

AO 120 (Rev. 08/10)

TO: Mail Stop 8 Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	REPORT ON THE FILING OR DETERMINATION OF AN ACTION REGARDING A PATENT OR TRADEMARK
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In Compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 290 and/or 15 U.S.C. § 1116 you are hereby advised that a court action has been filed in the U.S. District Court NEVADA on the following

Trademarks or Patents. (the patent action involves 35 U.S.C. § 292.);

DOCKET NO. 2:14-cv-01485-JAD-CWH	DATE FILED 9/12/2014	U.S. DISTRICT COURT NEVADA
PLAINTIFF Konami Gaming, Inc.		DEFENDANT Marks Studios, LLC doing business as Gimmie Games
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK
1 8096869		SEE ATTACHED
2 8366540		
3 8622810		
4 8616955		
5		

In the above—entitled case, the following patent(s)/ trademark(s) have been included:

DATE INCLUDED	INCLUDED BY <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Answer <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Bill <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pleading		
PATENT OR TRADEMARK NO.	DATE OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	HOLDER OF PATENT OR TRADEMARK	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

In the above—entitled case, the following decision has been rendered or judgement issued:

DECISION/JUDGEMENT

CLERK LANCE S. WILSON	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK M. JOHANSEN	DATE 9/12/2014
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------

Copy 1—Upon initiation of action, mail this copy to Director Copy 3—Upon termination of action, mail this copy to Director
 Copy 2—Upon filing document adding patent(s), mail this copy to Director Copy 4—Case file copy

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

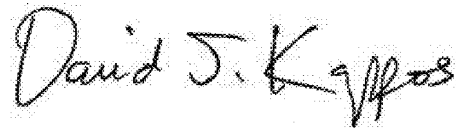
PATENT NO. : 8,096,869 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 11/299009
DATED : January 17, 2012
INVENTOR(S) : Osamu Yoshimi

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Column 7, Line 54, Claim 1, after "plurality" please insert --of--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-ninth Day of January, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Kappos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "K".

David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 8,096,869
APPLICATION NO. : 11/299009
ISSUE DATE : January 17, 2012
INVENTOR(S) : Osamu Yoshimi

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Column 7, Line 54, Claim 1, after "plurality" please insert --of--.

14499389
121212

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Michael H. Trenholm
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. DUMME55.006AUS

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler
Attorney Docket Number:	068440.00003

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Certificate of correction	1811	1	100	100

Extension-of-Time:

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				100

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	14486116
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	27305
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Elva Gutierrez
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	068440.00003
Receipt Date:	17-DEC-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	17:16:12
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$100
RAM confirmation Number	5452
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		CERTOFCORR_DUMME55-006A US.pdf	47728 <small>fae6f8325b7307ac605711b3eed2d649d7132f75</small>	yes	2
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description			Start	End	
Miscellaneous Incoming Letter			1	1	
Request for Certificate of Correction			2	2	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30261 <small>0430e95380bb98efdbc74eb6704a9d507782a108</small>	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			77989		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					

December 17, 2012

ATTN: Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Title: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
Letters Patent No. 8,096,869
Issued: January 17, 2012
Our Reference: DUMME55.006AUS

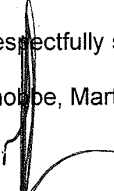
Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing is a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent.

As the errors cited in the Certificate of Correction were incurred through the fault of the Applicant, the required fee of \$100 is submitted herewith. Please charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP



Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Customer No. 20995

Enclosures

14499401:lw
121212



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	068440.00003

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736

POA ACCEPTANCE LETTER

27305
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS PLLC
450 West Fourth Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067



Date Mailed: 11/28/2012

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 11/14/2012.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

/ddinh/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736

POWER OF ATTORNEY NOTICE



20995
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

Date Mailed: 11/28/2012

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 11/14/2012.

- The Power of Attorney to you in this application has been revoked by the assignee who has intervned as provided by 37 CFR 3.71. Future correspondence will be mailed to the new address of record(37 CFR 1.33).

/ddinh/

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

POWER OF ATTORNEY OR REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY WITH A NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY AND CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	Application Number	11299009
	Filing Date	2005-12-09
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Title	Gaming Machine with Eurs of st
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	068440, 00003	

I hereby revoke all previous powers of attorney given in the above-identified application.

A Power of Attorney is submitted herewith.

OR

I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) associated with the following Customer Number as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

27305

OR

I hereby appoint Practitioner(s) named below as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Practitioner(s) Name	Registration Number

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

The address associated with the above-mentioned Customer Number.

OR

The address associated with Customer Number:

OR

Firm or Individual Name

Address

City State Zip

Country

Telephone Email

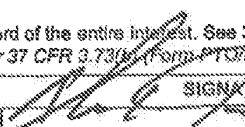
I am the:

Applicant/inventor.

OR

Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (Form PTO/SB/98) submitted herewith or filed on _____

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Signature		Date	11/18/12
Name	Thomas A. Jingoil	Telephone	702.616.1400
Title and Company	Sr. VP/Chief Compliance Officer / Konami Gaming, Inc.		

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31, 1.32 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Yoshimi, Osamu / Konami Gaming, Inc.

Application No./Patent No.: 11/299,009 / 8,096,869 Filed/Issue Date: December 9, 2005 / January 17, 2012

Titled: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS

Konami Gaming, Inc., a corporation
(Name of Assignee) (Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

- 1. the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in;
 - 2. an assignee of less than the entire right, title, and interest in
(The extent (by percentage) of its ownership interest is _____ %); or
 - 3. the assignee of an undivided interest in the entirety of (a complete assignment from one of the joint inventors was made)
- the patent application/patent identified above, by virtue of either:

A. An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy therefore is attached.

OR

B. A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as follows:

1. From: Yoshimi, Osamu To: Konami Australia Pty Ltd.

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel 017788, Frame 0084, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: Konami Australia Pty Ltd. To: Konami Gaming, Inc.

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel 029264, Frame 0943, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To: _____

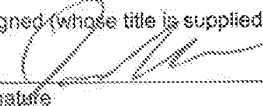
The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel _____, Frame _____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet(s).

As required by 37 CFR 3.73(b)(1)(i), the documentary evidence of the chain of title from the original owner to the assignee was, or concurrently is being, submitted for recordation pursuant to 37 CFR 3.11.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., a true copy of the original assignment document(s)) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, to record the assignment in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.06]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.



Signature

November 14, 2012
Date

James R. Yee
Printed or Typed Name

Agent
Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1460.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-6199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
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Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	14224574
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	James R. Yee/Amy Galenski
Filer Authorized By:	James R. Yee
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	14-NOV-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	13:20:55
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
------------------------	----

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Power of Attorney	POAandStatementUnder37CFR 373b.pdf	636416 <small>b57598c712eb9b8dbc46d02fe1114a2434 34a60</small>	no	4

Warnings:

Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 8,096,869 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 11/299009
DATED : January 17, 2012
INVENTOR(S) : Osamu Yoshimi

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

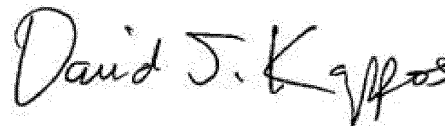
In Column 7, Line 14, please change “diplayed” to --displayed--.

In Column 7, Line 18, please change “gaining” to --gaming--.

In Column 7, Line 34, please change “embodiments” to --embodiments.--.

In Column 7, Line 34, Claim 1, after “plurality” please insert --of--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-fifth Day of September, 2012



David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 8,096,869
APPLICATION NO. : 11/299009
ISSUE DATE : January 17, 2012
INVENTOR(S) : Osamu Yoshimi

Page 1 of 1

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In Column 7, Line 18, please change "gaining" to --gaming--.

In Column 7, Line 34, please change "embodiments" to --embodiments--.

In Column 7, Line 34, Claim 1, after "plurality" please insert --of--.

13732218/vb
080212

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

Michael H. Trenholm
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
2040 Main Street, 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92614

DOCKET NO. DUMME55.006AUS

PTO/SB/44 Equivalent

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Certificate of correction	1811	1	100	100

Extension-of-Time:

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				100

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	13517787
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Robin Leu
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	16-AUG-2012
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	18:45:06
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$100
RAM confirmation Number	5199
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		CERTCORR_DUMME55-006AUS. PDF	49126 <small>7882400d7f7a4a45d709b57701ab494b32d40a0d</small>	yes	2
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description			Start	End	
Miscellaneous Incoming Letter			1	1	
Request for Certificate of Correction			2	2	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30102 <small>37a23036557a618cf7394290552c8f2054fe8d40</small>	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			79228		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					

August 16, 2012

ATTN: Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Title: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
Letters Patent No. 8,096,869
Issued: January 17, 2012
Our Reference: DUMME55.006AUS

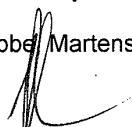
Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing is a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent.

As the errors cited in the Certificate of Correction were incurred through the fault of both the Applicant and the Patent Office, the required fee of \$100 is submitted herewith. Please charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

Knobbe Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP



Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Customer No. 20995

Enclosures

13739597/vb/080312



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United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/299,009	01/17/2012	8096869	DUMME55.006AUS	4736

20995 7590 12/28/2011
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 1292 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Osamu Yoshimi, Botany, AUSTRALIA;

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi et al.
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No. DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,624,119	04-1997	Leake, Deborah L.	↘
	2	2005/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo (previously incorrectly cited as 2004/0043083)	
	3	5,807,172	09-1998	Piechowiak	
	4	6,241,607	06-2001	Payne et al.	
	5	6,896,615	05-2005	Berman	
	6	6,960,134	11-2005	Hartl et al.	

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
						→

CO-PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS COMMONLY OWNED WITH THE PRESENT APPLICATION							
<p>EXAMINER NOTE: Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether the claims of any one or more of the following co-pending U.S. patent applications (which are commonly owned with the present application) create any issues of double patenting with respect to any of the claims of the present application; and, where relevant, to consider whether the disclosure of any one or more of the following co-pending applications creates any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether any listed office actions issued in the following co-pending applications create any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application.</p> <p>SPECIFICATION, DRAWINGS and CLAIMS: Except where indicated, each of the co-pending applications listed below is stored in the USPTO's IFW system. As provided in M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a), copies of the specifications, drawings and claims of these co-pending applications are <u>not</u> enclosed herewith.</p>							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Serial No.	Filing Date MM-DD-YYYY	Inventor(s)	Pub. No.	Atty. Docket No.	Date(s) of Office Action(s) MM-DD-YYYY
Change(s) applied to document, /M.A.H./ 10/24/2011		11/193,153	07-29-2005	Chan	2007/0015565	DUMME55.004AUS	1/2007
		11/299,099	12/09/2005	Yoshimi	2006/0247002	DUMME55.005AUS	11/2006
		11/413,707	04/28/2006	Yoshimi	2006/0287060	DUMME55.007AUS	Office Action dated 1/28/2008 Response to Office Action of 1/28/2008 filed 7/28/2008
		11/281,258	11/17/2005	Tran	2006/0183533	DUMME55.002AUS	Office Action of 12/13/2007 Response to Office Action of 12/13/2007 filed 3/13/2008 Office Action dated 6/24/2008
		10/583,210	03/26/2007	Quayle	2008/0045300	DUMME55.008APC	Office Action dated 8/07/2008

5973536:lw
092308

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 3		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	2006/0183533	8-17-06	Tran et al.	
Change(s) applied to document, /MAH/ 10/23/2011	2	2006/0247002	12-09-2005 11/2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	3	2007/0015565	01-18-2007	Edward Chan	
	4	2006/0287060	12-21-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	5	2005/0277460	12-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	6	2006/0247002	11-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	7	2004/0198486	10-2004	Walker et al.	
	8	2006/0183534	08-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	9	2006/0166731	07-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	10	2006/0084498	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	11	2006/0084492	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	12	2004/0053679	03-2004	Getz et al.	
	13	2006/0052155	03-2006	Inoue, Haruo	
	14	2006/0046830	03-2006	Webb, Bayard S.	
	15	2008/0045300	02-21-2008	Quayle et al.	
	16	2004/0043083 2005/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	17	2005/0043084	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	18	2004/0038726	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	19	2004/0036218	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	20	2004/0026854	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	21	2004/0017041	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	22	2004/0014517	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	23	2004/0014516	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	24	2004/0012145	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	25	5,152,529	10-1992	Okada, Kazuo	
	26	5,395,111	03-1995	Inoue, Haruo	
	27	5,609,524	03-1997	Inoue, Haruo	
	28	5,611,535	03-18-1997	Tiberio	
	29	5,722,891	03-1998	Inoue, Haruo	

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop **ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

20995 7590 09/09/2011
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS	4736

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1530 \$1740	\$300	\$0	\$1830 \$2040	12/09/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SIIAI, MILAP	3717	463-020000

<p>1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.</p>	<p>2. For printing on the patent front page, list</p> <p>(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,</p> <p>(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.</p> <p>1 <u>Knobbe, Martens,</u></p> <p>2 <u>Olson & Bear, LLP</u></p> <p>3 _____</p>
--	--

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE **Konami Australia Pty Ltd.** (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) **Botany, Australia**

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

<p>4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____</p>	<p>4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number, <u>11-1410</u> (enclose an extra copy of this form).</p>
---	---

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature Michael H. Trenholm Date _____
 Typed or printed name Michael H. Trenholm Registration No. 37,743

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009			
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005			
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi			
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler			
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS			
Filed as Large Entity				
Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl issue fee	1501	1	1740	1740
Publ. Fee- early, voluntary, or normal	1504	1	300	300

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				2040

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	11584554
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Robin Leu
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	09-DEC-2011
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	15:59:08
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$2040
RAM confirmation Number	2634
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	PTOL85_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	97930 f6eb1a1e5b9e56acedce6886e717aefc2dea5cdd	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	32126 95858c24666f8c6005ec8804d3ed212a610e8857	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			130056		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO. Includes application details for Osamu Yoshimi and examiner information for Shah, Milap.

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcarter@kmob.com
efiling@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

SUPPLEMENTAL Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/299,009	YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MILAP SHAH	3717	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to *internal inquiry regarding specification issue*.
2. An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-13,15-22,24,26 and 27.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____.
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____	7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.

	/Milap Shah/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3717
--	---

DETAILED ACTION

This action is supplementary to the Notice of Allowability mailed September 9, 2011. The Examiner's amendment below addresses a specification issues regarding reference to claim numbers. This Examiner's Amendment is in addition to the Examiner's Amendment of September 9, 2011.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION


- at paragraph [0039], line 2, remove "of any one of claims 1 to 27".
- at paragraph [0040], lines 2-3, remove "according to any of claims 1 to 28".

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MILAP SHAH whose telephone number is (571)272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Melba Bumgarner can be reached on (571) 272-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Milap Shah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3717


Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner MILAP SHAH	Art Unit 3717

ORIGINAL						INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION														
CLASS			SUBCLASS			CLAIMED					NON-CLAIMED									
463			20			G	0	6	F	17 / 00 (2006.0)										
CROSS REFERENCE(S)						G	0	6	F	19 / 00 (2011.0)										
						A	6	3	F	9 / 24 (2006.0)										
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					A	6	3	F	13 / 00 (2006.0)										
463	16	29																		
273	138.1																			

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	15	17												
2	2	16	18												
3	3	17	19												
6	4	18	20												
11	5	19	21												
	6	20	22												
4	7		23												
5	8	21	24												
7	9		25												
8	10	22	26												
9	11	23	27												
10	12														
12	13														
	14														
13	15														
14	16														

NONE			Total Claims Allowed:	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	23		
/MILAP SHAH/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3717	10/5/11	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure	
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	2	

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner MILAP SHAH	Art Unit 3717

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	02/10/2009	01/15/2010	10/05/2011					
1	1	✓	✓	=					
2	2	✓	✓	=					
3	3	✓	✓	=					
6	4	✓	✓	=					
11	5	✓	✓	=					
	6	✓	✓	-					
4	7	✓	✓	=					
5	8	✓	✓	=					
7	9	✓	✓	=					
8	10	✓	✓	=					
9	11	✓	✓	=					
10	12	✓	✓	=					
12	13	✓	✓	=					
	14	✓	-	-					
13	15	✓	✓	=					
14	16	✓	✓	=					
15	17	✓	✓	=					
16	18	✓	✓	=					
17	19	✓	✓	=					
18	20	✓	✓	=					
19	21	✓	✓	=					
20	22	✓	✓	=					
	23	✓	✓	-					
21	24	✓	✓	=					
	25	✓	✓	-					
22	26	✓	✓	=					
23	27	✓	✓	=					



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

20995 7590 09/09/2011
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

EXAMINER
SHAH, MILAP

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER
3717

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2011

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS

Table with 7 columns: APPLN. TYPE, SMALL ENTITY, ISSUE FEE DUE, PUBLICATION FEE DUE, PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE, TOTAL FEE(S) DUE, DATE DUE

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

20995 7590 09/09/2011
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
 2040 MAIN STREET
 FOURTEENTH FLOOR
 IRVINE, CA 92614

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

_____ (Depositor's name)
_____ (Signature)
_____ (Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS	4736

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	12/09/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
SHAH, MILAP	3717	463-020000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
 Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)
 PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.111. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.
 (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE _____ (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) _____

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
 Issue Fee
 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
 Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
 A check is enclosed.
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)
 a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
 Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.
Row 1: 11/299,009, 12/09/2005, Osamu Yoshimi, DUMME55.006AUS, 4736
Row 2: 20995, 7590, 09/09/2011, EXAMINER, (blank)
Row 3: (blank), (blank), (blank), SHAH, MILAP, (blank)
Row 4: (blank), (blank), (blank), ART UNIT, PAPER NUMBER
Row 5: (blank), (blank), (blank), 3717, (blank)

20995 7590 09/09/2011
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 840 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 840 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
		11/299,009	YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MILAP SHAH	3717	
<p>All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):</p> <p>(1) <u>MILAP SHAH.</u> (3)_____.</p> <p>(2) <u>Michael Trenholm.</u> (4)_____.</p> <p>Date of Interview: <u>30 August 2011.</u></p> <p>Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic <input type="checkbox"/> Video Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Personal [copy given to: <input type="checkbox"/> applicant <input type="checkbox"/> applicant's representative]</p> <p>Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. If Yes, brief description: _____.</p> <p>Issues Discussed <input type="checkbox"/>101 <input type="checkbox"/>112 <input type="checkbox"/>102 <input type="checkbox"/>103 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Others (For each of the checked box(es) above, please describe below the issue and detailed description of the discussion)</p> <p>Claim(s) discussed: <u>1-13 and 15-27.</u></p> <p>Identification of prior art discussed: <u>N/A.</u></p> <p>Substance of Interview (For each issue discussed, provide a detailed description and indicate if agreement was reached. Some topics may include: identification or clarification of a reference or a portion thereof, claim interpretation, proposed amendments, arguments of any applied references etc...)</p> <p><u>The Examiner initially telephoned the Applicant's representative in late June 2011 to open discussion to a proposed Examiner's amendment that would place the Application in condition for allowance and overcome any outstanding rejections set forth in prosecution and any potentially new grounds of rejection in view of 35 U.S.C. 112 in regards to indefiniteness and clarity. Applicant's representative was provided with an initial amendment to claim 1 for discussion purposes. Upon tentative agreement, the Examiner further provided a number of amendments to a majority of the claims for the purpose of clarity of the claimed invention. Applicant's representative, on a follow up telephone call to gain full approval of the amendment, indicated the proposed examiner's amendment was acceptable. Consequently, a Notice of Allowability is being mailed herewith. A full detailed Examiner's Amendment in regards to the discussions between Examiner Shah and Applicant's representative is attached hereto in the 'DETAILED ACTION'. Therefore, the Application is hereby Allowed.</u></p> <p>Applicant recordation instructions: It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of interview.</p> <p>Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attachment</p>			
		/Milap Shah/ Examiner, Art Unit 3717	

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/299,009	YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MILAP SHAH	3717	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to the RCE filed 6/25/10.
- An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-13,15-22,24,26 and 27.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All b) Some* c) None of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/25/10 & 9/20/10</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20110830</u>. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.
--	---

	/Milap Shah/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3717
--	---

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Trenholm on August 30, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the SPECIFICATION

Title: change the title of the application to: "GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS"

In the CLAIMS

Cancellation of claims: cancel claims 6, 23, & 25.

Replacement claims: replace claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 18, 21, 22, 26, & 27 as presented below.

Note: claims 3, 15-17, 19, 20, & 24 remain as previously presented on 6/25/10.

1. A gaming machine comprising: a processor configured to execute a game displaying a matrix of symbol containing elements having a plurality of rows and a plurality columns; at least one column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of a plurality of said symbol containing elements; said simulated rotatable reel comprising sections of symbol containing elements displaying a plurality of symbols that are fixed for each game played on said gaming machine; said simulated rotatable reel including at least one section in which a consecutive run of three or more of said symbol containing elements is populated by an identical symbol so that, as

the simulated rotatable reel rotates, a consecutive string of said same identical symbol is sequentially displayed within said consecutive string of symbol containing elements; and said identical symbol is randomly selected anew for each play of said game, wherein said identical symbol is selected by virtually spinning a notional, non-visible, inner reel comprising a subset of said plurality of symbols.

2. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said identical symbol is selected by the processor from the subset of said plurality of symbols.

4. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said matrix of symbol containing elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of symbol containing elements, said five columns being portions respectively of simulated rotatable reels one, two, three, four, and five.

5. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said simulated rotatable reel is a first left-most reel.

7. The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein said game controller selects one potential winning symbol containing element from said simulated rotatable reel.

8. The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein a prize is awarded to a player of said game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential winning symbol containing elements is displayed on a pre-defined pay line of said matrix of symbol containing elements when a game sequence is concluded.

Art Unit: 3717

9. The gaming machine of claim 4 wherein symbol containing elements of each of simulated rotatable reels two, three, four, and five are populated with a default random selection of said plurality of symbols.

10. The gaming machine of claim 9 wherein each symbol containing element of at least one section of a consecutive run of three or more of said symbol containing elements of each of said simulated rotatable reels two, three, four, and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of said plurality of symbols to said identical symbol.

11. The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of symbol containing elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

12. The gaming machine of claim 10, wherein said potential modification from said default random selection occurs within any of said simulated rotatable reels two, three, four, or five, if a win element of a preceding simulated rotatable reel coincides with a said identical symbol of a consecutive run of symbol containing elements of said preceding reel.

13. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said simulated rotatable reel, which includes said consecutive run three or more symbol containing elements populated with said identical symbol, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

18. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said symbol containing elements are N-sided elements, where N is a variable and values of N include $N=3$.

21. A method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by a game including pre-defined arrangements of a plurality of symbols displayed in a matrix of symbol containing elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method comprising a processor of the gaming machine configured to:

(a) arrange at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of said plurality of symbols so that, as the simulated rotatable reel rotates, a consecutive string of the same identical symbol is sequentially displayed in said consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements within a column defined by the simulated rotatable reel; and

(b) randomly select one of the plurality of symbols from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element;

wherein, said at least one consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements comprises a section of said simulated rotatable reel, such that all other remaining symbol containing elements of said simulated rotatable reel are populated with fixed symbols from the plurality of symbols for each play of the game; and

wherein said subset of said plurality of symbols is arranged on a notional non-visible inner reel, such that said identical symbol is randomly selected anew for each play of the game by virtual rotation of said notional non-visible inner reel.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said matrix of symbol containing elements comprises three rows and five columns, said columns comprising portions of said simulated rotatable reels.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein said simulated rotatable reels other than said first left-most reel are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements adapted for modification from said fixed symbols to said identical symbol.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said modification from said fixed symbols within said potential consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements of said simulated rotatable reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding simulated rotatable reel falls within a said consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements of said leftwardly preceding simulated rotatable reel.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-22, 24, 26, & 27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A thorough search for prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, a column of a matrix of symbol containing elements being comprised of sections of symbols of a simulated rotatable reel that are fixed for each play of a game and another portion of the simulated rotatable reel includes at least one section in which a consecutive run of three or more symbol containing elements is populated with an identical symbol, so that when the simulated rotatable reel rotates, a consecutive string of said same identical symbols is sequentially displayed, wherein the identical symbol is selected anew for each play of the game via virtual spinning or rotation of a notional, non-visible, inner reel comprising a subset of a plurality of symbols. These features are incorporated in at least claims 1 and 21.

The closest prior art appears to be Marks et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0058727). Marks discloses that a string of identical symbols may be displayed on a display device (figure 3A), however, in Marks the string of identical symbols appears to be on a single symbol containing element (i.e. symbol position) of the column or reel. On the contrary, the claimed invention requires a consecutive string of three or more symbol containing elements (i.e. symbol positions) to be populated with the identical symbol. This allows the perception of the same symbol to remain on the display device during rotation as the same identical symbol is viewed multiple times. Moreover, Marks and the totality of the prior art searched and cited of record appears to fail in disclosing a simulated rotatable reel including sections that are fixed for each play of the game and at least one section of the consecutive string of symbol containing elements that is populated with said identical symbol anew for each play of the game. Further, such population of the identical symbol occurs by a process in which a notional, non-visible inner reel is virtually rotated to select one of a subset of symbols to populate the section of the consecutive string. Consequently, as the totality of the claimed invention is not taught by the prior art, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-22, 24, 26, & 27 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MILAP SHAH whose telephone number is (571)272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Melba Bumgarner can be reached on (571) 272-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Milap Shah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3717

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/299,009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner MILAP SHAH	Art Unit 3717	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A US-6,644,664	11-2003	Muir et al.	273/146
*	B US-2004/0072610	04-2004	White et al.	463/020
*	C US-7,179,166	02-2007	Abbott, Thomas S.	463/9
*	D US-7,252,589	08-2007	Marks et al.	463/16
*	E US-2009/0082087	03-2009	Pacey et al.	463/20
*	F US-2009/0227332	09-2009	YOSHIZAWA, Kazumasa	463/20
	G US-			
	H US-			
	I US-			
	J US-			
	K US-			
	L US-			
	M US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N				
	O				
	P				
	Q				
	R				
	S				
	T				

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)				
	U				
	V				
	W				
	X				

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
/MBS/	1	2004/0063488	04-2004	Berman, Bradley	
/MBS/	2	7,690,984	04-06-2010	Tran et al.	
/MBS/	3	6,007,066	12-1999	Moody, Ernest W.	
/MBS/	4	2005/0159208	07-2005	Pacey, Larry J.	


FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

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Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	08/30/2011
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner MILAP SHAH	Art Unit 3717

ORIGINAL				INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION							
CLASS		SUBCLASS		CLAIMED				NON-CLAIMED			
463		20		G	0	6	F	17 / 00 (2006.0)			
CROSS REFERENCE(S)				G	0	6	F	19 / 00 (2011.0)			
				A	6	3	F	9 / 24 (2006.0)			
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)			A	6	3	F	13 / 00 (2006.01.01)			
463	16	29									
273	138.1										

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original
1	1	15	17												
2	2	16	18												
3	3	17	19												
10	4	18	20												
11	5	19	21												
	6	20	22												
4	7		23												
5	8	21	24												
6	9		25												
7	10	22	26												
8	11	23	27												
9	12														
12	13														
	14														
13	15														
14	16														

NONE		Total Claims Allowed:	
		23	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)		
/MILAP SHAH/ Primary Examiner. Art Unit 3717	8/30/11	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	2




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BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736

SERIAL NUMBER 11/299,009	FILING or 371(c) DATE 12/09/2005 RULE	CLASS 463	GROUP ART UNIT 3717	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. DUMME55.006AUS			
APPLICANTS Osamu Yoshimi, Botany, AUSTRALIA;							
** CONTINUING DATA *****							
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** AUSTRALIA AU2005900681 02/14/2005							
** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 01/27/2006							
Foreign Priority claimed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance /MBS/ Initials		STATE OR COUNTRY AUSTRALIA	SHEETS DRAWINGS 7	TOTAL CLAIMS 27	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 2
35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Verified and Acknowledged /MILAP SHAH/ Examiner's Signature					
ADDRESS KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614 UNITED STATES							
TITLE GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF CONSECUTIVE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS							
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1480	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:			<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing)			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time)			
				<input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue)			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
			<input type="checkbox"/> Credit				

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	02/10/2009	01/15/2010	08/30/2011					
1	1	✓	✓	=					
2	2	✓	✓	=					
3	3	✓	✓	=					
10	4	✓	✓	=					
11	5	✓	✓	=					
	6	✓	✓	-					
4	7	✓	✓	=					
5	8	✓	✓	=					
6	9	✓	✓	=					
7	10	✓	✓	=					
8	11	✓	✓	=					
9	12	✓	✓	=					
12	13	✓	✓	=					
	14	✓	-	-					
13	15	✓	✓	=					
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19	21	✓	✓	=					
20	22	✓	✓	=					
	23	✓	✓	-					
21	24	✓	✓	=					
	25	✓	✓	-					
22	26	✓	✓	=					
23	27	✓	✓	=					

Receipt date: 09/20/2010

11299009 - GAU: 3717

PTO/SB/08 Equivalent

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
/MBS/		JP 6-246043	09-06-1994	Ugawa Shohachi		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

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092010

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	08/30/2011
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L28	4	((("20040063488") or ("7690984") or ("6007066") or ("20050159208")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 18:06
L14	2	((("6604999") or ("20040058727")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:48
L13	1	((("6604999") or ("20040058727")).PN.	USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:48
L12	24	4 not "56604999"	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:47
L11	30	463/20.ccls. and anew	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:11
L10	2	("463"/\$.ccls. and "273"/\$.ccls.) and (anew with symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:10
L9	37	("463"/\$.ccls. and "273"/\$.ccls.) and (anew)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:10
L8	0	("463"/\$.ccls. and "273"/\$.ccls.) and (selected with anew)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:10
L7	0	("463"/\$.ccls. and "273"/\$.ccls.) and (selected with anew)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:10
L6	7	4 not 5	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:08

L5	38	("20040266520" "4448419" "6932700" "6869357" "7237775" "7690984" "6159096" "6241607" "6464581" "20020123378" "20040048646" "6517433" "7479061" "20040116175" "6394902" "20030027611" "20050159208" "20070270203" "6439993" "6604999" "20080045323" "7316395" "6056642" "6007066" "20040219969" "20040063488" "20040058727" "5984781" "6227971" "6517432" "6544120" "1234567" "5580005" "20030087687" "20020039920" "6908381" "20030013517").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:08
L4	25	(US-20040266520-\$ or US-20080045323-\$ or US-20070270203-\$ or US-20040072610-\$ or US-20020039920-\$ or US-20040058727-\$ or US-20040116175-\$ or US-20010036864-\$ or US-20060183534-\$ or US-20040063488-\$).did. or (US-6644664-\$ or US-6908381-\$ or US-5722891-\$ or US-6464581-\$ or US-6439993-\$ or US-6241607-\$ or US-6932700-\$ or US-6394902-\$ or US-5984781-\$ or US-6604999-\$ or US-4448419-\$ or US-6159096-\$ or US-7179166-\$ or US-7252589-\$).did. or (JP-2002325881-\$).did.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:07
L3	2	(yoshimi with osamu).in. and runs	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:07

L2	2	(yoshimi with osamu).in. and consecutive	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:06
L1	12	(yoshimi with osamu).in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:06
S170	1	("6159097").PN.	USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 13:04
S169	1	"463"/\$.ccls. and (select\$3 with anew with (each every))	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:49
S168	44	"463"/\$.ccls. and (select\$3 with anew)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:49
S167	44	"463"/\$.ccls. and (Select\$3 with anew)	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:49
S166	5	11/193153.app. or 11/413707.app. or 10/583210.app.	US-PGPUB; USPAT	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:48
S165	2	11/193153.app. or 11/413707.app. or 10/583210.app.	USPAT	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:48
S164	4	((("20040063488") or ("7690984") or ("6007066") or ("20050159208")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:46
S163	4	((("20040063488") or ("7690984") or ("6007006") or ("20050159208")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:46
S162	2	S161 and (three with identical with (symbol indicia) with strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:44
S161	12177	S159 or S160	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:44
S160	1884	273/138.1,139.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:44
S159	10883	463/16-20,25,29.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:44
S158	3	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((portion section) with (reel strip) with remain\$3 with fixed)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:38
S157	27	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((portion section) with (reel strip) with fixed with (symbols indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:36

S156	18	"463"/\$.ccls. and (lock\$3 with (symbol indicia)).ab.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:34
S155	374	(lock\$3 with (symbol indicia)).ab.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:34
S154	229	("4095795" "4238127" "4448419" "4573681" "4772023" "5083785" "5102134" "5209479" "5219167" "5263716" "5380008" "5393061" "5423539" "5456465" "5569084" "5988638" "6003867").PN. OR ("6159096").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2011/06/16 11:32
S153	22	random\$3 with select\$5 with (populat\$3 fill\$3) with (reel strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:30
S152	0	random\$3 with select\$5 with (populat\$3 fill\$3) with (simulat\$5 virtual) with (reel strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:30
S151	0	random\$3 with select\$3 with (populat\$3 fill\$3) with (simulat\$5 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:29
S150	0	random\$3 with select\$3 with populat\$3 with (simulat\$5 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:29
S149	0	random\$3 with select\$3 with symbol with populat\$3 with (simulat\$5 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:29
S148	33	S144 not S136	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:28
S147	1	S145 not S136	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S146	0	S144 and S145	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S145	3	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (identical) near2 (symbol indicia)) same consecutive	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27

S144	33	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (identical) near2 (symbol indicia)) same adjacent	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S143	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (identical) near2 (symbol indicia)) same string	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S142	165	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (identical) near2 (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S141	165	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (identical) near2 (symbol indicia mark))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:27
S140	167	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with (similar identical) near (symbol indicia mark))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:26
S139	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip) with string with (similar identical) near (symbol indicia mark))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:26
S138	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutive string) with (identical "same") with (symbol indicia)).ab.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:24
S137	6	S136 not S135	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:23
S136	16	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutive string) with (identical "same") near2 (symbol indicia) same (reel strip))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:23
S135	10	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutive string) with (identical "same") near2 (symbol indicia) with (reel strip))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:16
S134	53	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutive string) with (identical "same") near2 (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:15
S133	102	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutive string) with (identical "same") with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 11:15
S132	113	S130 or S131	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 10:40

