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(71) Applicant(s)
Pierre Coulon
197 Reads Avenue, BLACKPOOL,
Lancashire, FY1 4HZ, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)
Pierre Coulon

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Richard Paul Lord
34 Washington Avenue, Bispham,
BLACKPOOL, Lancashire, FY2 0QB,
United Kingdom

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(56) Documents Cited
GB 2345862 A **WO 1997/005935 A1**
US 5801766 A **US 5586936 A**

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(54) Abstract Title
Roulette coup sequencing device

(57) A scheduling device comprising sensing devices, signalling devices and a control unit connected to two or more roulette tables to control the scheduling of the coups on the tables. Preferably the sensing devices may be infra-red, optical, acoustic, vibration or manual. Optionally the signalling devices are LED's, lamps, flags or audible signals to indicate when a dealer may spin the roulette wheel and when they may not. The sensors and signalling devices may be connected to an electronic control which based upon the inputs from the sensors and the application of certain user specified delays, controls the state of the signal devices. The device may be used to control the sequence of play on two or more roulette tables in order to prevent two tables from requiring simultaneous inspection.

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ROULETTE COUP SEQUENCING DEVICE

This invention relates to a device to control the scheduling of coups on two or more roulette tables which are subject to less than 100 per cent inspection.

Prior art and background

The phases of a roulette coup can be defined as follows:-

- 1 Betting- customers place their bets on the roulette table layout.
- 2 Ball spinning- betting continues until ball is about to leave the rim of the roulette wheel.
- 3 Spin ends - The ball drops from the rim of the wheel into a number, the winning number on the roulette table layout is marked and all losing bets are cleared from the table.
- 4 Payout- winning bets are calculated, the amounts made up in a casino chips and are paid out to the appropriate customers.

Most often in a casino, multiple roulette tables are in operation. Each table has its own operator (dealer), however a supervisor (Inspector) may oversee two or more tables.

The inspector's role is to verify the actions of the dealer and the customers. This is to guard against mistakes by either party that would disadvantage the roulette customers or the casino. It is also to protect the interests of the casino from less than honest roulette customers and dealers.

When the Spin Ends on two or more roulette tables simultaneously it is impossible for the inspector to oversee phase three of the roulette on all affected tables.

This can potentially lead to:-

- 1 Customers adding bets to the winning number after it has been identified (the dealers attention will be focused on clearing the losing bets from the roulette table layout).
- 2 Customers claiming that a winning bet has been removed accidentally by the dealer.
- 3 Incorrect numbers being marked as the winning number by the dealer who subsequently clears from the layout all bets associated with the correct number.
- 4 The dealers adding bets to the winning numbers on behalf of an accomplice customer.

During phase four of the roulette coup dealers are instructed to verify with the Inspector the calculation of winning payout amounts and then the composition of casino chips to represent that amount. When this is occurring on two or more tables each dealer experiences delays whilst waiting for the return of the inspectors attention. This results in a slowdown of activity for each affected roulette table causing a loss of revenue to the casino operator and a loss of service to the customers.

Objective

The object of this invention is to control the sequence of coups on two or more roulette tables, to prevent the phases of the coups that require the most inspection, from occurring simultaneously.

Description

This invention comprises a number of sensing devices, a number of signalling devices and one or more electronic control units connected to two or more roulette tables so that the scheduling of the coups on each of the roulette tables is controlled.

Each roulette table to be controlled is equipped with a sensor that determines phase of the coup, and a signalling device that informs the dealer when they may and may not spin the ball. The sensors and signalling devices are connected to an electronic control unit which, based upon the inputs from the sensors and the application of certain delays, controls the state of the signal devices.

Preferred embodiment.

Two roulette tables A and B are each fitted with an infra-red sensor and a red signal LED (all of known design). These sensors and signal LED's are connected by wire to an electronic control unit.

The infra-red sensors are positioned so that they are activated by the spinning roulette ball.

The LED's are positioned so as to be visible by the dealer on that table.

A lit red LED indicates to the dealer on that table that they may not spin the ball.

(the dealers are instructed not to spin the ball when they have a red light showing on their table.)

The electronic control unit operates the red signal LED's in the following sequence:-

When the sensor on table A detects that the ball is spinning, the red light on table B is lit to prevent the dealer on table B from starting a spin that may finish too close to the end of the spin on table A. After an appropriate delay the LED on table B is turned off and the dealer may then spin.

And similarly for the sensor on table B and the LED on table A. When the sensor on table B detects that the ball is spinning, the red light on table A is lit to prevent the dealer on table A from starting a spin that may finish too close to the end of the spin on table B. After an appropriate delay the LED on table A is turned off.

During any period when neither ball is spinning, the red LED's on tables A and B are lit alternately to prevent two spins starting at the same time.

When changing the lit LED from one table to the other, both LED's may be on simultaneously for a short time to allow for the dealers reaction time in a similar manner to the UK traffic light system.

CLAIMS

1. A scheduling device including a number of sensing devices, a number of signalling devices and one or more control units connected to two or more roulette tables so that the scheduling of coups on the roulette tables is controlled.
2. A device as in claim 1, where the sensing devices are infra-red, optical, acoustic, vibration or manual.
3. A device as in any preceding claim, where any or all of the connections are made by wire, Radio Frequency transceivers, mains born frequency transmissions, infra-red or ultrasonic means.
4. A device as in any preceding claim, Where the signalling devices are LED's, lamps, flags or audible signals, that indicate when the dealer may spin or when they may not spin.
5. A device as in any preceding claim, where The Electronic control unit is central, controlling a number of tables.
6. A device as in any preceding claim, where the Electronic control unit is fitted to each table in a master slave Configuration.
7. A device as in any preceding claim, where the control unit is fitted to each table in a Peer to Peer Configuration.
8. A device as in any preceding claim, where the table can be allocated to a group of tables.
9. A device as in any preceding claim, where the delays applied by the electronic control unit can be input by the user.
10. A device as in any preceding claim, where the delays applied by the electronic control unit are calculated by the control unit based upon the speed of the coups on each table.



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Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

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Other: Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2345862 A (DONEGAN)	
A	WO 97/05935 A1 (TABLE TRAC INC.)	
A	US 5586936 (BENNETT ET AL.)	
A	US 5801766 (ALDEN)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.