

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
2 December 2004 (02.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/104940 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G07B**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/014572
- (22) International Filing Date: 11 May 2004 (11.05.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/438,231 14 May 2003 (14.05.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, 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, NA, 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 (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- 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.*

(54) Title: METHOD OF ISSUING TICKETS TO EVENTS

(57) Abstract: A method of issuing a ticket (32) to an event comprising the steps of displaying on a screen (14) the event information for various different venues on a plurality of machines (10) located at various different locations that are geographically separated. The purchaser proceeds by selecting a ticket from the types of tickets displayed on a screen (14) and entering ticket purchasing information for the selected ticket. The machine (10) takes a picture (38) of the ticket purchaser using the machine (10) and a wristband-ticket (32) having first (34) and second (36) ends with the picture (38) of the ticket purchaser and a code (48) thereon and including an attachment (40, 44, 46) associated with the ends (34, 36) and under the code (48) for securely attaching the ends (34, 36) together and rendering the ends (34, 36) non-retachable and the code (48) non-readable in response to the ends (34, 36) being detached.

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METHOD OF ISSUING TICKETS TO EVENTS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the priority of application number 10/438,231 filed May 14, 2003 and having the attorney docket number 65,272-003.

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The subject invention relates to the dispensing of tickets for an event.

10

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0003] The most direct manner in which tickets for an event are dispensed is for the ticket purchaser to go the event, purchase a ticket and proceed to enter the event venue, e.g., a movie theater. Tickets may be reserved and held at the ticket office for the user upon attending the event. Then there is the advanced ticket sales wherein tickets are purchased and mailed to the purchaser from a central depository.

[0004] Often scalpers misuse the tickets and tickets are exchanged once in the venue to allow numerous persons to use one ticket to enter prized areas of the venue.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

[0005] The subject invention provides a method of issuing a ticket to an event by employing a geographical system of widespread machines for printing tickets that provide enhanced security. The method utilizes a central data bank

containing event data including time and seat location whereby a potential purchaser may select a desired event. Once the event is selected, a ticket is selected from the various types of tickets available and is purchased. The machine then prints a wristband-ticket having first and second ends with a code thereon and including an attachment associated with the ends and under the code for securely attaching the ends together and rendering the ends non-retachable and the code non-readable in response to the ends being detached. The wristband-ticket is placed about the wrist of the ticket user by attaching the ends together and the code is read at the event to control movement of the ticket user at the event.

10 [0006] The subject invention allows actual tickets to be dispensed simultaneously from multiple machines in widely separated geographical areas. In addition, it makes scalping more difficult as well as providing more security and tracking of a ticket holder as the ticket can only be used by one user, i.e., it can not be transferred among various users.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

 [0007] Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated, as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

20

 [0008] Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a system employed in the subject invention to process a ticket;

 [0009] Figure 2 is a perspective view of a wristband-ticket utilized in the subject invention;

[0010] Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the adhesive cover being removed;

[0011] Figure 4 is a perspective view of the wristband-ticket on the wrist of a user;

5 [0012] Figure 5 is a view of one side of the wristband-ticket used for a football game; and

[0013] Figure 6 is a view of the other side of the wristband-ticket of Figure 5.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0014] Referring to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, a machine for issuing a ticket to an event is generally shown at 10 in Figure 1.

[0015] The machine 10 would be positioned in convenient places
15 where there is high pedestrian traffic, such as shopping malls, or the like. A plurality of such machines 10 are distributed throughout a wide geographical area and are all connected via phone lines, the internet, or the like, to a central data bank 12 containing event data. The data bank 12 is connected so as to simultaneously communicate with a plurality of ticket machines 10. The central data bank 12 is a
20 compilation of information for numerous events and venues, i.e., a central ticket issuing authority for numerous different events at various different venues. The data bank 12 would include the venue, the event, the types of tickets available, e.g., by date, time, section, row, seat, etc. The basic information would be the time and seat location, the time could include the date and performance and the seat location could

be general admission to a specific seat. For security purposes, the "seat" location is a generic term indicating the area within the venue to which the ticket is entitled to pass into.

