(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
3 April 2003 (03.04.2003)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/30247

(22) International Filing Date:

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/158,545 29 May 2002 (29.05.2002) US


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(55) Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING AN ACCUMULATING AWARD SYMBOL.

(57) Abstract: A gaming device and method which includes a plurality of reels (34) having multiple symbols (100) on the reels (34). The symbols include at least one activator symbol (102). In one embodiment, if the player obtains an activator symbol (102) on the reels (34), the activator symbol (102) activates the symbols that are adjacent to the activator symbol (102). Activating the adjacent symbols reveals the awards associated with the adjacent symbols. The player receives an award that equals the activator symbol award plus the awards associated with each symbol that is adjacent to the activator symbol.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A.  CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7)  :  A63F 9/24
US CL   :  463/16

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

B.  FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 463/16, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 30, 31, 37, 40, 42.

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)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C.  DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 01 November 2002 (01.11.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 18 DEC 2002

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST
search terms: slot machines, reels, activator symbols, special symbols, awards, accumulate awards of the adjacent symbols.