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(54) Title: INSTANT ONLINE LOTTERY TICKET FOR A LINEAR PRIZE AND A POSITION SPECIFIC PRIZE

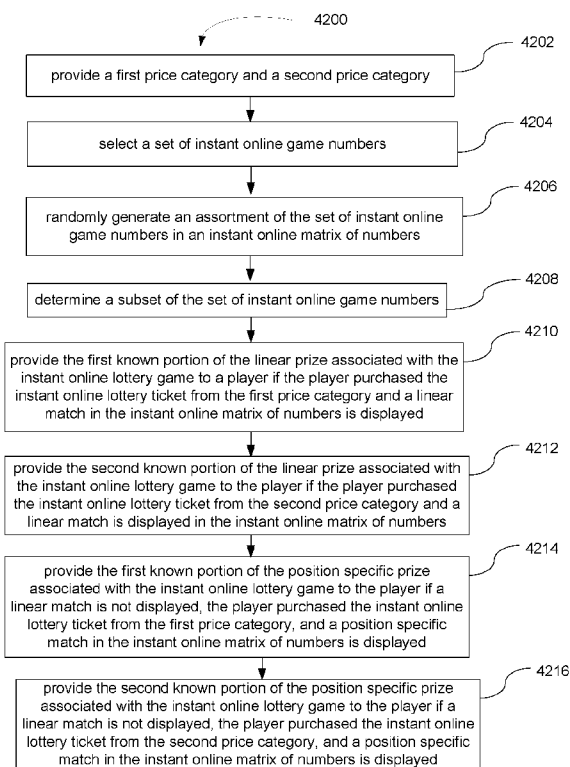


Figure 42

(57) Abstract: A process provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game. In addition, the second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the linear prize. The second known portion of the position specific prize is more than the first known portion of the position specific prize.

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# INSTANT ONLINE LOTTERY TICKET FOR A LINEAR PRIZE AND A POSITION SPECIFIC PRIZE

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## RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 12/034,657, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
10 AN INSTANT ONLINE LOTTERY TICKET, which is a Continuation-In-Part application of Serial No. 11/315,417, filed on December 21, 2005, entitled INSTANT ONLINE LOTTERY METHOD AND SYSTEM, which is a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/044,427, filed on Jan. 26, 2005, entitled MULTIPLE LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION IN A LOTTERY  
15 JACKPOT, which is Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/043,913, filed on Jan. 25, 2005, entitled LOTTERY TICKET PROVIDING FOR MULTIPLE GAMES, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. This application is also a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/879,939, filed on Jun. 28,  
20 2004, entitled LOTTERY TICKET DISPENSING MACHINE FOR MULTIPLE Priced TICKETS BASED ON VARIABLE RATIOS, which is Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/876,390, filed on Jun. 25, 2004, entitled MULTIPLE PRICING IN A LOTTERY BASED ON VARIABLE RATIOS, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.  
25 This application is also a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/766,656, filed on Jan. 27, 2004, entitled A SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PROVIDING A GUARANTEE IN A LOTTERY, and is also a Continuation-In-Part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/987,474,

filed on Nov. 12, 2004, entitled VIRTUAL LOTTERY, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **[0002]** 1. Field

5 **[0003]** This disclosure generally relates to the field of gaming. More particularly, the disclosure relates to wagering for a game.

### **[0004]** 2. General Background

**[0005]** A lottery is generally a distribution of tokens such that a subset of the distributed tokens may win a prize. The token can be in the form of a ticket. One  
10 of the most popular forms of lottery involves the distribution of lottery tickets. Each lottery ticket includes a lottery number. After the lottery tickets have been distributed to the lottery ticket holders, the winning number is chosen. The usual method of selecting the winning number involves a random selection of the winning number. A random number generator can be used to randomly select  
15 the winning number. Some lottery systems require the ticket to have the entire number that is randomly selected while other lottery systems require the ticket to have a subset of an ordered sequence of numbers that are randomly selected.

**[0006]** Online lotteries and games typically require a waiting period for a winning number to be drawn and a prize to be awarded. In some cases, the player must  
20 wait a week, or at least several days, to determine the draw results. In addition, higher odds are set for the higher-priced games (i.e. those offering higher minimum and average jackpots), thereby reducing the chance of winning the jackpot. Moreover, higher-priced online lotteries and games generally require longer waiting periods than lower-priced daily draw games or those conducted more than once  
25 per day. In addition, traditional online lotteries sell tickets for a single price. Additional customer expenditures permit the purchase of additional tickets or participating numbers, thereby improving the odds of someone winning a prize, but without affecting or increasing the prize which may be won. If there are multiple winners of a jackpot, the winners split the jackpot prize. Players desiring  
30 a higher jackpot must defer play until the jackpot builds to a player-acceptable

level through the roll-over process. In addition, if a jackpot is won, the jackpot for the next game automatically reverts to the minimum jackpot level.

**[0007]** Furthermore, traditional instant games, such as peel-off or scratch-off-style games, involve pre-determined results reflected by pre-printed tickets.

5 Generally, the results are blocked and the player must scratch off material or pull tabs to reveal the results of the instant game. A traditional instant game is generally offered at a single price, with each game having its own price and independent fixed prize structure. Players seeking higher prizes must choose a different game; typically, a single game does not provide the player with prize  
10 and price options.

## **SUMMARY**

**[0008]** In one aspect of the disclosure, a process is provided. The process provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first  
15 price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game. In addition, the second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize. The  
20 second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize. The second known portion of the position specific prize is more than the first known portion of the position specific prize. The process selects a set of instant online game numbers. Further, the process randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online  
25 matrix of numbers. In addition, the process determines a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. The process provides the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The linear  
30 match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset. The process provides the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery

game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers. Further, the process provides the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix. In addition, the process provides the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

**[0009]** In another aspect of the disclosure, a process is provided. The process provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. The first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize, a first known sub-portion of the linear prize, and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game. The second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize, a second known sub-portion of the linear prize, and a second known portion of the position specific prize. The second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize. Further, the second known sub-portion of the linear prize is more than the first known sub-portion of the linear prize. In addition, the second known portion of the position specific prize is more than the first known portion of the position specific prize. The process also selects a set of instant online game numbers. Further, the process randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. In addition, the process determines a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. The process provides the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online

lottery ticket from the first price category and a full linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The full linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of all the numbers from the subset. The process also provides the first known sub-portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a partial linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The partial linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers, but less than all, of the numbers from the subset. Further, the process provides the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a full linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers. In addition, the process provides the second known sub-portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a partial linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The process also provides the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a full linear match or a partial linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The position specific match is a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix. Further, the process provides the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a full linear match or a partial linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

**[0010]** In yet another aspect of the disclosure, a process is provided. The process provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the

first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game. In addition, the second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize. The second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize. The process also selects a set of instant online game numbers. Further, the process randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. In addition, the process determines a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. The process also provides the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset. The process provides the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers. Further, the process provides a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix.

**[0011]** In another aspect of the disclosure, an apparatus is provided. The apparatus includes a price category module that provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize. The second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of a position specific prize. The second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion



of the linear prize. Further, the second known portion of the position specific prize is more than the first known portion of the position specific prize. In addition, the apparatus includes a selection module that selects a set of instant online game numbers. The apparatus also includes a first random number  
5 generator that randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. Further, the apparatus includes a second random number generator that randomly generates a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. In addition, the apparatus includes a prize distribution module that provides the first known portion of the linear prize  
10 to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the second known portion of the linear prize to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers, the first known  
15 portion of the position specific prize if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match is displayed, or the second known portion of the position specific prize if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match  
20 is displayed. The linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset. The position specific match is a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix.

**[0012]** In yet another aspect of the disclosure, a computer product is provided.  
25 The computer program product includes a computer useable medium having a computer readable program. The computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to provide a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the  
30 second price category. The first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game. Further, the second price

category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize. In addition, the second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position specific prize. The computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to select a set of instant online game numbers. Further, the computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to randomly generate an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. In addition, the computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to determine a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. The computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to provide the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset. Further, the computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to provide the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers. In addition, the computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to provide the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The position specific match is a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix. Finally, the computer readable program when executed on the computer also causes the computer to provide the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the

player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

5     **[0013]** The above-mentioned features of the present disclosure will become more apparent with reference to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals denote like elements and in which:

**[0014]** FIG. 1 illustrates an instant online lottery game system.

**[0015]** FIG. 2 illustrates an instant online lottery system with multiple lottery units.

10    **[0016]** FIG. 3 illustrates a lottery ticket dispensing machine.

**[0017]** FIG. 4 illustrates the internal components of the housing of the lottery ticket dispensing machine.

**[0018]** FIG. 5 illustrates an instant online lottery ticket.

15    **[0019]** FIGS. 6A-6C illustrate a configuration of playlines or number sets or game-play combinations on a seven-by-seven matrix.

**[0020]** FIG. 7 illustrates a set of game-play combinations and an instant online lottery number.

**[0021]** FIG. 8 illustrates a prize distribution in an instant online lottery game.

20    **[0022]** FIGS. 9A-9C illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number matches all of the numbers in a game-play combination.

**[0023]** FIG. 10 illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number partially matches the numbers in a game-play combination.

**[0024]** FIG. 11 illustrates an instant online lottery game that utilizes an eight-by-eight matrix.

25    **[0025]** FIG. 12 illustrates a configuration in which a server sends game-play combinations to the lottery ticket dispensing machine.

**[0026]** FIG. 13 illustrates a process for operating the instant online lottery game wherein the player selects the lottery number.

**[0027]** FIG. 14 illustrates a configuration in which a server sends game-play combinations and the instant online lottery number to the lottery ticket dispensing machine.

**[0028]** FIG. 15 illustrates a process for operating the instant online lottery game wherein the sever generates the game-play combinations and the instant online lottery number.

**[0029]** FIG. 16 illustrates an instant online lottery game system that utilizes multiple pricing.

**[0030]** FIG. 17 illustrates an example of a winnings table for the instant online lottery game system of FIG. 16.

**[0031]** FIG. 18 illustrates an instant online lottery system.

**[0032]** FIG. 19 illustrates a process for operating a multi-priced instant online lottery game.

**[0033]** FIG. 20 illustrates the instant online lottery unit.

**[0034]** FIG. 21A illustrates a three-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with five matching numbers.

**[0035]** FIG. 21B illustrates a four-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with five matching numbers.

**[0036]** FIG. 22A illustrates a three-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with six matching numbers.

**[0037]** FIG. 22B illustrates a four dollar-ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with six matching numbers.

**[0038]** FIG. 23 illustrates an instant online lottery system with a progressive jackpot.

**[0039]** FIG. 24 illustrates a multi-priced instant game ticket.

**[0040]** FIG. 25 illustrates a process for operating the instant game.

**[0041]** FIG. 26 illustrates a table of prizes in a multi-priced instant game.

**[0042]** FIG. 27A illustrates an instant game ticket in a first price category.

5 **[0043]** FIG. 28 illustrates the prize distributions for an instant online lottery game in combination with a separate instant game offered online.

**[0044]** FIG. 29 illustrates a three-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game in combination with an instant game offered online.

**[0045]** FIG. 30 illustrates a four-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game in combination with an instant game.

10 **[0046]** FIG. 31 illustrates a probabilistic instant online lottery game system.

**[0047]** FIG. 32 illustrates a probabilistic software configuration that can be used with the probabilistic lottery system in conjunction with the multiple pricing shared jackpot system.

15 **[0048]** FIG. 33 illustrates an example of an instant online lottery game ticket. A set of instant online game numbers may be selected for utilization in the instant online lottery game.

**[0049]** FIG. 34A indicates the linear game numbers as indicated by the player in the matrix.

20 **[0050]** FIG. 34B illustrates another example of the linear game numbers as indicated by the player in the matrix.

**[0051]** FIG. 34C illustrates yet another example of the linear game numbers as indicated by the player in the matrix.

**[0052]** FIG. 35A illustrates an example of non-consecutive linear display.

**[0053]** FIG. 35B illustrates another example of a non-consecutive linear display.

25 **[0054]** FIG. 35C illustrates yet another example of a non-consecutive linear display.

**[0055]** FIG. 36A illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with a constant ratio based system.

5 **[0056]** FIG. 36B illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with a variable ratio based system.

**[0057]** FIG. 36C illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with both constant and variable ratios.

10 **[0058]** FIG. 37A illustrates an instant online ticket in which a set of non-linear game numbers is randomly generated in addition to the linear game numbers.

**[0059]** FIG. 37B illustrates an instant online ticket in which a set of game numbers 3706 is determined.

15 **[0060]** FIG. 38 illustrates an example of the prize structure from FIG. 36C that is utilized for both linear game prizes and non-linear game prizes.

**[0061]** FIG. 39 illustrates a process that may be utilized to provide an instant online lottery game.

**[0062]** FIG. 39 illustrates a process that may be utilized to provide an instant online lottery game.

20 **[0063]** FIG. 40A illustrates an instant online ticket for which a linear prize or a position specific prize may be won.

**[0064]** FIG. 40B illustrates the instant online ticket shown in FIG. 40A for which the position specific prize is won.

25 **[0065]** FIG. 40C illustrates the instant online ticket shown in FIG. 40A for which an additional restriction is provided for the linear match.

**[0066]** Figure 40D illustrates the instant online ticket shown in FIG. 40A for which two linear matches may result in two portions of the linear prize.

**[0067]** FIG. 41 illustrates an example of a prize structure from that is utilized for linear game and position specific prizes.

**[0068]** FIG. 42 illustrates a process that may be utilized for the instant online lottery ticket.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

**[0069]** A system and method are disclosed for an instant online lottery game. A  
5 lottery player can purchase an online lottery ticket and determine instantly  
whether the purchased ticket has a winning lottery number, rather than having to  
wait days or even a week for a drawing with respect to a traditional online lottery  
game. In essence, the instant online lottery player can be provided with a similar  
experience to playing an electronic gaming machine at a casino that can be  
10 networked with other machines to offer a wide-area progressive jackpot. As  
such, a player can play a lottery game offering relatively high jackpots every day  
without having to wait for a drawing.

**[0070]** By way of contrast, in the casino-style game, only the highest-priced ticket  
holder or maximum-unit player has an opportunity to win the progressive jackpot.  
15 In the disclosed system and method, any player, without regard to ticket price or  
amount spent per play, can win a progressive jackpot prize and can determine  
through player choice the pre-established percentage of the jackpot for which he  
or she desires to play. In addition, the participating lottery or lottery operator  
does not have to invest substantial sums in purchasing new freestanding  
20 machines to offer the game. Rather, the lottery operator can use its existing  
online terminals for game play and can use the existing ticket distribution  
network to maximize the opportunities for play.

**[0071]** FIG. 1 illustrates an instant online lottery game system 100. A lottery  
operator 102 establishes the lottery. The lottery operator 102 can be a  
25 jurisdiction such as a country, state, province, city, town, municipality, or any  
division or department thereof. Further, the lottery operator 102 can be a private  
organization that a jurisdiction hires to coordinate the lottery. The lottery operator  
102 can also be a private organization independent of any jurisdiction. The  
lottery operator 102 performs functions such as establishment, maintenance,  
30 operation and oversight and/or winnings determination of the lottery games.

**[0072]** The lottery operator 102 can advertise that a lottery game has a prize. For example, the lottery operator 102 can advertise that the lottery game prize can be a minimum of ten million dollars. The lottery operator 102 can provide the largest lottery prize as a jackpot 104. In one embodiment, the jackpot 104 can be  
5 a progressive jackpot that increases through allocation of a portion of the ticket sales. The lottery operator 102 can also provide a fixed prize 106. In an alternative embodiment, a fixed prize such as a probabilities-based prize may be provided without a progressive jackpot prize. In one embodiment, ticket holders 108 can purchase tickets at a price of \$x per ticket from a ticket seller 110. The  
10 ticket seller 110 can then send the ticket requests for each of the tickets to the lottery operator 102, typically through a computer network 102. The lottery operator 102 can transmit randomly generated instant online lottery numbers to the terminal maintained by the ticket seller 110. The numbers can be printed on the ticket that is provided to the ticket holders 108. In another embodiment, the  
15 numbers can be displayed on a computer screen. In another embodiment, the numbers can be displayed on a ticket display.

**[0073]** In one embodiment, the lottery operator 102 can use a random number generator to determine the winning number. In another embodiment, the lottery operator 102 can use a ball draw machine to randomly select the winning  
20 number. If one of the ticket holders 108 wins the lottery, the lottery operator 102 can disburse the jackpot 104 to the ticket holder 108. Typically, in an instant online lottery drawing there is a single winner because the instant online lottery number and the game-play combinations are provided simultaneously.

**[0074]** FIG. 2 illustrates an instant online lottery system 200 with multiple lottery  
25 units. In one embodiment, a server 202 can communicate with a first instant online lottery unit 204, a second instant online lottery unit 206, and a third instant online lottery unit 208. The server 202 can communicate with these units through a network 210 such as a Local Area Network ("LAN"), a Wide Area Network ("WAN"), the Internet, cable, satellite, etc. Alternatively, the server 202 can be  
30 hardwired to the instant online lottery units.

**[0075]** In one embodiment, the first instant online lottery unit 204, the second instant online lottery unit 206, and the third instant online lottery unit 208 can all



be linked to one another. For instance, the server 202 can provide updated prize information based on lottery wins and/or losses to the first instant online lottery unit 204, the second instant online lottery unit 206, and the third instant online lottery unit 208. Thus, the jackpot can change in value according to the wins  
5 and/or losses of any of the players at the first instant online lottery unit 204, the second instant online lottery unit 206, and the third instant online lottery unit 208. In another embodiment, the server 202 is not needed to update the jackpot information because the instant online lottery units can communicate with one another. When the player at the first instant online lottery unit 204 requests a  
10 ticket, the player is essentially purchasing a lottery ticket for a drawing in which that lottery ticket is the only lottery ticket that exists. Accordingly, the player can instantly determine if a winning lottery ticket has been purchased. Each instant online lottery unit may be identical to the units deployed for a lottery's traditional online game.

15 **[0076]** Similar to a traditional online lottery game, the first instant online lottery unit 204 can provide the player with the opportunity to select an instant online lottery number or to have the first instant online lottery unit 204 randomly generate a "quick pick" for the player. The first instant online lottery unit 204 can then randomly select the game-play combinations or winning instant online  
20 lottery numbers. Further, the first instant online lottery unit 204 can compare the instant online lottery number to determine if the player won the instant online lottery game. If the player won the instant online lottery game, then a pre-established portion of the jackpot or the jackpot in its entirety can be provided to the player and can be deducted from the jackpot for future play. On the other  
25 hand, if the player does not win the instant online lottery jackpot, the jackpot can remain available to future players of the instant online lottery game. If only a portion is won, the remaining portion can remain available to future players. If there is only a partial match of numbers, non-jackpot secondary prizes can be won, depending on the extent of the match and the amount wagered in the game  
30 (e.g. price selection as discussed later).

**[0077]** In yet another embodiment, the player can select the instant online lottery number by entering the number of the instant online lottery ticket without having

a quick pick option. In yet another embodiment, the player can select the instant online lottery number by selecting the quick-pick option and does not manually enter the numbers of the instant online lottery tickets. In yet another embodiment, the player does not select game numbers, and the game numbers  
5 are only selected by the random number generator or other selection device and are reported automatically to the instant online lottery unit.

**[0078]** In one embodiment, the jackpot 212 can be probabilistic. In other words, a relatively large amount is indicated at the onset as being the jackpot 212 in order to induce the purchase of instant online lottery tickets regardless of whether  
10 sufficient sales of instant online lottery tickets have occurred to cover the jackpot 212. Accordingly, there is an increased likelihood that the sales of the instant online lottery tickets can suffice to cover the jackpot 2412 because players are more likely to purchase instant online lottery tickets for a large jackpot than for a low jackpot. In one embodiment, prize indemnity insurance can be purchased  
15 from a third party to provide a guarantee that the jackpot will be paid in the event that the instant online lottery ticket sales are insufficient to cover the jackpot 212 and fixed secondary prizes.

**[0079]** FIG. 3 illustrates a lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In one embodiment, instant online lottery units 204, 206 and 208 can be implemented  
20 with the use of the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300, which can be positioned at various point-of-sale locations. The lottery ticket dispensing machine can have a housing 302 that stores the internal components of the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In addition, the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can also have a user input device 304 on which a user can input data for the  
25 sale of a lottery ticket. For instance, the vendor can input the instant online lottery number. In one embodiment, the vendor can also input player price selection. As described below, a player can also select a ticket price category in order to participate in other winning opportunities.

**[0080]** The instant online lottery number that the vendor enters can be displayed  
30 on a screen 308 of a display 306. In one embodiment, the display 306 is a graphical user interface. In another embodiment, the display 306 communicates data other than the instant online lottery number such as the jackpot 212. When

a player purchases a lottery ticket, the vendor can enter the purchase information into the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 via the user input device 304. In one embodiment, the user input device can be a keyboard. In another embodiment, the user input device can be operated by using a computer mouse. In an alternate embodiment, the user input device can be a touch screen. In yet another embodiment, the user input device can be voice activated. In an alternative embodiment, the display 306 can communicate the purchase information that is entered via the user input device 304.

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10 **[0081]** In one embodiment, the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can have a payment reception module (not shown) that receives a payment for the purchase of a lottery ticket. In another embodiment, the payment reception module can receive an electronic payment.

**[0082]** After the vendor inputs the data needed to sell a ticket, a ticket 312 can be printed from a lottery ticket printer 310. In one embodiment, the ticket printer 310 can be housed within the housing 302. In another embodiment, the lottery ticket printer 310 can be positioned outside of the housing 302 and can be operably connected to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In yet another embodiment, the lottery ticket printer 310 can receive data from the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 through a wireless connection.

15  
20 **[0083]** FIG. 4 illustrates the internal components of the housing 302 of the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. The housing 302 can include a lottery unit processor 406, a memory 414, a communication controller 410, a number selection input 402, a random number generator 404, and a payment acceptor 412.

25 **[0084]** The lottery unit processor can coordinate the various operations of the first instant online lottery unit 204. For instance, the lottery unit processor 406 can receive the instant online lottery number from the number selection input 402 that was selected by the player. The lottery unit processor 406 can then store the instant online lottery number in a memory 414. In addition, the lottery unit processor 406 can receive the winning instant online lottery number from the random number generator 404 and can store the winning instant online lottery number in the memory 414. The lottery unit processor 406 can then retrieve the

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instant online lottery number in the memory 414. The lottery unit processor 406 can then retrieve the instant online lottery number to compare the two numbers. If the two numbers are the same in entirety, then the player wins a known percentage of the instant online lottery prize. If subsets of the two numbers are the same, then the player wins a secondary prize which is a fixed prize.

**[0085]** In one embodiment, a communication controller 410 in the instant online lottery unit 204 can communicate with the server 2402. The communication controller 410 can receive data such as the value of the jackpot. The communication controller 410 can store this value on the memory 414 so that the lottery unit processor 406 can compute a known percentage of the jackpot that can be won by the player. In another embodiment, the lottery unit processor 406 can communicate with the communication controller 410 after data is received by the communication controller 410 from the memory 414. The lottery unit processor 406 can then store the data in the memory 414.

**[0086]** In one embodiment, a payment acceptor 412 can accept payment for an instant online lottery ticket. The lottery unit processor 406 can store the amount provided by the player. In one embodiment, the payment acceptor 412 can be a bill acceptor that accepts paper currency. In another embodiment, the payment acceptor 412 can be a coin acceptor that can accept coins for payment. In yet another embodiment, the payment acceptor can accept cashless payment. Various forms of cashless payment can include a credit card, a smart card, a stored value card purchased at a kiosk, a stored value card received in a promotion, a code such as a number that is printed on a ticket, etc. In yet another embodiment, the payment, in cash or other form, can be received, and deposited independent of the unit, by the vendor, who then can record and confirm the payment and receipt of the payment.

**[0087]** The first instant online lottery unit 204 can be implemented in a number of different combinations. Any type of computing device, such as a personal computer, can be utilized. Further, various displays can be operably attached or integrated into the first instant online lottery unit 204 to provide the player with data such as the jackpot value, the instant online lottery ticket, and the winning

instant online lottery number. Other embodiments may provide displays with other pertinent information.

**[0088]** FIG. 5 illustrates an instant online lottery ticket 312. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery ticket can include an instant online lottery number 500, a player's game board 502, a ticket identifier 504 and a timestamp 506. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery number 500 can include a number combination that is utilized to compare against one or more game-play combinations in order to determine whether the player has won. Each game-play combination can be an unordered collection of numbers. The instant online lottery number 500 can also be an unordered collection of numbers.

**[0089]** The instant online lottery number matches the game-play combination in full when all of the numbers in the instant online lottery number are present in the game-play combination. In one example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {2, 4, 6} matches in full the instant online lottery number. In another example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {4, 2, 6} matches in full the instant online lottery number. In yet another example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {6, 4, 2} matches in full the instant online lottery number.

**[0090]** The instant online lottery number matches the game-play combination partially when only some of the numbers in the instant online lottery number are present in the game-play combination. In one example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {2, 4} partially matches the instant online lottery number. In another example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {4, 6} partially matches the instant online lottery number. In yet another example, if the instant online lottery number is {2, 4, 6}, a game-play combination {6, 2} partially matches the instant online lottery number.

**[0091]** In order to improve the player's odds of winning, the player can be provided multiple game-play combinations. Thus, the player can be provided with a set of game-play combinations.

**[0092]** The ticket identifier 504 can be, for example, a serial number, a bar code, etc., that can uniquely identify the instant online lottery ticket among other instant online lottery tickets. In addition, a time stamp 506 can also be provided on the instant online lottery ticket 312 to display the time at which the ticket was printed and presented to the player. In another embodiment, the time stamp 506 can correspond to the time at which the set of game-play combinations was generated.

**[0093]** In one embodiment, the player's game board 502 can be a matrix or grid containing a set of game-play combinations. In another embodiment, the set of game-play combinations can be printed as a listing on the instant online lottery ticket 312. In another embodiment, the set of game-play combinations can be displayed as a listing on the screen 308 of the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In one example, the player's game board 502 can be a seven-by-seven matrix that includes forty-nine numbers from a range of one to forty-nine and sixteen play-game combinations of seven numbers. In one embodiment, all of the numbers in the matrix can be unique. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that matrices with other ranges of numbers as well as different numbers of rows and columns can be used. In another embodiment, for example, a seven-by-seven matrix that includes forty-nine numbers can have a range of fifty-one to one-hundred. In another embodiment, an eight-by-eight matrix can be utilized wherein the matrix includes sixty-four numbers having a range of one to sixty-four and provides eighteen combinations of eight numbers.

**[0094]** FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C illustrate a configuration of playlines or number sets or game-play combinations on a seven-by-seven matrix. The configuration of the playlines defines the set of game-play combinations. In one embodiment, the playlines are the seven horizontal lines across the rows of the matrix shown in matrix 602, the seven vertical lines across the columns of matrix 604, and the two diagonal playlines across diagonals 608 and 610 of matrix 606.

**[0095]** Thus, a seven-by-seven matrix yields sixteen game-play combinations of numbers or potential winning combinations. Seven of the game-play combinations are defined by the horizontal playlines as illustrated in FIG. 6A. Another seven of the game-play combinations are defined by the vertical

playlines as illustrated in FIG. 6b. Finally, two additional game-play combinations are defined by the diagonal playlines 608 and 610 as illustrated in FIG. 6C.

**[0096]** In another example, a six-by-six matrix yields fourteen different sets of game-play combinations. Six of the game-play combinations are defined by the horizontal play- lines, another six of the game-play combinations are defined by the vertical playlines, and two additional playlines are defined by the diagonals of the matrix.

**[0097]** FIG. 7 illustrates a set of game-play combinations and an instant online lottery number. In one embodiment, the set of game-play combinations 700 can be presented to the user in a form of a list. The set of game-play combinations 700 can correspond to the sixteen sets of seven numbers derived from a seven-by-seven matrix. The set of game-play combinations 700 illustrates the seven sets of numbers derived from each of the horizontal playlines across seven rows, the seven sets of numbers derived from each of the vertical playlines across the seven columns, and the two sets of seven numbers derived from the diagonal playlines. Thus, the set of game-play combinations 700 can continue to have a matrix relationship of rows, columns, and diagonals, even if the set of game-play combinations 700 is presented in the form of a list.

**[0098]** For example, the first row in the player's game board 502 includes the numbers 110, 38, 4, 28, 44, 16, 30}. The first column of the player's game board 502 includes the numbers 110, 48, 6, 32, 11, 36, 24}. These two sets of numbers have the number ten at the beginning. As such, the sets of seven numbers corresponding to the first row and the first column of the matrix can have the first number in common. Each of the other sets of numbers of the set of game-play combinations can have a number in common with one or more other sets depending on where the game-play combinations are placed in the game-board matrix 700.

**[0099]** In another embodiment, the set of game-play combinations 700 can be a list of numbers that are independent of each other and randomly generated. As such, there would be no matrix relation between each of the randomly generated game-play combinations.

**[00100]** FIG. 8 illustrates a prize distribution in an instant online lottery game. The prize distribution can be stored in a computer memory 800. In one embodiment, the computer memory 800 can be the same as memory 214 in server 202. In another embodiment, the computer memory 800 can be the same as memory 414 in the instant online lottery unit 204. In yet another embodiment, the computer memory 800 can be the same as both memory 214 and memory 414. A jackpot 802 can be stored in memory 800. In one example, the jackpot 802 can be \$500,000. The instant online lottery ticket price 804, and prize distributions, 806, 808, 810, and 812, can also be stored in memory.

**[00101]** In one embodiment, the prize distribution can be for a matching of the entirety of the lottery number with any of the game-play combinations. In a seven-by-seven matrix, for example, the jackpot is the prize distribution for matching the entire game-play combination of seven numbers. Thus, if all seven numbers of the lottery number match the seven numbers of one of the game-play combinations, without regard to the order of the numbers, the ticket holder instantly wins the jackpot 802. Thus, a jackpot prize distribution 804 can be awarded to the ticket holder.

**[00102]** In another embodiment, the prize distributions can be for a partial matching of the lottery number with any one or more of the set of game-play combinations. In the seven-by-seven matrix, a secondary prize distribution 808 can be the prize awarded for matching six numbers of any of the game-play combinations. If the lottery number contains six numbers of the seven numbers in the game-play combination, the ticket holder can instantly win a secondary prize distribution 808, by way of example, of one thousand dollars. A secondary prize distribution 810, or a specific amount, can result from matching six numbers of any of the game-play combinations. If the lottery number contains five numbers of the seven numbers in the game-play combination, the ticket holder can instantly win a secondary prize distribution 810, by way of example, of ten dollars. A secondary prize distribution 812, or a specified amount, may result from matching four numbers of any of the game-play combinations. If the lottery number contains four numbers of the seven numbers in the game-play combination, the ticket holder can instantly win a secondary prize distribution



812 of, for example, two dollars. A prize distribution can result from the matching of any subset of numbers and the prizes can vary as determined by the lottery operator to induce play of the game based on the matching combinations. In one embodiment, the prize distribution can be a fixed prize. In another embodiment, the prize distribution can be a percentage of the jackpot or a percentage of ticket sales revenue. In yet another embodiment, the prize distribution can be a fixed prize plus a percentage of the jackpot.

**[00103]** FIG. 9A illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number matches all of the numbers in a game-play combination. In one embodiment, an instant online lottery number 902 is a winning number if the numbers contained in the instant online lottery number 902 match the numbers in any of the game-play combinations. If all the numbers are matched then the instant online lottery number 902 wins the jackpot. For example, the instant online lottery number 902 can be {13, 40, 41, 20, 18, 6, 2}. The third row in the player's game board 502 provides a game-play combination {6, 18, 41, 13, 40, 2, 20}. The instant online lottery number 902 wins the jackpot because all of the numbers in the game-play combination {6, 18, 41, 13, 40, 2, 20} are in the instant online lottery number 902. Thus, the ticket holder can win a prize distribution 806 as shown in FIG. 8.

**[00104]** FIG. 9B illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number partially matches the numbers in a game-play combination. In one embodiment, an instant online lottery number 904 can be a winning number if the numbers contained in the instant online lottery number 904 partially match the numbers in any of the game-play combinations. In a seven-by-seven matrix, if six numbers are matched then the instant online lottery number 904 wins a prize distribution 808. For example, the instant online lottery number 904 can be {25, 40, 42, 30, 34, 24, 2}. A diagonal 908 in the player's game board 502 provides a game-play combination {24, 42, 34, 22, 40, 25, 30}. Six of the seven numbers of this game-play combination are found in the instant online lottery number. Namely, {25, 40, 42, 30, 34, 24} are found in the game-play combination {24, 42, 34, 22, 40, 25, 30}. Thus, the ticket holder can win a prize distribution 808 as shown in FIG. 8.

**[00105]** FIG. 9C illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number partially matches the numbers in a game-play combination. In one embodiment, an instant online lottery number 908 can be a winning number if the numbers contained in the instant online lottery number 908 partially match the numbers in any of the game-play combinations. In a seven-by-seven matrix, if five numbers are matched then the instant online lottery number 908 wins a prize distribution 810. For example, the instant online lottery number 908 can be {16, 7, 49, 20, 31, 24, 2}. The sixth column in the player's game board 502 provides a game-play combination {16, 25, 2, 7, 49, 23, 31}. Five of the seven numbers of this game-play combination are found in the instant online lottery number. Namely, {16, 2, 7, 49, 31} are found in the game-play combination {16, 25, 2, 7, 49, 23, 31}. Thus, the ticket holder can win a prize distribution 810 as shown in FIG. 8.

**[00106]** FIG. 10 illustrates an instant online lottery game where the instant online lottery number partially matches the numbers in a game-play combination. In one embodiment, an instant online lottery number 1002 can be a winning number if the numbers contained in the instant online lottery number 1002 partially match the numbers in any of the game-play combinations. More than one combination can be partially matched. In a seven-by-seven matrix, for example, if four numbers of a first game-play combination are matched then the instant online lottery number 1002 wins a prize distribution 812. If four numbers of a second game-play combination are matched, then the instant online lottery number 1002 wins another prize distribution 812. For example, the instant online lottery number 1002 can be {13, 7, 41, 20, 31, 25, 2}. The sixth column in the player's game board 502 provides a game-play combination {16, 25, 2, 7, 49, 23, 31}. Four of the seven numbers of the game-play combination are found in the instant online lottery number. Namely, {25, 2, 7, 31} are found in the game-play combination {16, 25, 2, 7, 49, 23, 31}. In addition, the third row in the player's game board 502 provides a second game-play combination {6, 18, 41, 13, 40, 2, 20}. Four of the seven numbers of the second game-play combination are found in the instant online lottery number. Namely, {41, 13, 2, 20} are found in the second game-play combination {6, 18, 41, 13, 40, 2, 20}. Thus, the ticket holder

can twice receive a prize distribution 812 as shown in FIG. 8. Other secondary prize distributions can be established depending on the number and extent of the matches. For example, a secondary prize distribution can be awarded for matching three numbers of seven. In another example, a secondary distribution can be awarded for matching two numbers of seven. In yet another example, two or more secondary distributions can be awarded in the same game, if the instant online lottery game ticket provides two or more partial matches between the instant online lottery number and subsets of two or more game-play combinations.