[0016] In the same manner as an ATM, the machine includes a display
5 screen 14 for displaying ticket purchasing information, i.e., the information set forth
above re venue, event, etc. the screen 14 includes push buttons 16 to select options
provided during the purchasing process, like selecting the venue, event, time, seat
selection, etc. Furthermore, the machine 10 includes a keyboard 18 for entering ticket-
purchasing information that may not be readable from a credit card reader 20. The
10 credit card reader 20 is included for debiting the ticket purchase price to the credit
card account and/or identifying the purchaser. The machine 10 also includes a receipt
dispenser 22 of the type well known in the ATM art.

[0017] The machine also includes a camera 24 for taking a picture of
the ticket purchaser, i.e., the person operating the machine to purchase or acquire a
15 ticket.

[0018] In some instances, the ticket may be reserved over the internet
and an eticket or pass printed at home and the eticket or pas taken to a machine 10 for
obtaining the actual ticket allowing entry to the event. Accordingly, the machine 10
includes a bar code reader 26 for reading bar codes on the pass or eticket. After being
20 read by the bar code reader 26, the pass or eticket may be deposited in the depository
28.

[0019] The machine 10 includes a printer 30 for printing a wristband-
ticket 32 in the form of a strip having first 34 and second 36 ends with the picture 38
of the ticket purchaser thereon and including an attachment associated with the ends

34, 36 for securely attaching the ends together and rendering the ends non-reatachable in response to being detached. The picture allows for positive identification of the ticket holder anywhere in the venue or event. The printer includes a storage unit for storing a plurality of blank wristband strips with the attachment ends and reader to
5 receive printing for the event, venue, etc.

[0020] More specifically, the attachment is associated with the first and second ends 34, 36 of the strip 32, and are for securely attaching the first and second ends 34, 36 together (see FIG. 4) so that if they are detached they are not effectively reattachable, and the detachment is clearly visible to the naked human eye.

10 The attachment preferably comprises an aggressive permanent pressure sensitive adhesive 40 (see FIG. 3) on the exterior face of the second end 34 of the strip 32 and initially covered by a release sheet 42. A plurality of security slits or lines of weakness 44 are formed in the strip 32 through the strip 32 at the second end 36 thereof where the adhesive 40 covers the strip 32. Additional slits 46 could be
15 provided at the first end 34 where engaged by the adhesive 40. The adhesive 40 and release sheet 42, which may be transparent, may be provided by a piece of transfer tape, such as "Extra Tack" transfer tape, available from Moore Business Forms of Lake Forest, Ill. The lines of weakness 44, 46 extend in the width dimension of the strip 32 and are provided in number and extent, taking into account the aggressiveness
20 of the adhesive 40, its adherence to the strip, so that if detachment of the ends 34, 36 is attempted once they have been adhesively secured together (as seen in FIG. 4), the strip 32 will rupture at the slits 44, 46, making effective reattachment of the band 32 ends 34, 36 with the band 32 around the wrist (as seen in FIG. 4) impossible. That is the rupture (detachment) will be clearly visible to the naked human eye. The security

slits 44 and 46 can be formed either vertically or diagonally to define areas of weakness so that the wristband-ticket 32 tears in such area should attempts be made to forcefully separate the wristband 32 when adhered to itself, such as when secured to a wrist as shown in Fig. 4. The purposeful removal of the wristband 32 is accomplished
5 by forcefully pulling on the wristband until it tears along the security slits 44, 46. Thus, a wristband 32 that either has the peel strip 42 removed, or is torn along the security slits 44, 46 is automatically invalidated and cannot thereafter be used. Attempted reuse of a wristband-ticket 32 torn along the security slits 44, 46 is visually perceptible and easily detected. This prevents persons from forcefully removing
10 wristbands 32 from other persons and using the same in an unauthorized manner. Should a wristband 32 become inadvertently torn along the security slits 44, 46, it can be replaced on the showing of proper identification of the person.

