

01-27-05
PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTALComplete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: MailMail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (703) 746-4000

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)

29159 7590 02/03/2005

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

04/28/2005 MBELETE2 00000032 09981133

01 FC:1501 1400.00 DP
02 FC:1504 300.00 DP
03 FC:8001 30.00 DP

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 (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below.

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

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	05/03/2005

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ONEILL, MICHAEL W	3713	463-016000

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,

(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.

1 BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

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 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

IGT

Reno, Nevada

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 enclosed:

- ☒ Issue Fee
- ☒ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☒ Advance Order - # of Copies 10

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☒ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 02-1818 (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).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. 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

Adam H. Masia

Date

April 26, 2005

Typed or printed name

Adam H. Masia

Registration No.

35,602

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.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOLS BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: Michael W. O'Neill
Docket No.: 0112300-466

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

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following documents relating to the above-identified application:

1. Transmittal of Payment of Issue Fee in duplicate (2 pgs.);
2. Part B – Fee(s) Transmittal in duplicate (2 pgs.);
3. A check in the amount of \$1,730.00;
4. Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail (1 pg.); and
5. Return Receipt Postcard.

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as

Express Mail in an envelope addressed to:

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

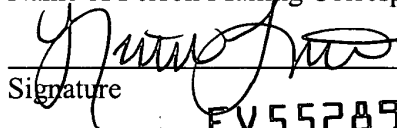
on April 26, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

Heather Foster

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



Signature

EV552894245US

Express Mail Mailing Label Number

TRANSMITTAL OF PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE (Large Entity)
(37 C.F.R. 1.311)

Docket No.
0112300-0466

Applicant(s): Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
09/981,133	October 15, 2001	Michael W. O'Neill	29159	3713	6227

Invention: **EGAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME**



Mail Stop Issue Fee
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmitted herewith are the following for the above-identified application.

- ☒ Issue Fee Transmittal Form PTOL-85
- ☒ Utility Fee: \$ 1400.00 ☐ Design Fee: _____ ☐ Plant Fee: _____
- ☒ Publication Fee: \$ 300.00
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,730.00 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Adam H. Masia

Signature

Dated: April 26, 2005

Adam H. Masia, Reg. No. 35,602
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
(312) 807-4284

CC:

Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile
This certificate may only be used if paying
by deposit account.

I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States and Trademark Office (Fax No. _____) on _____

(Date)

Signature

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____

(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

P35LARGE/REV06

7A



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

29159 7590 02/03/2005
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

ONEILL, MICHAEL W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	05/03/2005

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 REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

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 should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. 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.

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 (703) 746-4000

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)

29159 7590 02/03/2005
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

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 (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below.

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

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227

TITLE OF INVENTION: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	05/03/2005

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ONEILL, MICHAEL W	3713	463-016000

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 3.11. 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 enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), 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).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. 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
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227
29159	7590	02/03/2005	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			ONEILL, MICHAEL W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

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 79 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 79 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 (703) 305-8283.

⑤

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/981,133	BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael O'Neill	3713	

-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding 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 10-18-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-17 and 19-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
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)).

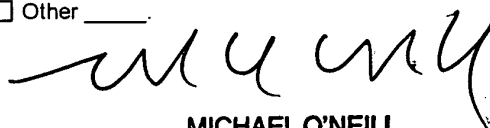
* Certified copies not received: _____.

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 (PTO-152) |
| 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-1449 or 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 _____ |



**MICHAEL O'NEILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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 Mr. Adam Masia on 02-01-1005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon an occurrence of a bonus trigger in the base game, the bonus trigger including a display of a plurality of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game; and

Art Unit: 3713

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game, such that the bonus re-trigger occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus trigger occurs in the base game.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;

a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;

a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and

a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in

Art Unit: 3713

the secondary game, wherein the secondary game re-triggering is more likely to occur in the secondary game than a trigger of the secondary game in the primary game.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Canceled)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments, see Response to Office Action, filed 10-18-2004, with respect to the claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4, 6-17 and 19-22 has been withdrawn because of the reasoning given in the remarks and the examiner's amendment agreed upon by Applicant's representative and the Examiner.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to

Application/Control Number: 09/981,133

Page 5

Art Unit: 3713

avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm O'Neill', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**MICHAEL O'NEILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Appendix E- Allowance "Hot List"

ALLOWANCE HOT LIST

Application No. 09/981133 Prepared by L. Murgan
Examiner-TC O'Neill-3713 Date 2/2/05

JACKET:

☒ YES NO Primary Examiner box complete.
☒ YES NO Issuing Classification complete.

PTO-892/1449:

☒ YES NO Examiner's initials or cross-through lines supplied for each item cited by applicant.
☒ YES NO Date(s) supplied/complete on all PTO-1449/892 sheets. (Month and year required.)

SPEC:

☒ YES NO Brief Description of Drawings includes description of each figure in drawings.
YES NO Continuing data is mentioned in 1st paragraph. (Can be an insert.)

CLAIMS:


☒ YES NO Claims listed on Notice of Allowability match allowed claims and/or index of claims.
☒ YES NO Claims correctly numbered in index.
(No duplicate or missing claim numbers.)
(No incorrect dependencies.)

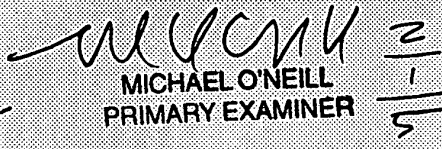
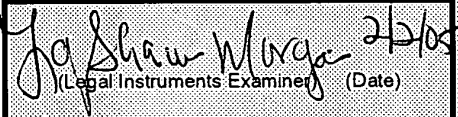
CRFE:

YES NO If necessary (biological sequence listing).

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY:

☒ YES NO Either Box No. 3 (drawings accepted) or Box No. 8 (corrected drawing request) has been checked.

Issue Classification 	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/981,133	BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael O'Neill	3713	

ISSUE CLASSIFICATION												
ORIGINAL				CROSS REFERENCE(S)								
CLASS		SUBCLASS		CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)							
463		16		463	20							
INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION												
A	6	3	F									
				9/24								
				/								
				/								
				/								
				/								
				 MICHAEL O'NEILL PRIMARY EXAMINER (Primary Examiner) (Date)				Total Claims Allowed: 20 O.G. Print Claim(s) 1 O.G. Print Fig 3A & 3B				
 (Legal Instruments Examiner) (Date)												

<input type="checkbox"/> Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant												<input type="checkbox"/> CPA		<input type="checkbox"/> T.D.		<input type="checkbox"/> R.1.47	
Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original	Final	Original				
1	1		31		61		91		121		151		181				
2	2		32		62		92		122		152		182				
3	3		33		63		93		123		153		183				
4	4		34		64		94		124		154		184				
	5		35		65		95		125		155		185				
5	6		36		66		96		126		156		186				
6	7		37		67		97		127		157		187				
7	8		38		68		98		128		158		188				
8	9		39		69		99		129		159		189				
9	10		40		70		100		130		160		190				
10	11		41		71		101		131		161		191				
11	12		42		72		102		132		162		192				
12	13		43		73		103		133		163		193				
13	14		44		74		104		134		164		194				
14	15		45		75		105		135		165		195				
15	16		46		76		106		136		166		196				
16	17		47		77		107		137		167		197				
	18		48		78		108		138		168		198				
17	19		49		79		109		139		169		199				
18	20		50		80		110		140		170		200				
19	21		51		81		111		141		171		201				
20	22		52		82		112		142		172		202				
	23		53		83		113		143		173		203				
	24		54		84		114		144		174		204				
	25		55		85		115		145		175		205				
	26		56		86		116		146		176		206				
	27		57		87		117		147		177		207				
	28		58		88		118		148		178		208				
	29		59		89		119		149		179		209				
	30		60		90		120		150		180		210				



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov



Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 6227

SERIAL NUMBER 09/981,133	FILING DATE 10/15/2001 RULE	CLASS 463	GROUP ART UNIT 3711	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0112300-466
APPLICANTS Anthony J. Baerlocher, Reno, NV; Ryan W. Cuddy, Reno, NV;				
** CONTINUING DATA ***** None RSM				
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** None RSM				
IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** 11/15/2001				
Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Matter met All Awaits		STATE OR COUNTRY NV	SHEETS DRAWING 6	TOTAL CLAIMS 26
Verified and Acknowledged Examiner's Signature <i>[Signature]</i> Initials RSM		INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 8		
ADDRESS 29159				
TITLE Gaming device having a re-triggering symbol bonus scheme				
FILING FEE RECEIVED 1398	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	



3713
JW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Baerlocher et al.
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Conf. No.: 6227
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: R. Mendoza
Docket No.: 0112300-466

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

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, please enter this Response in the above-identified patent application.

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

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a primary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game; and

a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combinations of said triggering symbols.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of said triggering symbols and less than the plurality of said triggering symbols of said combination.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;

- a display device controlled by the processor;

- a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including at least one secondary game triggering symbol;

- a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of said secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in said primary game; and

- at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game or at least one additional spin in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game or at least one additional spin in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of a plurality of predetermined combinations of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said secondary game wherein said display of one of said combinations in said secondary game is more likely to occur than said display of said combination in said primary game.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game or at least one additional spin in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game when less than the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the secondary game.

Claim 8 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes a plurality of reels wherein the predetermined combination is a plurality of bonus triggering symbols along a payline associated with the reels in the base game and the re-triggering combination is the bonus triggering symbols displayed by the reels in any position in the bonus game.

Claim 14 (original): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;

- a display device controlled by the processor;

- a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;

- a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a plurality of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game; and

- a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 17, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;
- a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;
- a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;
- a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;
- a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and
- a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one re-activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor re-activates the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor provides an additional secondary game re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one additional activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the reel re-triggering symbol is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering symbols.

Claim 24 (original): A method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game comprising the steps of:

- (a) triggering the secondary game if a predetermined combination of secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game; and

- (b) providing a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game; and at least one additional spin in the secondary game.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 25, which includes the step of activating a secondary game re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the secondary re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor replays the secondary game.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2004. None of the claims have been amended. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the one month extension. Please charge deposit account no. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

Claims 1 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,491,584 to Graham et al. ("*Graham*"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection and submit that Graham does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Applicants read and interpret *Graham* differently than how the Examiner is reading and interpreting *Graham*. More specifically, Applicants have set forth below the reading and interpretation of the "Summary of the Invention" section of *Graham* which is being relied upon by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner fully consider the reading and interpretation of Graham set forth below.

The first paragraph of the "Summary of the Invention" of *Graham* set forth the definitions and interaction between the "trigger condition" and the "bonus feature."

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 random events are caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event results, the machine awards a prize, the gaming machine being characterised in that if the predefined result includes a trigger condition which results in an initial series of free games awarded to a player and, during the initial series of free games, another trigger condition arises, a subsequent series of free games, including a bonus feature, is awarded and implemented immediately during the existence of the initial series of free games with the bonus feature applicable to said subsequent series of free games being applied to the remaining games of the initial series of free games as well as to the games of the subsequent series of free games. (Emphasis added)(Col. 1, lines 29 to 45).

In this paragraph of *Graham*, the trigger condition causes the gaming device to provide the initial series of free games to the player. The player then plays the initial series of free games. If another trigger condition occurs while the player is playing those initial

series of free games, the gaming device provides additional free games to the player (i.e., a subsequent series of free games). The additional free games include a bonus feature. The additional free games are added to the remaining number of initial free games provided to the player. The bonus feature is applied to those remaining initial free games as well as to the additional free games provided to the player.

Based on this paragraph of *Graham*, the first occurrence of the trigger condition in *Graham* thus causes the gaming device to provide the initial free games to the player, and the second occurrence of the trigger condition in *Graham* thus causes (a) the gaming device to provide the additional free games to the player and (b) to provide a bonus feature applied to those additional free games and any remaining initial free games. *Graham* thus clearly defines and distinguishes the "trigger condition" and the "bonus feature" as having different functions in the game.

The second paragraph of the "Summary of the Invention" of *Graham* further defines an "initial bonus feature" in the game.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the game includes an initial bonus feature awarded during the initial series of free games. Then, when the subsequent series of free games occurs, the bonus feature of the subsequent series of free games supersedes the initial bonus feature applicable in respect of the remainder of the games of the initial series so that the bonus feature applicable to the subsequent series of free games applies to all the remaining free games. (Col. 1, lines 46 to 53).

This paragraph describes a preferred embodiment of *Graham* which includes an initial bonus feature for the initial series of free games. When the subsequent series of free games is provided to the player (i.e., after the second occurrence of the trigger condition), the bonus feature supersedes or replaces the initial bonus feature for any remaining initial free games and for the subsequent or additional free games. *Graham* again clearly defines and distinguishes the "trigger condition," "the initial bonus feature" and the "bonus feature" as having different functions in the game.

The third and fourth paragraph of the "Summary of the Invention" section of *Graham*: (a) define a "further series of free games" and a "further bonus feature;" (b) defines the repetitive or looping functionality of this game scheme; and (c) defines a potential limit on the looping feature.

It will be appreciated that, in the subsequent series of free games, if the trigger condition again arises to trigger a further series of free games, the further series of free games has a further bonus feature associated with it. The further bonus feature may supersede the bonus feature of the remaining games of the subsequent series of free games as well as any remaining games of the initial series of free games.

The awarding of yet further bonus features when additional free games are triggered may occur, optionally, a finite number of times. (Col. 1, lines 63 to 65).

These paragraphs describe the repetitive or looping functionality of the game scheme. Specifically, the third paragraph describes that each subsequent occurrence of the trigger condition (such as the third occurrence of the trigger condition) causes the gaming device to provide a further series of free games to the player and also causes the gaming device to provide a further bonus feature which is for each of the further free games and each of the remaining free games from the initial series and the additional series. Thus, each subsequently obtained bonus feature supersedes the previous bonus feature for all of the remaining games as further described in the fourth paragraph. Again, *Graham* clearly defines and distinguishes the "trigger condition," "the initial bonus feature," the "bonus feature," and the "further bonus feature(s)" as having different functions in the game scheme.

The fourth paragraph also states that the number of times that a subsequent bonus feature is provided to the player may be limited to a "finite number of times." For example, after a forth occurrence of the trigger condition, the gaming machine does not have to change or provide a fourth bonus feature which supersedes the previous or third bonus feature.

The entire fifth paragraph of the "Summary of the Invention" of *Graham* is directed to and describes the bonus features.

Any suitable bonus feature may be applicable. Thus, the bonus feature may include at least one of changes in definitions of symbol functions, for example, to scatters, substitutes, bonus symbols, feature triggers, etc, payable variations or an increase in the number of free games awarded. (Col. 1, line 66 to Col. 2, line 4).

The Examiner is relying on this paragraph to teach the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation. This paragraph states that any suitable

bonus feature may be applicable to the free games and then provides certain examples of different bonus features that may be applied to the free games. When carefully parsed, this paragraph sets forth three separate examples for the bonus feature which is applied to the free games which include

- (i) at least one change in the definitions of symbol function,
- (ii) paytable variations, and
- (iii) an increase in the number of free games awarded.

The Examiner relies on this first type of bonus feature to reject the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the language "at least one change in the definitions of symbol function" does not teach the presently claimed invention. *Graham* sets forth four examples of this first type of bonus feature which is how the symbol function definitions change including changes (a) to scatters, (b) to substitutes, (c) to bonus symbols, (d) to feature triggers, (e) etc. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiners interpretation of the language "to feature triggers."

When *Graham* states that the bonus feature includes the change in a symbol definition function such as to feature triggers, *Graham* is simply stating that the function of one or more symbols may change. For example, if the feature trigger is caused by the occurrence of three A symbols, by changing the definition of symbol functions to feature triggers, three B symbols may then cause the feature to be triggered instead of the three A symbols. *Graham* does not state that this change will increase the probability of obtaining the trigger condition or making the trigger condition more likely to occur in a subsequent game or in subsequent games. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is using improper hindsight to read this teaching into this language. Moreover, as discussed above with regard to the first four paragraphs of the summary in *Graham*, *Graham* makes a clear distinction in discussing trigger conditions and bonus features. The entire fifth paragraph of the summary in *Graham* relates to the bonus features and it is respectfully submitted that the language the "bonus feature includes the change in a symbol definition function such as to feature triggers" is directed to the bonus features applied to the free games and not to changing the trigger conditions for the additional free games.


Moreover, the Examiner's interpretation contradicts the express teaching of *Graham*. *Graham* expressly teaches that the trigger frequency of the trigger condition

may decrease for at least one or more of the free games. (Col. 3, lines 59 to 64). Applicants therefore respectfully submit that *Graham* teaches a game scheme where the likelihood of obtaining the trigger condition for the free games is the same or less likely than obtaining the trigger condition in the base game. Therefore, *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest a secondary game re-triggering event in a secondary game which re-triggers the secondary game where the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game as in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 to 26 are patentably distinguished over *Graham*. It is also respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not addressed each of the elements in each of the Claims including each of the dependent claims and that such elements are not all disclosed in *Graham*.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Patent Office has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office contact the undersigned to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 
Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

Dated: October 14, 2004

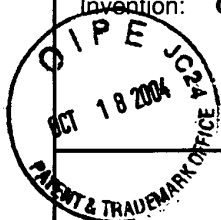
**COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)**

Docket No.
0112300-0466

In Re Application Of: **Baerlocher et al.**

Application No. 09/981,133	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Examiner R. Mendoza	Customer No. 29159	Group Art Unit 3713	Confirmation No. 6227
--------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

Invention: **GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME**



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This is a combined amendment and petition under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response to the Office Action of **June 16, 2004** in the above-identified application.
Date

The requested extension is as follows (check time period desired):

☒ One month ☐ Two months ☐ Three months ☐ Four months ☐ Five months

from: **September 16, 2004** until: **October 16, 2004**
Date *Date*

The fee for the amendment and extension of time has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	26 -	26 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	8 -	8 =	0	x \$88.00	\$0.00
FEE FOR AMENDMENT					\$0.00
FEE FOR EXTENSION OF TIME					\$110.00
TOTAL FEE FOR AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF TIME					\$110.00

10/20/2004 CNGUYEN 00000015 09981133

01 FC:1251

110.00 OP

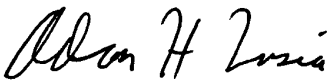
**COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)**

Docket No.
0112300-0466

The fee for the amendment and extension of time is to be paid as follows:

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$110.00** for the amendment and extension of time is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of **\$110.00**
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☐ If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. _____
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.



Signature

Adam H. Masia, Reg. No. 35,602
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1134
(312) 807-4284

Dated: October 14, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on
October 14, 2004

(Date)

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Renee M. Street

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

P28LARGE/REV04

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Effective October 1, 2001

Application or Docket Number

09/981133
PTC-260-466

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	26	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	26 minus 20 =	* 6
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	6 minus 3 =	* 3
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/>		

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY
TYPE ☐OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE	OR	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	370.00	OR	BASIC FEE	740.00
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	108
X42=		OR	X84=	420
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL		OR	TOTAL	1269

10/18/04 CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
Total	* 26	Minus ** 26	=
Independent	* 3	Minus *** 3	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>			

SMALL ENTITY

OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	OR	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X42=		OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus **	=
Independent	*	Minus ***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>			

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	OR	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X42=		OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT C	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus **	=
Independent	*	Minus ***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>			

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	OR	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=		OR	X\$18=	
X42=		OR	X84=	
+140=		OR	+280=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. 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.



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 NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227
29159	7590	06/16/2004		
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			EXAMINER MENDOZA, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT 3713	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

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

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/981,133	BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert J Mendoza	3713	

-- 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) 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 the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- 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 26 March 2004.
- 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) 1-26 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) 1-26 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

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 –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Graham et al (USPN 6,491,584).

Graham, in col. 1:29-45 and col. 2:55-59, discloses a gaming device comprising a processor, a display device controlled by the processor, a primary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game, and at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols. Graham, in col 1:66-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:5-22, discloses the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of the triggering symbols and less than the plurality of triggering symbols of the combination. Graham, in col. 1:35-45, discloses the bonus trigger is selected from the group consisting of at least one

additional turn in the bonus game. Graham, in col. 1:54-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:3-44, discloses the bonus re-triggering symbol activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player. Graham, in col. 1:66-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:45-57, discloses the secondary re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than in the primary game, the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 03/26/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that Graham does not disclose increasing the frequency of the trigger condition in one or more of the free secondary games. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Graham, in col. 1:66-67 and col. 2:1-4, that the bonus feature includes at least one of changes in scatters, substitutes, *bonus symbols* and *feature triggers*. Graham continues by disclosing, in col. 3:45-57, that the number of times the trigger condition occurs where the bonus feature increases may take place a finite number of times. Furthermore, Graham discloses an *increasing* bonus feature is applicable in respect of the first four trigger conditions whereafter it is no longer increased. The above Graham disclosure teaches increasing the number of scatters, substitutes, *bonus symbols* and *feature triggers* a finite number of times in a re-triggered series of secondary games. Clearly, if Graham increases the number bonus symbols or feature triggers in subsequent bonus games, it increases the probability of obtaining a winning outcome (i.e. re-triggering event) in at least one or more of the series of free secondary games. Although Graham discloses that the trigger frequency *may* decrease for at least some of the series of free secondary

games, there is a period in the series of free secondary games where there is an increase in the frequency of the trigger condition in one or more of the free secondary games.

The Applicant argues that Graham does not disclose re-triggering the entire secondary game when the trigger condition occurs. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Graham, in col. 3:15-21, discloses if during any one of the free games of the initial series of free games, the same trigger condition arises, a subsequent series of free games is awarded. The above Graham disclosure teaches that if a triggering event occurs during the initial series of free games (secondary games), the player re-triggers another series of free games (secondary games). Therefore, Graham does disclose re-triggering the entire secondary game when the trigger condition occurs.

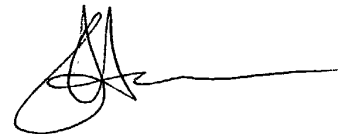
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Mendoza whose telephone number is (703) 305-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the primary examiner, John Hotaling, can be reached at (703) 305-0780. The USPTO official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

RM

RM
June 9, 2004



JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Index of Claims



Application No.

09/981,133

Examiner

Robert J Mendoza

Applicant(s)

BAERLOCHER ET AL.

Art Unit

3713

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed

-	(Through numeral) Cancelled
+	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claim		Date			
Final	Original				
	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				
	28				
	29				
	30				
	31				
	32				
	33				
	34				
	35				
	36				
	37				
	38				
	39				
	40				
	41				
	42				
	43				
	44				
	45				
	46				
	47				
	48				
	49				
	50				

Claim		Date			
Final	Original				
	51				
	52				
	53				
	54				
	55				
	56				
	57				
	58				
	59				
	60				
	61				
	62				
	63				
	64				
	65				
	66				
	67				
	68				
	69				
	70				
	71				
	72				
	73				
	74				
	75				
	76				
	77				
	78				
	79				
	80				
	81				
	82				
	83				
	84				
	85				
	86				
	87				
	88				
	89				
	90				
	91				
	92				
	93				
	94				
	95				
	96				
	97				
	98				
	99				
	100				

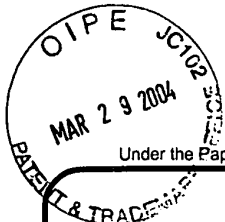
Claim		Date			
Final	Original				
	101				
	102				
	103				
	104				
	105				
	106				
	107				
	108				
	109				
	110				
	111				
	112				
	113				
	114				
	115				
	116				
	117				
	118				
	119				
	120				
	121				
	122				
	123				
	124				
	125				
	126				
	127				
	128				
	129				
	130				
	131				
	132				
	133				
	134				
	135				
	136				
	137				
	138				
	139				
	140				
	141				
	142				
	143				
	144				
	145				
	146				
	147				
	148				
	149				
	150				

Robert J Mendoza

3713

INTERFERENCE SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner

[illegible]



61

RCE/3713

H

PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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.

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/981,133
Filing Date	October 15, 2001
First Named Inventor	Baerlocher et al.
Art Unit	3713
Examiner Name	R. Mendoza
Attorney Docket Number	0112300-466

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. ☐ Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered 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).

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. ☐ Other _____

- b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iv. ☒ Other Return receipt postcard

2. ☐ Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

- b. ☐ Other _____

3. ☐ Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-1818

i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

03/30/2004 AWONDAF1 00000113 09981133

iii. ☒ Other Any additional fees

01 FC:1801

770.00 DP

- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed

- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

RECEIVED

APR 01 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print / Type)	Adam H. Masia	Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	35,602
Signature		Date	March 26, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print / Type)	Renee Street	Date	March 26, 2004
Signature			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. 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 the 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: Mail Stop RCE, 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.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Baerlocher et al.
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Conf. No.: 6227
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: R. Mendoza
Docket No.: 0112300-466

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

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 2, 2003, and in accordance with the telephone interview courteously granted by the Examiner to Applicants' representatives on January 28, 2004, please enter this Response in the above-identified patent application.

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

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

RECEIVED
APR 01 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a primary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game; and

a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game ~~or a portion thereof~~, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combinations of said triggering symbols.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of said triggering symbols and less than the plurality of said triggering symbols of said combination.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including at least one secondary game triggering symbol;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of said secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, or at least one additional spin in the secondary game ~~or at least one additional turn in the secondary game~~ provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, or at least one additional spin in the secondary game ~~or at least one additional turn in the secondary game~~ provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of a plurality of predetermined combinations of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said secondary game wherein said display of one of said combinations in said secondary game is more likely to occur than said display of said combination in said primary game.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, or at least one additional spin in the secondary game ~~or at least one additional turn in the secondary game~~ provided to the player in the secondary game when less than the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the secondary game.

Claim 8 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said base game including a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said bonus game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of said
bonus triggering symbols in said base game, said predetermined combination having a
likelihood of occurrence; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when a
predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display
device in the bonus game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of
occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined
combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-
trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus
game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game; ~~and at least one additional~~
~~turn in the bonus game.~~

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game; ~~and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.~~

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes a plurality of reels wherein the predetermined combination is a plurality of bonus triggering symbols along a payline associated with the reels in the base game and the re-triggering combination is the bonus triggering symbols displayed by the reels in any position in the bonus game.

Claim 14 (original): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;
- a display device controlled by the processor;
- a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;
- a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a plurality of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game; and
- a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game; ~~and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.~~

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; and at least one additional spin in the bonus game; ~~and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.~~

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 17, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;
- a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;
- a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;
- a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;
- a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and
- a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one re-activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor re-activates the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor provides an additional secondary game re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one additional activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the reel re-triggering symbol is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering symbols.

Claim 24 (original): A method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game comprising the steps of:

(a) triggering the secondary game if a predetermined combination of secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game; and

(b) providing a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of Claim 24, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game; and at least one additional spin in the secondary game; ~~and at least one additional turn in the secondary game.~~

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 25, which includes the step of activating a secondary game re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the secondary re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor replays the secondary game.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated December 2, 2003. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17 and 25 have been amended. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to Respond to the Office Action and a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") are submitted herein. A check in the amount of \$880.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for the one-month extension and the RCE. Please charge deposit account no. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

Claims 1 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,584 to Graham et al. ("*Graham*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,429 to Demar et al. ("*Demar*").

As discussed during the telephone interview, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine *Graham* and *Demar* to teach the present invention. Even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the combination does not teach or suggest the present invention. Additionally, the claims have been amended to further clarify the present invention.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a primary game controlled by the processor and a secondary game controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game. Additionally, the gaming device includes a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game where the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game. The combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of elements of Claim 1.

Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *In re Fritch*, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Moreover, a *prima facie* case of obviousness can be rebutted if the applicant can show that the prior art teaches away from the claimed invention. *In re Haruna*, 58 U.S.P.Q.2d 1517, 1522

(Fed. Cir. 2001). A reference teaches away when a person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading the reference, will be led in a direction "divergent from the path" that was taken by the applicant. (*Id.*)

Graham discloses a gaming machine including a base game. The gaming machine provides an initial series of free games to a player when a trigger condition occurs in the base game. (Col. 3, lines 5 to 10) The gaming machine provides a subsequent series of free games to the player if the same trigger condition occurs in the initial series of free games. The subsequent series of free games has a different bonus feature. In one embodiment, the bonus feature includes a paytable having awards that are triple or three times the awards in the paytable associated with the base game. Accordingly, when the same trigger condition occurs in the free games, another series of free games and a different bonus feature are provided to the player. In one embodiment, each subsequent bonus feature includes a paytable having larger awards.

As described above, *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the frequency of the trigger condition in one or more of the free games. Rather, *Graham* teaches that:

the trigger frequency may decrease for at least some of the series of free games by changing the length or layout of the reel strips. (Col. 3, lines 59 to 61) (emphasis added).

