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(54) **POKER-BACCARAT GAMING METHOD AND APPARATUS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A casino gambling card table game in which a player may bet that a pair of cards dealt would provide a winning baccarat hand, or that a next card dealt would provide a winning baccarat or a selected poker hand.

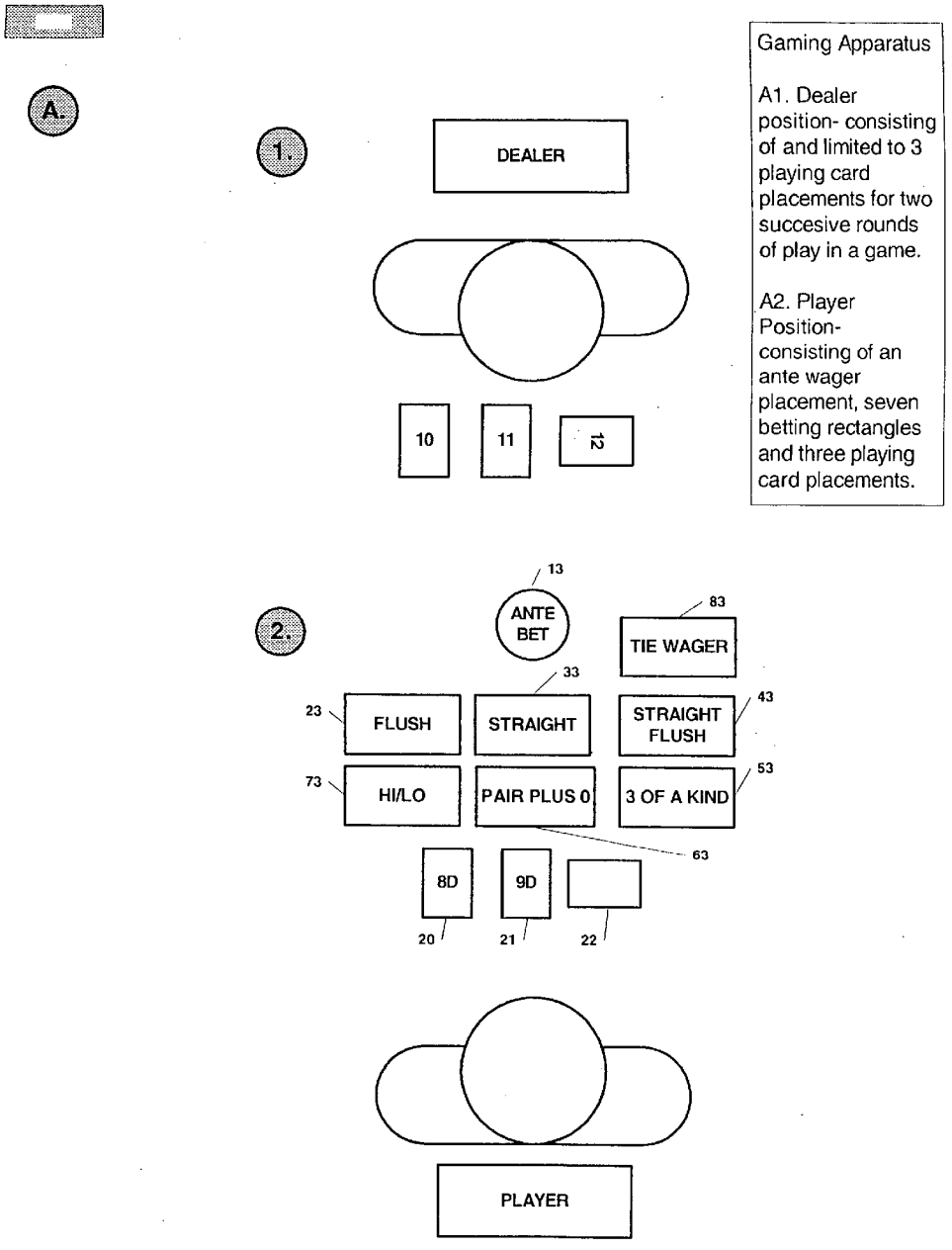
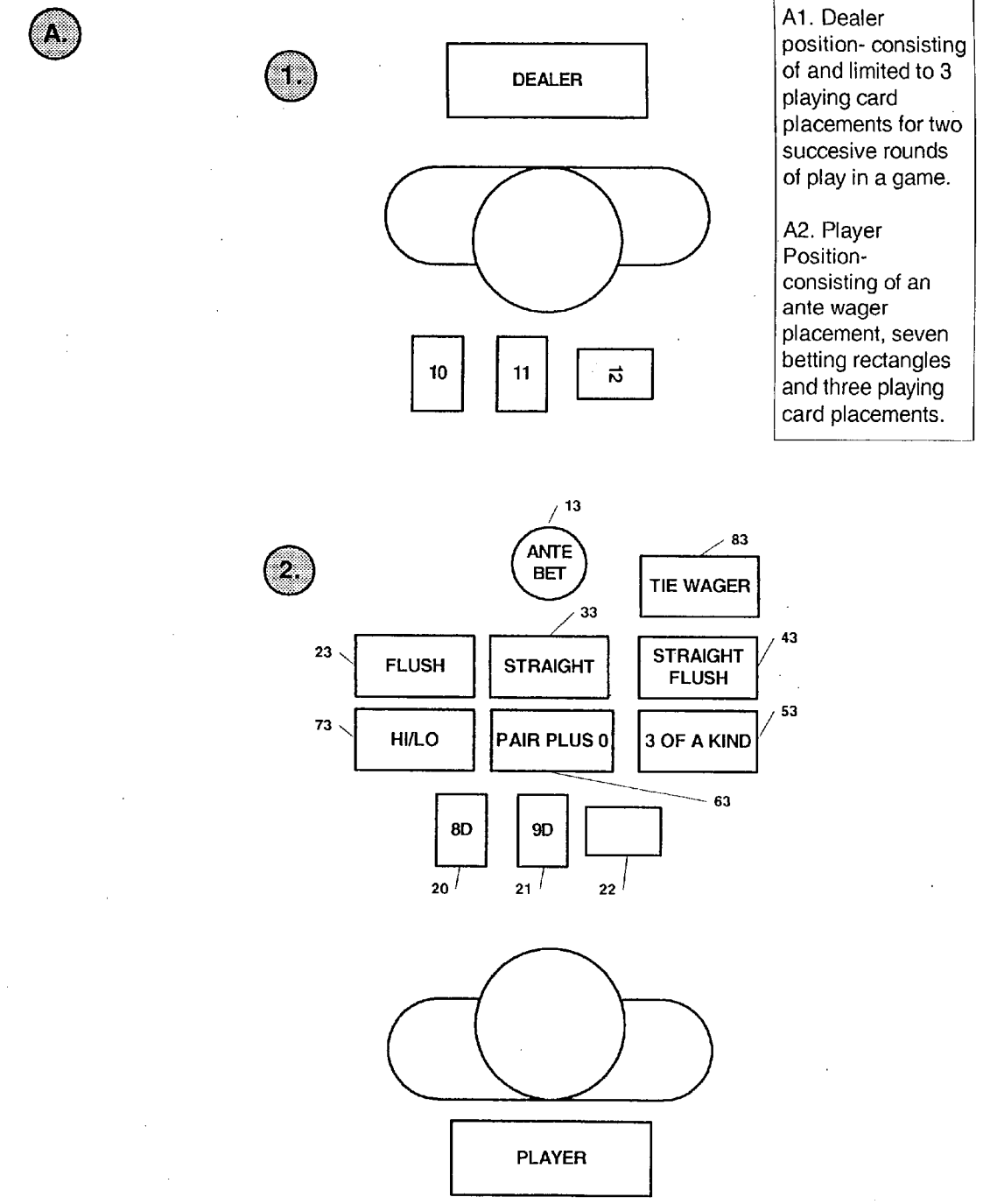