S131	2	milap.xp.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 10:40
S130	111	milap.xa.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 10:39
S129	4	463/16-29.ccls. and (random\$5 with select\$5 with symbol\$3 with populat \$5 with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/16 10:38
S128	4	463/16-29.ccls. and (random\$5 with select\$5 with symbol\$3 with populat \$5 with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:11
S127	41	463/16-29.ccls. and (random\$5 with select\$5 with symbol\$3 with strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:06
S126	3	463/16-29.ccls. and (dynamic\$4 with select\$5 with strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:05
S125	17	463/16-29.ccls. and (dynamic\$4 with strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:05
S124	14	463/16-29.ccls. and (dynamic\$3 with strip)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:04
S123	8	"463"/\$.ccls. and (notional with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2011/06/15 23:01
S122	7	("2004/0058727").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2010/01/15 11:55
S121	1	("20060183534").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 11:15
S120	1	("20040266520").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 11:02
S119	43	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with (multiple plurality row) with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24
S118	4470	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with (multiple plurality row) identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24
S117	189	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24

S116	26	"463"/\$.ccls. and (strip with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:23
S115	10	"463"/\$.ccls. and (string with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:23
S114	8	("20030027611" "20030087687" "20040219969" "6056642" "6227971" "6517432" "6544120" "7479061").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:22
S113	5	((("7560812") or ("7473173") or ("7402102") or ("20070281783") or ("20040106445")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 10:20
S112	11	"463"/\$.ccls. and (identical with (symbol indicia) with single with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:31
S111	4	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutiv\$3 run) with ("same" wild bonus special) with (symbol indicia) with single with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:30
S110	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$3 with ("same" wild bonus special) with (symbol indicia) with single with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:29
S109	31	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$3 with ("same" wild bonus special) with (symbol indicia) with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:22
S108	1	("6604999").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/12/16 14:19
S107	1	"6234897".pn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:00
S106	20	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:39
S105	4	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table with (wild special bonus))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:38

S104	50	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:38
S103	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S102	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S101	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random with non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S100	12	(notional with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:34
S99	0	S96 and yoseloff.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 14:01
S98	23	S97 not S96	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S97	26	(US-20040266520-\$ or US-20080045323-\$ or US-20070270203-\$ or US-20040072610-\$ or US-20020039920-\$ or US-20040058727-\$ or US-20040116175-\$).did. or (US-6644664-\$ or US-6120378-\$ or US-6908381-\$ or US-5722891-\$ or US-5209479-\$ or US-6464581-\$ or US-6439993-\$ or US-7331858-\$ or US-6241607-\$ or US-6796903-\$ or US-6547663-\$ or US-6932700-\$ or US-6394902-\$ or US-5456465-\$ or US-5984781-\$ or US-6604999-\$ or US-4448419-\$ or US-6159096-\$).did. or (JP-2002325881-\$).did.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S96	43	S92 or S93 or S94 or S95	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58

S95	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S94	28	S92 or S93	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S93	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 13:58
S92	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$.DID. OR US-20070015565-\$.DID. OR US-20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$.DID. OR US-20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$.DID. OR US-20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$.DID. OR US-20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID. OR US-5722891-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58

		DID.				
S91	24	"463"/\$.cls. and ((symbol indicia) with hexagon)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:30
S90	19	(select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel) same probability	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:26
S89	138	select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:25
S88	43	S82 or S83 or S84 or S87	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:59
S87	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
S86	28	S82 or S84	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
S85	1	("20040198486").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 11:58
S84	28	S82 or S83	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:57
S83	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 11:57

S82	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$. DID. OR US-20060183534- \$.DID. OR US- 20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$. DID. OR US-20040053679- \$.DID. OR US- 20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$. DID. OR US-20040043083- \$.DID. OR US- 20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$. DID. OR US-20040026854- \$.DID. OR US- 20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$. DID. OR US-20040012145- \$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$. DID. OR US-5395111-\$. DID. OR US-5609524-\$. DID. OR US-5611535-\$. DID. OR US-5722891-\$. DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:55
S81	6	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US- 20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US- 6241607-\$.DID. OR US- 6896615-\$.DID. OR US- 6960134-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:54
S80	104	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (random\$3) with (creat\$3 select\$3 assign\$3 populat\$4)) and ("463"/\$. ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:12
S79	0	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3) with (populat\$3 creat\$3 select \$3)) and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11

S78	246	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3)) and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11
S77	11	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel).ti. and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:10
S76	0	("2002065124").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:05
S75	2	((("5611535") or ("6604999")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:00
S74	1	("4,836,546").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 09:46
S73	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:37
S72	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with populat\$3 with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:35
S71	66	("4695053" "4991848" "5152529" "5393061" "5395111" "5449173" "5456465" "5611535" "5722891" "5775692" "5876284" "5980384" "5984781" "5984782" "5997401" "6056642" "6059289" "6089977" "6102798" "6126541" "6126542" "6142873" "6142874" "6142875" "D400597").PN. OR ("6394902").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:57
S70	1	("6394902").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/09 17:56
S69	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53
S68	14	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and ((duplicat\$3 chang\$3 replac\$3 modif \$4) with consecutiv\$3 with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53

S67	98	(modif\$5 chang\$3 updat\$3 upgrad\$3 alter\$3 replac\$3 duplicat\$3) with (indicia symbol element object) with (virtual simulat\$3) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:49
S66	168	S62 not (S64 or S65)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:47
S65	69	S62 and (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S64	9	S62 and ((indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S63	0	S62 and (identical with (indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S62	245	S61 and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S61	250	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42
S60	27	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42
S59	1	("2002/0039920").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:26
S58	20	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with strip with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S57	196	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S56	8	("3580581" "4448419" "4711451" "5630753" "5902184").PN. OR ("6796903").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:20
S55	4	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S54	0	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability) same (identical)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S53	6	(reel with strip) same ((multiple plurality) with identical with (indicia symbol element object))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:42

S52	30	reel with duplicat\$5 with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S51	1	reel with replac\$3 with identical with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S50	4	reel with upgrad\$3 with (bonus feature trigg\$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:39
S49	7	reel with consecutiv\$3 with identical	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:38
S48	131	S47 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59
S47	315	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((convert \$3 chang\$3 alter\$3 modif \$3) with (adjacent\$3 next) with (symbol indicia element position))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59
S46	2	KHOSLA.in. and "463"/\$.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55
S45	207	KHOSLA.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55
S44	1	("2002325881").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S43	1	("2001134916").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S42	29	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S41	14	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S40	41	("5209479").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:55
S39	78	"463"/\$.ccls. and (kinoshita.in. takahashi.in. miyaya.in.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:52
S38	10	("4037845" "5722891" "5997401" "6186894" "6220959" "6241607" "6270412" "6394902" "6413162" "6471208").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:27
S37	17	((every each) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16

S36	0	(all with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16
S35	11	"463"/\$.ccls. and (expand \$3 with (symbol indicia) with (consecutiv\$3 adjacent \$3 next))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:14
S34	118	S33 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:11
S33	139	S23 not (S32 S19)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S32	48	S31 or S26 or S24 or S25	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S31	28	S29 or S30	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S30	25	((("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or ("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S29	27	S27 or S28	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10

S28	4	((("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S27	24	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$.DID. OR US-20070015565-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$.DID. OR US-20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$.DID. OR US-20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S26	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S25	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10

S24	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S23	144	S21 or S22	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S22	82	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (adjacent\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S21	87	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (consecutiv\$3 row\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S20	35	S19 not S18	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57
S19	55	463/16-22.ccls. and ((duplicat\$5 mirror\$3 cop \$3 copy\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57
S18	23	463/16-22.ccls. and ((copy \$3 mirro\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (position reel))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:54
S17	14	("6120378" "6123333" "6126542" "6173955" "6213876" "6336860").PN. OR ("6644664").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:52
S16	1	("6644664").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:49
S15	2	((("5976016") or ("5624119")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:46
S14	5	("5611535" "5807172" "6241607" "6896615" "6960134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:41
S13	3	((("5611535") or ("6241607") or ("20080045323")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:29
S12	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:27

S11	44	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$5 with (identical "same") with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:25
S10	48	S9 or S3 or S1 or S2	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:35
S9	28	S6 or S8	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:32
S8	25	((("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or ("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:32
S7	5	((("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN. or ((2006/0183533) or (2006/0247002) or (2007/0015565) or (2005/0277460) or (2006/0247002) or (2004/0198486) or (2006/0183534) or (2006/0166731) or (2006/0084498) or (2006/0084492) or (2004/0053679) or (2006/0052155) or	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:31

		(2008/0045300) or (2004/0043083) or (2005/0043084) or (2004/0038726) or (2004/0036218) or (2004/0026854) or (2004/0017041) or (2004/0014517) or (2004/0012145)).CCLS.				
S6	27	S4 or S5	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:30
S5	4	((("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:30
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S3	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:22
S2	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:20
S1	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:19

EAST Search History (Interference)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L27	1	(fixed with symbol with game with simulat\$5).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 18:04
L26	5	24 or 25	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:58
L25	5	15 and (identical with symbol with (consecutive run string)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:58
L24	4	(identical with symbol with (consecutive run string)).clm. and game. clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:58
L23	82	(identical with symbol with (consecutive run string)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:57
L22	2	(notional with reel).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:57
L21	0	(consecutive with (run string) with symbol and notional).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:57

L20	1	(consecutive with (run string) with symbol and game).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:56
L19	61	(consecutive with (run string) with symbol).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:56
L18	6	15 and (consecutive with (run string)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:56
L17	1	15 and (consecutive with (run string) with symbol).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/08/30 17:56
L16	6	15 and (consecutive with (run string)).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:56
L15	11023	463/16,20,25,29.ccls. or 273/138.1,139.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; UPAD	OR	OFF	2011/08/30 17:55

8/ 30/ 2011 6:09:00 PM
h:\ workspaces\ 11299009.wsp

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
463	16-20,25,29	6/16/2011	/MBS/
273	138.1,139	6/16/2011	/MBS/

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST - See attached search history.	2/10/2009	/MBS/
Inventor search performed.	2/10/2009	/MBS/
EAST - Updated search. See attached search history.	1/15/2010	/MBS/
Updated EAST Text Search Including Pertinent Keywords & Forward/Backward Citations on Key Prior Art (See EAST Search History).	6/16/2011	/MBS/
Updated Inventor search.	8/30/2011	/MBS/
Reviewed the applications indicated by the Applicant in the remarks filed 6/25/10 as 'Co-pending Applications by the Assignee', in regards to double patenting.	8/30/2011	/MBS/

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
463	16,20,25,29	8/30/2011	/MBS/
273	138.1,139	8/30/2011	/MBS/

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
		JP 6-246043	09-06-1994	Ugawa Shohachi		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

9700261:lw
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Title: **JP06246043A2: GAME MACHINE**

Country: **JP** Japan

Kind: **A** DOC. LAID OPEN TO PUBL. INSPEC. [PUBLISHED FROM 1971 ON] (See also: [JP03983308B2](#))

Inventor: **UGAWA SHOHACHI**;

Assignee: **SANKYO KK**
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Published / Filed: **1994-09-06** / 1993-02-26

Application Number: **JP1993000038912**

IPC Code: Advanced: **A63F 5/04; A63F 7/02**;
Core: more...
IPC-7: **A63F 5/04; A63F 7/02**;

Priority Number: 1993-02-26 **JP1993000038912**

Abstract: **PURPOSE:** To make a game of a variable display new by generating a bonanza when a quite new display condition different from the combination array of plural variable display parts is concluded.

CONSTITUTION: When among plural pattern display parts 71A-71G, pattern display parts of a designated number or more come to a specified display mode such as 7 or the like, wherever a specified display mode is established, a bonanza is generated to open a variable prize winning ball device.

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INPADOC Legal Status: None [Get Now: Family Legal Status Report](#)

Family: [Show 2 known family members](#)

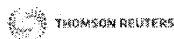
Forward References: [Go to Result Set: Forward references \(1\)](#)

PDF	Patent	Pub.Date	Inventor	Assignee	Title
	US7736224	2010-06-15	Aida; Eiji	Konami Gaming Incorporated	Gaming machine and method of controlling the same

Other Abstract Info: None



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(19)日本国特許庁 (J P)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開平6-246043

(43)公開日 平成6年(1994)9月6日

(51)Int.Cl. ⁵	識別記号	庁内整理番号	F I	技術表示箇所
A 6 3 F 7/02	3 1 8	7017-2C		
	3 3 2 B	9113-2C		
5/04	5 1 2	8403-2C		

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 O L (全 12 頁)

(21)出願番号 特願平5-38912
 (22)出願日 平成5年(1993)2月26日

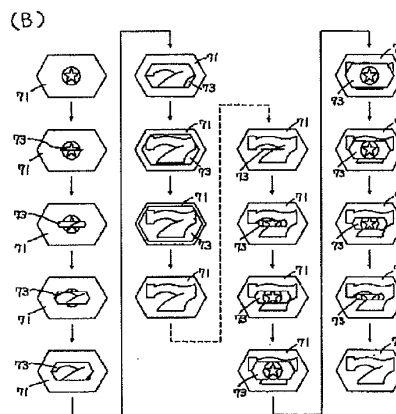
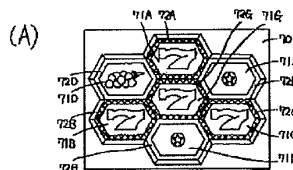
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(54)【発明の名称】 遊技機

(57)【要約】

【目的】 複数の可変表示部の組合せ配列とは別のまったく新たな表示条件が成立したことにより大当りを発生させて可変表示による遊技を斬新なものにする。

【構成】 複数の図柄表示部71A~71Gのうち、所定個数以上の図柄表示部が7等の特定の表示態様になった場合に、該特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所に成立した場合においても大当りを発生させ可変入賞球装置を開成させる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 表示状態が変化可能な可変表示部を複数有する可変表示装置を含む遊技機であって、前記可変表示装置を制御して表示結果を導出表示させる可変表示制御手段と、前記複数の可変表示部のうち所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となった場合に、該特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所に成立した場合においても所定の遊技価値を付与可能とする遊技価値付与手段とを含むことを特徴とする、遊技機。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、パチンコ遊技機やコイン遊技機あるいはスロットマシン等で代表される遊技機に関し、詳しくは、表示状態が変化可能な可変表示部を複数有する可変表示装置を含む遊技機に関する。

【0002】

【従来技術】この種の遊技機において、従来から一般的に知られているものに、たとえば、表示状態が変化可能な複数の可変表示部が複数行および複数列にマトリクス状に配設された可変表示装置を有し、その複数の可変表示部の表示結果が、たとえば行方向の直線または列方向の直線あるいは斜め対角線状の直線上において特定の表示態様の組合せ(たとえば777)となった場合に、所定の遊技価値を付与可能となるように構成されたものがあった。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかし、この種の従来遊技機においては、所定の遊技価値が付与可能となる特定の表示態様の組合せ(たとえば777)が前述したある直線からなる当りライン上において成立した場合にのみ所定の遊技価値が付与可能となるように制御されていたために、遊技者は、その直線からなる当りライン上においての可変表示部の表示結果しか興味を示さなくなり、遊技者にしてみれば、当りラインのバリエーションが乏しく可変表示による遊技が変化性に乏しく面白味のないものになってしまうという欠点があった。すなわち、従来遊技機においては、所定の遊技価値が付与可能となる複数の可変表示部の組合せ配列が直線に限定されていたために、当りラインのバリエーションが乏しく

【0004】本発明は、係る実情に鑑み考え出されたものであり、その目的は、所定の遊技価値付与の条件として複数の可変表示部の組合せ配列とは別のまったく新たな条件が成立したことにより所定の遊技価値が付与可能な状態とし、可変表示による遊技を斬新なものにすることである。

【0005】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、表示状態が変化可能な可変表示部を複数有する可変表示装置を含む遊

技機であって、前記可変表示装置を制御して表示結果を導出表示させる可変表示制御手段と、前記複数の可変表示部のうち所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となった場合に、該特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所に成立した場合においても所定の遊技価値を付与可能とする遊技価値付与手段とを含むことを特徴とする。

【0006】

【作用】本発明によれば、可変表示制御手段の働きにより、可変表示装置が制御されて表示結果が導出表示される。そして、複数の可変表示部のうち所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となった場合に、該特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所に成立した場合においても所定の遊技価値が付与可能となる。

【0007】

【発明の実施例】次に、本発明の実施例を図面に基づいて詳細に説明する。なお、本実施例においては、遊技機の一例としてパチンコ遊技機を示すが、本発明はこれに限らず、たとえば、コイン遊技機やスロットマシン等であってもよく、表示状態が変化可能な可変表示部を複数有する可変表示装置を含む遊技機であればすべて対象になる。

【0008】図1は、遊技機の一例のパチンコ遊技機19を示す全体正面図である。パチンコ遊技機19の前面枠52の右下隅には、回動調整可能な打球操作ハンドル56が設けられており、遊技者がこの打球操作ハンドル56を操作することにより、前面板53の前面側に設けられている玉貯留皿54上に貯留されているパチンコ玉が1つずつ遊技盤1前面に形成されている遊技領域2内に打込まれる。遊技領域2には、複数種類の図柄を可変表示することにより表示状態が変化可能な可変表示装置3が臨んでいる。この可変表示装置3の周囲を囲む状態で飾り部材60が遊技盤1に設けられている。

【0009】遊技領域2には、始動入賞口10a、10b、10cが設けられており、遊技領域2内に打込まれたパチンコ玉が始動入賞口10a、10b、10cに入賞すれば、その始動入賞玉が始動入賞玉検出器11a、11b、11cにより検出される。その検出出力に基づいて、可変表示装置3の表示画面70により複数種類の図柄が可変開始された後停止制御され、停止時の表示結果が後述するような特定の表示態様となった場合に、可変入賞球装置4の開閉板6が開成されて遊技者にとって有利な第1の状態となる。この開閉板6はソレノイド13が励磁されていない通常の状態では開成して遊技者にとって不利な第2の状態となっているが、ソレノイド13が励磁されることにより開成して第1の状態となる。

【0010】第1の状態となった可変入賞球装置4の入賞開口5内に入賞したパチンコ玉は、10カウント検出器9により検出される。また、入賞開口5内の所定箇所には特定の入賞領域(Vポケット)7が設けられてお

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り、その特定入賞領域7に入賞したパチンコ玉が特定入賞玉検出器8により検出される。可変表示装置3が特定の表示態様となり大当たり状態が発生して可変入賞球装置4が第1の状態となった後、その可変入賞球装置4への所定個数(たとえば10個)のパチンコ玉の入賞あるいは所定期間(たとえば30秒間)の経過のうちいずれか早いほうの条件が成立することにより可変入賞球装置4が第2の状態となる。第1の状態となっている可変入賞球装置11内に進入したパチンコ玉が特定入賞領域7に入賞して特定入賞玉検出器8により検出された場合には、その回の第1の状態が終了するのを待って可変入賞球装置4が再度第1の状態に繰返し継続制御される。その繰返し継続制御の上限回数はたとえば16回に定められている。この可変入賞球装置4が第1の状態となることにより比較的短時間の間に大量のパチンコ玉が入賞可能となり、所定の遊技価値が付与可能な状態となる。そして、入賞玉の発生に基づいて賞品玉が玉貯留皿54内に払出されるのであり、玉貯留皿54が賞品玉により満杯となりそれ以上貯留できなくなった余剰玉は、下方に設けられている余剰玉貯留皿55内に排出される。なお、本実施例では、遊技価値付与の一例として可変入賞球装置を所定期間第1の状態にするものを示したが、所定数の景品玉を直接払出したり、カード式遊技機(景品玉払出の代りに点数を付与するもの)では所定点数を直接付与するようによい。

【0011】可変表示装置3が可変表示している最中に再度パチンコ玉が始動入賞口10a, 10b, 10cに入賞した場合には、その始動入賞が記憶され、可変表示装置3の可変表示が停止して再度可変表示可能な状態となったときにその始動入賞記憶に基づいて可変表示装置3が再び可変表示される。その始動入賞記憶の上限値はたとえば「4」に定められており、現時点での始動入賞記憶数が始動記憶表示器16により表示される。

【0012】なお、本実施例においては、可変表示装置3は、CRTを用いて複数種類の図柄を可変表示するものを示すが、その他に、たとえば、液晶表示やプラズマやLEDや蛍光表示管やエレクトロルミネセンスを用いてセグメント表示やドットマトリクス表示を行なうもの、あるいは画面表示を行なうもの、回転ドラム式の可変表示装置等、種々のものが含まれる。また、可変入賞球装置4の第2の状態は、打玉が入賞可能ではあるが入賞困難な状態であってもよい。

【0013】図1中、17はレール飾りランプ、18はサイドランプ、20は枠ランプ、22は装飾LEDであり、それぞれ遊技状態において点灯または点滅する。また12は10カウント表示装置であり、可変入賞球装置4内に入賞した入賞玉の個数を表示するためのものである。また、21はスピーカであり、大当たり発生時等に効果音などを発生するものである。

【0014】図2は、可変表示装置の表示状態の変化を

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説明するための図であり、(A)は可変表示装置の表示画面を示す画面図であり、(B)は可変表示装置のある1つの可変表示部における表示状態の変化を示す図である。

【0015】図2の(A)に示すように、可変表示装置3の表示画面70には、7個の可変表示部の一例の図柄表示部71A~71Gが表示され、打玉の始動入賞によりそれらすべての図柄表示部71A~71Gが一斉に可変開始する。そして、所定の基本時間が経過した後に、71A, 71B, 71Cが同時に可変停止し、次に71Dが停止し、次に71Eが停止し、次に71Fが停止し、最後に71Gが停止する。それぞれの図柄表示部71A~71Gでは、「7」の図柄、葡萄等のフルーツ図柄、星印からなるはずれ図柄が可変表示される。図柄表示部71A, 71B, 71Cは、1つの「7」図柄と2つのフルーツ図柄と1つのはずれ図柄とからなる合計4個の図柄が可変表示される。図柄表示部71D, 71E, 71Fでは、1つの「7」図柄、14個のフルーツ図柄、10個のはずれ図柄からなる合計25個の図柄が可変表示される。図柄表示部71Gでは、1個の「7」図柄と、1個のフルーツ図柄と25個のはずれ図柄とからなる合計27個の図柄が可変表示される。そして、すべての図柄表示部71A~71Gが可変停止して、

「7」が4個以上の図柄表示部で表示された場合、または、すべての可変表示部71A~71Gによりフルーツ図柄が表示された場合に、特定の表示態様の組合せとなり前記大当たり状態が発生する。なお、本実施例では、

「7」が4個以上出現した場合にその個数にかかわらず同一の遊技価値を付与可能としたが、「7」の出現個数に応じて価値を異ならせるようにしてもよい。たとえば「7」が5個以上出現した場合には、それ以降の可変表示装置の可変表示の結果大当たりが発生する確率を向上させ、予め定められた終了条件が成立することによりその確率が向上した高確率状態を終了させて通常の確率に復帰するようにしてもよい。その場合に、「7」が5個出現した場合には1回だけ高確率状態にし、6個出現した場合には3回だけ高確率状態にし、7個出現した場合は5回高確率状態にしてもよい。あるいは、「7」が5個出現した場合には当たりの発生確率を5倍にする高確率状態にし、6個出現した場合には10倍、7個出現した場合には20倍の高確率状態にしてもよい。また、「7」の出現個数に応じて、1回の開放における入賞個数の上限値や1回の大当たりにおける継続回数の上限値を異ならせる(たとえば出現個数が多くなるほど上限値を大きくする)ようにしてもよい。

【0016】図2の(A)の72A, 72B, 72C, 72Gは目印表示枠であり、4個の「7」が出現した図柄表示部を枠で囲んで遊技者が分かりやすいようにするためのものである。

【0017】リーチ時におけるそれぞれの図柄表示部7

1による可変表示状態は、図2の(B)に示されている。たとえば、はずれ図柄が図柄表示部71により表示されている状態で、その図柄表示部71の中央箇所から次に表示される図柄を表示するための次図柄表示領域73が徐々に拡大し、次図柄表示領域73が拡大することにより次に表示される図柄「7」の全体が段々と表示され、その次図柄表示領域73が図柄表示部71全体に広がる。

【0018】複数の図柄表示部が停止時期を異ならせて可変停止制御されている際に、既に可変停止した複数の図柄表示部により「7」が3個表示されている場合、または、6個の図柄表示部が停止した段階ですべてフルーツ図柄が表示されている場合をいわゆるリーチ状態という。このリーチ状態においては、次に停止制御される図柄表示部の可変表示の速度が遅くなる。そして、特定の表示態様が成立するその成立の仕方が2種類ある。図2の(B)に示すように、たとえば既に可変停止している図柄表示部により「7」が3個表示されており、次に停止制御される図柄表示部71が「7」を表示した段階で停止する場合(破線矢印の前で停止する場合)と、

「7」を表示した段階では停止することなく破線矢印で示すように次の図柄であるはずれ図柄を表示するための次図柄表示領域73が徐々に拡大していき、ある程度拡大した段階でその次図柄表示領域73が徐々に縮小していき最終的に「7」を停止表示する場合とがある。この2つの場合は、後述するマイクロコンピュータ80によって作り出された乱数値に従って選択されて表示されるのであり、それぞれに1/2の確率で選択表示される。

【0019】本実施例においては、7個の可変表示部を有する可変表示装置を示したが、可変表示部の数は複数であれば実施例に限定されるものではなく、また、特定の表示態様となる可変表示部の数は実施例の4個以上に限定されることなく、可変表示部の総数よりも少ない数であればたとえ1個であってもよい。

【0020】図3は、可変表示装置の図柄表示部70の表示状態の変化を説明するための図である。まず(A)に示すように、既に停止している図柄表示部71A、71B、71Cがともに「7」を停止表示している場合には、前述したリーチ状態であり、その場合には、そのリーチ状態が成立している図柄表示部71A、71B、71Cと次に停止制御される図柄表示部71Aとが目印表示部72A、72B、72C、72Dにより囲まれて遊技者が分かりやすいように表示される。なお、可変表示中の図柄表示部は、通常は速い速度で各図柄を切替可変表示しているために、(A)の図柄表示部71E、71F、71Gのように図柄の移り変わりを明確に視認することができない。しかし、前述したように、リーチ状態成立時における次に停止制御される可変表示部71Dの可変表示の速度が遅くなるとともに可変表示方法が切替表示から図2(B)の方法に変化するために、次に停止

制御される可変表示部71Dの次図柄表示領域73Dが拡大していく状態を遊技者が明確に視認できる状態となる。

【0021】そして、(B)に示すように、図柄表示部71Dが停止した段階で「7」でなかった場合には、次に停止制御される図柄表示部71Eの可変表示の速度が遅くなり次図柄表示領域73Eが拡大していく状態を遊技者が視認できるようになるとともに、その図柄表示部71Eを目印表示部72Eにより枠組み表示する。

【0022】次に(C)に示すように、図柄表示部71Eがはずれ図柄で停止した場合には、次に停止制御される図柄表示部71Fの可変表示の速度が遅くなり次図柄表示領域73Fが拡大していく状態を遊技者が視認可能な状態となるとともに目印表示部72Fにより枠組み表示される。

【0023】次に(D)に示すように、図柄表示部71Fがはずれ図柄で停止した場合には、次に停止制御される図柄表示部71Gの可変表示の速度が遅くなり次図柄表示領域73Gが拡大していく状態を遊技者が視認可能な状態となるとともに目印表示部72Gにより枠組み表示される。

【0024】次に(E)に示すように、図柄表示部71Gが「7」で停止した場合には、前記特定の表示態様の組合せが成立するとともに、その特定の表示態様の組合せが成立した図柄表示部71A、71B、71C、71Gが目印表示部により枠組み表示される。以上説明したように、所定個数以上の特定の表示態様になった場合にはその特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所にも成立した場合にはも大当たりとなるため、遊技者にとって大当たりの発生条件が判りやすい。また、従来においては、所定の当りライン上に特定の表示態様がそろっていない場合はたとえ「7」図柄が何個表示されたとしても外れになってしまい、遊技者が不満をいだくが、本実施例の場合はそのような不備を解消し得る。

【0025】図4は、パチンコ遊技機に用いられる制御回路を示すブロック図である。パチンコ遊技機に取付けられたメイン基板80に設けられた制御回路は、各種機器を制御するためのプログラムに従って遊技制御を行なうためのゲーム制御用マイクロコンピュータ81と、始動入賞玉検出器11a、11b、11cと、特定入賞玉検出器8と、入賞個数検出器9とからの検出信号をマイクロコンピュータ81のI/Oポート89に与えるための検出回路91と、マイクロコンピュータ81の命令に従ってソレノイド13を駆動するためのソレノイド駆動回路92と、マイクロコンピュータ81から与えられるデータに従って装飾ランプ17、18、20を駆動するためのランプ駆動回路93と、マイクロコンピュータ81から与えられるデータに従って始動入賞記憶表示器16と装飾LED22と入賞個数表示器12とを駆動するためのセグメント・LED駆動回路94と、マイクロ

ンピュータ81から与えられる音データに従ってスピーカ21を駆動し、効果音を発生させるためのアンプ95とを含む。

【0026】さらに、I/Oポート89からCRTユニット30にCRTユニット表示制御用の信号が与えられる。

【0027】ゲーム制御用マイクロコンピュータ81は、前述のI/Oポート89の他に、CPU(中央処理装置)82と、ゲーム制御用プログラムが予め書込まれたROM(読出専用メモリ)83と、随時書込および読出が可能なRAM(Random Access Memory)84と、電源投入時にCPU82をリセットするためのパワーオンリセット回路85と、CPU82を動作させるためのクロック信号を発生するためのクロック発生回路86と、クロック発生回路86の発生するクロック信号を分周して、定期的(たとえば2msec毎)にリセットパルスをCPU82に与え、ROM83に格納されたゲーム制御用プログラムを先頭から繰返し実行させるためのパルス分周回路87と、CPU82から与えられる指令に従って、アンプ95に与える音データを生成するためのサウンドジェネレータ90と、CPU82から与えられるアドレス信号をデコードし、ROM83、RAM84、I/Oポート89、サウンドジェネレータ90のいずれか1つを選択するための信号を出力するためのアドレスデコード回路88とを含む。

【0028】また、パチンコ遊技機の制御回路には、AC24Vの交流電源に接続され、複数種類の直流の電圧を発生させる電源回路97が含まれている。

【0029】マイクロコンピュータ81は、大当たり状態を発生させるか否かを司る当りはずれ決定用ランダムカウンタと、当りと決定された場合にどのような表示態様でそれぞれの図柄表示部を停止表示させるかを事前決定するための当り表示態様決定用ランダムカウンタと、はずれと事前決定された場合に、どのような表示態様によりそれぞれの図柄表示部を停止表示させるかを事前決定するためのはずれ表示態様決定用ランダムカウンタと、当りと事前決定された場合に図2の(B)で示した2種類の停止表示制御のうちいずれを選択するかを事前決定するための停止制御態様決定用ランダムカウンタとを有している。そして、パチンコ玉の始動入賞のタイミングにより当りはずれ決定用ランダムカウンタのカウンタ値をサンプリングし、そのカウンタ値が予め定められた値(たとえば「8」)であった場合には大当たりを発生させることが事前決定される。この当りはずれ決定用ランダムカウンタのカウンタ上限値はたとえば「240」に定められている。その場合には、大当たりが発生する確率は1/240となる。そして、当りと事前決定された場合には、前記当り表示態様決定用ランダムカウンタのカウンタ値がサンプリングされ、そのカウンタ値に従ってCRTユニット30が表示制御されて前記特定の表示態様

の組合せとなるように停止表示される。その際に、停止制御態様決定用ランダムカウンタのカウンタ値がサンプリングされ、そのサンプリング値に従って図2の(B)に示した2種類の停止態様のうちいずれかが選択されてその選択された停止態様となるようにCRTユニット30が制御されて停止制御される。この停止制御態様決定用ランダムカウンタは、0からカウンタアップしてたとえば「1」までカウンタアップすれば再度0からカウンタアップし直すもので構成し、サンプリング値が「0」の場合には図2の(B)に示した破線矢印前の段階で停止する停止態様が事前決定され、サンプリング値が「1」の場合には破線矢印で示した停止態様が事前決定されるように構成する。

【0030】当りと事前決定されかつ可変表示装置の可変停止時の表示結果が特定の表示態様の組合せとなった場合には、ソレノイド駆動回路92を介してソレノイド13が励磁されて可変入賞球装置4が第1の状態となり大当たり状態が発生する。このマイクロコンピュータ81とソレノイド駆動回路92とソレノイド13と可変入賞球装置4とにより、前記複数の可変表示部のうち所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となったすべての場合に、所定の遊技価値を付与可能とする遊技価値付与手段が構成されている。

【0031】図5は、メイン基板80の機能とCRTユニット30を実際に表示制御する表示用サブ基板150の機能を説明するための機能ブロック図である。

【0032】メインCPUは、図4に示したCPU82やRAM84等の種々の回路(ROM83を除く)がワンチップ化されたワンチップマイコンで構成されており、メイン基板80に実装されている。同じメイン基板80に実装されている外付のROM83からメインCPU制御コードがメインCPU82、84に輸入され、ROM83に記憶されている制御用のプログラムに従ってメインCPU82、84が動作する。そして、メイン基板80に実装されているデータラッチ回路97にメインCPU82、84からサブCPU制御データが与えられる。データラッチ回路97は、このメインCPU82、84から送られてきたサブCPU制御データをラッチし、そのラッチしたデータである表示データを表示用サブ基板150に実装されているCRT用サブCPU151に出力する。このデータラッチ回路97からCRT用サブCPU151に送信されるデータは、8ビットデータとトリガ信号1ビットの計9ビットからなるデータであり、たとえば、表示画面70をOFFにするための指令信号、図柄を可変表示する以前のゲームとは無関係な表示を行なう状態であるデモモードデータ、図柄を可変表示する状態であるゲームモードデータ、遊技状態が大当たりとなっている大当たりモードデータ、前記事前決定された可変表示装置の停止図柄の図柄コード等のデータから構成されている。なお、トリガ信号は、メインCPU

側とCRT用サブCPU側とで同期を取るための信号である。なお、データラッチ回路97にラッチされているデータはメインCPU82、84から与えられる制御データが変化してない限り同じデータをCRT用サブCPU151に送信し続ける状態となる。このデータラッチ回路97とCRT用サブCPU151との間のデータの送信は、データラッチ回路97からCRT用サブCPU151のみへの片方向通信である。