This teaching in *Graham* would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art in a direction away from increasing the trigger frequency of the trigger condition in any of the free games from the trigger frequency of the trigger condition in the base game. Additionally, *Graham* discloses providing additional free games when the trigger condition occurs in one of the free games. However, *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest re-triggering the entire secondary game when the trigger condition occurs as in amended Claim 1.

During the telephone interview conducted on January 28, 2004, the Examiner stated that *Graham* teaches or suggests increasing the frequency of a retrigger in a bonus game. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the section of the specification of

Graham at column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 4 teaches or suggests this feature. This section of *Graham* is as follows:

Any suitable bonus feature may be applicable. Thus, the bonus feature may include at least one of the changes in definitions of symbol functions, for example, to scatters, substitutes, bonus symbols, feature triggers, etc., payable variations or an increase in the number of free games awarded.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Patent Office regarding the correct interpretation of this language in *Graham*.

In *Graham*, a bonus feature is associated with the initial series of free games provided to the player when a trigger condition occurs in the base game. If during any one of the free games of the initial serial of free games, the exact same trigger condition arises, another set or series of free games are awarded to the player. A different bonus feature is associated with that series of free games. *Graham* describes the bonus feature as a payable which provides increased awards such as double the awards provided for the base game. (Col. 3, lines 11 to 21). The bonus feature is applicable to the remaining number of free games from the initial free games and all of the free games from the additional or bonus set of free games provided to the player. *Graham* describes the bonus feature as being a payable which increases for each subsequent series of free games provided to the player when a trigger condition occurs. For example, *Graham* states that if the trigger condition occurs again, the payable for all of the prizes becomes five times the awards of the payable associated with the base game. (Col. 3, lines 33 to 44).

This language in *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the frequency of the trigger condition in the subsequent series of free games. As described above, *Graham* discloses that the bonus feature may include at least one of a change in bonus symbols or feature triggers, but does not disclose how those symbols or triggers are changed. *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of the occurrence of the feature trigger. For each of these reasons, *Graham* does not

disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of obtaining a retrigger of the entire bonus game or an additional spin in the bonus game.

Demar discloses a gaming device including a basic game and a bonus game. In the basic game, an event or sequence of outcomes occur at a low frequency or low probability. (Col. 4, lines 5 through 15) The bonus game includes a generally high hit rate or high probability of winning. (Col. 6, lines 60 through 62) In one embodiment, the bonus game has a hit rate greater than fifty percent and preferably greater than seventy percent (Col. 7, lines 38 to 41) The hit rate or probability of winning is expressed as a Bernoulli trial which is usually referred to as a "probability of success". (Col. 7, lines 47 to 54). The gaming device continues to provide Bernoulli trials to the player as long as each trial produces a winning combination. (Col. 10, lines 27 to 38). By employing a geometric functions such as the Bernoulli trials, *Demar* enables a player to accumulate more awards in the bonus game since the hit rate for the bonus game is greater than fifty percent and in some instances, greater than seventy percent. Therefore, *Demar* discloses a gaming device having a basic game and a bonus game where the hit rate in the bonus game is greater than the basic game by modifying the probability of success or the hit rate in the bonus game. The player continues to receive trials in the bonus game until a losing outcome occurs and the game ends. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest a gaming device including a primary game and a secondary game where a secondary game triggering event in the primary game triggers the secondary game and a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game re-triggers the entire secondary game. On the contrary, *Demar* discloses employing a geometric function as a probability of success to increase the hit rate of obtaining awards in the bonus game. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest providing additional trials or free games in the bonus game after the initial number of free games or trials are provided to the player in the bonus game.

As described above, *Graham* discloses a base game which, upon a trigger condition in the base game, initiates a series of free games. If the same trigger condition arises in one or more of the free games, additional free games are provided to a player. Additionally, *Graham* teaches that the trigger frequency of the trigger condition

may decrease for at least one or more of the free games. Graham also does not disclose, teach or suggest that the bonus feature increases the likelihood of obtaining the trigger condition in one or more of the free games. Thus, *Graham* teaches away from the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* suggested by the Patent Office because *Graham* teaches a bonus game where the likelihood of obtaining the trigger condition in the bonus game is the same or less likely than obtaining the trigger condition in the base game. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine *Graham* and *Demar* because *Graham* teaches away from such a combination. The combination of *Graham* and *Demar* also does not disclose, teach or suggest re-triggering the entire bonus game or providing one or more additional spins of the bonus game.

For each of these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 1. Therefore, amended Claim 1 and Claims 2 to 4, which depend from amended Claim 1, are patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and are in condition for allowance.

Even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 1. As described above, *Graham* discloses, teaches, or suggests employing the same trigger condition to trigger one or more series of additional free games. *Demar* discloses a bonus game having a higher hit rate or probability of obtaining an award than the base game. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the probability or the hit rate of obtaining additional free games or trials in the bonus game. In fact, *Demar* discloses obtaining a number of trials or free games in the bonus game and ending the game when there are no free games remaining. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest obtaining additional free games or trials in the bonus game and therefore does not disclose, teach or suggest re-triggering the entire secondary or bonus game or providing additional free games in the bonus game. Thus, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* teaches or suggests a bonus game where the hit rate of obtaining a particular award is greater than the hit rate of obtaining that same award in the base game but does not disclose, teach

or suggest increasing the likelihood of obtaining a re-trigger of the secondary game which is greater than the likelihood of obtaining a trigger of the secondary game in the base game. For these additional reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 1.

Amended Claim 5 is directed to a gaming device including a processor and a display device controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a primary game and a secondary game where the primary game is displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor and includes at least one secondary game triggering symbol which triggers the secondary game. Specifically, the secondary game is triggered upon the display of the secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in the primary game. The gaming device also includes at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game or at least one additional spin in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of the plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

Amended Claim 5 includes similar elements to amended Claim 1 and additionally includes the element of triggering a secondary game when a triggering symbol occurs in one predetermined position in the primary game and re-triggering the secondary game when one of the secondary game triggering symbol occurs in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game. Thus, the re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely than the triggering event in the primary game because the secondary game triggering symbol or symbols may occur on more than one position in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game. As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. In addition as described above, even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 5. For each of these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 5. Therefore, amended Claim 5 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 6 is directed to a gaming device including similar elements to amended Claims 1 and 5 where a secondary game is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols in a primary game. In the secondary game, at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game or at least one additional spin in the secondary game is provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the combinations in the secondary game where the display of one of the combinations in the secondary game is more likely to occur than the display of the combination in the primary game.

As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. Also, even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 6. For each of these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 6. Therefore, amended Claim 6 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 7 includes similar elements to amended Claim 1 and further includes a secondary game which is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game and at least one re-trigger of the secondary game is provided to the player when less than the plurality of secondary game triggering symbols is displayed in the secondary game. Thus, the re-trigger of the secondary game in the secondary game is more likely than the trigger of the secondary game in the primary game because the re-triggering event requires less secondary symbols to be displayed in the secondary game than the triggering event in the primary game. As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. In addition as described above, even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 7. For each of these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 7. Therefore, amended Claim 7 is

patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 is directed to a gaming device including a processor and a display device controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the base game includes a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols. The gaming device further includes a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the bonus game is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of bonus triggering symbols in the base game where the predetermined combination has a likelihood of occurrence. A bonus re-trigger is provided to the player in the bonus game when a predetermined combination of the bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game where the predetermined combination has a likelihood of occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. Also, even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of amended Claim 8. For each of these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 8. Therefore, Claim 8 and Claims 9 to 13, which depend from Claim 8, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a display device controlled by the processor, a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the base game includes a plurality of bonus triggering symbols and a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the bonus game is triggered upon the display of a plurality of bonus triggering symbols in the base game. The gaming device also includes a bonus re-trigger which is provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of bonus triggering symbols are displayed in the bonus game. Claim 14 includes similar elements to

amended Claim 7. Therefore, for the reasons provided above for amended Claim 7, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 14. Therefore, Claim 14 and Claims 15 to 18, which depend from Claim 14, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a plurality of reels controlled by the processor and a plurality of symbols on each reel where the symbols include a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols. The gaming device also includes a primary game including at least one activation of the reels by the processor and a secondary game including at least one activation of the reels by the processor where the secondary game is triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in the primary game. The gaming device also includes a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position of the secondary game.

As described above, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of obtaining a secondary game re-trigger in a secondary game than obtaining a secondary game triggering event in the primary game by increasing the potential locations or positions that the secondary game triggering symbols may occur in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game. For these reasons, Claim 19 and Claims 20 to 23, which depend from Claim 19, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 is directed to a method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game where the gaming device triggers the secondary game if a predetermined combination of the secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game and provides a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game. As described above, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of re-

triggering a secondary game by requiring less symbols to be displayed in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game than the symbols required to trigger the secondary game in the primary game. For these reasons, Claim 24 and Claims 25 and 26, which depend from Claim 24, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Patent Office has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office contact the undersigned to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

Dated: March 26, 2004

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)
(Large Entity)

Docket No.
0112300-466

In Re Application Of: **Baerlocher et al.**

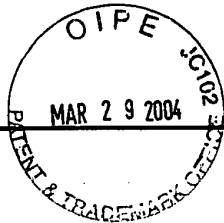
Serial No.
09/981,133

Filing Date
October 15, 2001

Examiner
R. Mendoza

Group Art Unit
3713

Invention: **GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME**



TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response to the Office Action of **December 2, 2003** above-identified application.
Date

The requested extension is as follows (check time period desired):

☒ One month ☐ Two months ☐ Three months ☐ Four months ☐ Five months

from: **March 2, 2004**
Date

until: **April 2, 2004**
Date

The fee for the extension of time is **\$110** and is to be paid as follows:

- ☒ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.
☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**
☒ If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**

Signature

Dated: **March 26, 2004**

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, IL 60690-1135
Phone: 312-807-4284

RECEIVED

APR 01 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on **03-26-2004** with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Renee Street

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

03/30/2004 AMONDAF1 00000113 09981133

02 FC:1251

110.00 OP

cc:



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 NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227
29159	7590	01/30/2004	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			MENDOZA, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

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

NK

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/981,133	BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert J Mendoza	3713	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Robert J Mendoza.

(3) Julie Brockett.

(2) Adam H. Masia.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 28 January 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-28.

Identification of prior art discussed: Graham et al (USPN6,491,584) and Demar et al (USPN 6,203,429).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Julie Brockett
 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The Applicant introduced an issue regarding the reasons for combining Graham with Demar. The issue of using "increasing the excitement level offered by the gaming machine" as a reason to combine was acknowledged by the Examiner. It was expressed to the Applicant that the issue would be discussed with supervisory examiner, Teresa Walberg and a group decision will be made on how to deal with this issue. No agreement was reached. The Applicant continued by arguing that Graham teaches away from Applicant's invention by saying that the trigger frequency may decrease for at least some of the series of games. However, the Examiner noted that Graham also teaches the contrary to this assertion. No agreement was reached. The Examiner notes that Graham will be reviewed in its entirety for a 102 consideration and the motivation for the 103 combination will be discussed with Teresa Walberg. Applicant stated he would file an RCE. .



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 NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227
29159	7590	12/02/2003	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			MENDOZA, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3713	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2003

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

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,133

Applicant(s)

BAERLOCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Robert J Mendoza

Art Unit

3713

-- 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) 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 the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- 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 12 September 2003.
- 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) 1-26 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) 1-26 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 and 120

- 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.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

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 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham (USPN 6,491,584) in view of Demar et al. (USPN 6,203,429).

Regarding claims 1, 4-11, 13-19, 21, 22 and 24-26, Graham, in col. 1:29-45 and col. 2:55-59, discloses a gaming device comprising a processor, a display device controlled by the processor, a primary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game, and at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols. Graham, in col. 1:66-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:5-22, discloses the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of the triggering symbols and less than the plurality of triggering symbols of the combination. Graham, in col. 1:35-45, discloses the bonus trigger is selected from the group consisting of at least one additional turn in the bonus game. Graham, in col. 1:54-67, col. 2:1-4

and col. 3:3-44, discloses the bonus re-triggering symbol activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

However, Graham lacks in disclosing the secondary re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than in the primary game, the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols. Demar, in an analogous invention, teaches, in col. 4:11-23:39-42:58-67, col. 5:1-3:40-42 and col. 6:27-29, increasing a game player's chances of receiving a winning outcome in the bonus game than in the primary game while using the some of the same symbols. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Demar into the disclosed invention of Graham. One would be motivated to combine the teaching of Demar into the disclosed invention of Graham in order to, improve the diversity of the bonus game and increase the excitement level offered by the gaming machine.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/12/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that the **combination of Graham and Demar does not teach the claimed invention**. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Graham clearly discloses a gaming machine with a triggering event in the primary game, which gives a game player a series of free games (i.e. turns or spins). If another triggering arises during the first series of free games, the player receives another series of free game with a bonus feature (col. 1:46-62). Demar, in an analogous invention, is being utilized to teach having increasing the probability of obtaining a winning outcome in a secondary game. It is not required for Demar to disclose all the other

Art Unit: 3713

elements in the claims for Demar to be combined with Graham or vice versa (refer to MPEP 2141). Therefore, there is reason to combine Graham with Demar.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. 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 mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to game controllers:

USPN 6,540,614 Nishino et al. discloses game controllers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Mendoza whose telephone number is (703) 305-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Application/Control Number: 09/981,133

Page 5


Art Unit: 3713

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg, can be reached at (703) 308-1327. The USPTO official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

RM

RM

November 27, 2003


Teresa Walberg
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

8/a
K. Cable
9/17/03

Applicants: Baerlocher et al.
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Conf. No.: 6227
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3713
Examiner: R. Mendoza
Docket No.: 0112300-466

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

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 9, 2003, and the telephone interview courteously granted by the Examiner to Applicants' representatives on August 20, 2003, please enter this Response in the above-identified patent application.

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

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2003
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a primary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game; and

a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combinations of said triggering symbols.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of said triggering symbols and less than the plurality of said triggering symbols of said combination.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including at least one secondary game triggering symbol;

1
2
a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of said secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

Claim 6 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of a plurality of predetermined combinations of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said secondary game wherein said display of one of said combinations in said secondary game is more likely to occur than said display of said combination in said primary game.

Claim 7 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game when less than the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the secondary game.

Claim 8 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said base game including a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols;

21 a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said bonus game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of said
bonus triggering symbols in said base game, said predetermined combination having a
likelihood of occurrence; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when a
predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display
device in the bonus game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of
occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined
combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger is
selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least
one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus
game.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes a plurality of reels wherein the predetermined combination is a plurality of bonus triggering symbols along a payline associated with the reels in the base game and the re-triggering combination is the bonus triggering symbols displayed by the reels in any position in the bonus game.

Claim 14 (original): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor,
said bonus game triggered upon the display of a plurality of said bonus triggering
symbols in said base game; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the
plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus
game.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger is
selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least
one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus
game.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger
activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-
triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides
an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

21
Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 17, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;
- a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;
- a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;
- a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;
- a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and
- a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one re-activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor re-activates the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor provides an additional secondary game re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one additional activation of the reels in the secondary game.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the reel re-triggering symbol is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering symbols.

Claim 24 (original): A method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game comprising the steps of:

(a) triggering the secondary game if a predetermined combination of secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game; and

(b) providing a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game.

21
Claim 25 (original): The method of Claim 24, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game; at least one additional spin in the secondary game; and at least one additional turn in the secondary game.

Claim 26 (original): The method of Claim 25, which includes the step of activating a secondary game re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the secondary re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor replays the secondary game.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated May 9, 2003. Claim 5 has been amended. The claims have been amended for reasons of clarification only and not for any substantive reason of patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102 and 103. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to Respond to the Office Action is submitted herein. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for the one-month extension. Please charge deposit account no. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or to credit any overpayment.

Claim 5 was objected to because of an informality in the claim. Specifically, the Patent Office stated that the word "of" should be inserted in between the words "one" and "the" on line 14 of Claim 5. Applicants have amended Claim 5 to correct the informality. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 1 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,584 to Graham et al. ("*Graham*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,429 to Demar et al. ("*Demar*"). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse this rejection.

As discussed during the telephone interview, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine *Graham* and *Demar* to teach the elements of the claimed invention. Additionally, even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined as suggested by the Patent Office, the combination does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Moreover, upon further review of *Graham* and *Demar*, Applicants provide a more compelling reason why the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as explained below.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a primary game controlled by the processor and a secondary game controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game. Additionally, the gaming device includes a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, where the secondary game re-triggering event in

the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game. The combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the combination of elements of Claim 1.

Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *In re Fritch*, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Moreover, a *prima facie* case of obviousness can be rebutted if the applicant can show that the prior art teaches away from the claimed invention. *In re Haruna*, 58 U.S.P.Q.2d 1517, 1522 (Fed. Cir. 2001). A reference teaches away when a person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading the reference, will be led in a direction "divergent from the path" that was taken by the applicant. (*Id.*)

Graham discloses a gaming machine that includes a base game and a series of free games. The gaming machine provides an initial series of free games to a player when a trigger condition occurs in the base game. (Col. 3, lines 5 to 10) A subsequent series of free games is awarded to the player if the same trigger condition occurs in the initial series free games. Therefore, the likelihood of obtaining the trigger condition in the base game and in any one of the free games is exactly the same. Furthermore, *Graham* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the frequency of the trigger condition in one or more of the free games. In fact, *Graham* discloses that the trigger frequency of the trigger condition may decrease for at least some of the series of free games. This may be accomplished by changing the length or layout of the reel strips. (Col. 3, lines 59 to 64). Thus, *Graham* would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art in a direction away from increasing the trigger frequency of the trigger condition in any of the free games from the trigger frequency of the trigger condition in the base game.

Demar discloses a gaming device including a basic game and a bonus game. In the basic game, an event or sequence of outcomes occur at a low frequency or low probability. (Col. 4, lines 5 through 15) The bonus game includes a generally high hit rate or high probability of winning. (Col. 6, lines 60 through 62) In one embodiment, the bonus game has a hit rate greater than fifty percent and preferably greater than seventy percent (Col. 7, lines 38 to 41) The hit rate or probability of winning is

expressed as a Bernoulli trial which is usually referred to as a "probability of success". (Col. 7, lines 47 to 54). The gaming device continues to provide Bernoulli trials to the player as long as each trial produces a winning combination. (Col. 10, lines 27 to 38). By employing a geometric functions such as the Bernoulli trials, *Demar* enables a player to accumulate more awards in the bonus game since the hit rate for the bonus game is greater than fifty percent and in some instances, greater than seventy percent. Therefore, *Demar* discloses a gaming device having a basic game and a bonus game where the hit rate in the bonus game is greater than the basic game by modifying the probability of success or the hit rate in the bonus game. The player continues to receive trials in the bonus game until a losing outcome occurs and the game ends.

Demar does not disclose, teach or suggest a gaming device including a primary game and a secondary game where a secondary game triggering event in the primary game triggers the secondary game and a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game re-triggers the entire secondary game or portion thereof. On the contrary, *Demar* discloses employing a geometric function as a probability of success to increase the hit rate of obtaining awards in the bonus game. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest providing additional trials or free games in the bonus game after the initial number of free games or trials are provided to the player in the bonus game.

As described above, *Graham* discloses a base game which, upon a trigger condition in the base game, initiates a series of free games. If the same trigger condition arises in one or more of the free games, additional free games are provided to a player. Additionally, *Graham* discloses that the trigger frequency of the trigger condition may decrease for at least one or more of the free games. Thus, *Graham* teaches away from the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* suggested by the Patent Office because *Graham* teaches a bonus game where the likelihood of obtaining the trigger condition in the bonus game is the same or even less likely than obtaining the trigger condition in the base game. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine *Graham* and *Demar* because *Graham* teaches away from or the opposite of such a combination. For these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Claim

1 and Claims 2 to 4, which depend from Claim 1, are patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 is directed to a gaming device including a processor and a display device controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a primary game and a secondary game where the primary game is displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor and includes at least one secondary game triggering symbol which triggers the secondary game. Specifically, the secondary game is triggered upon the display of the secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in the primary game. The gaming device also includes at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of the plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

Claim 5 includes similar elements to Claim 1 and additionally includes the element of triggering a secondary game when a triggering symbol occurs in one predetermined position in the primary game and re-triggering the secondary game when one of the secondary game triggering symbol occurs in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game. Thus, the re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely than the triggering event in the primary game because the secondary game triggering symbol or symbols may occur on more than one position in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game. As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. For these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 5. Therefore, Claim 5 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 is directed to a gaming device including similar elements to Claims 1 and 5 where a secondary game is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols in a primary game. In the secondary game, at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one

additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game is provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the combinations in the secondary game where the display of one of the combinations in the secondary game is more likely to occur than the display of the combination in the primary game.

As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. For these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 6. Therefore, Claim 6 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 includes similar elements to Claim 1 and further includes a secondary game which is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game and at least one re-trigger of the secondary game is provided to the player when less than the plurality of secondary game triggering symbols is displayed in the secondary game. Thus, the re-trigger of the secondary game in the secondary game is more likely than the trigger of the secondary game in the primary game because the re-triggering event requires less secondary symbols to be displayed in the secondary game than the triggering event in the primary game. As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. For these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 7. Therefore, Claim 7 is patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 is directed to a gaming device including a processor and a display device controlled by the processor. The gaming device also includes a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the base game includes a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols. The gaming device further includes a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the bonus game is triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of bonus triggering symbols in the base game where the predetermined combination has a

likelihood of occurrence. A bonus re-trigger is provided to the player in the bonus game when a predetermined combination of the bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game where the predetermined combination has a likelihood of occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

As described above, *Graham* teaches away from employing a trigger condition which is more likely in a secondary game than in a primary game. For these reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 8. Therefore, Claim 8 and Claims 9 to 13, which depend from Claim 8, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a display device controlled by the processor, a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the base game includes a plurality of bonus triggering symbols and a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor where the bonus game is triggered upon the display of a plurality of bonus triggering symbols in the base game. The gaming device also includes a bonus re-trigger which is provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of bonus triggering symbols are displayed in the bonus game. Claim 14 includes similar elements to Claim 7. Therefore, for the reasons provided above for Claim 7, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claim 14. Therefore, Claim 14 and Claims 15 to 18, which depend from Claim 14, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 is directed to a gaming device including a processor, a plurality of reels controlled by the processor and a plurality of symbols on each reel where the symbols include a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols. The gaming device also includes a primary game including at least one activation of the reels by the processor and a secondary game including at least one activation of the reels by the processor where the secondary game is triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary

game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in the primary game. The gaming device also includes a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position of the secondary game.

As described above, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of obtaining a secondary game re-trigger in a secondary game than obtaining a secondary game triggering event in the primary game by increasing the potential locations or positions that the secondary game triggering symbols may occur in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game. For these reasons, Claim 19 and Claims 20 to 23, which depend from Claim 19, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 is directed to a method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game where the gaming device triggers the secondary game if a predetermined combination of the secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game and provides a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game. As described above, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of re-triggering a secondary game by requiring less symbols to be displayed in the secondary game to re-trigger the secondary game than the symbols required to trigger the secondary game in the primary game. For these reasons, Claim 24 and Claims 25 and 26, which depend from Claim 24, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

Even if *Graham* and *Demar* were combined, the combination would not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of claimed invention. As described above, *Demar* discloses a bonus game having a higher hit rate or probability of obtaining an award than the base game. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the probability or the hit rate of obtaining additional free games or trials in the bonus game. In fact, *Demar* discloses obtaining a number of trials or free games in the bonus game

and ending the game when there are no free games remaining. *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest obtaining additional free games or trials in the bonus game and therefore does not disclose, teach or suggest re-triggering the bonus game or providing additional free games in the bonus game. Thus, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* teaches or suggests a bonus game where the hit rate of obtaining a particular award is greater than the hit rate of obtaining that same award in the base game but does not disclose, teach or suggest increasing the likelihood of obtaining a re-trigger of the secondary game which is greater than the likelihood of obtaining a trigger of the secondary game in the base game. For these additional reasons, the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of Claims 1 to 26 and therefore, are each patentably distinguished over the combination of *Graham* and *Demar* and in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Patent Office has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office contact the Applicant's attorney, Adam Masia, at (312) 807-4284 to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

Dated: September 9, 2003

**COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)**

Docket No.
112300-466

In Re Application Of: Baerlocher et al.

Serial No.
09/981,133

Filing Date
October 15, 2001

Examiner
R. Mendoza

Group Art Unit
3713

Invention: **GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This is a combined amendment and petition under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response to the Office Action of May 9, 2003 in the above-identified application.
Date

The requested extension is as follows (check time period desired):

☒ One month ☐ Two months ☐ Three months ☐ Four months ☐ Five months

from: August 9, 2003 until: September 9, 2003
Date *Date*

The fee for the amendment and extension of time has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	26 -	26 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	8 -	8 =	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00
FEE FOR AMENDMENT					\$0.00
FEE FOR EXTENSION OF TIME					\$110.00
TOTAL FEE FOR AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF TIME					\$110.00

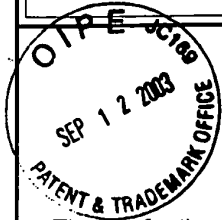
09/15/2003 CCHAU1 00000047 09981133

01 FC:1251

110.00 OP

**COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)**

Docket No.
112300-466



The fee for the amendment and extension of time is to be paid as follows:

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$110.00** for the amendment and extension of time is enclosed.
- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. **02-1818** in the amount of **\$110.00**
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**
 - ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
 - ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☒ If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2003
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM


Signature

Dated: September 9, 2003

Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, IL 60690-1135
Phone: 312-807-4284

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited
on 09-09-2003 with the U.S. Postal Service as
first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450.


Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Robert J. Buccieri

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

P28LARGE/REV03



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 NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227

29159 7590 08/22/2003

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

MENDOZA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3713

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2003

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

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/981,133

Applicant(s)

BAERLOCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Robert J Mendoza

Art Unit

3713

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Robert J Mendoza.

(3) _____.

(2) Christopher Hermanson.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 20 August 2003.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-26.

Identification of prior art discussed: Graham (USPN 6,491,584) and Demar (USPN 6,203,429).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed issues regarding the teaching of Demar and the reason for combining Graham and Demar. The Examiner explained his position and interpretation of Demar's teaching of increasing the hit rate in a bonus game. The Applicant's representative understood the Examiner's position and interpretation. Issues regarding reasons for combining were not agreed upon and will be responded to in the following office action .



2

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

N.K

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

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466	6227

29159 7590 05/09/2003
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

MENDOZA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3713

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

4

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

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/981,133	Applicant(s) BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert J Mendoza	Art Unit 3713	

-- 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) 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 the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- 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 ____.
- 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) 1-26 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) 1-26 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).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ 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.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 5, line 14, insert the word "of" in between the words "one" and "the". Appropriate correction is required.

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 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham (USPN 6,491,584) in view of Demar et al (USPN 6,203,429).

Regarding claims 1, 4-11, 13-19, 21, 22 and 24-26, Graham discloses a gaming device comprising a processor, a display device controlled by the processor a primary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game controlled by the processor, a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game, and at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game by disclosing in col. 1:29-45 and col. 2:55-59, according to the invention 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 random events are caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event results, the machine

awards a prize, the gaming machine being characterized in that if the predefined result includes a trigger condition which results in an initial series of free games (bonus) awarded to a player and, during the initial series of free games, another trigger condition arises, a subsequent series of free games, including a bonus feature, is awarded and implemented immediately during the existence of the initial series of free games with the bonus feature applicable to the subsequent series of free games being applied to the remaining games of the initial series of free games as well as to the games of the subsequent series of free games. A program which implements the game and user interface is run on a processor of the control circuit, which drives the screen of the video, display unit and which receives input signals from sensors. Graham discloses the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of the triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of the triggering symbols and less than the plurality of the triggering symbols of the combination by disclosing in col. 1:66-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:5-22, any suitable bonus feature may be applicable. Thus, the bonus feature may include at least one of changes in definitions of symbol functions, for example, to scatters, substitutes, bonus symbols, feature triggers, etc, pay table variations or an increase in the number of free games awarded. When a base game is played on the machine and trigger condition arises an initial series of free games is awarded. If, during any one of the free games of the initial series of free games, the same trigger condition arises, a subsequent series of free games is awarded. Graham discloses the bonus trigger is selected from the group consisting of at least one re-trigger of the bonus game, at least one additional spin in the bonus game, and at least one additional turn in the bonus game by disclosing in col. 1:35-45, the gaming machine being characterized in that if the predefined result includes a trigger condition which results in an initial

series of free games (bonus) awarded to a player and, during the initial series of free games, another trigger condition arises, a subsequent series of free games, including a bonus feature, is awarded and implemented immediately during the existence of the initial series of free games with the bonus feature applicable to the subsequent series of free games being applied to the remaining games of the initial series of free games as well as to the games of the subsequent series of free games. Graham discloses the bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player by disclosing in col. 1:54-67, col. 2:1-4 and col. 3:3-44, it will be appreciated that, in the subsequent series of free games, if the trigger condition again arises to trigger a further series of free games, the further series of free games has a further bonus feature associated with it. The further bonus feature may supersede the bonus feature of the remaining games of the subsequent series of free games as well as any remaining games of the initial series of free games. Any suitable bonus feature may be applicable. Thus, the bonus feature may include at least one of changes in definitions of symbol functions, for example, to scatters, substitutes, *bonus symbols*, feature triggers, etc, pay table variations or an increase in the number of free games awarded. If, in the subsequent series of free games or in any of the remaining free games of the initial series of free games, the trigger condition again occurs, a further series of free games is awarded with a further bonus feature being applicable. In the preferred embodiment, the bonus feature for the further series of free games is a pay table where all prizes awarded is five times those of the pay table applicable to the base game. Once again, the bonus feature for the further series of free games is applicable not only to the games of the further series of free games but also to any remaining games from the subsequent series of free games and any remaining games from the initial series of free games.