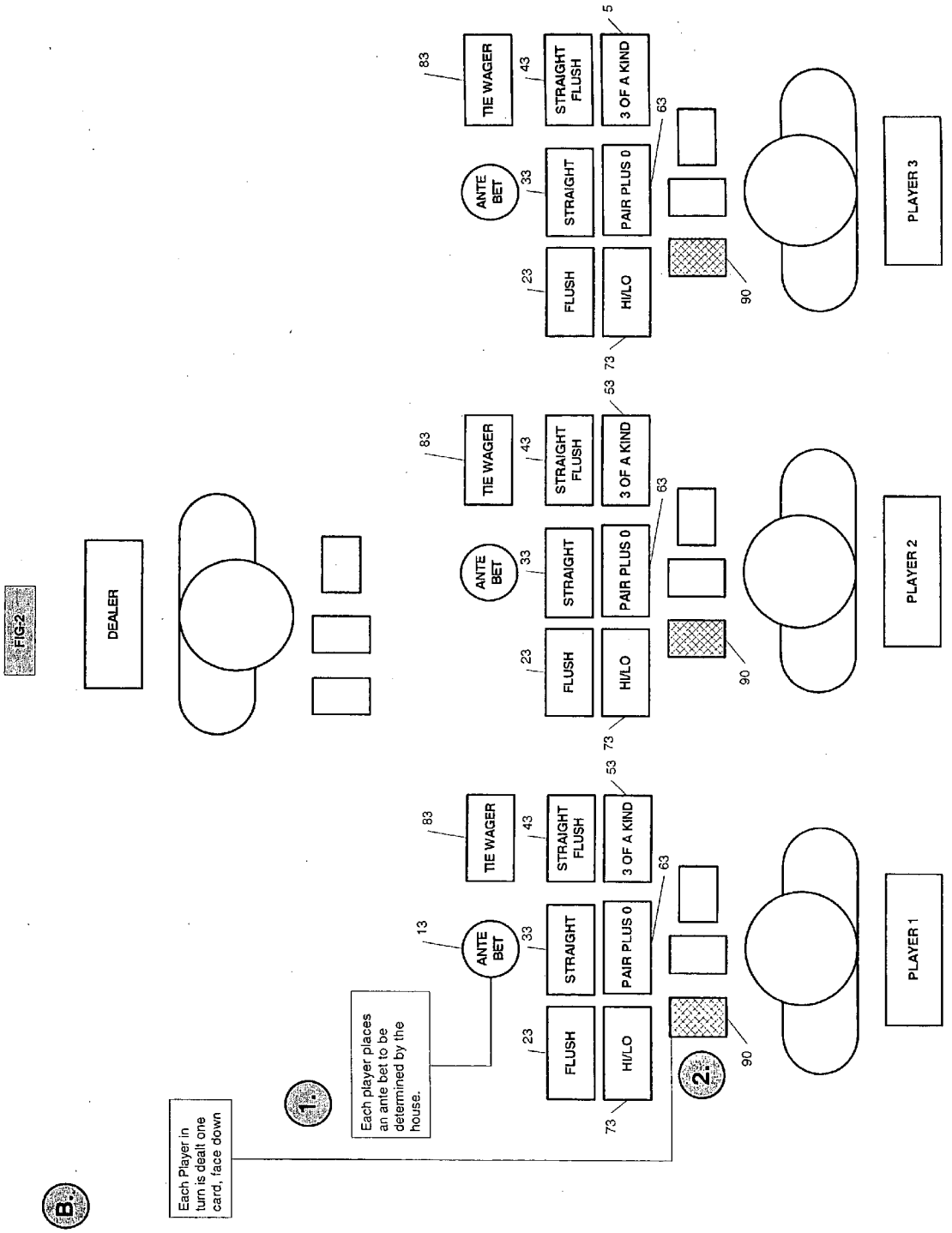
FIG-1

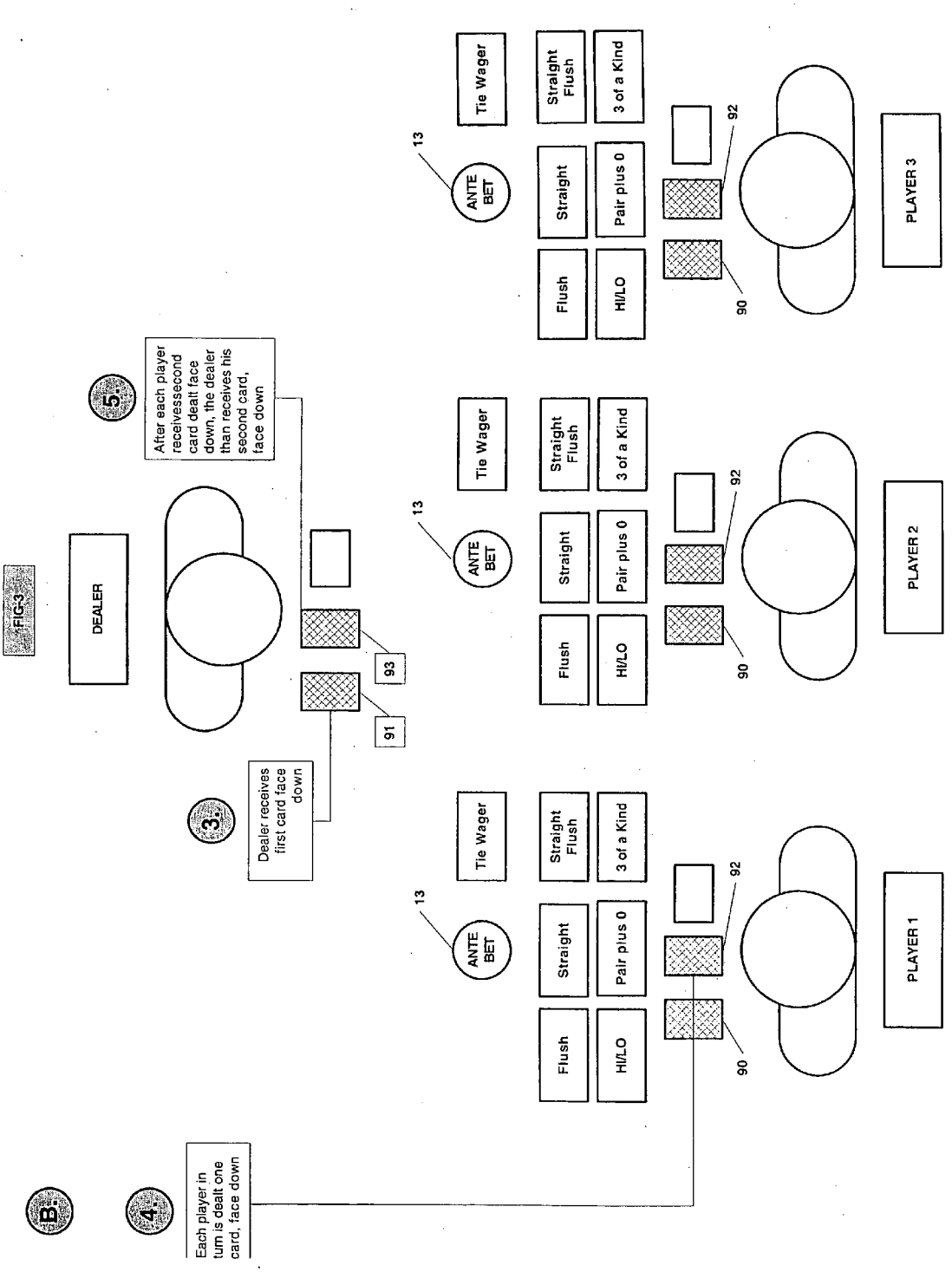


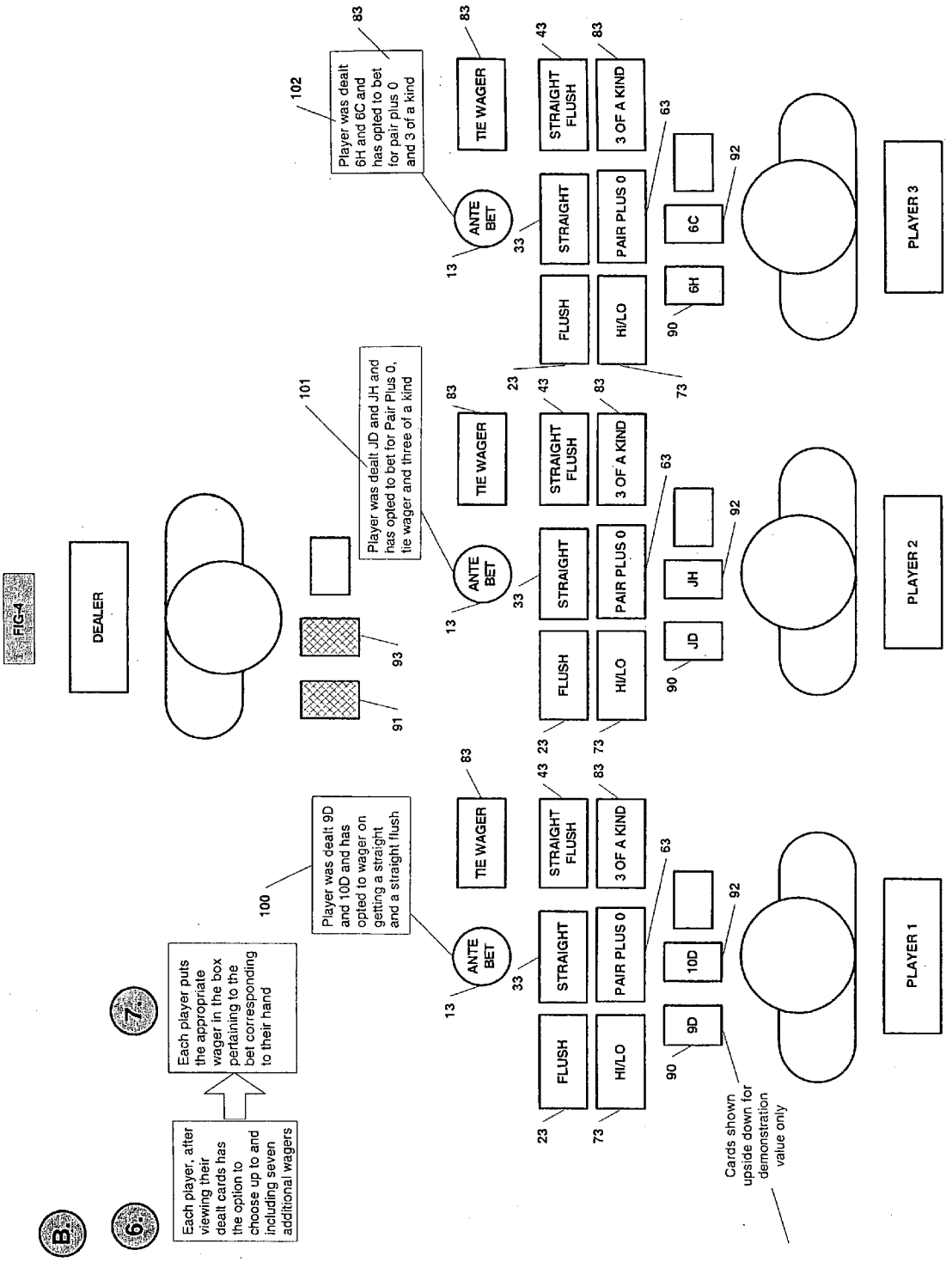
Gaming Apparatus

A1. Dealer position- consisting of and limited to 3 playing card placements for two succesive rounds of play in a game.