【0033】表示用サブ基板150には、CRT用サブCPU151の他に、データ制御用ROM152、VD 10 P(ビデオディスプレイプロセッサ)153、D/Aコンバータ156、図柄データ用ROM154、ビデオRAM155が実装されている。データ制御用ROM152は、CRT用サブCPU151を動作させるための制御プログラムが記憶されており、データ制御用ROM152から制御コードがCRT用サブCPU151に入力されてCRT用サブCPU151が制御動作する。VDP153は、可変表示装置により表示される図柄を加工するためのICである。図柄データ用ROM154には、可変表示装置により表示される図柄のデータが記憶されており、図柄データ用ROM154からVDP153に図柄データが入力されてその入力された図柄データをVDP153が拡大、縮小等の所定の加工を施して加工の後の図柄データをビデオRAM155に格納する。そして、CRT用サブCPU151からの指令信号に従ってVDP153がビデオRAM155内に格納されている加工された図柄データを出し、D/Aコンバータ156は、入力されたデジタル信号をアナログRGB信号に変換してCRTユニット30に出力する。このアナログRGB信号は、CRTをドライブするための信号である。なお、VDP153からアナログ信号により直接CRTユニット30をドライブするようにしてもよいし、表示装置がLCDの場合には、VDP153からのデジタル信号によりLCDをドライブするようにしてもよい。

【0034】なお、メインCPU82、84には、外付のROM83が正規の適正な制御プログラムが記憶されたROMであるか否かをチェックし、適正でない場合にはCPUを動作停止あるいはシステムリセットするためのセキュリティ機能が内蔵されている。

【0035】図6は、パチンコ遊技機19を構成する主要部を分解した分解斜視図である。パチンコ遊技機19は、主に、前面枠52と遊技盤1と外枠102とから構成されている。前面枠52には、ガラス扉57と前面板53とが開閉自在に設けられている。この前面板53によって開閉される位置には、打球発射レール140が設けられており、遊技者が打球操作ハンドル56を操作することにより打球発射装置(図示せず)によって弾発されたパチンコ玉がこの打球発射レール140を通過して遊

技領域2内に打込まれる。前面枠52の下方には、余剰玉貯留皿54が設けられている。前面枠52の裏面側には、遊技盤1と機構盤23とを保持するためのミドルプレート107が取付けられている。さらにミドルプレート107の裏面側には突起101a、101bが設けられている。

【0036】一方、遊技盤1の上下位置には、嵌合孔100a、100bが穿設されており、この嵌合孔100a、100bを前面枠52側の突起101a、101bに嵌合させて遊技盤1を前面枠52に対し位置合せする。その状態で、回動レバー27を回動させることにより、遊技盤1がミドルプレート107側に押付けられた状態で固定される。この遊技盤1には、ほぼ中央にCRTユニット30を臨ませるための開口が形成されており、この開口の周囲に飾り部材60が設けられている。そして、この開口の位置に可変表示装置を構成するCRTユニット30の表示画面が臨むように構成されている。遊技盤1には、さらに開口105とその開口の前面側をカバーする飾り部材106とが設けられている。

【0037】機構盤23には、遊技盤1に形成されたCRTユニット30を臨ませるための開口に対応する位置に開口24が形成されており、この開口24のCRTユニット30が位置するようにCRTユニット30が遊技盤1に取付けられる。機構盤23の左上隅には、玉切れランプ103と賞球ランプ104とが設けられており、組付状態でこの玉切れランプ103と賞球ランプ104とが遊技盤1に形成された開口105内に入込み、その前面が飾り部材106で覆われた状態となる。

【0038】図中25は、機構盤23を前面枠52(ミドルプレート107)に回動自在に軸支するための蝶番である。26は係止レバーであり、回動可能に機構盤23に設けられており、この係止レバー26を回動させることにより、機構盤23を前面枠52の裏面側に押付けた状態で前面枠52側に固定することができる。

【0039】図7、図8は、CRTユニット30の分解斜視図である。CRTユニット30は、CRT31と、そのCRT31の後方側をカバーする後方カバー部材35と、金属製の取付板64とから構成されている。

【0040】CRT31を覆っている金属製のフレーム32の後端部上下四隅には、位置決め嵌合孔34が形成されており、後方カバー部材35に設けられている位置決め突起37をこの位置決め嵌合孔34に嵌合させることにより、CRT31と後方カバー部材35との位置決めが行なわれる。フレーム32の後端部左右四隅にはビス33が穿設されており、後方カバー部材35とCRT31とを位置決めさせた状態でビス33と後方カバー部材35のビス36とが連通状態となり、ビスをビス33、36に挿込むことにより、後方カバー部材35がCRT31の後方側に取付けられる。

【0041】後方カバー部材35は、第1傾斜面38と

第2傾斜面39と第3傾斜面40とを有している。第1傾斜面38と第2傾斜面39とは、パチンコ遊技機を遊技場に設置したときに、硬貨回収通路を回避させるためのものである。第3傾斜面40は、機構盤23を開閉させたときに開口24の縁部分24A(図6参照)が後方カバー部材35に当接するのを避けるためのものである。なお、図中35Aは、CRT31のフレーム32が挿入される開口である。

【0042】取付板64には、CRT31のフレーム32が挿入される開口64Aが形成されているとともに、位置決め嵌合孔34に挿通されている位置決め突起37に嵌合する位置決め嵌合孔65が四隅に形成されており、この位置決め嵌合孔65を位置決め突起37に嵌合させることにより、CRT31と取付板64との位置決めが行なわれる。取付板64の上下位置には保持板部66が設けられており、CRT31を開口64Aに挿入した際にフレーム32の上下方向がこの保持板部66により規制される。取付板64の左右には、操作片部67Aを有する回動レバー67が回動可能に設けられている。後方カバー部材35が取付けられたCRT31を開口64Aに挿入した状態で、操作片部67Aを操作して回動レバー67を矢印方向に回動させることにより、回動レバー67の係合部67Bが後方カバー部材35の左右に形成されている当接部41に当接し、CRT31の取付板64への取付けが行なわれる。

【0043】取付板64の四隅にはビス孔68が穿設されており、このビス孔68を遊技盤1に形成されているビス孔69に位置合せした状態でビスにより取付板64を遊技盤1の裏面側に取付ける。遊技盤1にはCRT31のフレーム32が挿入される開口62が形成されており、取付板64を介してCRT31を遊技盤1に取付けた状態で、図9に示すように、CRT31のフレーム32部分が遊技盤1の前面側に一部突出した状態となる。図9の57A、57Bはガラス扉枠57に設けられている前面ガラスである。2は遊技領域、60は飾り枠、64は取付板、66は保持板部、37は位置決め突起、64Aは取付板64に形成された開口、24は機構盤23に形成された開口、63は入賞玉を所定箇所に集合させる入賞玉集合カバー部材である。また61は飾り枠60に形成された開口であり、遊技者がこの開口61からCRT31の表示画面70を見ることが出来る。飾り枠60は、CRT31の周囲を装飾するとともに、遊技領域2を落下する打玉からCRT31を保護する役割を有している。

【0044】以上のように、前面枠52に対し遊技盤1が着脱自在に構成されているために、遊技場に設置されたパチンコ遊技機19を他の機種のものに交換する際には、遊技盤1を取換えることにより可能となり、前面枠52や機構盤23や外枠102を遊技場に残したまま台交換を行なうことが可能となり、台交換に際してのコス

トが安くなる利点がある。しかも、CRTユニット30が、回動レバー67を回動操作することにより簡単に着脱交換可能に構成されているために、台交換に際し、CRTユニット30を遊技盤1から取外し、その遊技盤1を他の種類のものに取換えてその新たな遊技盤1に対し元のCRTユニット30を再度取付けて使用することが可能となり、CRTユニット30を継続して使用することも可能となり、台交換に際してのコストがさらに一層安くなる利点がある。また、取付板64およびフレーム32がともに金属板で構成されているため、CRTユニットを着脱交換可能かつしっかりと遊技盤に取付けることができる。

【0045】

【発明の効果】本発明によれば、複数の可変表示部のうち所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となった場合に、該特定の表示態様がいかなる箇所に成立した場合においても所定の遊技価値が付与可能となるために、所定個数以上の可変表示部の表示結果が特定の表示態様となるという複数の可変表示部の組合せ配列とは全く別の新たな条件の成立により、所定の遊技価値が付与可能となり、従来にはなかった斬新な可変表示による遊技を楽しむことができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】遊技機の一例のパチンコ遊技機を示す全体正面図である。

【図2】可変表示装置の表示画面により表示される図柄の可変表示状態を説明するための図である。

【図3】可変表示装置の表示画面で表示される図柄の可変表示状態を説明するための図である。

【図4】パチンコ遊技機に用いられる制御回路を示すブロック図である。

【図5】メイン基板と表示用サブ基板とに設けられている制御回路の機能を説明するための機能ブロック図である。

【図6】パチンコ遊技機の分解斜視図である。

【図7】CRTユニットの分解斜視図である。

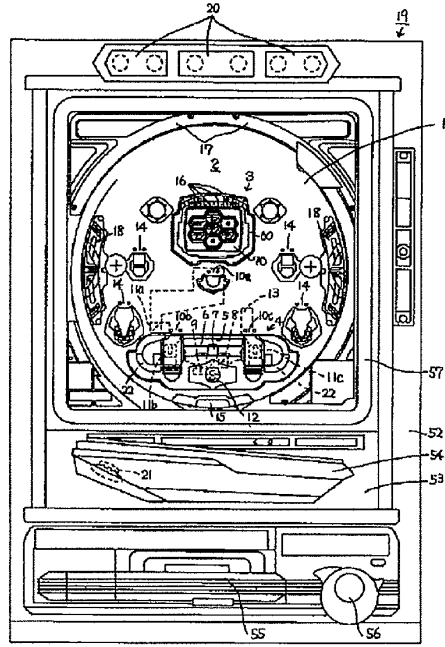
【図8】CRTユニットの分解斜視図である。

【図9】CRTユニットを組付けた状態を示す縦断面図である。

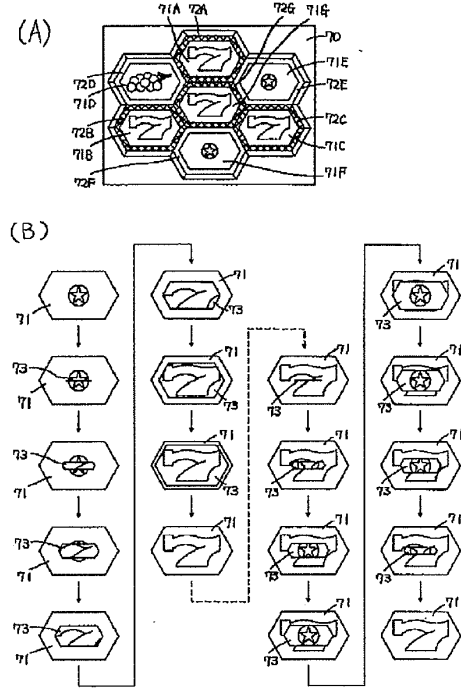
【符号の説明】

1は遊技盤、2は遊技領域、3は可変表示装置、70は表示画面、4は可変入賞球装置、71A~71Gは可変表示部の一例の図柄表示部、73は次図柄表示領域、72A~72Gは目印表示枠、82、84はメインCPU、151はCRT用サブCPU、153はVDP、154は図柄データ用ROM、155はビデオRAM、30はCRTユニット、31はCRT、32はフレーム、35は後方カバー部材、64は取付板、67は回動レバーである。

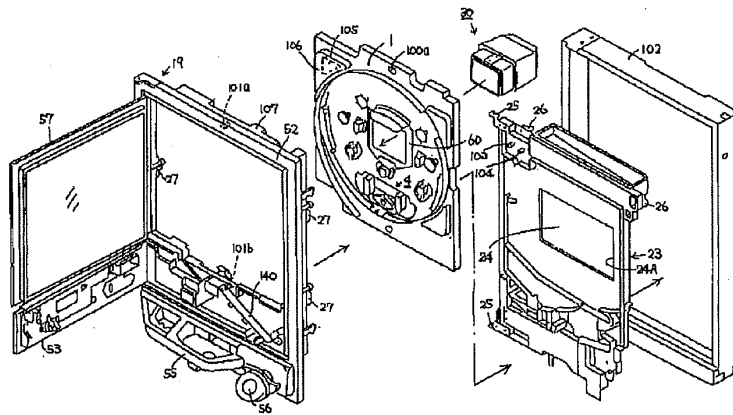
【図1】



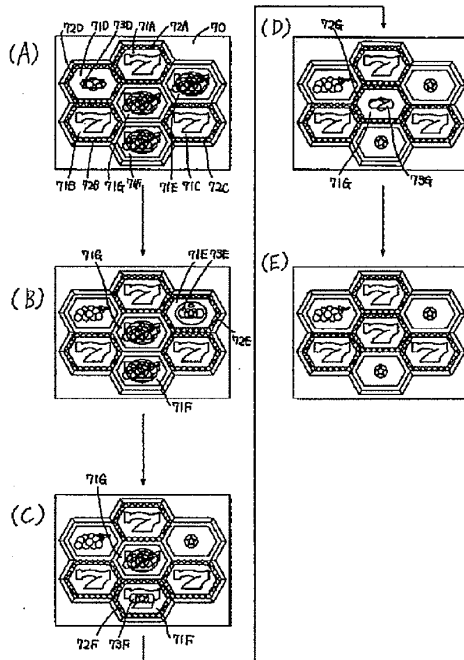
【図2】



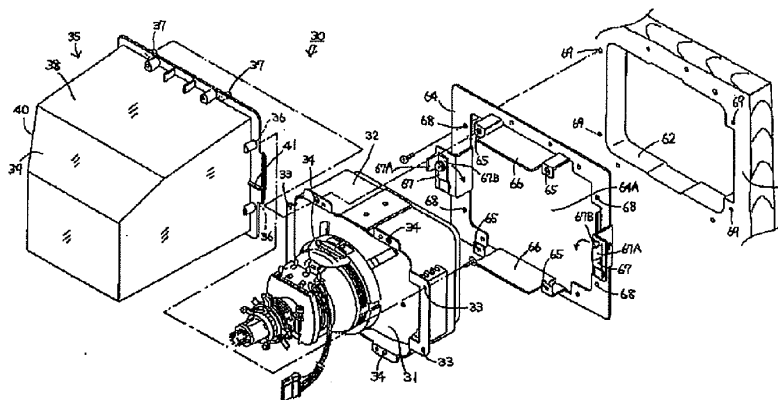
【図6】



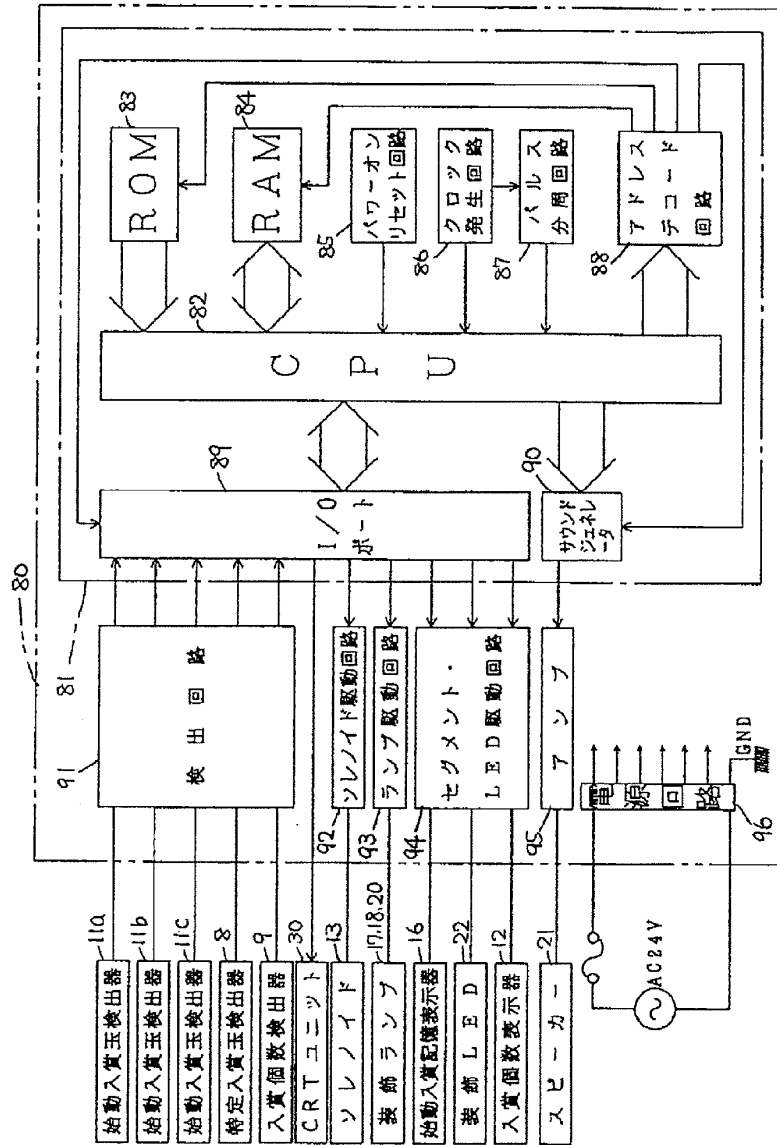
【図3】



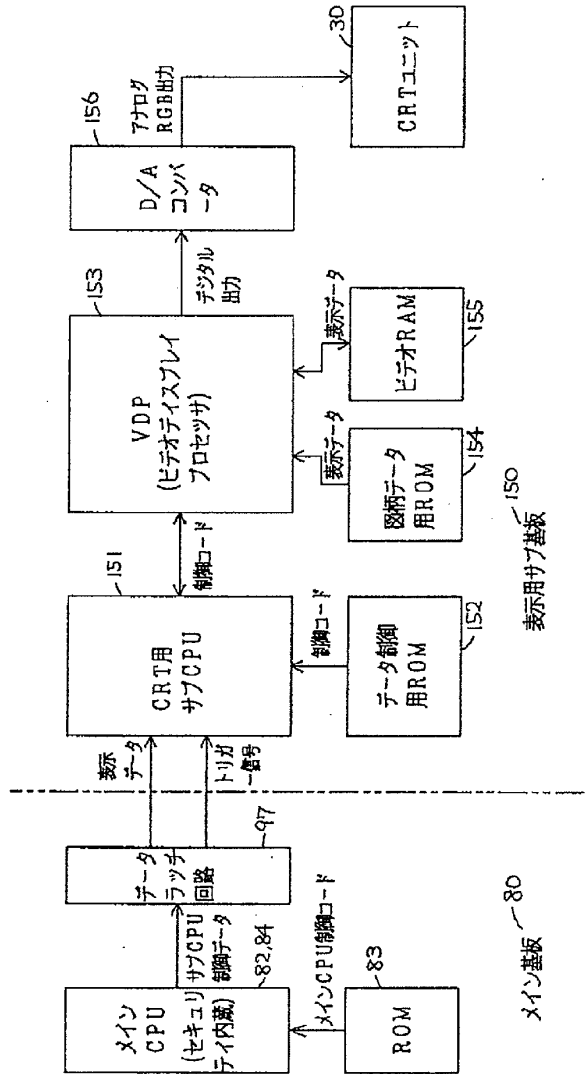
【図7】



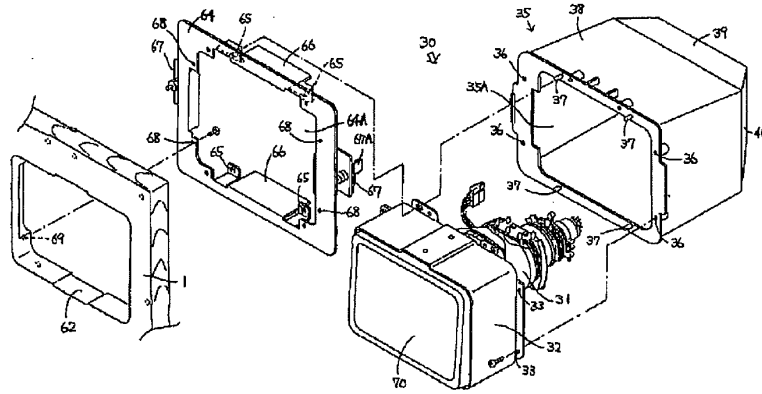
【図4】



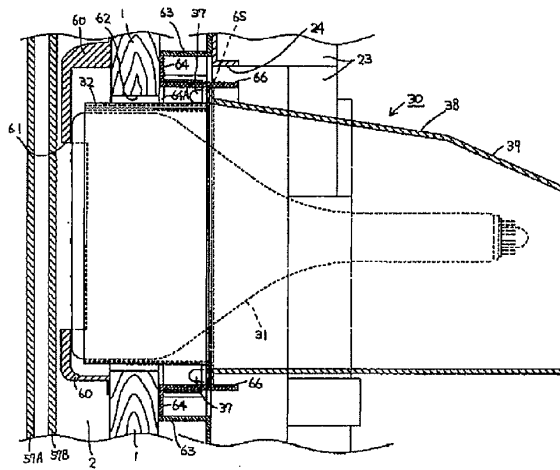
【図5】



【図8】



【図9】



Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	8457097
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Quyen Lieu
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	20-SEP-2010
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	18:53:39
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	82174 <small>7db645b7a4251de7c29a46a936eeb9a0514190d8</small>	yes	2

Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description			Start	End	
Transmittal Letter			1	1	
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)			2	2	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Foreign Reference	JP6246043.PDF	914907	no	13
			8ebb4d8488ac7b7f4dce0a9533094afd8db1703f		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			997081		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Shah, Milap
Art Unit	:	3714
Conf No.	:	4736

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

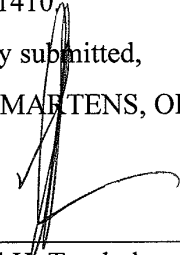
Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing one (1) references, of which one (1) is submitted.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date, with an RCE or before receipt of a first office action after an RCE and no fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/20/10

By: 
Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

Please Direct All Correspondence to Customer Number 20995

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Applicant	: Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	: 11/299,009
Filed	: December 9, 2005
For	: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	: Milap Shah
Art Unit	: 3714
Conf #	: 4736

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being made as follows:

1. Submission Required under 37 CFR 1.114:

NOTE: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

(X) Enclosed:

(X) Amendment/Reply in 7 pages.

(X) Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/08 Equivalent in 2 total pages (IDS and PTO/SB/08).

2. Fees:

FEE CALCULATION				
FEE TYPE		FEE CODE	CALCULATION	TOTAL
RCE Fee		1801 (\$810)		\$810
2 Month Extension		1252 (\$490)		\$490
			TOTAL FEE DUE	\$1300

App. No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

June 25, 2010
Page 2 of 2

Please Direct All Correspondence to Customer Number 20995

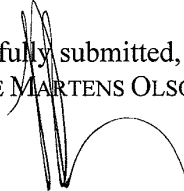
(X) An extension of time is hereby requested by payment of the appropriate fee indicated above.

3. Payment:

(X) The amount of \$1300 will be paid via EFS Web.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP



Dated: June 25, 2010

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

9261041:lw
062510

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	: 11/299,009
Filed	: December 9, 2005
For	: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	: Milap Shah
Art Unit	: 3714
Conf No.	: 4736

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of January 26, 2010, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; said reel comprising sections of symbol containing elements wherein said symbols are fixed for each game played on said gaming machine; said reel including at least one section in which a consecutive run of said symbol containing elements is populated by an identical symbol so that, as the reel rotates, a consecutive string of the same symbol containing elements is sequentially displayed in a column defined by the reel; said identical symbol selected anew for each play of a said game; said identical symbol selected by spinning of a notional, not-visible, inner reel comprising a sub-set of said symbol containing elements.

2. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.

3. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.

4. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements; said five columns being portions respectively of rotatable reels one, two, three, four and five.

5. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.

6. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 5 wherein each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

7. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein said game controller selects one potential win element from each said reel.

8. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

9. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

10. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 9 wherein each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a said identical symbol.

11. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

12. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

13. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

16. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

17. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machines linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

18. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include N=3.

19. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

20. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

(a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of available symbols so that, as the reel rotates, a consecutive string of the same symbol containing elements is sequentially displayed in a column defined by the reel,

(b) randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element

said at least one consecutive run of elements comprises a section of a said rotatable reel; remaining symbols of said reel remaining fixed, and wherein said subset of available symbols is arranged on a notional not-visible inner reel; a said identical symbol selected by rotation of said notional not-visible inner reel for each play of a game on said gaming machine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said modification from said randomly selected symbols within said potential consecutive run of said reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls within a said consecutive run of elements of said leftwardly preceding reel.

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

REMARKS

In the final office action mailed January 26, 2010, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Marks (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0058727), Aida (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0116175) or some combination thereof. By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 21 to highlight the subject matter that the Applicant believes is allowable over the art of record. Hence, reconsideration of the above-captioned application in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein is now respectfully requested.

After carefully reviewing the Marks reference, the Applicant notes that Marks is not displaying the game elements so that as a particular reel rotates, a consecutive string of the same symbol containing elements is sequentially displayed in a column defined by the reel (*See, e.g.*, Claim 1 as amended). As discussed in the Application, the Applicant intends to rotate each of the reels, thereby generating columns of moving symbols, one for each reel. In the Applicant's game, one or more reels are provided with the consecutive string of the same symbol so that one of the columns is sequentially displaying that symbol for a continuous period of time on each rotation. In paragraphs 58 and 59 of the Applicant's published application, the example was given that the left most reel 26 would display a run of kings etc during its rotation.

In contrast, Marks is not sequentially displaying the same symbol sequentially in a column. Rather, Marks is displaying the same symbol repeated in a row but it only occurs in the column once per rotation. So, in Marks as the reels rotate, one element position may contain multiple elements extending along the row. The visual effect of the Applicant's invention is in marked contrast to Marks.

Specifically, in the Applicant's game, as the reels rotate, there is an extended period of time in which the sequential display of the same element occurs. The player of the game can then gain the perception that there is an increased chance that the game will have that reel stop on that symbol which may create the perception that the chances of winning a large prize are enhanced.

In contrast, Marks discloses a single element position that has multiple elements. In Marks, the time period that a person can perceive the multiple element position is much reduced

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

during rotation of the reel as compared to the sequential display of the same elements in the column during rotation. As such, the player will perceive Marks very differently.

Consequently, the Applicant believes that Marks does not teach the sequential display of the same element in a column defined by the reel as claimed by the Applicant. Aida also fails to teach this concept. The Applicant therefore believes that Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. The Applicant further believes that Claim 21 defines additional patentable subject matter and is further allowable for reasons similar to the reasons give above with respect to Claim 1. The Applicant further believes that the remaining claims define additional patentable subject matter and are also allowable due to their respective dependencies on Claim 1. The Applicant therefore believes that the above-captioned application is in condition for allowance and requests the prompt allowance of the same. Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
DUMME55.002AUS	11/281,258	FEATURE GAME WITH RANDOM POPULATION FEATURE	11/17/2005

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
DUMME55.004AUS	11/193153	SYMBOL ENHANCEMENT METHOD	07/29/2005
DUMME55.005AUS	11/299,099	GAMING MACHINE WITH ADDITIONALLY VISIBLE SYMBOLS	12/09/2005
DUMME55.007AUS	11/413,707	GAMING MACHINE WITH MULTIPLE REEL MATRIX	04/28/2006
DUMME55.008APC	10/583,210	GAMING MACHINE WITH EXTENDED PAYLINE AND N-SIDED ELEMENT	03/26/2007

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: June 25, 2010

By: _____

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

9259050:lw
062510

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Shah, Milap
Art Unit	:	3714
Conf No.	:	4736

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

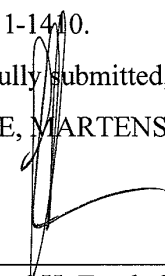
Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing four (4) references.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date, with an RCE or before receipt of a first office action after an RCE and no fee is required.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1440.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 6/25/17

By: 
Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	2004/0063488	04-2004	Berman, Bradley	
	2	7,690,984	04-06-2010	Tran et al.	
	3	6,007,066	12-1999	Moody, Ernest W.	
	4	2005/0159208	07-2005	Pacey, Larry J.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

9260970:lw
062510

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 2 months with \$0 paid	1252	1	490	490

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Request for continued examination	1801	1	810	810
Total in USD (\$)				1300

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	7899222
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Alexandra Benitez
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	25-JUN-2010
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	19:58:06
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1300
RAM confirmation Number	5673
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	RCE_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	52566 4593d425ec7a54484d1ed87af0508c647aa5a55d	no	2
Warnings:					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
Information:					
2		RESPONSE_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	329000 06eb7275c568574089d05094fd02025c99ee564	yes	7
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description		Start	End		
Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE		1	1		
Claims		2	4		
Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		5	7		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3		IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	75998 0c47e90d0f3cc5a952b9ab13f2f31bc41e43d3ba	yes	2
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description		Start	End		
Transmittal Letter		1	1		
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)		2	2		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	31994 37a4eb7171146c0432c8a3608ef7efc4f40d82e	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			489558		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	7899222
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Alexandra Benitez
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	25-JUN-2010
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	19:58:06
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1300
RAM confirmation Number	5673
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	RCE_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	52566 4593d425ec7a54484d1ed87af0508c647aa5a55d	no	2
Warnings:					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
Information:					
2		RESPONSE_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	329000 06eb7275c568574089d05094fd02025c99ee564	yes	7
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description		Start	End		
Amendment Submitted/Entered with Filing of CPA/RCE		1	1		
Claims		2	4		
Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment		5	7		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3		IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	75998 0c47e90d0f3cc5a952b9ab13f2f31bc41e43d3ba	yes	2
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description		Start	End		
Transmittal Letter		1	1		
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)		2	2		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	31994 37a4eb7171146c0432c8a3608ef7efc4f40d82e	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			489558		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 11/299,009		Filing Date 12/09/2005		<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed		
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I					SMALL ENTITY <input type="checkbox"/>		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
(Column 1)		(Column 2)									
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA			RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	
<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE <small>(37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))</small>	N/A	N/A			N/A				N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE <small>(37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))</small>	N/A	N/A			N/A				N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION FEE <small>(37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))</small>	N/A	N/A			N/A				N/A		
TOTAL CLAIMS <small>(37 CFR 1.16(j))</small>	minus 20 =		*			X \$ =		OR	X \$ =		
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS <small>(37 CFR 1.16(h))</small>	minus 3 =		*			X \$ =		OR	X \$ =		
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION SIZE FEE <small>(37 CFR 1.16(s))</small>	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).										
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT <small>(37 CFR 1.16(j))</small>											
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.											
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II					SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)							
AMENDMENT	06/25/2010	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total <small>(37 CFR 1.16(o))</small>	* 26	Minus	** 27	= 0	X \$ =		OR	X \$52=	0	
	Independent <small>(37 CFR 1.16(h))</small>	* 2	Minus	***3	= 0	X \$ =		OR	X \$220=	0	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee <small>(37 CFR 1.16(s))</small>										
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <small>(37 CFR 1.16(j))</small>										
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0	
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)			RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total <small>(37 CFR 1.16(o))</small>	*	Minus	**	=	X \$ =		OR	X \$ =		
	Independent <small>(37 CFR 1.16(h))</small>	*	Minus	***	=	X \$ =		OR	X \$ =		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee <small>(37 CFR 1.16(s))</small>										
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <small>(37 CFR 1.16(j))</small>										
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE		
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.											
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".											
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".											
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.											
						Legal Instrument Examiner: /POLIN ANG/					

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**
 If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO. Includes application details for Osamu Yoshimi and examiner information for Shah, Milap.

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/299,009	YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MILAP SHAH	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 and 15-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/20/09 & 12/4/09
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment received on August 20, 2009. The Examiner acknowledges that claims 1, 4, 17, 18, & 21 were amended, claim 14 was canceled, and no new claims were added. Therefore, claims 1-13 & 15-27 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, & 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0058727; of record; hereafter "Marks").

Claims 1 & 21: Marks discloses a gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements, each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements (i.e. are occupied by a symbol); said reel comprising sections of symbol containing elements wherein said symbols are fixed for each game played on said gaming machine, and said reel including at least one section in which a consecutive run of said symbol containing elements is populated by an identical symbol, said identical symbol selected a new for each play of said game (figures 3A-3F and paragraphs 0063-0082, where Marks discloses replicator symbols that display a consecutive run of identical symbols in place of single symbols, further where the symbols on the reels may be fixed or randomly determined, such that sections of the symbols may be fixed for each play of the game, while replicator symbols or other sections may be randomly determined anew for each play of the game, as per a random outcome of the game,

where it is noted even in the random selection of symbols, the same set of symbols are utilized during random determination, thus, the universe of symbols are fixed for each play of the game).

Marks fails to explicitly disclose a selection means in which the identical or replicator symbols are selected via spinning of a notional, not-visible, inner reel comprising a sub-set of the symbols. Nonetheless, the Applicant's own specification appears to disclose that such a process is merely the use of a look-up table, as is common in the art when combined with a random number generator to produce random outcomes. Applicant appears to emphasize the simulated rotation and "coming to rest" of the non-visible inner reel as mere descriptive language as an imagery effect of how the look-up table functions. The Examiner submits that Marks's approach of using a random number generator (paragraphs 0028, 0030, 0055, where the gaming device stores random number generators for use in generating random symbols, identical symbols, outcomes, and the like) is substantially equivalent for the same purpose as the arrangement of spinning a non-visible inner reel. Both function substantially the same as to randomly determining identical symbols or replicator symbols to be used in the game of chance.

It appears that skilled artisan would have not only found it equivalent but obvious to describe the effect of a random number generator in the sense of spinning an inner non-visible reel as it appears to be only descriptive language describing the functions of a common random number generator and look-up table or the like.

It would be clear to a skilled artisan that both look-up tables and random number generators are widely well known in the art and utilized in a majority of games of chance to generate random outcomes.

Consequently, in the Marks invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a look-up table acting as a notional, non-

visible, inner reel that is spun and comes to rest to randomly select a replicator symbol and/or position of said symbol within the reels to display a randomly selected outcome as described by Marks, for at least the purpose of maintain randomness in the game of chance, which is both commonplace and key to maintaining player interest.

Regarding claim 21, all of the above applies, further Marks teaches the purpose of the replicator symbols is for increasing the probability for a winning outcome on a gaming machine, where the outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements or pay lines of symbols. Marks discloses the method comprising arranging at least one reel with a consecutive run of identical symbols as described above, the identical symbols selected from a subset of available symbols. Moreover, Marks teaches creating pay lines with symbols from each of the reels as potential win elements. Lastly, as described above, Marks reasonably discloses the consecutive run of symbols comprises a section of the reel, where remaining symbols are either fixed or randomly determined, wherein the identical symbol is selected via the notional, non-visible, inner reel (i.e. a random number generator and/or look-up table considered a non-visible inner reel, as described above).

Claim 2: As with the random generation of outcomes, a game controller selects the identical or replicator symbol from a subset of available symbols (figures 2A-3F).

Claim 3: Marks discloses that each symbol is assigned a probability of selection (paragraph 0055).

Claims 4 & 22: Marks discloses the matrix is comprised of at least five columns and three rows, the five columns being portions respectively of rotatable reels one, two, three, four, and five (figures 3A-3F).