[0021] The wristband-ticket 32 includes a bar code 48 thereon identifying the venue, event, and a locator, e.g., section, row, seat or general
15 admission to a specific area of the venue. This information is also printed on the ticket 32 in alphabetic form as shown at 50. The bar code 48 is disposed over the security slits 44 or 46 so that the bar code 48 is not readable in the event the wristband 32 is ruptured along the security slits 44 or 46. An electrical circuit may be substituted for the bar code 48, e.g., a passive circuit that is energized and read by radio frequency
20 signals instead of a bar code reader 26.

[0022] The wristband-ticket 32 may take the form of an event ticket as shown in Figures 5 and 6 wherein the ticket 32 is printed with information regarding the participants of the event on the wristband-ticket. As illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the event is a football game and the participants are the team members. On one side

(Figure 5) of the ticket 32 the individuals members of the team are listed opposite to their respective jersey numbers and the individuals members of the opposing team are listed on the other side of the ticket opposite to their respective jersey numbers. In this case the wristband-ticket can be attached to a wrist with either of the sides facing
5 outwardly for convenient viewing, i.e., the side of the team for whom the ticket is interested in following is exposed.

[0023] Accordingly, the invention provides a method of issuing a ticket 32 to an event comprising the steps of displaying on a screen 14 the event information for various different venues on a plurality of machines 10 located at
10 various different locations that are geographically separated. A person may engage a machine by touching the display screen 14 and/or manipulating the keyboard 18 to select a desired event. In response, the machine 10 displays information on the screen 14 regarding various different types of tickets available at the selected event, e.g., seats available.

15 [0024] The purchaser proceeds by selecting a ticket from the types of tickets available and entering ticket purchasing information for the selected ticket. This selection can be by touching the screen 14 and/or operating the keyboard 18.

[0025] The method continues by debiting the ticket purchase price to a banking account through the card reader 20, which debits a bank account such as a
20 credit card account, or any specific bank account. At the time the actual purchase is made, the machine 10 proceeds by taking a picture 38 of the ticket purchaser using the machine 10. The method of purchasing the ticket is completed by the machine 10 printing a wristband-ticket 32 having first 34 and second 36 ends with the picture 38 of the ticket purchaser and a code 48 thereon and including an attachment 40, 44, 46

associated with the ends 34, 36 and under the code 48 for securely attaching the ends 34, 36 together and rendering the ends 34, 36 non-retachable and the code 48 non-readable in response to the ends 34, 36 being detached.

[0026] To enter the venue, the wristband-ticket 32 is placed on the
5 wrist as shown in Figure 4 and the code 48 is read while the ticket 32 is on the wrist to control movement, including entry, of the ticket wearer at the event.

[0027] Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. The invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described within the scope of the appended claims,
10 wherein that which is prior art is antecedent to the novelty set forth in the "characterized by" clause. The novelty is meant to be particularly and distinctly recited in the "characterized by" clause whereas the antecedent recitations merely set forth the old and well-known combination in which the invention resides. These antecedent recitations should be interpreted to cover any combination in which the
15 incentive novelty exercises its utility. In addition, the reference numerals in the claims are merely for convenience and are not to be read in any way as limiting.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of issuing a ticket to an event comprising the steps of;
compiling a central data bank containing event data including time and
5 seat location,
selecting a desired event,
selecting a ticket from the types of tickets available,
purchasing the selected ticket,
printing a wristband-ticket having first and second ends with a code
10 thereon and including an attachment associated with said ends and under the code for
securely attaching the ends together and rendering the ends non-retachable and the
code non-readable in response to the ends being detached, and
placing the wristband-ticket about the wrist of the ticket user by
attaching the ends together, and
15 reading the code at the event to control movement of the ticket user at
the event.
2. A method as set forth in claim 1 including taking a picture of the ticket
purchaser and printing the wristband-ticket having the picture thereon.
20
3. A method as set forth in claim 2 including
displaying on a screen the event information for various different
venues,

displaying information regarding various different types of tickets available at the selected event,

entering ticket purchasing information for the selected ticket, and

debiting the ticket purchase price to a banking account.

