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(54) **ELECTRONIC PARKING DISC**
ELEKTRONISCHE PARKSCHEIBE
DISQUE DE STATIONNEMENT ÉLECTRONIQUE

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Description

[0001] The present invention concerns a parking disc for mounting on a vehicle where the parking disc is placed visible from outside, where the parking disc includes means for at least externally indicating a time for initiation of the parking, where means for indicating the time consists of an electronic display which during normal driving is connected to an electronic clock, where the display during normal driving shows the actual time and where stopping the vehicle results in switching of the display, where the display during parking constantly shows the time of initiation of the parking, and where the display by resumption of the driving is switched to the actual time, where switching of the display by resuming the driving occurs on the basis of an electric signal from at least one detector which determines an actual relative motion of the vehicle, where the switching of the display occurs after determining a minimum value for the motion of the vehicle where the switching of the display is effected on the basis of a detector detecting a minimum acceleration during movement of the vehicle.

[0002] WO 00/75878 discloses an electronic parking disc showing actual time during operation of a vehicle, while at the initiation of parking when the ignition of the vehicle is switched off, the parking disc maintains displaying a fixed time until the next time the ignition is switched on. This prior art has both a forward facing display shaped as a normal Danish parking disc with a single pointer showing hours, and at the inner side of the parking disc there is provided a digital display so that the inwards facing clock during normal operation functions as a normal car clock. In order to ensure optimum display of actual time, the electronic parking disc contains a radio receiver for receiving a long-wave signal from a transmitter transmitting time information, or there is a receiver for receiving GPS satellite signals containing information about time.

[0003] The said parking disc has been approved by the authorities in Denmark, but in spite thereof it has various drawbacks. A substantial drawback may be that it is possible to reset a parking time by simply switching on the ignition of the vehicle and the leave the vehicle again, i.e. the parking time is renewed without moving the vehicle. Such an action is not allowed according to the common parking rules, but is almost impossible to check. I.e. traffic wardens would be sceptical of this electronic parking disc if they are aware of the possibility of cheating. Thus there may arise a number of contentious issues between traffic wardens and vehicle owners provided with electronic parking discs, as the traffic warden may assert abuse by demonstrating that the car wheels haven't been moved in spite of the parking time having been changed.

[0004] DE 2907726 U1 also concerns an electronic parking disc where the clock of the parking disc is satellite controlled. However, any satellite control of a clock in an electronic parking disc will not be very suited for parking

in closed parking facilities without free access to open sky. I.e. parking in cellars or the lower storeys in high parking buildings will mean that no satellite signal is received.

5 **[0005]** DE 38 29 031 also includes an electronic parking disc which is activated at the absence of an ignition signal and which is deactivated by means of a detector registering e.g. turning of engine, gearbox or wheels.

10 **[0006]** DE G 9101216.3 concerns an electronic parking disc operating by means of a vibration detector connected to an electronic counting device. During operation the detector generates a pulse each time a vibration occurs independently of the direction. Based on the actual number of pulses measured over a short time period the parking disc switches from parking mode into driving mode.

15 **[0007]** A parking disc operating as described in DE G 9101216.3 can be manipulated in different ways simply by tapping on the windshield of the car a few times during a measuring sequence. Furthermore, the disc can be manipulated by starting and stopping the engine. Any manipulation of a parking disc is in conflict with the law and the regulations in most countries.

20 **[0008]** EP 0719 437 B1 concerns a device intended for the registration of vehicle fees such as road and bridge tolls and for the registration of staying, including parking within the toll area such as city cores so that the fees can be debited or preferably deducted from a prepaid card.

30 **[0009]** EP 0719 437 B1 furthermore concerns a device comprising an accelerometer connected to a time counter and a processor for measuring the speed, movement and immobility. A time integral of the forces of acceleration forms the basis for calculation of the speed.

35 **[0010]** EP 0719 437 B1 does not concern a parking disc.

40 **[0011]** It is the purpose of the invention to provide an electronic parking disc that keeps showing the time of the initiation of the parking even if the ignition of the vehicle is turned on, and where switching to display of actual time only occurs after fulfilling operation conditions in a way that do not allow remote operation.

45 **[0012]** This may be achieved with a parking disc as the one described in the introduction, if the parking disc is designed so that switching the display is effected on the basis of determination by a detector of a minimum acceleration during the movement of the vehicle where switching of the display can be effected on the basis of a minimum acceleration determined in a uniform direction over a predetermined period of time.