A2. Player Position- consisting of an ante wager placement, seven betting rectangles and three playing card placements.


FIG.2
DEALER
PLAYER 1
PLAYER 2
PLAYER 3
ANTE BET
FLUSH
STRAIGHT
PAIR PLUS 0
HI/LO
TIE WAGER
STRAIGHT FLUSH
3 OF A KIND
Each player places an ante bet to be determined by the house.
Each Player in turn is dealt one card, face down
B.
1.
2.


FIG-3
DEALER
5
After each player receivessecond card dealt face down, the dealer than receives his second card, face down
3
Dealer receives first card face down
93
91
B
4
Each player in turn is dealt one card, face down
PLAYER 3
PLAYER 2
PLAYER 1
ANTE BET
Tie Wager
Straight Flush
3 of a Kind
Straight
Pair plus 0
Flush
HI/LO
13
90
92


FIG-4
DEALER
PLAYER 1
PLAYER 2
PLAYER 3
ANTE BET
TIE WAGER
FLUSH
STRAIGHT
STRAIGHT FLUSH
PAIR PLUS 0
HI/LO
3 OF A KIND
Player was dealt 9D and 10D and has opted to wager on getting a straight and a straight flush
Player was dealt JD and JH and has opted to bet for Pair Plus 0, tie wager and three of a kind
Player was dealt 6H and 6C and has opted to bet for pair plus 0 and 3 of a kind
Cards shown upside down for demonstration value only
Each player, after viewing their dealt cards has the option to choose up to and including seven additional wagers
Each player puts the appropriate wager in the box pertaining to the bet corresponding to their hand
9D
10D
JD
JH
6H
6C
B
6.
7.