5

4. A method as set forth in claim 3 including issuing an eticket having a code thereon, connecting the data bank to a plurality of ticket machines, reading the code on the eticket at one of the ticket machines, and printing the wristband-ticket in response to the reading of the eticket and entering confirmation into the data bank that

10 the wristband-ticket was printed.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 including printing the wristband-ticket with information regarding the participants of the event on the wristband-ticket.

15 6. A method of issuing a ticket to an event comprising the steps of;
compiling a central data bank containing event data including time and seat location,

connecting the data bank to a plurality of ticket machines,

displaying on a screen the event information for various different

20 venues,

selecting a desired event,

displaying information regarding various different types of tickets available at the selected event,

selecting a ticket from the types of tickets available,

entering ticket purchasing information for the selected ticket,
debiting the ticket purchase price to a banking account,
taking a picture of the ticket purchaser, and
printing a wristband-ticket having first and second ends with the
5 picture of the ticket purchaser and a code thereon and including an attachment
associated with said ends and under said code for securely attaching said ends
together and rendering the ends non-retachable and the code non-readable in response
to the ends being detached.

10 7. A method as set forth in claim 6 reading the code while the ticket is on
the wrist to control movement of the ticket wearer at the event.

8. A method as set forth in claim 6 including printing the wristband-ticket
with information regarding the participants of the event on the wristband-ticket.