Claims 5, 6, 9-12, & 24-27: Marks discloses a replicator symbol may be positioned only in a left-most reel (figure 3E). The other symbols of the left-most reel may be fixed or populated randomly as discussed above. Also, the other symbols of other reels may be fixed or populated randomly as

described above. Marks also teaches that the symbols are 'adapted' for potential modification, such as a replicator symbol being displayed on any of reels two through five on a next spin, or the like. It appears multiple same replicator symbols appear possible, such as three same replicator symbols displaying identical symbols, wherein the same replicator symbols of a reel to the left or right is possible (figure 3F[pay line 52b]). Regarding claims 12 & 27, in a broadest reasonable interpretation, Marks discloses providing free spins, such that a preceding win using a consecutive run of identical symbols may trigger free spins, thus modifying the random selection for the reels in a next spin (paragraphs 0014, 0056, or 0065).

Claims 7 & 8: As is common in a slot machine, when evaluating for winning combinations, pay lines are determined and evaluated, such as one potential win element from each reel (paragraph 006). Players then collect awards, credits, or the like for winning symbol combinations that appear on selected pay lines (paragraph 0006).

Claim 13: Marks discloses spinning the reels when the game sequence is initiated, which broadly appears to encompass spinning the reel having the consecutive identical symbol at a relatively slow rate with insufficient specificity.

Claim 15: Marks discloses a single display stand-alone gaming machine (figure 1A).

Claim 16: Marks discloses a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display (figure 1B).

Claim 17: Marks discloses the gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machines linked to a progressive jackpot controller (figure 2B and paragraph 0061).

Claim 23: Clearly there must be a look-up table of the available subset of replicator symbols, which is used to determine the replicator or identical symbol to be displayed.

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marks, as applied to claims 1-13, 15-17, & 21-27, where applicable, in view of Aida (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0115175).

Claims 18-20: Marks discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for explicitly disclosing the area in which a symbol occupies is enclosed by an element having N sides, where $N=3$ through $N=20$, such as $N=6$, being a regular hexagon. However, Aida, in an analogous invention directed to a gaming machine having a spinning reel game, discloses the symbol elements are polygons, such as hexagons, squares, and the like (figure 8 and paragraphs 0013-0014). Regardless of the specific game disclosed by Aida, the display matrix of symbols explicitly shows the use of polygons. A polygon is an N -sided element which may have a number of sides, such as $N=3$ through $N=20$ as claimed. Further, it appears that the shape of the area encompassing a symbol is a matter of design choice directed to aesthetics, versus functional relevance of the shape of the area. It appears that if the shape is a square, a hexagon, or any other polygon formed by $N=3$ through $N=20$, no change to the respective reel game occurs, that is, a pre-defined win line with a distribution of symbols remains. For at least these reasons, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the symbol areas of Marks with more aesthetically appealing polygon shaped areas as taught by Aida for at least the purpose of aesthetics.

Response to Arguments

In view of Applicant's amendments, all outstanding 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections are withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MILAP SHAH whose telephone number is (571)272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/MBS/
/Peter D. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Index of Claims 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	02/10/2009	01/15/2010						
	1	✓	✓						
	2	✓	✓						
	3	✓	✓						
	4	✓	✓						
	5	✓	✓						
	6	✓	✓						
	7	✓	✓						
	8	✓	✓						
	9	✓	✓						
	10	✓	✓						
	11	✓	✓						
	12	✓	✓						
	13	✓	✓						
	14	✓	-						
	15	✓	✓						
	16	✓	✓						
	17	✓	✓						
	18	✓	✓						
	19	✓	✓						
	20	✓	✓						
	21	✓	✓						
	22	✓	✓						
	23	✓	✓						
	24	✓	✓						
	25	✓	✓						
	26	✓	✓						
	27	✓	✓						

Receipt date: 12/04/2009

11299009 - GAU: 3714

PTO/SB/08 Equivalent

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009	
	Filing Date	12-09-2005	
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	Art Unit	3714	
(Multiple sheets used when necessary)		Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
/MBS/	1	6,056,642	05-02-2000	Bennett	
	2	6,227,971	05-08-2001	Weiss	
	3	6,517,432	02-11-2003	Jaffe	
	4	6,544,120	04-08-2003	Ainsworth	
	5	7,479,061	01-20-2009	Okada	
	6	2003/0027611	02-06-2003	Recard	
	7	2003/0087687	05-08-2003	Locke et al.	
/MBS/	8	2004/0219969	11-04-2004	Casey et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

8190643
120109

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	01/19/2010
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009
	Filing Date	12-09-2005
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu
	Art Unit	3714
(Multiple sheets used when necessary)	Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 2	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
/MBS/	1	5,580,055	12-03-1996	Takashi Hagiwara	
↓	2	6,517,433	02-11-2003	Loose et al.	
	3	6,869,357	03-05-2009	Adams et al.	
	4	7,237,775	07-03-2007	Thomas et al.	
	5	7,316,395	01-08-2008	Stan Kromydas	
	6	2002/0123378	09-05-2002	Bucknall et al,	
	7	2003/0013517	01-16-2003	Bennett et al.	
	8	2004/0048646	03-11-2004	Martin Visocnik	
/MBS/	9	2008/0045323	02-21-2008	Bradley Berman	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
→						

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
→			

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	01/19/2010
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Receipt date: 08/20/2009

11299009 - GAU: 3714

PTO/SB/08 Equivalent


INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009
	Filing Date	12-09-2005
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 2 OF 2	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

CO-PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS COMMONLY OWNED WITH THE PRESENT APPLICATION							
<p>EXAMINER NOTE: Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether the claims of any one or more of the following co-pending U.S. patent applications (which are commonly owned with the present application) create any issues of double patenting with respect to any of the claims of the present application; and, where relevant, to consider whether the disclosure of any one or more of the following co-pending applications creates any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether any listed office actions issued in the following co-pending applications create any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application.</p> <p>SPECIFICATION, DRAWINGS and CLAIMS: Except where indicated, each of the co-pending applications listed below is stored in the USPTO's IFW system. As provided in M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a), copies of the specifications, drawings and claims of these co-pending applications are <u>not</u> enclosed herewith.</p>							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Serial No.	Filing Date MM-DD-YYYY	Inventor(s)	Pub. No.	Atty. Docket No.	Date(s) of Office Action(s) MM-DD-YYYY
		11/193,153	7/29/2005	Chan	2007/0015565	DUMME55.004AUS	OA Dated 03/25/2009
		11/413,707	4/28/2006	Yoshimi	2006/0287060	DUMME55.007AUS	Office Action dated 1/28/2008; Office Action dated 12/02/2008; Final Office Action dated 03/16/2009
		11/281,258	11/17/2005	Tran	2006/0183533	DUMME55.002AUS	Office Action dated 12/13/2007; Office Action dated 6/24/2008; Final OA dated 02/06/2009
		10/583,210	3/26/2007	Quayle	2008/0045300	DUMME55.008APC	Office Action dated 8/7/2008
		11/299,099	12/9/2005	Yoshimi	2006/0247002	DUMME55.005AUS	

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

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Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST - See attached search history.	2/10/2009	/MBS/
Inventor search performed.	2/10/2009	/MBS/
EAST - Updated search. See attached search history.	1/15/2010	/MBS/

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

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EAST Search History

EAST Search History (Prior Art)

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S122	7	("2004/0058727").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2010/01/15 11:55
S121	1	("20060183534").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 11:15
S120	1	("20040266520").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 11:02
S119	43	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with (multiple plurality row) with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24
S118	4470	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with (multiple plurality row) identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24
S117	189	"463"/\$.ccls. and (reel with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:24
S116	26	"463"/\$.ccls. and (strip with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:23
S115	10	"463"/\$.ccls. and (string with identical with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:23
S114	8	("20030027611" "20030087687" "20040219969" "6056642" "6227971" "6517432" "6544120" "7479061").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2010/01/15 10:22
S113	5	((("7560812") or ("7473173") or ("7402102") or ("20070281783") or ("20040106445")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2010/01/15 10:20
S112	11	"463"/\$.ccls. and (identical with (symbol indicia) with single with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:31

S111	4	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((consecutiv\$3 run) with ("same" wild bonus special) with (symbol indicia) with single with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:30
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S109	31	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$3 with ("same" wild bonus special) with (symbol indicia) with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:22
S108	1	("6604999").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/12/16 14:19
S107	1	"6234897".pn.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 14:00
S106	20	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:39
S105	4	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table with (wild special bonus))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:38
S104	50	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with look-up with table)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:38
S103	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S102	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S101	0	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random with non-visible with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:37
S100	12	(notional with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/12/16 13:34
S99	0	S96 and yoseloff.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 14:01

S98	23	S97 not S96	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S97	26	(US-20040266520-\$ or US-20080045323-\$ or US-20070270203-\$ or US-20040072610-\$ or US-20020039920-\$ or US-20040058727-\$ or US-20040116175-\$).did. or (US-6644664-\$ or US-6120378-\$ or US-6908381-\$ or US-5722891-\$ or US-5209479-\$ or US-6464581-\$ or US-6439993-\$ or US-7331858-\$ or US-6241607-\$ or US-6796903-\$ or US-6547663-\$ or US-6932700-\$ or US-6394902-\$ or US-5456465-\$ or US-5984781-\$ or US-6604999-\$ or US-4448419-\$ or US-6159096-\$).did. or (JP-2002325881-\$).did.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S96	43	S92 or S93 or S94 or S95	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S95	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
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S93	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 13:58

S92	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$. DID. OR US-20060183534- \$.DID. OR US- 20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$. DID. OR US-20040053679- \$.DID. OR US- 20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$. DID. OR US-20040043083- \$.DID. OR US- 20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$. DID. OR US-20040026854- \$.DID. OR US- 20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$. DID. OR US-20040012145- \$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$. DID. OR US-5395111-\$. DID. OR US-5609524-\$. DID. OR US-5611535-\$. DID. OR US-5722891-\$. DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S91	24	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((symbol indicia) with hexagon)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:30
S90	19	(select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel) same probability	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:26
S89	138	select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:25
S88	43	S82 or S83 or S84 or S87	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:59

S87	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
S86	28	S82 or S84	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
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S83	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 11:57
S82	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$.DID. OR US-20070015565-\$.DID. OR US-20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$.DID. OR US-20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$.DID. OR US-20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$.DID. OR	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:55

		US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$. DID. OR US-20040012145- \$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$. DID. OR US-5395111-\$. DID. OR US-5609524-\$. DID. OR US-5611535-\$. DID. OR US-5722891-\$. DID.				
S81	6	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US- 20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US- 6241607-\$.DID. OR US- 6896615-\$.DID. OR US- 6960134-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:54
S80	104	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (random\$3) with (creat\$3 select\$3 assign\$3 populat\$4)) and ("463"/\$. ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:12
S79	0	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3) with (populat\$3 creat\$3 select \$3)) and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11
S78	246	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3)) and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$. ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11
S77	11	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel).ti. and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:10
S76	0	("2002065124").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:05
S75	2	((("5611535") or ("6604999")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:00
S74	1	("4,836,546").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 09:46
S73	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:37
S72	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with populat\$3 with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:35

S71	66	("4695053" "4991848" "5152529" "5393061" "5395111" "5449173" "5456465" "5611535" "5722891" "5775692" "5876284" "5980384" "5984781" "5984782" "5997401" "6056642" "6059289" "6089977" "6102798" "6126541" "6126542" "6142873" "6142874" "6142875" "D400597").PN. OR ("6394902").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:57
S70	1	("6394902").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/09 17:56
S69	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53
S68	14	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and ((duplicat\$3 chang\$3 replac\$3 modif \$4) with consecutiv\$3 with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53
S67	98	(modif\$5 chang\$3 updat\$3 upgrad\$3 alter\$3 replac\$3 duplicat\$3) with (indicia symbol element object) with (virtual simulat\$3) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:49
S66	168	S62 not (S64 or S65)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:47
S65	69	S62 and (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S64	9	S62 and ((indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S63	0	S62 and (identical with (indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S62	245	S61 and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S61	250	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42

S60	27	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42
S59	1	("2002/0039920").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:26
S58	20	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with strip with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S57	196	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S56	8	("3580581" "4448419" "4711451" "5630753" "5902184").PN. OR ("6796903").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:20
S55	4	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S54	0	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability) same (identical)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S53	6	(reel with strip) same ((multiple plurality) with identical with (indicia symbol element object))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:42
S52	30	reel with duplicat\$5 with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S51	1	reel with replac\$3 with identical with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S50	4	reel with upgrad\$3 with (bonus feature trigg\$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:39
S49	7	reel with consecutiv\$3 with identical	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:38
S48	131	S47 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59
S47	315	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((convert \$3 chang\$3 alter\$3 modif \$3) with (adjacent\$3 next) with (symbol indicia element position))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59
S46	2	KHOSLA.in. and "463"/\$.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55

S45	207	KHOSLA.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55
S44	1	("2002325881").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S43	1	("2001134916").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S42	29	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S41	14	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S40	41	("5209479").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:55
S39	78	"463"/\$.ccls. and (kinoshita.in. takahashi.in. miyaya.in.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:52
S38	10	("4037845" "5722891" "5997401" "6186894" "6220959" "6241607" "6270412" "6394902" "6413162" "6471208").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:27
S37	17	((every each) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16
S36	0	(all with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16
S35	11	"463"/\$.ccls. and (expand \$3 with (symbol indicia) with (consecutiv\$3 adjacent\$3 next))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:14
S34	118	S33 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:11
S33	139	S23 not (S32 S19)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S32	48	S31 or S26 or S24 or S25	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S31	28	S29 or S30	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10

S30	25	(("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or ("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S29	27	S27 or S28	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S28	4	(("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S27	24	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$.DID. OR US-20070015565-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$.DID. OR US-20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$.DID. OR US-20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$.DID. OR	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10

		US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID.				
S26	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S25	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S24	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S23	144	S21 or S22	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S22	82	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (adjacent\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S21	87	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (consecutiv\$3 row\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S20	35	S19 not S18	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57

S19	55	463/16-22.ccls. and ((duplicat\$5 mirror\$3 cop \$3 copy\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57
S18	23	463/16-22.ccls. and ((copy \$3 mirro\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (position reel))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:54
S17	14	("6120378" "6123333" "6126542" "6173955" "6213876" "6336860").PN. OR ("6644664").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:52
S16	1	("6644664").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:49
S15	2	((("5976016") or ("5624119")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:46
S14	5	("5611535" "5807172" "6241607" "6896615" "6960134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:41
S13	3	((("5611535") or ("6241607") or ("20080045323")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:29
S12	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:27
S11	44	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$5 with (identical "same") with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:25
S10	48	S9 or S3 or S1 or S2	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:35
S9	28	S6 or S8	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:32
S8	25	((("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:32

		("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.				
S7	5	((("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN. or (2006/0183533) or (2006/0247002) or (2007/0015565) or (2005/0277460) or (2006/0247002) or (2004/0198486) or (2006/0183534) or (2006/0166731) or (2006/0084498) or (2006/0084492) or (2004/0053679) or (2006/0052155) or (2008/0045300) or (2004/0043083) or (2005/0043084) or (2004/0038726) or (2004/0036218) or (2004/0026854) or (2004/0017041) or (2004/0014517) or (2004/0012145)).CCLS.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:31
S6	27	S4 or S5	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:30
S5	4	((("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:30

S4	24	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$.DID. OR US-20070015565-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$.DID. OR US-20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$.DID. OR US-20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:23
S3	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:22
S2	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:20
S1	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:19

1/ 15/ 2010 2:31:36 PM

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009	
	Filing Date	12-09-2005	
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	6,056,642	05-02-2000	Bennett	
	2	6,227,971	05-08-2001	Weiss	
	3	6,517,432	02-11-2003	Jaffe	
	4	6,544,120	04-08-2003	Ainsworth	
	5	7,479,061	01-20-2009	Okada	
	6	2003/0027611	02-06-2003	Recard	
	7	2003/0087687	05-08-2003	Locke et al.	
	8	2004/0219969	11-04-2004	Casey et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

8190643
120109

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Submission- Information Disclosure Stmt	1806	1	180	180
Total in USD (\$)				180

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	6578576
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Lori Larson
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	04-DEC-2009
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	18:00:37
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$180
RAM confirmation Number	4389
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	77282 9d4576c18b6277f5786a15375d7a05586e e415	yes	2
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
Document Description			Start	End	
Transmittal Letter			1	1	
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)			2	2	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29997 3f75987c502565bc30e8f4c36b6dc41e0e3 8196	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			107279		
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Shah, Milap
Art Unit	:	3714
Conf No.	:	4736

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

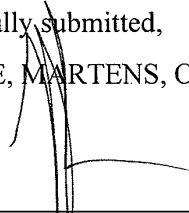
Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing eight (8) references.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a final action and before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance. This Statement is accompanied by the fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/4/05

By: 

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	: 11/299,009
Filed	: December 9, 2005
For	: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	: Milap Shah
Art Unit	: 3714
Conf No.	: 4736

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 20, 2009, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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Filing Date: December 9, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; said reel comprising sections of symbol containing elements wherein said symbols are fixed for each game played on said gaming machine; said reel including at least one section in which a consecutive run of said symbol containing elements is populated by an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected anew for each play of a said game; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol said identical symbol selected by spinning of a notional, not-visible, inner reel comprising a subset of said symbol containing elements.

2. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.

3. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.

4. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements; said five columns being portions respectively of rotatable reels one, two, three, four and five.

5. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.

6. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 5 wherein each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

7. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein said game controller selects one potential win element from each said reel.

8. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

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9. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

10. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 9 wherein each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a said identical symbol.

11. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

12. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

13. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

16. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

17. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machines linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

18. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include $[[N=1]]$ $N=3$.

19. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

20. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements

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Filing Date: December 9, 2005

of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

(a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of available symbols,

(b) randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element

said at least one consecutive run of elements comprises a section of a said rotatable reel; remaining symbols of said reel remaining fixed, and wherein said subset of available symbols is arranged on a notional not-visible inner reel; a said identical symbol selected by rotation of said notional not-visible inner reel for each play of a game on said gaming machine.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said modification from said randomly selected symbols within said potential consecutive run of said reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls within a said consecutive run of elements of said leftwardly preceding reel.

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REMARKS

In the office action mailed February 20, 2009, the Examiner rejected Claims 9, 10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and further rejected pending Claims 1 – 27 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the Ainsworth reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,999), the Yoseloff reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,096), the Aida reference (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0116175) or some combination thereof. By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4, 18 and 21 to address the §112 issues raised by the Examiner and to highlight the subject matter that the Applicant thinks is allowable over the art of record and has further cancelled Claim 14 and amended Claim 17 to address a grammatical inconsistency.

In the office action, the Examiner objected to Claims 9 and 10 as lacking antecedent support. By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claim 4 to provide antecedent support for the “each of reels two, three, four and five...”. Further, by this paper, the Applicant has amended Claim 18 so that N is now equal to 3. Hence, the Applicant submits that the claims as amended now comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

After carefully reviewing the Ainsworth, Yoseloff and Aida reference, the Applicant submits that none of these references disclose or teach, either by themselves or in combination with each other, the feature of selecting a run of identical symbols on a reel from a notional, not-visible, inner reel, for each play of the gaming device (*See, e.g.*, Claim 1 as amended). As discussed in the specification of the Application as filed, one of the reels has a plurality of identical symbols formed onto the reel so that the plurality of symbols are selectively visible thereby enhancing interest in the game by the player by creating a perception of a higher possibility of winning (*See*, Paragraph 62). The plurality of symbols are randomly selected from a notional, but visible, inner reel comprising a subset of the symbol containing elements.

These features are not shown in any of the cited references. More specifically, while Ainsworth discloses in Figure 3 a consecutive run of the same symbol (three “10”s on a reel) there is no disclosure of how the run of the same symbols is selected. As such, there is no teaching of selecting the symbols from a notional, not-visible, inner reel as required by Claim 1 as amended.

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Further, Yoseloff also does not disclose consecutive elements on a reel. The symbols referred to by the Examiner (references column 3 line 65 to column 4 line 56) are not arranged consecutively on a section of a single reel but are arranged along a pay line (*See*, Column 5, line 2) that is distributed across adjoining reels. Further, Yoseloff is selecting the symbols randomly from a template which does not disclose or teach the notional not-visible rotatable inner reel as required by Claim 1. Further, Yoseloff also fails to disclose the reels being divided into sections in which the symbols remain the same for all games and at least one section in which the symbols are identical which is selected by the game via the notional not-visible rotatable inner reel. As such, Yoseloff, even if combined with Ainsworth, would still fail to teach Claim 1 as amended.

Similarly, Aida also does not disclose the selection of the identical symbol in the manner claimed by the Applicant in Claim 1. Aida discloses a random display of elements but is silent as to the makeup of a particular reel. Further, the symbol displayed in a particular symbol containing element in the matrix of symbols visible in the display is “based on results of some internal selection” that is undefined. As such, the selection process of the elements as defined by Claim 1 is neither disclosed nor taught by the Aida reference.

The Applicant therefore believes that Claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the art of record. The Applicant believes that Claim 21 defines additional patentable subject matter and is further allowable for reasons similar to the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1. The Applicant further submits that the remaining claims define additional patentable subject matter and are further allowable due to their respective dependencies on Claims 1 and 21.

The Applicant therefore believes the above-captioned application is in condition for allowance and requests the prompt allowance of the same. Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this

Application No.: 11/299,009
Filing Date: December 9, 2005

application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
DUMME55.002AUS	11/281,258	FEATURE GAME WITH RANDOM POPULATION FEATURE	11/17/2005
DUMME55.004AUS	11/193153	SYMBOL ENHANCEMENT METHOD	07/29/2005
DUMME55.005AUS	11/299,099	GAMING MACHINE WITH ADDITIONALLY VISIBLE SYMBOLS	12/09/2005
DUMME55.007AUS	11/413,707	GAMING MACHINE WITH MULTIPLE REEL MATRIX	04/28/2006
DUMME55.008APC	10/583,210	GAMING MACHINE WITH EXTENDED PAYLINE AND N-SIDED ELEMENT	03/26/2007

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: August 20, 2009

By: _____

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

7671056:lw/081909

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Osamu Yoshimi
App. No.	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Milap Shah
Art Unit	:	3714
Conf No.	:	4736

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

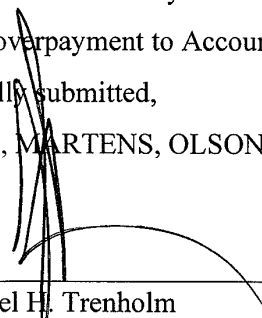
Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing nine (9) references to be considered by the Examiner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a final action and before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance. This Statement is accompanied by the fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3/20/09

By: 
Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(951) 781-9231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009	
	Filing Date	12-09-2005	
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 1 OF 2		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,580,055	12-03-1996	Takashi Hagiwara	
	2	6,517,433	02-11-2003	Loose et al.	
	3	6,869,357	03-05-2009	Adams et al.	
	4	7,237,775	07-03-2007	Thomas et al.	
	5	7,316,395	01-08-2008	Stan Kromydas	
	6	2002/0123378	09-05-2002	Bucknall et al,	
	7	2003/0013517	01-16-2003	Bennett et al.	
	8	2004/0048646	03-11-2004	Martin Visocnik	
	9	2008/0045323	02-21-2008	Bradley Berman	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299009
	Filing Date	12-09-2005
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi, Osamu
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Examiner	Shah, Milap
SHEET 2 OF 2	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

CO-PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS COMMONLY OWNED WITH THE PRESENT APPLICATION							
<p>EXAMINER NOTE: Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether the claims of any one or more of the following co-pending U.S. patent applications (which are commonly owned with the present application) create any issues of double patenting with respect to any of the claims of the present application; and, where relevant, to consider whether the disclosure of any one or more of the following co-pending applications creates any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether any listed office actions issued in the following co-pending applications create any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application.</p> <p>SPECIFICATION, DRAWINGS and CLAIMS: Except where indicated, each of the co-pending applications listed below is stored in the USPTO's IFW system. As provided in M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a), copies of the specifications, drawings and claims of these co-pending applications are <u>not</u> enclosed herewith.</p>							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Serial No.	Filing Date MM-DD-YYYY	Inventor(s)	Pub. No.	Atty. Docket No.	Date(s) of Office Action(s) MM-DD-YYYY
		11/193,153	7/29/2005	Chan	2007/0015565	DUMME55.004AUS	OA Dated 03/25/2009
		11/413,707	4/28/2006	Yoshimi	2006/0287060	DUMME55.007AUS	Office Action dated 1/28/2008; Office Action dated 12/02/2008; Final Office Action dated 03/16/2009
		11/281,258	11/17/2005	Tran	2006/0183533	DUMME55.002AUS	Office Action dated 12/13/2007; Office Action dated 6/24/2008; Final OA dated 02/06/2009
		10/583,210	3/26/2007	Quayle	2008/0045300	DUMME55.008APC	Office Action dated 8/7/2008
		11/299,099	12/9/2005	Yoshimi	2006/0247002	DUMME55.005AUS	

7671303:lw
081909

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11299009			
Filing Date:	09-Dec-2005			
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols			
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi			
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler			
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS			
Filed as Large Entity				
Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Extension - 3 months with \$0 paid	1253	1	1110	1110

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Submission- Information Disclosure Stmt	1806	1	180	180
Total in USD (\$)				1290

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	5925285
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Alexandra Benitez
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	20-AUG-2009
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	18:21:35
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1290
RAM confirmation Number	4287
Deposit Account	111410
Authorized User	KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON AND BEAR

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)

File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		RESPONSE_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	345969 c8f62f340a0ebeb3391fab4a37210b61ab0a646d	yes	7
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
		Document Description	Start	End	
		Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	1	1	
		Claims	2	4	
		Applicant Arguments/Remarks Made in an Amendment	5	7	
Warnings:					
Information:					
2		IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	134717 4e6e3f83067af62093b82bc15ad96f9ae86eacc7	yes	3
Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description					
		Document Description	Start	End	
		Transmittal Letter	1	1	
		Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)	2	3	
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	32048 8a6e0997b42da07d4a3d9d1968eb489f3e3406e4	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			512734		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875					Application or Docket Number 11/299,009		Filing Date 12/09/2005		<input type="checkbox"/> To be Mailed	
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY <input type="checkbox"/>			OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
FOR		NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	OR		RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A	300	
<input type="checkbox"/> SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))		N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A		
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))		minus 20 =	*	X \$ =				X \$ =		
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =	*	X \$ =				X \$ =		
<input type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).								
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))										
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.										
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II										
(Column 1)			(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY			OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT	08/20/2009	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)		RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(o))	* 26	Minus	** 27	= 0	X \$ =		OR	X \$62=	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	* 2	Minus	***3	= 0	X \$ =		OR	X \$220=	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	0
AMENDMENT		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)		RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(o))	*	Minus	**	=	X \$ =		OR	X \$ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	X \$ =		OR	X \$ =	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
						TOTAL ADD'L FEE		OR	TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.										
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".										
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".										
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.										
						Legal Instrument Examiner: /KIMBERLY JONES/				

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS	4736
20995 7590 02/20/2009 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			EXAMINER	
			SHAH, MILAP	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/20/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
eOAPilot@kmob.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	11/299,009	YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Milap Shah	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/15/06, 3/20/08, 9/24/08.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9, 10, and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9 & 10 each recite the limitation "each of reels two, three, four and five...". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 18 recites "where N is a variable and values of N include N=1". It appears that N is the number of sides to the symbol containing element. If N=1, there appears to be no symbol displayable within an N-sided element having 1 side (i.e. a point or line). Thus, it is unclear if N=1 is a possible N-sided symbol containing element. For examination purposes, the Examiner assumes that N=1 is a typographical error and assumes N=6 as depicted in figures 5 and 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ainsworth (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,999).

Examiner Note: In the following rejection, the Examiner has cited particular citations in the reference as applied to the claims for convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are

representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claims, other citations and figures may apply as well. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Applicant, in preparing any response to this communication, fully consider the references in their entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passages as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. The Examiner is also required to give claim limitations their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the ordinary level of skill in the respective art.

Claims 1 & 21: Ainsworth discloses the same invention including a gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements (figures 3-6), each column of the matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of the symbol containing elements (column 2, lines 43-48), and wherein each of the symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of the symbols containing elements of at least one reel is caused to display an identical symbol (column 3, lines 30-34 and figures 3-6, where at least one reel in figures 3-6 shows three consecutive identical elements).

Regarding claim 21, a method of operating the gaming machine above, includes the steps of: arranging at least one of the simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol, the identical symbol is one of a subset of symbols on the reels (Id.) and randomly selecting one element from each of the simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element (i.e. a random spin of symbols as shown in figures 3-6; see also abstract).

Claims 4 & 22: Ainsworth discloses a matrix having five columns and three rows (figures 3-6).

Claims 5 & 24: Ainsworth discloses that "at least one reel" includes consecutive identical symbols, such as shown in figures 3-6, where at least reel #3, #4, and #5 have consecutive identical symbols, thus, it appears Ainsworth anticipates any the reels to have consecutive identical symbols,

while merely showing an example in figures 3-6, where the left-most reel is implicitly included in “at least one reel”.

Claim 13: Ainsworth discloses spinning the reels when a game sequence is initiated, which broadly appears to encompass spinning the reel having the consecutive identical symbols at a “relatively slow rate” with insufficient specificity (column 1, lines 44-45).

Claims 15 & 16: Ainsworth discloses the gaming machine is a single [video] display stand-alone gaming machine (figure 1[display 14]), having at least an upper secondary [artwork] display (figure 1[display 28]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, 6-12, 23, & 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsworth, as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 24, where applicable, in view of Yoseloff (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,096).

Claims 2, 3, 6, 9-12, 23, & 25-27: Ainsworth discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for explicitly disclosing methods for assigning symbols to reels, such as by the game controller selecting the identical symbol or other symbols randomly from a subset of available symbols. It appears that such a process is carried out by the game designer in preparing the reel game, however, Yoseloff disclose a dynamic method of defining templates for use in virtual or simulated reel games, where a template is assigned a subset of game symbols from a set of available

game symbols based on probabilities of being selected, and further where the reel game and gaming machine are configured to utilize a defined template (figure 2 and column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 46, where Yoseloff explicitly discloses a subset of game symbols from a complete set of game symbols is selected and assigned to each outcome template). In view of such teachings, it appears an obvious matter of design choice based on a defined template to assign a portion of a reel the consecutive identical symbols, then assign the remainder of the reel and/or other reels a random distribution of game symbols selected from an available set of symbols based on the probability of selection as discussed by Yoseloff. In view of Yoseloff, a combination of Ainsworth and Yoseloff contemplates the reels are adapted for modification based on updating a template, such that a portion of any reel may be changed from the default selection of available symbols to an identical symbol in manner where Yoseloff discloses that certain positions, such as active positional elements may be filled first, thus, specifically modifying a portion of a reel to a specified consecutive run of symbols appears obvious (column 10, lines 8-13). In view of Yoseloff and regards to claims 11 and 12, it appears that modifying the template or the reel strips based on a game event, such modifying a leftwardly adjoining reel or a win element of a preceding reel coinciding with the element of a consecutive run of elements of the preceding reel, would be an obvious matter of design choice as to when to modify the default random selection of the portion of the particular reel to the consecutive identical symbols via the positional flags disclosed by Yoseloff.

Claims 7 & 8: Ainsworth discloses that the game controller selects one potential win element from each of the reels and awards a prize to a player of the game if a predetermined arrangement of the potential win elements are displayed on a pre-defined payline of the matrix of elements when the game sequence is concluded (abstract, figure 7, and column 2, lines 15-24).

Claims 14 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsworth, as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 24, where applicable.

Claim 14: Ainsworth discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for explicitly disclosing that all the symbols of all elements of at least one reel are identical. Nonetheless, it appears that given the teaching of providing consecutive same symbols in a reel would further leads to a mere matter of design choice for purposes of the game being played to expand from consecutive identical symbols on a portion of the reel to the entire reel. It appears that such expanding leads to expected results of a reel strip containing all same identical symbols. For at least this reason, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ainsworth such that an entire reel contained identical symbols for various purposes within the reel game being played (i.e. to increase probability of a win in response to a trigger, a bonus, or the like).

Claim 17: Ainsworth discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for explicitly disclosing the gaming machine is linked to a progressive jackpot controller. Nonetheless, a bank of gaming machines or the like linked to a progressive jackpot controller is notoriously well known in the art requiring mere routine skill to implement the gaming machine of Ainsworth as a gaming machine linked to a progressive jackpot controller. The Examiner asserts that such is notoriously well known in the art and will provide a teaching reference if requested by the Applicant, however, it appears rather clear that progressive linked gaming machines have been known in the art for many years. To implement a gaming machine onto a progressive server, nothing with respect to the game play changes. It appears that certain monies inserted into the gaming machine would need to be divided between an amount dedicated for a progressive pool, while the remaining portion is revenue for the gaming operator and further used to fund stand-alone payouts on the

gaming machine. In view of such known teachings, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the gaming machine of Ainsworth as one of a plurality of gaming machines linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ainsworth, as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 24, where applicable, in view of Aida (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0116175).