However, Graham lacks in disclosing the secondary re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game, the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols, employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of the triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combination of the triggering symbols. Demar, in an analogous gaming machine, teaches, in col. 4:11-23:39-42:58-67, col. 5:1-3:40-42 and col. 6:27-29, in the basic game, some event, or sequence of outcomes which occur at a low frequency permits the playing of the bonus game. The bonus game is another game of chance with a generally high hit rate (i.e., the probability that a player will win rather than lose). The hit rate of at least one of the trials in the bonus game, according to the present invention, should be greater than 50%. When a trigger event occurs in the base game, play switches to the bonus game. Preferably, play of the bonus game results in a series of free trials i.e., not requiring the game player to insert any additional coins or credits into the machine. It is also contemplated that the base game and bonus game could be executed on the reels of a spinning reel slot machine where the symbols on the reels are given two different sets of probabilities for the base and bonus games. Another alternative is for the two games to be very different, such as a spinning reel slot machine for the base game coupled with a video poker game as the bonus game. The machine 10 includes a display window 12 through which a player may observe three spinning reels, 14, 16 and 18. Game play is initiated by inserting a coin or playing a credit and then pulling the lever 20 or operating a push button switch for the same purpose. A microprocessor then operates according to its game program randomly selecting a reel stop position for each of reels 14, 16 and 18. The reels are set in motion to give the player the feeling

of randomness, but in due course the reels are stopped at the preselected stop positions using technology well known in this art which typically includes stepper motors for driving the reels and stopping them at the desired position under processor control. The basic game is played on the spinning reels of the slot machine 10, while the bonus game is played on the dot matrix display 32. The basic game has typical symbols such as Cherry, Single Bar, Double Bar and Triple Bar spaced on the reel strips 14, 16 and 18. The symbols used in the bonus game are Cherry, Single Bar, Double Bar, Triple Bar, Blue 7 and Red 7. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Demar into the disclosed invention of Graham. One would be motivated to combine the teachings of Demar with the disclosed invention of Graham in order to, improve the diversity of the bonus game and increase the excitement level offered by the gaming machine.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Mendoza whose telephone number is (703) 305-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, V. Martin-Wallace, can be reached at (703) 308-1148.

RM

R. Mendoza
April 29, 2003


S. THOMAS HUGHES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/981,133	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination BAERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert J Mendoza	Art Unit 3713	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-6,491,584	12-2002	Graham et al.	463/25
	B	US-			
	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					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		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 CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

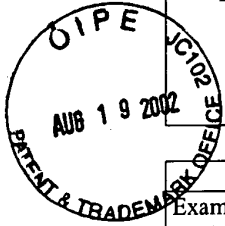
PTO Form 1449

Atty Docket No. 0112300-466	Application No. 09/981,133
Applicant Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.	
Filing Date October 15, 2001	Group 3711

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Publication Date	Inventor	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
RJM	4,198,052	April 15, 1980	Gauselmann			
	4,624,459	November 25, 1986	Kaufman			
	4,695,053	September 22, 1987	Vazquez Jr., et al.			
	5,205,555	April 27, 1993	Hamano			
	5,449,173	September 12, 1995	Thomas et al.			
	5,456,465	October 10, 1995	Durham			
	5,722,891	March 3, 1998	Inoue			
	5,788,573	August 4, 1998	Baerlocher et al.			
	5,823,874	October 20, 1998	Adams			
	5,947,820	September 7, 1999	Morro et al.			
	5,980,384	November 9, 1999	Barrie			
	6,004,207	December 21, 1999	Wilson, Jr. et al.			
	6,015,346	January 18, 2000	Bennett			
	6,056,642	May 2, 2000	Bennett			
	6,089,976	July 18, 2000	Schneider et al.			
	6,126,542	October 3, 2000	Fier			
	6,155,925	December 5, 2000	Giobbi et al.			
	6,159,095	December 12, 2000	Frohm et al.			
	6,159,097	December 12, 2000	Gura			
	6,159,098	December 12, 2000	Slomiany et al.			
	6,168,523 B1	January 2, 2001	Piechowiak et al.			
	6,203,429 B1	March 20, 2001	Demar et al.			
	6,224,483 B1	May 1, 2001	Mayeroff			
	6,231,442 B1	May 15, 2001	Mayeroff			
	6,231,445 B1	May 15, 2001	Acres			
	6,234,897 B1	May 23, 2001	Frohm et al.			
	6,238,287 B1	May 29, 2001	Komori et al.			
	6,311,976 B1	November 6, 2001	Yoseloff et al.			
	6,312,334 B1	November 6, 2001	Yoseloff			

Examiner: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered: 4/24/03
*Examiner's Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with PEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary) PTO Form 1449	Atty Docket No. 0112300-466	Application No. 09/981,133
	Applicant Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.	
	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Group 3711

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Publication Date	Inventor	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
RJM	6,328,649 B1	December 11, 2001	Randall et al.			
	6,346,043 B1	February 12, 2002	Colin et al.			
	6,347,996 B1	February 19, 2002	Gilmore et al.			
	6,358,147	March 19, 2002	Jaffe et al.			
	6,364,766 B1	April 2, 2002	Anderson et. al.			
	6,364,768 B1	April 2, 2002	Acres et al.			
	6,368,216 B1	April 9, 2002	Hedrick et al.			
	6,375,567 B1	April 23, 2002	Acres			
	6,398,218 B1	June 4, 2002	Vancura			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
RJM	WO 01/26019 A1	April 12, 2001					

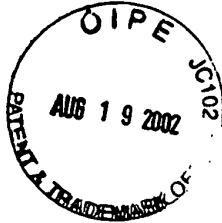
Examiner's Initials	OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)
RJM	Ghoulish Gamble Advertisement written by Strictly Slots, published in November 2000.
	Top Dollar Advertisement written by IGT, published in 1998.
	Winning Bid Advertisement written by WMS Gaming Inc., published prior to January 2001.
	Triple Bucks Advertisement written by IGT, published in 1999.
	Addams Family Article written by IGT, published in 2000.
	Dolphin Treasure Advertisement written by Aristocrat Leisure Industries Pty. Ltd, published in 1996.

Examiner:	Date Considered: 4/23/03
*Examiner Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with PEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Anthony J. Baerlocher et al
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3711
Examiner: Unknown
Docket No.: 0112300-466

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



RECEIVED

AUG 22 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add this paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application relates to the following co-pending commonly owned applications: "GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME WITH A BONUS SYMBOL ACCUMULATOR," Serial No. 10/071,441, Attorney Docket No. 0112300-964.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 19 as follows:

19. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;

a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;

a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and

a secondary game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

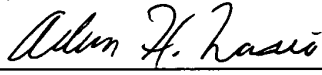
REMARKS

Claim 19 has been amended to correct a minor grammatical error.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 
Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

This paragraph has been added beginning on page 1, line 3:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application relates to the following co-pending commonly owned applications: "GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME WITH A BONUS SYMBOL ACCUMULATOR," Serial No. 10/071,441, Attorney Docket No. 0112300-964.

In the Claims:

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

19. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;

a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;

a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and

a secondary ~~same game~~ game re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

#4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Anthony J. Baerlocher et al
Appl. No.: 09/981,133
Filed: October 15, 2001
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS
SCHEME
Art Unit: 3711
Examiner: Unknown
Docket No.: 0112300-466



RECEIVED

AUG 22 2002

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 37 C.F.R. 1.97, and 37 C.F.R. 1.98, Applicants request that a citation and examination of the references cited below, and on the attached PTO-1449 form, copies of which are enclosed, be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States patent.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
4,198,052	April 15, 1980	Gauselmann
4,624,459	November 25, 1986	Kaufman
4,695,053	September 22, 1987	Vazquez Jr., et al.
5,205,555	April 27, 1993	Hamano
5,449,173	September 12, 1995	Thomas et al.
5,456,465	October 10, 1995	Durham
5,722,891	March 3, 1998	Inoue
5,788,573	August 4, 1998	Baerlocher et al.
5,823,874	October 20, 1998	Adams
5,947,820	September 7, 1999	Morro et al.
5,980,384	November 9, 1999	Barrie
6,004,207	December 21, 1999	Wilson, Jr. et al.
6,015,346	January 18, 2000	Bennett

6,056,642	May 2, 2000	Bennett
6,089,976	July 18, 2000	Schneider et al.
6,126,542	October 3, 2000	Fier
6,155,925	December 5, 2000	Giobbi et al.
6,159,095	December 12, 2000	Frohm et al.
6,159,097	December 12, 2000	Gura
6,159,098	December 12, 2000	Slomiany et al.
6,168,523 B1	January 2, 2001	Piechowiak et al.
6,203,429 B1	March 20, 2001	Demar et al.
6,224,483 B1	May 1, 2001	Mayeroff
6,231,442 B1	May 15, 2001	Mayeroff
6,231,445 B1	May 15, 2001	Acres
6,234,897 B1	May 23, 2001	Frohm et al.
6,238,287 B1	May 29, 2001	Komori et al.
6,311,976 B1	November 6, 2001	Yoseloff et al.
6,312,334 B1	November 6, 2001	Yoseloff
6,328,649 B1	December 11, 2001	Randall et al.
6,346,043 B1	February 12, 2002	Colin et al.
6,347,996 B1	February 19, 2002	Gilmore et al.
6,358,147	March 19, 2002	Jaffe et al.
6,364,766 B1	April 2, 2002	Anderson et. al.
6,364,768 B1	April 2, 2002	Acres et al.
6,368,216 B1	April 9, 2002	Hedrick et al.
6,375,567 B1	April 23, 2002	Acres
6,398,218 B1	June 4, 2002	Vancura

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
WO 01/26019 A1	April 12, 2001	

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Ghoulish Gamble Advertisement written by Strictly Slots, published in November 2000.

Top Dollar Advertisement written by IGT, published in 1998.

Winning Bid Advertisement written by WMS Gaming Inc., published prior to January 2001.

Triple Bucks Advertisement written by IGT, published in 1999.

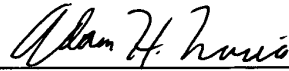
Addams Family Article written by IGT, published in 2000.

Dolphin Treasure Advertisement written by Aristocrat Leisure Industries Pty. Ltd, published in 1996.

Applicants look forward to early and favorable consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Adam H. Masia

Reg. No.35,602

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4284

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.

Gaming console and system having dynamic feature game

Introduction

The present invention relates to gaming consoles of the type known as slot machines arranged to play a large variety of card related and other gambling games such as keno or bingo, and in particular the invention provides an improvement to a game played on such a machine.

Description of the Prior Art

Gaming or poker machines have been well known in the state of New South Wales for many years and have more recently gained considerable popularity throughout Australia, with quite substantial amounts of money wagered on these machines. There is a growing tendency for State Governments to legalise the use of gaming machines by licensing operators, with resulting revenue gains through licence fees and taxation of monies invested. The licensed operation of gaming machines is the subject of State legislation and regulation. This regulation most always dictates a minimum percentage payout for a gaming machine. For example, a minimum of 85% of monies invested must be returned as winnings, and manufacturers of gaming machines therefore must design their machines around these regulatory controls.

With the growth that has occurred in the gaming machine market there is intense competition between manufacturers to supply the 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 which are popular with players, as a mechanism for improving sales.

Many various strategies have been tried in the past to make games more enticing to players, including the commonly known double-up feature, whereby, if a player wins a particular game, they can then risk the winnings of that game in a double-or-nothing mode in which they gamble on a subsequent, and often different, game such as whether a red or black card will be the next card drawn.

Other techniques adopted in the past have been to provide complexity in the numbering and combinations of indicia which would result in a win,

thereby hoping to convince the player that there is a greater chance of winning and to keep their interest in a particular game.

Summary of the Invention

5 According to a first aspect the present invention provides a gaming console including a display means, and game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a first game displayed on the display means and, if a winning combination results, the console pays a prize, the console being characterised in that the game control means includes a dynamic game
10 feature whereby a feature game occurs upon a first trigger condition of the first game, and wherein a second trigger condition influences one or more gameplay aspects of the feature game such as to alter the likelihood of occurrence of at least one possible outcome of a set of possible outcomes of the feature game.

15 According to a second aspect the present invention provides a gaming console including a display means, and game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a first game displayed on the display means and, if a winning combination results, the console pays a prize, the console being
20 characterised in that the game control means includes a dynamic game feature whereby a feature game occurs upon a first trigger condition of the first game, and wherein a second trigger condition of the first game influences one or more gameplay aspects of the feature game such as to alter the likelihood of occurrence of at least one possible outcome of a set of
25 possible outcomes of the feature game.

According to a third aspect the present invention provides a gaming system including at least one display means, and game control means arranged to control images displayed on each display means, the game control means being arranged to play a first game displayed on each display
30 means and, if a winning combination results, the gaming system pays a prize, the gaming system being characterised in that the game control means includes a dynamic game feature whereby a feature game occurs upon a first trigger condition of the first game, and wherein a second trigger condition influences one or more gameplay aspects of the feature game such as to alter
35 the likelihood of occurrence of at least one possible outcome of a set of possible outcomes of the feature game.

The first trigger condition may be the occurrence of a given symbol during the play of the first game, the occurrence of a given outcome of the first game, or the occurrence of a given event or sequence of events in the first game. Alternatively or additionally the first trigger condition may arise
5 when a random number coincides with a number of credits bet per game, or may simply occur at random moments, or may be the occurrence of a player accumulation of a certain number of bonus points, or the first trigger condition may arise in a bonus game, the first game being the bonus game, which has come about during play on the console. The first trigger condition
10 may come about in a different manner, as will be recognised by those skilled in the art. Similarly, the second trigger condition may be one or more of the above. The second trigger condition might even constitute a user selection of an aspect of the feature game, where the user selection could be made available upon the occurrence of the first trigger condition. In this instance,
15 the user selection may be made on a display or screen or console separate to that of the first game.

The second trigger condition of the first game may influence one or more aspects of the feature game. For instance, the second trigger condition may increase the probability of the occurrence of a winning outcome of the
20 feature game, or may increase or decrease the value of an available prize prior to or during play of the feature game. Other aspects of the feature game which the second trigger condition influences might be the number of winning opportunities in the feature game, the total number of possible outcomes of the feature game, or even the interaction of the feature game
25 with other games. The second trigger condition may influence more than one or even all of the aspects of the feature game.

In other embodiments of the invention, there may be more than one type of first trigger condition and/or second trigger condition. In such
30 embodiments, the type of first trigger condition which occurs may define the type of feature game which occurs. Similarly, the type of second trigger condition which occurs may alter the style of game played in the feature game, for instance by 'upgrading' the feature game to a different game in which there is a high likelihood of a winning outcome.

Preferably, the influence of the second trigger condition on the feature
35 game is attractive to a user of the console or system, for example by being, or appearing to be, beneficial to the likelihood of a winning outcome. For

instance, the second trigger condition may increase a prize value and/or increase the probability of occurrence of a winning outcome of the feature game. However, the present invention also encompasses embodiments in which the second trigger condition influences the feature game in a manner which is, or appears to be, detrimental to the likelihood of a winning outcome. For instance, the second trigger condition may be the occurrence of either a 'bad' wild card in the first game or a 'good' wild card in the first game, wherein the occurrence of the 'bad' wild card causes a probability of occurrence of a winning outcome in the feature game to be reduced. The second trigger condition in such embodiments may also alter a prize value in the feature game or may influence other aspects of the feature game.

Additionally, the second trigger condition may occur a plurality of times during the play of the first game. In this circumstance each occurrence of a second trigger condition in the first game may influence an aspect of the feature game. For instance, each occurrence of the second trigger condition may increment a number of winning opportunities in the feature game and/or decrement a total number of outcomes of the feature game, thereby increasing the probability of a winning outcome occurring in the feature game. Alternatively or additionally, the first game may be played a plurality of times before an outcome of the feature game is determined. In such embodiments, each occurrence of the second trigger condition preferably has a cumulative or individual influence on one or more aspects of the feature game.

In embodiments of the invention the first game may be of a style which creates a matrix of symbols and pays prizes for the occurrence of predetermined combinations in the matrix. In such embodiments, an occurrence of a given symbol or symbols in certain positions of the matrix may constitute the first or second trigger condition. For instance, the first game may pay a prize for the occurrence of a winning combination along certain 'paylines' in the matrix, wherein the occurrence of a winning combination along a given payline may constitute the first or second trigger condition.

In some embodiments of the invention the feature game may take the form of a 'spinning wheel' divided into a number of sectors, some of the sectors indicating a prize, wherein the feature game involves a user activating the wheel, and, after a random amount of time the wheel stops,

whereby if a sector indicating a prize is situated adjacent to an indicator (which itself may be animated or fixed), the user wins the prize indicated by that sector. In such embodiments, the second trigger condition may increase the number of sectors indicating a prize, or may reduce the total number of sectors, alter the contents of one or more sectors, for instance adding a prize of certain value (such as \$5, \$10 . . \$100 etc) to a blank sector, or may even introduce a second or additional fixed or animated indicator. It is to be appreciated that the aspects of the feature game can be dynamic, and may change once, repeatedly, or even continuously. The indicator itself need not be fixed, and may move relative to the spinning wheel, in which case the wheel may remain motionless while the indicator moves. Alternatively the feature game may take the form of a board game, a game of dice, a bingo game, or a spinning reel game. It is to be appreciated that the first game and the feature game may be of a vast range of different styles.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Figure 1 illustrates a gaming console with a video simulation of a rotating reel display incorporating a first embodiment of the invention;
- Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a gaming console control circuit;
- Figure 3 shows a first game and a dynamic feature game;
- Figure 4 illustrates a gaming system having a plurality of consoles;
- Figure 5 is a flowchart illustrating the sequence of events of a second embodiment of the invention; and
- Figure 6 is a flowchart illustrating the sequence of events of a third embodiment of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In the following detailed description the methodology of the embodiments will be described, and it is to be understood that it is within the capabilities of the non-inventive worker in the art to introduce the methodology on any standard microprocessor-based gaming machine by means of appropriate programming.

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, a first embodiment of the invention is illustrated in which a slot machine 10, of the type having a video

display screen 11 which displays a first game, in this instance including a plurality of rotatable reels 12 carrying symbols, is arranged to pay a prize on the occurrence of a predetermined symbol or combination of symbols.

5 In the slot machine 10 illustrated in Figure 1, the game is initiated by a push button 14, however, it will be recognised by persons skilled in the art that this operating mechanism might be replaced by a pull handle or other type of actuator in other embodiments of the invention. The top box 15 on top of the slot machine 10 carries an artwork panel which displays the various winning combinations for which a prize is paid on this machine.

10 The program which implements the game and game feature is run on a standard gaming machine control processor 20 as illustrated schematically in Figure 2. The processor 20 forms part of a controller 21 which drives the video display screen 22 of the console 24 and receives input signals from sensors 23. The sensors 23 may be touch sensors, a pull handle or another type of actuator in other embodiments of the invention. The controller 21
15 also receives input pulses from a mechanism 25 indicating the user has provided sufficient credit to begin playing. The mechanism 25 may be a coin input chute, a credit card reader, or other type of validation device. The controller 21 further drives a payout mechanism 26 which for example may
20 be a coin output.

Figure 3 illustrates the video display screen 11 of Figure 1 in more detail. In accordance with the present invention a first game is being played in a window 30 displayed on the video display screen 11, in this case being of a style which creates a matrix 31 of symbols and pays prizes for the
25 occurrence of predetermined combinations in the matrix 31. In this embodiment, an occurrence of the symbol 'K' in position 32 constitutes the first trigger condition, causing a feature game to occur, in window 40. Although the feature game in the present embodiment appears on the same display means 11 as the first game, it is to be understood that the feature
30 game may appear on a second display means of the console 10, or may even appear on a second console. Furthermore, embodiments of the invention may include a number of different first trigger conditions (for example, the occurrence of any one of a predetermined set of symbols in position 32), and the style of feature game occurring in window 40 may be dependent on
35 which first trigger condition occurs.

The feature game shown in Figure 3 is of a 'spinning wheel' style, in which a wheel 41 having a plurality of sectors 42 is activated such that it appears to spin. After a random amount of time, the wheel comes to a stop, and, if the sector 42 adjacent to the indicator 43 contains a prize, the feature game awards that prize. Both the first game and the feature game may be thematic, for example the spinning wheel may be represented as a spinning chocolate wheel and the spinning reel game (the first game) in window 30 may have a theme of a card game, for example the symbols representing the cards.

In accordance with the present invention, the controller 21 (see Fig. 2) includes a dynamic game feature wherein aspects of the feature game shown in window 40 are influenced by a second trigger condition of the first game shown in window 30. In the present embodiment, the second trigger condition is the occurrence of a winning combination along payline 33 in the first game shown in window 30. When the second trigger condition occurs, that is when a winning combination occurs along payline 33 in the first game being played in window 30 under the control of controller 21, an aspect of the feature game being played in window 40 is influenced. In the present embodiment, each winning combination along payline 33 causes an additional prize to be placed in a sector 42 which previously did not contain any prize. Alternatively, each sector 42 may contain a prize having a certain value, and the occurrence of the second trigger condition may cause the prize value in one or more of the sectors 42 to increase. The play of the feature game displayed in window 40 may constitute 'spinning' the wheel 41 until a sector stops adjacent to the indicator, or alternatively the indicator may be set in motion about the wheel until it comes to a stop adjacent to a sector. If the sector situated adjacent to the indicator contains a prize, the player is awarded that prize. The following examples are given to assist in the understanding of the invention and are not intended to be limiting.

Example 1: A first trigger condition starts a feature game in window 40. During 10 consecutive games played in window 30, each occurrence of a symbol of, say, a \$100 note anywhere on column 34 of matrix 31 constitutes the second trigger condition, and has the effect of making one sector 42, out of say a possible 30 sectors, of the chocolate wheel 41 change from merely decorative form or from being a blank to a \$100 note. At the end of the 10 games played in window 30 the player presses a button to activate the wheel

41 which is now made up of sectors containing \$100 notes and sectors containing no prize. If the wheel stops with the indicator 43 indicating a sector 42 containing a \$100 note, the prize is awarded.

5 Example 2: A first trigger condition causes 20 consecutive games to be played in window 30, during which each occurrence of a bonus symbol, or of a second trigger condition giving entry into a 2nd screen, or another condition causing the game to access a central 'link progressive' jackpot, or a trigger condition which starts a bonus game series, etc; will make one segment of the chocolate wheel 41 change from a blank to the bonus symbol.
10 At the completion of the 20 games the player presses a button to activate the wheel spin. If the wheel 41 stops with the indicator 43 indicating a sector 42 containing a bonus symbol the bonus event or prize is awarded.

15 Example 3: A first trigger condition causes 10 games to be played in window 30, during which each occurrence of a "wheel symbol" anywhere in column 34 constitutes the second trigger condition, which will decrement the number of blank segments, say 30, of the wheel 41. The wheel 41 might have 15 blank sectors and 15 sectors containing \$100 notes. After the 10 games are completed, the player presses a button to activate a random spin of the wheel 41, and if the wheel comes to stop with the indicator 43 indicating a
20 sector 42 containing a \$100 note, the player wins \$100.

These examples could be implemented consecutively, or individually.

In the above described examples where blank or decorated sectors are changed to sectors which may provide a prize the player may be required to stake additional credit to effect that change, for example pay two credits to
25 add a fifty credit prize to the wheel. Hence when the first trigger condition occurs the player will be taken to the feature screen where the second trigger condition will be the staking of additional credit by the player to build up the sectors of the wheel.

As shown in Fig 4 and in accordance with the second aspect of the
30 invention, it is to be appreciated that the present invention may be implemented on a distributed gaming system 50, wherein a central gaming controller 51 controls display means 52 of a plurality of gaming consoles 53, or on other types of gaming systems.

Figure 5 is a flowchart illustrating the sequence of events of Example 2
35 of the invention, in which the first trigger condition arises during play of a base game, and the second trigger condition arises during play of a bonus

game. During play of the base game, a sequence of events follows flowchart elements 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 and 66. A sequence of events during a bonus game further includes flowchart elements 67, 68, 69, 70 and 71.

5 In more detail, it can be seen that following a start condition 60, initialisation of variables occurs during process 61. Gameplay then awaits placement of a wager at decision 62. Upon placement of a wager, a gameplay process 63 occurs. As can be seen, until a first trigger condition causes the variable NUM_GAMES to be set to a value of 20, the sequence of events of the base game will be caused by decision 65 to continue play of the base
10 game, depending on placement of a wager as determined at decision 62.

Once a first trigger condition has occurred, the variable NUM_GAMES is set to a value of 20 at process 66, and when the first trigger condition is met at 65, twenty bonus games will commence. If the second trigger condition has occurred, then decision element 67 causes the sequence of
15 events to proceed to process 71, in which a prize is added to a blank segment of the feature wheel, thereby increasing the likelihood of a winning outcome when feature gameplay occurs at 70. Flowchart element 69 prevents gameplay of the feature game from occurring until 20 bonus games have been played, during which time each occurrence of a second trigger condition
20 causes a prize to be added to a blank segment of the wheel.

Figure 6 is a flowchart illustrating the sequence of events in an additional embodiment of the invention, in which occurrence of both the first and second trigger conditions is determined during play of the base game (flowchart elements 80-87). As for the embodiment shown in Figure 5,
25 following a start condition 80, initialisation of variables and/or gameplay elements occurs at process 81. Commencement of the base game is dependent on placement of a wager, as shown at decision 82. Following play of the base game at process 83, a determination is made as to whether either the first trigger condition and/or second trigger conditions have occurred. If
30 the second trigger condition has been met then process 86 causes a prize to be added to the wheel, increasing the likelihood of a winning outcome, at least until there are no blank segments remaining (decision 85). Following occurrence of the first trigger condition, decision 87 causes gameplay of the feature game to occur at process 88, in which the odds of winning will have
35 been influenced by the number of times the second trigger condition has occurred prior to feature game play.

As will be evident, in the embodiment shown in Figure 6, the second trigger condition may arise in either the base game or the bonus game.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific examples, it will be appreciated that it may be exemplified in other forms. For example, the idea of dynamically changing the segments of a wheel can also be applied to making up the segments of a board game. The elements of the board game, bonuses, etc will be awarded to a player as the result of landing on a position given the result of throwing dice (or a die) one or more times. Aspects of the feature game which may be influenced by the second trigger condition of the first game might include: the faces of a die or dice; the make up of a grid of squares such as bingo; the actual scorecard of a section of a game; or the make up of one or more spinning reels. The feature game may be free or may be bought by the player in which case the player may be required to stake additional credit when playing the base in order to be eligible for the feature game. Typically the feature game will come about through chance, whether it is bought or free. Aspects of the feature game may be influenced by random events of the first game, user selections made in respect of the first game, random events occurring separately to the first game, or user selections made separately to the first game. The second trigger condition might even constitute a user selection of an aspect of the feature game, the user selection being made available upon the occurrence of the first trigger condition. In this instance, the user selection may be made on a display separate to the first game, for example in a separate display window, in which a player chooses say 10 out of 20 boxes to make up the feature game. The feature game could be any bonus game or series as are known in the art.

The feature game may commence immediately or may be conducted over a number of repetitions of the first game or may even be played at the player's discretion.