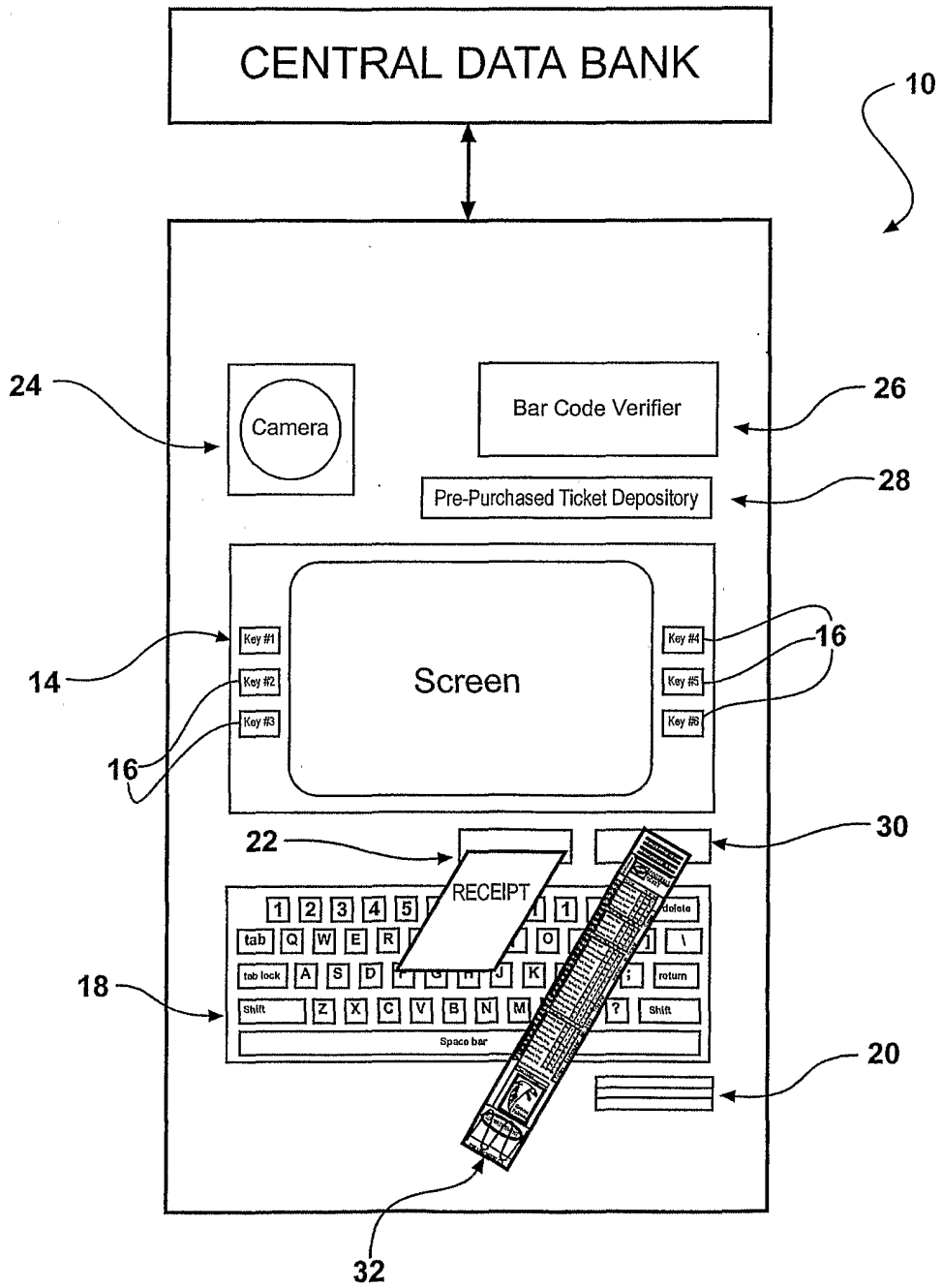
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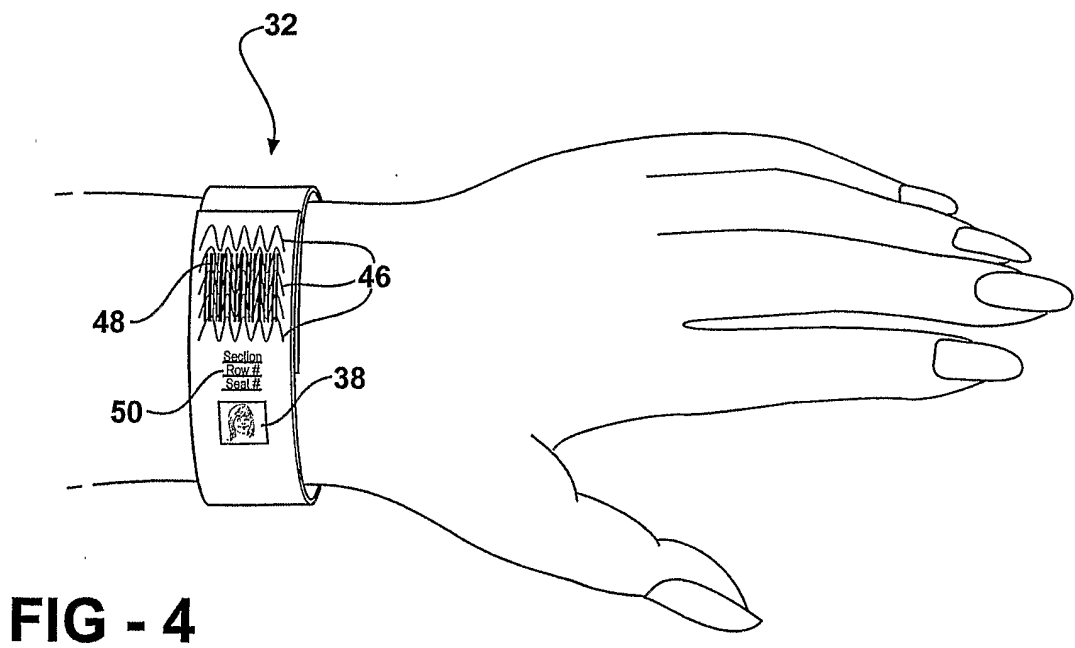
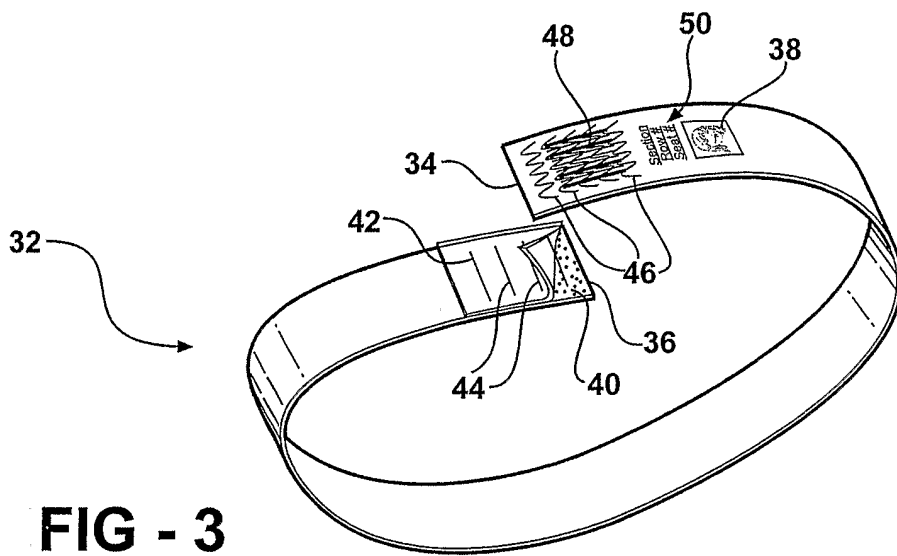
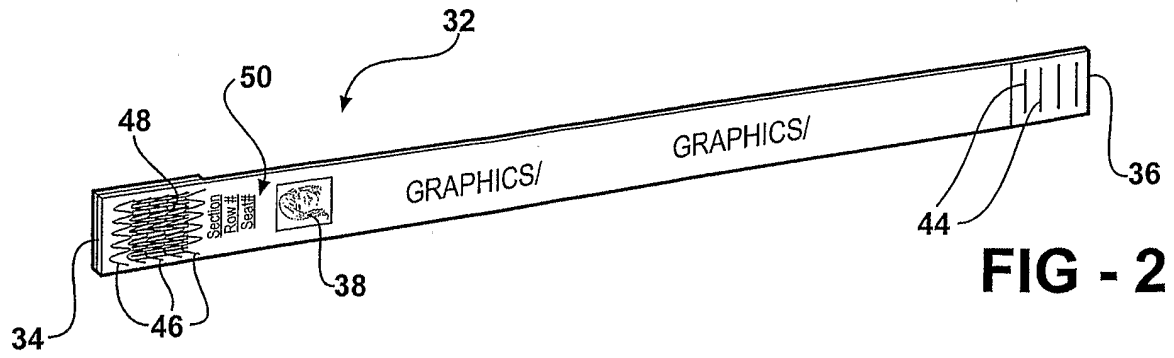
9. A machine for issuing a ticket to an event comprising;
a camera for taking a picture of the ticket purchaser,
a display screen for displaying ticket purchasing information,
a keyboard for entering ticket purchasing information,
20 a bar code reader for reading bar codes,
a credit card reader for debiting the ticket purchase price to the credit
card account, and
a printer for printing a wristband-ticket having first and second ends
with the picture of the ticket purchaser thereon and including an attachment associated