5 [00107] FIG. 11 illustrates an instant online lottery game that utilizes an eight-by-eight matrix. In one embodiment, the eight-by-eight matrix yields a set of eighteen game-play combinations. Eight of the game-play combinations are defined by the horizontal playlines; another eight of the game-play combinations are defined by the vertical play-lines, and two additional playlines are defined by the diagonals of the matrix. Furthermore, the winning number 1102 includes eight different numbers that can match any of the eighteen game-play combinations. The player's game board is a grid of sixty-four squares including the numbers one to sixty-four in each of the boxes.

15 [00108] As discussed above, the full jackpot can be the prize distribution for matching the entire game-play combination. In an eight-by-eight matrix, each game-play combination has eight numbers. Thus, if all eight numbers of the lottery number 1102 match the eight numbers of one of the eighteen game-play combinations, the ticket holder can instantly win a jackpot. Thus, a jackpot prize distribution can be awarded to the ticket holder. In another embodiment, the prize distributions can be for a partial matching of the lottery number with any one of the set of game-play combinations. For example, matching seven numbers of one of the game-play combinations with seven numbers in the instant online lottery number 1102 would win a secondary prize as discussed above.

25 [00109] FIG. 12 illustrates a configuration in which a server 1202 sends game-play combinations to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. The server 1202 can include a random number generator 1204. The random number generator

1204 can be utilized to generate the set of game-play combinations while the player can manually select the instant online lottery number. In one embodiment, the server 1202 first receives the instant online lottery number selected by the player such that the game-play combinations can be compared at the server  
5 1202 against the selected instant online lottery number. If there is matching, the server 1202 reduces the jackpot by the prize distribution to the winning player. In another embodiment, the server 1202 does not receive the instant online lottery number and simply transmits the game-play combinations to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 to be compared against the various instant online  
10 lottery number, which can also be transmitted by the server. The lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can then utilize lottery unit processor 406 to make the comparison. If there is a matching, the lottery unit processor 406 transmits a confirmation of the win, the extent of the match and the applicable prize or prizes to the server 1202.

15 **[00110]** In another embodiment, the random number generator 1204 can randomly generate a quick pick instant online lottery number. In another embodiment, the random number generator 1204 can randomly generate an instant online lottery number and the set of game-play combinations.

**[00111]** FIG. 13 illustrates a process 1300 for operating the instant online lottery  
20 game wherein the player can select the lottery number. At a process block 1302, the player can select an instant online lottery number. The player can manually enter the instant online lottery number through the input module 304 on the instant online lottery machine 300. At a process block 1304, the game-play combinations can be generated. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery  
25 unit 204 can generate the set of game-play combinations using the random generator 404. In another embodiment, the server can generate the game-play combinations using the random number generator 1204. In one embodiment, a second random generator can generate the instant online lottery number to be matched against the game-play combinations.

30 **[00112]** At a process block 1306, a comparison can be made between instant online lottery number and the set of game-play combinations. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 204 can perform this comparison. In

another embodiment, the server can perform this comparison. At a process block 1308, a determination can be made if the instant online lottery number matches any one of the game-play combinations partially or entirely. If the instant online lottery number partially or entirely matches one of the game-play combinations, the process 1300 can proceed to a process block 1310 where the winner is provided with the appropriate prize distribution. The process 1300 can then proceed to the end block 1310. If the instant online lottery number does not match any one of the game-play combinations, in whole or in part, the process 1300 can proceed to the end block 1310.

10 **[00113]** FIG. 14 illustrates a configuration in which a server 1402 sends game-play combinations and the instant online lottery number to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. The server 1402 can include a first random number generator 1404 and a second random number generator 1406. The first random number generator 1404 can randomly generate the set of game-play combinations while the second number generator can randomly generate the instant online lottery number. In one embodiment, the game-play combinations can be compared at the server 1402 against the instant online lottery number. If there is complete matching, the server 1402 can reduce the jackpot by the prize distribution to the winning player. In the case of a partial match, where one or more fixed secondary prizes are won, the jackpot is not reduced.

25 **[00114]** FIG. 15 illustrates a process 1500 for operating the instant online lottery game wherein the sever can generate the game-play combinations and the instant online lottery number. At a process block 1502, the game-play combinations can be generated. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 204 can generate the set of game-play combinations using the random number generator 404. In another embodiment, the server 1402 can generate the game-play combinations using the random number generator 1404. At a process block 1502, the instant online lottery number can be randomly generated. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 204 can generate the lottery number using the random number generator 404. In another embodiment, the server 1402 can generate the game-play combinations using the random number generator 1406.

**[00115]** In one embodiment, the player can elect to have an instant online lottery number be randomly generated. The player can choose a quick pick button to have the instant online lottery unit 300 randomly generate the instant online lottery number for the player. In another embodiment, the lottery ticket can be  
5 randomly generated by default.

**[00116]** At a process block 1506, a comparison can be made between the instant online lottery number and the set of game-play combinations. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 204 can perform this comparison. In another embodiment, the server can perform this comparison. At a process block  
10 1508, a determination can be made if the instant online lottery number matches any one of the game-play combinations partially or entirely. If the instant online lottery number partially or entirely matches one of the game-play combinations, the process 1500 can proceed to a process block 1510 where the winner is provided with the prize distribution. The process 1300 can then proceed to the  
15 end block 1510. If the instant online lottery number does not match any one of the game-play combinations, the process 1500 can proceed to the end block 1510. In one embodiment, a minimum starting jackpot can be offered. Thus, if a jackpot is won, in whole or in part, and is thereby reduced, the balance of the jackpot can be the starting jackpot amount for the next game, or it can be  
20 combined with the starting jackpot amount for the next game, so as to provide greater incentive for players to buy tickets for the next game.

**[00117]** An instant online lottery game with multiple levels of participation is provided. Players can select the price of the ticket to be purchased. In one embodiment, the price of the ticket can increase or reduce the odds of winning.  
25 In another embodiment, the price of the ticket can increase or reduce the prize distribution but the odds are the same for all ticket holders. All of the above-described features can be applied to a multiple pricing instant online lottery game.

**[00118]** FIG. 16 illustrates an instant online lottery game system 1600 that  
30 utilizes multiple pricing. Instant online lottery players can be provided with a selection of price categories and associated prize distributions. In one embodiment, a ticket holder 1604 can purchase a lottery ticket from a ticket seller 1602

in a first price category. The first price category can be for lottery tickets purchased for \$w. The instant online lottery ticket in the first price category can be purchased from a ticket seller 1602. The first price category can be associated with a first prize distribution of a lottery prize that can be won. For  
5 example, the ticket holder 206 may have purchased the instant online lottery ticket for five dollars in order to play for a chance to win one hundred percent of the jackpot.

**[00119]** In another embodiment, a ticket holder 1606 can purchase an instant online lottery ticket in a second price category. The instant online lottery ticket  
10 can be purchased from a ticket seller 1602. For instance, the second price category can be lottery tickets purchased for \$x. The second price category can be associated with a second distribution of an instant online lottery prize that can be won. For example, the ticket holder 1606 may have purchased the instant online lottery ticket for four dollars in order to play for a chance to win sixty  
15 percent of the jackpot.

**[00120]** In yet another embodiment, a ticket holder 1608 can purchase an instant online lottery ticket in a third price category. The instant online lottery ticket in the third price category can be purchased from a ticket seller 1602. For instance, the third price category can be lottery tickets purchased for \$y. The  
20 third price category can be associated with a third distribution of an instant online lottery prize that can be won. For example, the ticket holder 1608 may have purchased the instant online lottery ticket for three dollars in order to play for a chance to win forty percent of the jackpot.

**[00121]** In another embodiment, a ticket holder 1610 can purchase an instant  
25 online lottery ticket in a fourth price category. The instant online lottery ticket in the fourth price category can be purchased from a ticket seller 1602. For instance, the fourth price category can be lottery tickets purchased for \$z. The third price category can be associated with a fourth distribution of an instant online lottery prize that can be won. For example, the ticket holder 1610 may  
30 have purchased the instant online lottery ticket for two dollars in order to play for a chance to win twenty percent of the jackpot.

**[00122]** Although, in the above discussion, the first price category was associated with the ticket holder 204, the second price category with the ticket holder 206, and the third price category with the ticket holder 208, the ticket holders can be associated with different price categories. For instance, the first price category can be associated with the ticket holder 204 and the third price category can be associated with the ticket holder 206. Further, the methodologies discussed above can be extended to any number of price categories. For instance, there could be a fifth price category. Any number of price categories can be used. Also, the price categories can represent not only an opportunity to win a distinct pre-established portion of a jackpot but also a differing set of secondary prizes. The secondary prizes can be greater for a winning higher-priced ticket. Furthermore, the holder of a higher-priced ticket can qualify for the award of a secondary prize for the matching of a subset of numbers which would not qualify the holder of a lower-priced ticket for a prize.

**[00123]** FIG. 17 illustrates an example of a winnings table for the instant online lottery game system of FIG. 16. For example, a lottery can have a jackpot of two and a half million dollars. Lottery players can purchase a five-dollar ticket, a four-dollar ticket, a three-dollar ticket, and a two-dollar ticket.

**[00124]** The five-dollar ticket holder could receive the full jackpot of two million five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online lottery number of the five-dollar ticket matches in full any one of the game-play combinations. The four-dollar ticket gives the ticket holder a chance at receiving sixty percent of the jackpot. Therefore, the four-dollar ticket holder could at best receive one million five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online lottery number of the four-dollar ticket matches in full any one of the game-play combinations.

**[00125]** The three-dollar ticket could give the ticket holder a chance at receiving forty percent of the jackpot. Therefore, the three-dollar ticket holder could at best receive one million dollars if the instant online lottery number of the three-dollar ticket matches in full any one of the game-play combinations.

**[00126]** Finally, the two-dollar ticket could give the ticket holder a chance at receiving twenty percent of the jackpot. Therefore, the two-dollar ticket holder could at best receive five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online lottery



number of the two-dollar ticket matches in full any one of the game-play combinations.

**[00127]** FIG. 18 illustrates an instant online lottery system. The internal components of the housing 302 of the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can include a controller 1804, a price category reception module 1806, a user input module 1808, and a lottery ticket printer 1810. The controller 1804 coordinates the operation of these internal components.

**[00128]** The price category reception module 1806 can receive the different price categories in which lottery tickets can be purchased in the instant multi-priced lottery system. In one embodiment, the price category reception module can receive the different price categories and the associated distributions for each of the respective price categories. In one embodiment, a vendor can manually input the different price categories into the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In another embodiment, the vendor can electronically input the different price categories into the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 by inserting a computer readable medium into the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In yet another embodiment, the price category reception module 1806 can receive the data related to the price category reception module from a server through a network.

**[00129]** In one embodiment, the user input module 1808 can receive a user input from the user input device 304. The user input module 1808 can communicate with the controller 1504 so that the controller can provide an instruction to the lottery ticket printer 1810 to print the lottery ticket.

**[00130]** In one embodiment, the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can communicate with a server 1812 to receive a price category and the associated distribution of the price category. The server 1812 can provide a price category through a network 1814 to the price category reception module 1806 in the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In one embodiment, multiple price categories can be sent simultaneously with their associated distributions. In another embodiment, each price category can be sent by itself with its associated distribution.

**[00131]** The lottery ticket dispensing machine 300 can communicate with a server 1812 to transmit a ticket request. In one embodiment, the housing 302 can also house a lottery ticket purchase transmission module 1816. The lottery ticket purchase transmission module 1816 can determine when a ticket has been purchased and can transmit a ticket request to a server 1812 through a network 1814. The ticket request received at the server 1812 can trigger the server 1812 to randomly generate lottery numbers as well as provide price categories to the lottery dispensing machine 300.

**[00132]** In another embodiment, the server 1812 can send price category information or data to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. The server 1812 can provide instructions to a price category module 1818 and to a price category transmission module 1820. The price category module 1818 can determine price categories and distributions in a multi-priced instant online lottery distribution as discussed above. The price category transmission module 1820 can then transmit the price category and the associated distribution through the network 1814 to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. In one embodiment, the price category reception module 1806 can receive information or data with respect to the price categories and associated distributions.

**[00133]** In another embodiment, the server 1812 can send random number ticket data to the lottery ticket dispensing machine 300. The server 1812 can provide instructions to a first random number generator module 1822 and to a second random number generator module 1824. The first random number generator module 1822 can randomly generate the instant online lottery numbers. The second random number generator 1824 can randomly generate a set of game-play combinations. In one embodiment, the controller 1802 can receive the data concerning price categories and associated distributions.

**[00134]** In another embodiment, the server can also send the ticket identifier 504 to be printed on the instant online lottery ticket. Thus, upon a lottery ticket holder winning a distribution, the lottery operator can verify that the ticket holder purchased a valid lottery ticket by confirming that the ticket identifier printed on the ticket matches the ticket identifier stored at the server 1812 and transmitted to the lottery operator.

**[00135]** FIG. 19 illustrates a process 1900 for operating a multi-priced instant online lottery game. At a process block 1902, a selection of an instant online lottery ticket price can be received. A determination of the potential distribution of the jackpot that can be won can be made at a process block 1904. If the lottery ticket price is associated with a percentage of the jackpot, the percentage of the current jackpot can be calculated and displayed to the player. In one embodiment, this calculation can be performed and displayed for all of the price categories prior to the player's selection at the process block 2802. Calculations can be performed to continuously enhance the jackpot based on the ongoing purchase of tickets. Thus, players can always be provided with updated jackpot prize distribution information through the linked instant online lottery units. If the secondary prizes for partial matching are fixed, then a calculation update is not needed for the secondary prizes.

**[00136]** At a process block 1906, an instant online lottery number can be randomly selected. In an alternative embodiment, the player can choose the quick pick button to have the instant online lottery unit 204, or a separate random number generator, randomly generate the instant online lottery number for the player. At a process block 1908, the game-play combinations for the instant online lottery numbers can be generated.

**[00137]** At a process block 1910, a comparison can be made between the instant online lottery number and various game-play combinations printed on the instant online lottery ticket. In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 204 can perform this comparison. In another embodiment, the server can perform this comparison.

**[00138]** At a process block 1912, a determination can be made as to whether the instant online lottery number matches a set of game-play combinations. If the instant online lottery number matches in full one of the game-play combinations, the process 19 can proceed to a process block 1914 where the winner can be provided with the percentage of the jackpot associated with the instant online lottery ticket price. Alternatively, if the instant online lottery number partially matches one of the game-play combinations the winner can be provided with a secondary prize which is determined based on the instant online lottery ticket

price. Process 1900 can then proceed to the end block 1916. If the instant online lottery number does not match, in full or in part, the winning instant online lottery number, the process 1900 can proceed to the end block 1916.

**[00139]** FIG. 20 illustrates the instant online lottery unit 204. The instant online lottery unit can have a jackpot display 2014 that indicates the jackpot value. In one embodiment, the server 1812 can send the jackpot value to the instant online lottery unit for display on the jackpot display 2014. The instant online lottery unit can also have an instant online lottery price display 2002 that displays prices for instant online lottery tickets and associated known prize distributions for each of the instant online lottery ticket prices.

**[00140]** An indication can also be provided as to whether an instant online lottery ticket allows for secondary prizes. In one embodiment, the secondary prizes can vary according to the number of matched numbers and the price of the instant online lottery ticket. In another embodiment, the secondary prizes can vary only according to the number of matched numbers between the instant online lottery number and the set of game-play combinations.

**[00141]** In one example, the secondary prize distributions for a seven-by-seven matrix can be provided as part of the lottery ticket price display 2002. A two-dollar instant online lottery ticket can be purchased to potentially win a secondary prize. In one embodiment, the secondary prize value can depend on the partial matching of instant online lottery numbers with one or more of the game-play combinations. As previously discussed, each of the sixteen game-play combinations in a seven-by-seven matrix includes seven numbers. In one example, a two-dollar instant online lottery number matching six numbers of the game-play combination can win one thousand dollars. A two-dollar instant online lottery number matching five numbers of a game-play combination can win ten dollars. Finally, a two-dollar instant online lottery number matching four numbers of a game-play combination can win two dollars.

**[00142]** In another example, a three-dollar instant online lottery ticket can be purchased to potentially win a secondary prize. In a seven-by-seven matrix, a three-dollar instant online lottery number matching six numbers of the game-play combination can win one thousand five hundred dollars. A three-dollar instant

online lottery number matching five numbers of a game-play combination can win fifteen dollars. Finally, a three-dollar instant online lottery number matching four numbers of a game-play combination can win three dollars.

5     **[00143]** In yet another example, a four-dollar instant online lottery ticket can be purchased to potentially win a secondary prize. In a seven-by-seven matrix, a four-dollar instant online lottery number matching six numbers of the game-play combination can win two thousand hundred dollars. A four-dollar instant online lottery number matching five numbers of a game-play combination can win twenty dollars. Finally, a four-dollar instant online lottery number matching four  
10    numbers of a game-play combination can win four dollars.

15    **[00144]** In another example, a five-dollar instant online lottery ticket can be purchased to potentially win a secondary prize. In a seven-by-seven matrix, a five-dollar instant online lottery number matching six numbers of the game-play combination can win two thousand five hundred dollars. A five-dollar instant  
15    online lottery number matching five numbers of a game-play combination can win twenty-five dollars. Finally, a five-dollar instant online lottery number matching four numbers of a game-play combination can win five dollars.

20    **[00145]** A plurality of price selection inputs 2004 can be provided so that the player can select the instant online lottery ticket that the player would like to purchase. For instance, the player can press the two-dollar button if the player would like to purchase the two-dollar instant online lottery ticket to potentially win the jackpot distribution prize of five hundred thousand dollars, which can represent twenty percent of the jackpot, or any of the associated secondary prizes. Further, the player can press the three-dollar button if the player would  
25    like to purchase the three-dollar instant online lottery ticket to potentially win the jackpot distribution prize of one million dollars, which can represent forty percent of the jackpot, or any of the associated secondary prizes. In addition, the player can press the four-dollar button if the player would like to purchase the four-dollar instant online lottery ticket to potentially win the jackpot distribution prize of  
30    one million five hundred thousand dollar, which can represent sixty percent of the jackpot, or any associated secondary prizes. Finally, the player can press the five-dollar button if the player would like to purchase the five-dollar instant online

lottery ticket to potentially win the jackpot of two million five hundred thousand, which can represent one hundred percent of the jackpot, or any of the associated secondary prizes. In a further aspect, in lieu of providing ticket process buttons, the player can inform the ticket vendor of his or her ticket price  
5 selection, either orally or through use of a ticket purchase form. The ticket vendor can then enter the appropriate data, including ticket price information.

**[00146]** The player can enter a selection of an instant online lottery number through an input module 2006. In one embodiment, the input module 2006 can be a keypad. In another embodiment, the input module 2006 can be a touch  
10 screen. Alternatively, the player can press a quick pick button 2008 to have the instant online lottery unit 204 select the instant online lottery number for the player. The player can press an instant online lottery initiation button 2010 to begin lottery play. Further, the payment module 2012 can receive one of the various forms of payment described above.

**[00147]** In one embodiment, the instant online lottery unit 202 can have the plurality of buttons illustrated, such as the input module 2006 and the quick pick button 2008, to determine the instant online lottery number. In another embodiment, a menu can be provided that provides the player with the ability to make a choice of a manual selection or of a quick pick selection of the instant  
20 online lottery number. The menu can be provided on a computerized display such as a liquid crystal display or a plasma display.

**[00148]** FIG. 21A illustrates a three-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game ticket, with the ticket having a game-play combination with five matching numbers. The ticket 2100 can include the price designation 2102, the  
25 instant online lottery number 2104, and a player's game board 2106. The player's game board can include the game-play combinations (for example sixteen game-play combinations in a seven-by-seven matrix). In one example, the prize distribution can be the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20. A player that purchases a three-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game can have  
30 the opportunity to win a jackpot percentage of forty percent or one million dollars, or secondary prizes according to the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20. The instant online lottery ticket 2100 shows that the instant online lottery number

matches five numbers of the third row of the player's game board 2106. In one embodiment, there can be sixteen game-play combinations. Based on the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20, the three-dollar instant online lottery number matching five numbers of a game-play combination can win fifteen dollars.

5   **[00149]** FIG. 21B illustrates a four-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game ticket, with the ticket having a game-play combination with five matching numbers. A player that purchases a four-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game can have the opportunity to win a percentage of the jackpot that amounts to one million five hundred thousand dollars, or secondary prizes  
10   according to the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20. The instant online lottery ticket 2108 shows that the instant online lottery number matches five numbers of the third row of the player's game board 2106. In one embodiment, there can be sixteen game-play combinations. Based on the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20, the four-dollar instant online lottery number matching five numbers of a  
15   game-play combination can win twenty dollars. As such, the four-dollar ticket holder can win five more dollars in comparison with the three-dollar ticket holder, even when the instant online lottery number and the game-play combinations are the same.

**[00150]** FIG. 22A illustrates a three-dollar ticket in a multi-priced instant online  
20   lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with six matching numbers. Ticket 2200 is a three-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game that can provide the player with the opportunity to win prizes according to the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20. The instant online lottery ticket 2108 shows that the instant online lottery number matches six numbers of the third  
25   row of the player's game board 2106. Thus, the three-dollar instant online lottery number matching six numbers of a game-play combination can win one thousand five hundred dollars.

**[00151]** FIG. 22B illustrates a four dollar-ticket in a multi-priced instant online lottery game, with the ticket having a game-play combination with six matching  
30   numbers. A player can likewise purchase a ticket 2202 with the same instant online lottery number and game-play combination numbers for a four-dollar price. Based on the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 20, the player having the

four-dollar ticket 2202 with a six-number match can instantly win two thousand dollars. Accordingly, in comparison with the three-dollar ticket holder, the four-dollar ticket holder can win an additional five hundred dollars. Thus, players have an incentive to buy higher-priced tickets, because of the potential of winning  
5 higher fixed secondary prizes and/or the potential to win a higher portion of the available jackpot.

**[00152]** FIG. 23 illustrates an instant online lottery system 2300 with a progressive jackpot 2312. The lottery system 2300 depicted in FIG. 23 is the lottery system depicted in FIG. 2 with a jackpot that is illustrated as being  
10 progressive. Because the lottery system of FIG. 23 utilizes a progressive jackpot, the ticket holder can win a larger jackpot than initially advertised. In one embodiment, the jackpot can be increased with a portion of the revenue from each instant online lottery ticket sold.

**[00153]** In one embodiment, the server 202 can communicate with the first  
15 instant online lottery unit 204, the second instant online lottery unit 206, and the third instant online lottery unit 208. As players provide payment to enter or initiate an instant online lottery game at one of the units, at least a portion of the payment can be added to a progressive jackpot 2312 stored in the memory 214. As discussed above, the instant online lottery units can be stand-alone terminals  
20 configured to interact directly with the players. In another embodiment, the instant online lottery units can be configured within the existing terminals used by a lottery operator to provide the traditional online future-draw lottery games. In another embodiment, the instant online lottery units can be the existing terminals  
25 used by a lottery operator to provide the traditional online future-draw lottery games. Utilization of existing infrastructure can allow a lottery operator to avoid costs associated with the creation, acquisition and installation of a new distribution network, terminals and servers.

**[00154]** The networking capability between several instant online lottery units can allow each of the several units to access and report changes in a single  
30 progressive jackpot 2312. Furthermore, instant online lottery units can be linked together through a server 202 and network 212 such that data reported by one instant online lottery unit can be broadcast or communicated to the other instant



online lottery units. For example, an increase in the jackpot 202 can be immediately broadcast or communicated to the rest of the linked instant online lottery units. Thus, the progressive jackpot 2312 can be shared among instant units 204, 206, and 208. In one embodiment, a minimum amount of ticket sales  
5 is not required and a starting jackpot can be provided and guaranteed with regard to ticket sales. The lottery prize can be a variable prize from the outset, increasing with each ticket sold. Accordingly, a percentage of each ticket sale can be contributed to the progressive jackpot 2312, with a greater amount contributed by higher-priced tickets.

10 **[00155]** In one embodiment, a fixed amount of money can be added to the jackpot for each ticket sold regardless of the value of the ticket. This would make the progressive jackpot increase in direct proportion to the number of tickets sold.

**[00156]** In another embodiment, a percentage of the value of each ticket sold  
15 can be added to the jackpot. This would make the progressive jackpot increase in direct proportion to the total sales of instant online lottery tickets.

**[00157]** By having the instant online lottery units connected through the network 210, the progressive jackpot 2312 can build up based on the quantity and the utilization of the instant online lottery units. Players do not have the time  
20 constraints of having to wait for a lottery drawing with a traditional online lottery game. Further, players do not have to wait for selections of other players. Accordingly, the progressive jackpot can build up quickly through this type of configuration. The progressive jackpot 2312 can also build up in a similar manner and more quickly, so as to create a larger jackpot, if the instant online  
25 lottery units are linked to one another.

**[00158]** In addition, the instant online lottery game having a progressive jackpot can be offered by a lottery operator at different ticket prices. Thus, the instant online lottery game can have a progressive jackpot where the tickets are multi-priced. As discussed above, different ticket prices provide a player with the  
30 opportunity to play for a pre-determined percentage of the progressive jackpot, or the progressive jackpot in its entirety, with the choice of ticket price and associated prizes being made by the player. For example, a one-dollar ticket

holder can participate and play for a lower percentage of the progressive jackpot, while a three-dollar ticket holder can play for a higher percentage or, if the three-dollar ticket is the most expensive ticket, for the entire progressive jackpot. In addition, the offering of multi-priced tickets can afford the opportunity to quickly  
5 generate large increasing jackpots if the contribution to the progressive jackpot is a percentage of ticket sales.

**[00159]** Furthermore, the progressive jackpot feature can continue to operate after a prize is distributed to a winning ticket holder and the jackpot need not automatically revert to the minimum or starting jackpot if the winning ticket holder  
10 purchased other than the highest-priced ticket. For example, if a one-dollar instant online lottery ticket holder wins, the progressive jackpot distribution can be a portion of the progressive jackpot, leaving the balance of the progressive jackpot for subsequent players. This balance can be enhanced through additional contributions to the jackpot through, for example, an insurance-backed  
15 third-party prize guarantee. As such, the progressive jackpot can continue to increase as new instant online lottery tickets are purchased.

**[00160]** In one embodiment, both the one-dollar ticket holder and the three-dollar ticket holder can participate with the same odds but for different prizes. In contrast, traditional online lotteries only offer single-priced tickets.

**[00161]** In one embodiment, the instant online lottery ticket is associated with a percentage of the progressive jackpot 2312 based on the instant online lottery ticket price. For example, instant online lottery tickets can be offered at three different prices: one dollar, two dollars, and three dollars. In another example, a greater or lesser number of ticket price categories can exist. A player with a one-  
25 dollar ticket could win twenty-five percent of the progressive jackpot, a player with a two-dollar ticket could win fifty percent of the progressive jackpot, and a player with a three-dollar ticket could win one hundred percent of the progressive jackpot. Consequently, the percentage of the possible jackpot winnings associated with each ticket price can vary. This can afford a player purchasing  
30 an instant online lottery ticket at a lower price the benefit of participating in a jackpot where other players purchasing an instant online lottery ticket at higher prices are contributing even more to the progressive jackpot. For example, a

player with a one-dollar ticket can have an associated percentage of the progressive jackpot that the player can win, and a player with a two-dollar ticket or a three-dollar ticket can also have an associated and higher percentage of the progressive jackpot that the player can win. If the one-dollar ticket holder wins, the one-dollar ticket holder benefits from the portion of the ticket sales revenues contributed by the purchase of two-dollar tickets and three-dollar tickets to the progressive jackpot. In essence, multiple levels of participation can be allowed in a progressive jackpot. Even though the one-dollar ticket holder is limited to winning a lesser percentage, for example, twenty-five percent, the one-dollar ticket holder can benefit from the increase in the jackpot prize resulting from the sale of higher-priced tickets.

**[00162]** If the majority of potential ticket buyers are induced to purchase three-dollar tickets, the potential ticket holders that can only afford to purchase a one-dollar ticket are still provided with an incentive to participate in the lottery because these ticket holders can still win a portion of a progressive jackpot that can potentially grow quite large. The growth of the progressive jackpot can be enhanced further with the percentage contribution from the higher-priced tickets and relatively high starting jackpots resulting from probability-based third-party prize guarantees, as compared with the more traditional pari-mutuel based single-priced-online lottery model. The potential ticket holders that can afford the higher-priced instant online tickets can be even further induced to purchase higher-priced tickets due to the prospect of winning a larger portion of the progressive jackpot and higher secondary prizes. As stated previously, lottery players have an incentive to buy three-dollar tickets where the more expensive tickets provide the opportunity to win a greater distribution percentage. With a progressive jackpot, players have an even greater incentive to buy tickets that are more expensive because the jackpot keeps increasing and the potential distribution grows larger.

**[00163]** Furthermore, when a multiple pricing scheme is utilized, players are further encouraged to buy instant online lottery tickets. In traditional lotteries, when the jackpot is won, the next game starts anew with a starting-level jackpot that is generally low. When a multiple pricing scheme is utilized, however, the

jackpot is on average maintained at higher levels than without a multiple-pricing scheme.

- [00164]** That is, following the matching of the instant online lottery number with any one of the game-play combinations, the progressive jackpot is reduced for ongoing games. For example, instant online lottery tickets can be offered at three different prices: one dollar, two dollars, and three dollars. A player with a one-dollar ticket could win twenty-five percent of the progressive jackpot, a player with a two-dollar ticket could win fifty percent of the progressive jackpot, and a player with a three-dollar ticket could win one hundred percent of the progressive jackpot. If the player with the three-dollar instant online lottery ticket was the winner, the progressive jackpot can be reduced by the full amount of the jackpot. Then, the jackpot can start at zero or at a minimum guaranteed amount. If the player with a one-dollar instant online lottery ticket was the winner, such winner could win only twenty-five percent of the jackpot, and the remaining seventy-five percent could carry over for continuing play. Similarly, if the winner was a purchaser of a two-dollar instant online lottery ticket, such winner could only win fifty percent of the jackpot, and the balance of fifty percent could be carried over for continuing play. In essence, a rollover is provided when no player wins the progressive jackpot, and a limited rollover is provided even when there is a winner, as long as the winner has a lower-denomination or lower-priced ticket. Accordingly, where the jackpot is on average at a significantly higher level potential customers or players can be induced to participate and purchase lottery tickets or to increase the amount spent in the purchase of a ticket. This is in contrast to traditional online lottery games, which only permit the purchase of single-priced tickets and, therefore, do not have the potential for limited rollovers and have jackpots that fall to minimum levels after each jackpot win. Traditional online lottery games do not provide the same inducement to potential lottery ticket holders to purchase or increase the amount spent on lottery tickets as the multi-priced instant online model described herein.
- [00165]** As it is well known in the art, higher jackpots attract more players to the game. An instant online lottery game that has both a progressive jackpot that continuously grows with the instant online lottery ticket sales and a multiple-level

pricing scheme can maintain the average progressive jackpot at higher levels. Higher average progressive jackpots can also be achieved through higher-starting jackpot amounts resulting from a probabilistic model and use of third-party prize guarantees. Higher average progressive jackpots further induce play  
5 and increase ticket sales revenue.

**[00166]** The lottery game described in FIGS. 5-11 can alternatively be provided as a daily-draw or delayed draw lottery game, as an alternative to an instant online lottery game. In one embodiment, an instant online lottery number can be selected first when the ticket is purchased and, at the end of the game day,  
10 following the last ticket purchase, by a draw of each of the game-play combinations. In another embodiment, an instant draw or selection can be made by a random number generator for all of the game-play combinations in the form of a matrix or grid and set forth in the purchased ticket. Upon the completion of the game there can be a subsequent draw for the selection of the winning lottery  
15 number. Two or more ticket holders can have instant online lottery numbers that provide a match and qualify for the jackpot or a percentage of the jackpot. In one embodiment, the jackpot distribution can be shared among the winning ticket holders.

**[00167]** Inter-sharing and intra-sharing methodologies can be implemented in this daily online lottery game. For instance, if two players win a progressive  
20 jackpot following the same draw, the two players can intra-share if they purchased daily online lottery tickets for the same price or can inter-share if they purchased daily online lottery tickets for different prices. If multiple players win at the same time, the players can inter-share across price categories and can intra-  
25 share within the same price category.

**[00168]** In one example, there can be a three-dollar ticket winner and a one-dollar ticket winner. The jackpot can be for ten million dollars. The three-dollar ticket winner can share the jackpot with the one-dollar ticket winner. The one-dollar ticket winner can receive one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
30 through an inter-sharing distribution. Further, the three-dollar ticket winner can receive one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars through an inter-sharing

distribution formula. Finally, the three-dollar ticket winner can receive seven million five hundred thousand dollars through an intra-shared distribution.

**[00169]** In one embodiment, a second multi-priced instant game can be provided. The instant game can be similar in certain respects to the traditional  
5 instant peel-off or scratch-off games but can be offered and played with a ticket that is printed at a traditional online lottery terminal instead of using a traditional pre-printed instant-style ticket. In addition, the multi-priced instant game can include a multiple pricing scheme that offers ticket purchasers the option of playing for larger prizes if a higher-priced ticket is purchased and for smaller  
10 prizes if a lower-priced ticket is purchased. In one embodiment, the instant game can be provided by itself. In another embodiment, the instant game can be offered in combination with the lottery game described in FIGS. 5-11 and without any separate charge. In another embodiment, the instant game can be offered as an add-on game requiring a second or optional purchase.

**[00170]** FIG. 24 illustrates a multi-priced instant game ticket 2400. In one embodiment, the instant game ticket can include a set of winning combinations 2402, a set of playing combinations 2404, a ticket identifier 2406 and a timestamp 2408. In one embodiment, the set of winning combinations 2402 can include squares each having a number and symbol combination that is utilized to  
20 compare against the playing combinations 2404. In addition, the set of playing combinations 2404 can each have a number and symbol combination. The symbol utilized in the playing combinations 2404 and the winning combinations 2402 can be a word, a color, a picture, a geometrical FIG., a Greek symbol, a Latin symbol, a Hebrew symbol, to name a few. In another embodiment, the combination utilized can be a symbol-symbol combination, etc. The ticket  
25 identifier 2406 can be, for example, a serial number, a bar code, etc., that can uniquely identify the instant game ticket among other instant game tickets. In addition, a time stamp 2408 can also be provided on the instant online lottery ticket 2400 to display the time at which the ticket was printed and presented to  
30 the player.