The first and/or second trigger conditions may occur in a basic game, or a separate bonus game.

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.

CLAIMS:

1. A gaming console including a display means, and game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a first game displayed on the display means
5 and, if a winning combination results, the console pays a prize, the console being characterised in that the game control means includes a dynamic game feature whereby a feature game occurs upon a first trigger condition of the first game, and wherein a second trigger condition influences one or more gameplay aspects of the feature game such as to alter the likelihood of
10 occurrence of at least one possible outcome of a set of possible outcomes of the feature game.
2. The gaming console as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given symbol during the play of the first game.
- 15 3. The gaming console as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given combination of symbols during the play of the first game.
4. The gaming console as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given outcome of the first game.
- 20 5. The gaming console as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a predetermined sequence of events in the first game.
6. The gaming console as claimed claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises when a random number coincides with a number of credits
25 bet on the first game.
7. The gaming console as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a player accumulation of a predetermined number of bonus points.
8. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the
30 second trigger condition arises during the first game.
9. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given symbol during the play of the first game.
10. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger
35 condition arises upon the occurrence of a given combination of symbols during the play of the first game.

11. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given outcome of the first game.
12. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a predetermined sequence of events
5 in the first game.
13. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger condition arises when a random number coincides with a number of credits bet per game.
14. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger
10 condition arises upon the occurrence of a player accumulation of a predetermined number of bonus points.
15. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first game is a bonus game which has come about during play on the console.
16. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the
15 second trigger condition arises within a bonus game which has come about during play of the console.
17. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition arises within a bonus game which has been triggered by the first trigger condition that has arisen during play of the first game.
- 20 18. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein both the first and the second trigger conditions arise within a bonus game which has come about during play of the console.
19. The gaming console as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second trigger condition arises from a user selection of an aspect of the feature game.
- 25 20. The gaming console as claimed in claim 19 wherein the user selection occurs as a result of occurrence of the first trigger condition.
21. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters the probability of occurrence of a winning outcome of the feature game.
- 30 22. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters the value of an available prize prior to or during gameplay of the feature game.
23. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the
35 second trigger condition alters the number of winning opportunities in the feature game.

24. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters a total number of possible outcomes of the feature game.
- 5 25. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters the interaction of the feature game with other games.
26. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters the interaction of the feature game with other consoles in a distributed network of gaming machines including the console.
- 10 27. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein more than one type of first trigger condition may occur in the first game, and wherein a corresponding one of a plurality of feature game types occurs depending on which type of first trigger condition arises.
- 15 28. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein repeated occurrences of the second trigger condition each influence gameplay aspects of the feature game.
29. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first game is of a style which creates a matrix of symbols and pays prizes for the occurrence of predetermined combinations in the matrix.
- 20 30. The gaming console as claimed in claim 29 wherein an occurrence of a given symbol in a predetermined position of the matrix constitutes the first trigger condition.
31. The gaming console as claimed in claim 29 or claim 30 wherein an occurrence of a given symbol in a predetermined position of the matrix
- 25 constitutes the second trigger condition.
32. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 29 to 31 wherein the first game pays a prize for the occurrence of a winning combination along certain paylines in the matrix, and wherein the occurrence of a winning combination along a predetermined one of said paylines constitutes the first
- 30 trigger condition.
33. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 29 to 32 wherein the first game pays a prize for the occurrence of a winning combination along certain paylines in the matrix, and wherein the occurrence of a winning combination along a predetermined one of said paylines constitutes the
- 35 second trigger condition.

34. The gaming console as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the feature game takes the form of a wheel divided into a number of sectors, some of the sectors indicating a prize, and wherein if gameplay of the feature game concludes with an indicator indicating one of the sectors indicating a prize, the prize indicated by that sector is awarded.
35. The gaming console as claimed in claim 34 wherein gameplay of the feature game includes spinning of the wheel.
36. The gaming console as claimed in claim 34 wherein gameplay of the feature game includes movement of an indicator circumferentially around the wheel.
37. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 34 to 36 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition causes the introduction to the feature game of an additional indicator.
38. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 34 to 36 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition causes a prize to be added to a blank sector of the wheel.
39. The gaming console as claimed in claim 38 wherein additional credit must be staked for the prize to be added to the blank sector.
40. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 34 to 36 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition provides an opportunity for the player to pay to add winning sectors to the wheel.
41. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 33 wherein the feature game takes the form of one of a board game, a game of dice, a bingo game, and a spinning reel game.
42. The gaming console as claimed in claim 39 wherein the feature game is a board game and occurrence of the second trigger condition causes a prize to be added to a blank segment of the board game.
43. The gaming console as claimed in claim 42 wherein additional credit must be staked for the prize to be added to the blank segment.
44. The gaming console as claimed in claims 42 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition provides an opportunity for the player to pay to add winning segments to the board.
45. A gaming system including at least one display means, and game control means arranged to control images displayed on each display means, the game control means being arranged to play a first game displayed on each display means and, if a winning combination results, the gaming system pays

a prize, the gaming system being characterised in that the game control means includes a dynamic game feature whereby a feature game occurs upon a first trigger condition of the first game, and wherein a second trigger condition influences one or more gameplay aspects of the feature game such as to alter the likelihood of occurrence of at least one possible outcome of a set of possible outcomes of the feature game.

5 46. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given symbol during the play of the first game.

10 47. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given combination of symbols during the play of the first game.

48. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given outcome of the first game.

15 49. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a predetermined sequence of events in the first game.

50. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises when a random number coincides with a number of credits bet on the first game.

20 51. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the first trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a player accumulation of a predetermined number of bonus points.

25 52. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 51 wherein the second trigger condition arises during the first game.

53. The gaming system as claimed in claim 52 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given symbol during the play of the first game.

30 54. The gaming system as claimed in claim 52 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given combination of symbols during the play of the first game.

55. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a given outcome of the first game.

35 56. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the second trigger condition arises upon the occurrence of a predetermined sequence of events in the first game.

57. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the second trigger condition arises when a random number coincides with a number of credits bet per game.

58. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the second trigger
5 condition arises upon the occurrence of a player accumulation of a predetermined number of bonus points.

59. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 58 wherein the first game is a bonus game which has come about during play on the console.

10 60. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 58 wherein the second trigger condition arises within a bonus game which has come about during play of the console.

61. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 58 wherein the second trigger condition arises within a bonus game which has been
15 triggered by the first trigger condition that has arisen during play of the first game.

62. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 58 wherein both the first and the second trigger conditions arise within a bonus game which has come about during play of the console.

20 63. The gaming system as claimed in claim 45 wherein the second trigger condition arises from a user selection of an aspect of the feature game.

64. The gaming system as claimed in claim 63 wherein the user selection occurs as a result of occurrence of the first trigger condition.

25 65. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 64 wherein the second trigger condition increases the probability of occurrence of a winning outcome of the feature game.

66. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 65 wherein the second trigger condition alters the value of an available prize prior to or during play of the feature game.

30 67. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 66 wherein the second trigger condition alters the number of winning opportunities in the feature game.

35 68. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 67 wherein the second trigger condition alters a total number of possible outcomes of the feature game.

69. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 68 wherein the second trigger condition alters the interaction of the feature game with other games.

5 70. The gaming system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the second trigger condition alters the interaction of the feature game with other systems in a distributed network of gaming systems including the system.

71. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 70 wherein more than one type of first trigger condition may occur in the first game, and wherein a corresponding one of a plurality of feature game types occurs
10 depending on which type of first trigger condition arises.

72. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 71 wherein repeated occurrences of the second trigger condition each influence gameplay aspects of the feature game.

73. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 72 wherein
15 the first game is of a style which creates a matrix of symbols and pays prizes for the occurrence of predetermined combinations in the matrix.

74. The gaming system as claimed in claim 73 wherein an occurrence of a given symbol in a predetermined position of the matrix constitutes the first trigger condition.

20 75. The gaming system as claimed in claim 73 or claim 74 wherein an occurrence of a given symbol in a predetermined position of the matrix constitutes the second trigger condition.

76. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 73 to 75 wherein the first game pays a prize for the occurrence of a winning combination along
25 certain 'paylines' in the matrix, and wherein the occurrence of a winning combination along a predetermined payline constitutes the first trigger condition.

77. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 73 to 76 wherein the first game pays a prize for the occurrence of a winning combination along
30 certain 'paylines' in the matrix, and wherein the occurrence of a winning combination along a predetermined payline constitutes the second trigger condition.

78. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 77 wherein the feature game takes the form of a wheel divided into a number of sectors,
35 some of the sectors indicating a prize, and wherein if gameplay of the feature

game concludes with an indicator indicating one of the sectors indicating a prize, the prize indicated by that sector is awarded.

79. The gaming system as claimed in claim 78 wherein gameplay of the feature game includes spinning of the wheel.

5 80. The gaming system as claimed in claim 78 wherein gameplay of the feature game includes movement of an indicator circumferentially around the wheel.

81. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 78 to 80 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition causes the introduction to the feature game of an additional indicator.

10 82. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 78 to 80 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition causes a prize to be added to a blank sector of the wheel.

83. The gaming console as claimed in claim 82 wherein additional credit must be staked for the prize to be added to the blank sector.

15 84. The gaming console as claimed in any one of claims 78 to 80 wherein occurrence of the second trigger condition provides an opportunity for the player to pay to add winning sectors to the wheel.

20 85. The gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 45 to 77 wherein the feature game takes the form of one of a board game, a game of dice, a bingo game, and a spinning reel game.

86. The gaming console as claimed in claim 85 wherein the feature game is a board game and occurrence of the second trigger condition causes a prize to be added to a blank segment of the board game.

25 87. The gaming console as claimed in claim 86 wherein additional credit must be staked for the prize to be added to the blank segment.

88. The gaming console as claimed in claim 85 wherein the feature game is a board game and occurrence of the second trigger condition provides an opportunity for the player to pay to add winning segments to the board.

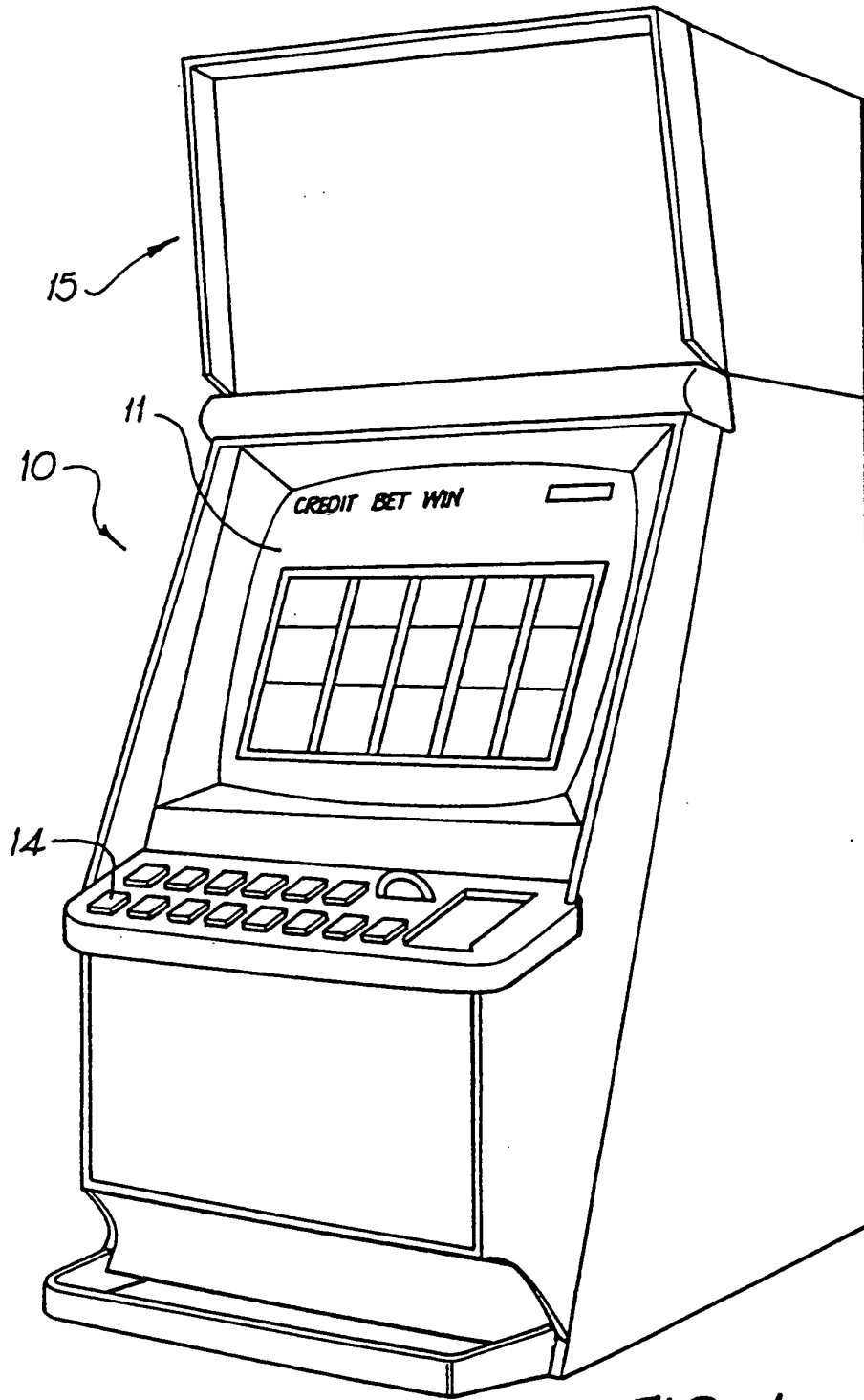


FIG. 1

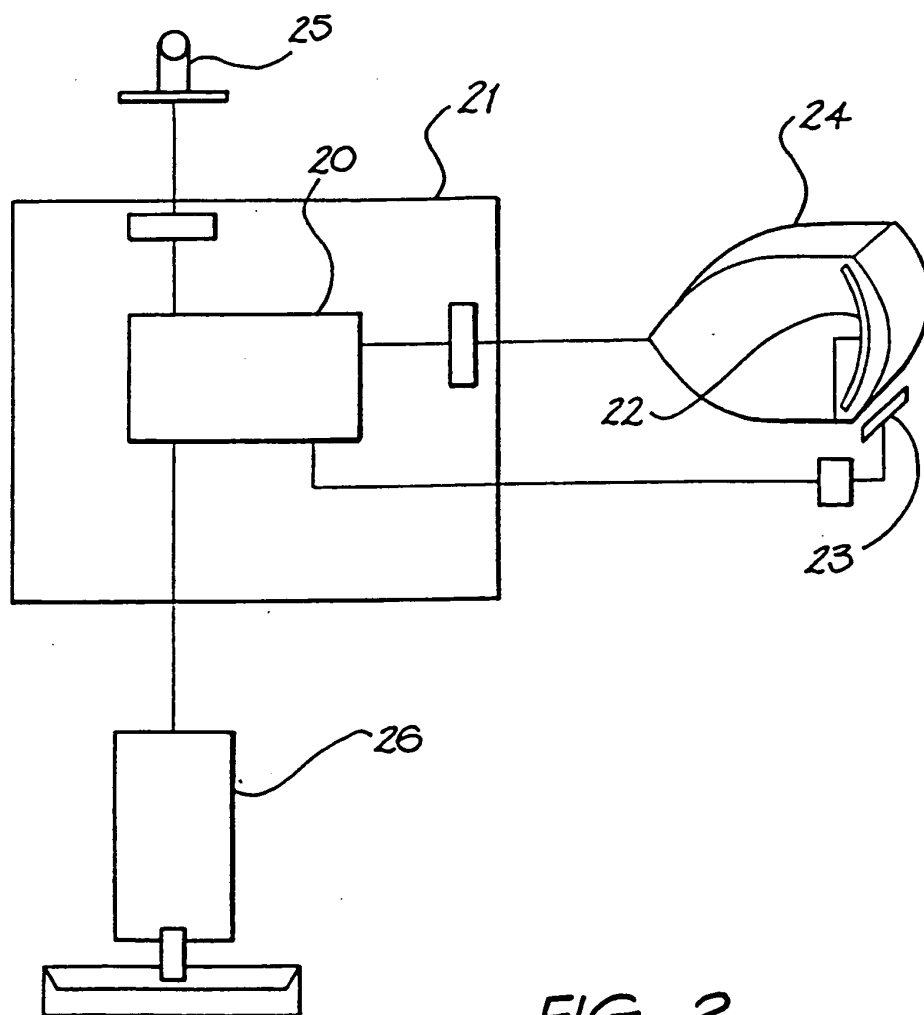


FIG. 2

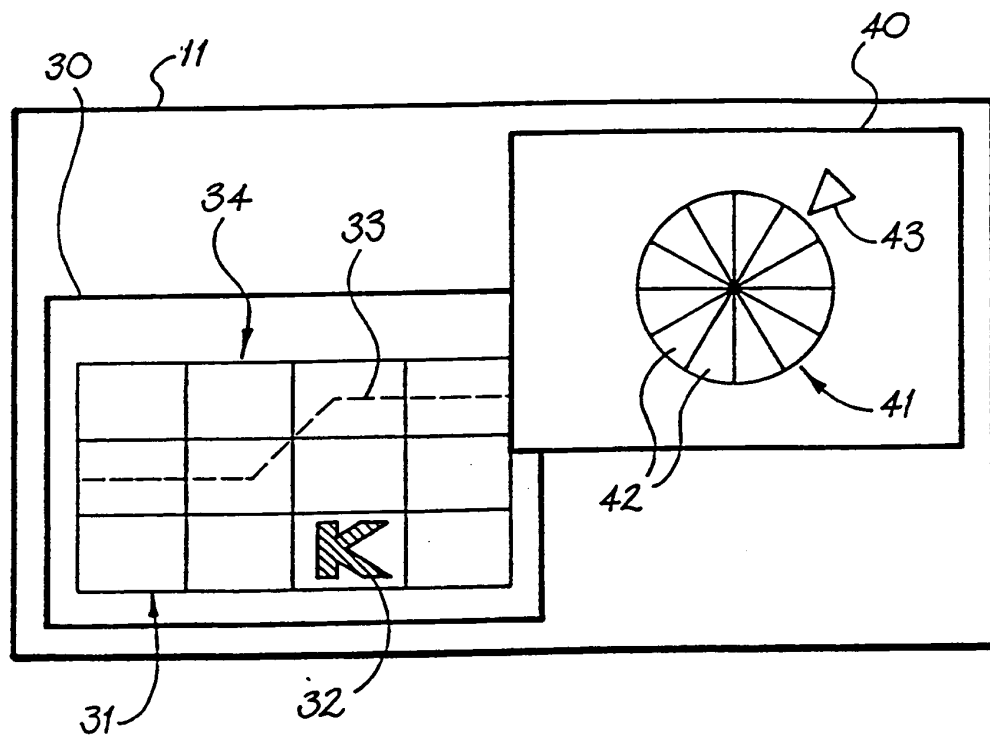


FIG. 3

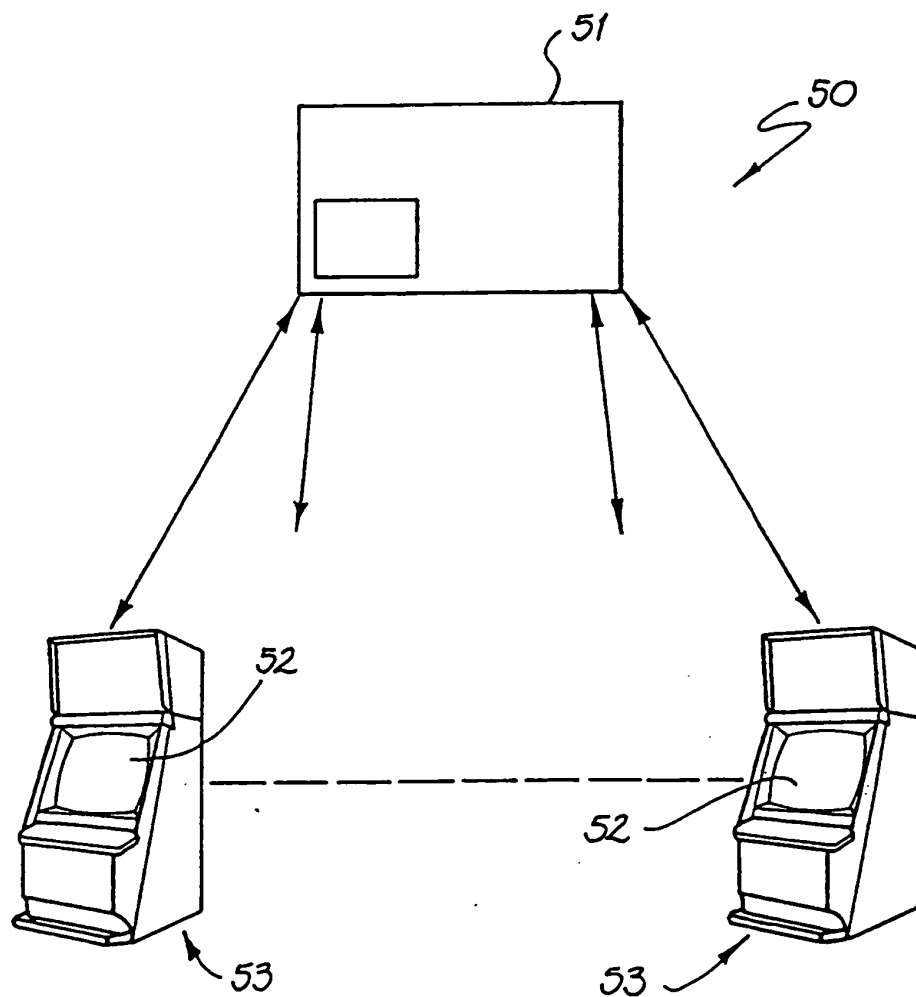


FIG. 4

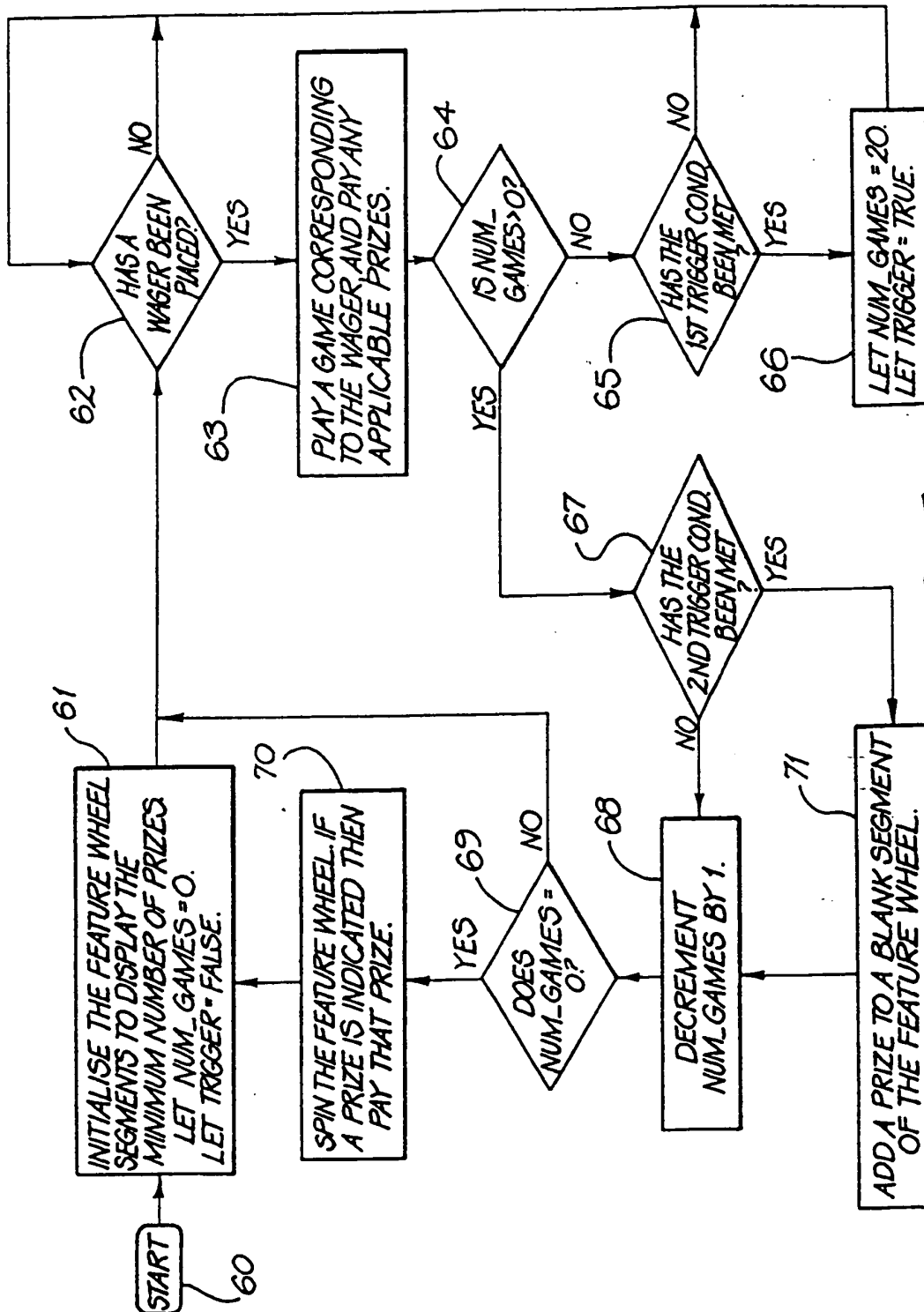


FIG. 5

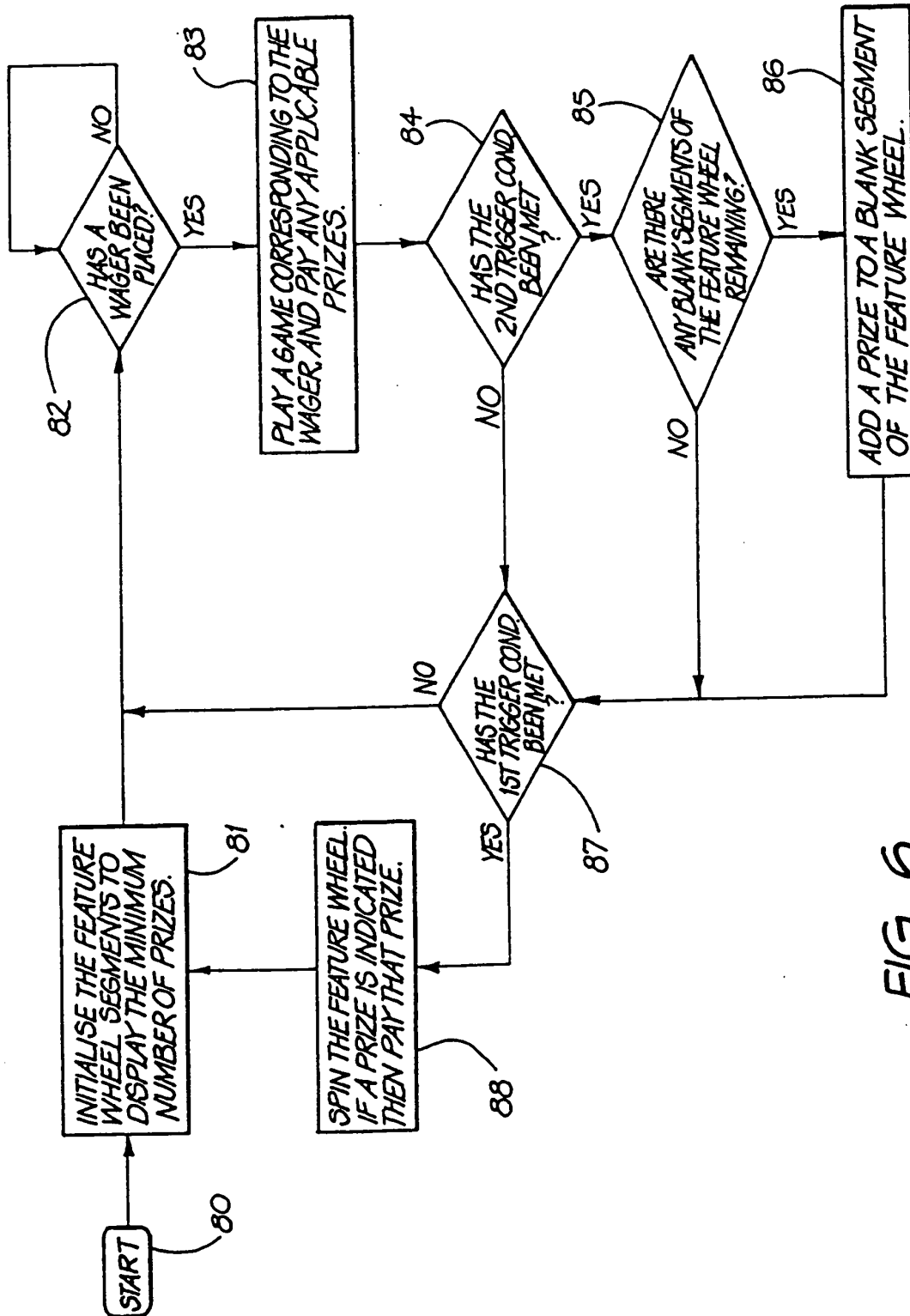


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU00/01191

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : G06F 19/00, 161:00, A63F 5/04, 13/00, G07F 17/34		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPAT, " gaming machine, bonus, jackpot, supplementary etc"		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	AU, A, 23720/99 (ARUZE CORPORATION) 28 October 1999 Page 17 line 23 to page 20 line 23 and page 24 lines 2 to 21 in particular.	1-5,8-12,21,28-33,41, 45-49,52-56,65,72-77, 85
X	US, A, 4508345 (OKADA) 2 April 1985 Whole document.	1-5,16,17,21,28-30,32,41 45-49,60,61,65,72-74,76
A	WO, A, 99/45509 (MIKOHN GAMING CORPORATION) 10 September 1999 Whole document.	1-88
A	AU, A, 63553/98 (WMS GAMING, INC.) 29 October 1998 Whole document.	1-88
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" Document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" Earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" Document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" Document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" Document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 23 November 2000		Date of mailing of the international search report 29 NOV 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer P. THONG Telephone No: (02) 6283 2128

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/AU00/01191

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
AU	23720/99	EP	950998	JP	11290505		
US	4508345	GB	2119145	JP	58185184		
WO	99/45509	AU	28011/99	US	6015057		
AU	63553/98	CA	2233836	EP	874337	ZA	9803291
END OF ANNEX							

08-21-02-

GAC 3711

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))	Docket No. 0112300-466
---	---------------------------

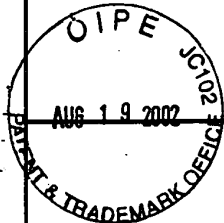
In Re Application Of: **Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.**

Serial No. 09/981,133	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Examiner Unknown	Group Art Unit 3711
--------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

Title: **GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME****RECEIVED**

AUG 22 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700



Address to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

1. ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

37 CFR 1.97(c)

2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:

☐ the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

OR

☐ the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.
0112300-466

In Re Application: **Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.**

Serial No.
09/981,133

Filing Date
October 15, 2001

Examiner
Unknown

Group Art Unit
3711

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2002

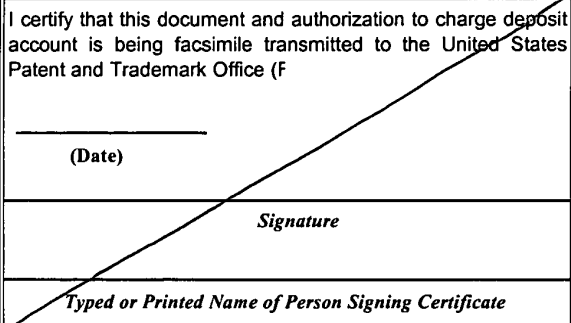
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Payment of Fee

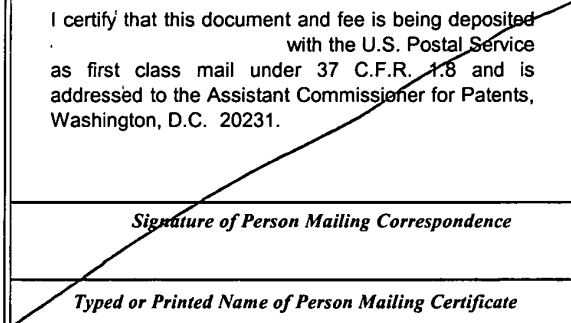
(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is attached.
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **02-1818** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.