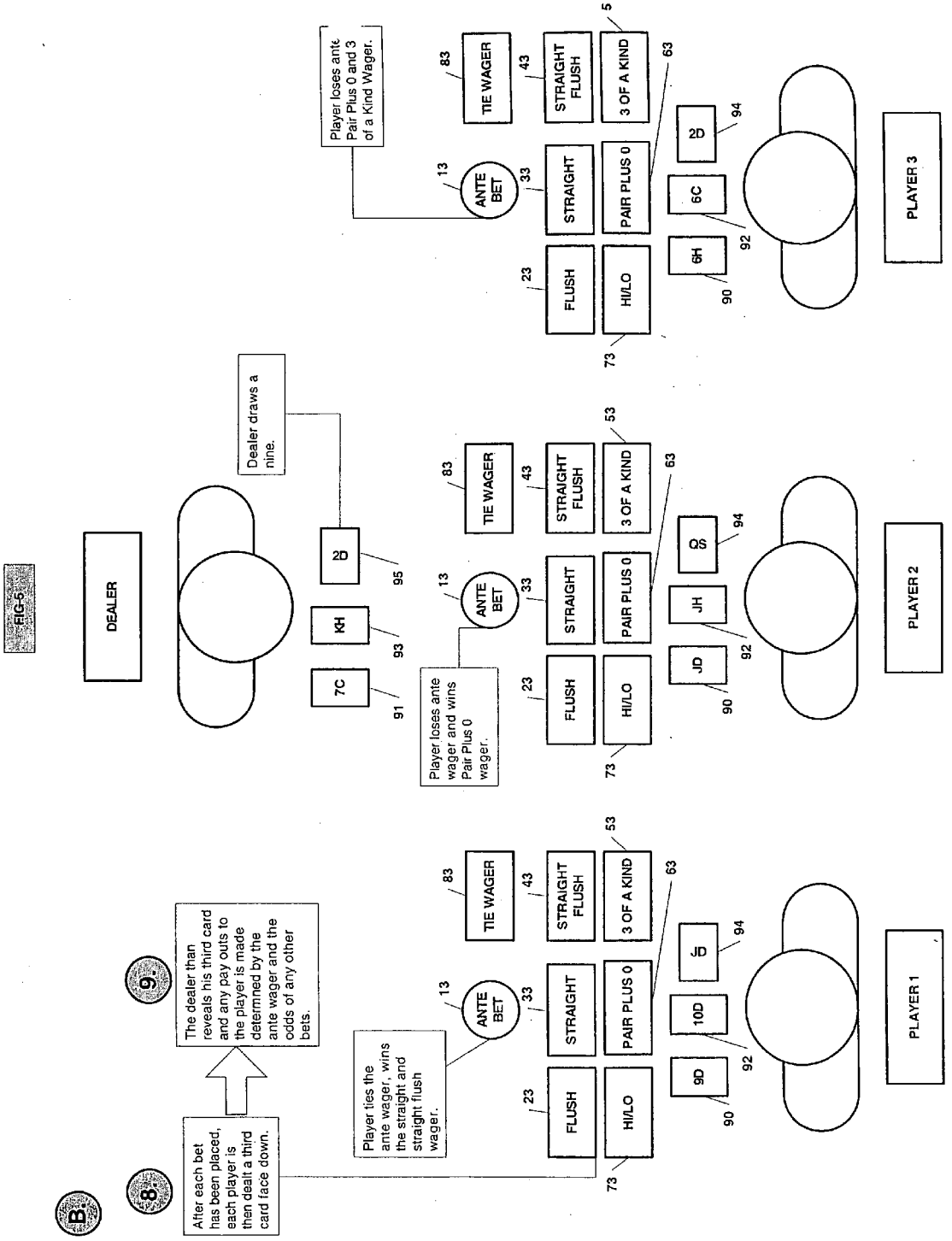
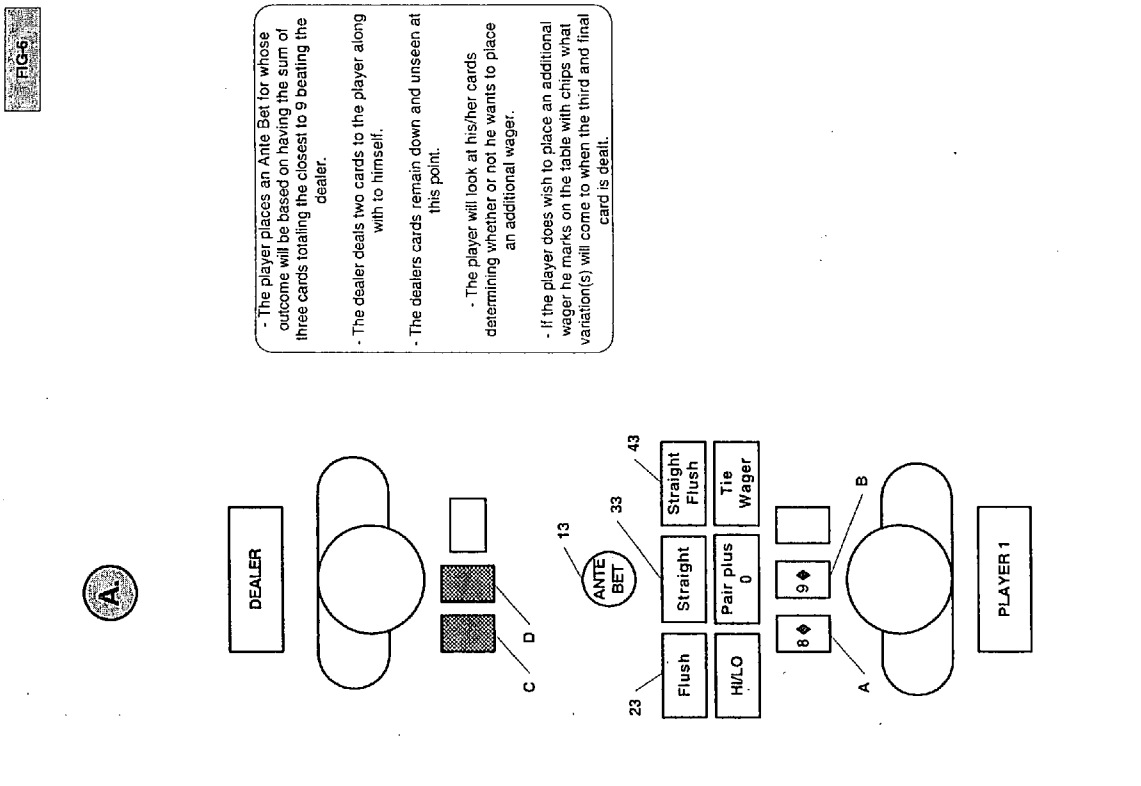