Claims 18-20: Ainsworth discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for explicitly disclosing the symbol containing elements are N-sided elements, such that N is variable, including such values as N=4 through N=20. However, Aida, in analogous invention directed to a gaming machine having a spinning reel game, discloses the symbol containing elements are polygons, such as hexagons, squares, and the like (figure 8 and paragraphs 0013-0014). Regardless of the specific game play disclosed by Aida, the display matrix of symbols explicitly shows the use of polygons. A polygon is an N-side element which may have a number of sides, such as where N=4 through N=20 as claimed. Further, it appears that the shape of the symbol containing element is a mere matter of design choice directed to aesthetics, versus functional relevance of the shape of the symbol containing element. It appears that if the shape is a square, a hexagon, or any other polygon formed by N=4 through N=20, no change to the respective reel game occurs, that is, a pre-defined win lines with a random distribution of symbols remains. For at least these reasons, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the generic square shaped symbol containing elements of Ainsworth with more aesthetically appealing polygon shaped symbol containing elements as taught by Aida for at least the purpose of aesthetics.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Applicant is directed to the attached "Notice of References Cited" for additional relevant prior art. The Applicant is requested to review each reference as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milap Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hotaling can be reached on (571) 272-4437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MBS/

/Scott E. Jones/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/299,009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714	Page 1 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A US-6,604,999	08-2003	Ainsworth, Mark	463/20
*	B US-6,159,096	12-2000	Yoseloff, Mark L.	463/20
*	C US-2004/0116175	06-2004	Aida, Eiji	463/016
*	D US-4,448,419	05-1984	Telnaes, Inge S.	463/21
*	E US-5,984,781	11-1999	Sunaga, Isao	463/20
*	F US-6,241,607	06-2001	Payne et al.	463/20
*	G US-2002/0039920	04-2002	Bryant, Natalie	463/20
*	H US-6,394,902	05-2002	Glavich et al.	463/20
*	I US-6,439,993	08-2002	O'Halloran, Terence Matthew	463/16
*	J US-6,464,581	10-2002	Yoseloff et al.	463/20
*	K US-2004/0058727	03-2004	Marks et al.	463/020
*	L US-2004/0266520	12-2004	Aida, Eiji	463/020
*	M US-6,908,381	06-2005	Ellis, Ben	463/13

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N				
	O				
	P				
	Q				
	R				
	S				
	T				

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)				
	U				
	V				
	W				
	X				

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 11/299,009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU	
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714	Page 2 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
*	A US-6,932,700	08-2005	Bennett et al.	463/20
*	B US-2007/0270203	11-2007	Aida, Eiji	463/16
	C US-			
	D US-			
	E US-			
	F US-			
	G US-			
	H US-			
	I US-			
	J US-			
	K US-			
	L US-			
	M US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N				
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	P				
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	T				

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)				
	U				
	V				
	W				
	X				

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
 Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi et al.
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No. DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,624,119	04-1997	Leake, Deborah L.	↘
	2	2005/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo (previously incorrectly cited as 2004/0043083)	
	3	5,807,172	09-1998	Piechowiak	
	4	6,241,607	06-2001	Payne et al.	
	5	6,896,615	05-2005	Berman	
	6	6,960,134	11-2005	Hartl et al.	

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
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CO-PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS COMMONLY OWNED WITH THE PRESENT APPLICATION

EXAMINER NOTE: Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether the claims of any one or more of the following co-pending U.S. patent applications (which are commonly owned with the present application) create any issues of double patenting with respect to any of the claims of the present application; and, where relevant, to consider whether the disclosure of any one or more of the following co-pending applications creates any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether any listed office actions issued in the following co-pending applications create any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application.

SPECIFICATION, DRAWINGS and CLAIMS: Except where indicated, each of the co-pending applications listed below is stored in the USPTO's IFW system. As provided in M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a), copies of the specifications, drawings and claims of these co-pending applications are not enclosed herewith.


Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Serial No.	Filing Date MM-DD-YYYY	Inventor(s)	Pub. No.	Atty. Docket No.	Date(s) of Office Action(s) MM-DD-YYYY
		11/193,153	07-29-2005	Chan	2007/0015565	DUMME55.004AUS	
		11/299,009	12/09/2005	Yoshimi	2006/0247002	DUMME55.005AUS	
		11/413,707	04/28/2006	Yoshimi	2006/0287060	DUMME55.007AUS	Office Action dated 1/28/2008 Response to Office Action of 1/28/2008 filed 7/28/2008
		11/281,258	11/17/2005	Tran	2006/0183533	DUMME55.002AUS	Office Action of 12/13/2007 Response to Office Action of 12/13/2007 filed 3/13/2008 Office Action dated 6/24/2008
		10/583,210	03/26/2007	Quayle	2008/0045300	DUMME55.008APC	Office Action dated 8/07/2008

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ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
EAST - See attached search history.	2/10/2009	/MBS/
Inventor search performed.	2/10/2009	/MBS/

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

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Receipt date: 05/15/2006

11299009 - GAU: 3714

PTO/SB/08 Equivalent

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i> SHEET 1 OF 1	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3713
	Examiner	Unknown
	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear


FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
/MBS/		AU 2004203045 A1	07/29/2004	Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd		
/MBS/		AU 2002301067 A1	06/12/2003	Stargames Corporation Limited		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

2586194:lw
050906

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Index of Claims 	Application/Control No. 11299009	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination YOSHIMI, OSAMU
	Examiner Milap Shah	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	02/10/2009									
	1	✓									
	2	✓									
	3	✓									
	4	✓									
	5	✓									
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	26	✓									
	27	✓									

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 3		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	2006/0183533	8-17-06	Tran et al.	
	2	2006/0247002	12-09-2005	Yoshimi et al.	
	3	2007/0015565	01-18-2007	Edward Chan	
	4	2006/0287060	12-21-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	5	2005/0277460	12-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	6	2006/0247002	11-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	7	2004/0198486	10-2004	Walker et al.	
	8	2006/0183534	08-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	9	2006/0166731	07-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	10	2006/0084498	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	11	2006/0084492	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	12	2004/0053679	03-2004	Getz et al.	
	13	2006/0052155	03-2006	Inoue, Haruo	
	14	2006/0046830	03-2006	Webb, Bayard S.	
	15	2008/0045300	02-21-2008	Quayle et al.	
	16	2004/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	17	2005/0043084	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	18	2004/0038726	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	19	2004/0036218	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	20	2004/0026854	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	21	2004/0017041	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	22	2004/0014517	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	23	2004/0014516	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	24	2004/0012145	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	25	5,152,529	10-1992	Okada, Kazuo	
	26	5,395,111	03-1995	Inoue, Haruo	
	27	5,609,524	03-1997	Inoue, Haruo	
	28	5,611,535	03-18-1997	Tiberio	
	29	5,722,891	03-1998	Inoue, Haruo	

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner Milap Shah
SHEET 2 OF 3		Attorney Docket No. DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	30	5,752,881	05-1998	Inoue, Haruo	
	31	5,976,016	11-1999	Moody et al.	
	32	6,309,299	10-2001	Weiss, Steven A.	
	33	6,319,124	11-2001	Baerlocher et al.	
	34	6,644,664	11-2003	Muir et al.	
	35	6,663,487	12-2003	Ladner, Desmond C.	
	36	6,726,204	04-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	37	6,805,349	10-2004	Baerlocher et al.	
	38	6,880,826	04-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	39	6,893,018	05-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	40	6,905,408	06-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	41	6,910,962	06-2005	Marks et al.	
	42	7,056,213	06-2006	Ching et al.	
	43	7,214,132	05-2007	Inoue, Haruo	
	44	7,311,602	12-2007	Inoue, Haruo	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <i>Country Code-Number-Kind Code</i> Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
	45	JP 2002-325881	11-12-2002	Takasago Electric Ind Co. Ltd		
	46	JP 2003-236055	08-26-2003	Sami KK		
	47	AU 768153	01-31-2002	Aristocrat Technologies Ltd		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
	48	Office Action of 12/13/2007 for Appl. No. 11/281,258 (Atty. Docket No. DUMME55.002AUS)	
	49	Response to Office Action of 12/13/2007 for Appl. No. 11/281,258 dated 3/13/08 (Atty. Docket No. DUMME55.002AUS)	

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Examiner Signature	/Milap Shah/	Date Considered	02/10/2009
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>			

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 3 OF 3		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /MBS/

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
	50	International Search Report on Patentability for PCT Application No. PCT/AU2004/001767 (corresponding to Atty Docket DUMME55.008APC)	↓
	51	Office Action of 1/28/2008 for Appl No. 11/413,707 (Atty Docket No. DUMME55.007AUS)	↓

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EAST Search History

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
S99	0	S96 and yoseloff.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 14:01
S98	23	S97 not S96	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S97	26	(US-20040266520-\$ or US-20080045323-\$ or US-20070270203-\$ or US-20040072610-\$ or US-20020039920-\$ or US-20040058727-\$ or US-20040116175-\$).did. or (US-6644664-\$ or US-6120378-\$ or US-6908381-\$ or US-5722891-\$ or US-5209479-\$ or US-6464581-\$ or US-6439993-\$ or US-7331858-\$ or US-6241607-\$ or US-6796903-\$ or US-6547663-\$ or US-6932700-\$ or US-6394902-\$ or US-5456465-\$ or US-5984781-\$ or US-6604999-\$ or US-4448419-\$ or US-6159096-\$).did. or (JP-2002325881-\$).did.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; JPO	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:59
S96	43	S92 or S93 or S94 or S95	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S95	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58

S94	28	S92 or S93	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S93	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 13:58
S92	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$. DID. OR US-20060183534- \$.DID. OR US- 20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$. DID. OR US-20040053679- \$.DID. OR US- 20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$. DID. OR US-20040043083- \$.DID. OR US- 20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID. OR US-20040036218-\$. DID. OR US-20040026854- \$.DID. OR US- 20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$. DID. OR US-20040012145- \$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$. DID. OR US-5395111-\$. DID. OR US-5609524-\$. DID. OR US-5611535-\$. DID. OR US-5722891-\$. DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:58
S91	24	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((symbol indicia) with hexagon)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 13:30
S90	19	(select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel) same probability	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:26
S89	138	select\$3 with (indicia symbol) with (simulat\$3 virtual) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 12:25

S88	43	S82 or S83 or S84 or S87	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:59
S87	15	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID. OR US-7311602-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
S86	28	S82 or S84	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:58
S85	1	("20040198486").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 11:58
S84	28	S82 or S83	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:57
S83	1	("20060247002").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 11:57
S82	28	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20060287060-\$.DID. OR US-20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$. DID. OR US-20060183534- \$.DID. OR US- 20060166731-\$.DID. OR US-20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$. DID. OR US-20040053679- \$.DID. OR US- 20060052155-\$.DID. OR US-20060046830-\$.DID. OR US-20080045300-\$. DID. OR US-20040043083- \$.DID. OR US- 20050043084-\$.DID. OR US-20040038726-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:55

		OR US-20040036218-\$. DID. OR US-20040026854- \$.DID. OR US- 20040017041-\$.DID. OR US-20040014517-\$.DID. OR US-20040014516-\$. DID. OR US-20040012145- \$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$. DID. OR US-5395111-\$. DID. OR US-5609524-\$. DID. OR US-5611535-\$. DID. OR US-5722891-\$. DID.				
S81	6	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID. OR US-6960134-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 11:54
S80	104	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (random\$3) with (creat\$3 select\$3 assign \$3 populat\$4)) and ("463"/ \$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:12
S79	0	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3) with (populat\$3 creat\$3 select\$3)) and ("463"/\$. ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11
S78	246	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel with (dynamic\$3)) and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:11
S77	11	((simulat\$3 virtual\$3) with reel).ti. and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 10:10
S76	0	("2002065124").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:05
S75	2	((("5611535") or ("6604999")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 10:00
S74	1	("4,836,546").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/10 09:46
S73	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:37

S72	2	"463"/\$.ccls. and (random \$3 with populat\$3 with reel)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/10 09:35
S71	66	("4695053" "4991848" "5152529" "5393061" "5395111" "5449173" "5456465" "5611535" "5722891" "5775692" "5876284" "5980384" "5984781" "5984782" "5997401" "6056642" "6059289" "6089977" "6102798" "6126541" "6126542" "6142873" "6142874" "6142875" "D400597").PN. OR ("6394902").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:57
S70	1	("6394902").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2009/02/09 17:56
S69	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53
S68	14	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and ((duplicat\$3 chang\$3 replac\$3 modif \$4) with consecutiv\$3 with (indicia symbol))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:53
S67	98	(modif\$5 chang\$3 updat \$3 upgrad\$3 alter\$3 replac \$3 duplicat\$3) with (indicia symbol element object) with (virtual simulat\$3) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:49
S66	168	S62 not (S64 or S65)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:47
S65	69	S62 and (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S64	9	S62 and ((indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S63	0	S62 and (identical with (indicia symbol) with (run consecutiv\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43
S62	245	S61 and ("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:43

S61	250	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42
S60	27	dynamic\$4 with (virtual simulated) with reel	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:42
S59	1	("2002/0039920").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:26
S58	20	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with strip with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S57	196	("463"/\$.ccls. or "273"/\$.ccls.) and reel with map\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:22
S56	8	("3580581" "4448419" "4711451" "5630753" "5902184").PN. OR ("6796903").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 17:20
S55	4	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S54	0	(reel with strip) same (increas\$3 with probability) same (identical)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:43
S53	6	(reel with strip) same ((multiple plurality) with identical with (indicia symbol element object))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:42
S52	30	reel with duplicat\$5 with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S51	1	reel with replac\$3 with identical with (indicia symbol)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:40
S50	4	reel with upgrad\$3 with (bonus feature trigg\$3)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:39
S49	7	reel with consecutiv\$3 with identical	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2009/02/09 16:38
S48	131	S47 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59

S47	315	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((convert \$3 chang\$3 alter\$3 modif \$3) with (adjacent\$3 next) with (symbol indicia element position))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 20:59
S46	2	KHOSLA.in. and "463"/\$.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55
S45	207	KHOSLA.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:55
S44	1	("2002325881").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S43	1	("2001134916").PN.	JPO	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 19:03
S42	29	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S41	14	S39 and (slot symbol indicia)	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 19:00
S40	41	("5209479").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:55
S39	78	"463"/\$.ccls. and (kinoshita.in. takahashi.in. miyaya.in.)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:52
S38	10	("4037845" "5722891" "5997401" "6186894" "6220959" "6241607" "6270412" "6394902" "6413162" "6471208").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:27
S37	17	((every each) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16
S36	0	(all with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip) with ("same" identical))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:16
S35	11	"463"/\$.ccls. and (expand \$3 with (symbol indicia) with (consecutiv\$3 adjacent\$3 next))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:14
S34	118	S33 and 463/16-22.ccls.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:11

S33	139	S23 not (S32 S19)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S32	48	S31 or S26 or S24 or S25	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S31	28	S29 or S30	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S30	25	(("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or ("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S29	27	S27 or S28	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S28	4	(("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10

S27	24	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$. DID. OR US-20060166731- \$.DID. OR US- 20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$. DID. OR US-20060052155- \$.DID. OR US- 20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$. DID. OR US-20040038726- \$.DID. OR US- 20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$. DID. OR US-20040014517- \$.DID. OR US- 20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S26	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S25	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 18:10
S24	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10

S23	144	S21 or S22	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S22	82	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (adjacent\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S21	87	"463"/\$.ccls. and ((reel strip wheel) with (symbol indicia) with (identical "same" cop\$3 copy\$3 duplicat\$3 mirror\$3) with (consecutiv\$3 row\$3))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 18:10
S20	35	S19 not S18	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57
S19	55	463/16-22.ccls. and ((duplicat\$5 mirror\$3 cop \$3 copy\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (reel strip))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:57
S18	23	463/16-22.ccls. and ((copy \$3 mirro\$3) with (symbol indicia) with (position reel))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:54
S17	14	("6120378" "6123333" "6126542" "6173955" "6213876" "6336860").PN. OR ("6644664").URPN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:52
S16	1	("6644664").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:49
S15	2	((("5976016") or ("5624119"))).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:46
S14	5	((("5611535" "5807172" "6241607" "6896615" "6960134"))).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:41
S13	3	((("5611535") or ("6241607") or ("20080045323"))).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 17:29
S12	0	("2006/0183534").URPN.	USPAT	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:27

S11	44	"463"/\$.ccls. and (consecutiv\$5 with (identical "same") with (symbol indicia))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 17:25
S10	48	S9 or S3 or S1 or S2	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:35
S9	28	S6 or S8	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:32
S8	25	(("20060183533") or ("20060247002") or ("20070015565") or ("20050277460") or ("20060247002") or ("20040198486") or ("20060183534") or ("20060166731") or ("20060084498") or ("20060084492") or ("20040053679") or ("20060052155") or ("20080045300") or ("20040043083") or ("20050043084") or ("20040038726") or ("20040036218") or ("20040026854") or ("20040017041") or ("20040014517") or ("20040012145") or ("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:32
S7	5	(("5,152,529") or ("5,395,111") or ("5,609,524") or ("5,611,535") or ("5,722,891")).PN. or ((2006/0183533) or (2006/0247002) or (2007/0015565) or (2005/0277460) or (2006/0247002) or (2004/0198486) or (2006/0183534) or (2006/0166731) or (2006/0084498) or (2006/0084492) or (2004/0053679) or	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:31

		(2006/0052155) or (2008/0045300) or (2004/0043083) or (2005/0043084) or (2004/0038726) or (2004/0036218) or (2004/0026854) or (2004/0017041) or (2004/0014517) or (2004/0012145)).OCLS.				
S6	27	S4 or S5	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:30
S5	4	(("20060287060") or ("20060046830") or ("20040014516") or ("20040012145")).PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:30
S4	24	US-20060183533-\$.DID. OR US-20060247002-\$. DID. OR US-20070015565- \$.DID. OR US- 20050277460-\$.DID. OR US-20040198486-\$.DID. OR US-20060183534-\$. DID. OR US-20060166731- \$.DID. OR US- 20060084498-\$.DID. OR US-20060084492-\$.DID. OR US-20040053679-\$. DID. OR US-20060052155- \$.DID. OR US- 20080045300-\$.DID. OR US-20040043083-\$.DID. OR US-20050043084-\$. DID. OR US-20040038726- \$.DID. OR US- 20040036218-\$.DID. OR US-20040026854-\$.DID. OR US-20040017041-\$. DID. OR US-20040014517- \$.DID. OR US- 20040012145-\$.DID. OR US-5152529-\$.DID. OR US-5395111-\$.DID. OR US-5609524-\$.DID. OR US-5611535-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:23

S3	14	US-5752881-\$.DID. OR US-5976016-\$.DID. OR US-6309299-\$.DID. OR US-6319124-\$.DID. OR US-6644664-\$.DID. OR US-6663487-\$.DID. OR US-6726204-\$.DID. OR US-6805349-\$.DID. OR US-6880826-\$.DID. OR US-6893018-\$.DID. OR US-6905408-\$.DID. OR US-6910962-\$.DID. OR US-7056213-\$.DID. OR US-7214132-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:22
S2	1	("6,960,134").PN.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	OFF	2008/11/05 16:20
S1	5	US-5624119-\$.DID. OR US-20050043083-\$.DID. OR US-5807172-\$.DID. OR US-6241607-\$.DID. OR US-6896615-\$.DID.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	OR	ON	2008/11/05 16:19

2/ 10/ 2009 2:32:32 PM

C:\Documents and Settings\mshah3\My Documents\EAST\Workspaces\11299009.wsp

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Yoshimi et al.
App. No	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Milap Shah
Art Unit	:	3714

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing six (6) references to be considered by the Examiner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required. If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/23/08

By: _____

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(951) 781-9231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Yoshimi et al.	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 1		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,624,119	04-1997	Leake, Deborah L.	
	2	2005/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo (previously incorrectly cited as 2004/0043083)	
	3	5,807,172	09-1998	Piechowiak	
	4	6,241,607	06-2001	Payne et al.	
	5	6,896,615	05-2005	Berman	
	6	6,960,134	11-2005	Hartl et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹

CO-PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS COMMONLY OWNED WITH THE PRESENT APPLICATION							
<p>EXAMINER NOTE: Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether the claims of any one or more of the following co-pending U.S. patent applications (which are commonly owned with the present application) create any issues of double patenting with respect to any of the claims of the present application; and, where relevant, to consider whether the disclosure of any one or more of the following co-pending applications creates any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider whether any listed office actions issued in the following co-pending applications create any issues of patentability with respect to any of the claims of the present application.</p> <p>SPECIFICATION, DRAWINGS and CLAIMS: Except where indicated, each of the co-pending applications listed below is stored in the USPTO's IFW system. As provided in M.P.E.P. § 609.04(a), copies of the specifications, drawings and claims of these co-pending applications are <u>not</u> enclosed herewith.</p>							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Serial No.	Filing Date MM-DD-YYYY	Inventor(s)	Pub. No.	Atty. Docket No.	Date(s) of Office Action(s) MM-DD-YYYY
		11/193,153	07-29-2005	Chan	2007/0015565	DUMME55.004AUS	
		11/299,099	12/09/2005	Yoshimi	2006/0247002	DUMME55.005AUS	
		11/413,707	04/28/2006	Yoshimi	2006/0287060	DUMME55.007AUS	Office Action dated 1/28/2008 Response to Office Action of 1/28/2008 filed 7/28/2008
		11/281,258	11/17/2005	Tran	2006/0183533	DUMME55.002AUS	Office Action of 12/13/2007 Response to Office Action of 12/13/2007 filed 3/13/2008 Office Action dated 6/24/2008
		10/583,210	03/26/2007	Quayle	2008/0045300	DUMME55.008APC	Office Action dated 8/07/2008

5973536:lw
092308

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	3996727
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Valerie Jones
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	24-SEP-2008
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	15:11:25
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Information Disclosure Statement Letter	IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.PDF	110850 <small>d05e35334b0a5008691619b5acd5cb37a51f9376</small>	no	2

Warnings:

Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant	:	Osamu Yoshimi
App. No	:	11/299,009
Filed	:	December 9, 2005
For	:	GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner	:	Milap Shah
Art Unit	:	3714

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing 51 references to be considered by the Examiner. Also enclosed are 7 foreign patent references and/or non-patent literature as listed on the Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required. If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3/18/07

By: _____

Michael H. Ivenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(951) 781-9231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 1 OF 3		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number <i>Number - Kind Code (if known)</i> Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	2006/0183533	8-17-06	Tran et al.	
	2	2006/0247002	12-09-2005	Yoshimi et al.	
	3	2007/0015565	01-18-2007	Edward Chan	
	4	2006/0287060	12-21-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	5	2005/0277460	12-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	6	2006/0247002	11-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	7	2004/0198486	10-2004	Walker et al.	
	8	2006/0183534	08-2006	Yoshimi, Osamu	
	9	2006/0166731	07-2006	Yoshimi et al.	
	10	2006/0084498	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	11	2006/0084492	04-2006	Baerlocker et al.	
	12	2004/0053679	03-2004	Getz et al.	
	13	2006/0052155	03-2006	Inoue, Haruo	
	14	2006/0046830	03-2006	Webb, Bayard S.	
	15	2008/0045300	02-21-2008	Quayle et al.	
	16	2004/0043083	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	17	2005/0043084	02-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	18	2004/0038726	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	19	2004/0036218	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	20	2004/0026854	02-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	21	2004/0017041	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	22	2004/0014517	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	23	2004/0014516	01/2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	24	2004/0012145	01-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	25	5,152,529	10-1992	Okada, Kazuo	
	26	5,395,111	03-1995	Inoue, Haruo	
	27	5,609,524	03-1997	Inoue, Haruo	
	28	5,611,535	03-18-1997	Tiberio	
	29	5,722,891	03-1998	Inoue, Haruo	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009	
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi	
	Art Unit	3714	
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>		Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 2 OF 3		Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	30	5,752,881	05-1998	Inoue, Haruo	
	31	5,976,016	11-1999	Moody et al.	
	32	6,309,299	10-2001	Weiss, Steven A.	
	33	6,319,124	11-2001	Baerlocher et al.	
	34	6,644,664	11-2003	Muir et al.	
	35	6,663,487	12-2003	Ladner, Desmond C.	
	36	6,726,204	04-2004	Inoue, Haruo	
	37	6,805,349	10-2004	Baerlocher et al.	
	38	6,880,826	04-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	39	6,893,018	05-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	40	6,905,408	06-2005	Inoue, Haruo	
	41	6,910,962	06-2005	Marks et al.	
	42	7,056,213	06-2006	Ching et al.	
	43	7,214,132	05-2007	Inoue, Haruo	
	44	7,311,602	12-2007	Inoue, Haruo	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
	45	JP 2002-325881	11-12-2002	Takasago Electric Ind Co. Ltd		
	46	JP 2003-236055	08-26-2003	Sami KK		
	47	AU 768153	01-31-2002	Aristocrat Technologies Ltd		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
	48	Office Action of 12/13/2007 for Appl. No. 11/281,258 (Atty. Docket No. DUMME55.002AUS)	
	49	Response to Office Action of 12/13/2007 for Appl. No. 11/281,258 dated 3/13/08 (Atty. Docket No. DUMME55.002AUS)	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3714
<i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Examiner	Milap Shah
SHEET 3 OF 3	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹
	50	International Search Report on Patentability for PCT Application No. PCT/AU2004/001767 (corresponding to Atty Docket DUMME55.008APC)	
	51	Office Action of 1/28/2008 for Appl No. 11/413,707 (Atty Docket No. DUMME55.007AUS)	

5029446:lw
031808

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	3022141
Application Number:	11299009
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Nicole Lauer
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	20-MAR-2008
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	15:22:24
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes) /Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Foreign Reference	jp2002325881_2008031908 2611.pdf	35865 <small>fa3e5fa85f3465f9607a55edd863f8a277 8723b6</small>	no	1

Warnings:

Information:

2	Foreign Reference	jp2003236055_2008031908 2848.pdf	38989	no	1
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Information:					
3	Foreign Reference	au768153_20080319083241 .pdf	540162	no	15
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Warnings:					
Information:					
4	NPL Documents	isrdumme55008_200803190 83102.pdf	466919	no	9
			f44fe49d675aa6268027130636175221 67752d6		
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Information Disclosure Statement Letter	IDS_DUMME55-006AUS.pdf	200780	no	4
			26473e4ffc345385bf13fcc707eae6767 61bed7f1		
Warnings:					
Information:					
6	NPL Documents	OA121307_DUMME55-002A US.pdf	478494	no	13
			34b26c4dea3ce61b3f6777a1ddf64700 46038a2b		
Warnings:					
Information:					
7	NPL Documents	OA_DUMME55-007AUS.pdf	769947	no	24
			e5bb8a77622f3d210beb69bb898caa6e 99a8a085		
Warnings:					
Information:					
8	NPL Documents	OAR_DUMME55-002AUS.p df	384276	no	8
			89b85031ebdf8a8b3446e166c547dbc1 bc4ebd3e		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			2915432		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: 2002325881 A
(43) Date of publication of application: 12.11.2002

(51) Int. Cl. A63F 5/04

(21) Application number: 2001134916
(22) Date of filing: 02.05.2001

(71) Applicant: TAKASAGO ELECTRIC IND CO LTD
(72) Inventor: KINOSHITA SHUNICHI
TAKAHASHI TOSHITAKA
MIYATA MASAKI

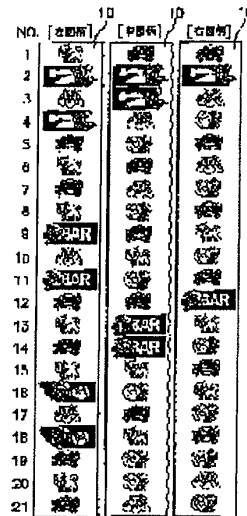
(54) SLOT MACHINE

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a slot machine which is improved in visibility for a specific symbol placed on the outer periphery face of a reel to make Meashi (pushing a button to stop the reel at a desired position) easier.

SOLUTION: At least two or more specific symbols and a plurality of non-specific symbols are placed on the outer periphery face of a reel in this slot machine. Non-specific symbols are placed in a prescribed width area while specific symbols are made laterally longer than non-specific symbols and at least one side of both right and left sides is projected from the prescribed width area and one side projecting part is made a colored almost rectangular shape and distributed to either right or left corresponding to the kind of a specific symbol.

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(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: 2003236055 A
(43) Date of publication of application: 26.08.2003

(51) Int. Cl. A63F 5/04

(21) Application number: 2002042454
(22) Date of filing: 20.02.2002

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SAITO MASAYA
IIZUKA HIROKI
KIKUCHI AKIHITO

(54) SLOT MACHINE

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To create a game state advantageous to a user under specified conditions and enhance game property when a game is continued while winning a special extra bonus is carried over.

SOLUTION: The stop control of reels when winning a particular minor extra bonus (a minor extra bonus 2) includes a first stop control (1) of the reel for winning the minor extra bonus regardless of operational order of a stop switch, a second stop control (3) of the reel for preventing the winning of the minor extra bonus regardless of the operating order of the stop switch, and a third stop control (2), (4), (5) of the reel for winning the minor extra bonus when the stop switch is operated by a predetermined order. When the particular minor extra bonus is won while a special extra bonus is not

won, one stop control of the reels is selected from a plurality of stop controls of the reels including the first stop control of the reel (1) and the second stop control of the reel (3). When the particular minor extra bonus is won while the winning of FB is carried over, one stop control of the reels is selected from a plurality of stop controls of the reels which include the first stop control of the reel (1) and the third stop control of the reel (4), (5) but do not include the second stop control of the reel (3).

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Table with 4 columns and 4 rows containing symbols like O, X, and Y, likely representing a game state matrix.

(12) PATENT APPLICATION	(11) Application No. AU 200154219 A1	
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE		
(54) Title	Gaming machine with uneven paylines	
(51) ⁷ International Patent Classification(s)	A63F 013/00 G06F 019/00 A63F 005/04 G07F 017/34	
(21) Application No: 200154219	(22) Application Date: 2001.07.04	
(30) Priority Data		
(31) Number	(32) Date	(33) Country
9079/00	2000.07.28	AU
(43) Publication Date :	2002.01.31	
(43) Publication Journal Date :	2002.01.31	
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ABSTRACT

A gaming machine 10 has a display 14 and a game controller arranged to control images displayed on the display 14. The game controller is arranged to play a game 16 wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display 14 and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine 10 awards a prize. A matrix of symbol positions is displayed on the display 14 and at least one payline is associated with the matrix. The payline is comprised of an equal number of symbol positions as there are columns in the matrix but passes through fewer than all of the columns.



AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd

ORIGINAL

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
STANDARD PATENT



Invention Title:

Gaming machine with uneven paylines

The following statement is a full description of this invention including the best method of performing it known to us:-

Gaming Machine with Uneven Paylines

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a gaming machine. More particularly, the invention relates to a gaming machine and to an improvement to a game played on such a gaming machine.

5

Background to the Invention

Players who regularly play gaming machines quickly tire of particular games and therefore it is necessary for manufacturers of these machines to develop innovative game features which add interest to the games. In so doing, it is hoped to keep players amused and therefore willing to continue playing the game as well as to attract new players.

10

Also, with the growth that has occurred in the gaming machine market, there is intense competition between manufacturers to supply various existing and new venues. When selecting a supplier of gaming machines, the operator of a venue will often pay close attention to the popularity of various games with their patrons. Therefore, gaming machine manufacturers are keen to devise games and/or game features which are popular with the players as a mechanism for improving sales, retaining customers and attracting new customers.

15

20

Summary of the Invention

According to the invention, there is provided a gaming machine having a display means and a game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a game wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize, the gaming machine being characterized in that a matrix of symbol positions is displayed and in that at least one payline is associated with the matrix, said at least one payline being comprised of an equal number of symbol positions as there are columns in the matrix but passing through fewer than all of the columns.

25

30

Preferably, the matrix is constituted by visible display positions of conventional spinning reels. In other words, to form a 3x5 matrix, there may be five reels each having three visible display positions. For ease of explanation, the invention will be described with reference to its application

35



as a five reel game. Hence, the at least one payline may pass through more than one symbol position in respect of at least one of the reels. As a result, the at least one reel may have the same symbols in adjacent reel strip positions.

5 In another embodiment of the invention, the matrix may be made up of discrete symbol-carrying elements, such as individual reels. In other words, each symbol-carrying element may be a reel so that, in the case of a 3x5 matrix, there are fifteen reels.

10 The at least one payline may have a variety of patterns. For example, the payline may have a T-shape, a T-shape lying on its side, a cross shape, a tick shape, or the like. Still further, the term "payline", in this specification is to be understood in a broad sense as including associated, but non-adjoining display positions of the reels. Thus, the at least one payline may be discontinuous or interrupted and may be made up of non-adjoining display positions of the reels. As an example, the relevant payline may be made up of the symbols at the four corner positions of the reels plus the symbol at the central position of a centre reel in the case of a five reel display.

15 The at least one payline may be provided instead of, or in addition to, standard gaming machine paylines presently in use.

20 The at least one payline may vary automatically from game to game. Instead, a player may be able to select the pattern of the at least one payline which that player desires.

25 The at least one payline may be highlighted, in use. In addition, a pattern constituting said at least one payline may be superimposed over the display positions on the display means. Thus, in the case of a spinning reel game, the pattern may be superimposed over the reels which may appear to spin behind the pattern.

30 A prize paid in respect of a winning combination of symbols on the at least one payline may have an increased value in comparison with a prize paid for the same winning combination appearing on standard paylines of the gaming machine. In addition, the prize combination for the at least one payline may pay for the symbols appearing anywhere on said payline even when standard paylines pay only in respect of a predetermined arrangement of symbols, for example, a left-to-right combination of symbols.

35

Brief Description of the Drawings



The invention is now described by way of example with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows a three dimensional view of a gaming machine, in accordance with the invention;

5 Figure 2 shows a block diagram of a control circuit of the gaming machine;

Figures 3 to 6 show various embodiments of screen displays of games including bonus paylines, in accordance with the invention; and

10 Figure 7 shows a flow chart of the game played on the gaming machine.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

In Figure 1, reference numeral 10 generally designates a gaming machine, including a game, in accordance with the invention. The machine 10 includes a console 12 having a video display unit 14 on which a game 16 is played, in use. The game 16 is a spinning reel game which simulates the rotation of a number of spinning reels 18. A midtrim 20 of the machine 10 houses a bank 22 of buttons for enabling a player to play the game 16. The midtrim 20 also houses a credit input mechanism 24 including a coin input chute 24.1 and a bill collector 24.2.

20 The machine 10 includes a top box 26 on which artwork 28 is carried. The artwork 28 includes paytables, details of bonus awards, etc.

A coin tray 30 is mounted beneath the console 12 for cash payouts from the machine 10.

25 Referring now to Figure 2 of the drawings, a control means or control circuit 40 is illustrated. A program which implements the game and user interface is run on a processor 42 of the control circuit 40. The processor 42 forms part of a controller 44 which drives the screen of the video display unit 14 and which receives input signals from sensors 46. The sensors 46 include sensors associated with the bank 22 of buttons and touch sensors mounted in the screen. The controller 44 also receives input pulses from the mechanism 24 indicating that a player has provided sufficient credit to commence playing. The mechanism 24 may, instead of the coin input chute 24.1 or the bill collector 24.2, or in addition thereto, be a credit card reader (not shown) or any other type of validation device.

Finally, the controller 44 drives a payout mechanism 48 which, for example, may be a coin hopper for feeding coins to the coin tray 30 to make a pay out to a player when the player wishes to redeem his or her credit.

Referring to Figures 3 to 6 of the drawings, various examples of screen displays 50 of the game 16 are shown. The game 16 is a five reel spinning reel type game. The game has three standard paylines 52 and a special pattern or bonus payline 54 that changes from game to game. Whenever a player commences a game and the reels 18 start spinning a pattern is highlighted over the symbols indicating the special pattern payline 54 or bonus payline 54. Winning combinations of symbols on the special pattern payline 54 are determined in the same way as they are for the standard paylines but the prizes for the same combinations are multiplied by five. In a preferred form of the invention, a new bonus payline 54 is selected for every game played.

