

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 February 2004 (19.02.2004)

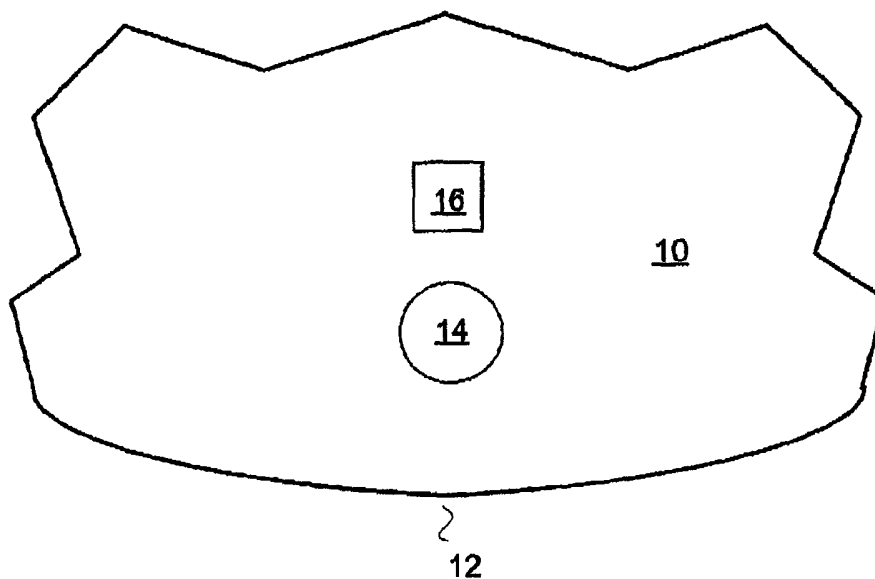
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/015529 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A63F 13/00**, 9/24, G06F 17/00, 19/00
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/024616
- (22) International Filing Date: 6 August 2003 (06.08.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/215,051 8 August 2002 (08.08.2002) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 May 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PLAYING BLACK JACK



(57) Abstract: After players make their wagers, a dealer deals hands comprised of two cards to each player and a hand comprised of two cards to himself. When the player's hand as dealt has a predetermined point value (or one of a plurality of predetermined point values), the player is offered an early payout option (28). If the early payout option is elected, the player receives a portion of the original wager. In one embodiment, the early payout option is offered only when the dealer's hand is not a natural. In another embodiment, the early payout option is offered only if the dealer's face up card is a predetermined value (or one of a plurality of predetermined point values), such as ten.



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

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/24616

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A63F 13/00, 9/24; G06F 17/00 19/00

US CL : 463/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 463/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,311,978 B1 (MOODY et al) 06 November 2001 (06.11.2001), column 5, lines 1-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-67; column 8, lines 1-67; column 9, lines 1-67.	1-22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
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"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 February 2004 (23.02.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 MAR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

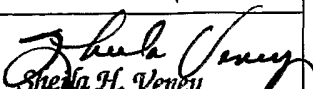
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