



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
22.05.2002 Bulletin 2002/21

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07F 17/32**

(43) Date of publication A2:
05.09.2001 Bulletin 2001/36

(21) Application number: **01100279.7**

(22) Date of filing: **03.01.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• **Powell, Tracy
Reno, Nevada 89511 (US)**
• **Uihlein, Mark
Henderson, Nevada 89014 (US)**

(30) Priority: **03.01.2000 US 476143**

(74) Representative:
**Manitz, Finsterwald & Partner Gbr
Postfach 31 02 20
80102 München (DE)**

(71) Applicant: **International Game Technology,
a Nevada Corporation
Reno, Nevada 89511-8986 (US)**

(54) **A microcontrolled backlit keypad assembly and method for a gaming machine**

(57) A keypad assembly and method for use with a gaming machine including a keypad having a plurality of keys to input data, and a plurality of illumination devices operably coupled to a corresponding key for inde-

pendent illumination thereof. A microcontroller device is coupled to the plurality of illumination devices for illumination thereof in a manner visually communicating information relating to a game accessible by the gaming machine.

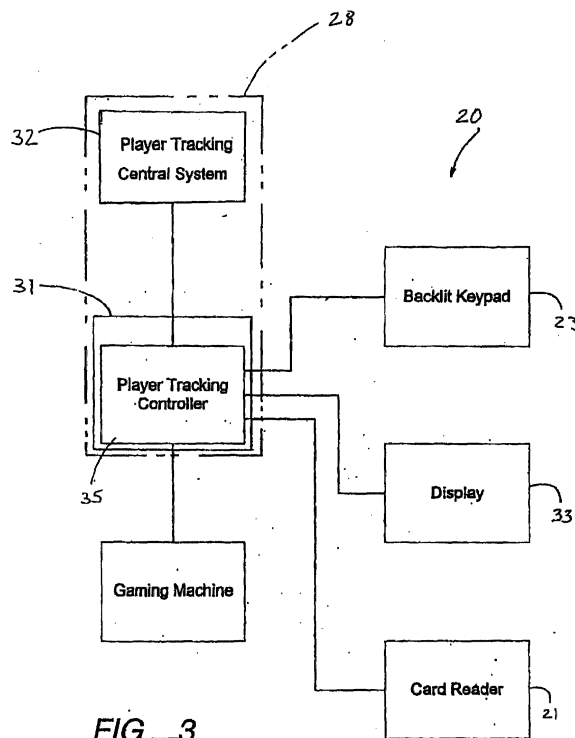


FIG. 3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 0279

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	EP 0 919 965 A (INT GAME TECH) 2 June 1999 (1999-06-02) * page 5, line 30 - page 6, line 21 * * page 14, line 32 - line 52 * * page 15, line 9 - line 22 * ---	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	G07F17/32
Y	US 5 326 104 A (PEASE LOGAN L ET AL) 5 July 1994 (1994-07-05) * abstract * * column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * ---	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	
A	* column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * ---	6	
X	US 5 924 926 A (BROWN BRECK J) 20 July 1999 (1999-07-20) * column 4, line 42 - line 57 * * column 7, line 50 - column 8, line 62 * ---	1,2,4,8, 9,14,20	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 5 344 199 A (CARSTENS DENNIS L) 6 September 1994 (1994-09-06) * column 3, line 50 - line 60 * * column 4, line 45 - column 5, line 3 * * column 6, line 54 - line 64 * -----	1	G07F G06F A63F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 March 2002	Examiner Lindholm, A-M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 10 0279

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-03-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0919965	A	02-06-1999	AU 7885398	18-02-1999
			BR 9806530	13-03-2001
			EP 0919965 A2	02-06-1999
			JP 11114137	27-04-1999
			ZA 9807115	17-03-1999

US 5326104	A	05-07-1994	NONE	

US 5924926	A	20-07-1999	NONE	

US 5344199	A	06-09-1994	NONE	