The feature of the special pattern payline 54 may occur automatically for each game or, instead, the player may have to make an additional bet in order for the special pattern payline 54 to be applicable.

All the paylines 52 and 54 are made up of five symbols when the game 16 is a five reel game. It is also to be noted that the special payline 54 does not pass through all the reels 18. Accordingly, as illustrated in the fifth reel 18 in Figures 3 to 6 of the drawings, identical symbols are placed next to each other in certain positions on at least one of the reel strips in order for maximum prize combinations to apply to the special pattern payline or bonus payline 54. This also means that the probabilities relating to each combination will be different for different patterns and different to those for standard paylines. Since it is more difficult to achieve a winning combination on the special pattern paylines 54, a bonus, as described above, is paid for such combinations.

In the example shown in Figure 3 of the drawings, the special pattern payline 54 is a T-shaped payline centred on the central reel 18. In the example shown in Figure 4 of the drawings, the special pattern payline 54 is a T-shape lying on its side with a "cap" of the T lying on the fifth reel 18. In the example shown in Figure 5 of the drawings, the special pattern payline 54 is in the form of a cross centred on the central reel 18 and the first or centre payline 52. In the example shown in Figure 6 of the drawings, the special pattern payline 54 is in the form of a tick.



It will also be appreciated that the special pattern payline 54 may not be continuous and individual, non-adjoining symbol positions could constitute the special pattern payline 54. Thus, for example, in respect of a five reel game, the four corner symbol positions and the centre symbol position of the central reel 18 could constitute the special pattern payline 54.

It will be appreciated that, instead of each reel being made up of a continuous reel strip, the game 16 could comprise 15 separate reels where each reel provides a symbol position.

Hence, it is an advantage of the invention that a special pattern payline 54 is provided which, the applicant believes, will enhance player interest and increase player attraction.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.



THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. A gaming machine having a display means and a game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a game wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize, the gaming machine being characterized in that a matrix of symbol positions is displayed and in that at least one payline is associated with the matrix, said at least one payline being comprised of an equal number of symbol positions as there are columns in the matrix but passing through fewer than all of the columns.
- 2. The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the matrix is constituted by visible display positions of conventional spinning reels.
- 3. The gaming machine of claim 2 in which said at least one payline passes through more than one symbol position in respect of at least one of the reels.
- 4. The gaming machine of claim 3 in which said at least one reel has the same symbols in adjacent reel strip positions.
- 5. The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the matrix is made up of discrete symbol-carrying elements.
- 6. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which said at least one payline has a variety of patterns.
- 7. The gaming machine of claim 6 in which said at least one payline is discontinuous and is made up of non-adjoining symbol positions.
- 8. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which said at least one payline is provided instead of standard gaming machine paylines presently in use.
- 9. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which said at least one payline varies automatically from game to game.



10. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 8 inclusive, in which a player is able to select the pattern of said at least one payline which that player desires.

5

11. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which said at least one payline is highlighted, in use.

12. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which a pattern constituting said at least one payline is superimposed over the display positions on the display means.

13. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which a prize paid in respect of a winning combination of symbols on said at least one payline has an increased value in comparison with a prize paid for the same winning combination appearing on standard paylines of the gaming machine.

14. The gaming machine of any one of the preceding claims in which the prize combination for said at least one payline pays for the symbols appearing anywhere on said payline even when standard paylines pay only in respect of a predetermined arrangement of symbols.

15. A gaming machine as claimed in claim 1 and substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

25



Dated this fourth day of July 2001

Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty
Ltd
Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:

F B RICE & CO

1/5

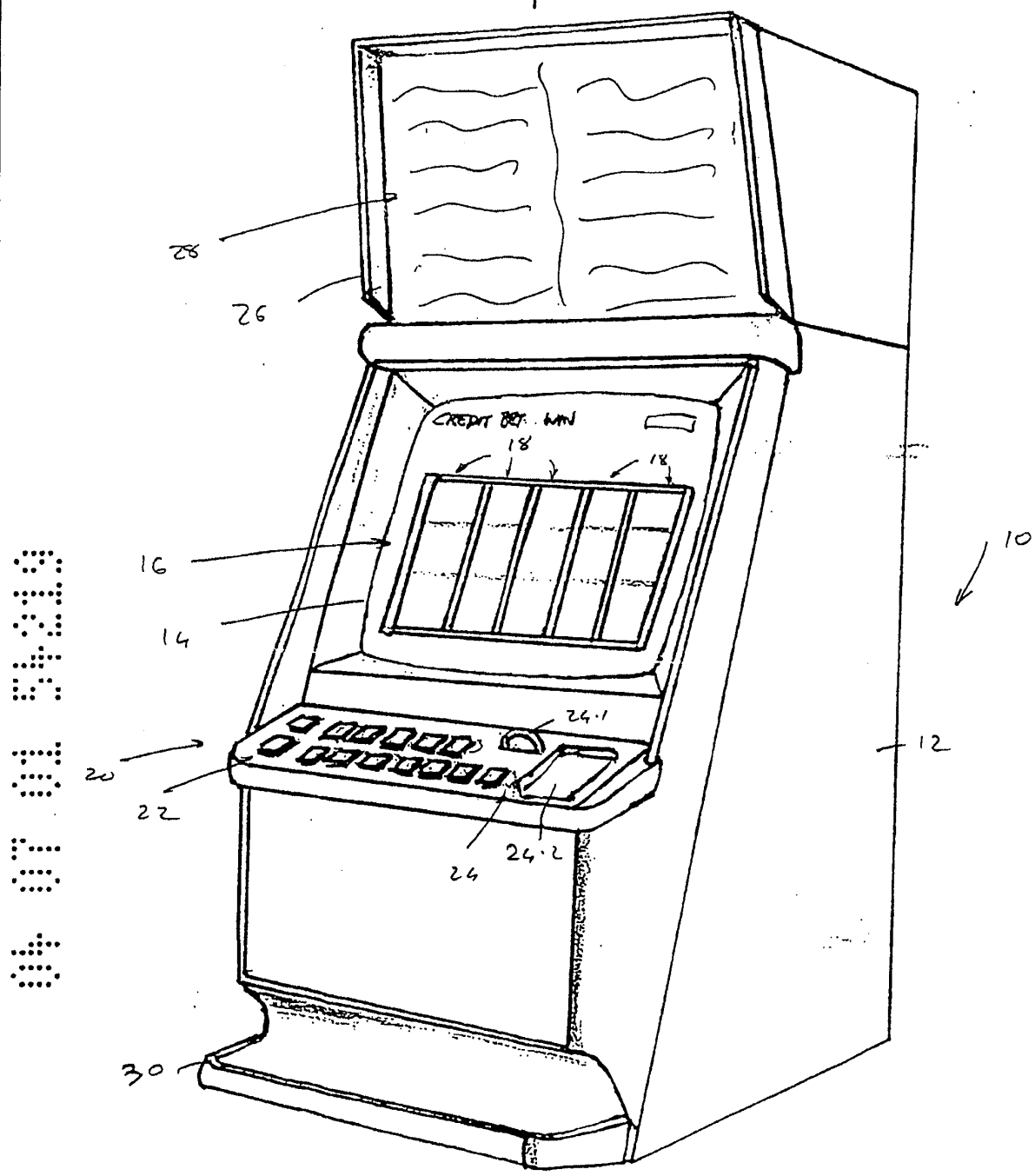


FIG. 1

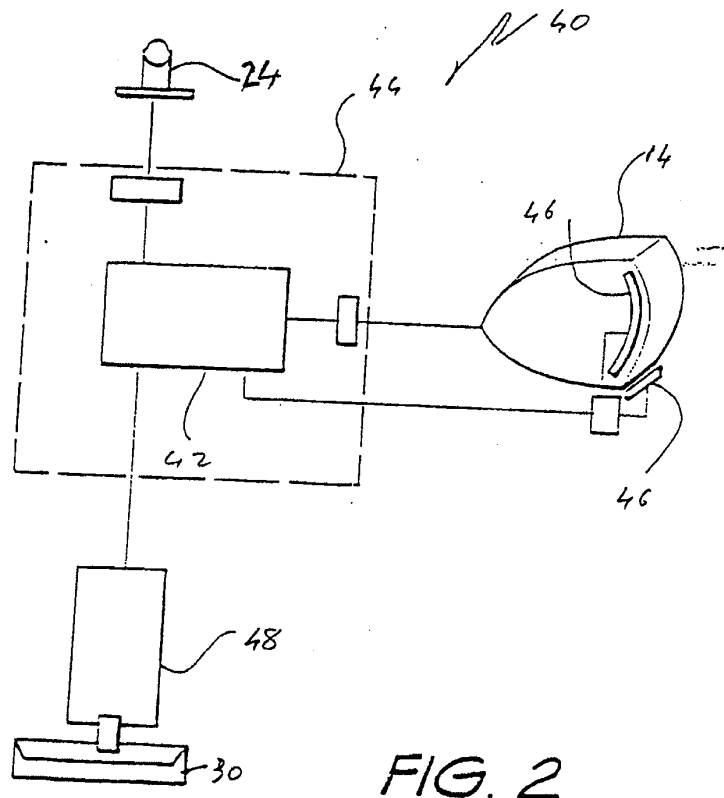


FIG. 2



3/5

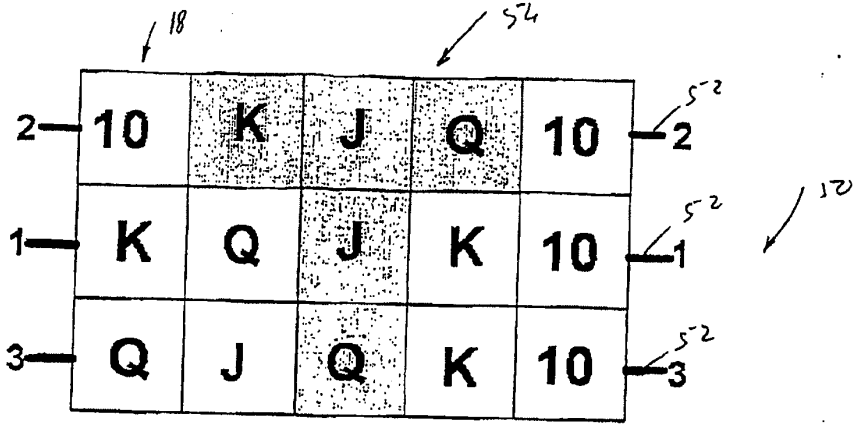


FIG. 3

3
2
1
3

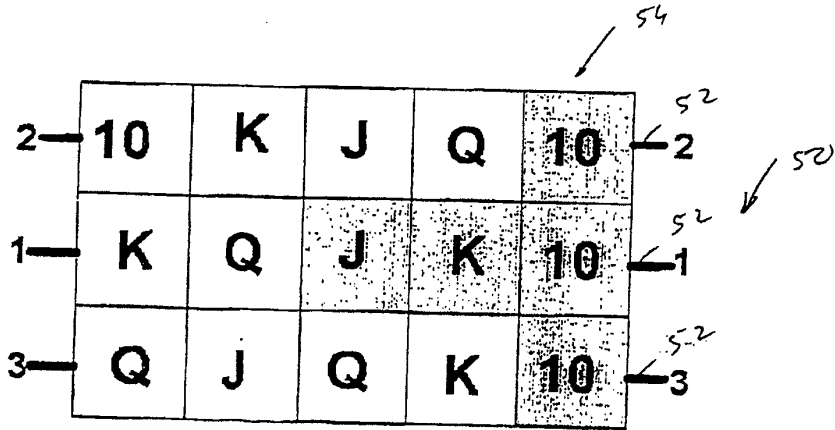


FIG. 4

4/5

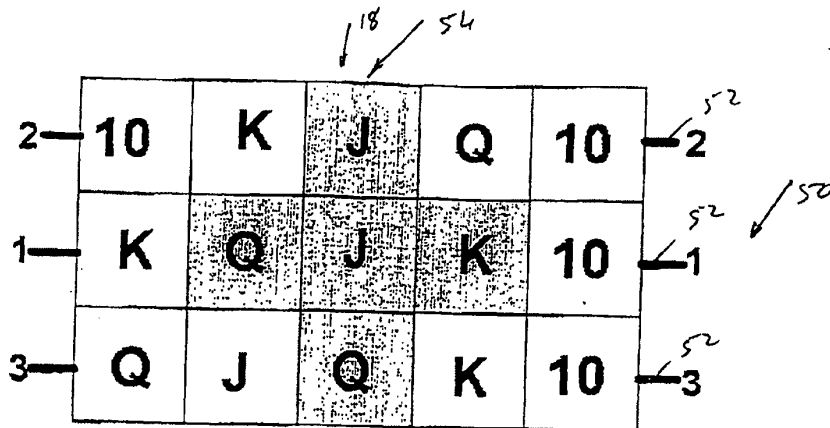


FIG. 5

5
5
5
5
5

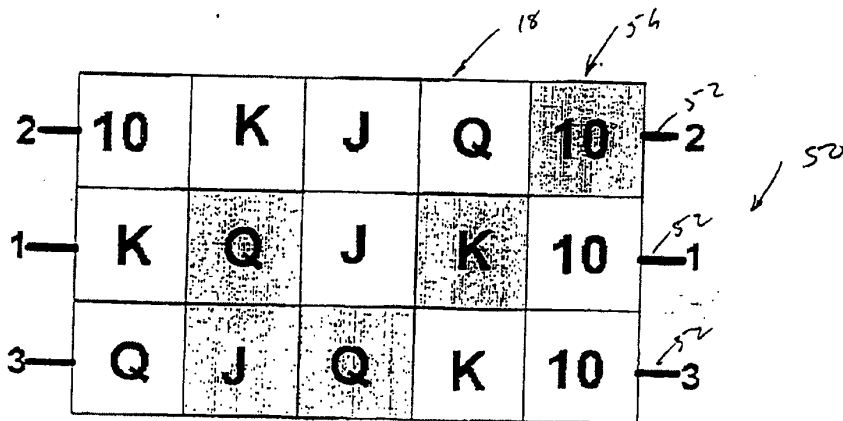


FIG. 6

5/5

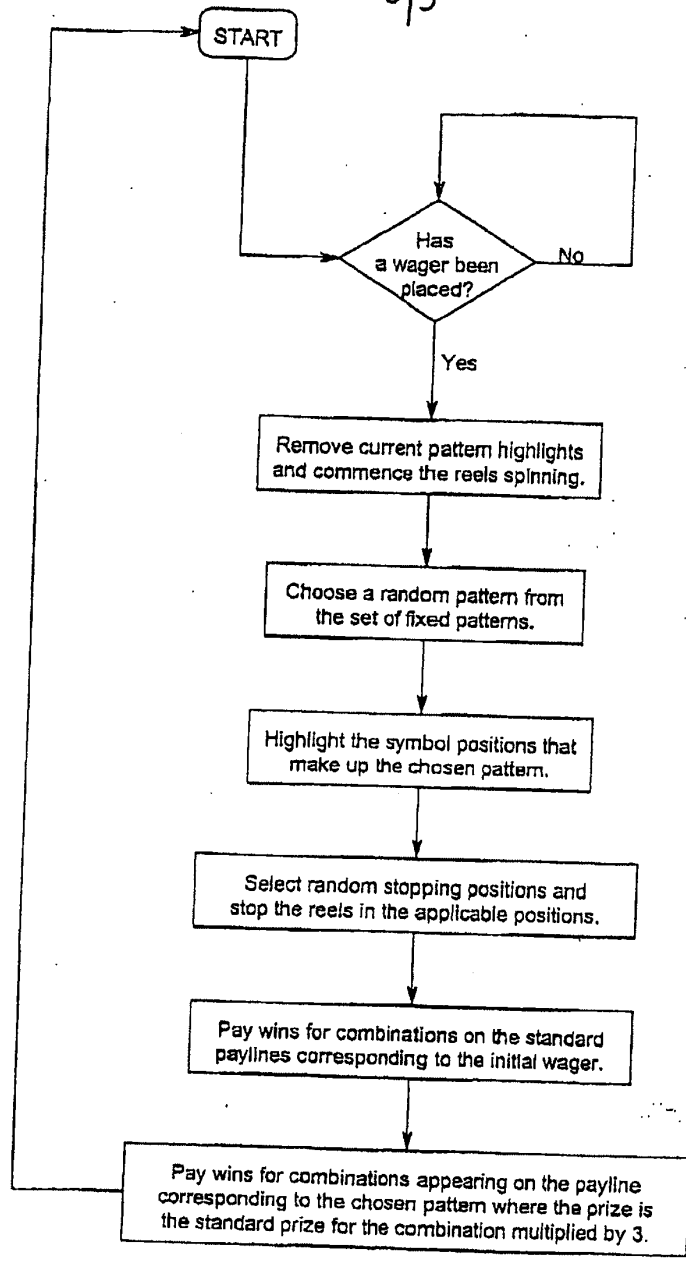
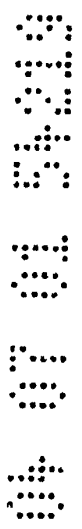


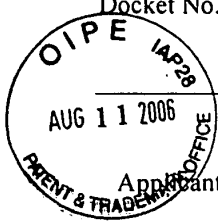
Fig. 7

Docket No.: DUMME55.006AUS

August 3, 2006

Page 1 of 1

JFW



Please Direct All Correspondence to Customer Number **20995**

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Applicant : Osamu Yoshimi
 App. No : 11/299,009
 Filed : December 9, 2005
 For : GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
 Examiner : Unknown
 Art Unit : 3713

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

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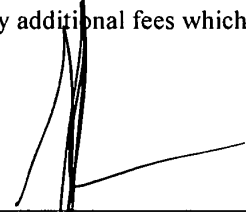
Michael H. Trenholm, Reg. No. 37,743

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 Michael H. Trenholm
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I, MICHELLE HENKEL, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2005900681 for a patent by KONAMI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD as filed on 14 February 2005.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-eighth day of June 2006

Michelle Henkel

MICHELLE HENKEL
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

2005900681 14 Feb 2005

P/00/009
Regulation 3.2

AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title:

GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS

The invention is described in the following statement:

Our Ref: 041057

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GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS

The present invention relates to gaming machines for the playing of games of chance and, more particularly, to special features of games or feature games which may be offered on such machines.

BACKGROUND

Gaming, or poker machines, have become a major source of amusement and diversion in such places as clubs, hotels and casinos in many parts of the world.

Traditionally such machines were mechanical devices where a number of reels marked with a plurality of numbers or symbols could be made to spin randomly by the application of some mechanical input. If the subsequent patterns of numbers or symbols displayed on the reels, when these returned to a rest state, corresponded to predetermined patterns, the machine would provide a prize or payout. Generally such gaming machines have come to be regulated by government authorities as to their number and in the manner in which the machines must return a percentage of the monetary turnover to the players.

The introduction of electronics, computers and electronic graphical displays, has allowed a continual increase in the complexity and variations of gaming machines, games and displays while maintaining the basic concept of the traditional machine. Nevertheless, in some

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jurisdictions at least, government regulations effectively restrict the degree of variation which may be incorporated in games played on coin-freed machines.

5 Machines and games therefore that offer novel and stimulating variations on the basic game theme and environment, yet comply with these restrictions are eagerly sought by the gaming industry and there is consequently intense competition between machine manufacturers to innovate.

10 Games based on simulated rotatable reels typically display a matrix of elements each of which displays a symbol. Predetermined patterns of symbols, if displayed after the reels are spun and come to rest, may then award a prize to the player of the game. Typically also, the
15 symbols are arranged in the elements of a reel so that adjoining elements do not display the same symbol.

An exception to this is found for example in Australian Patent Application number 2004203045 (Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd), in which arrangements are
20 envisaged where two special symbols may occur adjacent one to the other.

A similar exception is found in Australian Patent Application number 2002301067 (Stargames Corporation Limited), in which a specific symbol and the number of its
25 occurrences in the display at the conclusion of a game sequence, is determinant of a win. As indicated in Fig. 2

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of the specification, two such symbols may appear in adjoining elements of a reel.

Both these examples of the prior art allow for only a single predetermined or special symbol to take up such adjacent positions on a reel.

It is an object of the present invention to address or at least ameliorate some of the above disadvantages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

Accordingly, in a first broad form of the invention, there is provided a gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.

Preferably, said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.

Preferably, each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.

Preferably, said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements.

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Preferably, said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.

Preferably, each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

Preferably, said game controller selects one potential win element from each said reel.

Preferably, a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

Preferably, elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

Preferably, each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a said identical symbol.

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Preferably, said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

5 Preferably, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

10 Preferably, each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

Preferably, all symbols of all elements of at least one said reel are identical.

15 Preferably, said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

Preferably, said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

20 Preferably, said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machine linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

Preferably, said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include N=1.

Preferably, said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Preferably, said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

5 In a further broad form of the invention there is provided a method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of
10 simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

(a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of
15 available symbols,

(b) a game controller randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element.

20 Preferably, said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

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Preferably, said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

Preferably, said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

5 Preferably, all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

10 Preferably, reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

15 Preferably, said modification from said randomly selected symbols within said potential consecutive run of said reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls within a said consecutive run of elements of
20 said leftwardly preceding reel.

In yet a further broad form of the invention there is provided a method of implementing a game of any one of

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claims 1 to 27 on a gaming machine; said method including the steps of:

- 5 (c) providing said gaming machine with a control module; said module including a microprocessor, a working memory and a data storage device connection means,
- (d) writing program code to said data storage device,
- 10 (e) connecting said data storage device to said control module.

In still a further broad form of the invention there is provided media for storing enabling digital code for playing games according to any of claims 1 to 28; said media comprising solid state data retaining devices including, read only memory (ROM) and erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM), compact flash cards and PCMCIA cards; said media further including disc-based storage devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

20 Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

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Figure 1 is a partial view of a gaming machine with a display showing a matrix of elements and symbols comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels,

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of the elements and symbols of portions of the first or left-most rotatable reel of Fig. 1,

Figure 3 is a schematic representation of an "inner reel" or look-up table,

Figures 4A to 4C are schematic representations of portions of the reel of Fig. 2 and of the adjoining second reel for a particular game situation,

Figures 5 and 6 show examples of the display of Fig. 1 during play of a game using hexagonal elements,

Figure 7 is a schematic representation of a control module, input keyboard and display for implementing the game embodiments of Figs. 3 to 9,

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a stand-alone gaming machine with a single display unit,

Figure 9 is a front view of a stand-alone gaming machine with a main display and a secondary display unit,

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a number of the gaming machines of Figs. 8 or 9 when linked to a progressive jackpot system.

25 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

First Preferred Embodiment

With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, a gaming machine 10 is provided with a display 12, showing portions of a number of adjoining simulated rotatable reels 26 to 30. Each reel is divided into a given number of elements, for example 256 elements. In this example, when rotatable reels 26 to 30 are at rest, the display shows a matrix of elements 14 in five columns, 16 to 20 and three rows, 22 to 24, so that each column comprises a three-element portion of the respective simulated rotatable reel. Each element 14 of simulated rotatable reels 26 to 30 is arranged to display a symbol 32. With some exceptions, as explained below, the sequence of symbols within the elements of a reel remains fixed for all games played.

A game controller (not shown) pre-selects at random, at the initiation of a game sequence, a potential win element for each reel from the set of elements. That is, the game controller predetermines which element, and therefore which symbol, will be displayed in a pay line position at the end of a game sequence, and may therefore contribute to a winning outcome.

In this first preferred embodiment of the invention, at least one reel, the first left-most reel, is arranged to have at least one run of an identical symbol in each of a number of consecutive elements. The arrangement is shown schematically in Fig. 2 where portions of the left-most

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reel 26 are shown in strip form and, for example, a run of kings (crown symbol) is arranged for display in runs of five consecutive elements 30 at three locations 31 to 33 respectively. The three runs of consecutive elements in this example are elements 20 to 24, 100 to 104 and 200 to 204, within the 256-element length of the strip. In this preferred embodiment, the number of elements in a run and the location of the consecutive run or runs within the strip are predetermined and remain constant for each game played on the machine. The identical symbol which populates these consecutive run or runs of elements may be considered as one of a set of "inner reel" symbols.

The game controller (not shown) determines the identical symbol to be displayed in each consecutive element of the run or runs of consecutive elements in which the symbol is to be shown. The selection of the identical symbol is through a notional rotation of an "inner reel" shown as a strip of elements and symbols in Fig. 3. This "inner reel" is in effect a look-up table and is not displayed, but its simulated rotation and "coming to rest" determines which symbol will populate the run or runs of consecutive elements of the left-most reel.

The symbols of the "inner reel" or look-up table from which the selection is made, are a sub-set of the set of symbols displayed in the remaining non-"inner reel"

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elements of the left-most reel. Thus, where the symbols are those of a suit of cards, the "inner reel" symbols may be those of the Ace, King, Queen and Jack, sometimes called the trump or court cards (correct?). The look-up table
5 could also include a "wild" or "scatter" symbol. As previously noted, the arrangement or ordering of the symbols in the elements of the reel, other than the consecutive run or runs of elements, remain constant for every game, only the selection of the identical symbol from
10 the look-up table is performed anew for each new play of a game.

The symbols 36 of the look-up table 34 need not all have the same probability of selection but may be assigned a hierarchy of probability. Thus for example, those symbols
15 for which a winning combination confers on the player of a game a relatively higher value prize, such as the ace and the king, may have an inversely proportional probability of being selected as an "inner reel" symbol.

The reels are now spun as normal. The player will
20 notice the run or runs of identical symbols passing through the display 12 for each revolution of the left-most reel 26, thereby providing a heightening of interest, since the odds of a winning arrangement of symbols appearing on a pre-defined pay line in the matrix at the conclusion of the
25 game sequence will be increased.

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Second Preferred Embodiment

In a second preferred embodiment of the invention, the second reel, that is the second reel from the left in this example, may also be modified to include at least one run of consecutive elements displaying the same "inner reel" symbol as that used to populate the elements of the consecutive run or runs of the left-most reel. As for the first, left-most reel, the number and location of the consecutive elements of the potential run or runs within the strip of elements forming the simulated reel, is predetermined and remains constant.

Prior to modification, all the elements of the second reel (and likewise those of the third fourth and fifth reel) are randomly populated with symbols from the set of available symbols. Unless modification is triggered in the manner explained below, the ordering of these symbols within the elements of the reels remains constant for every game; only those symbols of the potential run or runs being displaced should a modifying event occur.

The populating of the potential "inner reel" elements of the second reel, and of any subsequent reels, is dependent on the potential win element for the first, or preceding reel, which was randomly selected by the game controller, lying within a run of consecutive elements of

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that reel. For example if, as shown in Fig. 4A, in the left-most reel 26, which has consecutive runs comprising the elements as numbered in the First Preferred Embodiment above, the potential win element selected is element number 5 103, the second reel 27 will be modified. Second reel 27 in this example has two potential runs 40 and 41 of consecutive "inner reel" elements, element numbers 83 to 87 and 191 to 195 respectively, which in a default state are randomly populated from the set of available symbols as 10 shown in Fig 4B. However, because the selected potential win element 103 of reel 26 falls within run 32, the potential "inner reel" elements 83 to 87 and 191 to 195 of reel 27 are replaced with the same identical symbol as used for the consecutive run or runs of the left-most reel 26 as 15 shown in Fig 4C.

A player will now discern a bias of symbols, (in our example crown symbols), in both the first, left-most, and second reels as these are spun during the play of a game. The effect is clearly an increase in the probability of a 20 winning combination of symbols appearing along a pre-defined pay line within the matrix and consequently a raised level of interest in the outcome of the game for the player.

The same process of populating potential "inner reel" 25 elements with the "inner reel" symbol of the preceding

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reel, may be sequentially applied to the third, fourth and fifth reels. As described for the second reel, the modification of a succeeding reel depends on the selected potential win element of the preceding reel falling within
5 a run of "inner reel" elements of that reel.

Third Preferred Embodiment

In at least one preferred form of this embodiment, a player is made aware of the populating of one or more consecutive runs of the left-most reel with the identical
10 symbol. This may be done prior to the main game sequence, for example, by a slower pre-spin of only the left-most reel. If any further reels are so populated, each may be pre-spun sequentially.

The displayed game rules and experience will alert a
15 player to the fact that the potential winning element for a given reel is positioned somewhere within the run, or one of the runs of consecutive elements populated with the identical symbol if the second and any subsequent reels are also pre-spun to display a run or runs of that symbol. The
20 player will appreciate that the probability of a winning combination occurring increases with each additional reel which is pre-spun to display its run or runs of elements with the same symbol.

Fourth Preferred Embodiment

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The above described embodiments may be applied to a main game of a gaming machine or to a feature game offered as a result of some triggering event in a main game.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention as adapted
5 for a feature game, the number of elements comprising a run of identical "inner reel" symbols and the number of such runs in any given reel is not constant but may be determined in a number of ways. Thus, in at least one preferred embodiment, the number of elements comprising a
10 run may be a function of the amount of a bet placed by the player on the main game which triggered the feature game, or as a function of accumulated throughput of bets over a given time period. In one special case, all the elements of the first left-most reel may be populated by the same
15 "inner reel" symbol.

Likewise, the number of runs in a given reel may be a function also of the betting pattern preceding the conferring of the feature game or alternatively, may be a function of the particular triggering event of the main
20 game which led to the feature game.

Fifth Preferred Embodiment

The elements comprising the matrix of elements of any of the above described embodiments may be of conventional rectangular configuration, but in at least one preferred

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embodiment the delineation of an element, that is, the boundary defining the field containing a symbol, may be any N-sided figure, where N may take the value 1 (thus a circular field) or any value from 3 to 20. In at least one preferred form of N-sided element, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the elements 50 are hexagon shape for the value of N=6.

Game Implementation

Any of the above described embodiments may be implemented on any gaming machine or group of gaming machine provided with a control module. As shown in Fig. 7, a control module 60 is provided with a microprocessor 62 and working random access memory (RAM) 64. The program code driving any of the described embodiments may be introduced into the control module 60 by connection of a data storage device 66. The device may take any of a number of forms, such as read only memory (ROM), erasable read only memory (EPROM), Compact Flash Card, PCMCIA card and the like. Alternatively, control module 60 may incorporate a hard disc drive to which the code may be written via a suitable input device.

Control module 60 acts to implement appropriate elements of the program code according to inputs from a user keyboard 68 and outputs video imagery to at least a main display module 70.

1. Stand-alone Gaming Machines

As shown in Fig. 8, any of the above described embodiments for use on electronic display gaming machines may be incorporated into a stand-alone gaming machine 100 provided with a single display unit 112. In this implementation of games according to the invention, both main games and feature games (if offered) are displayed on the single display unit.

2. Stand-alone Gaming Machines with Secondary Display Unit

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in Fig. 9, a stand-alone gaming machine 120 is provided with a secondary display unit 125 as well as a main display unit 122. In this embodiment the main game played on the primary display unit may take the form of either the first or second preferred embodiments described above. It is then a triggering event in the main game which offers a player a feature game as described in the third preferred embodiment above.

3. Gaming Machines Linked to Progressive Jackpot System

In yet a further preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in Fig. 10, a plurality of gaming machines 300 are arranged side by side in a line or arc so as to allow each of the players (not shown) of the machines to view a common jackpot prize display unit 313. Each individual machine 310 is provided with at least a main game display unit 315 for

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the playing of a main game according to the above described first and second embodiments

Each of machines 310 of the embodiment illustrated in Figure 7 is electronically linked to a jackpot control module 311 which monitors the volume of play on each of the linked machines and displays an incrementing jackpot value 312 determined according to the combined volume of play on the linked machines.

A win of the jackpot prize may be triggered by specific outcomes of either a main game or of a feature game. If the jackpot trigger is dependent on an outcome of the feature game, players on adjoining machines may be made aware by means of the common display that a potential triggering of the jackpot is to commence on the machine offered the feature game, thus adding interest for all the players.

It will be appreciated that the linked machines may form part of Local Area Networks (LAN) or Wide Area Networks (WAN).

CLAIMS

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1. A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.
2. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.
3. The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.
4. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements.
5. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.
6. The gaming machine of claim 5 wherein each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said

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at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

7. The gaming machine of any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein said game controller selects one potential win element
5 from each said reel.

8. The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said
10 matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

9. The gaming machine of any one of claims 2 to 8 wherein elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

15 10. The gaming machine of claim 9 wherein each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a
20 said identical symbol.

11. The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein said identical symbol is that symbol populating said

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consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

5 12. The gaming machine of claim 10 or 11 wherein, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

10 13. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

15 14. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein all symbols of all elements of at least one said reel are identical.

15 15. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

20 16. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

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17. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machine linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

5 18. The gaming machine of any one of claims 1 to 17 wherein said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include N=1.

19. The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,
10 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

20. The gaming machine of claim 18 or 19 wherein said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

21. A method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning
15 outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

20 (a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of available symbols,

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(b) a game controller randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element.

5 22. The method of claim 21 wherein said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

10 23. The method of claim 21 or 22 wherein said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

24. The method of any one of claims 21 to 23 wherein said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

15 25. The method of claim 24 wherein all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

20 26. The method of claim 24 or 25 wherein reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

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27. The method of claim 26 wherein said modification
from said randomly selected symbols within said
potential consecutive run of said reels other than
said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential
5 win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls
within a said consecutive run of elements of said
leftwardly preceding reel.

28. A method of implementing a game of any one of
claims 1 to 27 on a gaming machine; said method
10 including the steps of:

- (a) providing said gaming machine with a control
module; said module including a microprocessor,
a working memory and a data storage device
connection means,
- 15 (b) writing program code to said data storage
device,
- (c) connecting said data storage device to said
control module.

29. Media for storing enabling digital code for
20 playing games according to any of claims 1 to 28; said
media comprising solid state data retaining devices
including, read only memory (ROM) and erasable
programmable read only memory (EPROM), compact flash

cards and PCMCIA cards; said media further including
disc-based storage devices.