**[00171]** In one embodiment, all of the playing combinations in the set of playing combinations can have a number and symbol combination. In another

embodiment, only some of the playing combinations in the set of playing combinations can be seeded with number and symbol combinations. For example, only playing combinations 2420, 2422, 2424, 2426, and 2428 are seeded with a number and symbol combination.

5   **[00172]** In another embodiment, the playing combinations having a number and symbol combination can include a prize designation. For example, playing combination 2420 includes a prize designation of \$100, playing combination 2428 includes a prize designation of \$200, playing combination 2422 includes a prize designation of \$300, playing combination 2424 includes a prize designation  
10 of \$400, and playing combination 2426 includes a prize designation of \$500.

**[00173]** A player can win if one of the squares in the set of playing combinations 2404 matches one of the winning combinations 2402 as to both the number and symbol combination. For example, playing combination 2428 includes a {7, Red} combination. Winning combination 2410 also includes a {7, Red} combination.  
15 Therefore, instant game ticket 2400 can win two hundred dollars according to the prize designation in playing combination 2428.

**[00174]** In another example, winning combination 2412 includes a {41, Yellow} combination. "Yellow" only appears in playing combination 2420 which includes a {10, Yellow} combination. Thus, instant game ticket 2400 does not win based  
20 on winning combination 2412.

**[00175]** In yet another example, winning combination 2414 includes a {30, Green} combination. The number "30" only appears in playing combination 2430, and has no symbol in combination with this number. Therefore, instant game ticket 2400 does not win based on winning combination 2414 either.

25   **[00176]** FIG. 25 illustrates a process 2500 for operating the instant game. At a process block 2502, a selection of an instant game ticket price can be received. A determination of the instant prizes that can be won can be made at a process block 2504. In one embodiment, the instant prizes that can be won can be displayed for all of the price categories prior to the player's selection at the  
30 process block 2802. The instant prizes that can be won can depend upon the

price of the instant game ticket. A higher ticket price can increase the number of instant prizes that can be won, as well as the amount of the prizes.

**[00177]** At a process block 2506, the winning combinations can be randomly selected. In one embodiment, a quick pick can be utilized to randomly select the winning combinations. The player can choose the quick-pick button to have the instant game unit randomly generate the winning combinations for the player. In another embodiment, the instant game unit can receive randomly generated winning combinations from a server. At a process block 2508, the playing combinations can be generated. In one embodiment, the instant game unit can generate the playing combinations. In another embodiment, the server can generate the playing combinations.

**[00178]** At a process block 2510, a comparison can be made between each of the winning combinations and each of the playing combinations. In one embodiment, the instant game unit can perform this comparison. In another embodiment, the server can perform this comparison. At a decision block 2512, a determination can be made if a winning combination matches a playing combination. If there is a match, the process 2500 can proceed to a process block 2514 where the winner can be provided with the instant prize associated with the selected instant game ticket price. In one embodiment, the instant prize awarded to the winning player can be printed in the matching playing combination. The process 2300 can then proceed to the end block 2516. If none of the playing combinations matches any of the winning combinations, process 2500 can proceed to the end block 2516.

**[00179]** FIG. 26 illustrates a table of prizes in a multi-priced instant game. Each price category can have an associated set of prizes. The associated set of prizes for a first price category 2602 can be, for example, a set of six different prizes. In another embodiment, the number of prizes for the first price category can be any other number of prizes. In one example, the first price category 2602 can be a two-dollar category. The first price category 2602 can have a set of prizes that includes one thousand dollars, one hundred dollars, twenty dollars, ten dollars, five dollars and a free ticket prize. Each of the prizes in the set of prizes can have associated odds. In one embodiment, the odds associated with each of the



prizes in the first price category can determine whether the generated winning combinations match the playing combinations. Thus, tickets in the first price category 2602 can be seeded in the appropriate playing combinations according to odds that the lottery operator sets. For example, the odds for a twenty-dollar prize for the first price category can be 1/750.

**[00180]** In another embodiment, there can be a second price category 2604. The associated set of prizes for the second price category 2604 can be, for example, a set of seven different prizes. In another embodiment, the number of prizes for the second price category can be any other number of prizes. In one example, the second price category 2604 can be a three-dollar category. The second price category 2606 can have a set of prizes that includes two thousand five hundred dollars, two hundred and fifty dollars, fifty dollars, twenty dollars, ten dollars, five dollars and a free ticket prize. Each of the prizes in the set of prizes can have associated odds. In one embodiment, the odds associated with each of the prizes in the second price category can determine whether the generated winning combinations match the playing combinations. Thus, tickets in the second price category 2604 can be seeded in the appropriate playing combinations according to odds that the lottery operator sets. For example, the odds for a twenty-dollar prize for the second price category can be 1/750. As a result, ticket holders for a first price category and a second price category can have a chance at winning a twenty-dollar prize based on the same odds. That is, the odds of winning a twenty-dollar prize for a first price category, and the odds of winning a twenty-dollar prize for a second price category, can both be 1/750. In another embodiment, there can be different odds applicable to the same prize for different price categories.

**[00181]** In yet another embodiment, there can be a third price category 2606. The associated set of prizes for the third price category 2606 can be, for example, a set of eight different prizes. In another embodiment, there can be a fourth price category 2608. The associated set of prizes for the fourth price category 2608 can be, for example, a set of nine different prizes. In yet another embodiment, the set of prizes can be the same in number for different price

categories but differ in amount or with respect to the odds of winning a prize of a fixed amount.

**[00182]** FIG. 27A illustrates an instant game ticket in a first price category. In one embodiment, the first price category can be a three-dollar ticket price. A  
5 playing combination 2420 can include the number-symbol combination {41, Yellow}. An associated prize with the playing combination 2420 can be two thousand five hundred dollars. Therefore, if the ticket includes a matching winning combination of {41, Yellow}, the ticket holder can win the prize of two thousand five hundred dollars. Winning combination 2412 includes the number-  
10 symbol combination {41, Yellow}. Accordingly, the three-dollar ticket holder can win two thousand five hundred dollars.

**[00183]** FIG. 27B illustrates an instant game ticket in a second price category. In one embodiment, the second price category can be a four-dollar ticket price. A similar set of winning combinations and playing combinations as those in FIG.  
15 27A can be randomly generated for the four-dollar ticket. A playing combination 2420 can include the number-symbol combination {41, Yellow}. An associated prize with the playing combination 2420 can be ten thousand hundred dollars. Therefore, if the ticket includes a matching winning combination of {41, Yellow}, the ticket holder can win the prize of ten thousand dollars. Winning combination  
20 2412 includes the number-symbol combination {41, Yellow}. Accordingly, the four-dollar ticket holder can win ten thousand dollars.

**[00184]** FIG. 28 illustrates the prize distributions for an instant online lottery game in combination with a separate instant game offered online. The instant online lottery game described in reference to FIGS. 5-11 can be provided in  
25 conjunction with the instant game. In one embodiment, the instant game can be provided as a free addition to the instant online lottery game for the same price. In another embodiment, the instant game can be available as an option to players who can choose to pay an additional price for playing the instant game.

**[00185]** The prize distributions 2804 for the instant game can be separate from  
30 those attributable to the previously described instant online lottery game referenced in FIGS. 5-11. In the instant online lottery game, a lottery number is provided to the player and compared to a set of game-play combinations. The

prize a player can win can depend on the ticket price selected by the player and whether there was a complete or a partial match of the set of numbers with one of the game-play combinations.

**[00186]** On the other hand, the prize distributions 2806 for the instant game can be awarded as described above in reference to FIGS. 24-27. As such, the prize distributions 2804 and 2806 can be based on different odds.

**[00187]** In one embodiment, the price categories of the instant online lottery game correspond directly with the price categories of the instant game. In one example, the first price category for the instant online lottery game can correspond directly to the first price category of the instant game. Thus, a two-dollar player, for example, can play an instant online lottery game with a prize distribution of five hundred thousand dollars for a complete match. Further, secondary prizes of one hundred dollars, ten dollars, and two dollars can be available for partial matches. The same two-dollar player can also play the instant game with potential prizes of one thousand dollars, one hundred dollars, twenty dollars, ten dollars five dollars and a free ticket.

**[00188]** In another embodiment, where the instant game is provided at an extra cost, an instant online lottery game can be provided with a set of price categories, and an optional add-on instant game can be provided with a different set of price categories. The price categories for the instant game can be the add-on prices.

**[00189]** FIG. 29 illustrates a three-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game in combination with an instant game offered online. The instant online lottery game and the instant game can be combined together in a single ticket 2900. In one embodiment, the playing combinations for the instant game can be seeded to reflect a fixed allocation of prizes representing a pre-determined percentage of ticket sales revenues and allocated among the squares in a grid or matrix used for the instant online lottery game. In one example, the ticket price 2902 can be three dollars. An instant online lottery number 2904 can be provided for playing the instant online lottery game. Further, a set of winning combinations 2906 can also be provided for playing the instant game. Finally, a player's game board

2908 can be a seven-by-seven matrix with numbers one to forty-nine randomly placed on the player's game board 2908.

- [00190]** In one example, the fourth column of the player's game board 2908 can include four of the seven numbers in the instant online lottery number 2904. If column four is designated as a playline that includes a winning subset of the lottery numbers, the ticket 2900 can win a prize for matching four numbers. For example, the instant online lottery number {2, 35, 13, 7, 9, 17, 31} matches the numbers {2, 13, 7, 31} in the game-play combination. If the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 28 is used, the three-dollar ticket holder can win two dollars.
- [00191]** In another example, the same three-dollar ticket holder can play the instant game. Only playing combination 2910 matches the winning number-symbol combination. Playing combination 2910 includes the combination {24, Blue}. One of the winning combinations has the combination {24, Blue}. As a result, the three-dollar ticket holder can win the amount indicated in the playing combination 2910, two hundred and fifty dollars.

- [00192]** FIG. 30 illustrates a four-dollar ticket for an instant online lottery game in combination with an instant game. The instant online lottery game and the instant game can be combined together in a single ticket 3000 such that the playing combinations can be seeded in the instant online lottery game matrix. In one example, the ticket price 3002 can be four dollars. Like the three-dollar ticket illustrated in FIG. 31, the four-dollar ticket can include the instant online lottery game as well as the instant game. However, the playing combinations seeded on the player's game board can include higher prizes, and/or present a greater chance of winning a prize as discussed with reference to FIG. 28.

- [00193]** In one example, the fourth column of the player's game board 3008 can include four of the seven numbers in the instant online lottery number 3004. If column four is designated as a playline that includes one of the game-play combinations, the ticket 2900 can win a prize for matching four numbers. Namely, the instant online lottery number {2, 35, 13, 7, 9, 17, 31} matches the numbers {2, 13, 7, 31} in the game-play combination. If the prize distribution illustrated in FIG. 28 is used, the four-dollar ticket holder can win three dollars.

**[00194]** In another example, the same four-dollar ticket holder can play the instant game. Only playing combination 2910 matches the number-symbol combination. Playing combination 3010 includes the combination {24, Blue}. One of the winning combinations has the combination {24, Blue}. As a result, the four-dollar ticket holder can win the amount indicated in the playing combination 3010, five hundred dollars.

**[00195]** FIG. 31 illustrates a probabilistic instant online lottery game system 3100. The instant online lottery game system with a progressive jackpot 2300 can be used in conjunction with the probabilistic lottery system 3100. In one embodiment, a jackpot guarantor 3102 can assume the risk that would normally not exist in a pure pari-mutuel lottery game. In another embodiment, the risk can be assumed in whole or in part by the lottery operator 3120, or by the sponsoring jurisdiction, government, or quasi-government body. In another embodiment, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can be a privately owned organization other than a jurisdiction. In another embodiment, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can be a publicly held company. In yet other embodiments, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can be an individual or a not-for-profit organization. In another embodiment, the obligation of the jackpot guarantor 3102 can be supported through the purchase and application of prize indemnity insurance provided by an insurance company or reinsurer. The jackpot guarantor 3102 can establish a pre-determined starting jackpot 3140. In one embodiment, the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 can be a substantial prize that can entice ticket holders 108 that would not normally purchase a lottery ticket to do so. The lottery operator 3120 can advertise the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 in order to stimulate and increase ticket sales. In one embodiment, the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 is unfunded. Instead, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can set the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 at an amount that is large enough so that there is a probability that the allocable prize portion of ticket sales can equal or exceed the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140. If the allocable prize portion of ticket sales is less than the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140, the jackpot guarantor 3102 would assume the risk for paying the differential between the ticket sales, or the allocable portion thereof, and the jackpot 3130.

**[00196]** In one embodiment, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can provide a guarantee to the lottery operator 3120. In one embodiment, the guarantee can provide that the jackpot guarantor 3102 assumes the risk for paying the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 if the allocable prize portion of ticket sales is not sufficient to cover the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140. In another embodiment, the guarantee can provide that the jackpot guarantor assumes the risk of paying the amount of any secondary prizes that are won, to the extent that the allocable prize portion of ticket sales is not sufficient.

**[00197]** In one embodiment, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can provide the guarantee in exchange for a stipulation. In one embodiment, the stipulation can include an obligation by the lottery operator 3120 to provide a percentage of revenue generated from future ticket sales in exchange for the guarantee. In another embodiment, the stipulation includes an obligation by the lottery operator 3120 to provide a fee in exchange for the guarantee.

**[00198]** The lottery operator 3120 can receive payments for ticket sales from the point of sale 106. Further, the lottery operator 3120 can receive instant online lottery numbers from the tickets sold to the ticket holders 108 from the point of sale 3106. The lottery operator can provide the instant online lottery numbers to the winning number selector 3110 to determine which tickets are the winning tickets.

**[00199]** In one embodiment, the jackpot guarantor 3102 can allocate the funds to the pre-determined starting jackpot 3140 pool. In one embodiment, the entity can set aside the large prize in a protected account to provide for payment. Therefore, the lottery operator can advertise a large prize because another entity actually has set aside the large prize. In another embodiment, the starting jackpot amount is not set aside but payment of the jackpot is assured through prize indemnity insurance, a performance bond or another form of financial insurance or protection which can be provided by a financially secure insurance company through a policy naming the lottery as a beneficiary. In another embodiment, the financial condition of the jackpot guarantor 3102 can be sufficient to provide necessary financial assurance without the need for any bond or other form financial protection.

**[00200]** FIG. 32 illustrates a probabilistic software configuration 3200 that can be used with the probabilistic lottery system in conjunction with the multiple-pricing shared-jackpot system 1800. As can be seen from FIG. 32, the probabilistic software configuration 3200 can include software for establishing a guarantee for a pre-determined lottery prize 3140. A guarantee transmission module 3204 can transmit the guarantee through a network 3208. The network 3208 can be a wide-area network, a local area network, the network, a wireless network, or any other network known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The guarantee transmission module 3204 can transmit the guarantee in exchange for a stipulation. In one embodiment, the stipulation can be an obligation for a percentage of future ticket sales. A stipulation reception module 3206 can receive the stipulation through the network 3208. In one embodiment, after the stipulation reception module 3206 receives the stipulation, the stipulation reception module 3206 can transmit a confirmation that the stipulation was received to the guarantee transmission module 3204.

**[00201]** A guarantee reception module 3210 can receive the guarantee from the network 3208. In one embodiment, upon receiving the guarantee, the guarantee reception module 3210 can provide an instruction to a stipulation transmission module 3212. The stipulation transmission module 3212 can then send the stipulation through the network 3208. As discussed above, the stipulation reception module 3206 can receive the stipulation and send the confirmation to the guarantee transmission module 3204 that the guarantee has been sent and that the stipulation, in exchange for which the guarantee was sent, has been received.

**[00202]** In an alternative embodiment, an instant online lottery ticket 3300 may be purchased for the possibility of winning a linear prize in the instant online lottery game. FIG. 33 illustrates an example of an instant online lottery game ticket. A set of instant online game numbers may be selected for utilization in the instant online lottery game. For example, the numbers 1-49 may be selected. An assortment of these instant online game numbers is randomly generated for each instant online lottery ticket. For example, a matrix 3304 with that has seven rows and seven columns may be utilized. On each instant online

lottery ticket, the position of each of the instant online game numbers is randomly generated. In the illustrated example of the instant online lottery ticket 3300, the number 10 was randomly determined to occupy the position in the first row and first column. Similarly, the positions in the matrix 3304 of the remaining  
5 instant online game numbers are also randomly determined.

**[00203]** Further, a set of linear game numbers 3302 is randomly generated. The set of linear game numbers is a subset of the instant online game numbers. In one embodiment, the subset of the instant online game numbers contains less numbers than the total quantity of the instant online game numbers. For  
10 example, the subset of the instant online game numbers may contain 7 numbers that are randomly selected from the set of instant online game numbers. In the illustrated example, the linear game numbers 3302 include 13, 7, 41, 20, 40, 24, and 2, all of which form a subset of numbers randomly selected from the set of instant online game numbers. In another embodiment, the subset of the instant  
15 online game numbers is selected from the set of the instant online game numbers by the player. For example, an instant online lottery player may select these numbers by marking them, communicating his or her selection to a retail clerk, or having these numbers randomly generated using the "quick pick" method. In yet another embodiment, a portion of the subset of the set of instant  
20 online game numbers is randomly generated and another portion of the subset of the set of instant online game numbers is received from a selection by the player. The various approaches to determining the subset may be applicable to any of the configurations provided herein.

**[00204]** The linear game numbers 3302 are utilized by the player to determine if  
25 a linear match occurs within the matrix 3304. FIG. 34A indicates the linear game numbers 3302 as indicated by the player in the matrix 3304. In one embodiment, the linear match is a linear display in the matrix 3304 of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the linear game numbers 3302. The distribution of the instant online lottery prize is based on the quantity of the  
30 numbers from the linear game numbers 3302. For example, the predetermined quantity of numbers may be four numbers. The linear display may be any horizontal, vertical, or diagonal match. Further, the linear display may be a



partial match in the matrix 3304. For example, the numbers 41, 13, 40, 2, and 20 form a linear display in the matrix 3304 as they appear in a row of the matrix 3304, but they are only a partial match as they occupy only part of that particular row.

- 5   **[00205]** In one embodiment, the matching is performed by a computer rather than the player. Accordingly, the computer may determine if there is a linear match between the linear game numbers 3302 and the matrix 3304 and print an indication of such on the instant online lottery ticket 3300.

10   **[00206]** FIG. 34B illustrates another example of the linear game numbers 3302 as indicated by the player in the matrix 3304. As an example, the numbers 16, 25, 2, and 7 form a linear display as they appear in a column in the matrix 3304.

15   **[00207]** FIG. 34C illustrates yet another example of the linear game numbers 3302 as indicated by the player in the matrix 3304. As an example, the numbers 20, 7, 46, and 17 form a linear display as they appear in a diagonal in the matrix 3304. The diagonal may, but need not be between two corners in the matrix 3304. Any diagonal formed that displays the predetermined quantity of instant online game numbers shall be considered a linear display.

20   **[00208]** In one embodiment, a consecutive match is needed for a linear display. In other words, a number that is not in the linear game numbers does not appear between any two numbers in the linear display of linear game numbers 3302 in the matrix 3304. For example, FIG. 34A has a linear display of the linear game numbers 3302 of 41, 13, 40, 2, and 20 without a number such as 18, which is not one of the linear game numbers 3302, appearing between any of these numbers. As another example, FIG. 34B has a linear display of the linear game numbers 3302 of 16, 25, 2, and 7 without a number such as 49, which is not one of the linear game numbers 3302, appearing between any of these numbers. As yet another example, FIG. 34C has a linear display of the linear game numbers 3302 of 20, 7, 46, and 17 without a numbers such as 21, which is not one of the linear game numbers 3302, appearing between any of these numbers.

30   **[00209]** In another embodiment, a consecutive match is not needed for a linear display. In other words, a non-consecutive match may be utilized for a linear

display. The non-consecutive match allows one or more numbers that are not within the linear game numbers 3302 to be between numbers from the linear game numbers 3302 in the linear display in the matrix 3304. The total numbers from the linear game numbers 3302 in the linear match is from at least a  
5 predetermined quantity of numbers from the linear game numbers 3302.

**[00210]** FIG. 35A illustrates an example of non-consecutive linear display. As an example, the numbers 18, 13, 40, 2, and 20 form a linear display as they appear in a row in the matrix 3304 even though the number 41, which is not one of the linear game numbers 3302, is between the numbers 18 and 13. In one  
10 embodiment, more than one non-linear game number may be between two linear game numbers in the linear display.

**[00211]** FIG. 35B illustrates another example of a non-consecutive linear display. As an example, the numbers 16, 25, 2, and 31 form a linear display as they appear in a row in the matrix 3304 even though the numbers 7, 49, and 23,  
15 which are not linear game numbers 3302, are between the numbers 16 and 31. In this example, the linear match is from at least a predetermined quantity of numbers equaling four from the linear game numbers 3302. Accordingly, the numbers 16, 25, 2, and 31 form a linear match, but the numbers 41, 2, and 20 do not form a linear match as the total quantity of these numbers is only three.  
20 Further, the numbers 24 and 31 do not form a linear mach as the total quantity of these numbers is only two.

**[00212]** FIG. 35C illustrates yet another example of a non-consecutive linear display. As an example, the numbers 20, 7, 46, and 21 form a linear display as they appear in a diagonal in the matrix 3304 even though the number 17, which  
25 is not one of the linear game numbers 3302, is between the numbers 46 and 21.

**[00213]** In one embodiment, the prize distribution is based on the quantity of numbers in the linear match and the price category from which the instant online lottery ticket was purchased. FIG. 36A illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with a  
30 constant ratio based system. A known instant online prize structure 3600 may allow for two or more price categories. In the illustrated example, the known instant online prize structure 3600 has a first price category 3602 of one dollar and

a second price category 3604 of two dollars. Further, the known instant online prize structure includes at least two linear match quantities that each correspond to prize distributions in the different price categories. In the illustrated example, a full linear match of 7 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3614 of five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online player purchased an instant online ticket from the first price category 3602 of one dollar or a prize distribution 3616 of one million dollars if the instant online player purchased an instant online ticket from the second price category 3604 of two dollars. A first association between the first price category 3602 of one dollar and the prize distribution 3614 of five hundred thousand dollars can be the quotient of five hundred thousand divided by one, which equals five hundred thousand. Similarly, a second association between the second price category of two dollars and the prize distribution 112 of one million dollars can be the quotient of one million divided by two, which equals five hundred thousand. A constant ratio exists when the first association equals the second association. In one embodiment, an instant online ticket player can purchase one two dollar ticket as opposed to two one dollar tickets to avoid having to purchase multiple tickets.

**[00214]** As the linear match quantities decrease, the corresponding prize distributions also decrease. For example, a partial linear match of 6 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3618 of one thousand dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 and a prize distribution 3620 of two thousand dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604. As can be seen, a constant ratio (although possibly different from the other constant ratios in the known instant online prize structure 3600) is still maintained between the first price category 3602 and the second price category 3604 even as the linear match quantities decrease. Further, a partial linear match of 5 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3622 of twenty dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 or a prize distribution 3624 of forty dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604. In addition, a partial linear match of 4 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3626 of one dollar if the instant online ticket is purchased

from the first price category 3602 or a prize distribution 3628 of two dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604.

**[00215]** FIG. 36B illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with a variable ratio based system. For example, a full linear match of 7 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3614 of five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online player purchased an instant online ticket from the first price category 3602 of one dollar or a prize distribution 3630 of one million five hundred thousand dollars if the instant online player purchased an instant online ticket from the second price category 3604 of two dollars. A first association between the first price category 3602 of one dollar and the prize distribution 3614 of five hundred thousand dollars can be the quotient of five hundred thousand divided by one, which equals five hundred thousand. Similarly, a second association between the second price category 3604 of two dollars and the prize distribution 3630 of one million five hundred thousand dollars can be the quotient of one five million five hundred thousand divided by two, which equals seven hundred fifty thousand. A variable ratio exists because the first association does not equal the second association. In one embodiment, this variable ratio provides the instant online player with incentive to purchase a two dollar ticket. In one embodiment, the instant online player can purchase the two dollar ticket as opposed to two one dollar tickets because the potential distribution is greater by purchasing the two dollar ticket as opposed to the two one dollar tickets. As a result, the variable ratio configuration induces purchase of a higher priced instant online ticket.

**[00216]** As the linear match quantities decrease, the corresponding prize distributions also decrease. For example, a partial linear match of 6 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3618 of one thousand dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 and a prize distribution 3632 of two thousand five hundred dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604. As can be seen, a variable ratio (although possibly different from the other variable ratios in the known instant online prize structure 3600) is still maintained between the first price category 3602 and the second prize category 3604 even as the linear match quantities decrease. Further, a

partial linear match of 5 of 7 results in a prize distribution 3622 of twenty dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 or a prize distribution 3634 of forty five dollars if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604. In addition, a partial linear match of 4 of 7  
5 results in a prize distribution of 3626 of one dollar if the instant online ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 or a prize distribution 3628 of two dollars fifty cents if the instant online ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604.

**[00217]** FIG. 36C illustrates an example of the instant online lottery game configuration as discussed above implemented with both constant and variable ratios. As an example, an additional price category 3638 of three dollars is provided in which a player can win a prize distribution 3640 of three million five hundred thousand dollars for a full match of 3606 of 7 of 7, a prize distribution 3642 of three thousand five hundred dollars for a partial match 3608 of 6 of 7, a  
15 prize distribution 3644 of sixty five dollars, or a prize distribution 3646 for a partial mach of 4 of 7. The constant ratio exists between the first price category 3602 and the second price category 3604, as explained with respect to FIG. 36A, but a variable ratio exists between the first price category 3602 and the third price category 3638. Further, a variable ratio exists between the second price category  
20 3604 and the third price category 3638. As a result, there is inducement to purchase the an instant online lottery ticket from the third price category 3638 rather than the first price category 3602 or the second price category 3604.

**[00218]** Since a prize distribution for a match with a larger quantity of numbers may subsume a prize distribution for a match with a smaller quantity of numbers,  
25 an instant online lottery operator may provide a distribution only for the highest distribution. For example, if a row in the matrix included all the linear game numbers 3302 as seen in FIG. 33 of 13, 7, 41, 20, 40, 24, and 2, an instant online lottery player would automatically have a full match of 7 of 7, a partial match of 6 of 7, a partial match of 5 of 7, and a partial match of 4 of 7. As a result, the instant  
30 online lottery provides may provide the highest prize distribution, e.g., the prize for the full match, and not the lower prizes for the matches that are completely subsumed. However, two matches may occur without the second match being

completely subsumed by the first match. For example, the number 20 may occupy a center position in the matrix 3304, the numbers 13, 7, 41, and 20 may form a row in the matrix 3304, and the numbers 20, 40, 24, and 2 may form a column in the matrix 3304. As a result, one of the numbers, e.g., 20, is overlapping. In one embodiment, the lottery operator provides two prize distributions, e.g., pays a total of \$2 (\$1 twice for two matches of 4 of 7 on an instant online ticket purchased from the first price category 3602) when an overlapping, rather than subsuming match, occurs. In another embodiment, the lottery operator provides only one distribution irrespective of whether the match is overlapping or subsuming.

**[00219]** In one embodiment, a non-linear game may be played in addition to the linear game. FIG. 37A illustrates an instant online ticket 3700 in which a set of non-linear game numbers 3702 is determined in addition to the linear game numbers 3302. The set of non-linear game numbers 3702 may be randomly generated or selected by the player. The set of non-linear game numbers is also a subset of the instant online game numbers. In one embodiment, the subset of the instant online game numbers contains less numbers than the total quantity of the instant online game numbers. For example, the subset of the instant online game numbers may contain 5 numbers that are randomly selected from the set of instant online game numbers. In the illustrated example, the non-linear game numbers 3702 include 10, 30, 7, 26, and 4, all of which form a subset of numbers randomly selected from the set of instant online game numbers. Further, overlap may exist between the linear game numbers and the non-linear game numbers. For example, the number 7 was randomly generated for both the linear game numbers 3302 and the non-linear game numbers and may therefore be utilized for both a linear match and a non-linear match. However, a non-overlapping number may only be utilized for a match corresponding to the type of game number for which the non-overlapping number is randomly generated. In the illustrated example, the number 13 is randomly generated as a linear game number 3302 and, therefore, may only be utilized for a linear match, not a non-linear match. Further, in the illustrated example, the number 10 is

randomly generated as a non-linear game number 3702 and, therefore, may only be utilized for a non-linear match, not a linear match.

**[00220]** In one embodiment, the non-linear match is a display of non-linear game numbers in the matrix 3304 of a quantity of numbers that is less than the predetermined quantity of numbers applicable to the linear game. In the example above, the predetermined quantity of numbers applicable to the linear game was four. Accordingly, a non-linear match is a display of the non-linear game numbers in a predetermined pattern and such that less than four non-linear numbers appear in a linear pattern. For example, the predetermined non-linear pattern may be one or more corners. The numbers 10 and 30 form a non-linear match as they occupy two corners of the matrix 3304 and are not a linear match as they only occupy a row with one other number, i.e., the number 4, as opposed to two or more other numbers. Further, the number 24 is not eligible as a corner as that number is a linear game number, not a non-linear game number. Various non-linear patterns may be established. An example of a configuration of non-linear patterns for which non-linear prizes may be won includes 4 corners and the center number, 4 corners, 3 corners, and 2 corners.

**[00221]** In yet another embodiment, only one set of games numbers, as opposed to separate sets of linear game numbers and non-linear game numbers, is randomly generated. That set of game numbers is utilized to determine both linear matches and non-linear matches. FIG. 37B illustrates an instant online ticket 3702 in which a set of game numbers 3706 is determined. The game numbers 3706 may be randomly generated or selected by the player.

**[00222]** For example, the game numbers 3706 may be a subset of the instant online game numbers that contain 7 numbers that are determined from the set of instant online game numbers. The 7 numbers may be randomly generated or selected by the player from the set of instant online game numbers, e.g., 1-49. In the illustrated example, the game numbers 3706 include the numbers 13, 7, 33, 20, 40, 24, and 2. Accordingly, these numbers are utilized to determine whether a linear match and/or a non-linear match exists. A linear match of 4 of 4 exists because the numbers 13, 40, 2, and 40 are displayed as a row in the matrix 3304. Further, a non-linear match of 2 corners exists as 24 and 33

occupy two corners of the matrix 3304. In this instance, a lottery operator may allow prizes for both a linear match and a non-linear match, or only a non-linear match if no prize is won with a linear match.

**[00223]** FIG. 38 illustrates an example of the prize structure 3800 from FIG. 36C that is utilized for both linear game prizes and non-linear game prizes. In addition to the linear prizes discussed above in FIG. 36C, for a nonlinear match 3802 of four corners and a center, the prize structure 3800 provides a prize distribution 3814 of five thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 of one dollar, a prize distribution 3816 of ten thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604 of two dollars, or a prize distribution 3818 of thirty five thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the third price category 3638. Further, for a nonlinear match 3804 of four corners, the prize structure 3800 provides a prize distribution 3820 of two hundred dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 of one dollar, a prize distribution 3822 of four hundred dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604 of two dollars, or a prize distribution 3824 of six hundred fifty dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the third price category 3638. In addition, for a nonlinear match 3806 of three corners, the prize structure 3800 provides a prize distribution 3826 of twenty dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 of one dollar, a prize distribution 3828 of forty dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604 of two dollars, or a prize distribution 3830 of sixty five dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the third price category 3638. Finally, for a nonlinear match 3812 of two corners, the prize structure 3800 provides a prize distribution 3832 of one dollar if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the first price category 3602 of one dollar, a prize distribution 3834 of two dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604 of two dollars, or a prize distribution 3836 of four dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the third price category 3638.



**[00224]** A variety of different configurations may be utilized for either or both the linear game and the non-linear game. Accordingly, the prize structures provided above are provided merely for illustrative purposes. In addition, the non-linear game may be implemented with a variable ratio configuration, constant ratio  
5 configuration, or both.

**[00225]** In one embodiment, a player may win a prize for a non-linear match only if the player does not win a prize for a linear match. In another embodiment, a player may win a prize for the both a linear match and a non-linear match.

10 **[00226]** The instant online lottery game payout for the linear prize and/or non-linear prize may be guaranteed by a third party entity. As a result, an instant online lottery provider may be able to provide a larger instant online lottery prize than might otherwise be the case.

15 **[00227]** The instant online lottery game may include the linear game alone, the non-linear game alone, or a combination of the linear game and the non-linear game described above. Further, the instant online lottery ticket for the linear game and/or non-linear game may be printed in paper form from the lottery ticket dispensing machine, displayed in electronic form, or provided in any other fashion that is viewable by an instant online player. In addition, an apparatus  
20 may be provided for establishing the instant online lottery game. A price category module may established the price categories, random number generators may randomly generate instant online game numbers, linear game numbers, and/or non-linear game numbers, and prize distribution modules may distribute and/or calculate the winning prizes.

25 **[00228]** The instant online lottery game may provide a variety of types of prizes such as fixed prizes, progressive prizes, or probabilistic jackpot prizes for the linear prize and/or the non-linear prize. These prizes may be cash prizes or non-cash prizes such as merchandise prizes, travel prizes, merchandise cards, merchandise certificates, etc. Further, the linear prize and the non-linear prize  
30 may be the same type or different types of prizes. In addition, different price categories may correspond to different types of prizes for either or both of the linear prizes and non-linear prizes. For example, a one dollar price category

may correspond to a progressive jackpot prize for the linear prize and the non-linear prize whereas a two dollar price category may correspond to a fixed prize for the linear prize and the non-linear prize. A variety of different combinations and/or sub-combinations of prize types are contemplated herein.

5 **[00229]** FIG. 39 illustrates a process 3900 that may be utilized to provide an instant online lottery game. At a process block 3902, the process 3900 provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the first price  
10 category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize. In addition, the second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize. The second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize. Further, at a process block 3904, the process selects a set of instant online game numbers. In addition, at a process block 3906, the process  
15 3900 randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. At a process block 3908, the process also determines a linear subset of the set of instant online game numbers such that each number in the linear subset is matched with corresponding numbers in the instant online matrix of numbers. Further, at a  
20 process block 3910, the process 3900 provides the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a  
25 predetermined quantity of numbers from the linear subset. An example of the predetermined quantity of numbers is four. Finally, at a process block 3912, the process 3900 provides the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is  
30 displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers.

