed representation of said received audio/video source information in a digital paper memory.

77. A method as in claim 73, wherein the step of storing comprises storing the time compressed representation of said received audio/video source information on one or more magnetic disks.

78. A method as in claim 66 wherein:

said audio/video source information comprises analog

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audio/video source information;

said method further comprises the step of converting said analog audio/video source information to corresponding digital audio/video source information;

said step of compressing comprises compressing said corresponding digital audio/video source information into a digital time compressed representation thereof having an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said digital audio/video source information; and

said step of storing comprises storing said digital time compressed representation of said corresponding digital audio/video source information.

79. A method as in claim 66 wherein:

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said audio/video source information comprises digital audio/video source information;

said step of compressing comprises compressing said digital audio/video source information into a digital time compressed representation thereof having an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said digital audio/video source information; and

said step of storing comprises storing said digital time compressed representation of said digital audio/video source information.

80. A method as in claim 78 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information received from a television camera.

81. A method as in claim 78 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information received from an analog video tape recorder.

82. A method as in claim 78 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information received from a television RF tuner.

83. A method as in claim 78 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information transmitted by a remotely located television transmitter.

84. A method as in claim 78 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information received from a cable television system.

85. A method as in claim 79 wherein said audio/video

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source information comprises information received from a computer.

86. A method as in claim 79 wherein said audio/video source information comprises information received over a fiber optic transmission line.

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87. A method as in claim 66 comprising:

providing a network that includes a plurality of audio/video transceivers, coupled via one or more communication links;

said selected destination comprising one or more of said plurality of audio/video transceivers.

88. A method as in claim 87 wherein said audio/video source information is received over one or more optical transmission channels and the stored time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information is transmitted over one or more optical transmission channels.

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89. A method as in claim 87 wherein the stored time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information is transmitted over one or more telephone transmission channels.

90. A method as in claim 87 wherein the time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information is stored in an optical disk memory.

91. A method as in claim 87 wherein the time compressed representation of the received audio/video source information is stored in a semiconductor memory.

92. A method as in claim 87 wherein one of said plurality of audio/video transceivers stores a library containing a multiplicity of programs of audio/video source information as time compressed representations thereof for selective transmission, in an associated burst time period, to one or more of the remaining plurality of audio/video transceivers.

93. A method as in claim 87 further comprising the step of recording the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a removable recording medium.

94. A method as in claim 87 further comprising the steps of:

decompressing the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information; and

recording the decompressed time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a

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removable storage medium.

95. A method as in claim 93 or 94 wherein the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information is recorded onto a magnetic tape within a video tape recorder.

96. A method as in claim 93 or 94 wherein the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information is recorded onto one or more write-once read-many (WORM) optical disks within an optical disk drive.

97. A method as in claim 93 or 94 wherein the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information is recorded onto one or more erasable optical disks within an optical disk drive.

98. A method as in claim 66 further comprising the step of recording the stored time compressed representation

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of said audio/video source information onto a removable recording medium.

99. A method as in claim 66 further comprising the steps of:

selectively decompressing the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information; and

recording the selectively decompressed time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a removable recording medium.

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100. A method as in claim 79 wherein said digital audio/video source information is received from a CD-ROM.

101. A method as in claim 79 wherein said digital audio/video source information is received from an erasable optical disk.

102. A method as in claim 66 further comprising the step of recording the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a magnetic recording medium.

103. A method as in claim 67 further comprising the step of recording the stored edited time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a magnetic recording medium.

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104. A method as in claim 66 further comprising the steps of:

selectively decompressing the stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information; and

recording the selectively decompressed stored time compressed representation of said audio/video source information onto a magnetic storage medium.

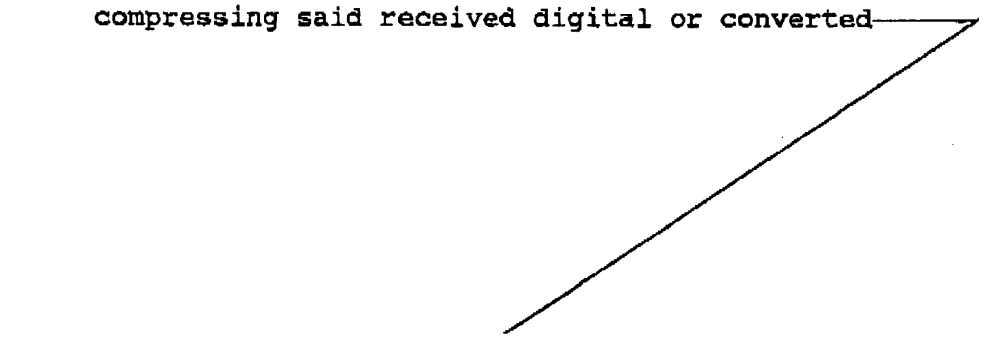
105. A method for handling analog and/or digital audio/video source information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving analog and/or digital audio/video source information;

converting received analog audio/video source information to corresponding digital audio/video source information;

converting received digital audio/video source information to corresponding analog audio/video source information;

compressing said received digital or converted



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corresponding digital audio/video source information into a time compressed representation thereof having an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said received digital or converted corresponding digital audio/video source information;

storing said time compressed representation;

decompressing said time compressed representation into a real time representation of said received digital or converted corresponding digital audio/video source information;

storing said real time representation; and

transmitting said time compressed representation to a selected destination.

106. A method as in claim 105 further comprising the step of supplying timing information for association with said said time compressed representation.

107. A method as in claim 105 further comprising the step of recording said received analog or corresponding analog audio/video source information onto a recording medium.

108. A method as in claim 105 further comprising the step of recording said received digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information onto a recording medium.

109. A method as in claim 105 wherein said received analog or corresponding analog audio/video source

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information is recorded onto a magnetic tape recording medium.

110. A method as in claim 108 wherein said received digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information is recorded onto a magnetic tape recording medium.

111. A method as in claim 108 wherein said received digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information is recorded onto a CD-ROM.

112. A method as in claim 108 wherein said received digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information is recorded onto a WORM optical disk.

113. A method as in claim 108 wherein said received digital or corresponding digital audio/video source information is recorded onto an erasable optical disk.

114. A method as in claim 108 wherein said received analog and/or digital audio/video source information is received from an audio/video recording and playback apparatus.

115. A method as in claim 105 wherein said digital audio/video source information is received over a high speed bus.

116. A method as in claim 105 wherein said digital audio/video source information is received over an optical bus.

117. A method as in claim 105 further comprising the step of selectively editing the received analog and/or digital audio/video source information.

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118. A method for handling audio/video source information, the method comprising:

receiving audio/video source information as a time compressed digital representation thereof, said audio/video source information comprising a multiplicity of video frames in the form of one or more full motion video programs selected from a video library storing a multiplicity of full motion video programs in a time compressed digital representation thereof for selective retrieval, said time compressed digital representation of the received audio/video source information being received in an associated burst time period that is shorter than a time period associated with a real time representation of said received audio/video source information;

storing the time compressed digital representation of said received audio/video source information; and

transmitting, in said burst time period, the stored time compressed digital representation of said received audio/video source information to a selected destination.