50 **[0013]** In a preferred embodiment, switching of the display may be effected on the basis of a minimum acceleration during the movement of the vehicle. Hereby may be achieved that an acceleration detector may be disposed at very different places in the vehicle and emit a signal which could be used for switching the display. In connection with the safety equipment of a vehicle, in some vehicles there is equipment for measuring acceleration beforehand and a signal can be picked up from

these detectors and used after processing the signal in the electronic parking disc.

[0014] Switching of the display may be effected on the basis of a minimum acceleration determined in a uniform direction over a predetermined period of time. Hereby may be achieved great assurance of a real movement of the vehicle, since if an acceleration detector measures changing direction of an acceleration, this may indicate that the vehicle is subjected to vibrations, e.g. caused by wind action, or that someone pushes the vehicle for achieving a rocking motion in the suspension of the vehicle. If acceleration has been constant in a constant direction over some time, it means that the vehicle has achieved a minimum speed. On the other hand, the absence of an acceleration signal may be used as indication of the initiation of a parking. Therefore, a signal from an accelerometer monitoring the direction of the acceleration will be suitable for performing switching of the display of the parking disc via an electronic control system.

[0015] Hereby may be achieved that the electronic parking disc continues to show a fixed time that indicates the start of the parking, until the mentioned detector has determined movement of the vehicle. This may e.g. be that the vehicle has been moved a number of meters in relation to the point at which parking has been initiated. In that way, it will be very difficult to cheat with the electronic parking disc, and during common use of the parking disc by this invention there will not be any problems for the user, as the user with good intentions who do not want to cheat with the display of the parking disc may use the electronic parking disc without disadvantages. At the same time, a parking disc of this type will quickly be accepted by traffic wardens as being a reliable parking disc, whereby cheating may never occur and the actual parking time will never be contended.

[0016] By a first preferred embodiment of a parking disc, the switching of the display may be effected on the basis of a minimum distance for the motion of the vehicle determined by a detector. By determining a movement for the vehicle, a detector may e.g. determine that the wheels or a shaft has rotated a certain number of times, possibly in the same direction, before switching of the parking disc is effected. Thereby it will be almost impossible to cheat with the electronic parking disc.

[0017] In an alternative embodiment, the switching of the display may be effected on the basis of a minimum speed for the motion of the vehicle determined by a detector. By this may be achieved that the vehicle is to reach a motion speed before switching of the display is effected. Achieving a minimum speed of e.g. 20-30 km/h will not be possible for the vehicle while still standing on a parking lot or while it is moved on a parking lot, and thereby it is ensured that the vehicle is really moved before resetting to display actual time by the parking disc display occurs. This embodiment of the invention will also in the long run gain trust from users as well as from traffic wardens.

[0018] The switching of the display may be effected by a detector of the vehicle determining a minimum speed,

acceleration or travelled distance, where an existing signal to the automatic door lock of the vehicle for automatic door locking at the exceeding of a minimum speed is simultaneously used for switching the display of the parking disc.

[0019] Hereby may be achieved that existing detectors in vehicles are utilised for an additional application, which may occur without interfering with the other functions of the vehicle. Switching on of the electronic parking disc is just a question of knowing where to make an electronic connection, after which the electronic parking disc will function optimally.

[0020] By a second alternative embodiment, the switching of the display can be effected on the basis of an existing electric signal expressing the speed of the vehicle, where the electronic parking disc includes means for determining a minimum speed on the basis of an existing signal, where the display of the parking disc is switched on the basis of exceeding the determined minimum speed. Hereby may be achieved that e.g. it is an electronic speedometer signal which is used. A signal provided in vehicles using digital speedometers, but also in vehicles where the speedometer communicates with an electronic sensing of one of the rotating shafts of the vehicle. Thus there will typically appear one or more electronic pulses per revolution for this shaft, by which the actual speed is determined on the basis of the time lapsed between electric pulses. A signal of this type coming directly into the electronic parking disc may be used for determining a minimum speed. If the pulses are absent for a period of time, this may be used as indication of parking the vehicle.

[0021] A radio wave carried navigation signal may be utilised for indicating the movement of the vehicle for switching the display of the parking disc. Hereby may be achieved that actual standstill of the vehicle activates the parking disc, while movement of the vehicle causes termination of the parking. GPS signals may be used, but signals from local radio transmitters can also be utilised by determining phase differences between received signals. Signals from cellular transmitter masts may thus be utilised for indicating movement and standstill for a vehicle.

