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(54) **Amusement machine**

(57) An amusement machine comprises a substantially horizontal playfield which supports a plurality of coins. The coins on the playfield are periodically disturbed, whereby some coins may be pushed over an edge of the playfield. A user of the machine can cause further coins to be added to those on the playfield, to increase the chance of coins being pushed over the edge. A use detector means generates a signal for a predetermined time following use of the machine. A coin

chute receives coins pushed over the edge of the playfield. A coin director means receives coins from the coin chute and operates in alternative open and closed modes. A coin fall detector associated with the coin chute gives a signal when a coin is received by the coin chute. Control means for receive signals from the use detector means and from the coin fall detector, and control switching of the coin director means between its alternative modes in response to the signals.

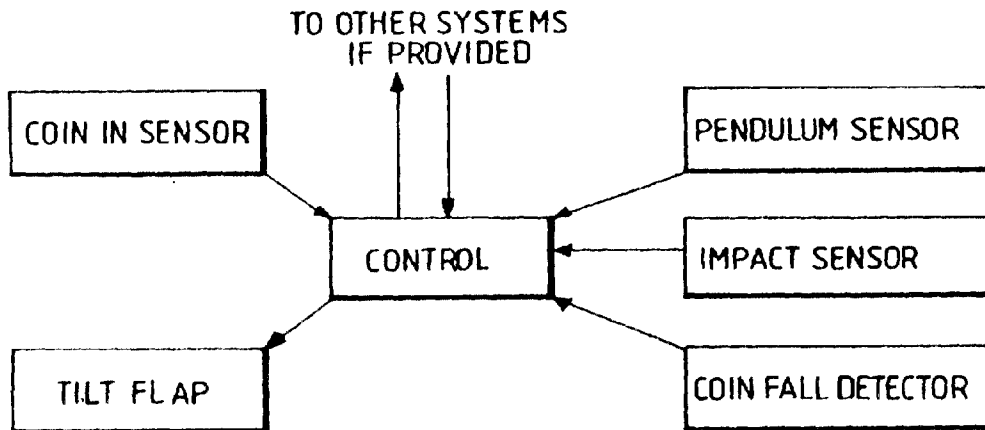


FIG.1.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 7083

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.6)
D,A	GB 2 250 368 A (LEVY) * page 3, line 15 - page 4, line 26 * * page 6, last paragraph - page 7, line 11 * * page 8, line 19 - line 29; figures 1-3 *	1-3	G07F17/32
A	GB 2 272 383 A (CROMPTON LEISURE) * page 2, line 5 - line 13 * * page 8, last paragraph; figure 1 *	1.2.4	
A	EP 0 432 996 A (MAYGAY MACHINES) * column 3, line 41 - column 4, line 6; figure 1 *	1.4	
A	US 4 303 248 A (SHOEMAKER ET AL.) * column 3, line 23 - line 50; figures 1,3 *	1	
A	NL 7 701 197 A (VERSTRAETEN) * page 3, line 21 - line 26; figure *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 February 1998	Examiner Neville, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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 &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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			

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