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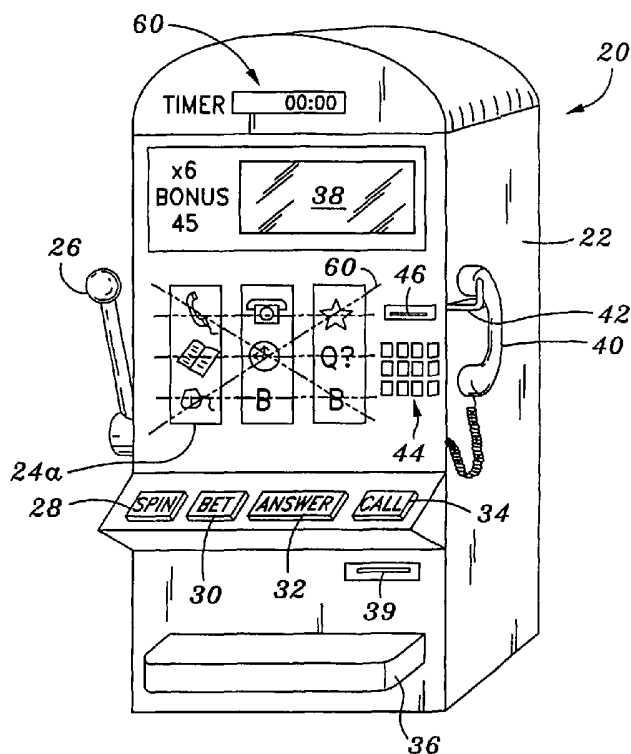
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TIMED GAMING EVENTS AND GAMING MACHINES WITH COMMUNICATION LINKS



(57) Abstract: A timed gaming event has a start time, a defined duration, and an end time. In one embodiment, the timed gaming event comprises a period of time during which the payout for winning results is enhanced, such as by a multiplier. In another embodiment, the timed event is a tournament in which players of multiple gaming machines play a plurality of games. Another aspect of the invention is a gaming machine including telecommunication devices, such as telephones, permitting calls to be placed to the player and/or permitting calls to be placed from the machine to a remote location. A game includes the opportunity to involve a third party participant located remote from the gaming machine in the play of a game via a telecommunication link.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/26169

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A63F 9/24(2006.01)

USPC: 463/16,20,41

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)

U.S. : 463/16,20,41

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2004/0235554 A1 (DeFrees-Parrott et al.) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004), Full text and drawings.	1-12
Y	US 2003/0060258 A1 (Coleman et al.) 27 March 2003 (27.03.2003), Full text and drawings.	5-7, 9 and 12
Y	US 5,848,932 A (Adams) 15 December 1998 (15.12.1998), Full text and drawings.	10-11

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐

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	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/26169

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-12

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/26169

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-12, drawn to a method and system for a gaming machine having the special technical feature of audible ring indicators.

Group II, claim(s) 13-16, drawn to a system for a gaming machine having the special technical feature of a server.

Group III, claim(s) 17-24, drawn to a gaming machine with a bonus game having the special technical feature of a bonus time period.

Group IV, claim(s) 25-35, drawn to a gaming machine having the special technical feature of a timed event having a start time and an end time.

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The special technical features in groups I-IV are not found in any of the other groups.