[0022] Description of the drawing: the only Figure shows a possible embodiment of the invention in the form of a block diagram.

[0023] An electronic parking disc 2 contains a display 4 that communicates with an electronic clock 6, where a signal wire 8 communicates with a detector 10 for connecting the detector 10 to a signal processing unit 12. An electric connection 20 goes from signal processing unit 12 to a memory unit 14 that receives a time signal over a databus 16 from the electronic clock 6, and where the memory unit 14 over a databus 18 transmits a signal to display 4 containing segments 22, 24, 26 and 28.

[0024] The operation of the parking disc on the Figure may be as follows: During normal operation, the electronic clock 6 may deliver a time signal over databus 16,

and this signal is forwarded through memory unit 14 over databus 18 to display 4 so that the display shows actual time. A condition for actual display of time may be that the signal wire 20 connecting the electronic control unit 12 with memory unit 14 contains a logical 1. This condition remains unchanged as long as e.g. a signal wire 13 connected to the ignition system of the car indicates that the vehicle is moving. If the vehicle is stopped and/or the ignition signal is interrupted, i.e. the signal wire 13 maybe becomes connected to the chassis, the electronic control unit 12 will interrupt the logical signal on the signal wire 20, after which memory unit 14 is locked for constant display of the time of interruption of the ignition connection 13. The display 4 will thereby show a time for the initiation of the parking. Control unit 12 will keep signal wire 20 at a logical 0 until a signal comes from detector 10 over signal wire 8 indicating that the vehicle is moving. Then the signal wire 20 will change to a logical 1, and memory unit 14 is now opened so that the actual time signal is transferred to display 4.

[0025] According to a special embodiment of the invention, control unit 12 may perform a signal processing of the signal transmitted over the signal wire 8, 108. Thereby it may be become possible to utilise a detector 10, 110 which is already provided in a vehicle. This may e.g. be the existing speedometer of the car emitting an electronic speed signal.

[0026] A second embodiment of the invention may instead use an accelerometer which is provided in the vehicle beforehand, associated with airbags or other safety devices.

[0027] The electronic parking disc may be designed with both an outwards facing display and an inwards facing display, where the outwards facing display may consist of a pointer that may be designed for indicating fixed points in time with intervals of e.g. 15 minutes. The electronic parking disc may include means for manual setting of a time for initiation of the parking. Also, adjustment of the electronic clock may be required.

[0028] Application of radio-controlled clocks is an obvious possibility, but advantageously the electronic clock may include a local oscillation circuit enabling the electronic clock to continue correct indication of time even if the radio signals are absent. The electronic parking disc may contain an indication of the actual condition, e.g. in a lamp or a light diode indicating parking. Another possibility is that the display is switched off when not parking.

Claims

1. Parking disc (2) for mounting on a vehicle where the parking disc (2) is placed visible from outside, where the parking disc (2) includes means (4) for at least externally indicating a time for initiation of the parking, where means for indicating the time (4) consists of an electronic display which during normal driving is connected to an electronic clock (6), where the

display (6) during normal driving shows the actual time and where stopping the vehicle results in switching of the display (4), where the display during parking constantly shows the time of initiation of the parking, and where the display (4) by resumption of the driving is switched to the actual time, where switching of the display (4) by resuming the driving occurs on the basis of an electric signal (8) from at least one detector (10) which determines an actual relative motion of the vehicle, where the switching of the display (10) occurs after determining a minimum value for the motion of the vehicle, where the switching of the display (4) is effected on the basis of determination by a detector (10, 110) of a minimum acceleration during the movement of the vehicle, **characterised in that** switching of the display (4) is effected on the basis of a minimum acceleration determined in a uniform direction over a predetermined period of time.

2. Parking disc (2) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the switching of the display (4) is effected on the basis of a minimum distance for the motion of the vehicle determined by a detector (10).
3. Parking disc according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised in that** the switching of the display (4) is effected on the basis of a minimum speed for the motion of the vehicle determined by a detector (10).
4. Parking disc (2) according to claim 1 or 3, **characterised in that** the switching of the display (4) is effected on the basis of an existing electric signal (108) expressing the speed of the vehicle, that the electronic parking disc (2) includes means (12) for determining a minimum speed on the basis of an existing signal (108), where the display (4) of the parking disc is switched on the basis of exceeding the determined minimum speed.