2005900681 14 Feb 2005

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DATED: 14 February 2005

KONAMI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

by their Patent Attorneys:

WALLINGTON-DUMMER

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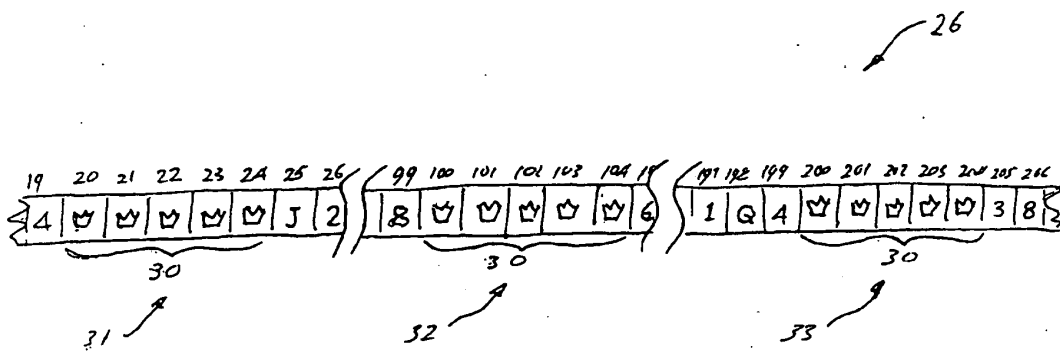
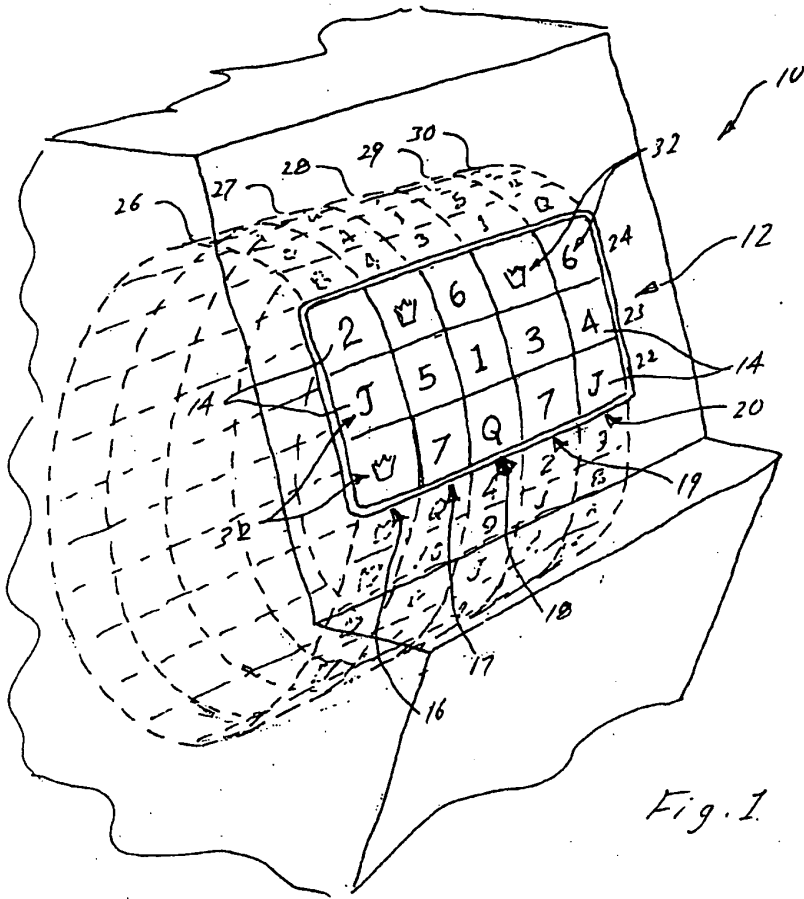
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ABSTRACT

A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol
containing elements; each column of said matrix
comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of
said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said
5 symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive
run of said symbol containing elements of at least one
said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.

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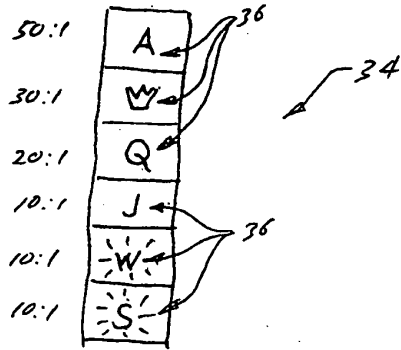


Fig. 3

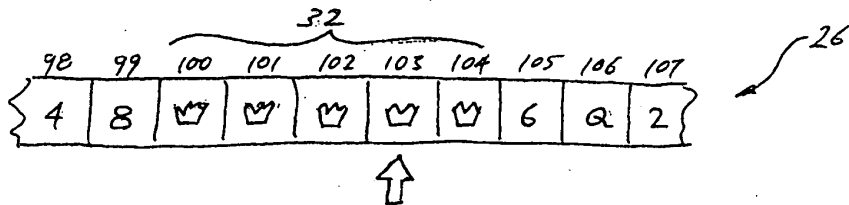


Fig. 4A

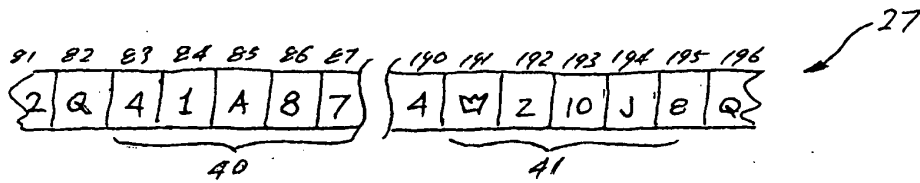


Fig. 4B

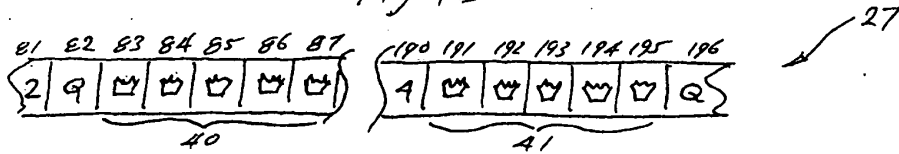


Fig. 4C

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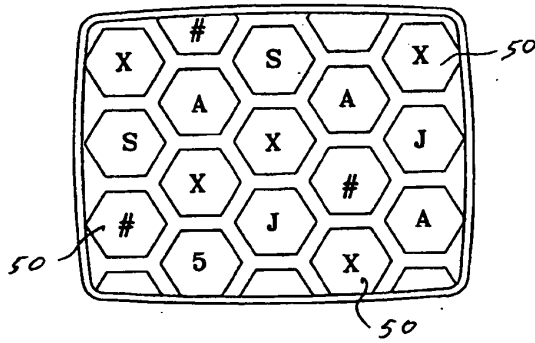


Fig. 5

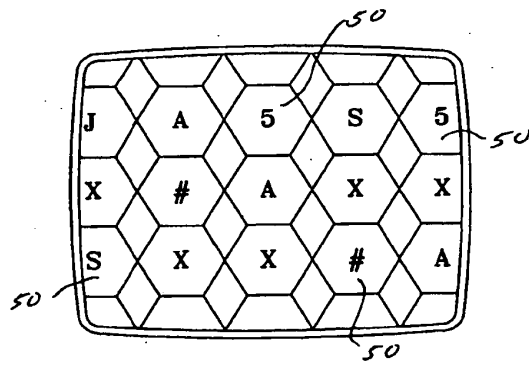


Fig. 6

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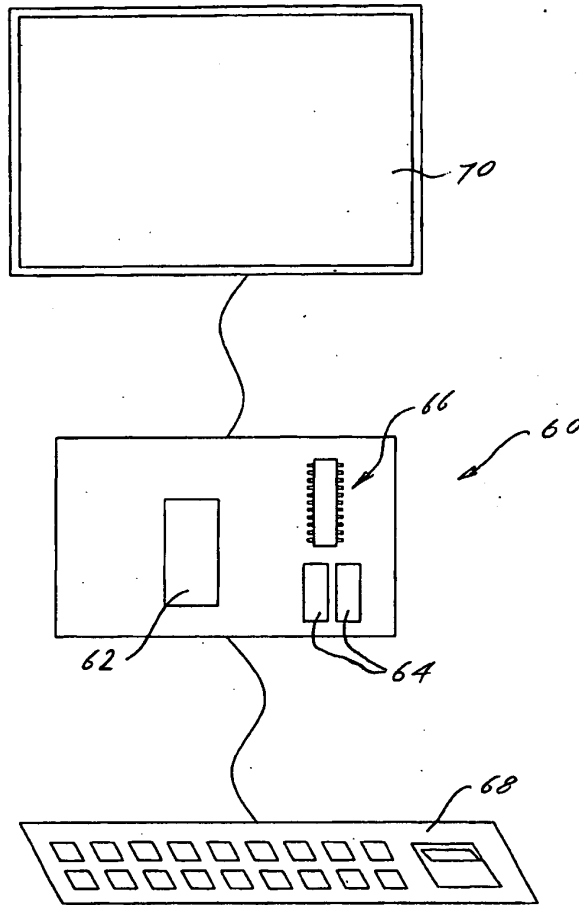


Fig. 7

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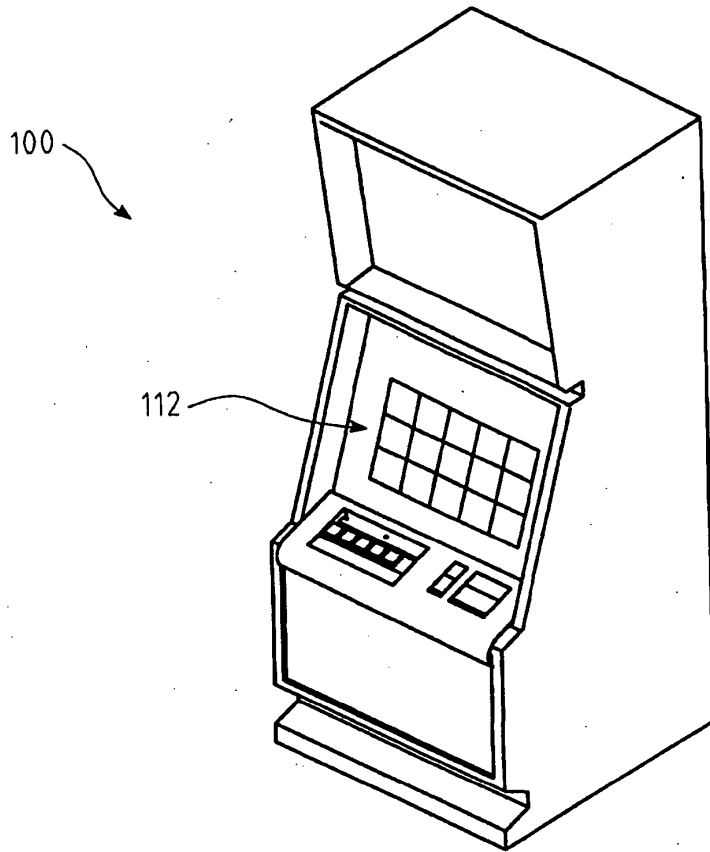


Fig. 8

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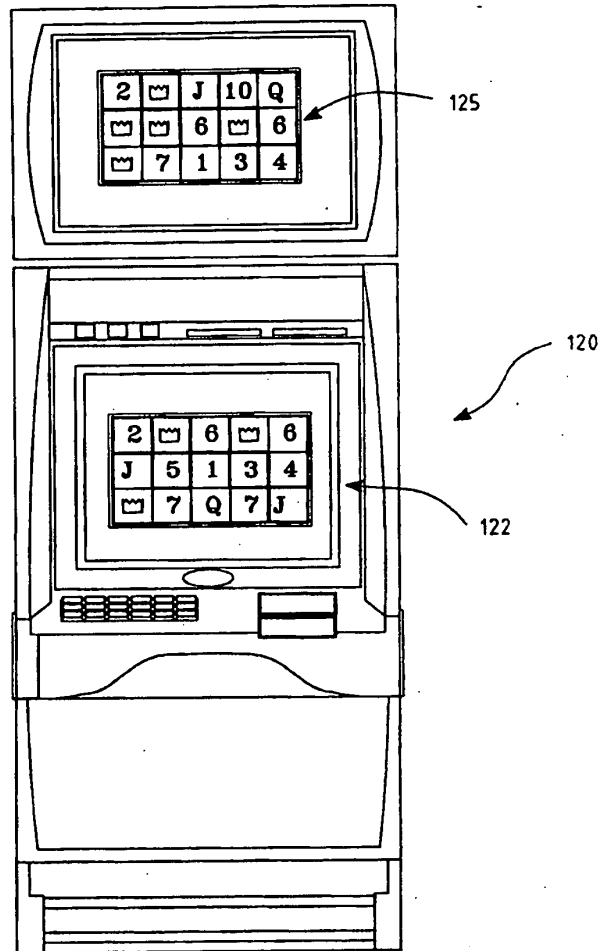


Fig. 9



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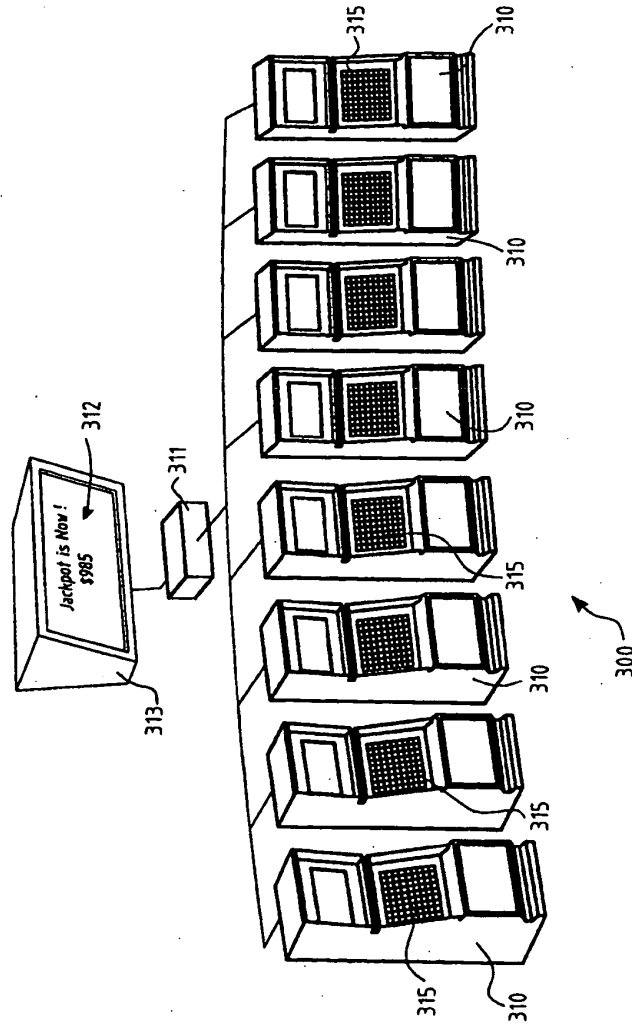


Fig. 10



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(e) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736

20995
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
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IRVINE, CA 92614

Date Mailed: 07/17/2006

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

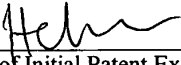
Claims, Fees, and Inventors

In response to your request for a corrected Filing Receipt, the Office is unable to comply with the request because:

- The total number of claims appearing on the Filing Receipt does not include multiple dependent claims. The total fee appearing on the Filing Receipt includes the cost of multiple dependent claims that were present at the time the application was filed.
- The filing fee is correct. It may include additional claims fees and/or the surcharge under 37 CFR 1.16 (e) for filing an oath/declaration or basic filing fee after the application filing date; or it may not reflect fees refunded to the applicant that were paid by mistake.
- The number of claims reflected on the filing receipt is correct. Upon review of the claims, it was found that there was a miscalculation by the applicant. This may be due to improperly presented multiple dependent claims, typographical error, misnumbering of the claims, or other oversight. An amendment may be necessary to correct the problem.
- The filing fee reflected on the filing receipt is correct. Applicant may have miscalculated the fees due.
- Applicant calculated fees as other than small entity; however, applicant asserted small entity status in the application. Therefore, fees were applied as small entity and the remainder was refunded to the applicant.
- The difference between the fees paid and the fees due was refunded to the applicant and will not be shown on the filing receipt.
- The inventor information may be truncated if the family name consists of more than 50 characters (letters and spaces combined) and if the given name consists of more than 50 characters (letters and

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- The inventor's residence allows for up to 40 characters (letters and spaces combined).
- The inventor's residence will only include the city and state for U.S. residences or city and country for residences outside the U.S. (See MPEP 605.02).
- A petition to correct the inventorship is needed to make this change. See 37 CFR 1.48. For non-provisional applications, the petition should be directed to the Director of the examining group assigned to your application.
- Changes made after submission of an executed declaration to the inventor information other than correction of typographical errors must be submitted in the form of a substitute declaration. Change of inventorship requires a petition under 37 CFR 1.48.
- The number of drawings shown on the filing receipt reflects the number of drawing sheets submitted and is not necessarily equal to the number of figures submitted.
- The correspondence address was captured as directed by applicant on filing. If you wish correspondence to be directed otherwise, please submit a request for a change of address.
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Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199, or 1-800-972-6382

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Osamu Yoshimi	Group Art Unit 3713
Appl. No.	: 11/299,009	
Filed	: December 9, 2005	
For	: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS	

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Commissioner for Patents
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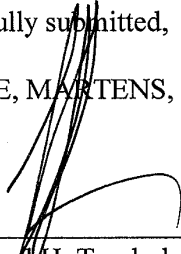
Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby request that the Official Filing Receipt, a copy of which is enclosed, be corrected to reflect the correct address of the inventor to Botany, NSW, Australia. Presently, the Filing Receipt incorrectly shows the address as Botany, Australia.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 6/10/06

By: 

Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
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(951) 781-9231

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APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
11/299,009	12/09/2005	3713	1480	DUMME55.006AUS	7	27	2

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736

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UPDATED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000018634561

Date Mailed: 04/27/2006

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Applicant(s) ^{NSW,}
Osamu Yoshimi, Botany, (AUSTRALIA);Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 20995.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

Foreign Applications

AUSTRALIA AU2005900681 02/14/2005

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 01/27/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US11/299,009**

Projected Publication Date: 08/17/2006

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Gaming machine with runs of symbols

Preliminary Class

463

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Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

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This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR

1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

DECLARATION - USA PATENT APPLICATION

COPY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS"; the specification of which was filed on December 9, 2005, as Application Serial No. 11/299,009.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

No.: AU 2005900681

Country: Australia


Date Filed: 14 February 2005

Priority
Claimed

Yes

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: Osamu Yoshimi

Inventor's signature 

Date 10/24/06

COPY

Residence: 28 Lord Street, BOTANY, NSW 2019, AUSTRALIA

Citizenship: Japanese

Post Office Address: PO Box 322, BOTANY, NSW 2019, AUSTRALIA

Send Correspondence To:
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
Customer No. 20,995

2255232:kma
123005

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	1108456
Application Number:	11299009
Confirmation Number:	4736
Title of Invention:	Gaming machine with runs of symbols
First Named Inventor:	Osamu Yoshimi
Customer Number:	20995
Filer:	Michael H. Trenholm/Laurel Weiler
Filer Authorized By:	Michael H. Trenholm
Attorney Docket Number:	DUMME55.006AUS
Receipt Date:	13-JUL-2006
Filing Date:	09-DEC-2005
Time Stamp:	19:06:09
Application Type:	Utility
International Application Number:	

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
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File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)	Multi Part	Pages
1	Request for Corrected Filing Receipt	requestforcorrfr_DUMME55-006aus.pdf	268827	no	6

Warnings:	
Information:	
Total Files Size (in bytes):	268827
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p>	

DFW



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Osamu Yoshimi
 App. No : 11/299,009
 Filed : December 9, 2005
 For : GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
 Examiner : Unknown
 Art Unit : 3713

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

May 10, 2006

(Date)

Michael H. Trenholm, Reg. No. 37,743

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is a PTO/SB/08 Equivalent listing two (2) references to be considered by the Examiner. Also enclosed are two (2) foreign patent references and/or non-patent literature as listed on the Information Disclosure Statement.

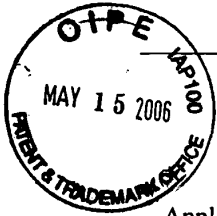
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required. If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
 KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5/9/06

By: _____
 Michael H. Trenholm
 Registration No. 37,743
 Attorney of Record
 Customer No. 20,995
 (951) 781-9231

Please Direct All Correspondence to Customer Number 20995



TRANSMITTAL LETTER
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Osamu Yoshimi
App. No : 11/299,009
Filed : December 9, 2005
For : GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
Examiner : Unknown
Art Unit : 3713

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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May 10, 2006

(Date)

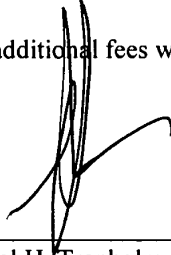
Michael H. Trenholm, Reg. No. 37,743

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

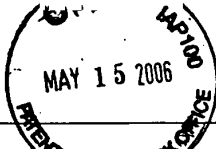
Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application are:

- (X) An Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/08 equivalent listing references for consideration:
 - (X) Listing two (2) references.
 - (X) Enclosing two (2) references.
- (X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.


Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(951) 781-9231

2586297:lw
050906



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Multiple sheets used when necessary)</i>	Application No.	11/299,009
	Filing Date	December 9, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Osamu Yoshimi
	Art Unit	3713
SHEET 1 OF 1	Examiner	Unknown
	Attorney Docket No.	DUMME55.006AUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code-Number-Kind Code Example: JP 1234567 A1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ¹
		AU 2004203045 A1	07/29/2004	Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd		
		AU 2002301067 A1	06/12/2003	Stargames Corporation Limited		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ¹

2586194:lw
050906

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	

T¹ - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.

(12) STANDARD PATENT APPLICATION		(11) Application No. AU 2004203045 A1	
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE			
(54)	Title Gaming machine with multi special symbol game		
(51)	International Patent Classification(s) A63F 013/00 A63F 005/04 G07F 017/34		
(21)	Application No: 2004203045	(22)	Date of Filing: 2004.07.06
(43)	Publication Date: 2004.07.29		
(43)	Publication Journal Date: 2004.07.29		
(62)	Divisional of: 775869		
(71)	Applicant(s) Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd		
(72)	Inventor(s) Bryant, Natalie		
(74)	Agent / Attorney FB Rice & Co, 605 Darling Street, Balmain, NSW, 2041		

ABSTRACT

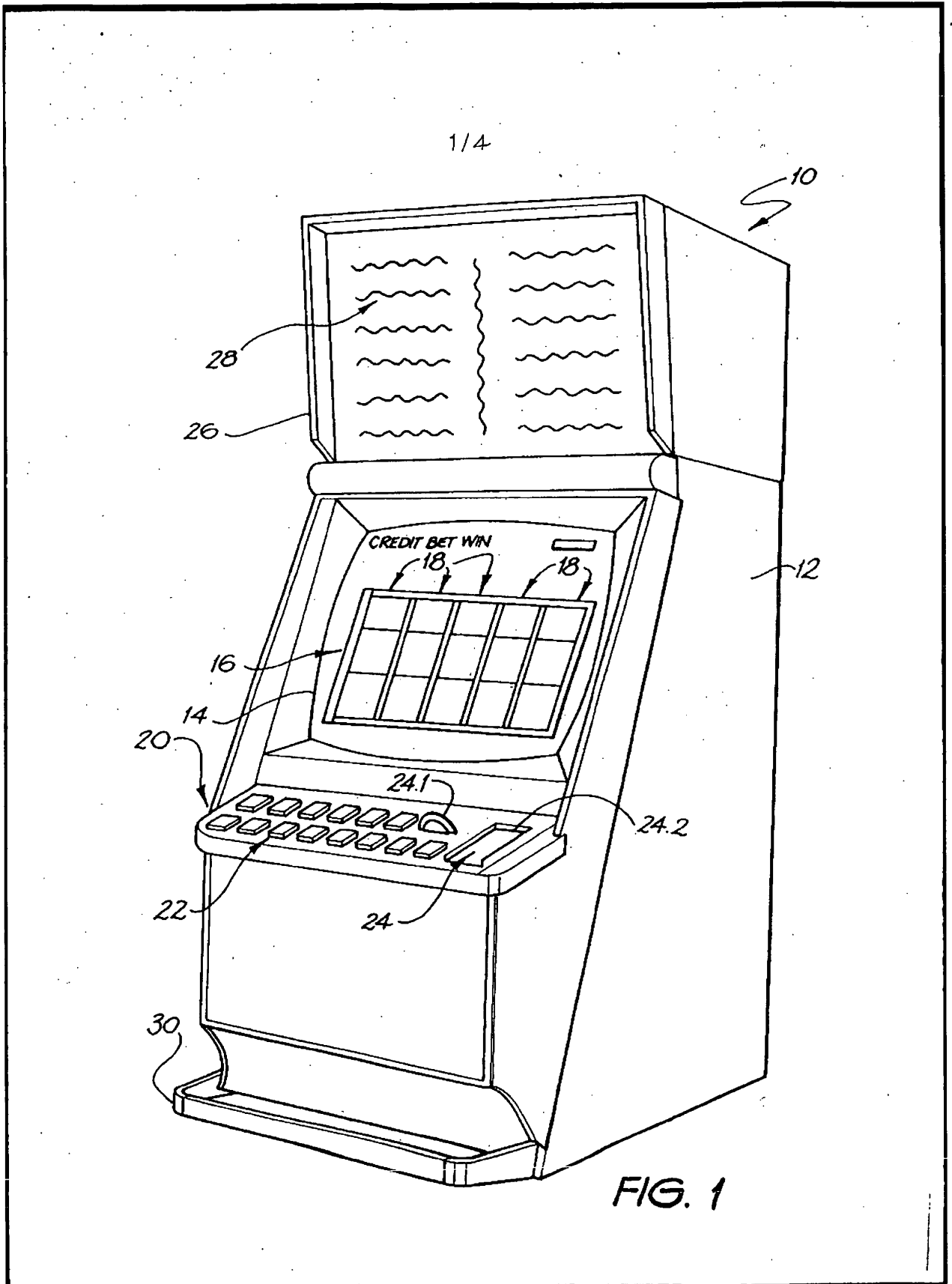
A gaming machine 10 has a display 14 and a game controller arranged to control images displayed on the display 14. The game controller is arranged to play a game wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize. The display 14 displays a plurality of spinning reels 18, each reel 18 carrying symbols from a set of symbols. One of the symbols of the set is a special symbol and, in respect of at least one of the reels, the set comprises more than one occurrence of the special symbol. The special symbols on the at least one reel are arranged on the reel so that more than one special symbol is able to be displayed simultaneously when the reels are in a rest condition. When more than a minimum number of special symbols are displayed at any one time, all the displayed special symbols contribute to a single paying combination of the special symbols.

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**(12) STANDARD PATENT APPLICATION (11) Application No. AU 2002301067 A1
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE**

(54) Title
Method and apparatus for gaming scatter feature

(51)⁷ International Patent Classification(s)
**A63F 005/04 A63F 013/00
G07F 017/34**

(21) Application No: **2002301067** (22) Date of Filing: **2002.09.17**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number (32) Date (33) Country
PR 7681 2001.09.17 AU

(43) Publication Date: **2003.06.12**
(43) Publication Journal Date: **2003.06.12**

(71) Applicant(s)
Stargames Corporation Limited

(72) Inventor(s)
O'Halloran, Terry

(74) Agent / Attorney
Watermark Patent & Trademark Attorneys, 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, VIC, 3122

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for performing a scatter feature on a gaming machine. The gaming machine includes a display having N elements. The winnings are determined by the number of times one or more predetermined symbols appears anywhere in the N elements, without the traditional reference to columns or lines.

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PATENT

Case Docket No. DUMME55.006AUS
Date: April 12, 2006

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
RESPONSE TO MISSING PARTS**

Applicant : Osamu Yoshimi
App. No : 11/299,009
Filed : December 9, 2005
For : GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF
SYMBOLS
Art Unit : 3713

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

April 12, 2006

(Date)

Michael H. Trenholm, Reg. No. 37,743

**Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application Under 37 CFR 1.53(f), which was mailed by the Office on January 30, 2006, enclosed are:

- (X) An executed Declaration by Inventor.
- (X) Power of Attorney and Copy of Assignment.
- (X) A Notice to File Missing Parts.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.

04/18/2006 MAHMED1 00000047 11299009

02 FC:1251

120.00 0P

PATENT

Case Docket No. DUMME55.006AUS
Date: April 12, 2006

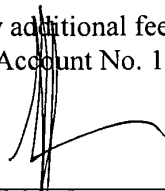
(X) Fees as calculated below:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

FEE CALCULATION				
FEE TYPE		FEE CODE	CALCULATION	TOTAL
Surcharge	1.16(e)	1051 (\$130)		\$130
1 Month Extension	1.17(a)(1)	1251 (\$120)		\$120
			SUB TOTAL	\$250
			TOTAL FEE DUE	\$250

(X) A check in the amount of \$250 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.



Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(951) 781-9231

2519306
041206



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS

20995
 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
 2040 MAIN STREET
 FOURTEENTH FLOOR
 IRVINE, CA 92614

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736
FORMALITIES
LETTER

Date Mailed: 01/30/2006

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is missing. *A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.*
Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- To avoid abandonment, a surcharge (for late submission of filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is **\$130** for a Large Entity

- **\$130** Surcharge.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts

04/18/2006 MAHMED1 00000047 11299009

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*



Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199, or 1-800-972-6382
PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



DECLARATION - USA PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS"; the specification of which was filed on December 9, 2005, as Application Serial No. 11/299,009.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority
Claimed

No.: AU 2005900681

Country: Australia


Date Filed: 14 February 2005

Yes

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Full name of sole inventor: Osamu Yoshimi

Inventor's signature 

Date 10, 04, 06

Residence: 28 Lord Street, BOTANY, NSW 2019, AUSTRALIA

Citizenship: Japanese

Post Office Address: PO Box 322, BOTANY, NSW 2019, AUSTRALIA

Send Correspondence To:
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP
Customer No. 20,995

2255232:kma
123005

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DUMMESS.006AUS

PATENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHT OF ASSIGNEE TO TAKE ACTION AND REVOCATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

The undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee indicated below (the "Assignee"). The original assignment of the attached application for Letters Patent for the invention in "GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS", Application No. 11/299,009, from the inventors to the Assignee is being submitted herewith for recordation by the Assignment Branch. A true copy of this Assignment is attached hereto. This Assignment represents the entire chain of title of this invention from the inventor(s) to the Assignee. I have reviewed this Assignment, and to the best of the Assignee's knowledge and belief, the Assignee is the owner of the entire right, title, and interest in the above-referenced application.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, or any patent issuing thereon.

The undersigned hereby revokes any previous powers of attorney in the subject application, and hereby appoints the registrants of Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main Street, Fourteenth Floor, Irvine, California 92614, Telephone (949) 760-0404, Customer No. 20,995, as its attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith. This appointment is to be to the exclusion of the inventor(s) and his attorney(s) in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 3.71.

Please use Customer No. 20,995 for all communications

Assignees: Kongmi Australia Pty Ltd,

By: [Signature]

Title: Managing Director

Address: 28 Lord Street, BOTANY, NSW 2019, AUSTRALIA

Dated: 12/09/2006

2243311:kma
123005

9517814507

008

COPY

DUMMESS.006AUS

PATENT

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I. Osamu Yoshimi, an Australian citizen, of 28 Lord Street, BOTANY, NSW 2019, Australia, hereinafter referred to as Assignor, have invented certain new and useful improvements in "GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS", the specification of which was filed on December 9, 2003, as Application No. 11/299,009;

AND WHEREAS, Konami Australia Pty Ltd, with its principal place of business at 28 Lord Street, BOTANY, NSW 2019, Australia, (hereinafter referred to as Assignee) desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said improvements with respect to the United States of America, its territories and possessions

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Assignor hereby acknowledges that it has sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents does hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in the United States of America and its territories and possessions in, to and under said improvements, and any Patent Applications in the United States of America and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Patents of the United States of America which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority under International Conventions; and Assignor hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner of Patents of the United States of America to issue all Patents for said improvements to Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

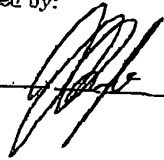
AND ASSIGNOR HEREBY covenants and agrees that it will communicate to Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to it respecting said improvements, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful claims and generally do everything possible to aid Assignee, its successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for said improvements in the United States of America.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor intending to be legally bound has hereunto affixed its signature.

This 10 day of April, 2006


Signature of _____

Witnessed by:



2255246:kma
123005

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
11/299,009	12/09/2005	Osamu Yoshimi	DUMME55.006AUS

20995
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP
2040 MAIN STREET
FOURTEENTH FLOOR
IRVINE, CA 92614

CONFIRMATION NO. 4736
FORMALITIES
LETTER

Date Mailed: 01/30/2006

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

Items Required To Avoid Abandonment:

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is missing. *A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date, is required.*
Note: If a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is being filed, an oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 signed by all available joint inventors, or if no inventor is available by a party with sufficient proprietary interest, is required.

The applicant needs to satisfy supplemental fees problems indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- To avoid abandonment, a surcharge (for late submission of filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(f) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

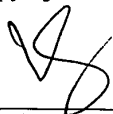
Total additional fee(s) required for this application is **\$130** for a Large Entity

- **\$130** Surcharge.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a 'D'.

Office of Initial Patent Examination (571) 272-4000, or 1-800-PTO-9199, or 1-800-972-6382
PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

120905

01789 U.S. PTO

UTILITY APPLICATION	Attorney Docket No.: DUMME55.006AUS
	First Named Inventor: Osamu Yoshimi
Title: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS	
Express Mail Label No.: EV 309 083 460 US	

112919 U.S. PTO
11/299009
120905

Direct all correspondence to Customer No.: 20995 Date: December 9, 2005
Page 1

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450

The following enclosures are transmitted herewith to be filed in the patent application of:

- Inventor:
1. Osamu Yoshimi

APPLICATION:

- Specification in fifteen (15) pages.
- Drawings in seven (7) sheets.

FOREIGN CONTINUITY INFORMATION:

Country	Application No.	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
Australia	2005900681	02/14/05	Yes

OTHER APPLICATION PARTS:

- Return prepaid postcard.

UTILITY APPLICATION	Attorney Docket No.: DUMME55.006AUS
	First Named Inventor: Osamu Yoshimi
	Title: GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS
	Express Mail Label No.: EV 309 083 460 US
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Date: December 9, 2005 Page 2	

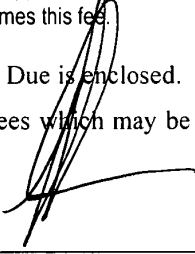
FILING FEES:

FEE CALCULATION				
FEE TYPE		FEE CODE	CALCULATION	TOTAL
Basic Utility	<i>1.16(a)(1)</i>	1011 (\$300)		\$300
Search Fee	<i>1.16(k)</i>	1111 (\$500)		\$500
Examination Fee	<i>1.16(o)</i>	1311 (\$200)		\$200
Excess Claims > 20	27 - 20 = 7	1202 (\$50)	7 x 50 =	\$350
Independent > 3	2 - 3 = 0	1201 (\$200)	0 x 200 =	\$0
Multiple Claim	<i>1.16(j)</i>	1203 (\$360)		\$0
Application Size Fee	21 - 100 = 0	1081 (\$250) [‡]	0 x 250 =	\$0
Recordation Fee	<i>1.21(h)</i>	8021 (\$40)	0 x 40 =	\$0
Non-English Spec.	<i>1.17(i)</i>	1053 (\$130)		\$0
			TOTAL FEE DUE	\$1350

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Attorney Docket No. : DUMME55.006AUS
Applicant : Osamu Yoshimi
For : GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF
SYMBOLS
Attorney : Michael H. Trenholm
"Express Mail" Label No. : EV 309 083 460 US
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UTILITY APPLICATION	Attorney Docket No.: DUMME55.006AUS
	First Named Inventor: Osamu Yoshimi
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Page 1

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The following enclosures are transmitted herewith to be filed in the patent application of:

- Inventor:
1. Osamu Yoshimi

APPLICATION:

- Specification in fifteen (15) pages.
- Drawings in seven (7) sheets.