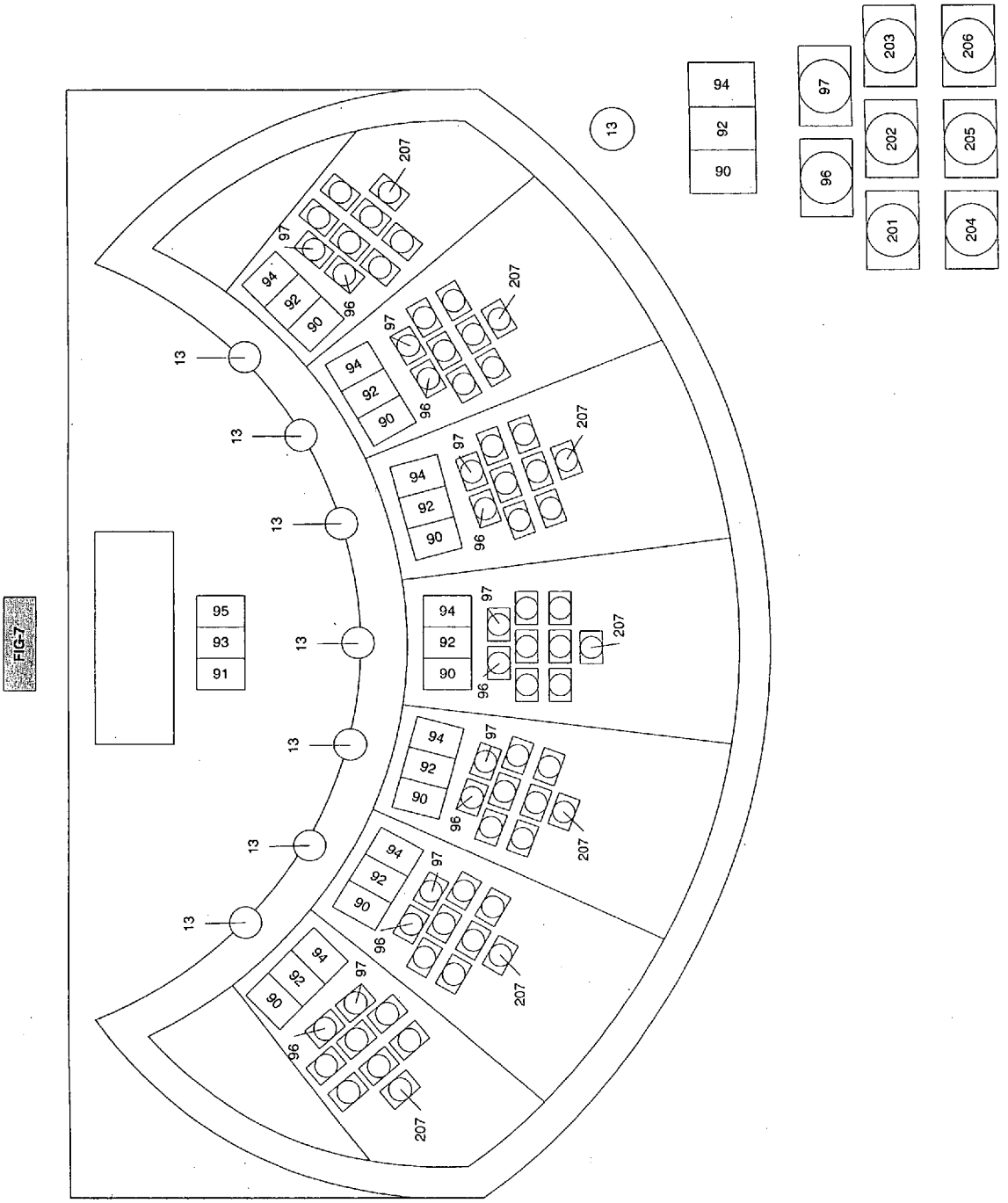