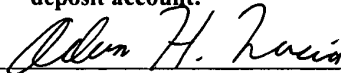
Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile*

I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (F	
_____ (Date)	
_____ Signature	
_____ Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate	

Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.	
_____ Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence	
_____ Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate	

*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.


Signature

Dated: **August 19, 2002**

Adam H. Masia (Reg. No. 35,602)
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690

CC:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10) Applicant(s): Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.			Docket No. 0112300-466	
Serial No. 09/981,133	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Examiner Unknown	Group Art Unit 3711	

Inventor: **GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME**

Patent & Trademark Office
AUG 19 2002

RECEIVED
AUG 22 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER RS/00

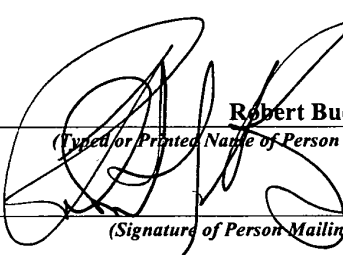
certify that the following correspondence:

Transmittal Information Disclosure Statement; Information Disclosure Statement; Information Disclosure Citation - PTO 1449; References Cited; Transmittal Letter (General - Patent Pending); Preliminary Amendment; Certificate of Express Mailing and Postcard Return Receipt.

(Identify type of correspondence)

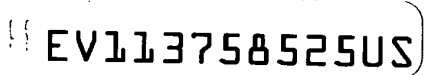
is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

August 19, 2002
(Date)

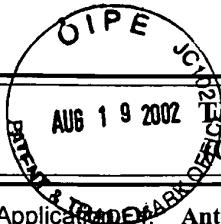

Robert Buccieri
(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

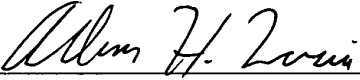
(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

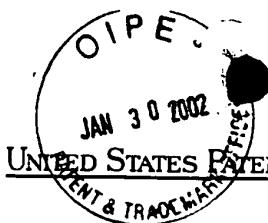
EV 113 758 525 US
("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)



Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.



TRANSMITTAL LETTER General - Patent Pending			Docket No. 0112300-466
In Re Application of: Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.			
Serial No. 09/981,133	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Examiner Unknown	Group Art Unit 3711
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME		RECEIVED AUG 22 2002 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700	
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>			
Transmitted herewith is: Transmittal Information Disclosure Statement; Information Disclosure Statement; Information Disclosure Citation - PTO 1449; References Cited; Transmittal Letter (General - Patent Pending); Preliminary Amendment; Certificate of Express Mailing and Postcard Return Receipt.			
in the above identified application.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ is attached. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Charge the amount of _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee required.			
 _____ Signature		Dated: August 19, 2002	
Adam H. Masia (Reg. No. 35,602) BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC P. O. Box 1135 Chicago, Illinois 60690		<div>I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on _____ with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.</div> <div>_____ Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</div> <div>_____ Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</div>	
CC:			



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Page 1 of 1

#3

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466

CONFIRMATION NO. 6227

FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000007079423

Adam H. Masia
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, IL 60690

Date Mailed: 11/16/2001

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

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 unsigned.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(l) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.
- The balance due by applicant is \$ 130.

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*

Beth J. Baerlocher
Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

Response To Notice To File Missing Parts Of Application Filing Date Granted (PTO-1533) (Large Entity)			Docket No. 0112300-466	
In Re Application Of: Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> PTO JAN 30 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> COPY OF PAPERS ORIGINALY FILED </div> </div>				
Serial No. 09/981,133	Filing Date October 15, 2001	Examiner Unknown	Group Art Unit 3711	
Invention: GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME				
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u> <u>Box Missing Parts</u> <p>This is a response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application - Filing Date Granted (PTO-1533) mailed on <u>November 16, 2001</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Date</small></p> <p>Enclosed herewith for filing are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application - Filing Date Granted (PTO-1533). (REQUIRED) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, including residence information and identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date. <input type="checkbox"/> A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 listing the names of all inventors and signed by the omitted inventor(s), identifying this application by the above Application Number and Filing Date. <input type="checkbox"/> A verified English translation of the non-English language application papers as originally filed. It is requested that this translation be used as the copy for examination purposes in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (list): <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 200px; margin-top: 10px; padding: 10px;"> Postcard Return Receipt </div>				

**Response To Notice To File Missing Parts Of Application
Filing Date Granted (PTO-1533)(Large Entity)**

Docket No.
0112300-466

In Re Application Of: **Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.**

Serial No.
09/981,133

Filing Date
October 15, 2001

Examiner
Unknown

Group Art Unit
3711

Invention:

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Box Missing Parts

☒ Completion of application fees as calculated below:

☐ Utility application filing fee

☐ Design application filing fee

☐ Total number of independent claims = _____

☐ Total number of claims = _____

☐ Multiple dependent claims

☒ Surcharge for late payment of filing fee and/or late filing of original declaration or oath \$130.00

☐ Petition and fee for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor

☐ Fee for processing an application filed with a non-English language specification

☐ Fee for processing and retention of application

Total completion of application fees \$130.00

This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response to the above-identified Notice to File Missing Parts of Application. The requested extension is as follows (check time period desired). If an additional time extension is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

☐ One month ☐ Two months ☐ Three months ☐ Four months ☐ Five months

from: _____ until: _____
Date Date

Total time extension fees _____

Total fees due \$130.00

Response To Notice To Missing Parts Of Application
Filing Date Granted (PTO-1533) (Large Entity)

Docket No.
0112300-466

In Re Application Of: **Anthony J. Baerlocher et al.**

Serial No.
09/981,133

Filing Date
October 15, 2001

Examiner
Unknown

Group Art Unit
3711

Invention:

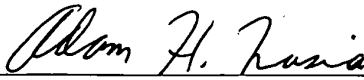
GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Box Missing Parts

The fee of **\$130.00** is to be paid as follows:

- ☒ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **02-1818**
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


Signature

Dated: **January 3, 2002**

Adam H. Masia (Reg. No. 35,602)
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690

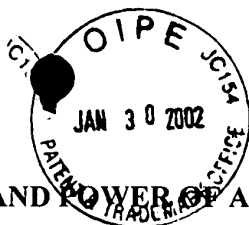
I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on **January 3, 2002** with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Robert Buccieri

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Docket No. 112300-466

#3

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR 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 (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOLS BONUS SCHEME

the specification of which: (check one)

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed on October 15, 2001, as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. 09/981,133 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

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 to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code Section 119 or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Priority Not Claimed
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Serial No.

Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C.F.R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.

Filing Date

Status
(patented, pending, abandoned)

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.

And I hereby appoint the practitioners at customer number: 29159



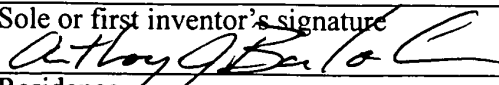
29159

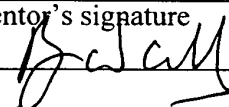
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

as my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

And all telephone calls be directed to: (312) 807-4284.

Full name of sole or first inventor Anthony J. Baerlocher	
Sole or first inventor's signature 	Date 12-18-01
Residence 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Reno, NV 89509	

Full name of second inventor Ryan W. Cuddy	
Second inventor's signature 	Date 12/6/01
Residence 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Reno, NV 89511	

Full name of third inventor	
Third inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	



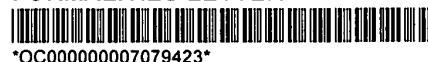
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
09/981,133	10/15/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-466

CONFIRMATION NO. 6227

FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000007079423

Adam H. Masia
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, IL 60690

Date Mailed: 11/16/2001

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

Filing Date Granted

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 unsigned.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(l) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.
- **The balance due by applicant is \$ 130.**

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*


Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 3 - OFFICE COPY

10-18-01

H

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
0112300-466Total Pages in this Submission
43**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

and invented by:

Anthony J. Baerlocher and Ryan W. CuddyIf a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 27 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☒ Formal Number of Sheets 6
- b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☐ Newly executed *(original or copy)* ☒ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche *(Appendix)*
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☐ Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & document(s))*
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. ☐ English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* EL727383603US

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*

16. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

17. ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	26	- 20 =	6	x \$18.00	\$108.00
Indep. Claims	8	- 3 =	5	x \$84.00	\$420.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$740.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$1,268.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$1,268.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **02-1818** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

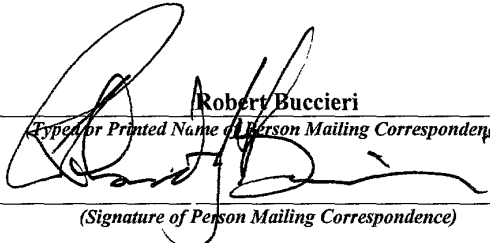
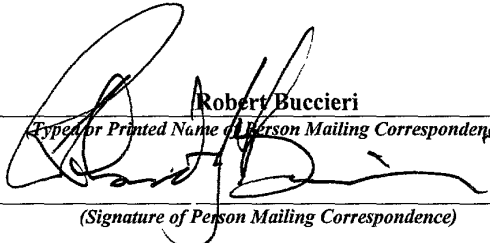


Signature

Adam H. Masia (Reg. No. 35,602)

Dated: October 15, 2001

cc:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10) Applicant(s): Anthony J. Baerlocher and Ryan W. Cuddy			Docket No. 0112300-466	
Serial No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Group Art Unit	
Invention: GAMING DEVICE HAVING RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOLS BONUS SCHEME				
<p>I hereby certify that the following correspondence:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> Specification (27 pages); Drawings (6 pages); Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Large Entity); Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application; Check in the amount of \$1,268.00; Certificate of Express Mailing; and Postcard Return Receipt. </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Identify type of correspondence)</i></p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>October 15, 2001</p> <p><i>(Date)</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; flex-grow: 1;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  Robert Buccieri <i>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</i> </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <i>(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</i> </div> <div> EL727383603US <i>("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)</i> </div> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> EL727383603US </div> </div>				
<p>Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>				

P06A/REV02

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

INVENTORS:

**ANTHONY J. BAERLOCHER
RYAN W. CUDDY**

Prepared by:
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
70 West Madison Street
Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 372-1121
Our File No.: 0112300-466

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains or may contain material which is subject to copyright protection. The copyright owner has no objection to the photocopy reproduction by anyone of the patent document or the patent disclosure in exactly the form it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office patent file or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to a gaming device, and more particularly to a gaming device having a re-triggering symbol bonus scheme.

The base or primary game of most slot machines involves one or more mechanical or video spinning reels, each of which display a plurality of symbols. In many such games, a triggering event such as a symbol or combination of symbols yield one or more opportunities or chances in a bonus or secondary game, which is played in addition to the base game.

It is desirable to provide players with new and different gaming devices with new and different bonus schemes for the enjoyment and entertainment of players.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention provides a gaming device having a slot base game and a slot bonus game wherein one or more bonus

triggering symbols in the base game are employed as bonus re-triggers in the bonus game. In one preferred embodiment, the occurrence of a predetermined combination of a plurality of bonus triggering symbols (such as three bonus triggering symbols along a payline) in a base game triggers a corresponding bonus game. In that bonus game, the same bonus triggering symbols in any position (i.e., a scatter pay) functions as the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game which causes one or more additional activations of the reels or one or more re-triggers of that entire bonus game. The probability of obtaining the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game which is based on the same bonus symbols needed to trigger the bonus game in the base game is greater than the probability of obtaining the bonus trigger in the base game because the combination of bonus triggering symbols can occur anywhere on the reels in the bonus game to cause the bonus re-trigger (i.e., a scatter pay).

Accordingly, the present invention provides a gaming device, which includes a symbol or symbol combination in a primary or base game which triggers a secondary or bonus game, and a symbol or symbol combination in the secondary or bonus game which is more likely to occur in the bonus game and which re-triggers the secondary or bonus game or a portion thereof. More generally, the present invention provides a gaming device which includes a bonus triggering event in a primary or base game which triggers a secondary or bonus game and a bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game which re-triggers the secondary or bonus game or a portion thereof. The bonus triggering event in the primary or base game and the bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game preferably employ the same

symbols or symbol combinations such that the bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game is more likely to occur in the bonus game than the bonus triggering event in the primary or base game.

The bonus re-trigger in the bonus game may, for instance, provide the player a bonus game extension such as additional or free spins in the bonus game, a replay of the entire bonus game, or a modification to the bonus game such as changing the bonus re-triggering symbol or bonus re-triggering combination of symbols in the bonus game. The bonus-retrigger can alternatively cause other changes in the bonus game as desired by the game implementor. For instance, the bonus re-trigger may cause a modification of the bonus award pay scale or table such as doubling or tripling subsequent award values in the bonus game.

It is therefore an advantage of the present invention to provide a gaming device having a re-triggering symbol bonus scheme.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed disclosure, taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheets of drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like parts, elements, components, steps and processes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1A is a front elevation view of a general embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 1B is a front elevation view of a second embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the electronic configuration of one embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 3A is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B showing an embodiment of a bonus triggering symbol combination.

Fig. 3B is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger symbol combination in a bonus game.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger in a bonus game where a player receives additional spins.

Fig. 5A is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B showing a bonus re-trigger where the bonus re-triggering combination is two "B" symbols on a payline.

Fig. 5B is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger where the bonus re-triggering symbol is a different symbol.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B wherein the bonus re-trigger includes an award modification.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Gaming Device and Electronics

Referring now to the drawings, two embodiments of the gaming device of the present invention are illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B as gaming device 10a and gaming device 10b, respectively. Gaming device 10a and/or gaming device 10b are generally referred to herein as gaming device 10. Gaming device 10 is in one embodiment a slot machine having the controls, displays and features of a conventional slot machine. It is constructed so that a player can operate it while standing or sitting, and is preferably mounted in a console or cabinet. However, it should be appreciated that gaming device 10 can be constructed as a pub-style table-top game (not shown) which a player can operate preferably while sitting. Furthermore, gaming device 10 can be constructed with varying cabinet and display designs, as illustrated by the designs shown in Figs. 1A and 1B. Gaming device 10 can also be implemented as a program code stored in a detachable cartridge for operating a hand-held video game device. Also, gaming device 10 can be implemented as a program code stored on a disk or other memory device which a player can use in a desktop or laptop personal computer or other computerized platform.

Gaming device 10 may be adapted to incorporate any primary game such as slot, poker, blackjack or keno, any of their bonus triggering events and any of their bonus round games in conjunction with the present invention. The symbols and indicia used on and in gaming device 10 may be in mechanical, electronic, electrical or video form.

As illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B, gaming device 10 includes a coin slot 12 and bill acceptor 14 where the player inserts money, coins or tokens. The player can place coins in the coin slot 12 or paper money or ticket vouchers in the bill acceptor 14. Other devices could be used for accepting payment such as readers or validators for credit cards or debit cards. When a player inserts money in gaming device 10, a number of credits corresponding to the amount deposited is shown in a credit display 16. After depositing the appropriate amount of money, a player can begin the game by pulling arm 18 or pushing play button 20. Play button 20 can be any play activator used by the player which starts any game or sequence of events in the gaming device.

As shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, gaming device 10 also includes a bet display 22 and a bet one button 24. The player places a bet by pushing the bet one button 24. The player can increase the bet by one credit each time the player pushes the bet one button 24. When the player pushes the bet one button 24, the number of credits shown in the credit display 16 decreases by one, and the number of credits shown in the bet display 22 increases by one. The gaming device may also include a conventional bet maximum button (not shown) and conventional payline bet buttons.

A player may "cash out" and thereby receive a number of coins corresponding to the number of remaining credits by pushing a cash out button 26. When the player "cashes out," the player receives the coins in a coin payout tray 28. The gaming device 10 may employ other payout mechanisms such as credit slips redeemable by a cashier or electronically recordable cards which keep track of the player's credits.

Gaming device 10 also includes one or more display devices. The embodiment shown in Fig. 1A includes a central display device 30, and the alternative embodiment shown in Fig. 1B includes a central display device 30 as well as an upper display device 32. Gaming device 10 in one embodiment displays a plurality of reels 34 such as three to five reels 34 in mechanical or video form at one or more of the display devices. However, it should be appreciated that the display devices can display any visual representation or exhibition, including but not limited to movement of physical objects such as mechanical reels and wheels, dynamic lighting and video images. A display device can be any viewing surface such as glass, a video monitor or screen, a liquid crystal display or any other display mechanism. If the reels 34 are in video form, the display device for the video reels 34 is preferably a video monitor.

Each reel 34 displays a plurality of indicia or symbols such as bells, hearts, fruits, numbers, letters, bars or other images or symbols which preferably correspond to a theme associated with the gaming device 10. Furthermore, gaming device 10 preferably includes speakers 36 for making sounds or playing music.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the general electronic combination of gaming device 10 preferably includes: a processor 38; a memory device 40 for storing program code or other data; a central display device 30; an upper display device 32; a sound card 42; a plurality of speakers 36; and one or more input devices 44. The processor 38 is preferably a microprocessor or microcontroller-based platform which is capable of displaying images, symbols

and other indicia such as images of people, characters, places, things and faces of cards. The processor may include a main processor and a sub-processor which control certain features of the gaming device in conjunction with the main processor. The memory device 40 can include random access memory (RAM) 46 for storing event data or other data generated or used during a particular game. The memory device 40 can also include read only memory (ROM) 48 for storing program code which controls the gaming device 10 so that it plays a particular game in accordance with applicable game rules and pay tables.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the player preferably uses the input devices 44, such as pull arm 18, play button 20, the bet one button 24 and the cash out button 26 to input signals into gaming device 10. In certain instances it is preferable to use a touch screen 50 and an associated touch screen controller 52 instead of a conventional video monitor display device. Touch screen 50 and touch screen controller 52 are connected to a video controller 54 and processor 38. A player can make decisions and input signals into the gaming device 10 by touching touch screen 50 at the appropriate places. As further illustrated in Fig. 2, the processor 38 can be connected to coin slot 12 or bill acceptor 14. The processor 38 can be programmed to require a player to deposit a certain amount of money in order to start the game.

It should be appreciated that although a processor 38 and memory device 40 are preferable implementations of the present invention, the present invention can also be implemented using one or more application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC's) or other hard-wired devices, or using mechanical

devices (collectively referred to herein as a "processor"). Furthermore, although the processor 38 and memory device 40 preferably reside on each gaming device 10 unit, it is possible to provide some or all of their functions at a central location such as a network server for communication to a playing station such as over a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet connection, microwave link, and the like. The processor 38 and memory device 40 are generally referred to herein as the "computer" or "controller."

With reference to Figs. 1A, 1B and 2, to operate the gaming device 10 in one embodiment the player must insert the appropriate amount of money or tokens at coin slot 12 or bill acceptor 14 and then pull the arm 18 or push the play button 20. The reels 34 will then begin to spin. Eventually, the reels 34 will come to a stop. As long as the player has credits remaining, the player can spin the reels 34 again. Depending upon where the reels 34 stop, the player may or may not win additional credits.

In addition to winning credits in this manner, preferably gaming device 10 also gives players the opportunity to win credits in a bonus round. This type of gaming device 10 will include a program which will automatically begin a bonus round when the player has achieved a qualifying condition in the game. This qualifying condition can be a particular arrangement of indicia on a display device as discussed in detail below. The gaming device 10 in one embodiment uses a video-based central display device 30 to enable the player to play the bonus round. In one embodiment as discussed below, the qualifying condition is a predetermined combination of indicia or symbols

appearing on a plurality of reels 34. As illustrated in the five reel slot game shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, the qualifying condition could be the number seven appearing on three adjacent reels 34 along a payline 56. It should be appreciated that the present invention can include one or more paylines, such as payline 56, wherein the paylines can be horizontal, diagonal or any combination thereof.

Bonus Re-Trigger

Referring now to Fig. 3A, a set of mechanical or video reels 34 is generally illustrated having symbols 58 designated as A through F. It should be appreciated that any suitable set of symbols could be used as the symbols 58 in accordance with the present invention. In this embodiment, the "B" symbols 60 are the bonus symbols and the appearance of three "B" symbols on any activated payline such as payline 1, triggers a bonus game as indicated by bonus display 62. Although in this example three "B" symbols are used to trigger the bonus game, it should be appreciated that any symbol combination having the same symbol or designated symbols may be used as the bonus triggering combination.

Fig. 3B illustrates one embodiment of the bonus game of the present invention where the bonus re-trigger occurs in the bonus game when the same symbols which trigger the bonus game in the base game are displayed in a scattered combination on multiple paylines. In this embodiment, the "B" symbol 60 is the bonus re-trigger symbol and any three "B" symbols on three paylines provides the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game as described in

bonus display 64. Accordingly, as described above, in accordance with the present invention, the bonus re-trigger will occur more frequently than the bonus trigger because the bonus trigger will only occur when the bonus triggering symbols are aligned along a payline. The bonus re-trigger, however, will occur when the bonus triggering symbols are aligned along a payline or when the bonus triggering symbols occur along any payline.

Referring now to Fig. 4, one embodiment of the present invention is shown where the bonus re-trigger occurs when one bonus triggering symbol occurs. In this example, the bonus game was triggered by obtaining a predetermined combination of the bonus symbols "B" 60 as illustrated in Fig. 3A, for instance. The bonus triggering symbol "B" is the bonus re-trigger symbol in the bonus game. In other words, any one of the bonus symbols "B" which in combination trigger the bonus game in the base game, is the symbol in the bonus game which provides a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game. In one embodiment, only one bonus symbol 60 located on any payline 56 is required to obtain a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game. It should be appreciated, however, that any combination of the same bonus symbols, which is more likely to occur in the bonus game than in the primary game, may be used to obtain a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game in accordance with the present invention. Thus, the present invention provides a bonus game which increases the chances of obtaining a bonus re-trigger using the same primary symbols by requiring less of those symbols in the bonus game to obtain a bonus re-trigger than in the primary game, or by requiring a more likely to occur combination of those symbols in the bonus game to obtain a re-trigger in

the bonus game. Returning now to Fig. 4, the appearance of bonus symbol "B" 60 in the bonus game, causes a bonus re-trigger for the player in the bonus game. The bonus re-trigger is 10 free spins in the bonus game as designated by the bonus display 66.

Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 5A and 5B. In this embodiment, the bonus re-trigger restructures or changes how the bonus game is subsequently re-triggered, initiated, played or the structure or type of the bonus game. Initially, the bonus game was triggered by obtaining three "B" symbols along a payline as shown in Fig. 3A, for instance. The bonus symbol "B" triggers the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game, which in this case, changes the bonus game re-triggering symbol combination or event.

In Figs. 5A and 5B, a player obtains two "B" symbols which changes the bonus re-triggering symbol or bonus mode. In one embodiment, the probability of obtaining the bonus re-triggering symbol becomes even greater. Fig. 5A illustrates one embodiment where the player obtains two "B" symbols 60 on one payline 56 in the bonus game which changes the bonus game as indicated by bonus display 68. This changes the bonus game to include another bonus re-triggering symbol "C."

In Fig. 5B, the bonus re-triggering symbol also now includes the "C" symbol 69 on any payline as described in bonus display 70. Since the bonus retrigger symbols now also includes the "C" symbol 69, the player has a better chance of obtaining the bonus re-trigger because both the "B" symbol and the "C" symbol now provide the bonus re-trigger in this new, modified, or changed

bonus game. The bonus re-trigger could be for instance, additional spins of the reels wherein a player can obtain bonus awards. The new bonus game could also change the paylines or other functions of the game, increase or decrease the number of reels in the base game, or change to an entirely new bonus game.

Referring now to Fig. 6, another embodiment of the present invention is shown where the bonus re-trigger additionally changes or modifies an award in the bonus game. In Fig. 6, the player entered the bonus game by obtaining a bonus triggering event that included three bonus symbols "B," designated by the numeral 60. The bonus symbol "B" is the bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game. The player obtains the bonus re-triggering symbol "B" on paylines one and three. Thus, the player receives the bonus re-trigger and a modification of the award provided to the player in the bonus game as described by bonus display 72, which includes tripling the bonus award values. It should be appreciated that any modifications of the bonus award values may be made including, but not limited to, multiplying the values by some factor or increasing the bonus award values by a fixed amount.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a gaming device which includes a secondary game triggering event in a primary game which triggers a secondary game, a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game. Preferably, the secondary game re-

triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ the same triggering symbols.

While the present invention is described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it should be appreciated that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments, and is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the claims. Modifications and variations in the present invention may be made without departing from the novel aspects of the invention as defined in the claims, and this application is limited only by the scope of the claims.

CLAIMS

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a primary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game controlled by the processor;

a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game; and

a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game.

2. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

3. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combinations of said triggering symbols.

4. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of said triggering symbols and less than the plurality of said triggering symbols of said combination.

5. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including at least one secondary game triggering symbol;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of said secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

6. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of a plurality of predetermined combinations of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said secondary game wherein said display of one of said combinations in said secondary game is more likely to occur than said display of said combination in said primary game.

7. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game when less than the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the secondary game.

8. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

9. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

10. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

11. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

12. The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

13. The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes a plurality of reels wherein the predetermined combination is a plurality of bonus triggering symbols along a payline associated with the reels in the base game and the re-triggering combination is the bonus triggering symbols displayed by the reels in any position in the bonus game.

14. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;

a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a plurality of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game; and

a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game.

15. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

16. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

17. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

18. The gaming device of Claim 17, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

19. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;

a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor;

a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and

a secondary same re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

20. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one re-activation of the reels in the secondary game.

21. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor re-activates the reels in the secondary game.

22. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor provides an additional secondary game re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one additional activation of the reels in the secondary game.

23. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the reel re-triggering symbol is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering symbols.

24. A method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game comprising the steps of:

- (a) triggering the secondary game if a predetermined combination of secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game; and
- (b) providing a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game; at least one additional spin in the secondary game; and at least one additional turn in the secondary game.

26. The method of Claim 25, which includes the step of activating a secondary game re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the secondary re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor replays the secondary game.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a gaming device having a bonus scheme wherein a combination of bonus symbols trigger a bonus game and any one of the bonus symbols in the bonus game provides a player with an award. The award may be an extension of the bonus game by providing the player with additional spins or games. Also, the award may modify the combination and type of bonus symbols needed to enter the bonus game. Furthermore, the award may modify the award values in the bonus game. Therefore, a combination bonus symbols trigger the bonus game and also triggers the gaming device to provide bonus awards in the bonus game. The re-triggering symbol award bonus scheme changes the probability of winning for the player and therefore creates a higher level of excitement and enjoyment of the game.

FIG.1A

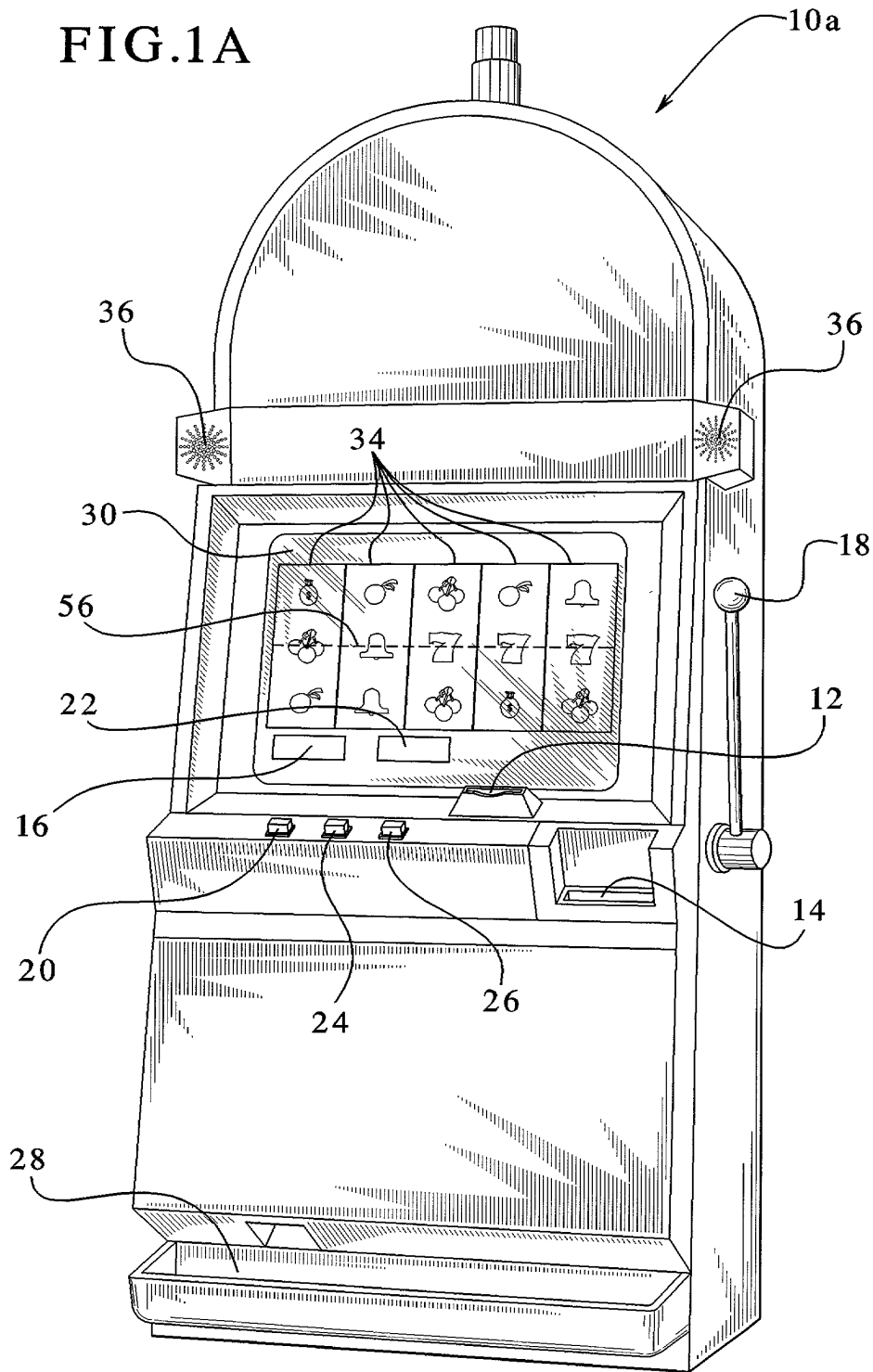


FIG.1B

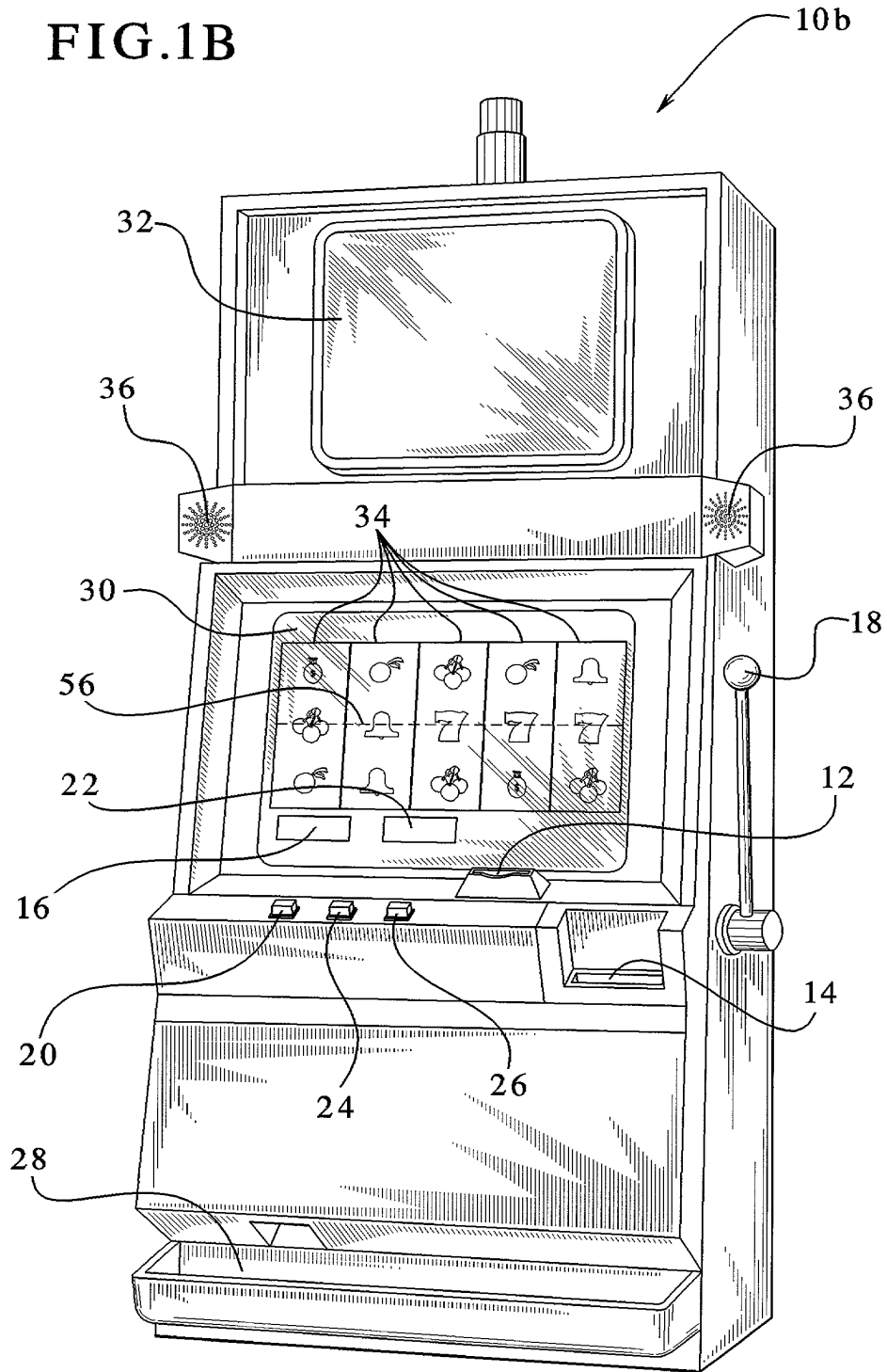
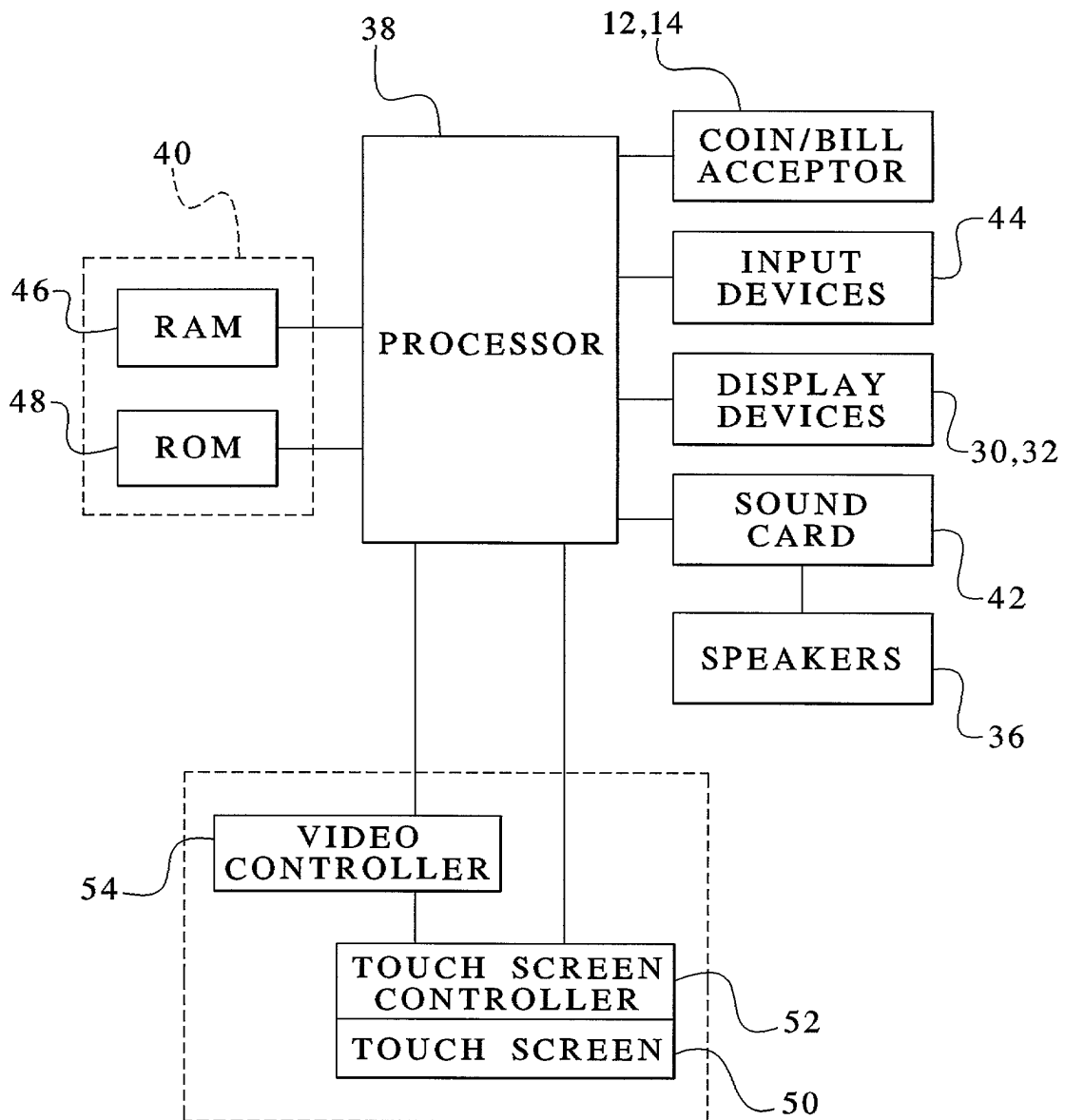


FIG.2



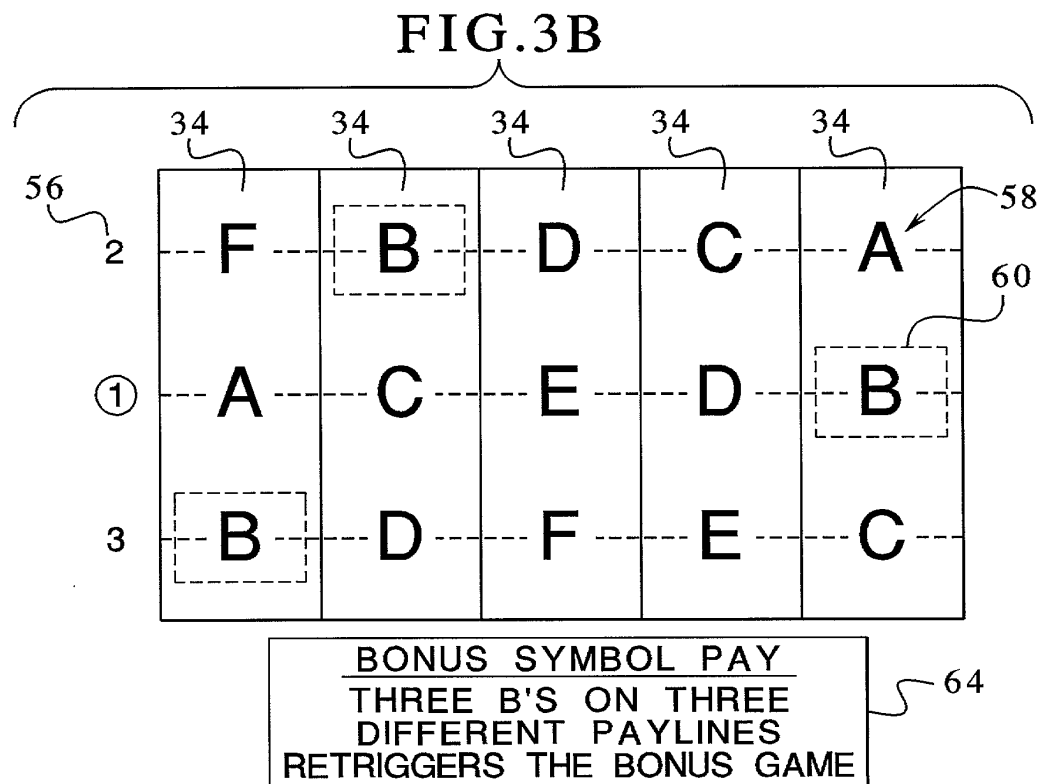
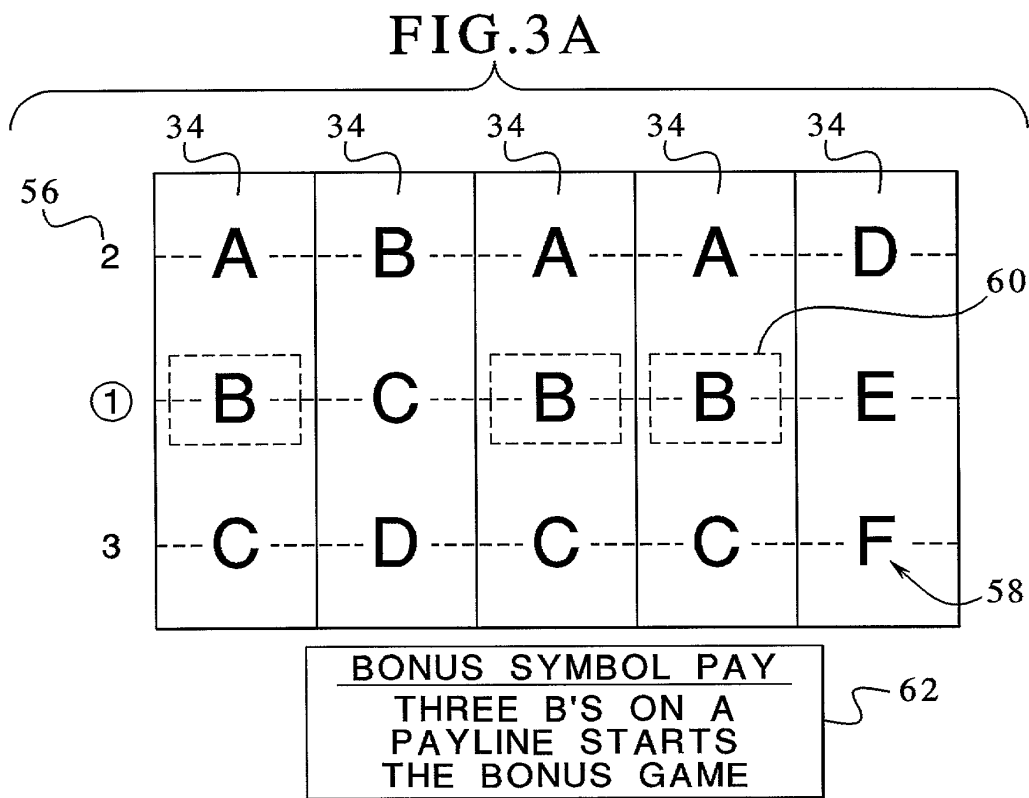


FIG. 4

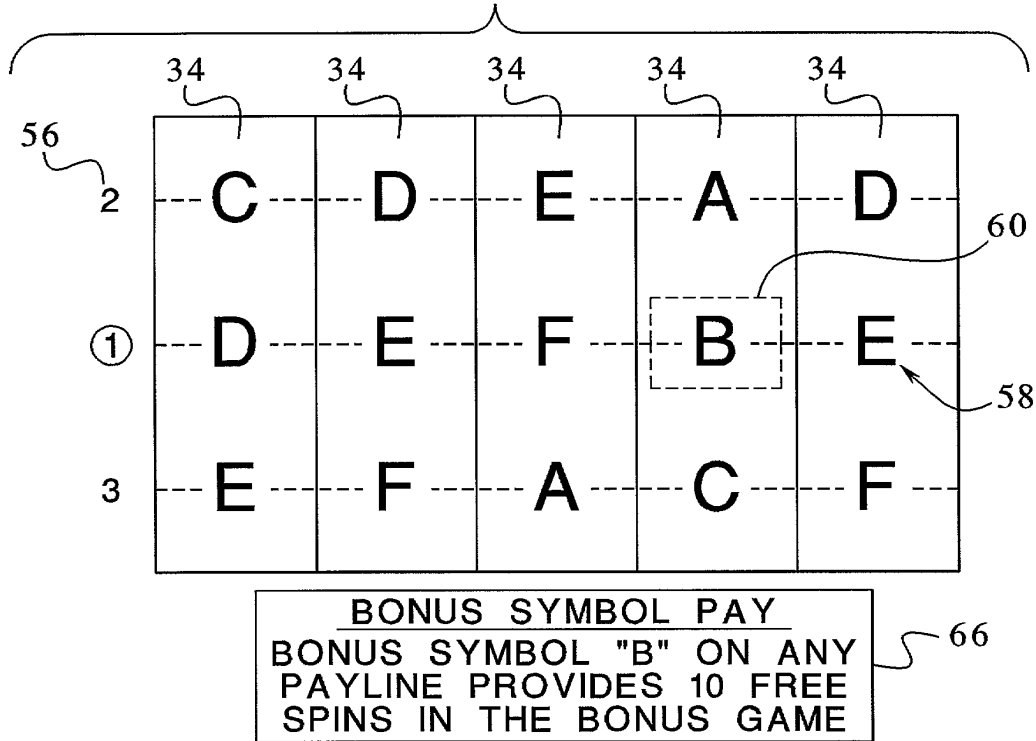


FIG. 5A

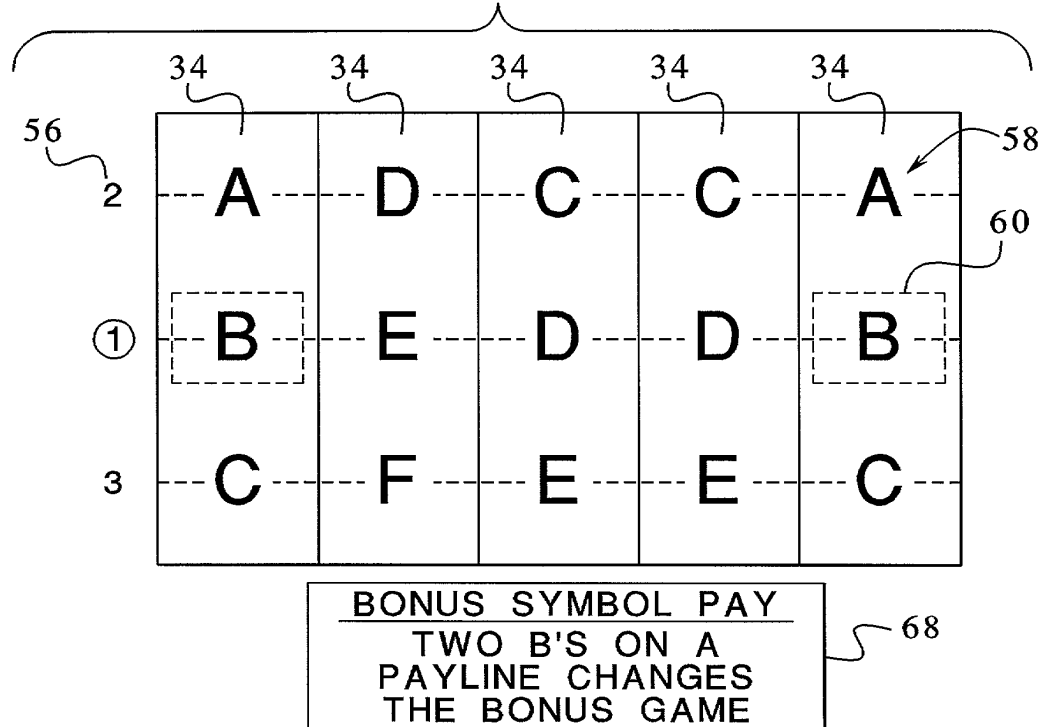


FIG.5B

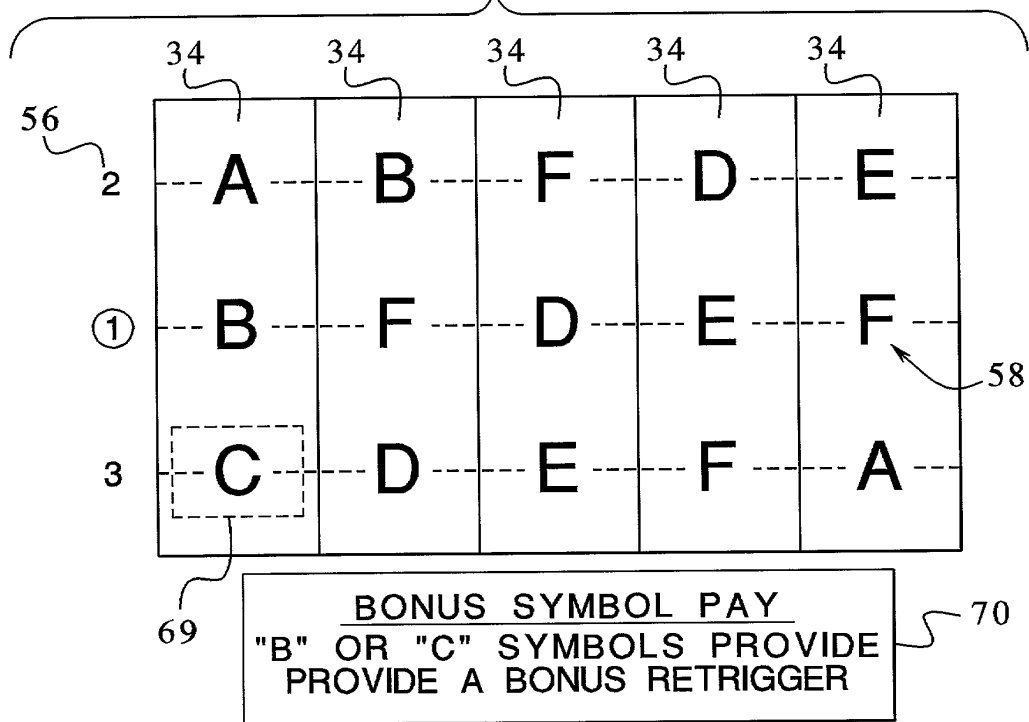
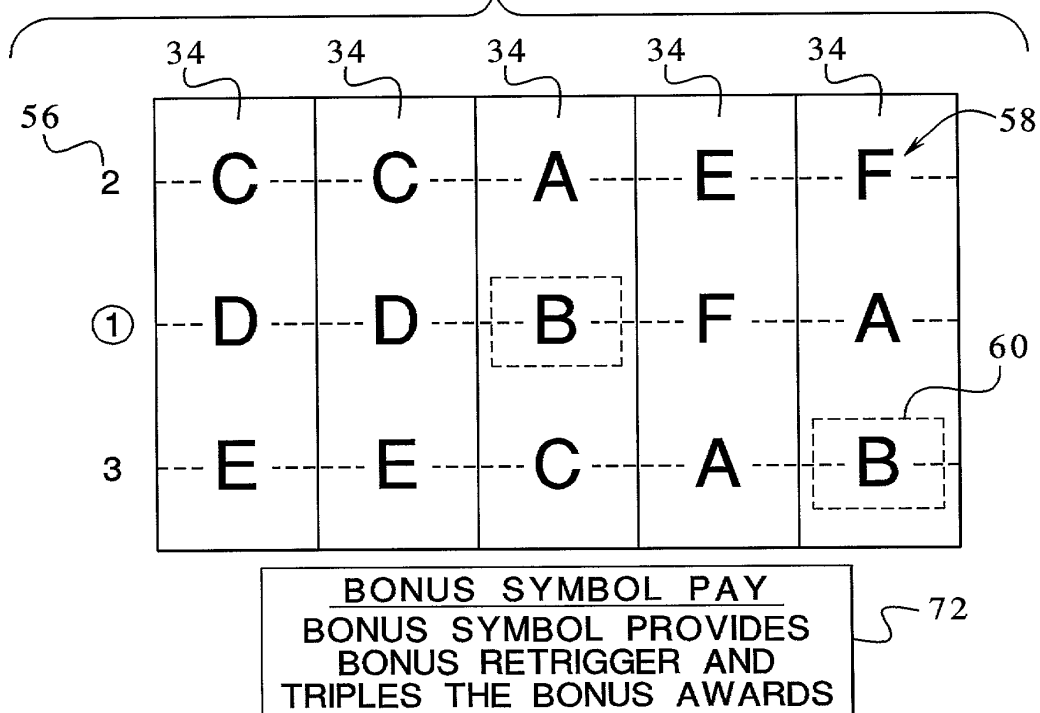


FIG.6



Docket No.
0112300-466

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

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 (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International
Application Number _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

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 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(list name and registration number)*

Holby M. Abern (P47,372)

Robert M. Barrett (30,142)

Alan L. Barry (30,819)

Thomas C. Basso (46,541)

Jeffrey H. Canfield (38,404)

Robert W. Connors (46,639)

Amy J. Gast (41,773)

Christopher S. Hermanson (48,244)

James J. Jagoda (33,250)

Patricia A. Kane (46,446)

Edward A. Lehman (22,312)

Michael S. Leonard (37,557)

Adam H. Masia (35,602)

Dante J. Picciano (33,543)

Renato L. Smith (45,117)

Maurice E. Teixeira (45,646)

William E. Vaughan (39,056)

Austin Victor (47,154)

James Jagoda (33,250)

Send Correspondence to: Adam H. Masia
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
P. O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Direct Telephone Calls to: *(name and telephone number)*
Adam H. Masia (312) 807-4284

Full name of sole or first inventor Anthony J. Baerlocher	
Sole or first inventor's signature	Date
Residence 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Reno, NV 89509	

Full name of second inventor, if any Ryan W. Cuddy	
Second inventor's signature	Date
Residence 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Reno, NV 89511	

Class	Subclass
ISSUE CLASSIFICATION	

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

PATENT NUMBER

U.S. UTILITY Patent Application

O.J.P.E.