Patentansprüche

1. Parkscheibe (2) zur Anordnung auf einem Fahrzeug, wobei die Parkscheibe (2) von außen sichtbar angeordnet ist, wobei die Parkscheibe (2) Mittel (4) umfasst, die wenigstens nach außen einen Zeitpunkt für den Anfang des Parkens angeben, wobei die Mittel des Zeitpunktgebens (4) aus einer elektronischen Anzeige besteht, die während des normalen Fahrens mit einer elektronischen Uhr (6) verbunden ist, wobei die Anzeige (6) während des normalen Fahrens die aktuelle Zeit zeigt, und wobei das Anhalten des Fahrzeuges ein Ausschalten der Anzeige (4) zur Folge hat, wobei die Anzeige während des Parkens ständig die Anfangszeit des Parkens anzeigt, und wobei die Anzeige (4) bei der Wiederaufnahme des Fahrens zur aktuellen Zeit umschaltet, wobei Um-

- schaltung des Anzeigers (4) bei Wiederaufnahme des Fahrens sich auf einem elektrischen Signal (8) aus wenigstens einem Detektor (10) basiert, der eine tatsächliche relative Bewegung des Fahrzeuges ermittelt, wobei die Umschaltung der Anzeige (10) nach Festlegung eines Mindestwertes für die Bewegung des Fahrzeuges erfolgt, wobei die Umschaltung der Anzeige (4) aufgrund der Festlegung eines Detektors (10, 110) von der Mindestbeschleunigung während der Bewegung des Fahrzeuges durchgeführt wird, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Umschaltung aufgrund einer im Laufe einer vorgegebenen Zeitdauer in einer gleichartigen Richtung festgelegten Mindestbeschleunigung durchgeführt wird.
2. Parkscheibe (2) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Umschaltung der Anzeige (4) aufgrund eines Mindestabstandes für die vom Detektor (10) festgelegte Bewegung des Fahrzeuges durchgeführt wird.
 3. Parkscheibe nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Umschaltung der Anzeige (4) aufgrund einer vom Detektor (10) festgelegten Mindestgeschwindigkeit für die Bewegung des Fahrzeuges durchgeführt wird.
 4. Parkscheibe (2) nach Anspruch 1 oder 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Umschaltung der Anzeige (4) aufgrund eines vorhandenen, die Geschwindigkeit des Fahrzeuges darstellenden elektrischen Signals (108) durchgeführt wird, und dass die elektronische Parkscheibe (2) Mittel (12) für die Festlegung einer Mindestgeschwindigkeit aufgrund eines vorhandenen Signals (108) aufweist, wobei die Anzeige (4) der Parkscheibe aufgrund der Überschreitung der festgelegten Mindestgeschwindigkeit umschaltet.

électrique (8) provenant d'au moins un détecteur (10) qui détermine un déplacement relatif réel du véhicule, la commutation de l'affichage (10) s'effectuant une fois qu'une valeur minimum de déplacement du véhicule a été déterminée, la commutation de l'affichage (4) s'effectuant sur la base d'une détermination du détecteur (10, 110) d'une accélération minimum pendant le déplacement du véhicule, **caractérisée en ce que** la commutation de l'affichage (4) est effectuée à la base d'une accélération minimum suivant une direction uniforme pendant une période de temps prédéterminée.

2. Disque de stationnement (2) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que** la commutation de l'affichage (4) est effectuée sur la base d'une valeur de distance minimum de déplacement du véhicule déterminée par un détecteur (10).
3. Disque de stationnement selon la revendication 1 ou 2, **caractérisée en ce que** la commutation de l'affichage (4) est effectuée sur la base d'une valeur de vitesse minimum de déplacement du véhicule déterminée par un détecteur (10).
4. Disque de stationnement (2) selon la revendication 1 ou 3, **caractérisée en ce que** la commutation de l'affichage (4) est effectuée sur la base d'un signal électrique existant (108) signalant la vitesse du véhicule, que le disque de stationnement électronique (2) comprend des moyens (12) pour déterminer une vitesse minimum sur la base d'un signal existant (108), l'affichage (4) du disque de stationnement est commuté en fonction d'un excès de vitesse minimum déterminée.