**[00230]** In yet another embodiment, an instant online lottery ticket may provide the ability to win a linear prize for a linear match, as discussed above, or a

position specific prize for a position specific match. In one embodiment, the position specific match is a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix. An example of a predetermined single position is the center position in the instant online matrix.

- 5 In one configuration, the position specific prize, or a portion thereof, may only be won if a linear prize, or a portion thereof, has not been won.

**[00231]** FIG. 40A illustrates an instant online ticket 4000 for which a linear prize or a position specific prize may be won. As an example, the game numbers 4002 include the numbers 13, 22, 41, 20, 40, 18, and 2. Accordingly, a linear prize may be won as a row of six numbers is displayed in the instant online matrix 3304. Although the number 22 appears in the center position of instant online matrix 3304, only a linear prize is won as a position specific prize cannot be won if a linear prize is won. In an alternative embodiment, a linear prize and a position specific prize may be won if both a linear match and a position specific match occur. While the game numbers 4002 are illustrated as being utilized for both the determination of the linear prize and the position specific prize, separate sets of numbers may be utilized in alternative embodiments for such determinations. Further, consecutive and/or non-consecutive matches may be utilized for the linear prize and/or the position specific prize.

20 **[00232]** FIG. 40B illustrates the instant online ticket 4000 shown in FIG. 40A for which the position specific prize is won. As an example, the game numbers 4002 include the numbers 10, 22, 41, 31, 43, 18, and 2. With a predetermined quantity of four numbers needed for a linear match, the instant online ticket 4000 does not have a linear match. However, the number 22 being in the center position of the instant online matrix 3304 results in a position specific match. Therefore, a position specific prize, or a portion thereof, may be won.

**[00233]** FIG. 40C illustrates the instant online ticket 4000 shown in FIG. 40A for which an additional restriction is provided for the linear match. The additional restriction is that a diagonal has to include a corner, be between two corners, or include both corners. For example, the game numbers may include the numbers 10, 22, 41, 27, 46, 23, and 33. These numbers are displayed as a diagonal that includes both corners in the instant online matrix 3304. However, partial

matches, which may be consecutive or non-consecutive, may also result in a linear prize. However, in this configuration, other diagonals, e.g., the diagonal of the numbers 43, 2, 29, 9, 45, and 8 would not result in a linear prize. This restriction is not intended to limit the other embodiments described herein.

- 5 Further, this restriction does not prevent a row or column that is not between two corners or does not include one or both corners from resulting in a linear match.

**[00234]** In one embodiment, the portion of a prize is determined by both the price category from which the instant online ticket is purchased and the quantity of numbers in a match. For example, a full match in the highest price category may allow a winner to win the entire prize, but a partial match in the highest price category may allow the winner to win only a portion of the prize. Further, a full match in a lower price category may also allow the winner to win only a portion of the prize, and a partial match in the lower price category may allow the winner to win a lesser portion of the prize. Further, a restriction may be provided so that a winner may win only one portion of the prize so that a winner does not win for matches that are subsumed. For example, a full match subsumes partial matches. However, the restriction may allow for some overlap. For instance, two linear matches that have only one number in common may result in a win of two portions of the linear prize.

20 **[00235]** Figure 40D illustrates the instant online ticket 4000 shown in FIG. 40A for which two linear matches may result in two portions of the linear prize. For example, the game numbers of 10, 22, 41, 27, 46, 23, and 33 may be displayed in the instant online matrix 3304 as two diagonals that overlap through the center position of the instant online matrix 3304. Accordingly, there are two partial matches of 4 of 7. In this instance, two portions of the linear prize may be provided. In one embodiment, if the two matches have an equal quantity of numbers, two equal portions of the linear prize are provided. If the two matches have an unequal quantity of numbers, a larger portion of the linear prize may be provided for the larger quantity match.

30 **[00236]** FIG. 41 illustrates an example of a prize structure 4100 from that is utilized for linear game and position specific prizes. In addition to the linear prizes discussed above in FIG. 36C, for a position specific match such as a

center match in the center position 4102, the prize structure 4100 provides a prize distribution 4104 of fifty thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket 4100 is purchased from the first price category 3602 of one dollar, a prize distribution 4106 of one hundred thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the second price category 3604 of two dollars, or a prize distribution 4108 of three hundred fifty thousand dollars if the instant online lottery ticket is purchased from the third price category 4108.

**[00237]** FIG. 42 illustrates a process 4200 that may be utilized for the instant online lottery ticket. At a process block 4202, the process 4200 provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game. The first price category is distinct from the second price category. Further, the first price category corresponds to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game. In addition, the second price category corresponds to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize. The second known portion of the linear prize is more than the first known portion of the linear prize. Further, the second known portion of the position specific prize is more than the first known portion of the position specific prize. In addition, at a process block 4204, the process 4200 selects a set of instant online game numbers. At a process block 4206, the process 4200 also randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers. Further, at a process block 4208, the process 4200 determines a subset of the set of instant online game numbers. In addition, at a process block 4210, the process 4200 provides the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed. The linear match is a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset. An example of the predetermined quantity of numbers is four. At a process block 4212, the process 4200 provides the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the

instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers. Further, at a process block 4214, the process 4200 provides the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix. In addition, at a process block 4216 the process 4200 provides the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

**[00238]** A variety of different configurations may be utilized for either or both the linear prize and the position specific prize. For example, two different games may be utilized for each prize. The games may be different types of games. As an example, the linear game may be an instant game and the position specific game may be a drawing game, or vice versa. Accordingly, the prize structures provided above are provided merely for illustrative purposes. In addition, the linear prize and/or the position specific prize may be implemented with a variable ratio configuration, constant ratio configuration, or both.

**[00239]** Although certain illustrative embodiments and methods have been disclosed herein, it will be apparent from the foregoing disclosure to those skilled in the art that variations and modifications of such embodiments and methods can be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the art disclosed. Many other examples of the art disclosed exist, each differing from others in matters of detail only. For instance, various variations of matrices can be utilized, such as a four-by-four matrix, a five-by-five matrix, a six-by-six matrix, a nine-by-nine matrix, etc. Further, other arrangements of numbers may be utilized other than a matrix such as a circular configuration or a triangular configuration. Further, different prize distributions, price categories, and the

various features of the instant online lottery game and the instant game can be combined into discrete lottery schemes.

**[00240]** Finally, it will also be apparent to one skilled in the art that other indicia can be printed on a lottery ticket such as advertising, media, news, coupons,  
5 passes to events, etc. Accordingly, it is intended that the art disclosed shall be limited only to the extent required by the appended claims and the rules and principles of applicable law.

We claim:

1. A method comprising:
  - 5 providing a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with
  - 10 the instant online lottery game, the second price category corresponding to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position
  - 15 specific prize;
    - selecting a set of instant online game numbers;
    - randomly generating an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;
    - determining a subset of the set of instant online game numbers;
    - 20 providing the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of
    - 25 numbers from the subset;
      - providing the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers;
      - 30 providing the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is



not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix;

5 and

providing the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

10

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined quantity of numbers equals four.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

20

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix, is between two corners of the instant online matrix, or includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

25

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined single position is a center position in the instant online matrix.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game and an

additional prize to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, two linear matches in the instant online matrix of numbers are displayed, and the two linear matches have a number in common.

5        9.        The method of claim 8, wherein the two linear matches have a same quantity of numbers.

10       10.       The method of claim 9, wherein the additional prize has a value that equals a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

11.       The method of claim 9, wherein the additional prize has a value that is greater than a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

10       12.       The method of claim 9, wherein the additional prize has a value that is less than a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

13.       The method of claim 8, wherein the two linear matches have a different quantity of numbers.

15       14.       The method of claim 13, wherein the additional prize has a value that equals a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

15.       The method of claim 13, wherein the additional prize has a value that is greater than a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

16.       The method of claim 13, wherein the additional prize has a value that is less than a value of the first known portion of the linear prize.

20       17.       The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game and an additional prize to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, two linear matches in the instant online matrix of numbers are displayed, and the two linear matches have a  
25       number in common.

18.       The method of claim 17, wherein the two linear matches have a same quantity of numbers.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the additional prize has a value that equals a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the additional prize has a value that is greater than a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

5 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the additional prize has a value that is less than a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the two linear matches have a different quantity of numbers.

10 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the additional prize has a value that equals a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the additional prize has a value that is greater than a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the additional prize has a value that is less than a value of the second known portion of the linear prize.

15 26. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the subset of the set of instant online game numbers is randomly generating the subset of the set of instant online game numbers.

20 27. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the subset of the set of instant online game numbers is receiving a selection of the subset of the set of instant online game numbers from the player.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the subset of the set of instant online game numbers is randomly generating a portion of the subset of the set of instant online game numbers and receiving a selection of a portion of the subset of the set of instant online game numbers from the player.

25 29. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear prize is more than the position specific prize.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein the position specific prize is more than the linear prize.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein a variable ratio is established between the first price category and the second price category for distribution of  
5 the linear prize.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein a constant ratio is established between the first price category and the second price category for distribution of the linear prize.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein a variable ratio is established  
10 between the first price category and the second price category for distribution of the position specific prize.

34. The method of claim 1, wherein a constant ratio is established between the first price category and the second price category for distribution of the position specific prize.

15 35. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match includes a consecutive linear display in the instant online matrix of a plurality of numbers in the subset.

36. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match includes a non-consecutive linear display in the instant online matrix of a plurality of numbers in  
20 the linear subset such that a number that is not within the subset is between numbers that are within the subset.

37. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear prize is a fixed prize.

38. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear prize is a progressive prize.

25 39. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear prize is guaranteed by a third party.

40. The method of claim 1, wherein the position specific prize is a fixed prize.

41. The method of claim 1, wherein the position specific prize is a progressive prize.

5 42. The method of claim 1, wherein the position specific prize is guaranteed by a third party.

43. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a row in the instant online matrix.

10 44. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a portion of a row in the instant online matrix.

45. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a column in the instant online matrix.

46. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a portion of a column in the instant online matrix.

15 47. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a diagonal in the instant online matrix.

48. The method of claim 1, wherein the linear match is a portion of a diagonal in the instant online matrix.

20 49. A method comprising:  
providing a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known portion of a linear prize, a first known sub-portion of the linear prize, and a first known portion  
25 of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game, the second price category corresponding to a second known portion of a linear prize, a second known sub-portion of the linear prize, and a second known portion of the position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being

more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known sub-portion of the linear prize being more than the first known sub-portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position specific prize;

- 5                    selecting a set of instant online game numbers;  
                     randomly generating an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;  
                     determining a subset of the set of instant online game numbers;  
                     providing the first known portion of the linear prize associated with
- 10 the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a full linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the full linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of all the numbers from the subset;
- 15                    providing the first known sub-portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a partial linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the partial linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined
- 20 quantity of numbers, but less than all, of the numbers from the subset;  
                     providing the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a full linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers;
- 25                    providing the second known sub-portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a partial linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed;
- 30                    providing the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a full linear match or a partial linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a

display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix; and

providing the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a full linear match or a partial linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online  
5 lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online  
10 matrix.

51. The method of claim 49, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

52. The method of claim 49, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is includes one corner and is between  
15 another corner of the instant online matrix.

53. A method comprising:  
providing a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online  
20 lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known portion of a linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game, the second price category corresponding to a second known portion of a linear prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the  
25 linear prize;

selecting a set of instant online game numbers;

randomly generating an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;

determining a subset of the set of instant online game numbers;

providing the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset;

providing the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers; and

providing a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix.

55. The method of claim 53, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

56. The method of claim 53, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

57. An apparatus comprising:

a price category module that provides a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known



portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize, the second price category corresponding to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of a position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position specific prize;

a selection module that selects a set of instant online game numbers;

a first random number generator that randomly generates an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;

a second random number generator that randomly generates a subset of the set of instant online game numbers; and

a prize distribution module that provides the first known portion of the linear prize to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the second known portion of the linear prize to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers, the first known portion of the position specific prize if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match is displayed, or the second known portion of the position specific prize if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix.

58. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix.

59. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

60. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

61. A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having a computer readable program, wherein the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to:

10           provide a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online  
15           lottery game, the second price category corresponding to a second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position specific prize;  
20           select a set of instant online game numbers;  
              randomly generate an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;  
              determine a subset of the set of instant online game numbers;  
              provide the first known portion of the linear prize associated with  
25           the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of numbers from the subset;  
30           provide the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the

instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers; and

provide the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a predetermined single position in the instant online matrix; and

provide the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed.

62. The computer program product of claim 61, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix.

63. The computer program product of claim 61, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

64. The computer program product of claim 61, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

65. A method comprising:

providing a first price category and a second price category in which an instant online lottery ticket can be purchased for an instant online lottery game, the first price category being distinct from the second price category, the first price category corresponding to a first known portion of a linear prize and a first known portion of a position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game, the second price category corresponding to a

second known portion of a linear prize and a second known portion of the position specific prize, the second known portion of the linear prize being more than the first known portion of the linear prize, the second known portion of the position specific prize being more than the first known portion of the position specific prize;

5 selecting a set of instant online game numbers;  
randomly generating an assortment of the set of instant online game numbers in an instant online matrix of numbers;  
determining a subset of the set of instant online game numbers;

10 providing the first known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to a player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a linear match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the linear match being a linear display in the instant online matrix of numbers of at least a predetermined quantity of

15 numbers from the subset;  
providing the second known portion of the linear prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category and a linear match is displayed in the instant online matrix of numbers; and

20 providing the first known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the first price category and a position specific match in the instant online matrix of numbers is displayed, the position specific match being a display of a number from the subset at a

25 predetermined single position in the instant online matrix; and  
providing the second known portion of the position specific prize associated with the instant online lottery game to the player if a linear match is not displayed, the player purchased the instant online lottery ticket from the second price category, and a position specific match in the instant online matrix

30 of numbers is displayed.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display includes two corners of the instant online matrix.

5 67. The method of claim 65, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is between two corners of the instant online matrix.

68. The method of claim 65, wherein a linear display of a diagonal is a linear match only if the linear display is includes one corner and is between another corner of the instant online matrix.

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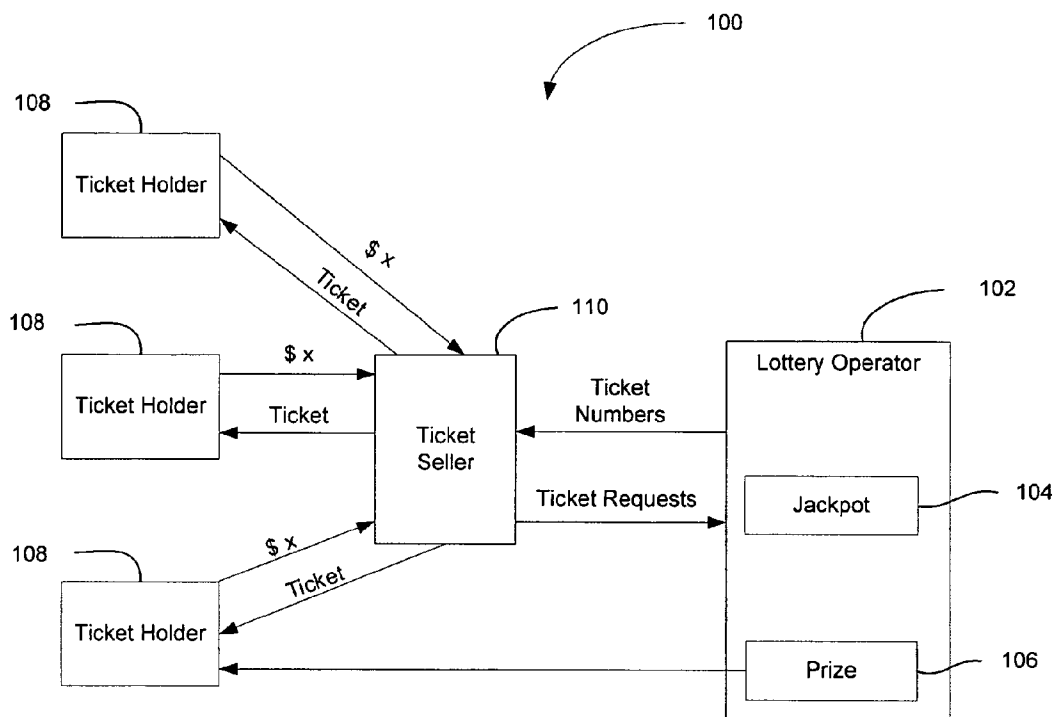
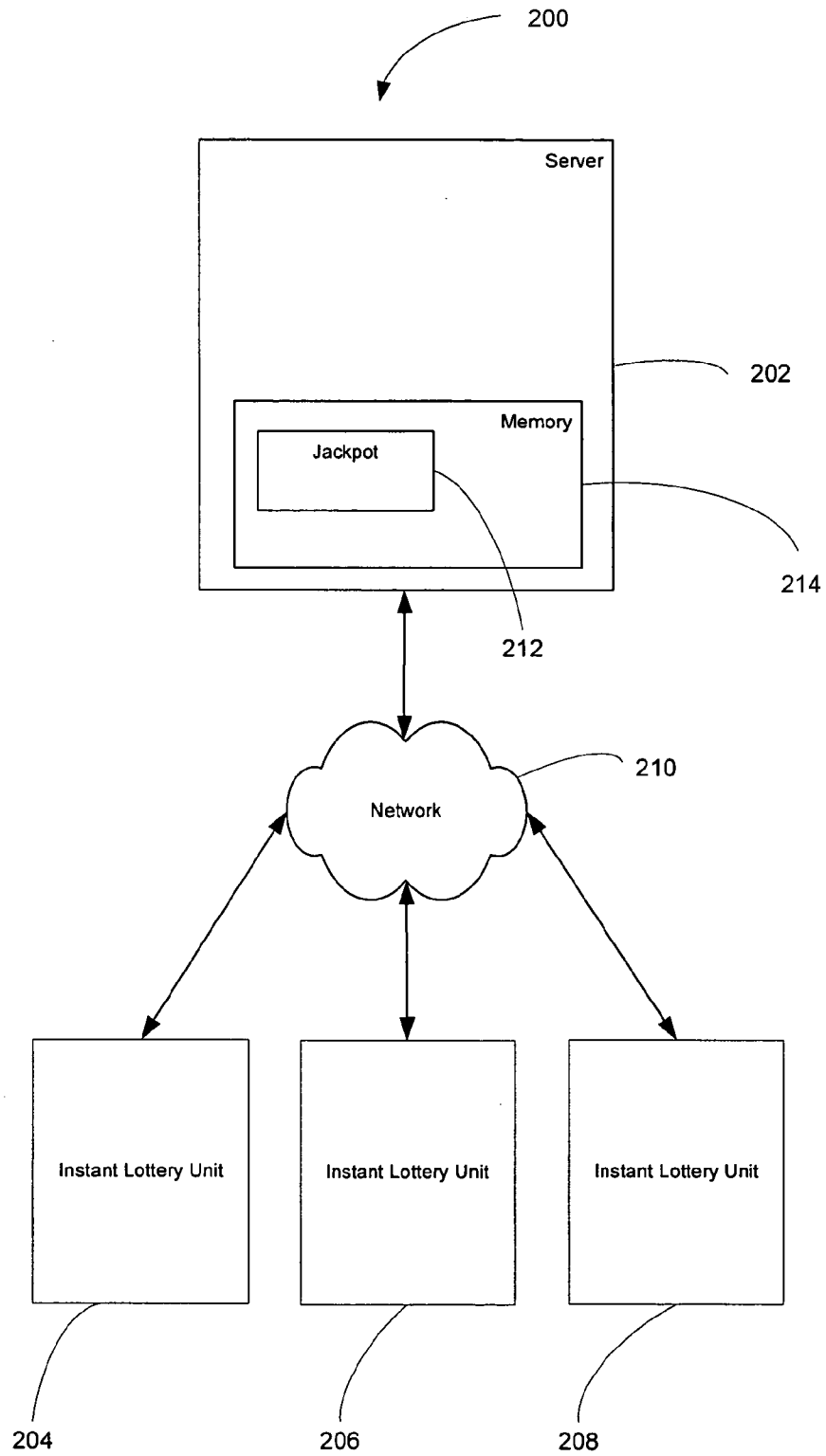
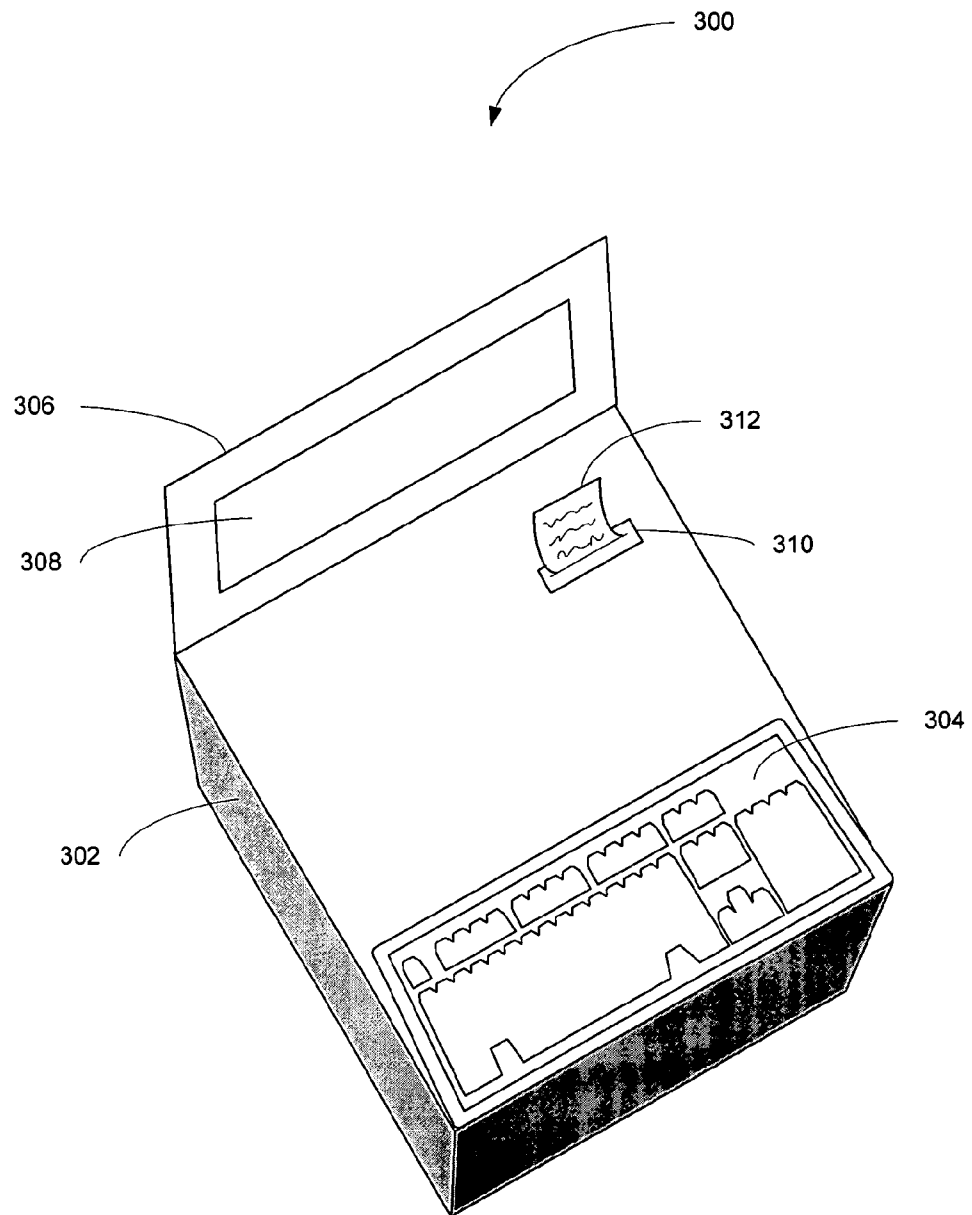


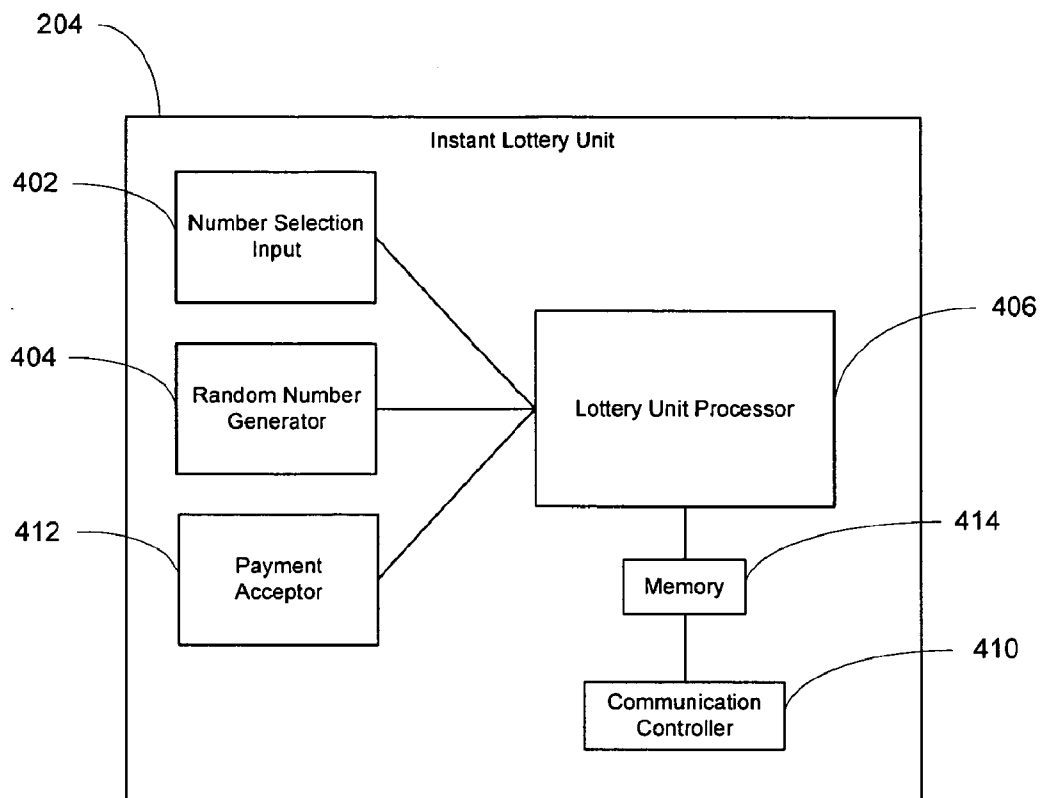
Fig. 1

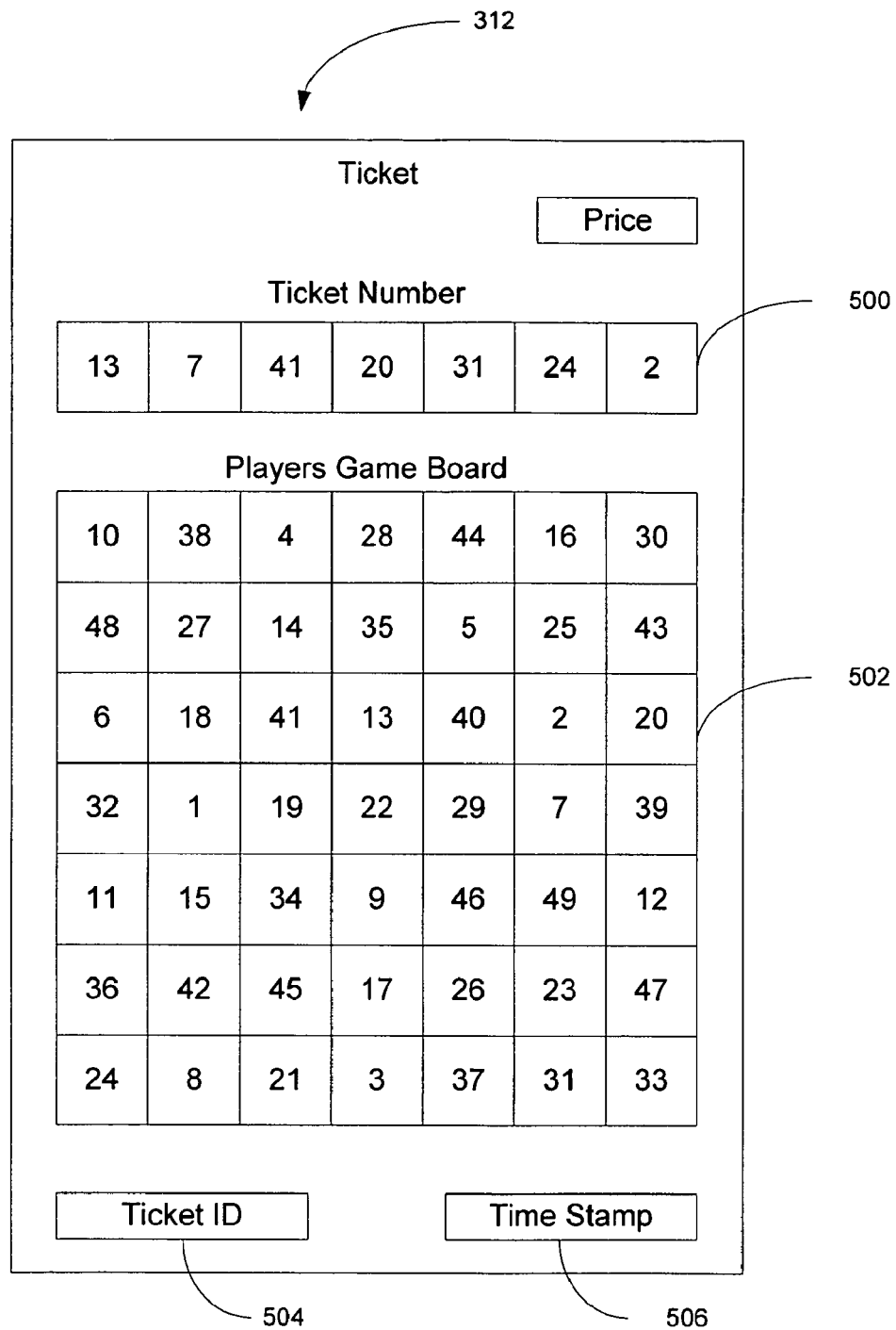
**Fig. 2**

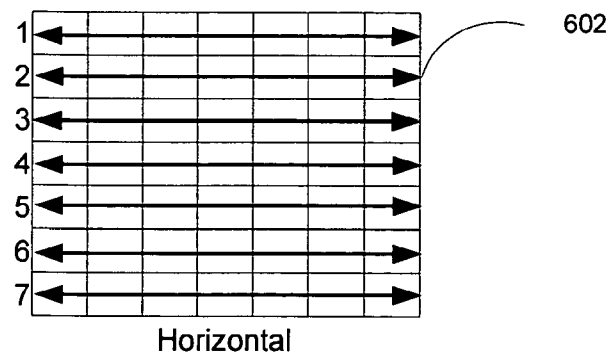


**Fig. 3**

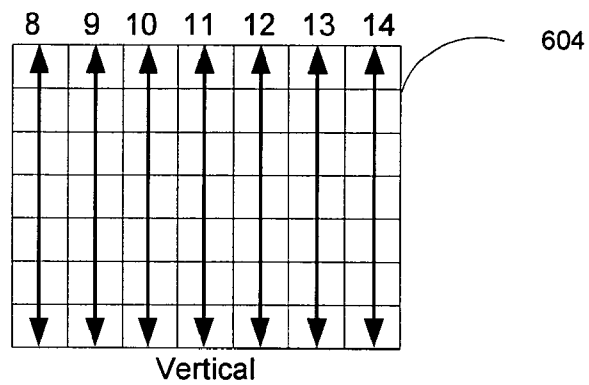


**Fig. 4**

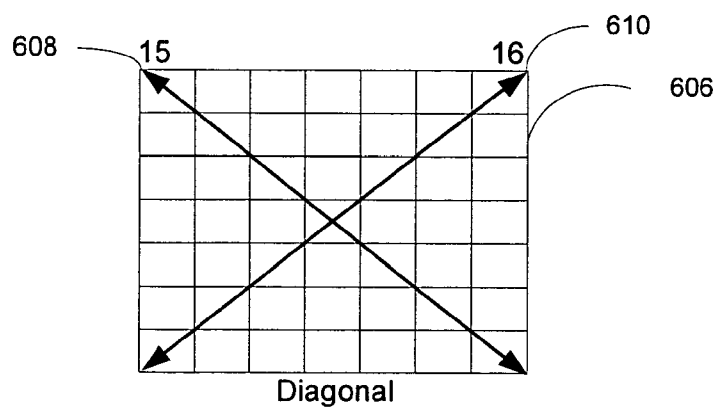
**Fig. 5**



**Fig. 6A**



**Fig. 6B**



**Fig. 6C**

Ticket Number

13	7	41	20	31	24	2
----	---	----	----	----	----	---

500

10	38	4	28	44	16	30
48	27	14	35	5	25	43
6	18	41	13	40	2	20
32	1	19	22	29	7	39
11	15	34	9	46	49	12
36	42	45	17	26	23	47
24	8	21	3	37	31	33
10	48	6	32	11	36	24
38	27	18	1	15	42	8
4	14	41	19	34	45	21
28	35	13	22	9	17	3
44	5	40	29	46	26	37
16	25	2	7	49	23	31
30	43	20	39	12	47	33
24	42	34	22	40	25	30
10	27	41	22	46	23	33