PATENT DATE

SCANNED FK4 O.A. MT

APPLICATION NO. 09/981133	CONT/PRIOR	CLASS 463	SUBCLASS 20	ART UNIT 2711 3713	EXAMINER MENDOZA
------------------------------	------------	--------------	----------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------

APPLICANTS

Anthony Baerlocher
Ryan Cuddy

Gaming device having a re-triggering control device scheme

TIME

PTO-204
12/89

ISSUING CLASSIFICATION

[illegible]

<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINAL DISCLAIMER	DRAWINGS			CLAIMS ALLOWED	
	Sheets Drwg.	Figs. Drwg.	Print Fig.	Total Claims	Print Claim for O.G.
<input type="checkbox"/> The term of this patent subsequent to _____ (date) has been disclaimed.	_____ (Assistant Examiner) (Date)			NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED	
<input type="checkbox"/> The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of U.S Patent. No. _____ _____ _____	_____ (Primary Examiner) (Date)			ISSUE FEE	
				Amount Due	Date Paid
<input type="checkbox"/> The terminal ____ months of this patent have been disclaimed.	_____ (Legal Instruments Examiner) (Date)			ISSUE BATCH NUMBER	
WARNING: The information disclosed herein may be restricted. Unauthorized disclosure may be prohibited by the United States Code Title 35, Sections 122, 181 and 368. Possession outside the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office is restricted to authorized employees and contractors only.					

Form PTO-436A
(Rev. 6/99)

FILED WITH: ☐ DISK (CRF) ☐ FICHE ☐ CD-ROM
(Attached in pocket on right inside flap)

(FACE)

[illegible]

SEARCH NOTES (INCLUDING SEARCH STRATEGY)		
	Date	Exmr.

INTERFERENCE SEARCHED			
Class	Sub.	Date	Exmr.

[REDACTED]

ISSUE SLIP STAPLE AREA (for additional cross references)

POSITION	INITIALS	ID NO.	DATE
FEE DETERMINATION	<i>mesay</i>		
O.I.P.E. CLASSIFIER		<i>18</i>	<i>10-19-01</i>
FORMALITY REVIEW	<i>AM</i>	<i>1144</i>	<i>11/15/01</i>
RESPONSE FORMALITY REVIEW	<i>AM</i>	<i>917</i>	<i>03-18-02</i>

INDEX OF CLAIMS

✓ Rejected N Non-elected
 = Allowed I Interference
 - (Through numeral)... Canceled A Appeal
 ÷ Restricted O Objected

Claim	Date
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	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	

Claim	Date
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	
56	
57	
58	
59	
60	
61	
62	
63	
64	
65	
66	
67	
68	
69	
70	
71	
72	
73	
74	
75	
76	
77	
78	
79	
80	
81	
82	
83	
84	
85	
86	
87	
88	
89	
90	
91	
92	
93	
94	
95	
96	
97	
98	
99	
100	

Claim	Date
101	
102	
103	
104	
105	
106	
107	
108	
109	
110	
111	
112	
113	
114	
115	
116	
117	
118	
119	
120	
121	
122	
123	
124	
125	
126	
127	
128	
129	
130	
131	
132	
133	
134	
135	
136	
137	
138	
139	
140	
141	
142	
143	
144	
145	
146	
147	
148	
149	
150	

If more than 150 claims or 10 actions
 staple additional sheet here

(LEFT INSIDE)

NOT AVAILABLE COPY

10-18-01

A

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466Total Pages in this Submission
43**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

and invented by:

Anthony J. Baerlocher and Ryan W. Cuddy

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 27 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☒ Formal Number of Sheets 6
- b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☐ Newly executed *(original or copy)* ☒ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche *(Appendix)*
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☐ Assignment Papers *(cover sheet & document(s))*
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement *(when there is an assignee)*
10. ☐ English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* EL727383603US

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below):*

Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

17. ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Large Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
0112300-466

Total Pages in this Submission
43

Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	26	- 20 =	6	x \$18.00	\$108.00
Indep. Claims	8	- 3 =	5	x \$84.00	\$420.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$740.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$1,268.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$1,268.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **02-1818** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).



Signature

Adam H. Masia (Reg. No. 35,602)

Dated: October 15, 2001

CC:

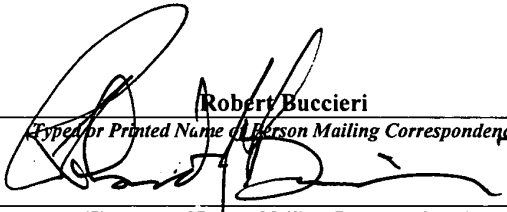
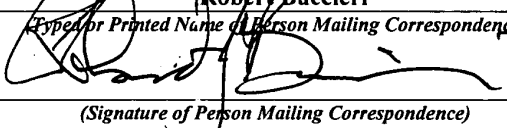
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10) Applicant(s): Anthony J. Baerlocher and Ryan W. Cuddy			Docket No. 0112300-466
Serial No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Group Art Unit
Invention: GAMING DEVICE HAVING RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOLS BONUS SCHEME			
<p>I hereby certify that the following correspondence:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> Specification (27 pages); Drawings (6 pages); Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Large Entity); Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application; Check in the amount of \$1,268.00; Certificate of Express Mailing; and Postcard Return Receipt. </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Identify type of correspondence)</p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p><u>October 15, 2001</u></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">(Date)</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  Robert Buccieri <small>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small> </div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">  <small>(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small> </div> <div> EL727383603US <small>("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)</small> </div> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-family: monospace; font-size: 1.2em;"> EL727383603US </div> </div>			
Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.			

FIG. 1A

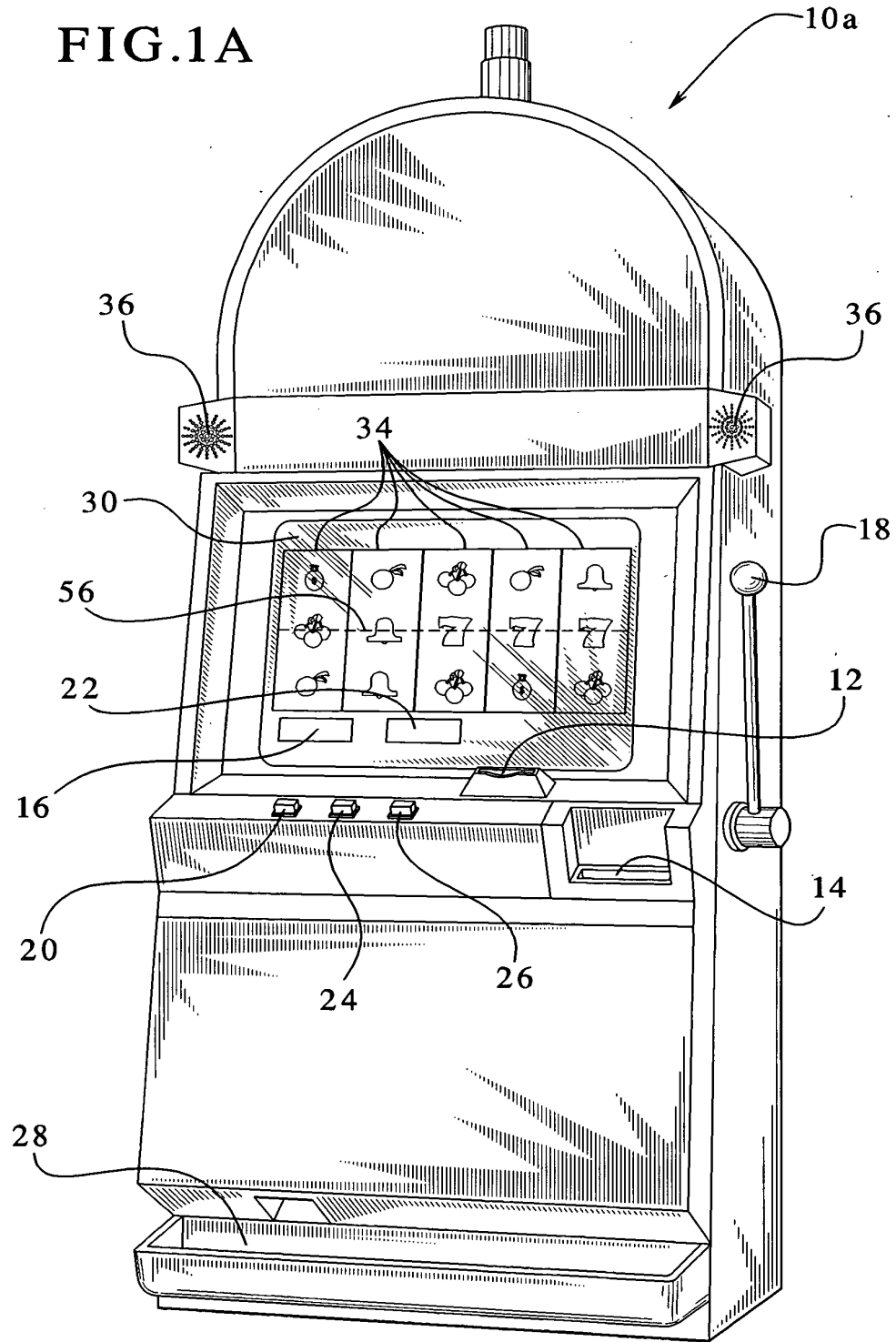


FIG. 1B

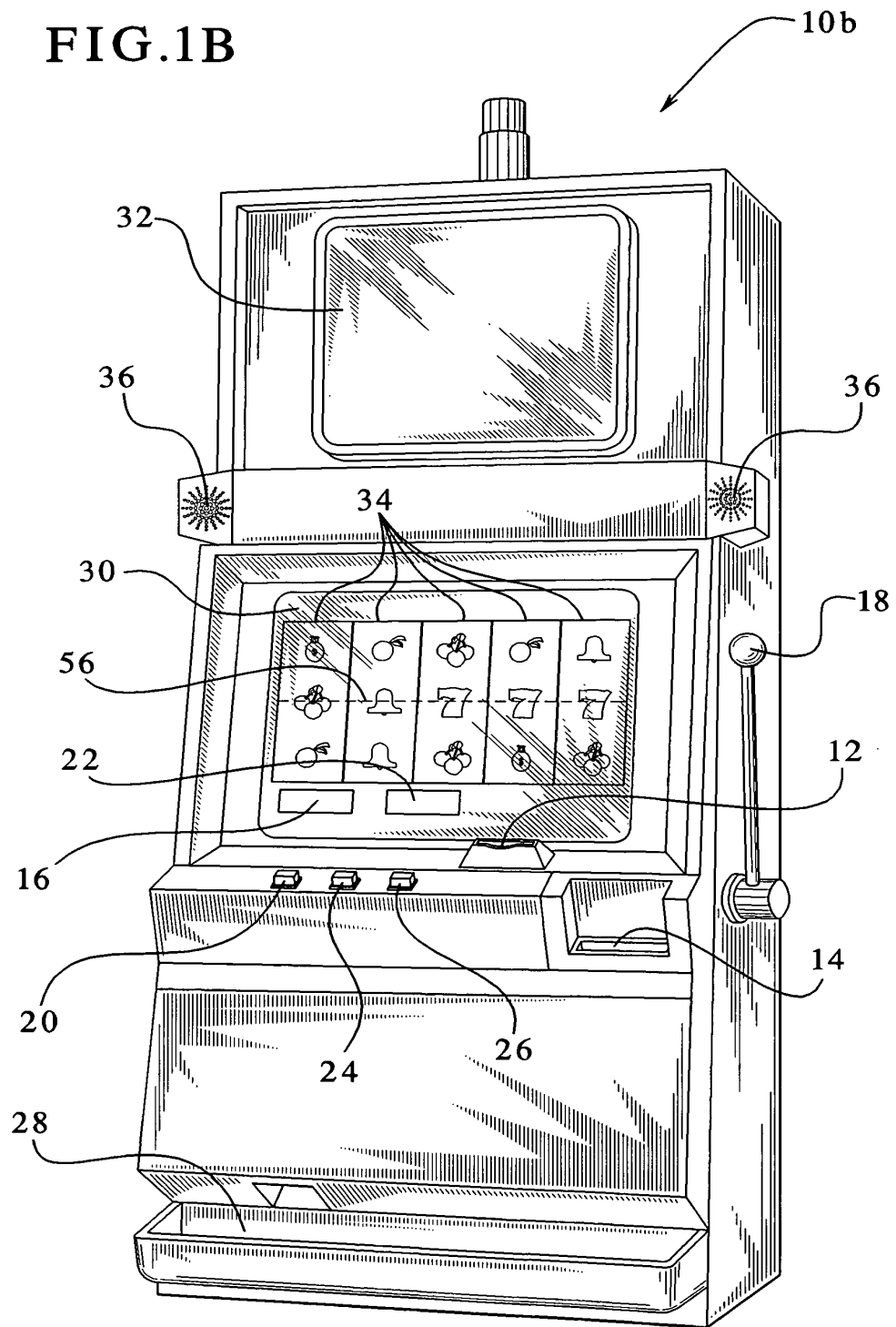


FIG.2

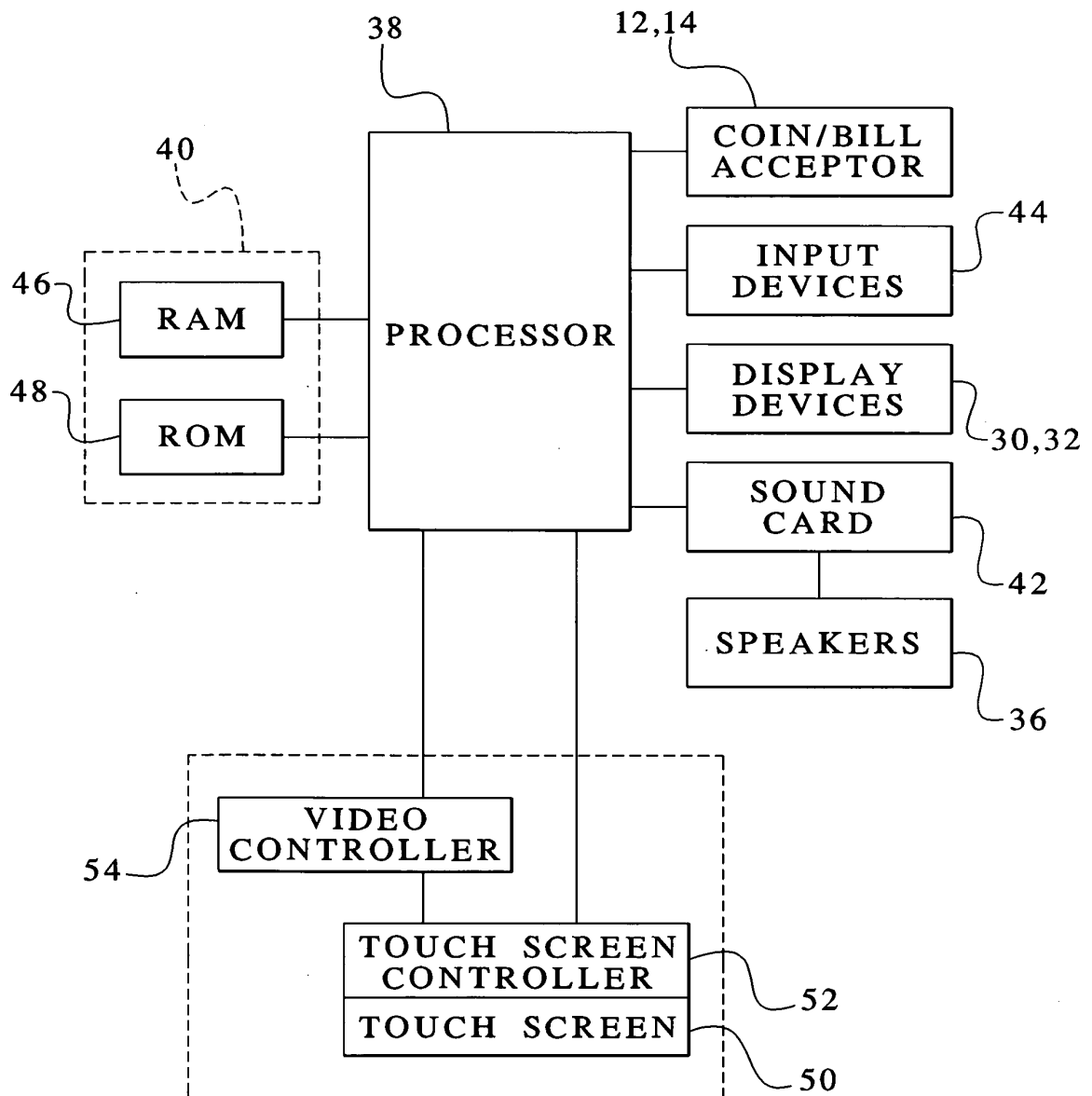


FIG.3A

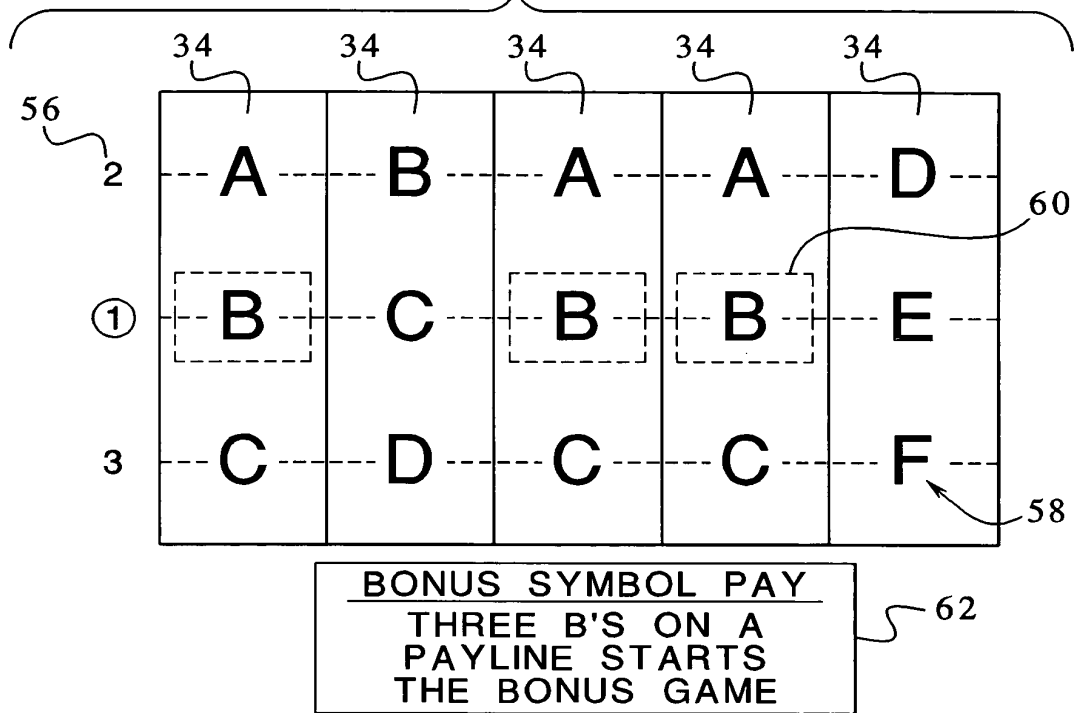


FIG.3B

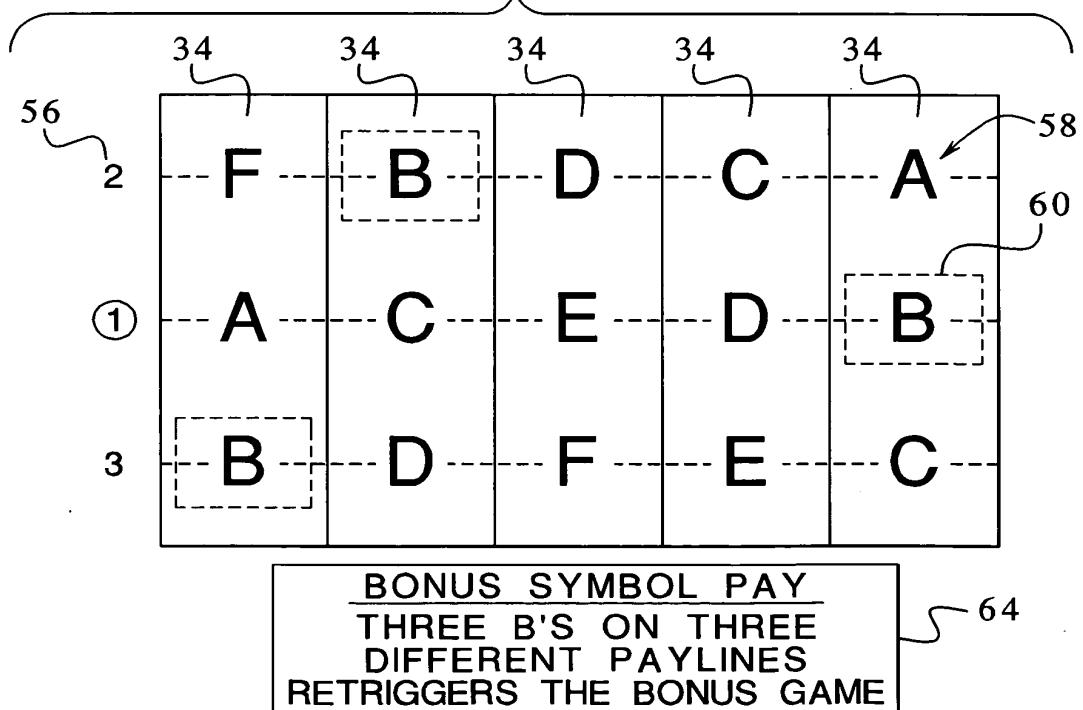


FIG. 4

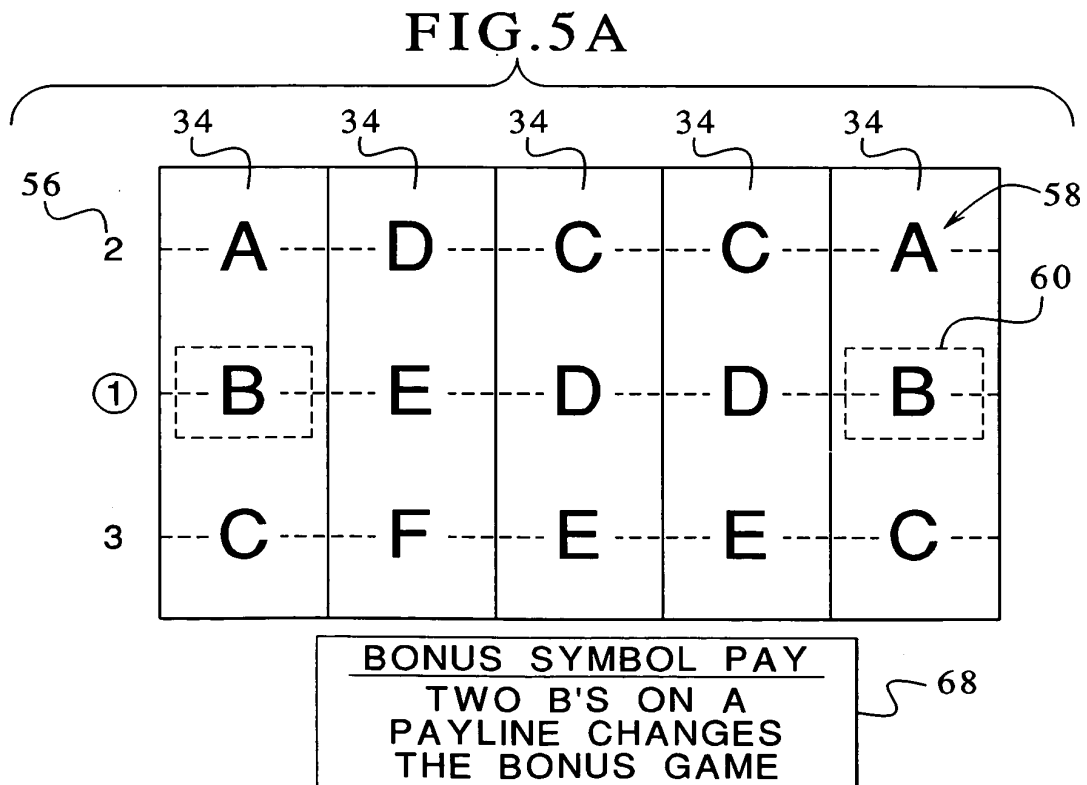
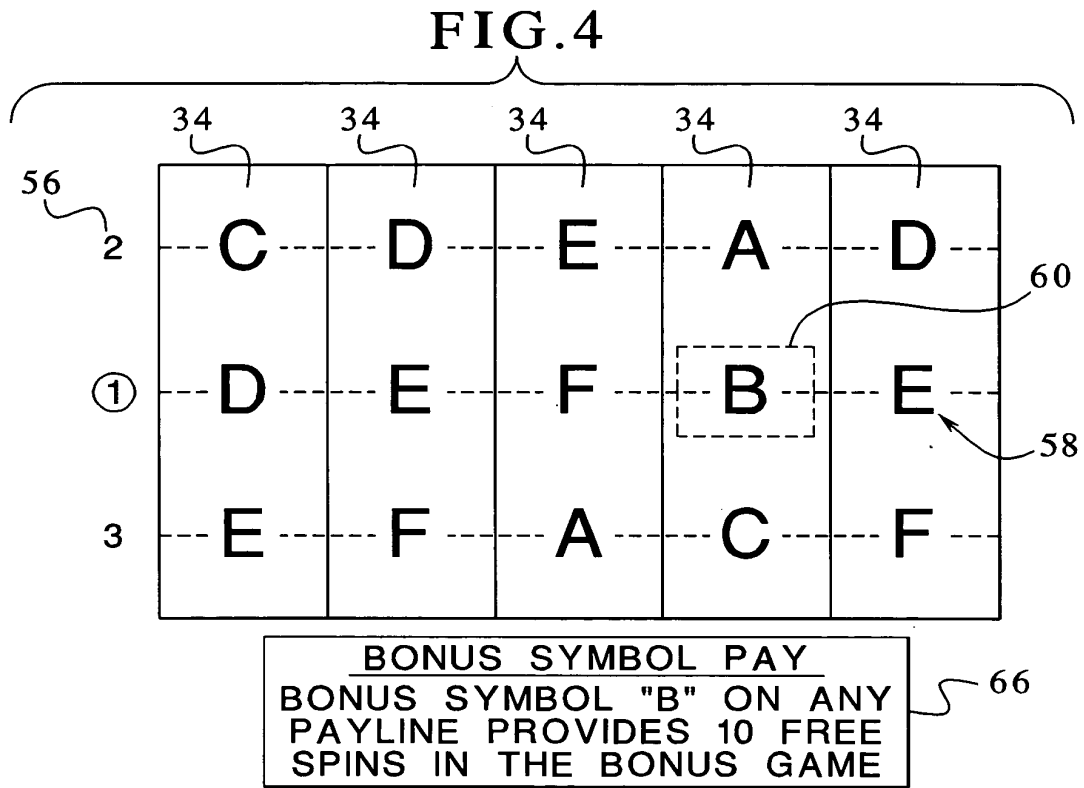