FOREIGN CONTINUITY INFORMATION:

Country	Application No.	Filing Date	Priority Claimed
Australia	2005900681	02/14/05	Yes

OTHER APPLICATION PARTS:

- Return prepaid postcard.

UTILITY APPLICATION	Attorney Docket No.: DUMME55.006AUS
	First Named Inventor: Osamu Yoshimi
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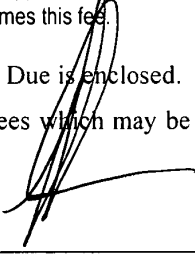
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GAMING MACHINE WITH RUNS OF SYMBOLS**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims priority to Australian Provisional Patent Application No. 2005900681, filed February 14, 2005, which is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates to gaming machines for the playing of games of chance and, more particularly, to special features of games or feature games which may be offered on such machines.

[0003] Gaming, or poker machines, have become a major source of amusement and diversion in such places as clubs, hotels and casinos in many parts of the world.

[0004] Traditionally such machines were mechanical devices where a number of reels marked with a plurality of numbers or symbols could be made to spin randomly by the application of some mechanical input. If the subsequent patterns of numbers or symbols displayed on the reels, when these returned to a rest state, corresponded to predetermined patterns, the machine would provide a prize or payout. Generally such gaming machines have come to be regulated by government authorities as to their number and in the manner in which the machines must return a percentage of the monetary turnover to the players.

[0005] The introduction of electronics, computers and electronic graphical displays, has allowed a continual increase in the complexity and variations of gaming machines, games and displays while maintaining the basic concept of the traditional machine. Nevertheless, in some jurisdictions at least, government regulations effectively restrict the degree of variation which may be incorporated in games played on coin-freed machines.

[0006] Machines and games therefore that offer novel and stimulating variations on the basic game theme and environment, yet comply with these restrictions are eagerly sought by the gaming industry and there is consequently intense competition between machine manufacturers to innovate.

[0007] Games based on simulated rotatable reels typically display a matrix of elements each of which displays a symbol. Predetermined patterns of symbols, if displayed after the reels are spun and come to rest, may then award a prize to the player of the game. Typically also, the symbols are arranged in the elements of a reel so that adjoining elements do not display the same symbol.

[0008] An exception to this is found for example in Australian Patent Application number 2004203045 (Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Ltd), in which arrangements are envisaged where two special symbols may occur adjacent one to the other.

[0009] A similar exception is found in Australian Patent Application number 2002301067 (Stargames Corporation Limited), in which a specific symbol and the number of its occurrences in the display at the conclusion of a game sequence, is determinant of a win. As indicated in Fig. 2 of the specification, two such symbols may appear in adjoining elements of a reel.

[0010] Both these examples of the prior art allow for only a single predetermined or special symbol to take up such adjacent positions on a reel.

[0011] It is an object of the present invention to address or at least ameliorate some of the above disadvantages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

[0012] Accordingly, in a first broad form of the invention, there is provided a gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.

[0013] Preferably, said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.

[0014] Preferably, each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.

[0015] Preferably, said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements.

[0016] Preferably, said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.

[0017] Preferably, each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

[0018] Preferably, said game controller selects one potential win element from each said reel.

[0019] Preferably, a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

[0020] Preferably, elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

[0021] Preferably, each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a said identical symbol.

[0022] Preferably, said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

[0023] Preferably, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

[0024] Preferably, each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

[0025] Preferably, all symbols of all elements of at least one said reel are identical.

[0026] Preferably, said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

[0027] Preferably, said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

[0028] Preferably, said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machine linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

[0029] Preferably, said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include N=1.

[0030] Preferably, said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

[0031] Preferably, said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

[0032] In a further broad form of the invention there is provided a method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

- (a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of available symbols,
- (b) a game controller randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element.

[0033] Preferably, said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

[0034] Preferably, said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

[0035] Preferably, said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

[0036] Preferably, all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

[0037] Preferably, reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

[0038] Preferably, said modification from said randomly selected symbols within said potential consecutive run of said reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls within a said consecutive run of elements of said leftwardly preceding reel.

[0039] In yet a further broad form of the invention there is provided a method of implementing a game of any one of claims 1 to 27 on a gaming machine; said method including the steps of:

- (c) providing said gaming machine with a control module; said module including a microprocessor, a working memory and a data storage device connection means,
- (d) writing program code to said data storage device,
- (e) connecting said data storage device to said control module.

[0040] In still a further broad form of the invention there is provided media for storing enabling digital code for playing games according to any of claims 1 to 28; said media comprising solid state data retaining devices including, read only memory (ROM) and erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM), compact flash cards and PCMCIA cards; said media further including disc-based storage devices.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0041] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0042] Figure 1 is a partial view of a gaming machine with a display showing a matrix of elements and symbols comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels,

[0043] Figure 2 is a schematic representation of the elements and symbols of portions of the first or left-most rotatable reel of Fig. 1,

[0044] Figure 3 is a schematic representation of an "inner reel" or look-up table,

[0045] Figures 4A to 4C are schematic representations of portions of the reel of Fig. 2 and of the adjoining second reel for a particular game situation,

[0046] Figures 5 and 6 show examples of the display of Fig. 1 during play of a game using hexagonal elements,

[0047] Figure 7 is a schematic representation of a control module, input keyboard and display for implementing the game embodiments of Figs. 3 to 9,

[0048] Figure 8 is a perspective view of a stand-alone gaming machine with a single display unit,

[0049] Figure 9 is a front view of a stand-alone gaming machine with a main display and a secondary display unit,

[0050] Figure 10 is a perspective view of a number of the gaming machines of Figs. 8 or 9 when linked to a progressive jackpot system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

First Preferred Embodiment

[0051] With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, a gaming machine 10 is provided with a display 12, showing portions of a number of adjoining simulated rotatable reels 26 to 30. Each reel is divided into a given number of elements, for example 256 elements. In this example, when rotatable reels 26 to 30 are at rest, the display shows a matrix of elements 14 in five columns, 16 to 20 and three rows, 22 to 24, so that each column comprises a three-element portion of the respective simulated rotatable reel. Each element 14 of simulated rotatable reels 26 to 30 is arranged to display a symbol 32. With some exceptions, as explained below, the sequence of symbols within the elements of a reel remains fixed for all games played.

[0052] A game controller (not shown) pre-selects at random, at the initiation of a game sequence, a potential win element for each reel from the set of elements. That is, the game controller predetermines which element, and therefore which symbol, will be displayed in a pay line position at the end of a game sequence, and may therefore contribute to a winning outcome.

[0053] In this first preferred embodiment of the invention, at least one reel, the first left-most reel, is arranged to have at least one run of an identical symbol in each of a number of consecutive elements. The arrangement is shown schematically in Fig. 2 where portions of the left-most reel 26 are shown in strip form and, for example, a run of kings (crown symbol) is arranged for display in runs of five consecutive elements 30 at three locations 31 to 33 respectively. The three runs of consecutive elements in this example are elements 20 to 24, 100 to 104 and 200 to 204, within the 256-element length of the strip. In this preferred embodiment, the

number of elements in a run and the location of the consecutive run or runs within the strip are predetermined and remain constant for each game played on the machine. The identical symbol which populates these consecutive run or runs of elements may be considered as one of a set of "inner reel" symbols.

[0054] The game controller (not shown) determines the identical symbol to be displayed in each consecutive element of the run or runs of consecutive elements in which the symbol is to be shown. The selection of the identical symbol is through a notional rotation of an "inner reel" 34 shown as a strip of elements and symbols in Fig. 3. This "inner reel" is in effect a look-up table and is not displayed, but its simulated rotation and "coming to rest" determines which symbol will populate the run or runs of consecutive elements of the left-most reel.

[0055] The symbols of the "inner reel" or look-up table from which the selection is made, are a sub-set of the set of symbols displayed in the remaining non-"inner reel" elements of the left-most reel. Thus, where the symbols are those of a suit of cards, the "inner reel" symbols may be those of the Ace, King, Queen and Jack, sometimes called the trump or court cards. The look-up table could also include a "wild" or "scatter" symbol. As previously noted, the arrangement or ordering of the symbols in the elements of the reel, other than the consecutive run or runs of elements, remain constant for every game, only the selection of the identical symbol from the look-up table is performed anew for each new play of a game.

[0056] The symbols 36 of the look-up table 34 need not all have the same probability of selection but may be assigned a hierarchy of probability. Thus for example, those symbols for which a winning combination confers on the player of a game a relatively higher value prize, such as the ace and the king, may have an inversely proportional probability of being selected as an "inner reel" symbol.

[0057] The reels are now spun as normal. The player will notice the run or runs of identical symbols passing through the display 12 for each revolution of the left-most reel 26, thereby providing a heightening of interest, since the odds of a winning arrangement of symbols appearing on a pre-defined pay line in the matrix at the conclusion of the game sequence will be increased.

Second Preferred Embodiment

[0058] In a second preferred embodiment of the invention, the second reel, that is the second reel from the left in this example, may also be modified to include at least one run of consecutive elements displaying the same “inner reel” symbol as that used to populate the elements of the consecutive run or runs of the left-most reel. As for the first, left-most reel, the number and location of the consecutive elements of the potential run or runs within the strip of elements forming the simulated reel, is predetermined and remains constant.

[0059] Prior to modification, all the elements of the second reel (and likewise those of the third fourth and fifth reel) are randomly populated with symbols from the set of available symbols. Unless modification is triggered in the manner explained below, the ordering of these symbols within the elements of the reels remains constant for every game; only those symbols of the potential run or runs being displaced should a modifying event occur.

[0060] The populating of the potential “inner reel” elements of the second reel, and of any subsequent reels, is dependent on the potential win element for the first, or preceding reel, which was randomly selected by the game controller, lying within a run of consecutive elements of that reel. For example if, as shown in Fig. 4A, in the left-most reel 26, which has consecutive runs comprising the elements as numbered in the First Preferred Embodiment above, the potential win element selected is element number 103, the second reel 27 will be modified. Second reel 27 in this example has two potential runs 40 and 41 of consecutive “inner reel” elements, element numbers 83 to 87 and 191 to 195 respectively, which in a default state are randomly populated from the set of available symbols as shown in Fig 4B. However, because the selected potential win element 103 of reel 26 falls within run 32, the potential “inner reel” elements 83 to 87 and 191 to 195 of reel 27 are replaced with the same identical symbol as used for the consecutive run or runs of the left-most reel 26 as shown in Fig 4C.

[0061] A player will now discern a bias of symbols, (in our example crown symbols), in both the first, left-most, and second reels as these are spun during the play of a game. The effect is clearly an increase in the probability of a winning combination of symbols appearing along a pre-defined pay line within the matrix and consequently a raised level of interest in the outcome of the game for the player.

[0062] The same process of populating potential “inner reel” elements with the “inner reel” symbol of the preceding reel, may be sequentially applied to the third, fourth and fifth reels. As described for the second reel, the modification of a succeeding reel depends on the selected potential win element of the preceding reel falling within a run of “inner reel” elements of that reel.

Third Preferred Embodiment

[0063] In at least one preferred form of this embodiment, a player is made aware of the populating of one or more consecutive runs of the left-most reel with the identical symbol. This may be done prior to the main game sequence, for example, by a slower pre-spin of only the left-most reel. If any further reels are so populated, each may be pre-spun sequentially.

[0064] The displayed game rules and experience will alert a player to the fact that the potential winning element for a given reel is positioned somewhere within the run, or one of the runs of consecutive elements populated with the identical symbol if the second and any subsequent reels are also pre-spun to display a run or runs of that symbol. The player will appreciate that the probability of a winning combination occurring increases with each additional reel which is pre-spun to display its run or runs of elements with the same symbol.

Fourth Preferred Embodiment

[0065] The above described embodiments may be applied to a main game of a gaming machine or to a feature game offered as a result of some triggering event in a main game.

[0066] In a preferred embodiment of the invention as adapted for a feature game, the number of elements comprising a run of identical “inner reel” symbols and the number of such runs in any given reel is not constant but may be determined in a number of ways. Thus, in at least one preferred embodiment, the number of elements comprising a run may be a function of the amount of a bet placed by the player on the main game which triggered the feature game, or as a function of accumulated

throughput of bets over a given time period. In one special case, all the elements of the first left-most reel may be populated by the same “inner reel” symbol.

[0067] Likewise, the number of runs in a given reel may be a function also of the betting pattern preceding the conferring of the feature game or alternatively, may be a function of the particular triggering event of the main game which led to the feature game.

Fifth Preferred Embodiment

The elements comprising the matrix of elements of any of the above described embodiments may be of conventional rectangular configuration, but in at least one preferred embodiment the delineation of an element, that is, the boundary defining the field containing a symbol, may be any N-sided figure, where N may take the value 1 (thus a circular field) or any value from 3 to 20. In at least one preferred form of N-sided element, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the elements 50 are hexagon shape for the value of N=6.

Game Implementation

[0068] Any of the above described embodiments may be implemented on any gaming machine or group of gaming machine provided with a control module. As shown in Fig. 7, a control module 60 is provided with a microprocessor 62 and working random access memory (RAM) 64. The program code driving any of the described embodiments may be introduced into the control module 60 by connection of a data storage device 66. The device may take any of a number of forms, such as read only memory (ROM), erasable read only memory (EPROM), Compact Flash Card, PCMCIA card and the like. Alternatively, control module 60 may incorporate a hard disc drive to which the code may be written via a suitable input device.

[0069] Control module 60 acts to implement appropriate elements of the program code according to inputs from a user keyboard 68 and outputs video imagery to at least a main display module 70.

1. Stand-alone Gaming Machines

[0070] As shown in Fig. 8, any of the above described embodiments for use on electronic display gaming machines may be incorporated into a stand-alone gaming machine 100 provided with a single display unit 112. In this implementation of games according to the invention, both main games and feature games (if offered) are displayed on the single display unit.

2. Stand-alone Gaming Machines with Secondary Display Unit

[0071] In a further preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in Fig. 9, a stand-alone gaming machine 120 is provided with a secondary display unit 125 as well as a main display unit 122. In this embodiment the main game played on the primary display unit may take the form of either the first or second preferred embodiments described above. It is then a triggering event in the main game which offers a player a feature game as described in the third preferred embodiment above.

3. Gaming Machines Linked to Progressive Jackpot System

[0072] In yet a further preferred embodiment of the invention as shown in Fig. 10, a plurality of gaming machines 300 are arranged side by side in a line or arc so as to allow each of the players (not shown) of the machines to view a common jackpot prize display unit 313. Each individual machine 310 is provided with at least a main game display unit 315 for the playing of a main game according to the above described first and second embodiments

[0073] Each of machines 310 of the embodiment illustrated in Figure 7 is electronically linked to a jackpot control module 311 which monitors the volume of play on each of the linked machines and displays an incrementing jackpot value 312 determined according to the combined volume of play on the linked machines.

[0074] A win of the jackpot prize may be triggered by specific outcomes of either a main game or of a feature game. If the jackpot trigger is dependent on an outcome of the feature game, players on adjoining machines may be made aware by means of the common display that a potential triggering of the jackpot is to commence on the machine offered the feature game, thus adding interest for all the players.

[0075] It will be appreciated that the linked machines may form part of Local Area Networks (LAN) or Wide Area Networks (WAN).

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.

2. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said identical symbol is selected by a game controller from a subset of available symbols.

3. The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein each symbol of said subset of symbols is assigned a probability of selection.

4. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said matrix of elements is comprised of five columns and three rows of elements.

5. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said at least one said reel is a first left-most reel.

6. The gaming machine of claim 5 wherein each element of said first left-most reel other than elements of said at least one consecutive run of elements is populated by a random selection of said available symbols.

7. The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein said game controller selects one potential win element from each said reel.

8. The gaming machine of claim 7 wherein a prize is awarded to a player of a game on said gaming machine if a predetermined arrangement of said potential win elements is displayed on a pre-defined payline of said matrix of elements when a game sequence is concluded.

9. The gaming machine of claim 2 wherein elements of each of reels two, three, four and five are populated with a default random selection of said available symbols.

10. The gaming machine of claim 9 wherein each symbol of at least one pre-defined consecutive run of said elements of each of said reels two, three, four and five is adapted for potential modification from said default random selection of available symbols to a said identical symbol.

11. The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein said identical symbol is that symbol populating said consecutive run of elements of a leftwardly adjoining reel.

12. The gaming machine of claim 10 wherein, said modification from said default random selection occurs within any one of said reels two, three, four or five, if a said win element of a preceding reel coincides with a said element of a consecutive run of elements of said preceding reel.

13. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein each said reel, which includes said at least one consecutive run of identical symbols, is pre-spun at a relatively slow rate when a game sequence is initiated.

14. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein all symbols of all elements of at least one said reel are identical.

15. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a single display stand-alone gaming machine.

16. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is a stand-alone gaming machine provided with an upper secondary display.

17. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said gaming machine is one of a plurality of gaming machine linked to a progressive jackpot controller.

18. The gaming machine of claim 1 wherein said elements are N-sided elements; where N is a variable and values of N include N=1.

19. The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said values of N include 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

20. The gaming machine of claim 18 wherein said N-sided elements are regular hexagons.

21. A method for increasing probability of a winning outcome on a gaming machine; wherein said winning outcome is determined by pre-defined arrangements of symbols displayed in a matrix of elements comprising portions of simulated rotatable reels; said method including the steps of:

(a) arranging at least one of said simulated rotatable reels with at least one consecutive run of elements displaying an identical symbol; said identical symbol selected from a subset of available symbols,

(b) randomly selecting one element from each one of said simulated rotatable reels as a potential win element.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said matrix of elements comprises three rows and five columns of said elements; said columns comprising portions of said rotatable reels.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said identical symbol is selected from a look-up table of said subset of available symbols.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one of said simulated rotatable reels is a first left-most reel.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein all said elements of said reels, except said at least one consecutive run of elements displaying said identical symbol on said first left-most reel, display randomly selected symbols from said available symbols.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein reels other than said first left-most reels are each provided with at least one potential consecutive run of elements adapted for modification from said randomly selected symbols to a said identical symbol.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said modification from said randomly selected symbols within said potential consecutive run of said reels other than said first left-most reel, occurs if said potential win element of a leftwardly preceding reel falls within a said consecutive run of elements of said leftwardly preceding reel.

ABSTRACT

A gaming machine arranged to display a matrix of symbol containing elements; each column of said matrix comprising a portion of a simulated rotatable reel of said symbol containing elements; and wherein each of said symbol containing elements of at least one consecutive run of said symbol containing elements of at least one said reel is caused to display an identical symbol.

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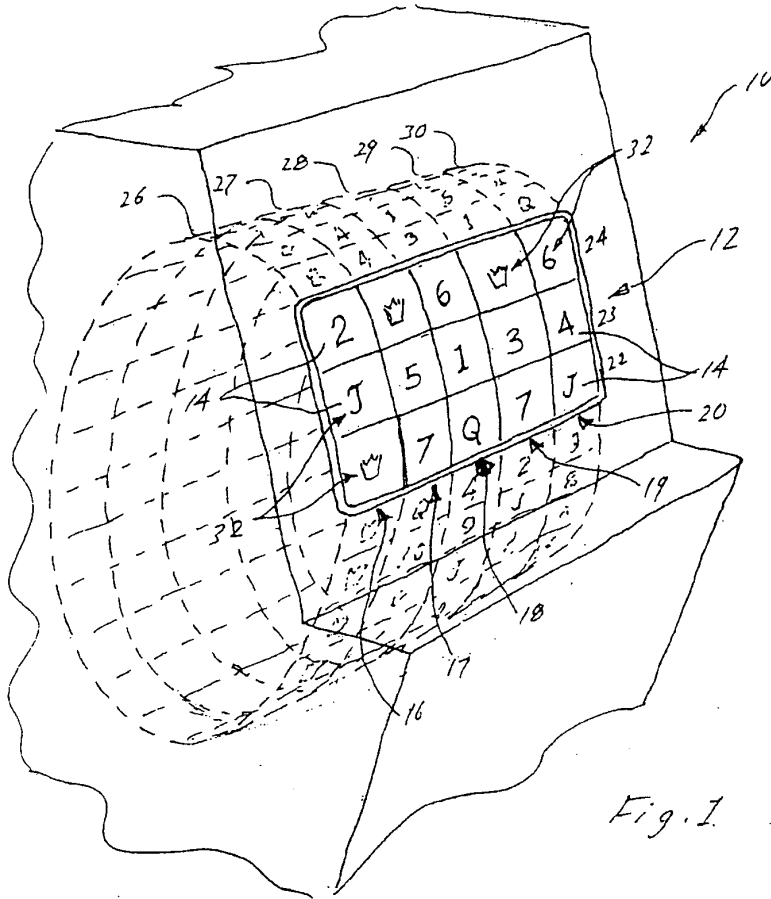


Fig. 1

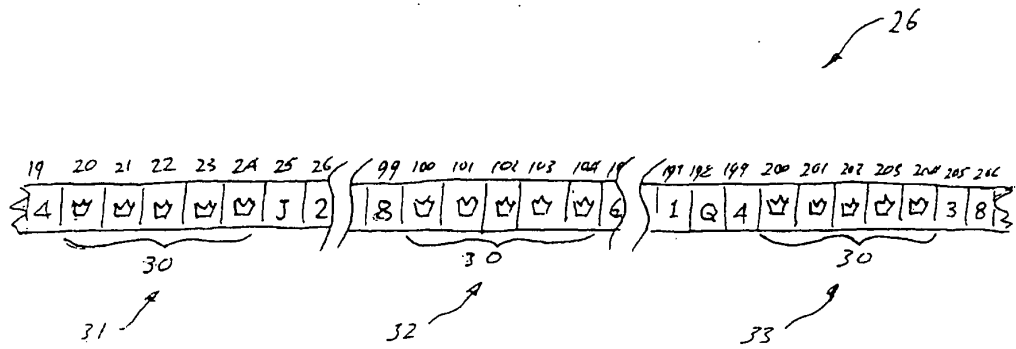


Fig. 2

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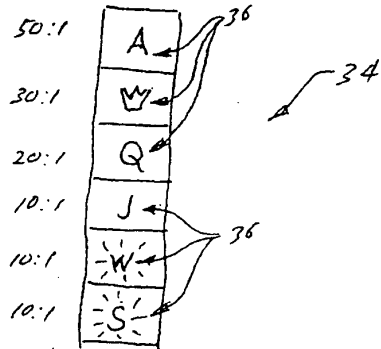


Fig. 3

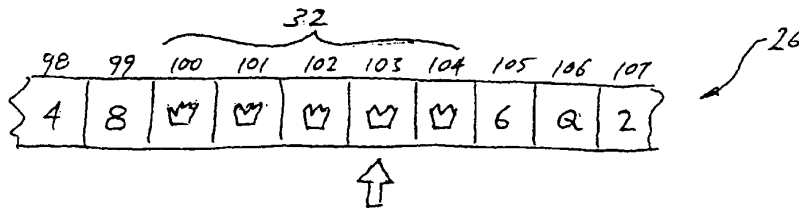


Fig. 4A

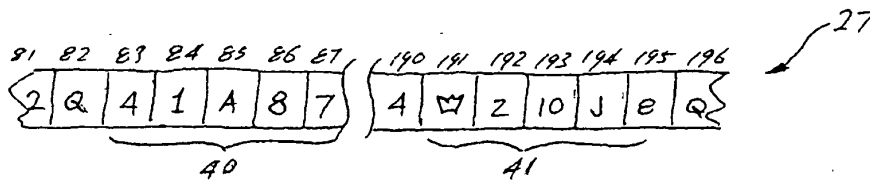


Fig. 4B

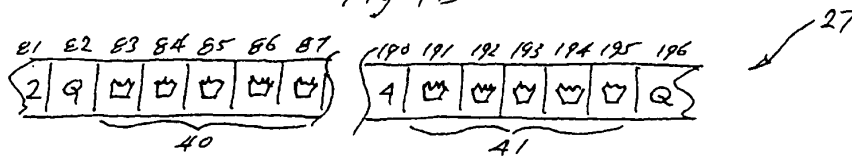


Fig. 4C

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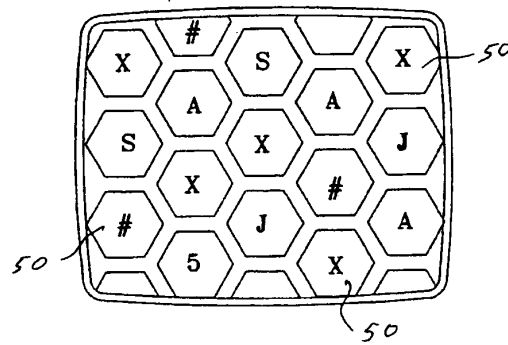


Fig. 5

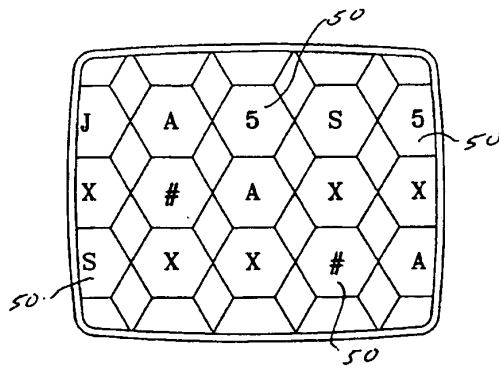


Fig. 6

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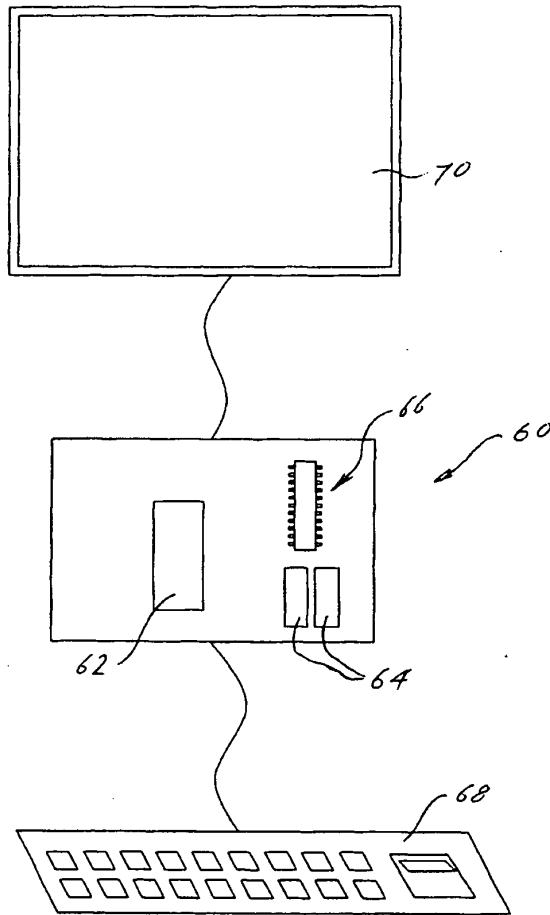


Fig. 7

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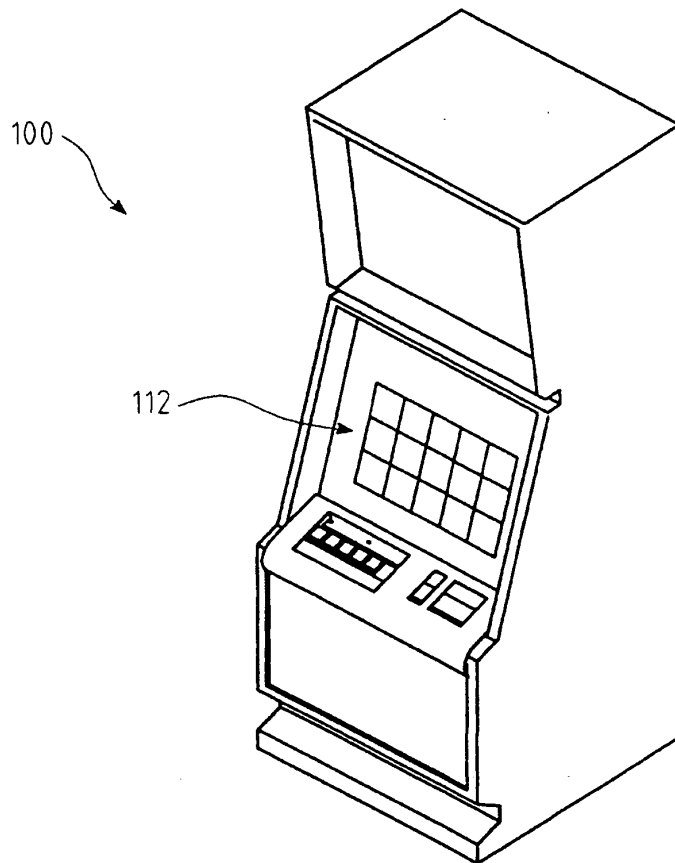


Fig. 8

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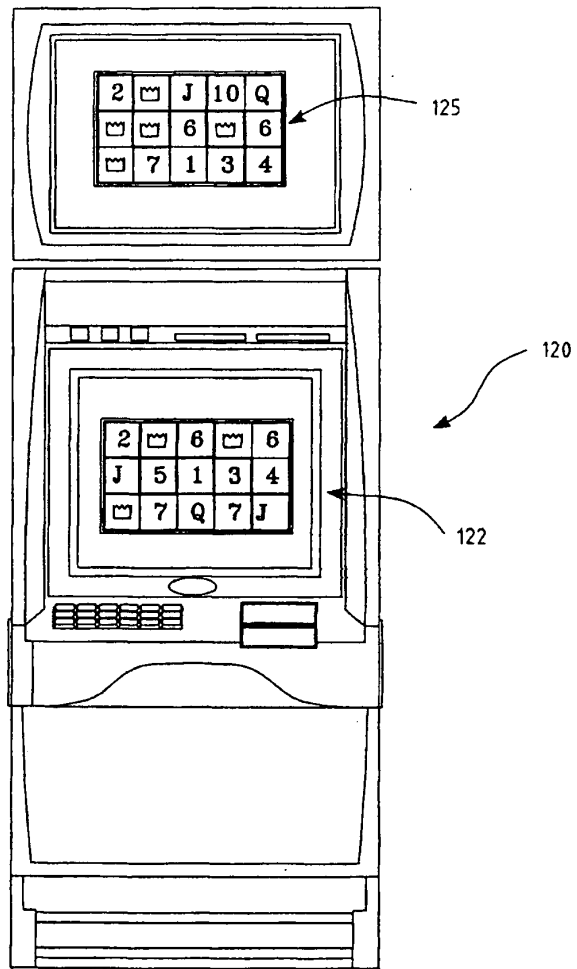


Fig. 9

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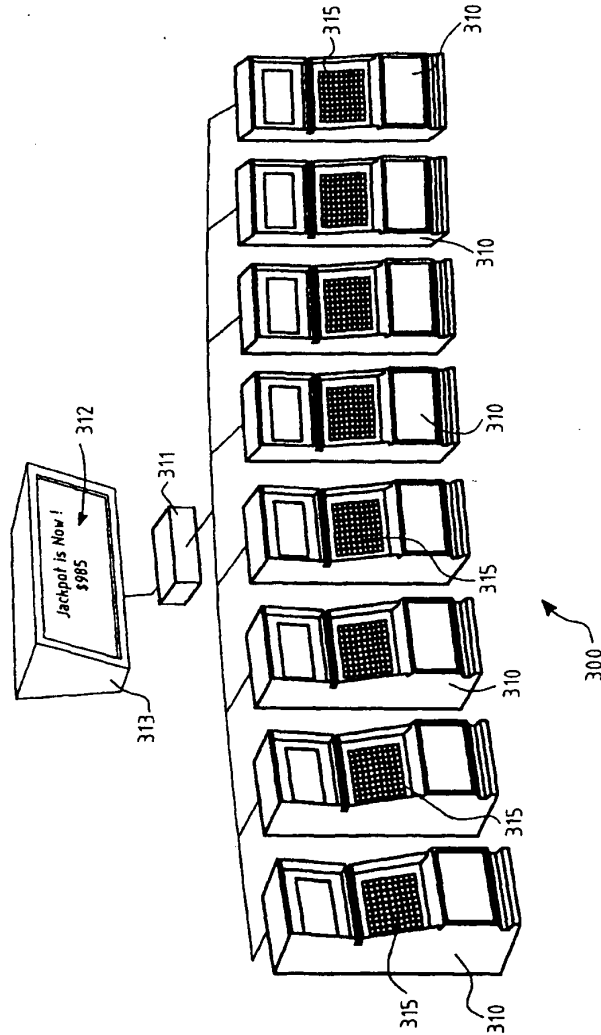


Fig. 10

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PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO _____

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Application or Docket Number
11299009

APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I			SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR	NUMBER FILED (Column 1)	NUMBER EXTRA (Column 2)	RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)		RATE (\$)	FEE (\$)	
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	150.00		N/A	300.00	
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$250		N/A	\$500	
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(c), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$100		N/A	\$200	
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))	27 minus 20 =	7	X\$ 25 =		OR	X\$50 =	350	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	2 minus 3 =	2	X100 =			X200 =		
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).							
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))			+180=			+360=		
			TOTAL			TOTAL	1350	

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.

APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II					SMALL ENTITY		OR		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	MINUS	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)		RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		Minus	**	=	X\$ 25 =		OR	X\$50 =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		Minus	***	=	X100 =		OR	X200 =		
Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))										
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))					+180=			+360=		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE			TOTAL ADD'L FEE		
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	MINUS	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)		RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)	
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		Minus	**	=	X\$ 25 =		OR	X\$50 =	
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		Minus	***	=	X100 =		OR	X200 =		
Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))										
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))					+180=			+360=		
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE			TOTAL ADD'L FEE		

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
 ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".
 *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".
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