700

**Fig. 7**

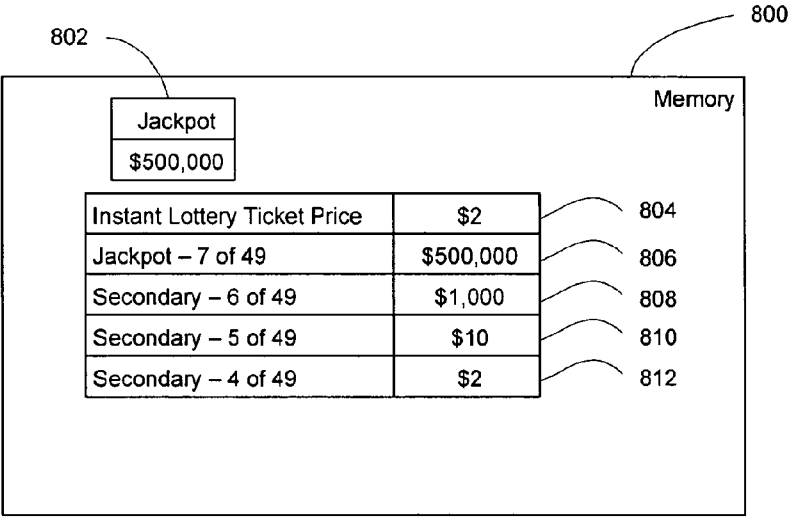
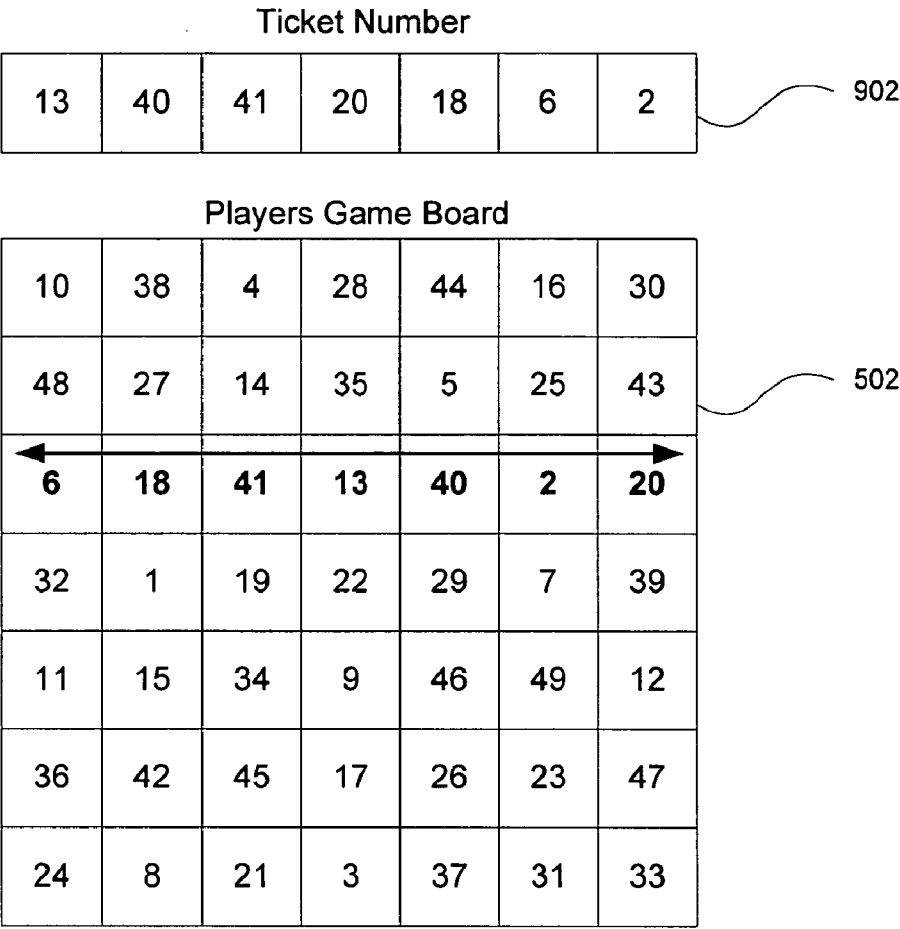


Fig. 8



**Fig. 9A**

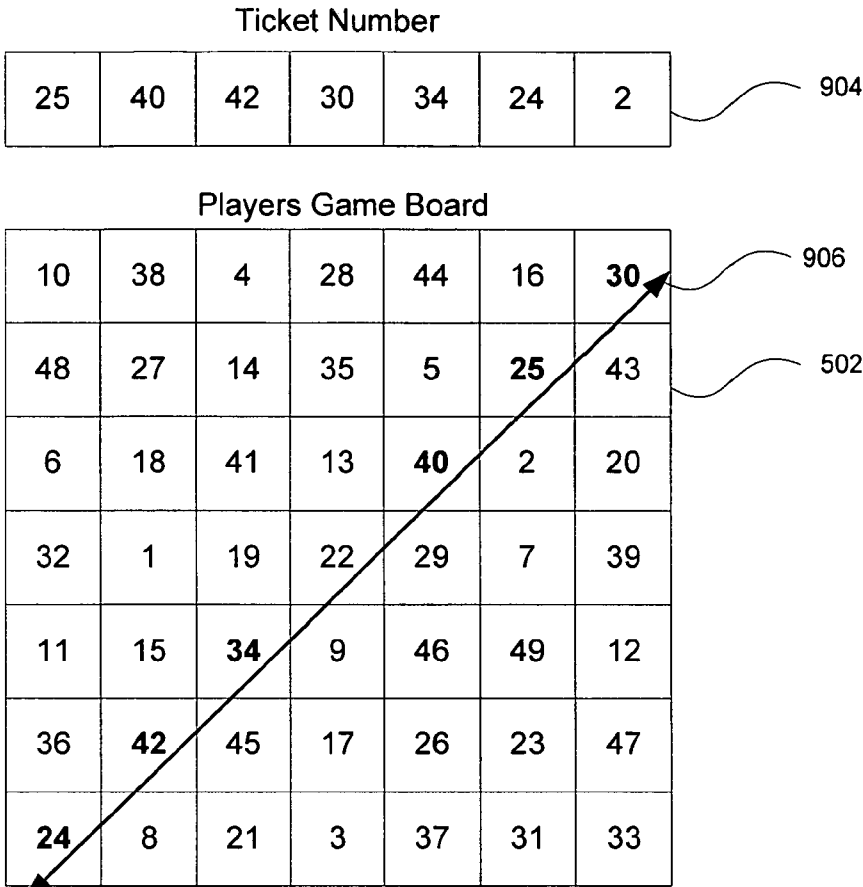


Fig. 9B

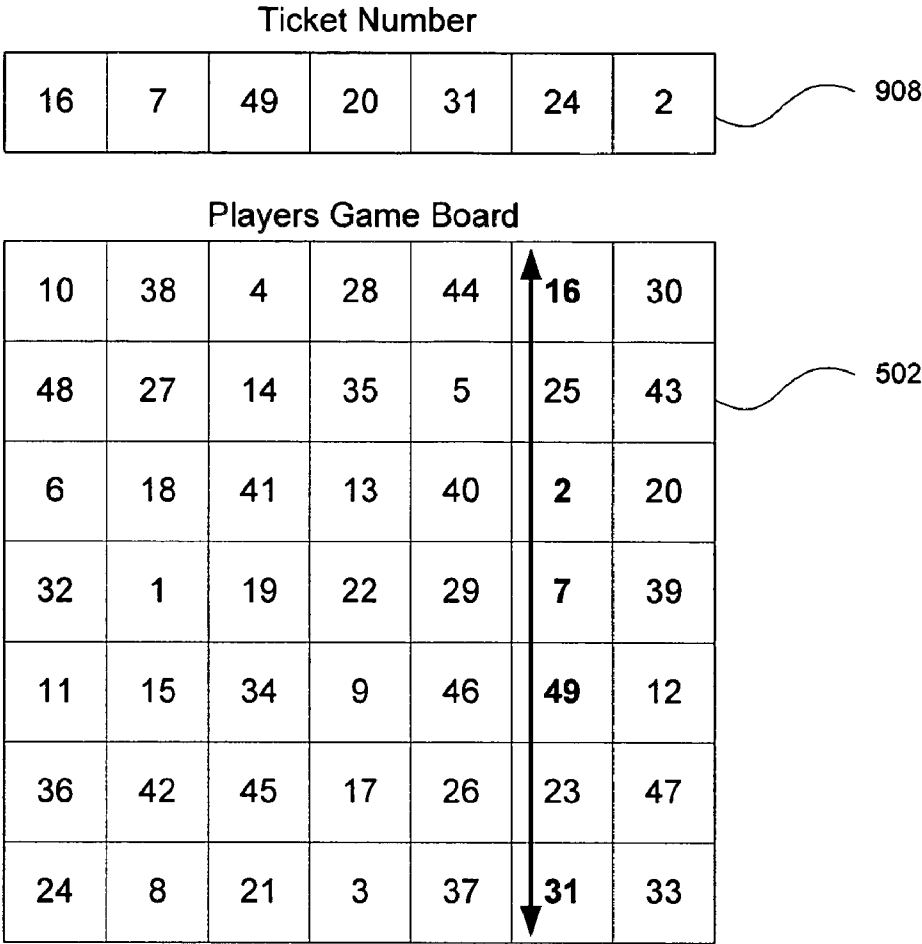


Fig. 9C



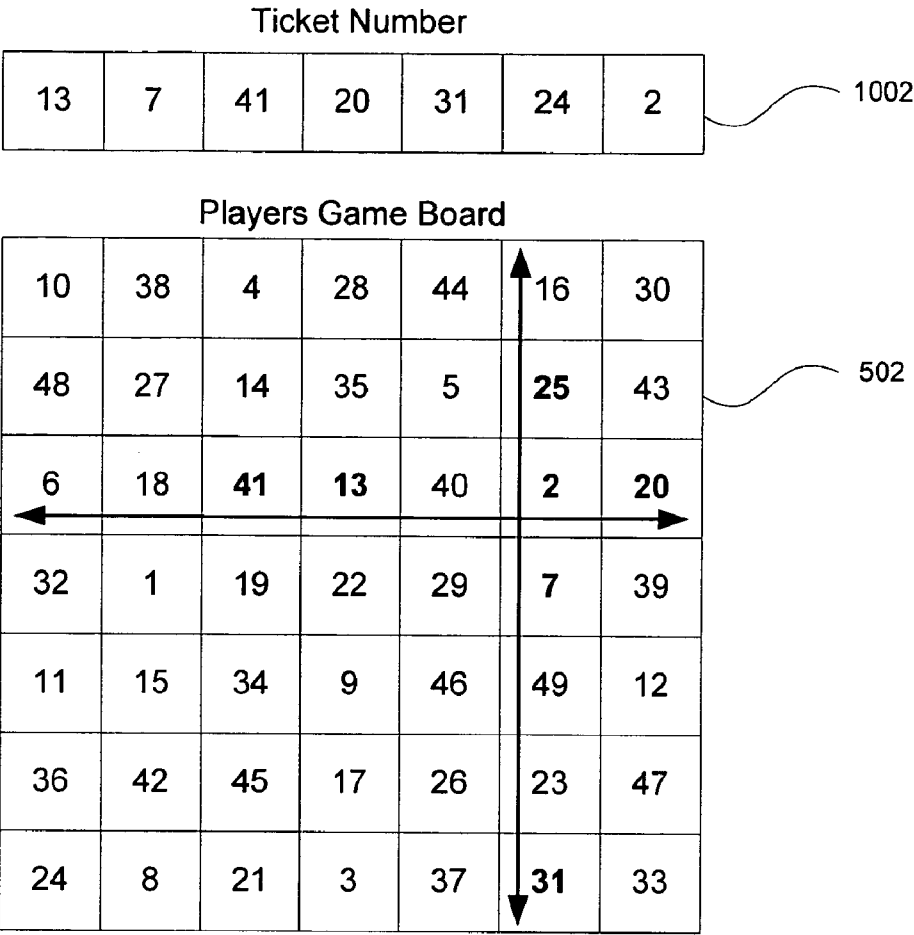


Fig. 10

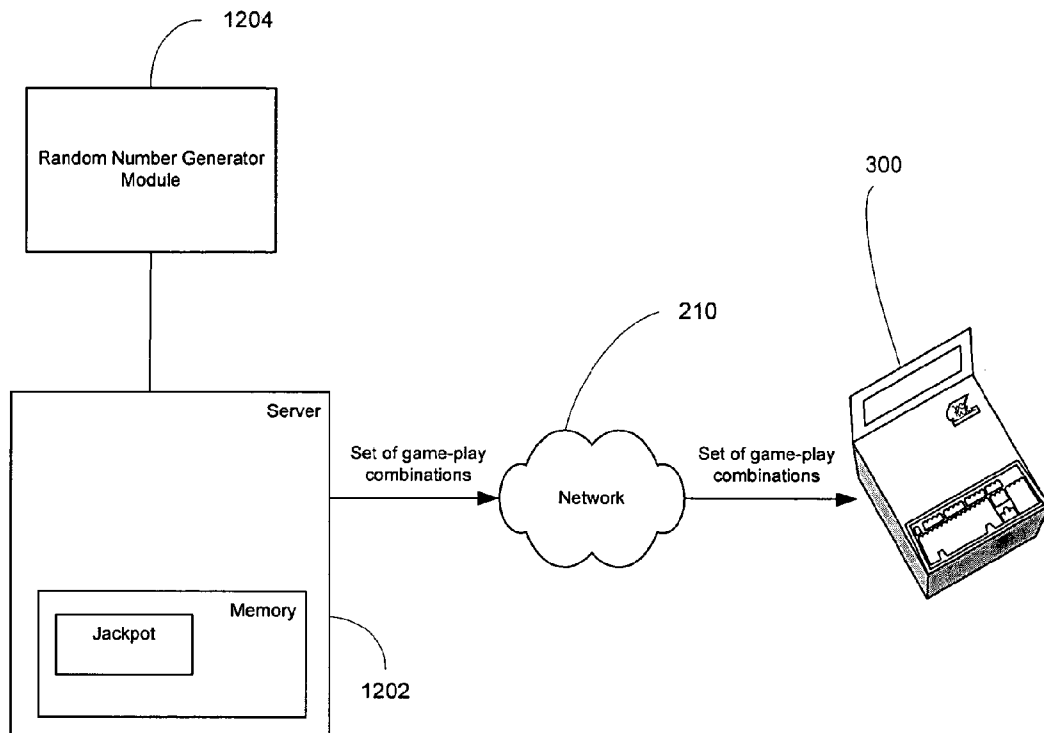
Ticket Number							
13	7	41	20	31	24	2	50

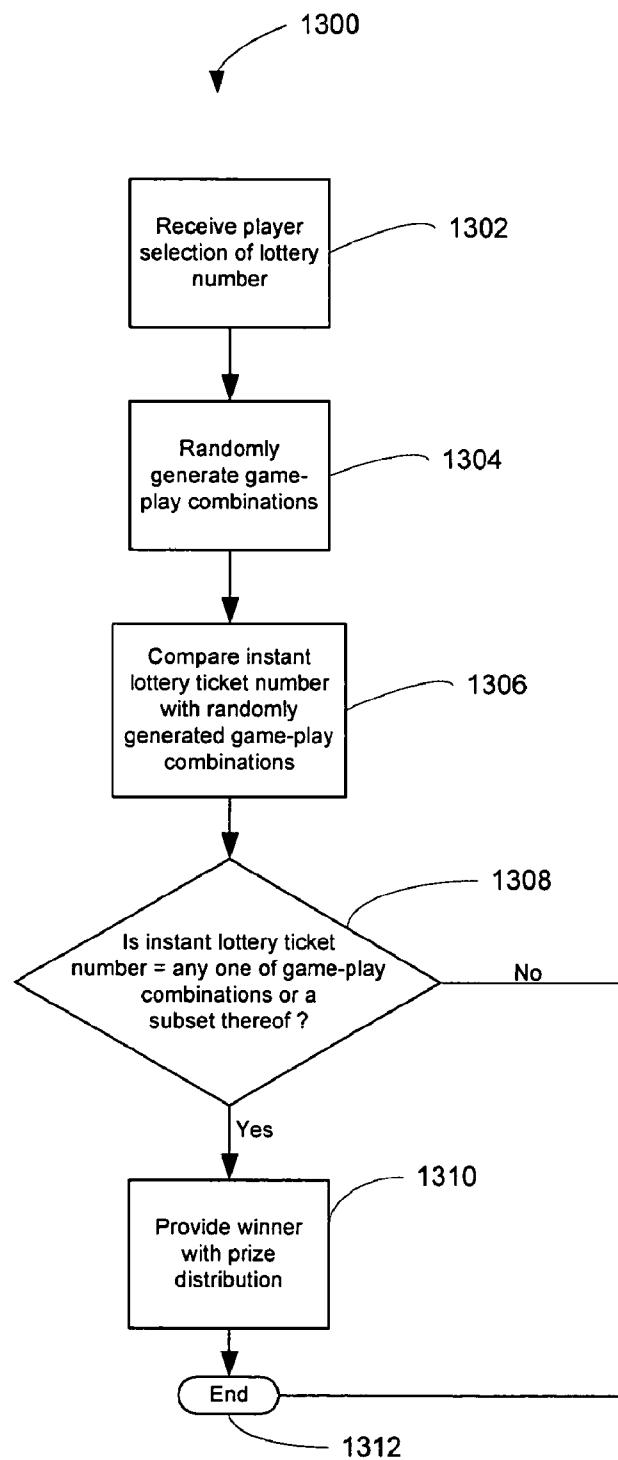
1102

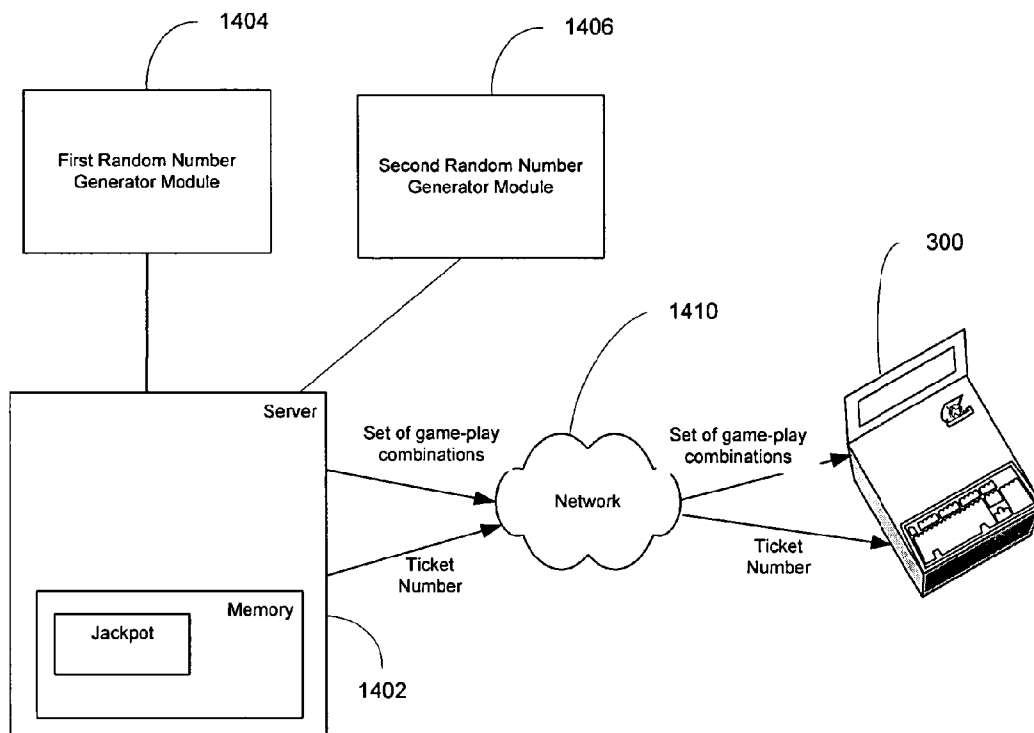
Players Game Board							
10	38	64	28	44	58	30	16
48	53	14	60	5	25	43	59
6	18	41	13	55	2	62	4
32	57	50	22	29	7	39	51
11	15	34	9	46	49	12	27
52	42	45	61	26	54	47	17
24	8	21	3	63	31	33	37
56	1	17	35	40	23	20	36