with said ends for securely attaching said ends together and rendering the ends non-retachable in response to being detached.

10. A machine for issuing a ticket to an event comprising;
- 5 a display screen for displaying ticket purchasing information,
a keyboard for entering ticket purchasing information,
a credit card reader for debiting the ticket purchase price to the credit
card account, and
a printer for printing a wristband-ticket having first and second ends
- 10 and including an attachment associated with said ends for securely attaching said ends
together and rendering the ends non-retachable in response to being detached.


FIG - 1





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FOOTBALL TICKET


\$3.00 ADMISSION

PLAYER	YR	OF	DF	
11	Gorden, Jeff	Sr.	QB	T
12	Robinson, Eric	Jr.	QB	S
13	Murphy, Daniel	Sr.	WB	C
14	Groves, Dave	Sr.	QB	-
15	Stephens, Jim	Jr.	QB	C
22	Timlin, Bryan	Sr.	RB	S
23	LeBlanc, Matt	So.	RB	S
24	Joseph, Joe	Sr.	RB	-
30	Bradford, Matt	Jr.	FB	S
32	Dunlevy, Steve	Sr.	FB	C
34	Jackson, Kevin	Sr.	RB	C
40	Evans, Jeff	Jr.	TE	E
41	Duncan, Suman	Sr.	TE	E
43	Schmidland, Joe	Sr.	TE	S
44	Downs, Ken	Jr.	WR	C
50	HULL, George	Jr.	TE	LB
52	Tuner, Steve	Jr.	C	T
53	McDonald, Dan	Jr.	C	T
60	Thompson, Ed	Sr.	T	E
62	Chipland, Ken	So.	G	T
63	Christie, Mike	Sr.	LB	-
64	Simpson, Ken	Jr.	G	E
65	Chroucho, Mark	Jr.	G	LB
70	O'Grady, Peter	Sr.	G	LB
71	Dallas, Fred	Sr.	G	E
72	Sullivan, Tom	Jr.	T	E
74	Wheatly, Buck	Jr.	T	LB
75	Schnider, Dave	Jr.	T	E
76	Keane, Owen	Jr.	T	LB
80	Nickelson, Jeff	WR	Sr.	S
81	Pacific, Greg	Sr.	WR	S
82	Jackson, Charles	Jr.	TE	E
84	Gilbert, Kirk	Jr.	TE	LB
86	Gibson, Greg	Jr.	TE	LB
89	LePointe, Pat	Sr.	WR	C

Game 3
at Groves
Seaholm at Groves
7:30 PM

Scott Jackson Head Coach

Team Captains



Groves Falcons

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32

46

FIG - 5

REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE


REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE

REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE

REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE

REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE

REMOVE LINER TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE


FOOTBALL TICKET


\$3.00 ADMISSION

PLAYER	YR	OF	DF	
10	Bushnell, Jeff	Sr.	QB	T
11	Tauber, Brain	Jr.	QB	S
14	Wass, Dave	Sr.	WB	C
16	Dwyer, Matt	Sr.	QB	-
17	Cameron, Jim	Jr.	QB	C
23	Taylor, Scott	Sr.	RB	S
24	Daniel, Taylor	So.	RB	S
27	Macki, Ken	Sr.	RB	-
30	Waltors, Bill	Jr.	FB	S
36	Bullinski, Ed	Sr.	FB	C
38	Howe, Chris	Sr.	RB	C
40	Black, Howard	Jr.	TE	E
42	Smith, Ian	Sr.	TE	E
44	Hall, Steve	Sr.	TE	S
46	Ashton, Paul	Jr.	WR	C
52	McNamara, Ted	Jr.	TE	LB
57	Tyler, Wally	Jr.	C	T
58	Clark, Joseph	Jr.	C	T
60	Nash, David	Sr.	T	E
61	Breedlove, Bill	So.	G	T
64	Power, Mike	Sr.	LB	-
66	Stillman, Donald	Jr.	G	E
67	Wagner, Rob	Jr.	G	LB
70	Rankin, Ken	Sr.	G	LB
71	Tipton, Doug	Sr.	G	E
73	Bergman, Matt	Jr.	T	E
74	Homer, Chris	Jr.	T	LB
77	Tracy, Brain	Jr.	T	E
78	Basco, Andy	Jr.	T	LB
80	Willits, Chad	WR	Sr.	S
81	Sander, Jerry	Sr.	WR	S
82	Noakes, Drew	Jr.	TE	E
84	Rex, Byron	Jr.	TE	LB
85	Green, Todd	Jr.	TE	LB
88	Elberthart, Mike	Sr.	WR	C

Game 3
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Seaholm at Groves
7:30 PM

Steve Wilson Head Coach

Team Captains



Seaholm Maple Leafs

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FIG - 6