FIG. 5B

FIG. 5B

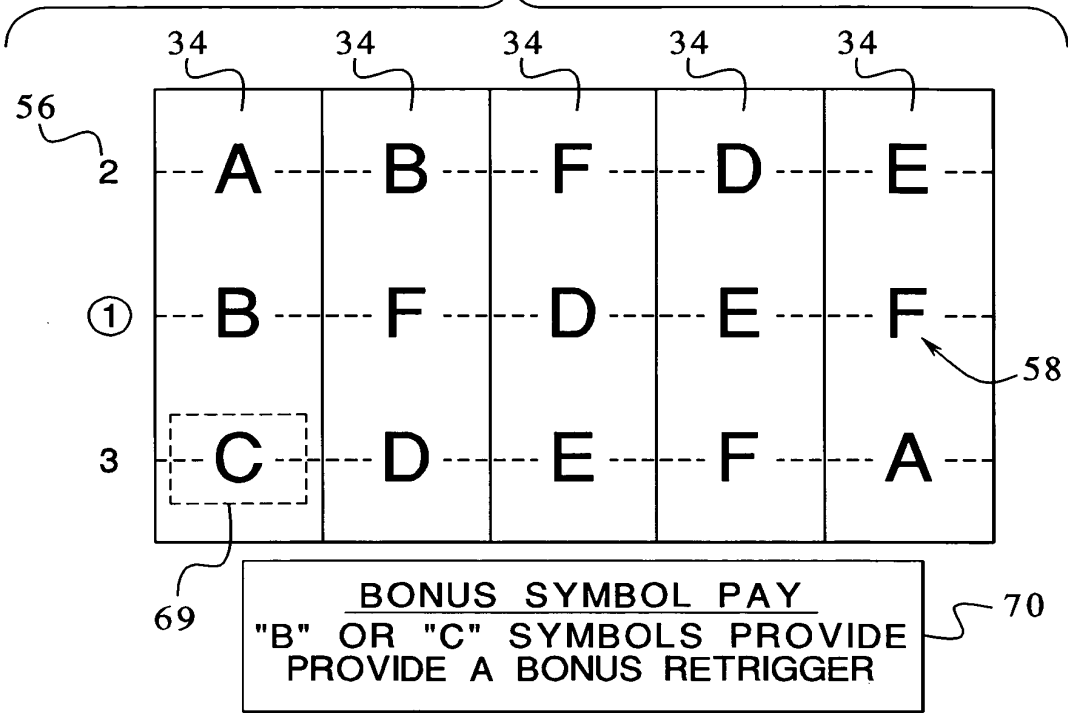
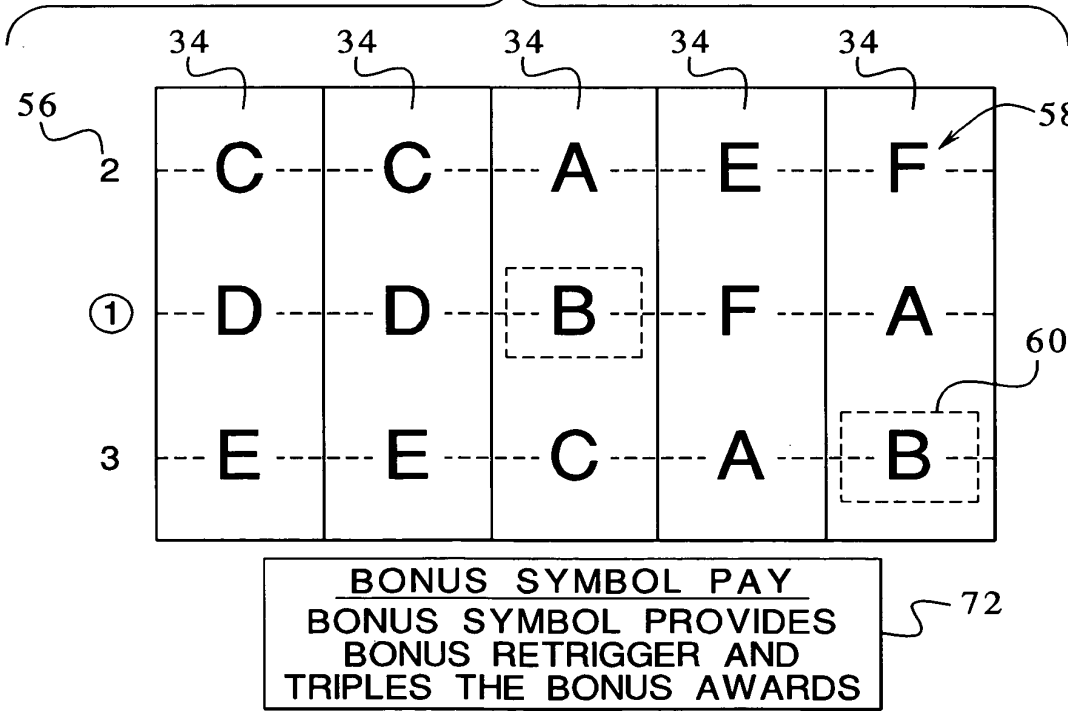


FIG. 6



UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

INVENTORS:

**ANTHONY J. BAERLOCHER
RYAN W. CUDDY**

Prepared by:
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
70 West Madison Street
Suite 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 372-1121
Our File No.: 0112300-466

0112300-466

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains or may contain material which is subject to copyright protection. The copyright owner has no objection to the photocopy reproduction by anyone of the patent document or the patent disclosure in exactly the form it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office patent file or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to a gaming device, and more particularly to a gaming device having a re-triggering symbol bonus scheme.

The base or primary game of most slot machines involves one or more mechanical or video spinning reels, each of which display a plurality of symbols. In many such games, a triggering event such as a symbol or combination of symbols yield one or more opportunities or chances in a bonus or secondary game, which is played in addition to the base game.

It is desirable to provide players with new and different gaming devices with new and different bonus schemes for the enjoyment and entertainment of players.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention provides a gaming device having a slot base game and a slot bonus game wherein one or more bonus

triggering symbols in the base game are employed as bonus re-triggers in the bonus game. In one preferred embodiment, the occurrence of a predetermined combination of a plurality of bonus triggering symbols (such as three bonus triggering symbols along a payline) in a base game triggers a corresponding bonus game. In that bonus game, the same bonus triggering symbols in any position (i.e., a scatter pay) functions as the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game which causes one or more additional activations of the reels or one or more re-triggers of that entire bonus game. The probability of obtaining the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game which is based on the same bonus symbols needed to trigger the bonus game in the base game is greater than the probability of obtaining the bonus trigger in the base game because the combination of bonus triggering symbols can occur anywhere on the reels in the bonus game to cause the bonus re-trigger (i.e., a scatter pay).

Accordingly, the present invention provides a gaming device, which includes a symbol or symbol combination in a primary or base game which triggers a secondary or bonus game, and a symbol or symbol combination in the secondary or bonus game which is more likely to occur in the bonus game and which re-triggers the secondary or bonus game or a portion thereof. More generally, the present invention provides a gaming device which includes a bonus triggering event in a primary or base game which triggers a secondary or bonus game and a bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game which re-triggers the secondary or bonus game or a portion thereof. The bonus triggering event in the primary or base game and the bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game preferably employ the same

0506473-04501
TOP SECRET

symbols or symbol combinations such that the bonus re-triggering event in the secondary or bonus game is more likely to occur in the bonus game than the bonus triggering event in the primary or base game.

The bonus re-trigger in the bonus game may, for instance, provide the player a bonus game extension such as additional or free spins in the bonus game, a replay of the entire bonus game, or a modification to the bonus game such as changing the bonus re-triggering symbol or bonus re-triggering combination of symbols in the bonus game. The bonus-retrigger can alternatively cause other changes in the bonus game as desired by the game implementor. For instance, the bonus re-trigger may cause a modification of the bonus award pay scale or table such as doubling or tripling subsequent award values in the bonus game.

It is therefore an advantage of the present invention to provide a gaming device having a re-triggering symbol bonus scheme.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed disclosure, taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheets of drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like parts, elements, components, steps and processes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1A is a front elevation view of a general embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 1B is a front elevation view of a second embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the electronic configuration of one embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

Fig. 3A is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B showing an embodiment of a bonus triggering symbol combination.

Fig. 3B is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger symbol combination in a bonus game.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger in a bonus game where a player receives additional spins.

Fig. 5A is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B showing a bonus re-trigger where the bonus re-triggering combination is two "B" symbols on a payline.

Fig. 5B is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B illustrating a bonus re-trigger where the bonus re-triggering symbol is a different symbol.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged front elevation view of one of the display devices of Figs. 1A and 1B wherein the bonus re-trigger includes an award modification.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Gaming Device and Electronics

Referring now to the drawings, two embodiments of the gaming device of the present invention are illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B as gaming device 10a and gaming device 10b, respectively. Gaming device 10a and/or gaming device 10b are generally referred to herein as gaming device 10. Gaming device 10 is in one embodiment a slot machine having the controls, displays and features of a conventional slot machine. It is constructed so that a player can operate it while standing or sitting, and is preferably mounted in a console or cabinet. However, it should be appreciated that gaming device 10 can be constructed as a pub-style table-top game (not shown) which a player can operate preferably while sitting. Furthermore, gaming device 10 can be constructed with varying cabinet and display designs, as illustrated by the designs shown in Figs. 1A and 1B. Gaming device 10 can also be implemented as a program code stored in a detachable cartridge for operating a hand-held video game device. Also, gaming device 10 can be implemented as a program code stored on a disk or other memory device which a player can use in a desktop or laptop personal computer or other computerized platform.

Gaming device 10 may be adapted to incorporate any primary game such as slot, poker, blackjack or keno, any of their bonus triggering events and any of their bonus round games in conjunction with the present invention. The symbols and indicia used on and in gaming device 10 may be in mechanical, electronic, electrical or video form.

As illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B, gaming device 10 includes a coin slot 12 and bill acceptor 14 where the player inserts money, coins or tokens. The player can place coins in the coin slot 12 or paper money or ticket vouchers in the bill acceptor 14. Other devices could be used for accepting payment such as readers or validators for credit cards or debit cards. When a player inserts money in gaming device 10, a number of credits corresponding to the amount deposited is shown in a credit display 16. After depositing the appropriate amount of money, a player can begin the game by pulling arm 18 or pushing play button 20. Play button 20 can be any play activator used by the player which starts any game or sequence of events in the gaming device.

As shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, gaming device 10 also includes a bet display 22 and a bet one button 24. The player places a bet by pushing the bet one button 24. The player can increase the bet by one credit each time the player pushes the bet one button 24. When the player pushes the bet one button 24, the number of credits shown in the credit display 16 decreases by one, and the number of credits shown in the bet display 22 increases by one. The gaming device may also include a conventional bet maximum button (not shown) and conventional payline bet buttons.

A player may "cash out" and thereby receive a number of coins corresponding to the number of remaining credits by pushing a cash out button 26. When the player "cashes out," the player receives the coins in a coin payout tray 28. The gaming device 10 may employ other payout mechanisms such as credit slips redeemable by a cashier or electronically recordable cards which keep track of the player's credits.

Gaming device 10 also includes one or more display devices. The embodiment shown in Fig. 1A includes a central display device 30, and the alternative embodiment shown in Fig. 1B includes a central display device 30 as well as an upper display device 32. Gaming device 10 in one embodiment displays a plurality of reels 34 such as three to five reels 34 in mechanical or video form at one or more of the display devices. However, it should be appreciated that the display devices can display any visual representation or exhibition, including but not limited to movement of physical objects such as mechanical reels and wheels, dynamic lighting and video images. A display device can be any viewing surface such as glass, a video monitor or screen, a liquid crystal display or any other display mechanism. If the reels 34 are in video form, the display device for the video reels 34 is preferably a video monitor.

Each reel 34 displays a plurality of indicia or symbols such as bells, hearts, fruits, numbers, letters, bars or other images or symbols which preferably correspond to a theme associated with the gaming device 10. Furthermore, gaming device 10 preferably includes speakers 36 for making sounds or playing music.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the general electronic combination of gaming device 10 preferably includes: a processor 38; a memory device 40 for storing program code or other data; a central display device 30; an upper display device 32; a sound card 42; a plurality of speakers 36; and one or more input devices 44. The processor 38 is preferably a microprocessor or microcontroller-based platform which is capable of displaying images, symbols

and other indicia such as images of people, characters, places, things and faces of cards. The processor may include a main processor and a sub-processor which control certain features of the gaming device in conjunction with the main processor. The memory device 40 can include random access memory (RAM) 46 for storing event data or other data generated or used during a particular game. The memory device 40 can also include read only memory (ROM) 48 for storing program code which controls the gaming device 10 so that it plays a particular game in accordance with applicable game rules and pay tables.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the player preferably uses the input devices 44, such as pull arm 18, play button 20, the bet one button 24 and the cash out button 26 to input signals into gaming device 10. In certain instances it is preferable to use a touch screen 50 and an associated touch screen controller 52 instead of a conventional video monitor display device. Touch screen 50 and touch screen controller 52 are connected to a video controller 54 and processor 38. A player can make decisions and input signals into the gaming device 10 by touching touch screen 50 at the appropriate places. As further illustrated in Fig. 2, the processor 38 can be connected to coin slot 12 or bill acceptor 14. The processor 38 can be programmed to require a player to deposit a certain amount of money in order to start the game.

It should be appreciated that although a processor 38 and memory device 40 are preferable implementations of the present invention, the present invention can also be implemented using one or more application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC's) or other hard-wired devices, or using mechanical

devices (collectively referred to herein as a "processor"). Furthermore, although the processor 38 and memory device 40 preferably reside on each gaming device 10 unit, it is possible to provide some or all of their functions at a central location such as a network server for communication to a playing station such as over a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), Internet connection, microwave link, and the like. The processor 38 and memory device 40 are generally referred to herein as the "computer" or "controller."

With reference to Figs. 1A, 1B and 2, to operate the gaming device 10 in one embodiment the player must insert the appropriate amount of money or tokens at coin slot 12 or bill acceptor 14 and then pull the arm 18 or push the play button 20. The reels 34 will then begin to spin. Eventually, the reels 34 will come to a stop. As long as the player has credits remaining, the player can spin the reels 34 again. Depending upon where the reels 34 stop, the player may or may not win additional credits.

In addition to winning credits in this manner, preferably gaming device 10 also gives players the opportunity to win credits in a bonus round. This type of gaming device 10 will include a program which will automatically begin a bonus round when the player has achieved a qualifying condition in the game. This qualifying condition can be a particular arrangement of indicia on a display device as discussed in detail below. The gaming device 10 in one embodiment uses a video-based central display device 30 to enable the player to play the bonus round. In one embodiment as discussed below, the qualifying condition is a predetermined combination of indicia or symbols

appearing on a plurality of reels 34. As illustrated in the five reel slot game shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, the qualifying condition could be the number seven appearing on three adjacent reels 34 along a payline 56. It should be appreciated that the present invention can include one or more paylines, such as payline 56, wherein the paylines can be horizontal, diagonal or any combination thereof.

Bonus Re-Trigger

Referring now to Fig. 3A, a set of mechanical or video reels 34 is generally illustrated having symbols 58 designated as A through F. It should be appreciated that any suitable set of symbols could be used as the symbols 58 in accordance with the present invention. In this embodiment, the "B" symbols 60 are the bonus symbols and the appearance of three "B" symbols on any activated payline such as payline 1, triggers a bonus game as indicated by bonus display 62. Although in this example three "B" symbols are used to trigger the bonus game, it should be appreciated that any symbol combination having the same symbol or designated symbols may be used as the bonus triggering combination.

Fig. 3B illustrates one embodiment of the bonus game of the present invention where the bonus re-trigger occurs in the bonus game when the same symbols which trigger the bonus game in the base game are displayed in a scattered combination on multiple paylines. In this embodiment, the "B" symbol 60 is the bonus re-trigger symbol and any three "B" symbols on three paylines provides the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game as described in

bonus display 64. Accordingly, as described above, in accordance with the present invention, the bonus re-trigger will occur more frequently than the bonus trigger because the bonus trigger will only occur when the bonus triggering symbols are aligned along a payline. The bonus re-trigger, however, will occur when the bonus triggering symbols are aligned along a payline or when the bonus triggering symbols occur along any payline.

Referring now to Fig. 4, one embodiment of the present invention is shown where the bonus re-trigger occurs when one bonus triggering symbol occurs. In this example, the bonus game was triggered by obtaining a predetermined combination of the bonus symbols "B" 60 as illustrated in Fig. 3A, for instance. The bonus triggering symbol "B" is the bonus re-trigger symbol in the bonus game. In other words, any one of the bonus symbols "B" which in combination trigger the bonus game in the base game, is the symbol in the bonus game which provides a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game. In one embodiment, only one bonus symbol 60 located on any payline 56 is required to obtain a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game. It should be appreciated, however, that any combination of the same bonus symbols, which is more likely to occur in the bonus game than in the primary game, may be used to obtain a bonus re-trigger in the bonus game in accordance with the present invention. Thus, the present invention provides a bonus game which increases the chances of obtaining a bonus re-trigger using the same primary symbols by requiring less of those symbols in the bonus game to obtain a bonus re-trigger than in the primary game, or by requiring a more likely to occur combination of those symbols in the bonus game to obtain a re-trigger in

the bonus game. Returning now to Fig. 4, the appearance of bonus symbol "B" 60 in the bonus game, causes a bonus re-trigger for the player in the bonus game. The bonus re-trigger is 10 free spins in the bonus game as designated by the bonus display 66.

Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 5A and 5B. In this embodiment, the bonus re-trigger restructures or changes how the bonus game is subsequently re-triggered, initiated, played or the structure or type of the bonus game. Initially, the bonus game was triggered by obtaining three "B" symbols along a payline as shown in Fig. 3A, for instance. The bonus symbol "B" triggers the bonus re-trigger in the bonus game, which in this case, changes the bonus game re-triggering symbol combination or event.

In Figs. 5A and 5B, a player obtains two "B" symbols which changes the bonus re-triggering symbol or bonus mode. In one embodiment, the probability of obtaining the bonus re-triggering symbol becomes even greater. Fig. 5A illustrates one embodiment where the player obtains two "B" symbols 60 on one payline 56 in the bonus game which changes the bonus game as indicated by bonus display 68. This changes the bonus game to include another bonus re-triggering symbol "C."

In Fig. 5B, the bonus re-triggering symbol also now includes the "C" symbol 69 on any payline as described in bonus display 70. Since the bonus retrigger symbols now also includes the "C" symbol 69, the player has a better chance of obtaining the bonus re-trigger because both the "B" symbol and the "C" symbol now provide the bonus re-trigger in this new, modified, or changed

bonus game. The bonus re-trigger could be for instance, additional spins of the reels wherein a player can obtain bonus awards. The new bonus game could also change the paylines or other functions of the game, increase or decrease the number of reels in the base game, or change to an entirely new bonus game.

Referring now to Fig. 6, another embodiment of the present invention is shown where the bonus re-trigger additionally changes or modifies an award in the bonus game. In Fig. 6, the player entered the bonus game by obtaining a bonus triggering event that included three bonus symbols "B," designated by the numeral 60. The bonus symbol "B" is the bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game. The player obtains the bonus re-triggering symbol "B" on paylines one and three. Thus, the player receives the bonus re-trigger and a modification of the award provided to the player in the bonus game as described by bonus display 72, which includes tripling the bonus award values. It should be appreciated that any modifications of the bonus award values may be made including, but not limited to, multiplying the values by some factor or increasing the bonus award values by a fixed amount.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a gaming device which includes a secondary game triggering event in a primary game which triggers a secondary game, a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game. Preferably, the secondary game re-

ARISTOCRAT EX. 1002 - 226/244

triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ the same triggering symbols.

While the present invention is described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it should be appreciated that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments, and is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the claims. Modifications and variations in the present invention may be made without departing from the novel aspects of the invention as defined in the claims, and this application is limited only by the scope of the claims.

CLAIMS

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A gaming device comprising:
- a processor;
 - a primary game controlled by the processor;
 - a secondary game controlled by the processor;
 - a secondary game triggering event in the primary game which triggers the secondary game; and
 - a secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game which re-triggers the entire secondary game or a portion thereof, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering event in the primary game.
2. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ at least one of the same triggering symbols.

ARISTOCRAT EX. 1002 - 228/244

3. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game re-triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes a greater number of combinations of said triggering symbols.

4. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the secondary game triggering event in the secondary game and the secondary game triggering event in the primary game employ a plurality of the same triggering symbols, wherein the secondary game triggering event includes at least one combination of a plurality of said triggering symbols and the secondary game re-triggering event includes at least one of said triggering symbols and less than the plurality of said triggering symbols of said combination.

5. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including at least one secondary game triggering symbol;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of said secondary game triggering symbol in one predetermined position in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one the secondary game triggering symbols in one of a plurality of predetermined positions in the secondary game.

6. A gaming device comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a display device controlled by the processor;
 - a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;
 - a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and
 - at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game upon the display of one of a plurality of predetermined combinations of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said secondary game wherein said display of one of said combinations in said secondary game is more likely to occur than said display of said combination in said primary game.

7. A gaming device comprising:

a processor

a display device controlled by the processor;

a primary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said primary game including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a secondary game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of a plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols in said primary game; and

at least one re-trigger of the entire secondary game, at least one additional spin in the secondary game or at least one additional turn in the secondary game provided to the player in the secondary game when less than the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the secondary game.

8. A gaming device comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a display device controlled by the processor;
 - a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus game triggering symbols;
 - a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence; and
 - a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when a predetermined combination of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game, said predetermined combination having a likelihood of occurrence which is greater than the likelihood of occurrence of the predetermined combination to trigger the bonus game in the base game.

9. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

10. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

11. The gaming device of Claim 8, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

12. The gaming device of Claim 11, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

13. The gaming device of Claim 8, which includes a plurality of reels wherein the predetermined combination is a plurality of bonus triggering symbols along a payline associated with the reels in the base game and the re-triggering combination is the bonus triggering symbols displayed by the reels in any position in the bonus game.

14. A gaming device comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a display device controlled by the processor;
 - a base game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said base game including a plurality of bonus triggering symbols;
 - a bonus game displayed by the display device and controlled by the processor, said bonus game triggered upon the display of a plurality of said bonus triggering symbols in said base game; and
 - a bonus re-trigger provided to the player in the bonus game when less than the plurality of said bonus triggering symbols is displayed by the display device in the bonus game.
15. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.
16. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player.

17. The gaming device of Claim 14, wherein said bonus re-trigger activates a bonus re-triggering symbol in the bonus game, wherein when the bonus re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the bonus game, the processor provides an additional bonus re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the bonus game; at least one additional spin in the bonus game; and at least one additional turn in the bonus game.

18. The gaming device of Claim 17, wherein the bonus re-triggering symbol occurs more frequently in the bonus game than the bonus triggering symbols.

19. A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of reels controlled by the processor;

a plurality of symbols on each reel, said symbols including a plurality of secondary game triggering symbols;

a primary game including at least one activation of said reels by the by the processor;

a secondary game including at least one activation of said reels by the processor, said secondary game triggered upon the display of a plurality of the secondary game triggering symbols on an active payline associated with the reels in said primary game; and

a secondary same re-trigger provided to the player in the secondary game when the plurality of said secondary game triggering symbols are displayed by the reels in any position in the secondary game.

20. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one re-activation of the reels in the secondary game.

21. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor re-activates the reels in the secondary game.

22. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein said secondary game re-trigger activates a reel re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the reel re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor provides an additional secondary game re-trigger to the player selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game and at least one additional activation of the reels in the secondary game.

23. The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the reel re-triggering symbol is more likely to occur in the secondary game than the secondary game triggering symbols.

24. A method for operating a gaming device having a primary game and a secondary game comprising the steps of:

(a) triggering the secondary game if a predetermined combination of secondary game triggering symbols are obtained in the primary game; and

(b) providing a secondary game re-trigger to a player in the secondary game if at least one of the secondary game triggering symbols in the primary game is displayed in the secondary game.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said secondary game re-trigger is selected from the group consisting of: at least one re-trigger of the secondary game; at least one additional spin in the secondary game; and at least one additional turn in the secondary game.

26. The method of Claim 25, which includes the step of activating a secondary game re-triggering symbol in the secondary game, wherein when the secondary re-triggering symbol is subsequently displayed in the secondary game, the processor replays the secondary game.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a gaming device having a bonus scheme wherein a combination of bonus symbols trigger a bonus game and any one of the bonus symbols in the bonus game provides a player with an award. The award may be an extension of the bonus game by providing the player with additional spins or games. Also, the award may modify the combination and type of bonus symbols needed to enter the bonus game. Furthermore, the award may modify the award values in the bonus game. Therefore, a combination bonus symbols trigger the bonus game and also triggers the gaming device to provide bonus awards in the bonus game. The re-triggering symbol award bonus scheme changes the probability of winning for the player and therefore creates a higher level of excitement and enjoyment of the game.

ARISTOCRAT EX. 1002 - 238/244

Docket No.
0112300-466

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

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 (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

GAMING DEVICE HAVING A RE-TRIGGERING SYMBOL BONUS SCHEME

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

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 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)
		(patented, pending, abandoned)

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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(list name and registration number)*

Holby M. Abern (P47,372)
 Robert M. Barrett (30,142)
 Alan L. Barry (30,819)
 Thomas C. Basso (46,541)
 Jeffrey H. Canfield (38,404)
 Robert W. Connors (46,639)
 Amy J. Gast (41,773)
 Christopher S. Hermanson (48,244)
 James J. Jagoda (33,250)
 Patricia A. Kane (46,446)
 Edward A. Lehman (22,312)

Michael S. Leonard (37,557)
 Adam H. Masia (35,602)
 Dante J. Picciano (33,543)
 Renato L. Smith (45,117)
 Maurice E. Teixeira (45,646)
 William E. Vaughan (39,056)
 Austin Victor (47,154)
 James Jagoda (33,250)

Send Correspondence to: Adam H. Masia
 Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
 P. O. Box 1135
 Chicago, Illinois 60690

Direct Telephone Calls to: *(name and telephone number)*
 Adam H. Masia (312) 807-4284

Full name of sole or first inventor Anthony J. Baerlocher	
Sole or first inventor's signature	Date
Residence 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 3339 Skyline Blvd.	
Reno, NV 89509	

Full name of second inventor, if any Ryan W. Cuddy	
Second inventor's signature	Date
Residence 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Citizenship USA	
Post Office Address 78 Stagecoach Ct.	
Reno, NV 89511	

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD

Effective October 1, 2001

Application or Docket Number

0112300-466

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	26	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	26 minus 20 = *	6
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4 minus 3 = *	5
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/>		

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY
TYPE ☐OR
OTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	370.00
X\$ 9=	
X42=	
+140=	
TOTAL	

RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	740.00
X\$18=	108
X84=	420
+280=	
TOTAL	1268

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total *	Minus **	=
	Independent *	Minus ***	=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>		

SMALL ENTITY
OROTHER THAN
SMALL ENTITY

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X42=	
+140=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X84=	
+280=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total *	Minus **	=
	Independent *	Minus ***	=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>		

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X42=	
+140=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X84=	
+280=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)	(Column 3)
AMENDMENT C	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA
	Total *	Minus **	=
	Independent *	Minus ***	=
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM <input type="checkbox"/>		

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$ 9=	
X42=	
+140=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. FEE	

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X\$18=	
X84=	
+280=	
TOTAL	
ADDIT. 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.

411
4-4-02

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. _____

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE RECORD SHEET

10/22/2001 MMEKONEN 00000046 09981133

01 FC:101	740.00	OP
02 FC:102	420.00	OP
03 FC:103	108.00	OP

PTO-1556
(5/87)

*U.S. GPO: 2000-468-987/39595

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CLAIMS ONLY							SERIAL NO. 124481133	FILING DATE 10-15-01					
							APPLICANT(S)						
CLAIMS													
	AS FILED		AFTER 1st AMENDMENT		AFTER 2nd AMENDMENT			*		*		*	
	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.		IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.	IND.	DEP.
1	1						51						
2		1					52						
3							53						
4		1					54						
5	1						55						
6	1						56						
7	1						57						
8	1						58						
9		1					59						
10		1					60						
11		1					61						
12		1					62						
13		1					63						
14	1						64						
15		1					65						
16		1					66						
17		1					67						
18		1					68						
19	1						69						
20		1					70						
21		1					71						
22		1					72						
23		1					73						
24	1						74						
25		1					75						
26		1					76						
27							77						
28							78						
29							79						
30							80						
31							81						
32							82						
33							83						
34							84						
35							85						
36							86						
37							87						
38							88						
39							89						
40							90						
41							91						
42							92						
43							93						
44							94						
45							95						
46							96						
47							97						
48							98						
49							99						
50							100						
TOTAL IND.	8						TOTAL IND.						
TOTAL DEP.	19						TOTAL DEP.						
TOTAL CLAIMS	26						TOTAL CLAIMS						

* MAY BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL CLAIMS OR ADMENDMENTS

FORM PTO-2022 (1-98)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

*U.S. Government Printing Office: 1998 - 433-214/70303