1104

Fig. 11

**Fig. 12**

**Fig. 13**

**Fig. 14**

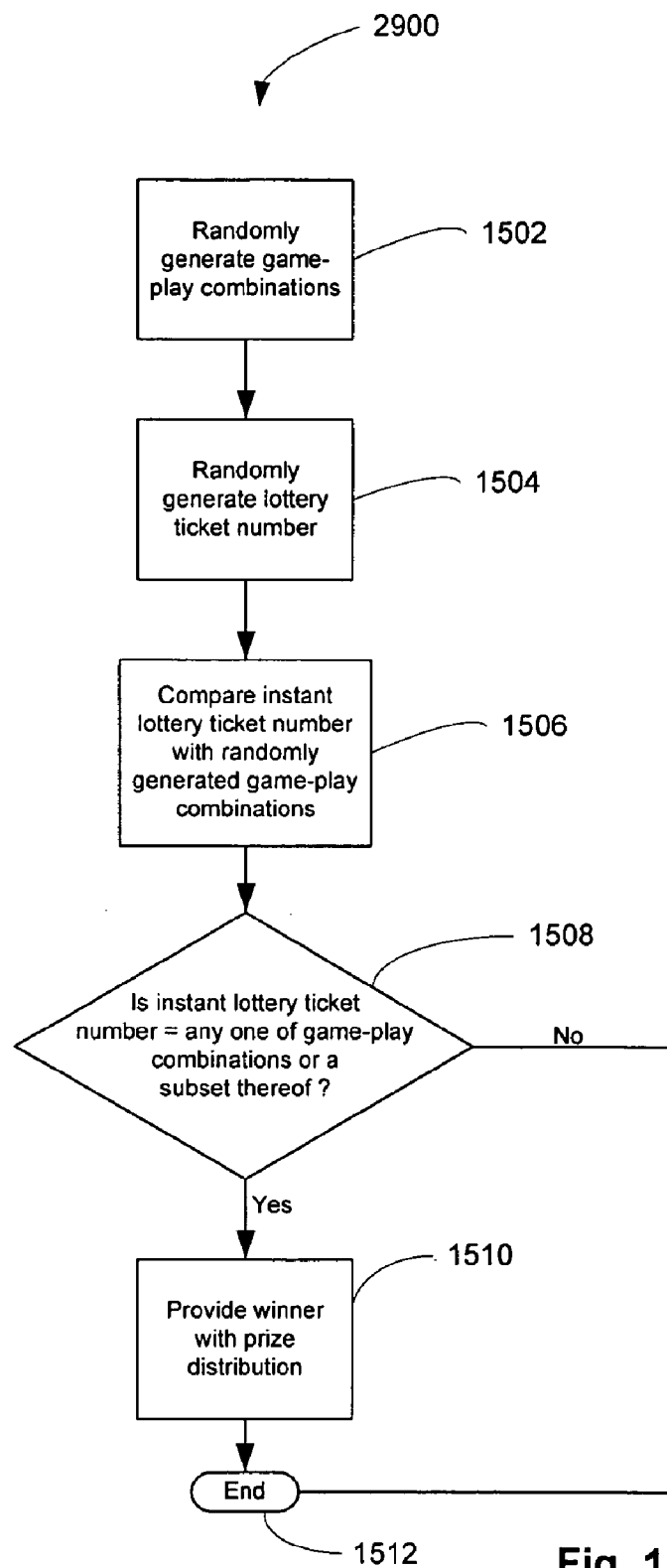


Fig. 15

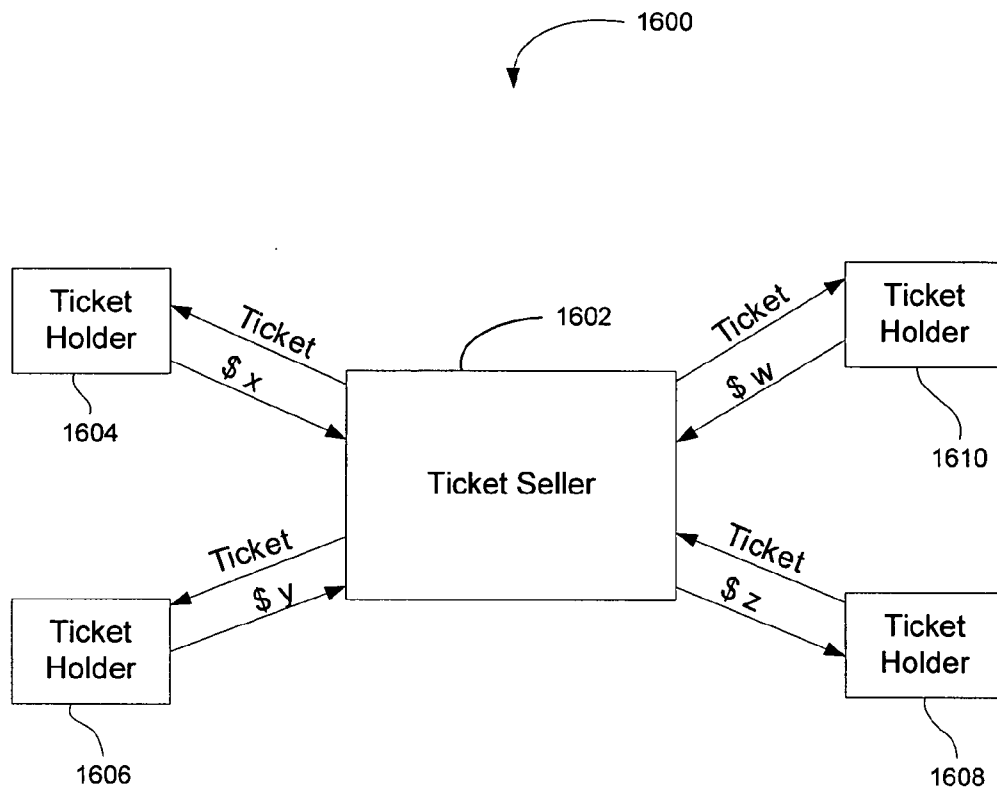


Fig. 16



Jackpot = \$2,500,000

Price Category	Jackpot %
\$5	100%
\$4	60%
\$3	40%
\$2	20%

**Fig. 17**



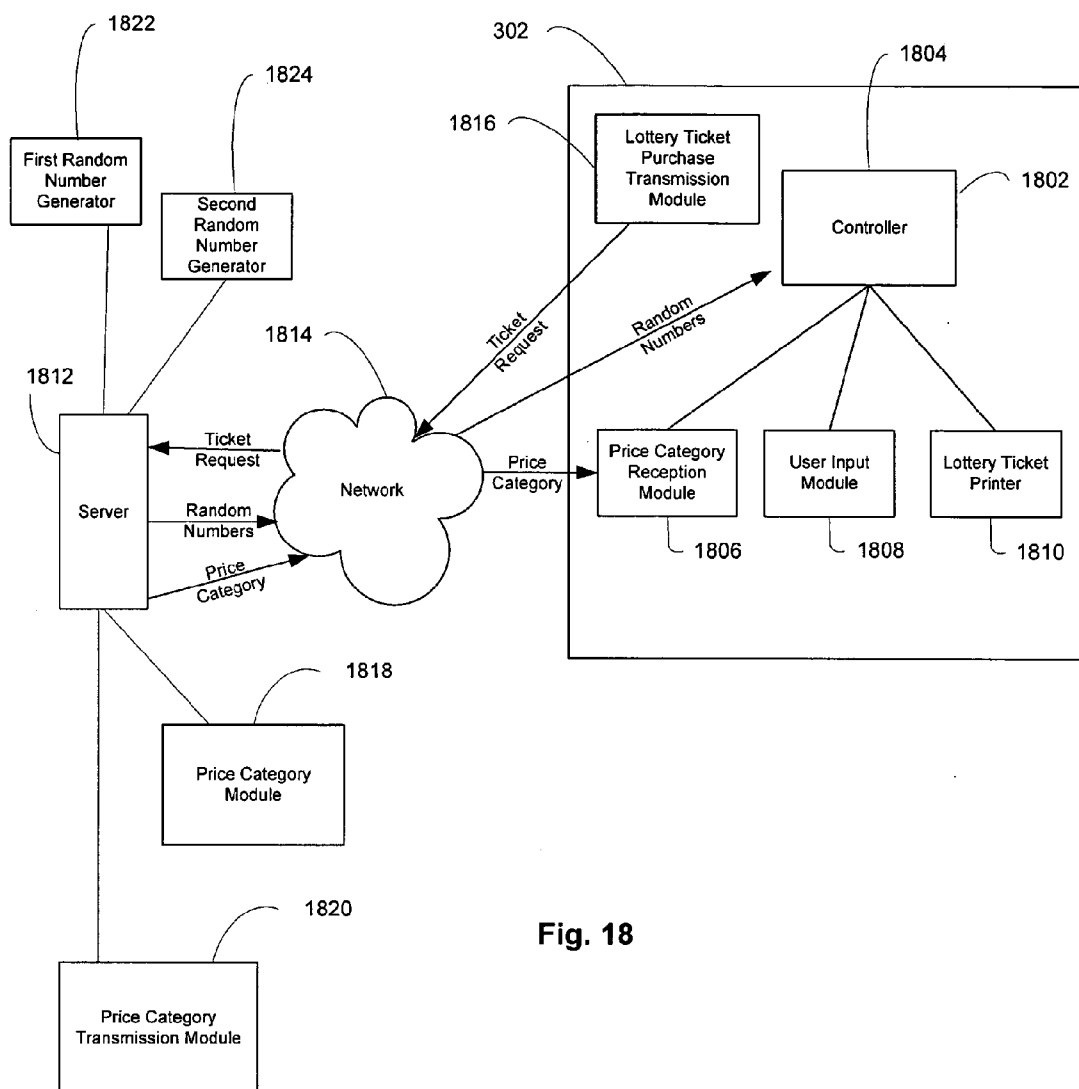


Fig. 18

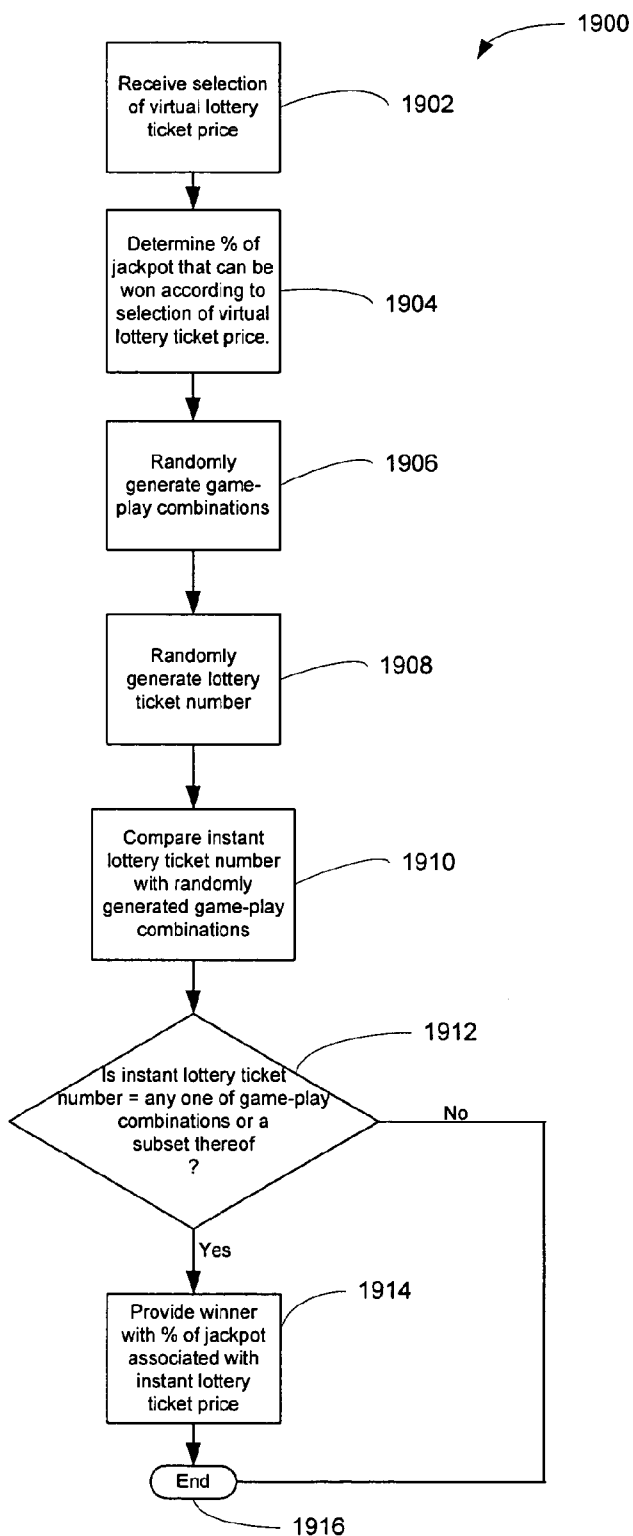


Fig. 19

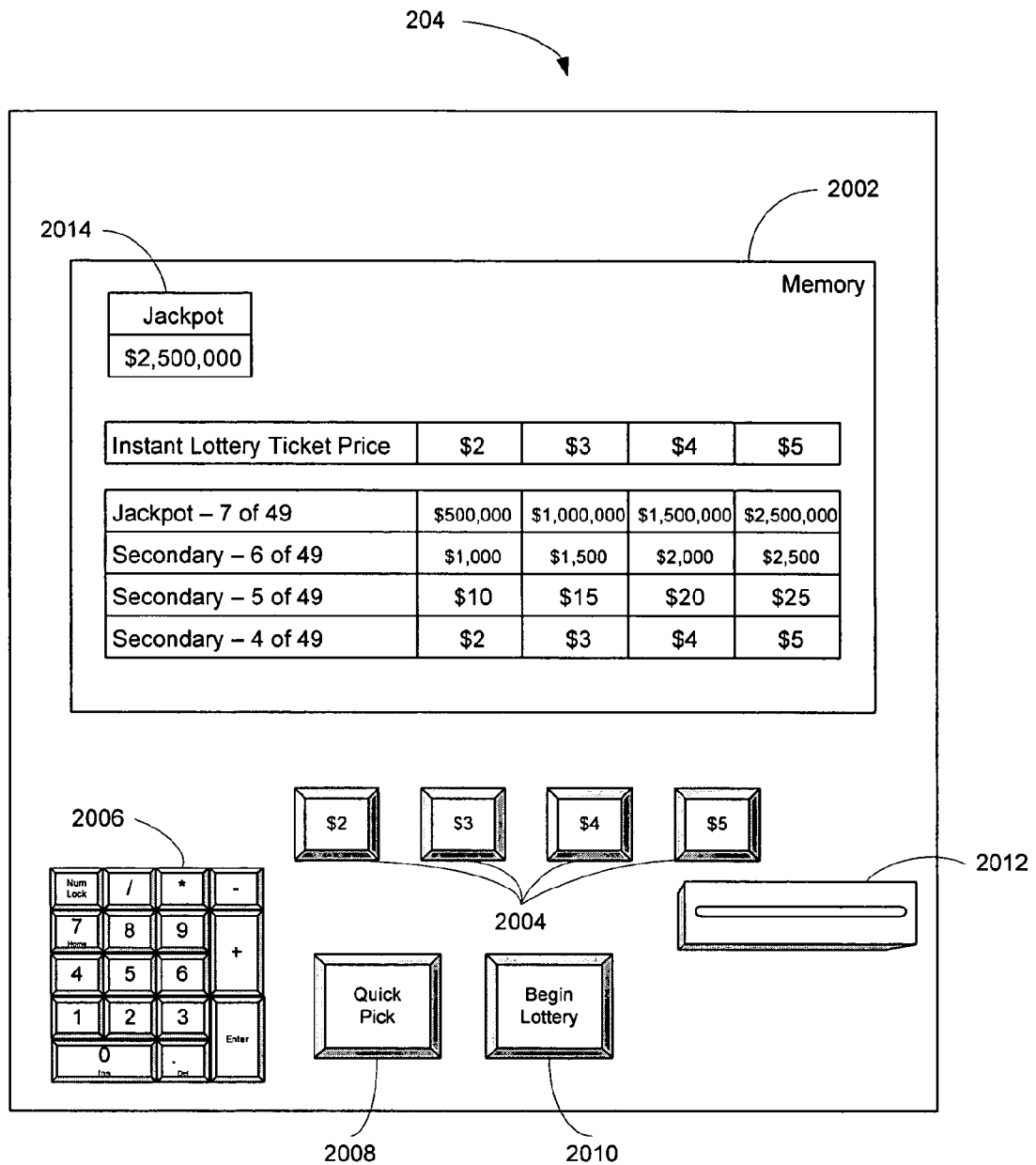


Fig. 20

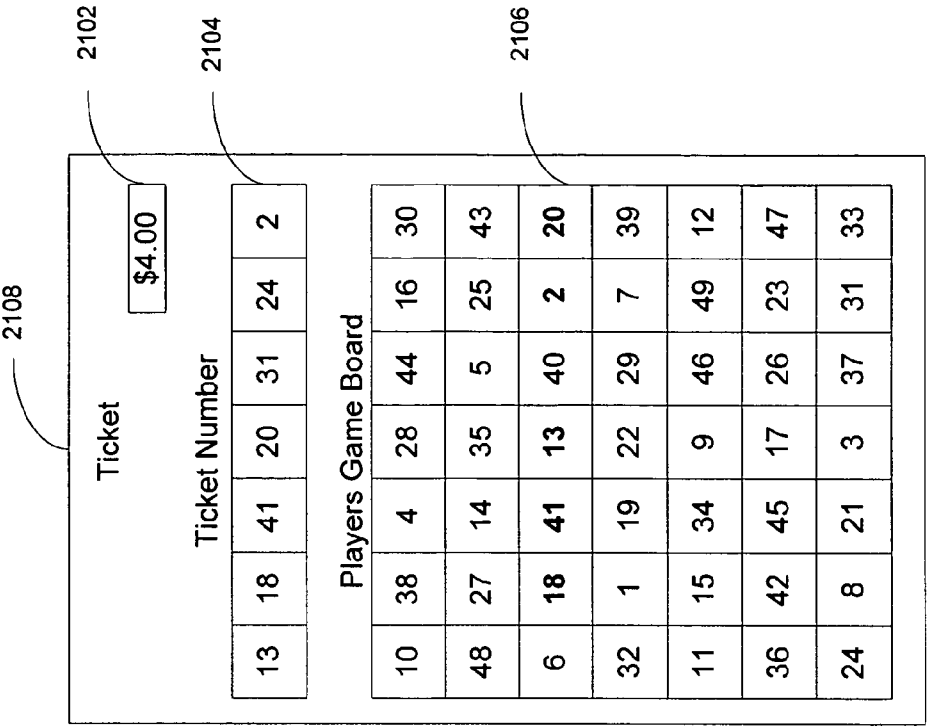


Fig. 21B

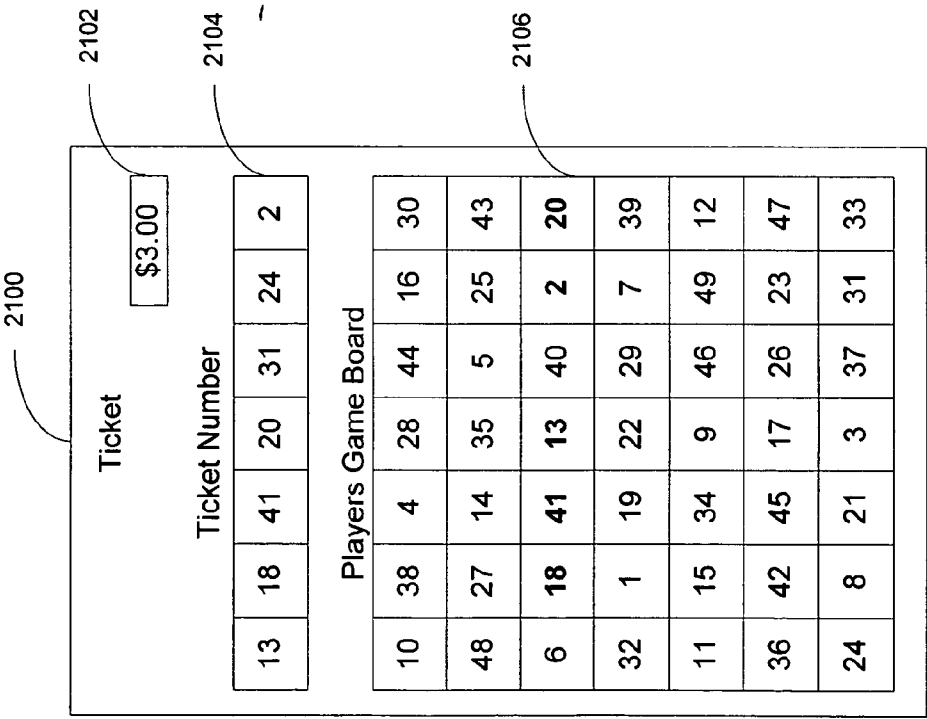


Fig. 21A

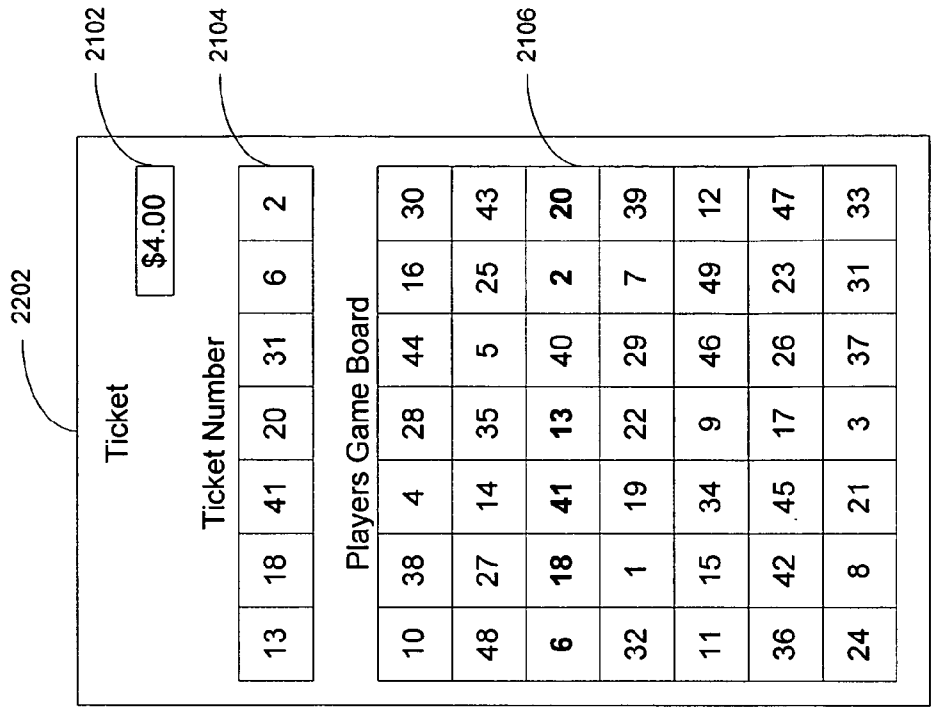


Fig. 22B

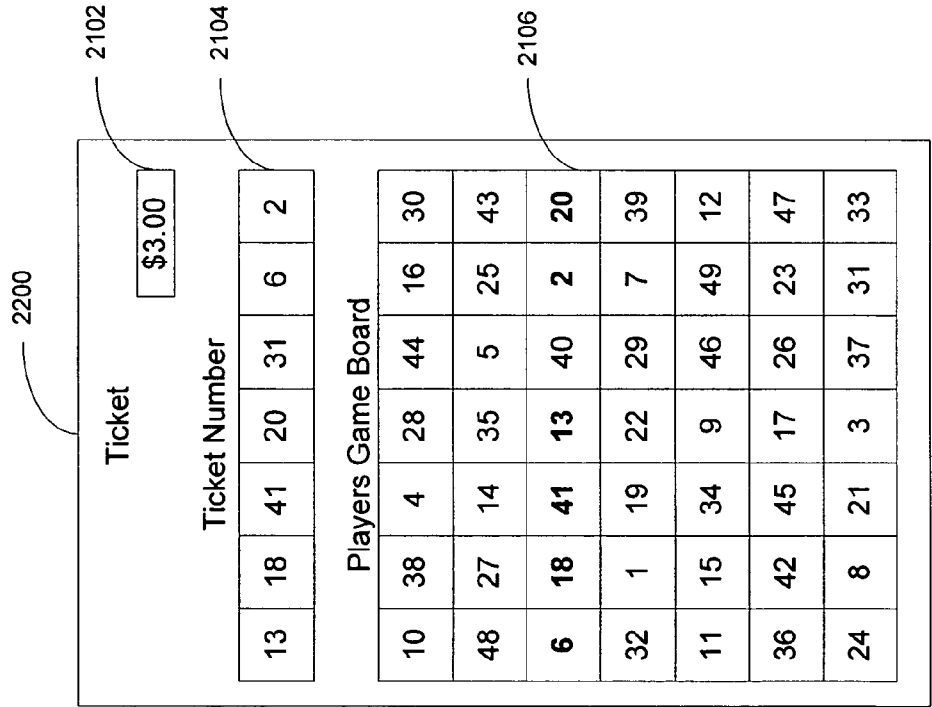
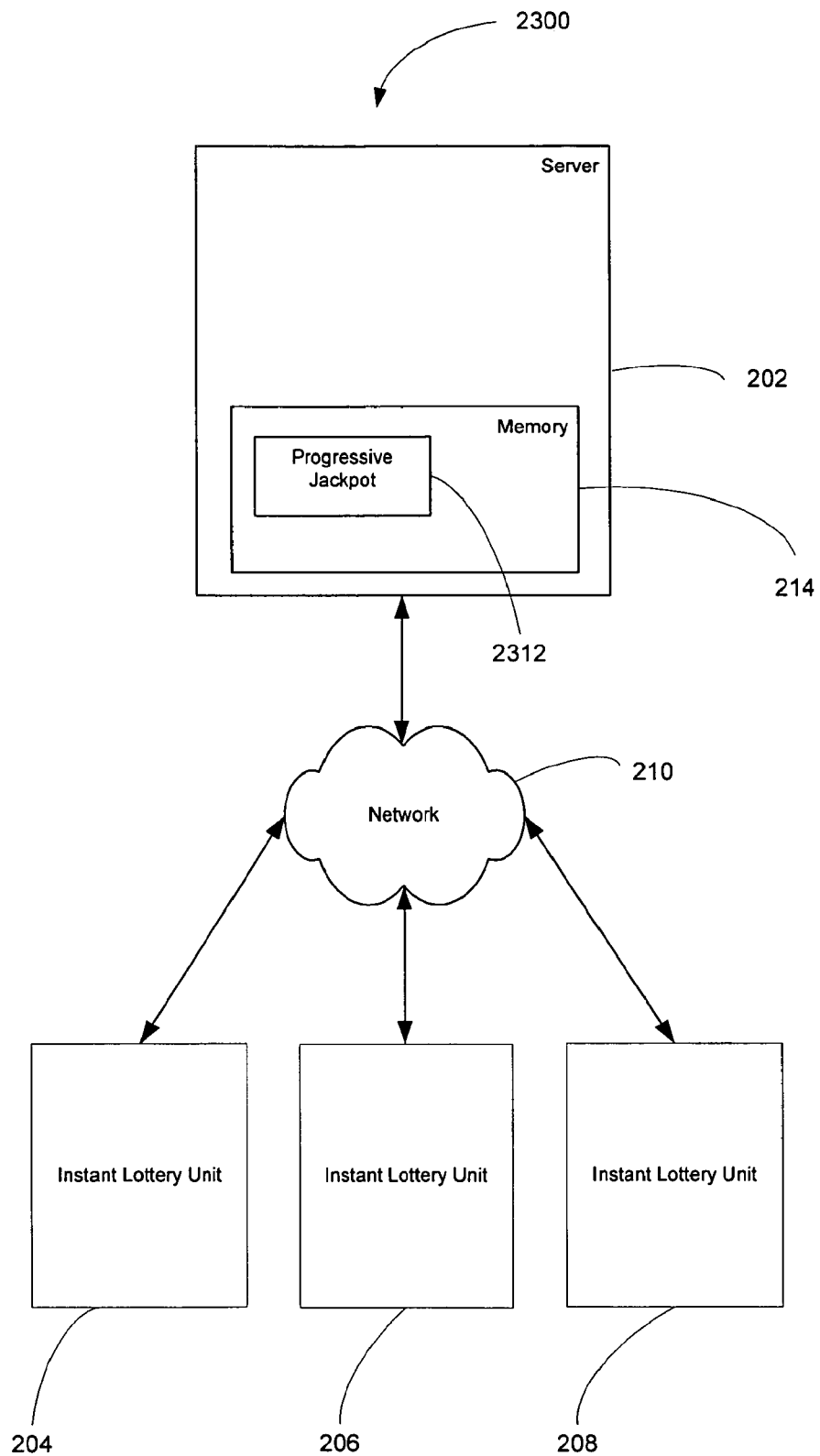


Fig. 22A

**Fig. 23**

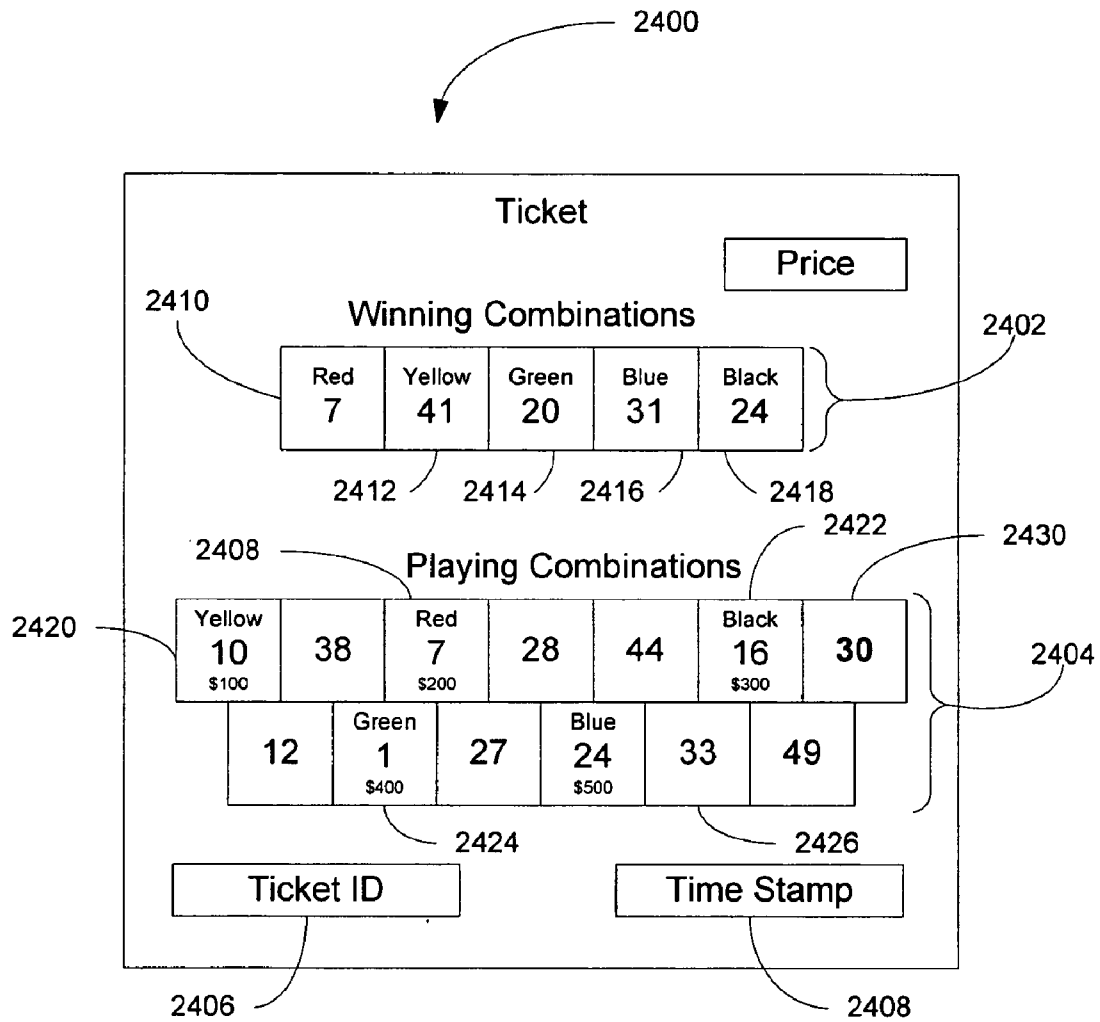


Fig. 24

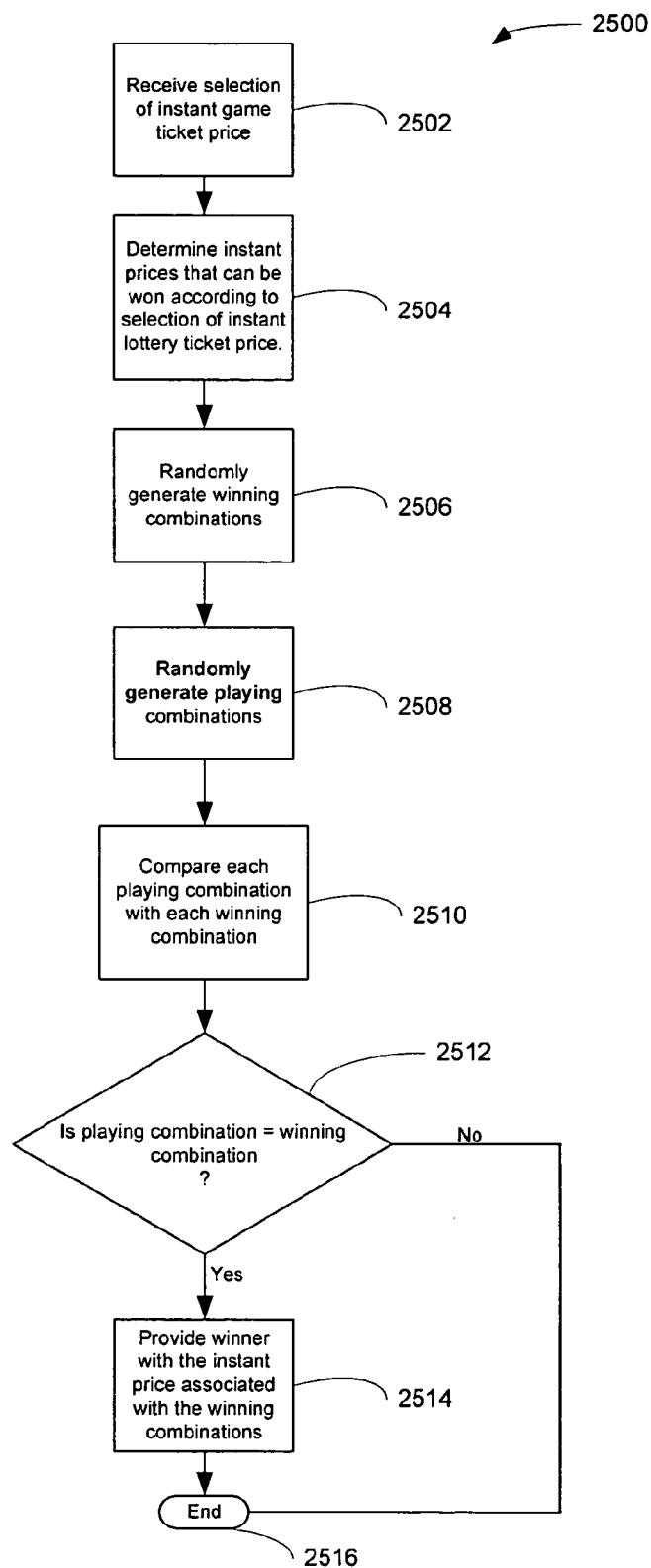


Fig. 25

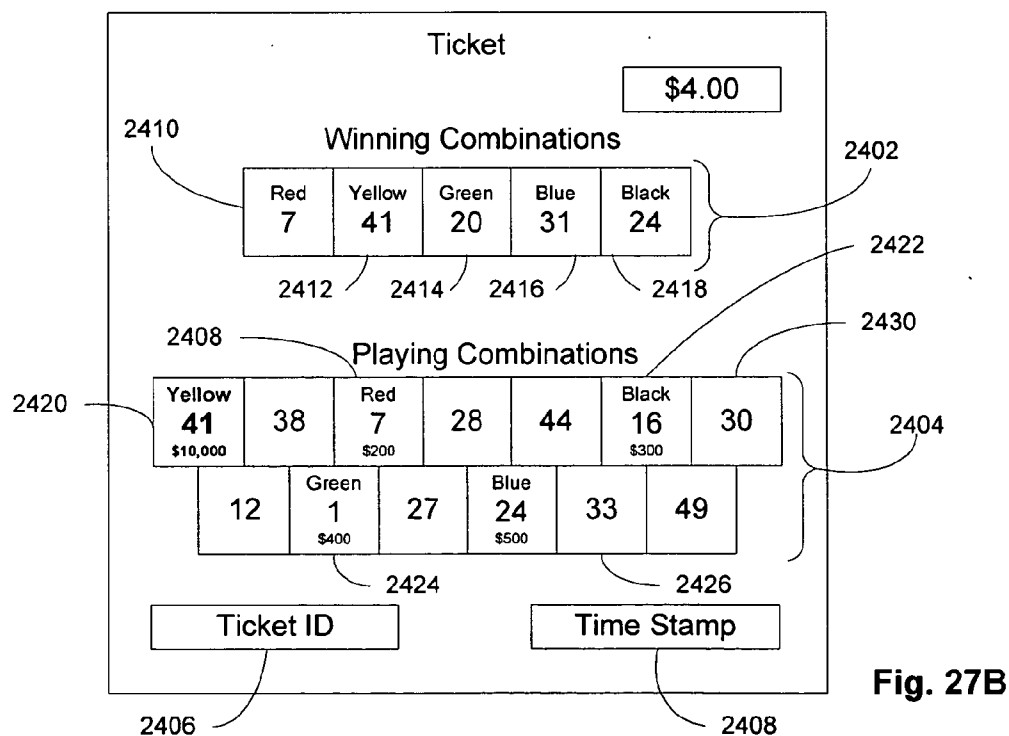
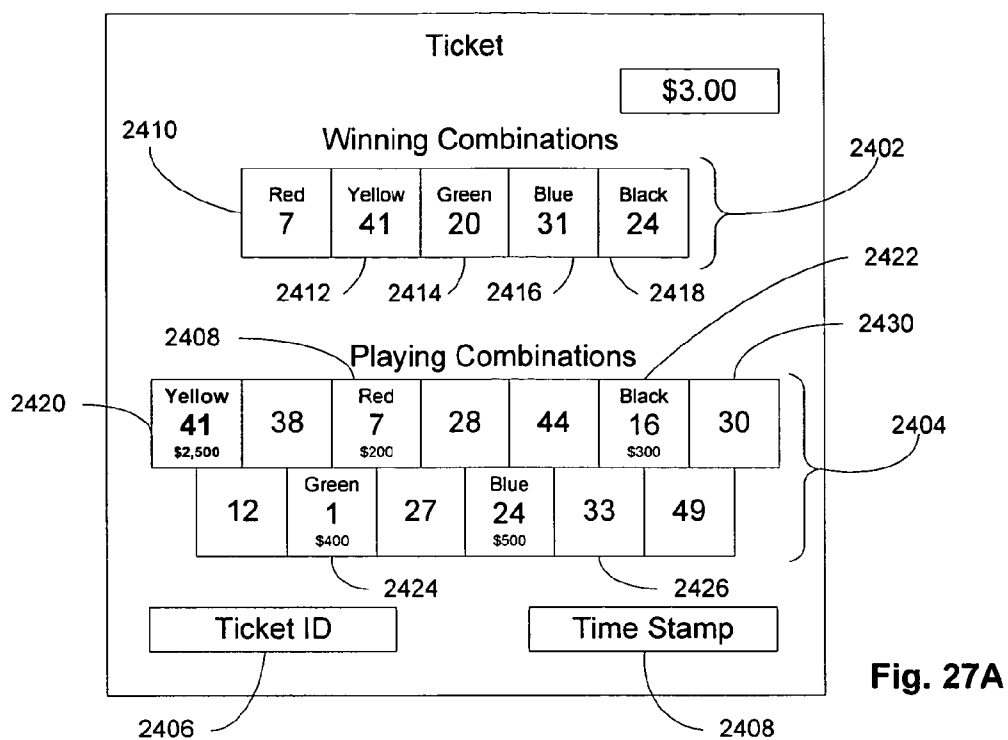


2600

Instant Game Ticket Price				
\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	
\$1,000	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$50,000	
\$100	\$250	\$500	\$2,500	
\$20	\$50	\$250	\$500	
\$10	\$20	\$100	\$100	
\$5	\$10	\$50	\$50	
Free Ticket	\$5	\$20	\$20	
	Free Ticket	\$10	\$10	
		Free Ticket	Free Ticket	

2602 2604 2606 2608

**Fig. 26**



2800

2802

Jackpot				
\$2,500,000				

Instant Lottery Ticket Price	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Complete match	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000
First partial match	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Second partial match	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25
Third partial match	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2

2804

Instant Game Prizes	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$50,000
	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
	\$20	\$50	\$250	\$500
	\$10	\$20	\$100	\$100
	\$5	\$10	\$50	\$50
	Free Ticket	\$5	\$20	\$20
		Free Ticket	\$10	\$10
			Free Ticket	Free Ticket