Revendications

1. Disque de stationnement (2) à monter sur un véhicule, le disque de stationnement (2) étant placé de manière visible de l'extérieur, le disque de stationnement (2) comprenant des moyens (4) pour indiquer, au moins de manière externe, l'heure de début de stationnement, les moyens pour indiquer l'heure (4) comprenant un affichage électronique qui pendant la conduite normale est connecté avec une horloge électronique (6), l'affichage (6) pendant la conduite normale montrant l'heure actuelle et l'arrêt du véhicule ayant pour résultat une commutation de l'affichage (4), l'affichage pendant le stationnement montrant de façon continue le début de stationnement, et l'affichage (4) au redémarrage montrant l'heure actuelle, la commutation de l'affichage (4) au redémarrage s'effectuant en fonction d'un signal

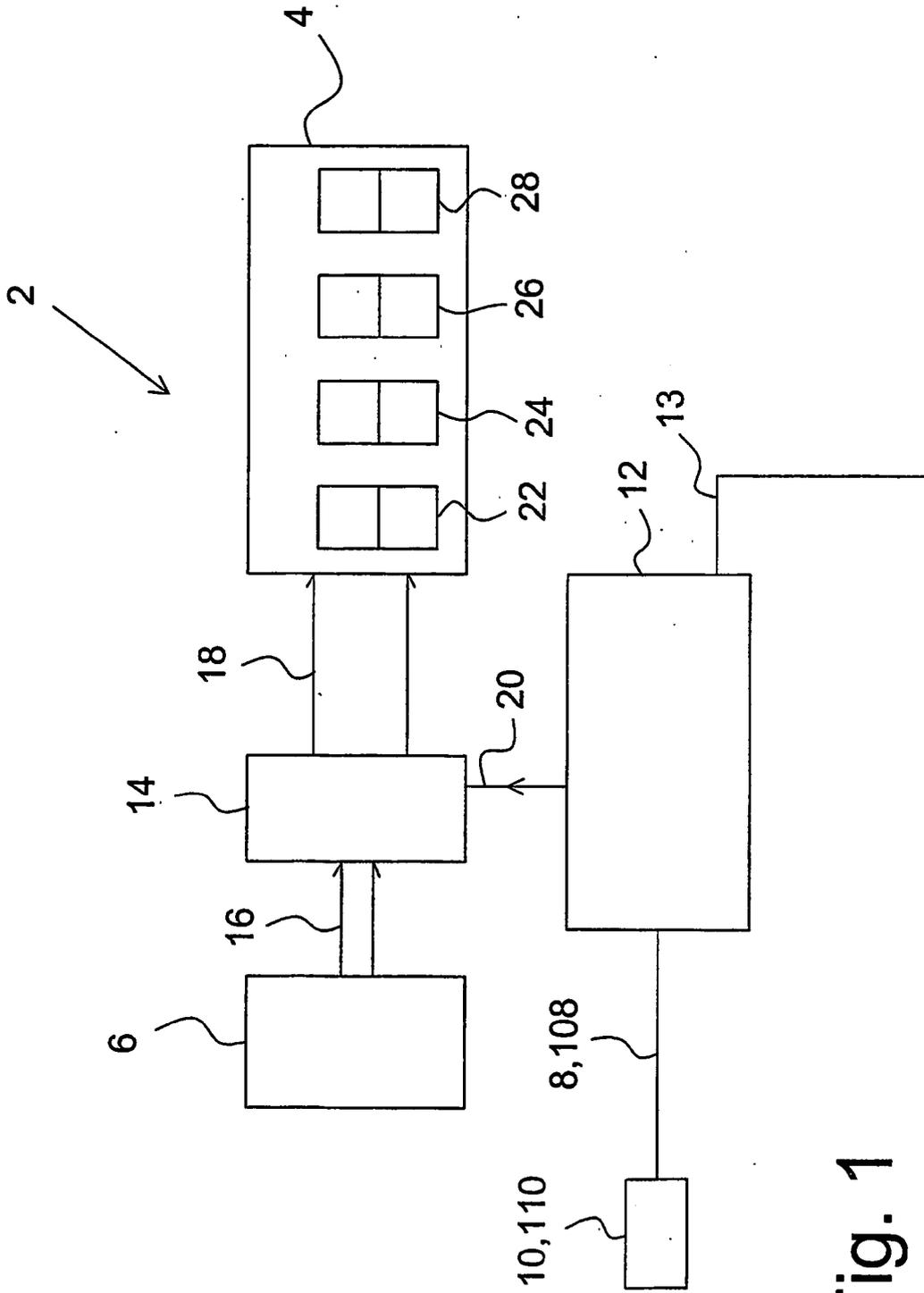


Fig. 1

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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