2806

Fig. 28

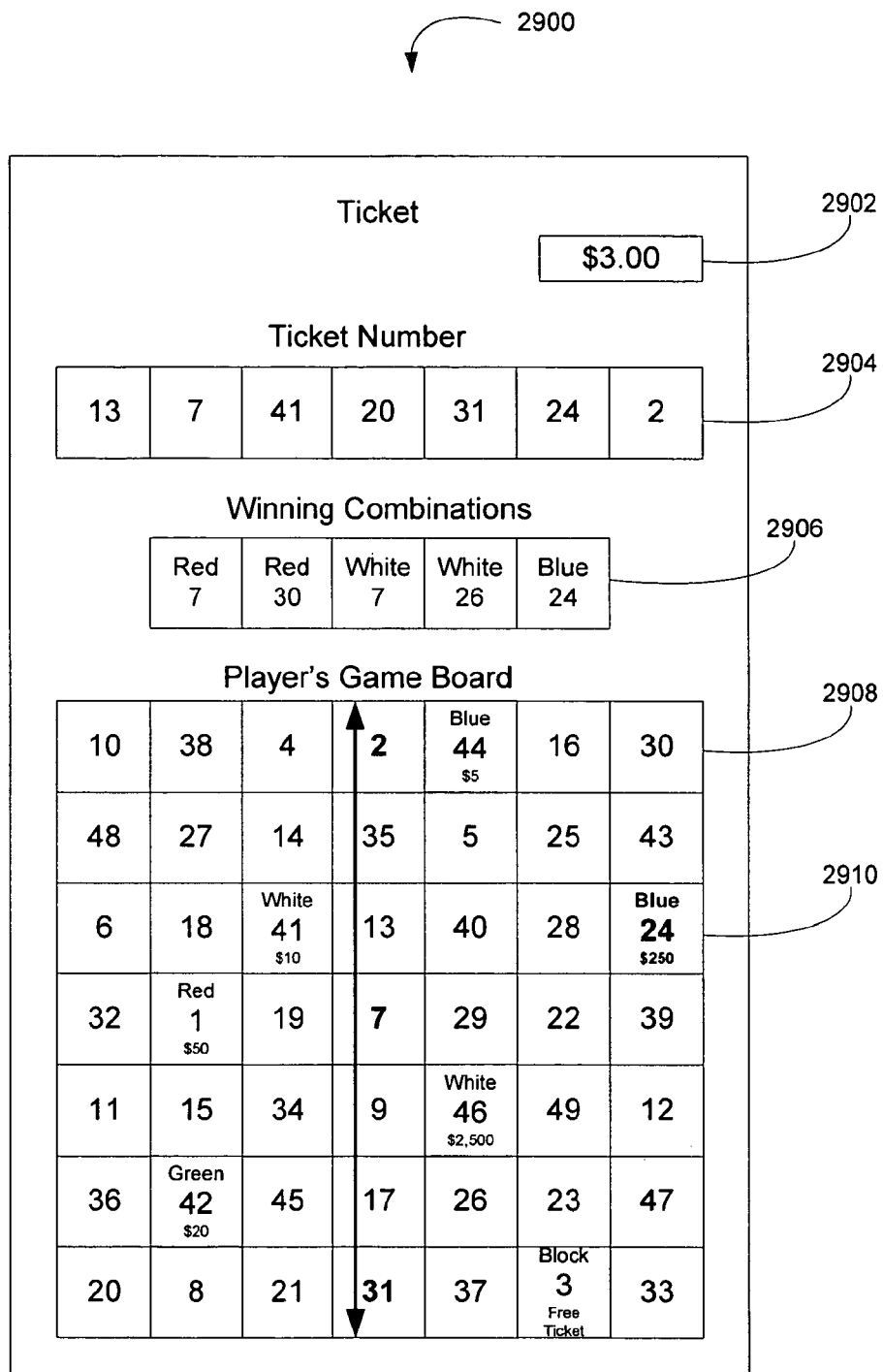


Fig. 29

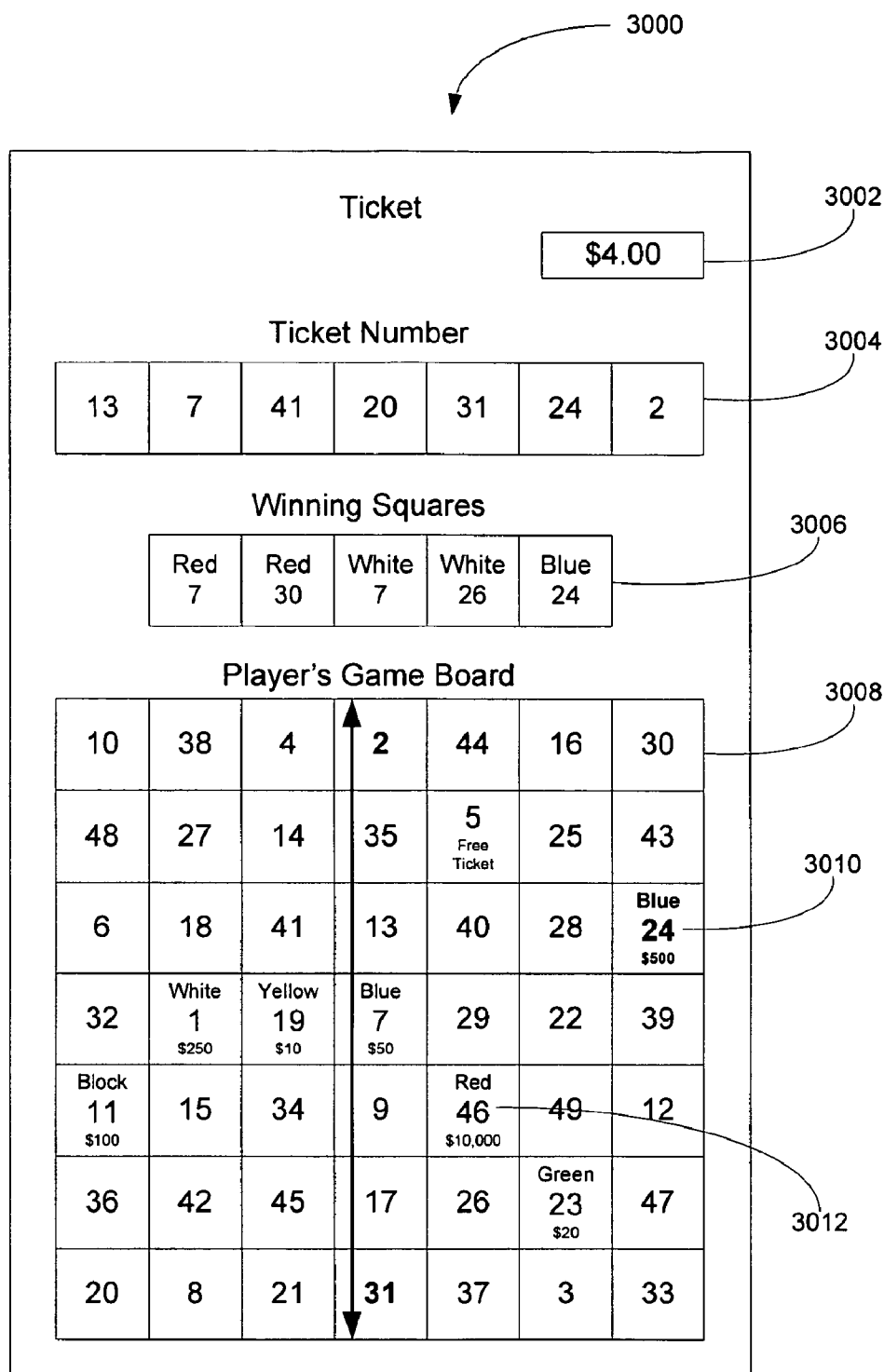


Fig. 30

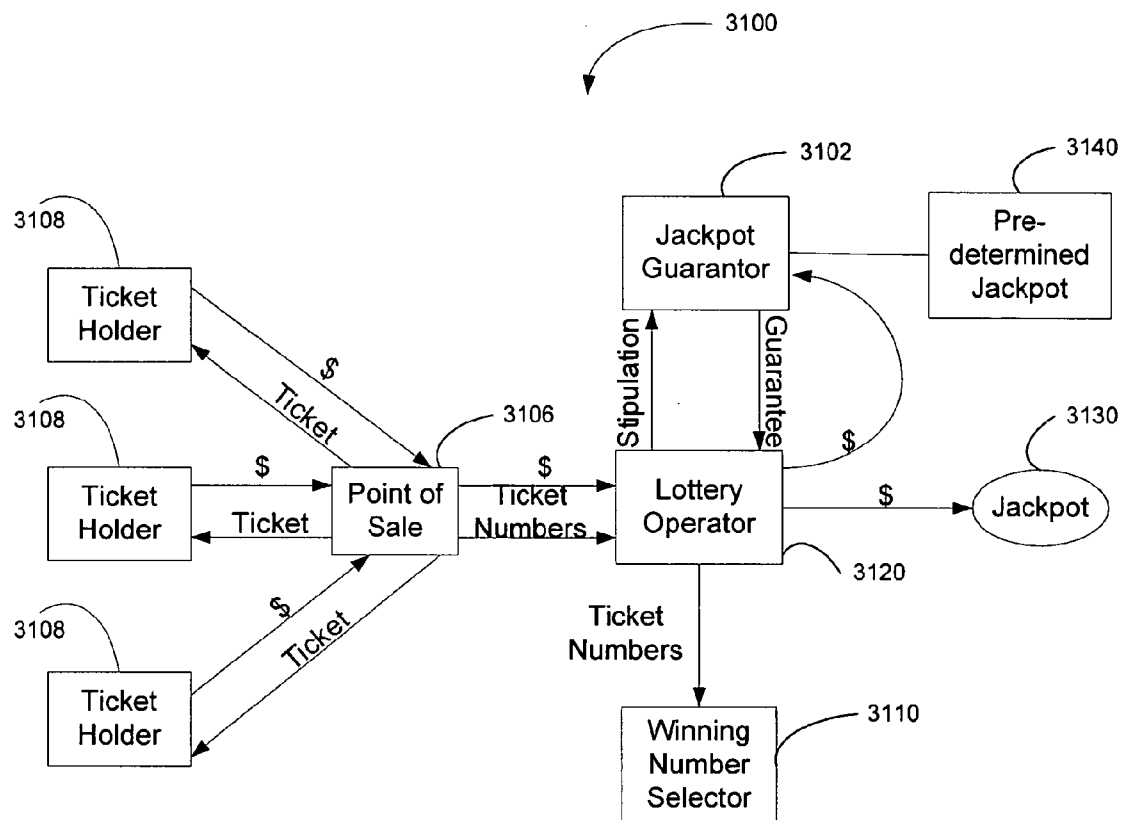


Fig. 31

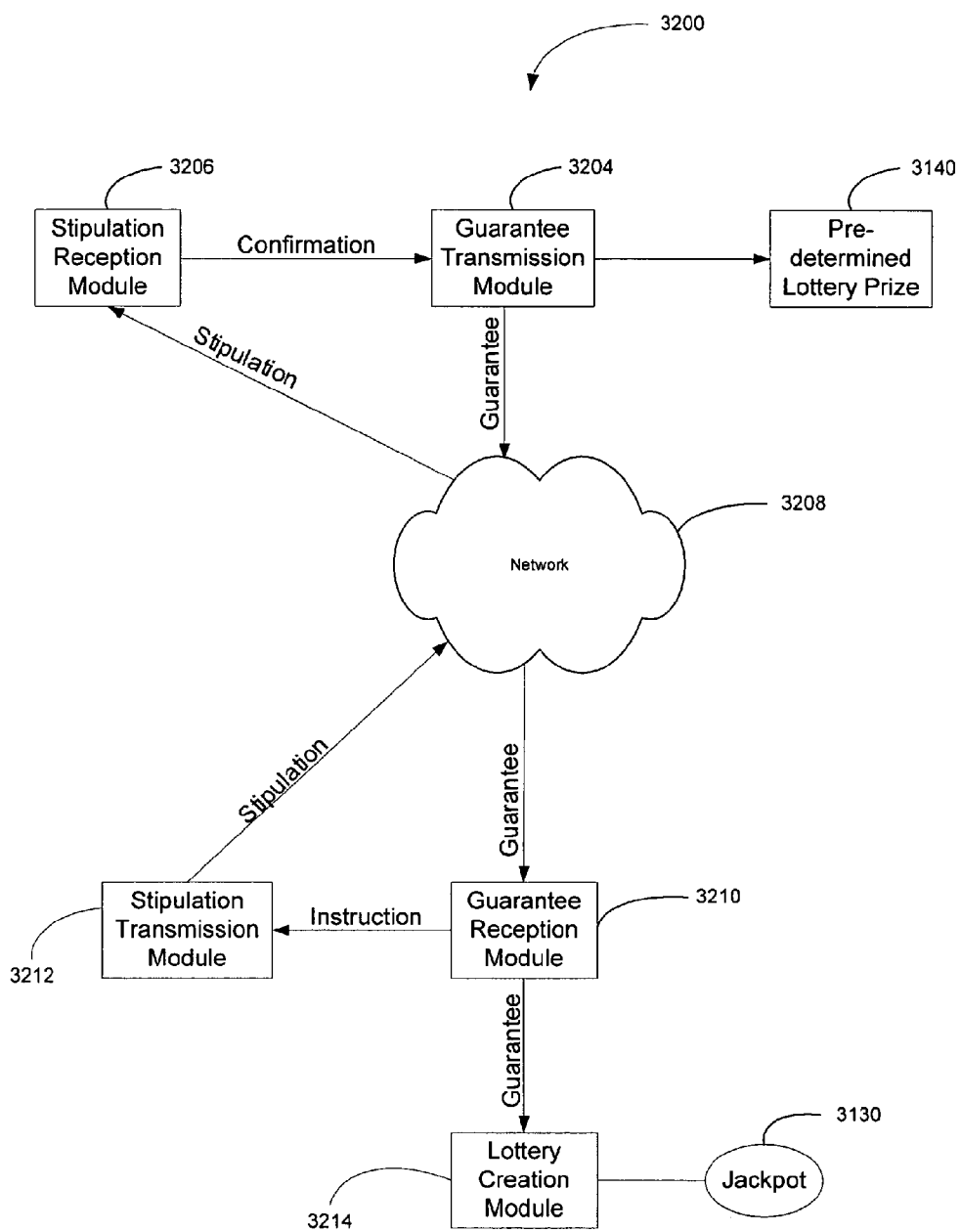
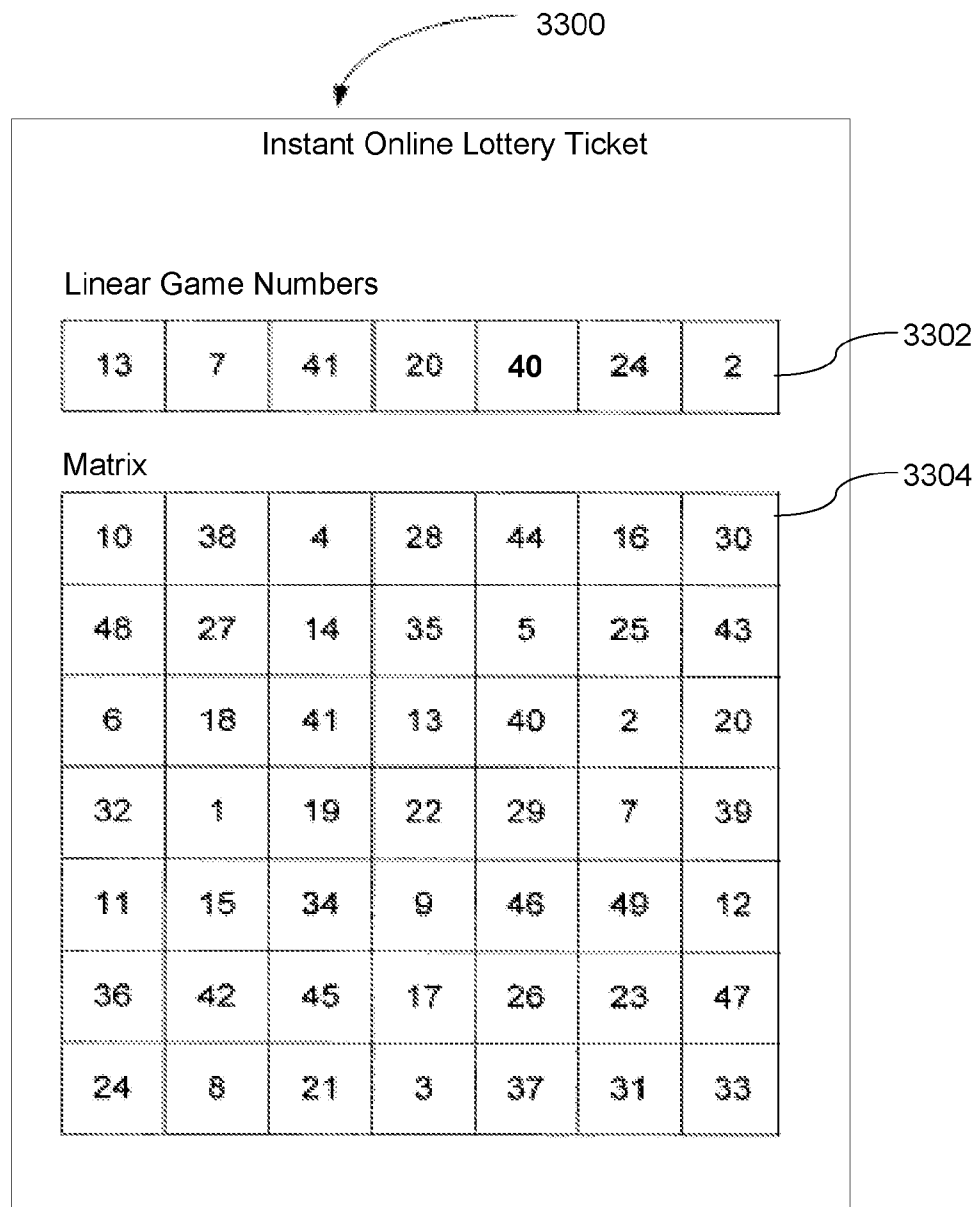
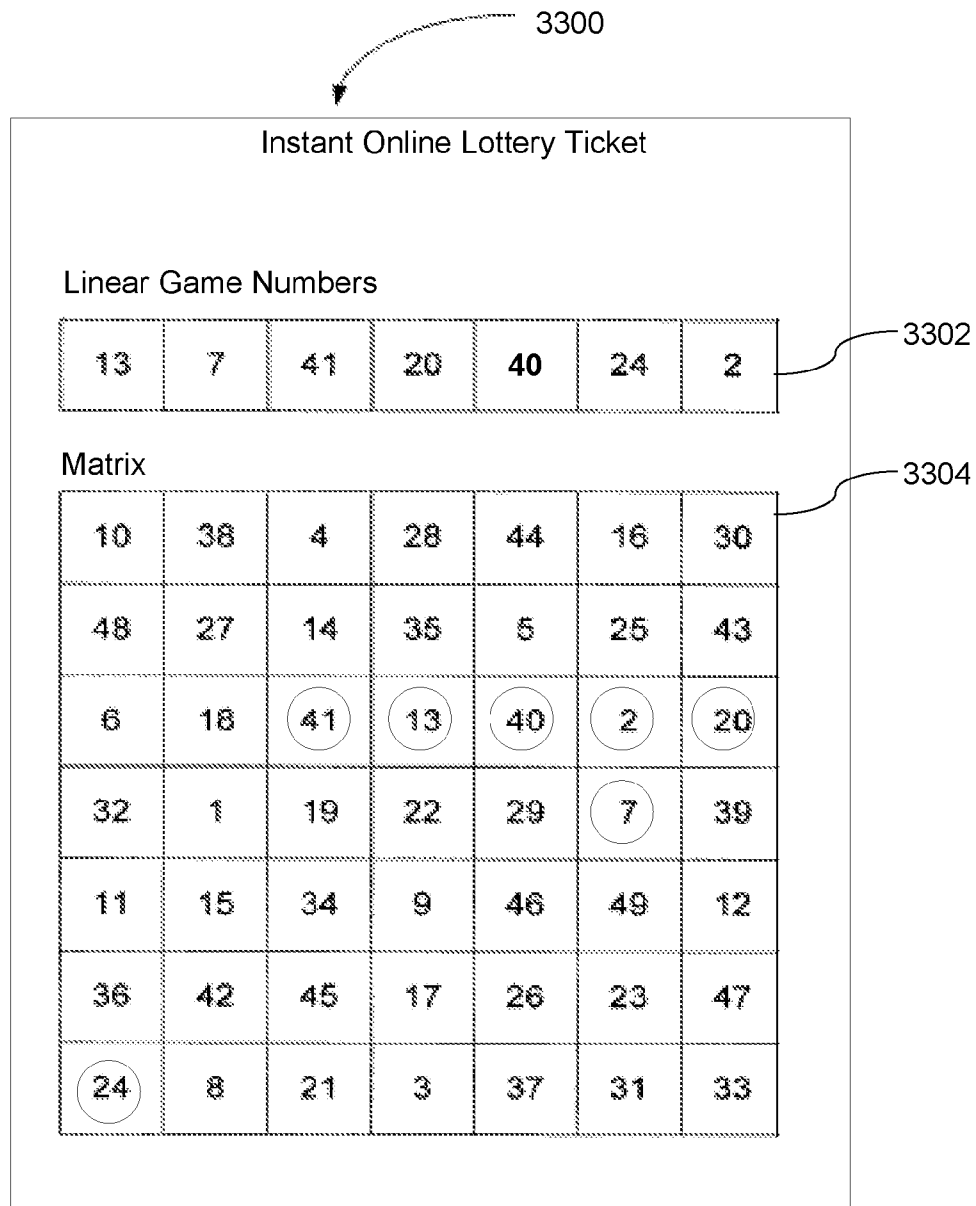
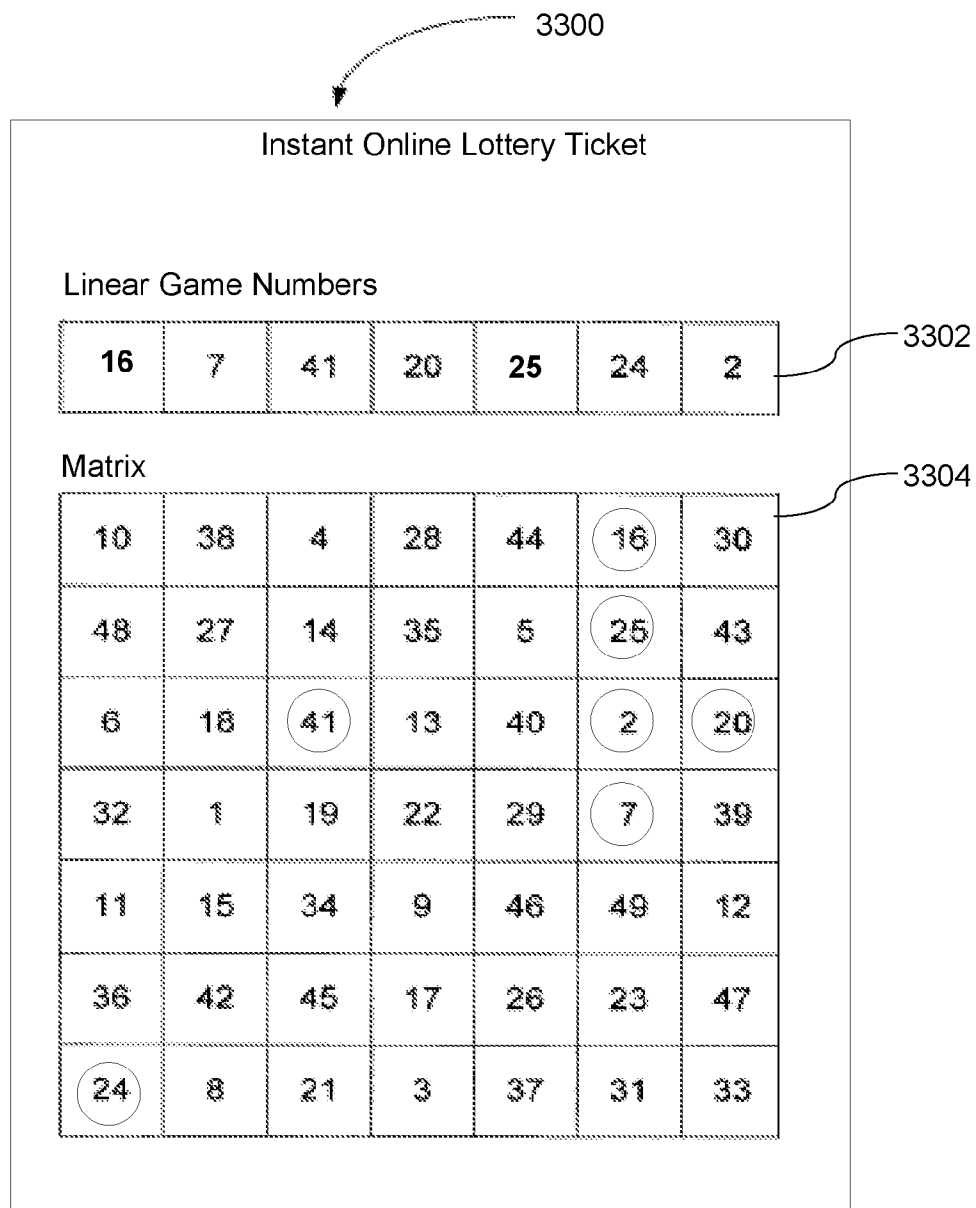


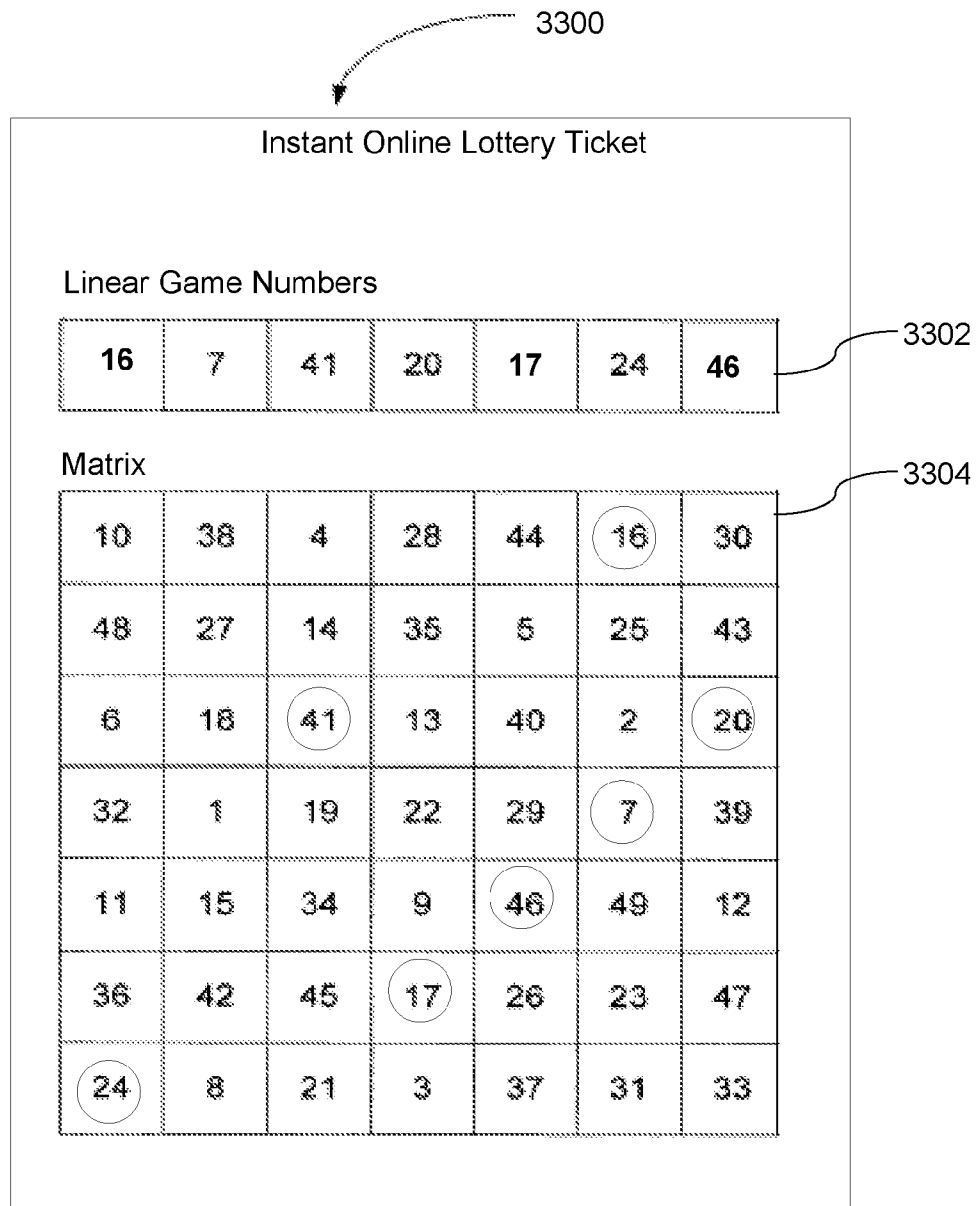
Fig. 32

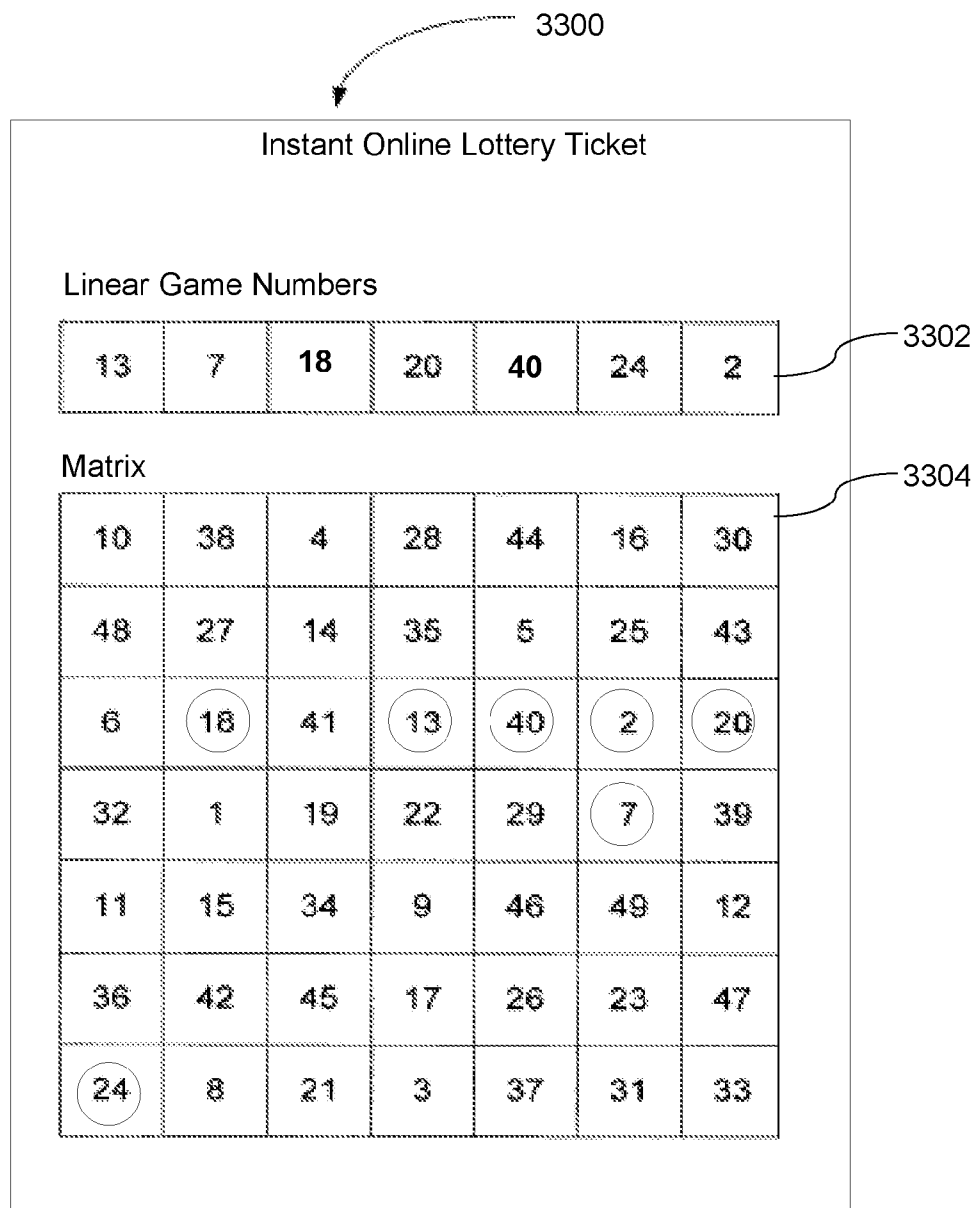
**Figure 33**

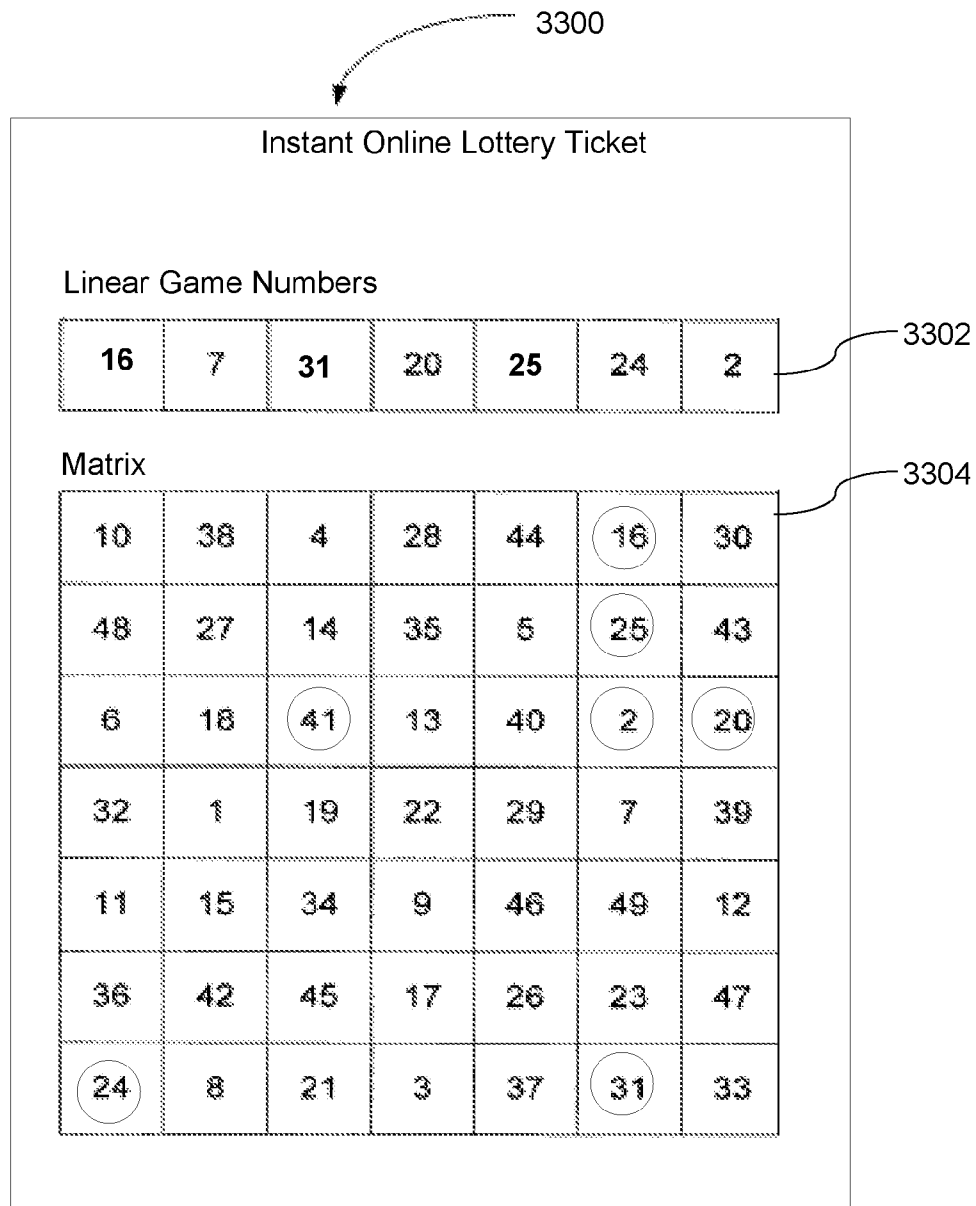


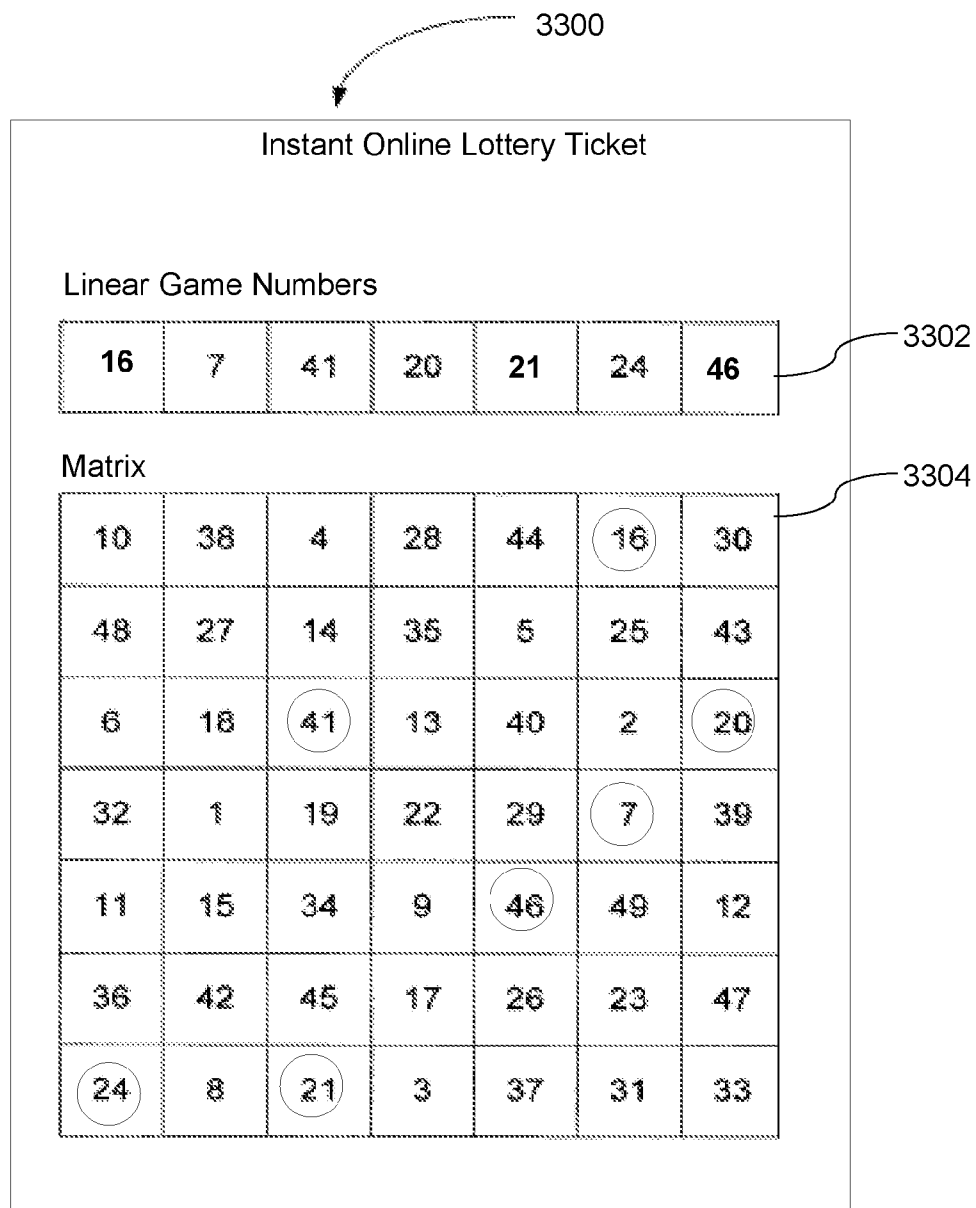
**Figure 34A**

**Figure 34B**

**Figure 34C**

**Figure 35A**

**Figure 35B**

**Figure 35C**

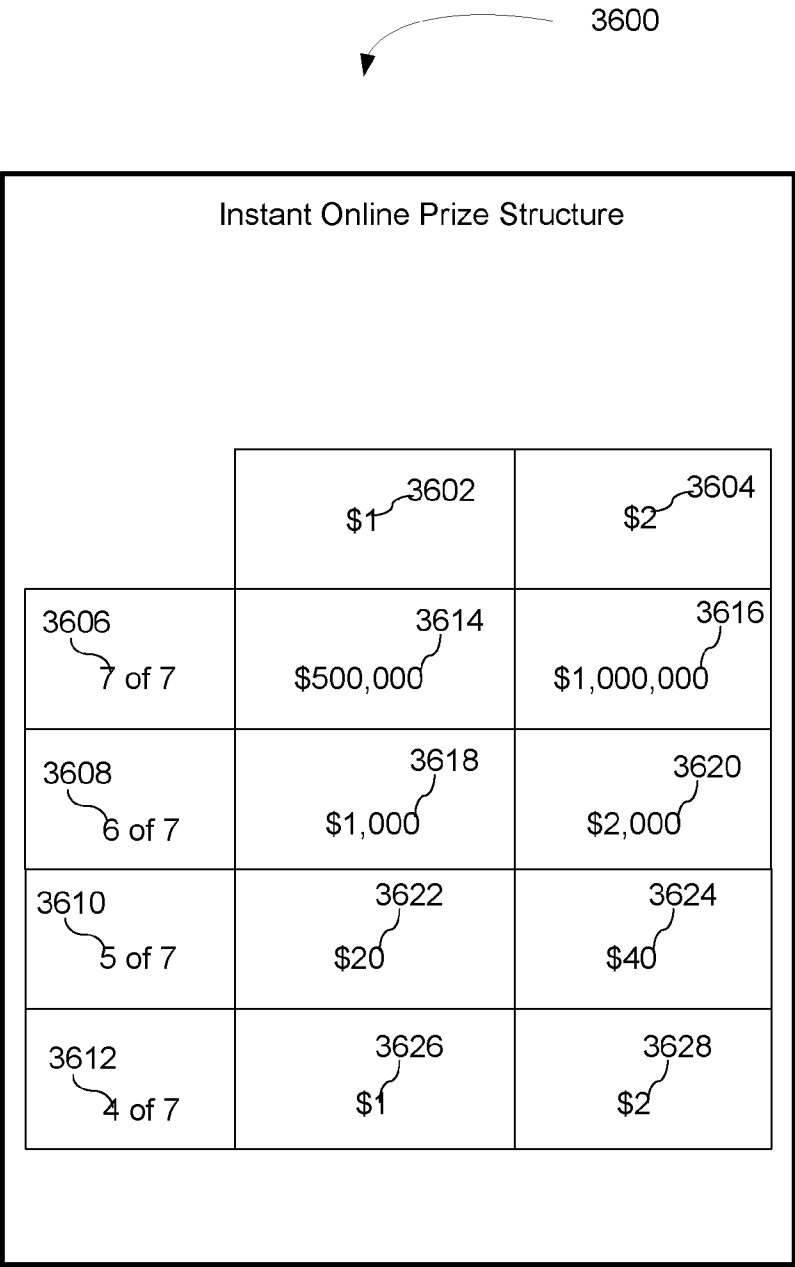


Figure 36A

3600

Instant Online Prize Structure

	\$1 3602	\$2 3604
3606 7 of 7	\$500,000 3614	\$1,500,000 3630
3608 6 of 7	\$1,000 3618	\$2,500 3632
3610 5 of 7	\$20 3622	\$45 3634
3612 4 of 7	\$1 3626	\$2.50 3636

**Figure 36B**

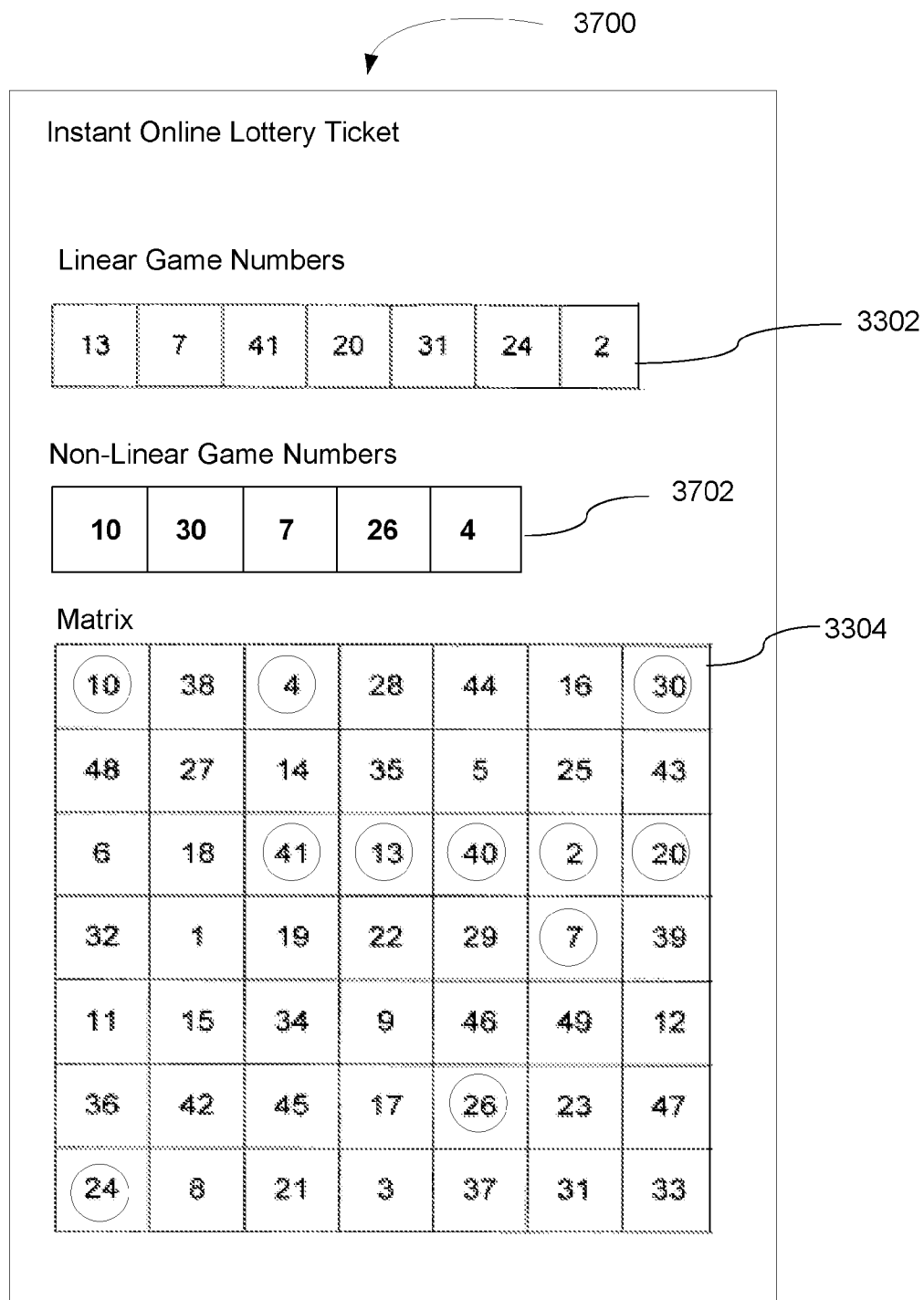


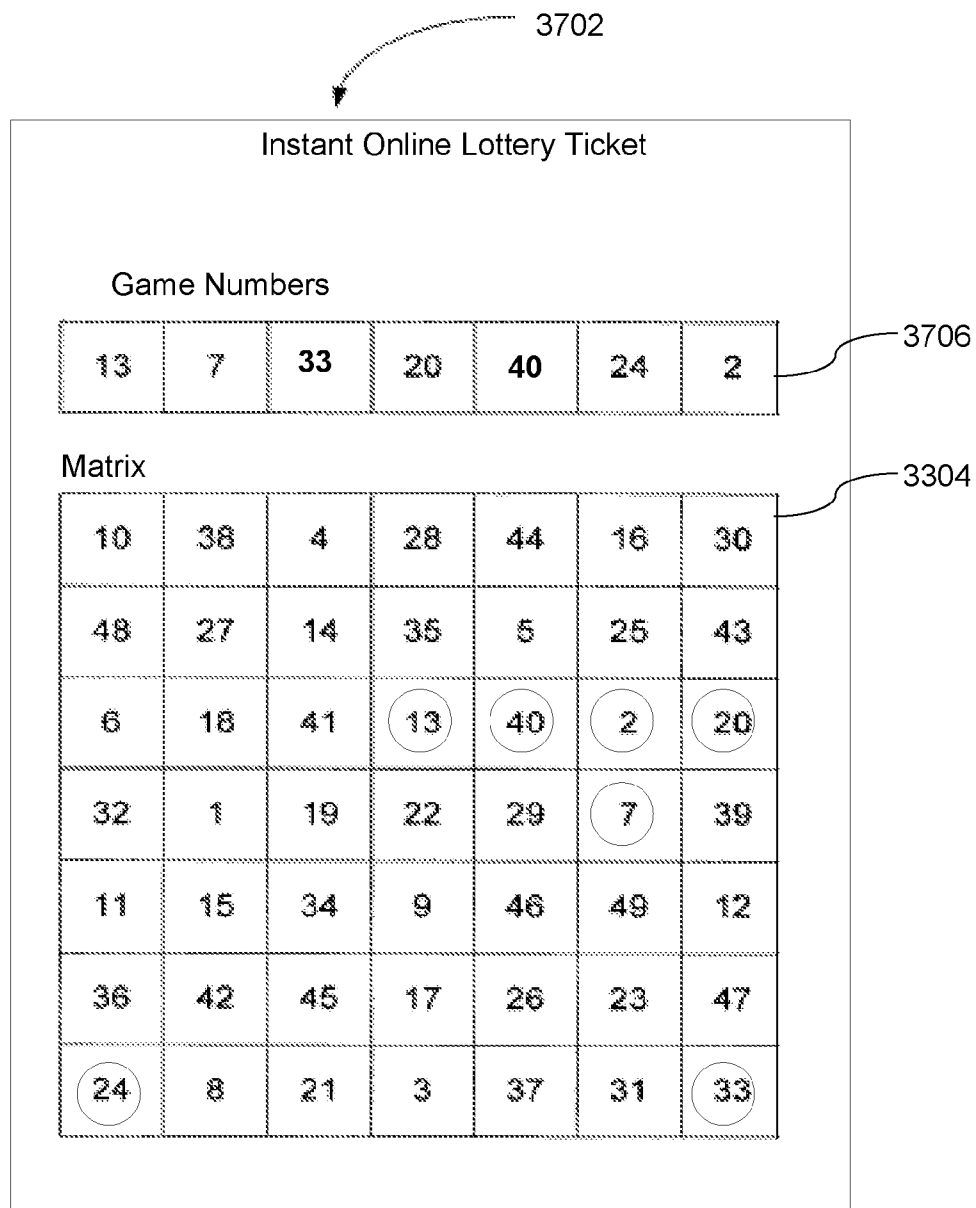
3600

Instant Online Prize Structure

	\$1 3602	\$2 3604	\$3 3638
3606 7 of 7	\$500,000 3614	\$1,000,000 3616	\$3,500,000 3640
3608 6 of 7	\$1,000 3618	\$2,000 3620	\$3,500 3642
3610 5 of 7	\$20 3622	\$40 3624	\$65 3644
3612 4 of 7	\$1 3626	\$2 3628	\$4 3646

**Figure 36C**

**Figure 37A**

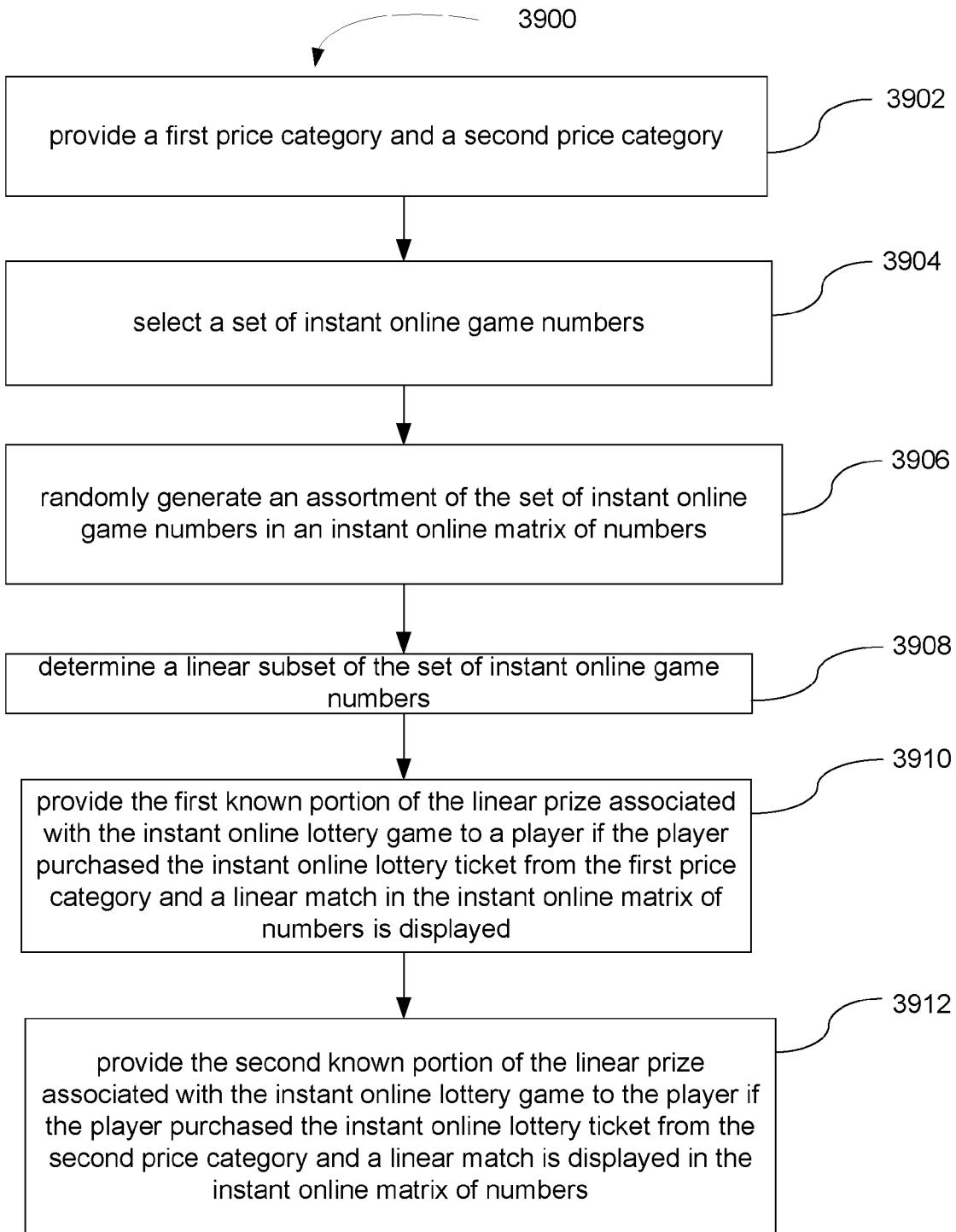
**Figure 37B**

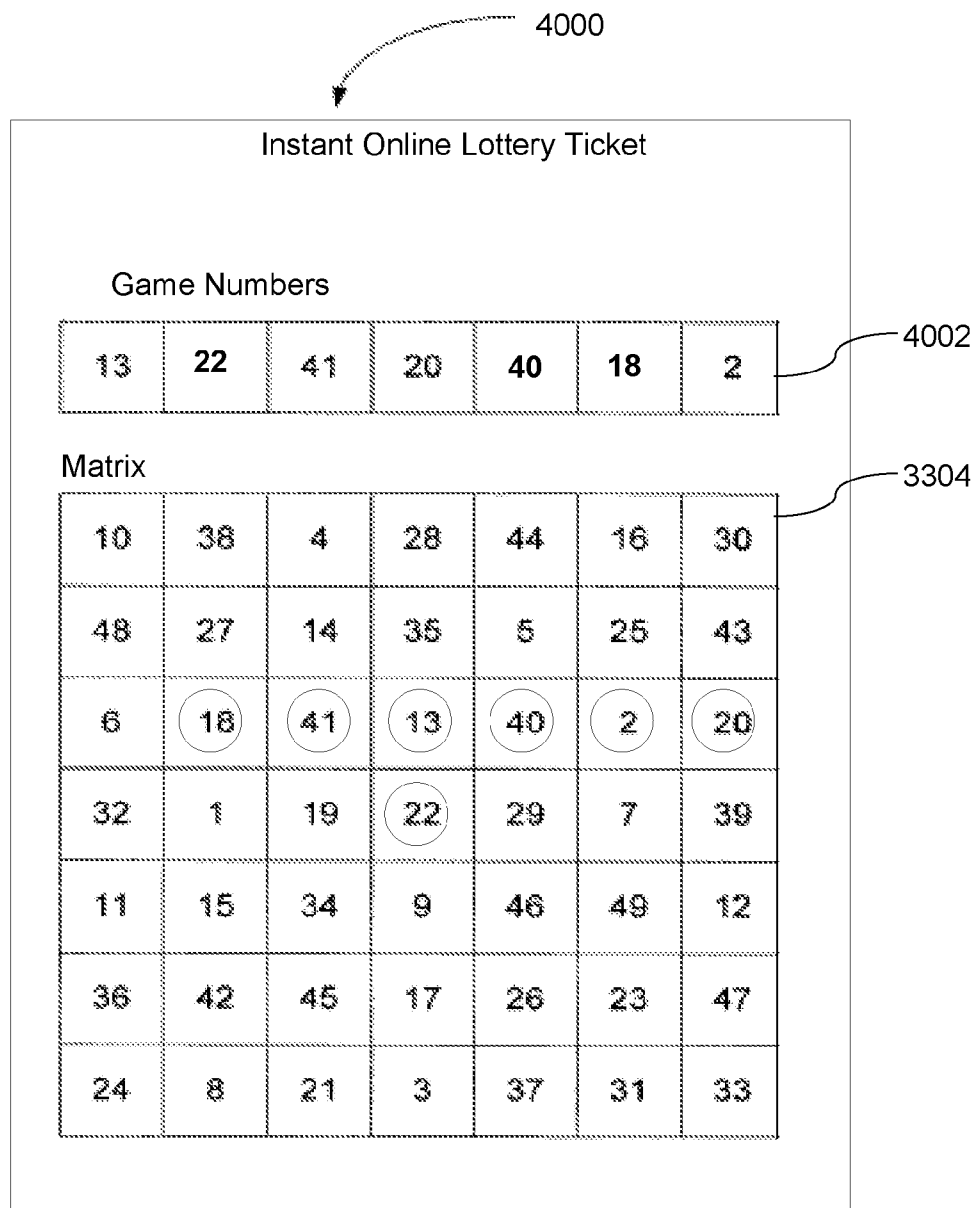
3800

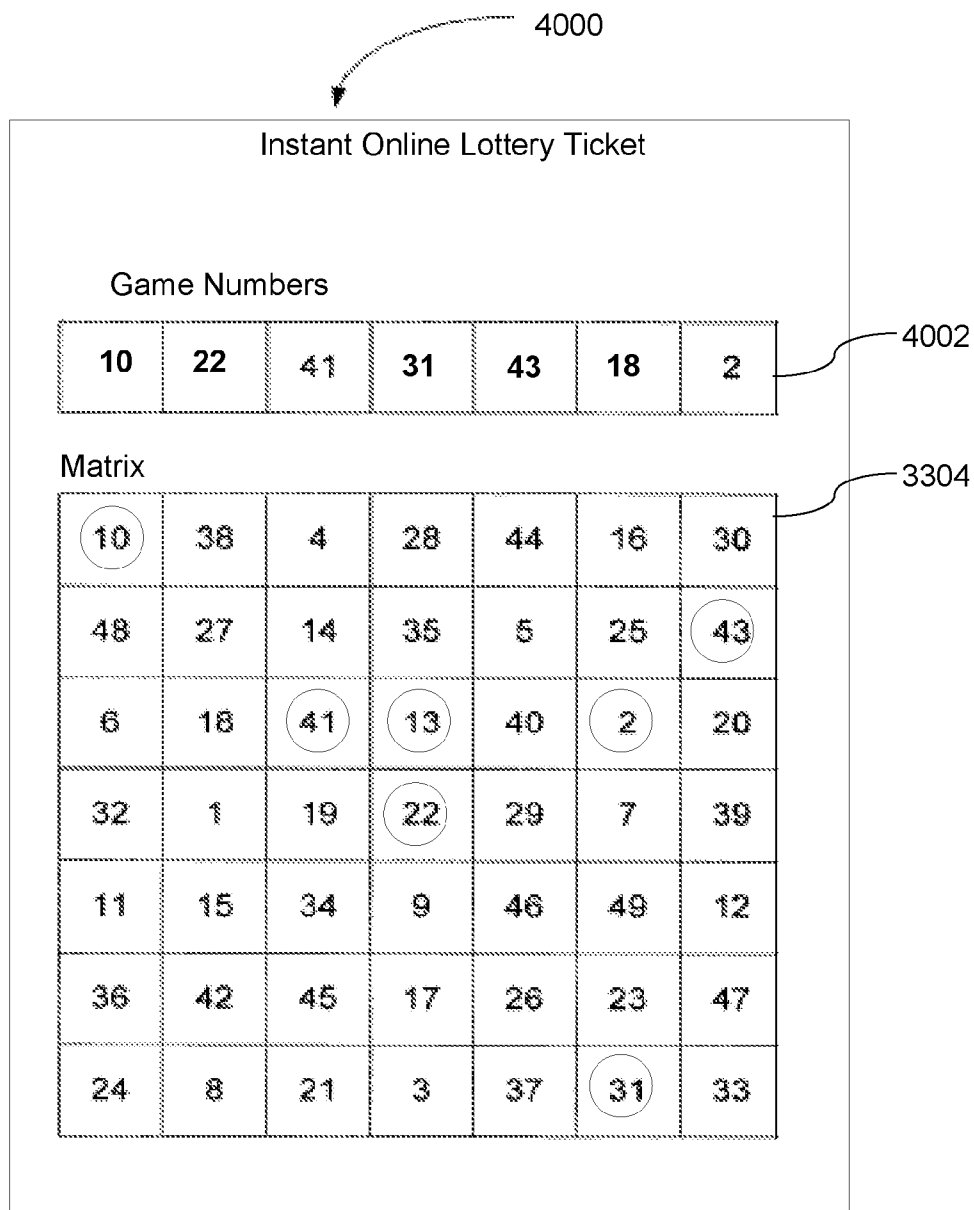
Instant Online Prize Structure

	\$1 <sup>3602</sup>	\$2 <sup>3604</sup>	\$3 <sup>3638</sup>
3606 7 of 7	\$500,000 <sup>3614</sup>	\$1,000,000 <sup>3616</sup>	\$3,500,000 <sup>3640</sup>
3608 6 of 7	\$1,000 <sup>3618</sup>	\$2,000 <sup>3620</sup>	\$3,500 <sup>3642</sup>
3610 5 of 7	\$20 <sup>3622</sup>	\$40 <sup>3624</sup>	\$65 <sup>3644</sup>
3612 4 of 7	\$1 <sup>3626</sup>	\$2 <sup>3628</sup>	\$4 <sup>3646</sup>
3802 4 Corners and Center	\$5,000 <sup>3814</sup>	\$10,000 <sup>3816</sup>	\$35,000 <sup>3818</sup>
3804 4 Corners	\$200 <sup>3820</sup>	\$400 <sup>3822</sup>	\$650 <sup>3824</sup>
3806 3 Corners	\$20 <sup>3826</sup>	\$40 <sup>3828</sup>	\$65 <sup>3830</sup>
3812 2 Corners	\$1 <sup>3832</sup>	\$2 <sup>3834</sup>	\$4 <sup>3836</sup>

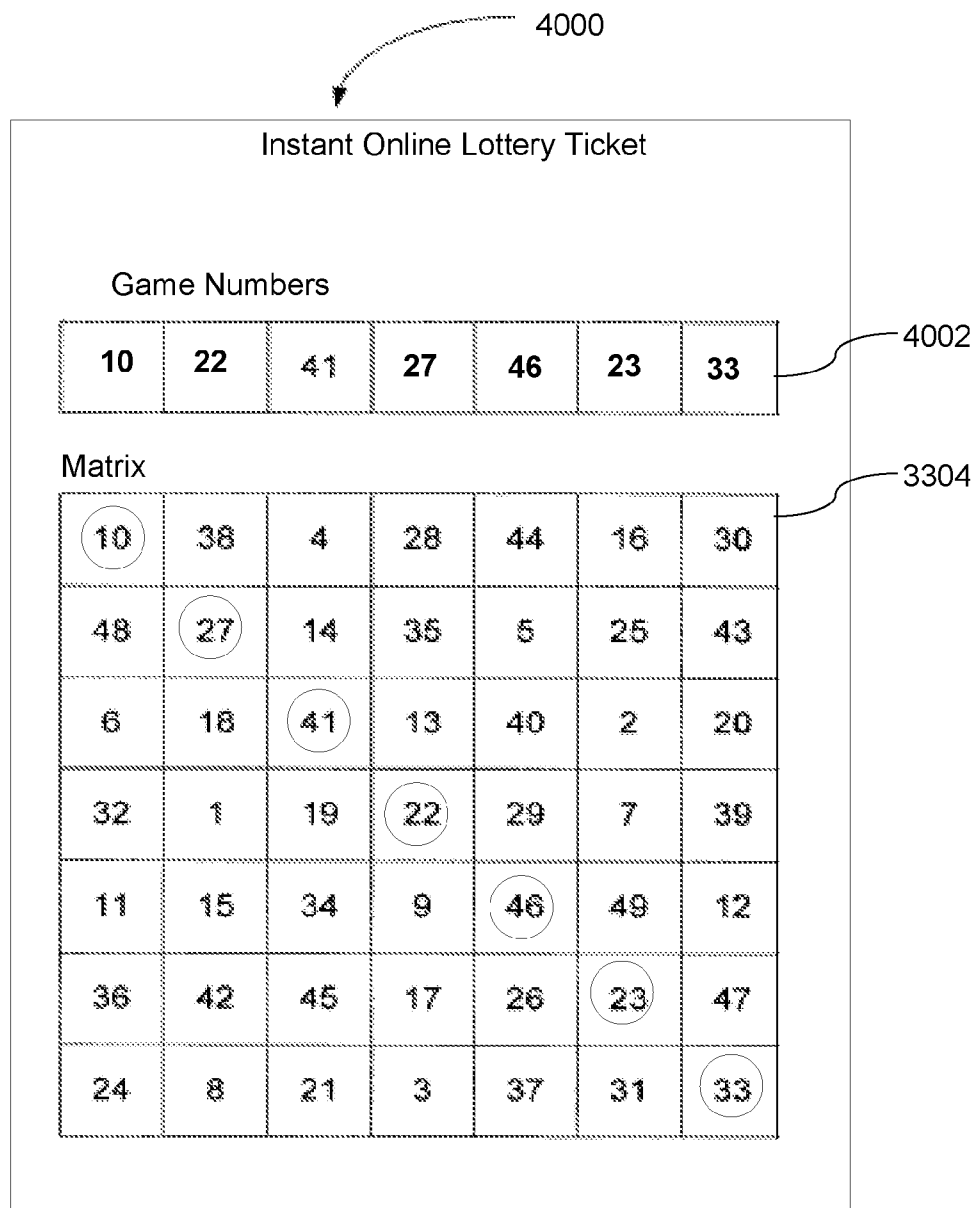
**Figure 38**

**Figure 39**

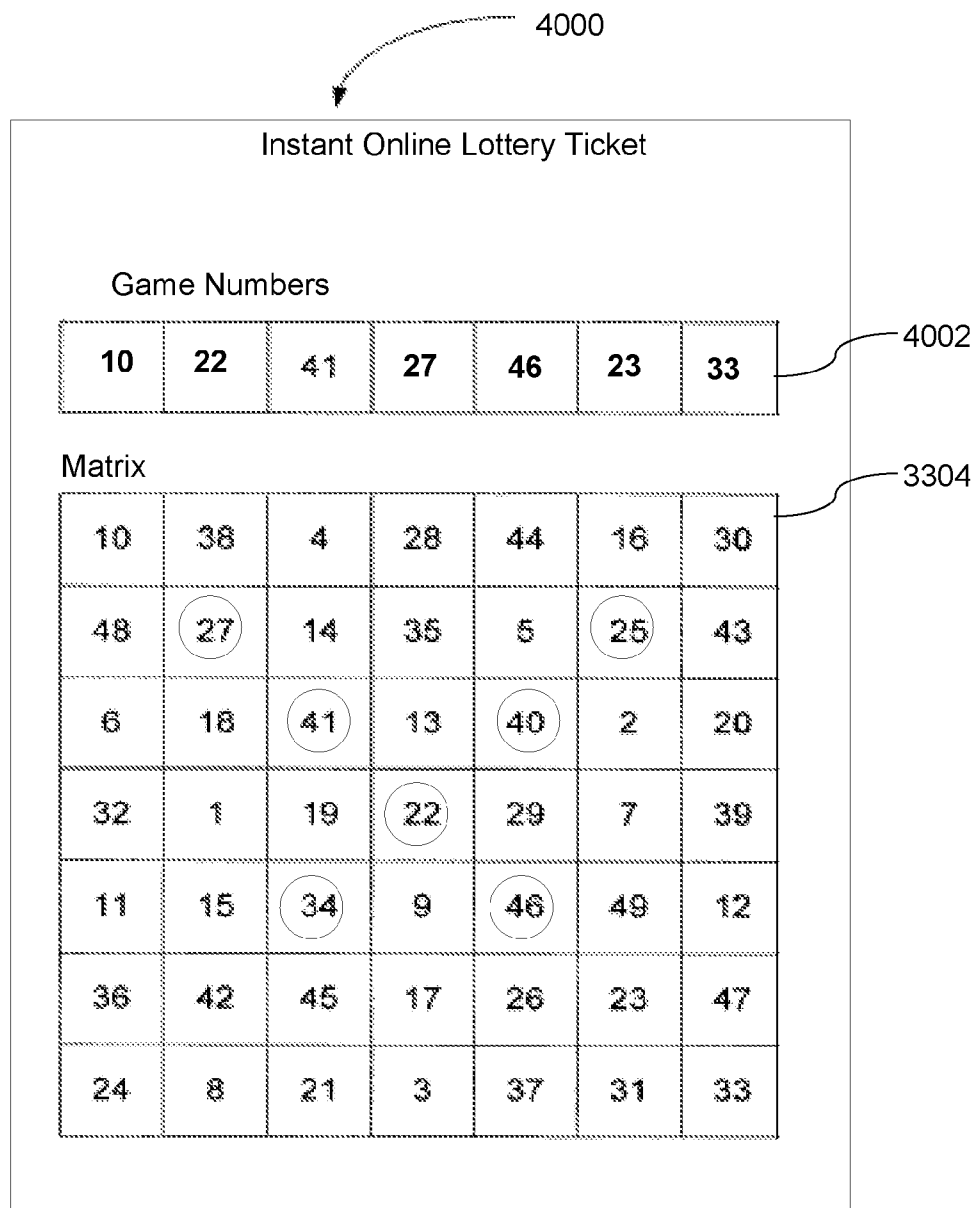
**Figure 40A**



**Figure 40B**

**Figure 40C**



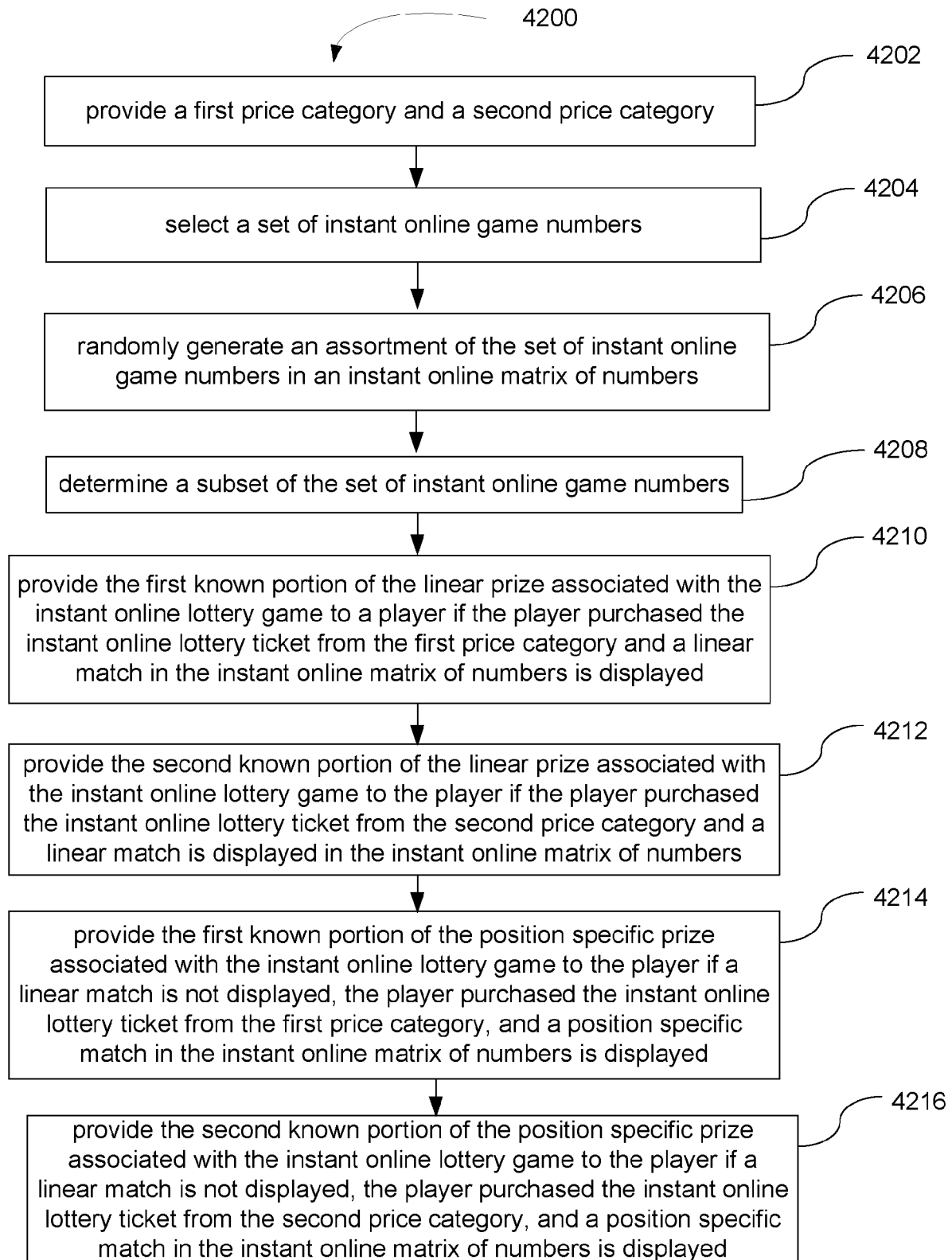
**Figure 40D**

4100

Instant Online Prize Structure

	\$1 <sup>3602</sup>	\$2 <sup>3604</sup>	\$3 <sup>3638</sup>
3606 7 of 7	\$500,000 <sup>3614</sup>	\$1,000,000 <sup>3616</sup>	\$3,500,000 <sup>3640</sup>
3608 6 of 7	\$1,000 <sup>3618</sup>	\$2,000 <sup>3620</sup>	\$3,500 <sup>3642</sup>
3610 5 of 7	\$20 <sup>3622</sup>	\$40 <sup>3624</sup>	\$65 <sup>3644</sup>
3612 4 of 7	\$1 <sup>3626</sup>	\$2 <sup>3628</sup>	\$4 <sup>3646</sup>
4102 Center	\$50,000 <sup>4104</sup>	\$100,000 <sup>4106</sup>	\$350,000 <sup>4108</sup>

**Figure 41**

**Figure 42**

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/080235

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A63F 9/24 (2008.04)

USPC - 463/17

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)

IPC(8) - A63F 1/00, 3/00, 3/06, 9/24 (2008.04)

USPC - 273/138.1, 236, 269; 463/16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 42, 43

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)

MicroPatent

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/0100008 A1 (WRIGHT et al) 11 May 2006 (11.05.2006) entire document	1-68
A	US 2006/0151943 A1 (BOZEMAN) 13 July 2006 (13.07.2006) entire document	1-68
A	US 2003/0190959 A1 (OLSON) 09 October 2003 (09.10.2003) entire document	1-68
A	US 2004/0173965 A1 (STANEK) 09 September 2004 (09.09.2004) entire document	1-68
A	US 2003/0069059 A1 (STANEK) 10 April 2003 (10.04.2003) entire document	1-68
A	US 6,017,032 A (GRIPPO et al) 25 January 2000 (25.01.2000) entire document	1-68

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"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

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 December 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 DEC 2008

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