FIG-5
DEALER
Dealer draws a nine.
7C
KH
2D
91
93
95
Player loses ante wager and wins Pair Plus 0 wager.
Player loses ante Pair Plus 0 and 3 of a Kind Wager.
ANTE BET
13
FLUSH
23
STRAIGHT
33
HI/LO
73
TIE WAGER
83
STRAIGHT FLUSH
43
PAIR PLUS 0
53
3 OF A KIND
63
PLAYER 1
PLAYER 2
PLAYER 3
9D
10D
JD
JH
QS
6H
6C
2D
90
92
94
Player ties the ante wager, wins the straight and straight flush wager.
After each bet has been placed, each player is then dealt a third card face down.
The dealer than reveals his third card and any pay outs to the player is made determned by the ante wager and the odds of any other bets.
B
8
9

FIG-5


A.
DEALER
C
D
ANTE BET
13
Straight
33
Straight Flush
43
Flush
23
Pair plus 0
Tie Wager
HI/LO
8
9
A
B
PLAYER 1
- The player places an Ante Bet for whose outcome will be based on having the sum of three cards totaling the closest to 9 beating the dealer.
- The dealer deals two cards to the player along with to himself.
- The dealers cards remain down and unseen at this point.
- The player will look at his/her cards determining whether or not he wants to place an additional wager.
- If the player does wish to place an additional wager he marks on the table with chips what variation(s) will come to when the third and final card is dealt.
B.
Dealer wins the Ante Bet with a 7 as opposed to the player who has a 1.
DEALER
3
4
7
C
D
E
ANTE BET
13
Straight Flush
Straight
Pair plus 0
Tie Wager
Flush
HI/LO
8
9
4
PLAYER 1
Player wins the Low and Flush bet. He loses the Straight and Straight Flush bet.
- In this diagram, the player marks four different variations (highlighted) for which he would like to place an additional wager based on the first two cards dealt to him.
- A third card is dealt to the player and determines the outcome of the additional wagers placed.
- At this point, the dealer will distribute appropriate winnings where necessary.
- The dealer then reveals his two cards in order to determine the Ante Bets outcome where the score closest to 9 will be the winner


FIG.7
95
93
91
13
94
92
90
97
96
207
203
202
201
206
205
204

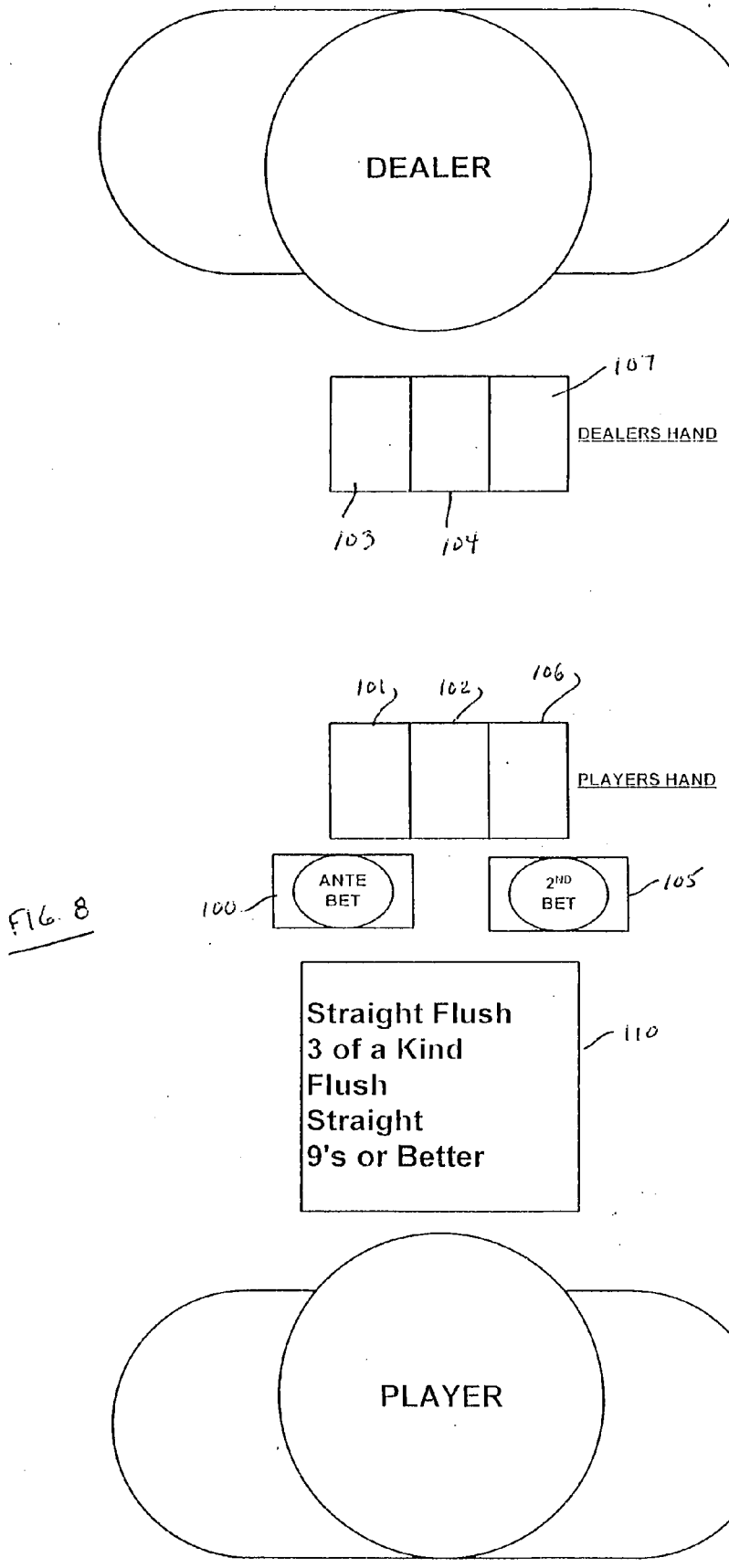

DEALER
107
DEALERS HAND
103
104
101
102
106
PLAYERS HAND
ANTE BET
100
2ND BET
105
Straight Flush
3 of a Kind
Flush
Straight
9's or Better
110
PLAYER

FIG. 8

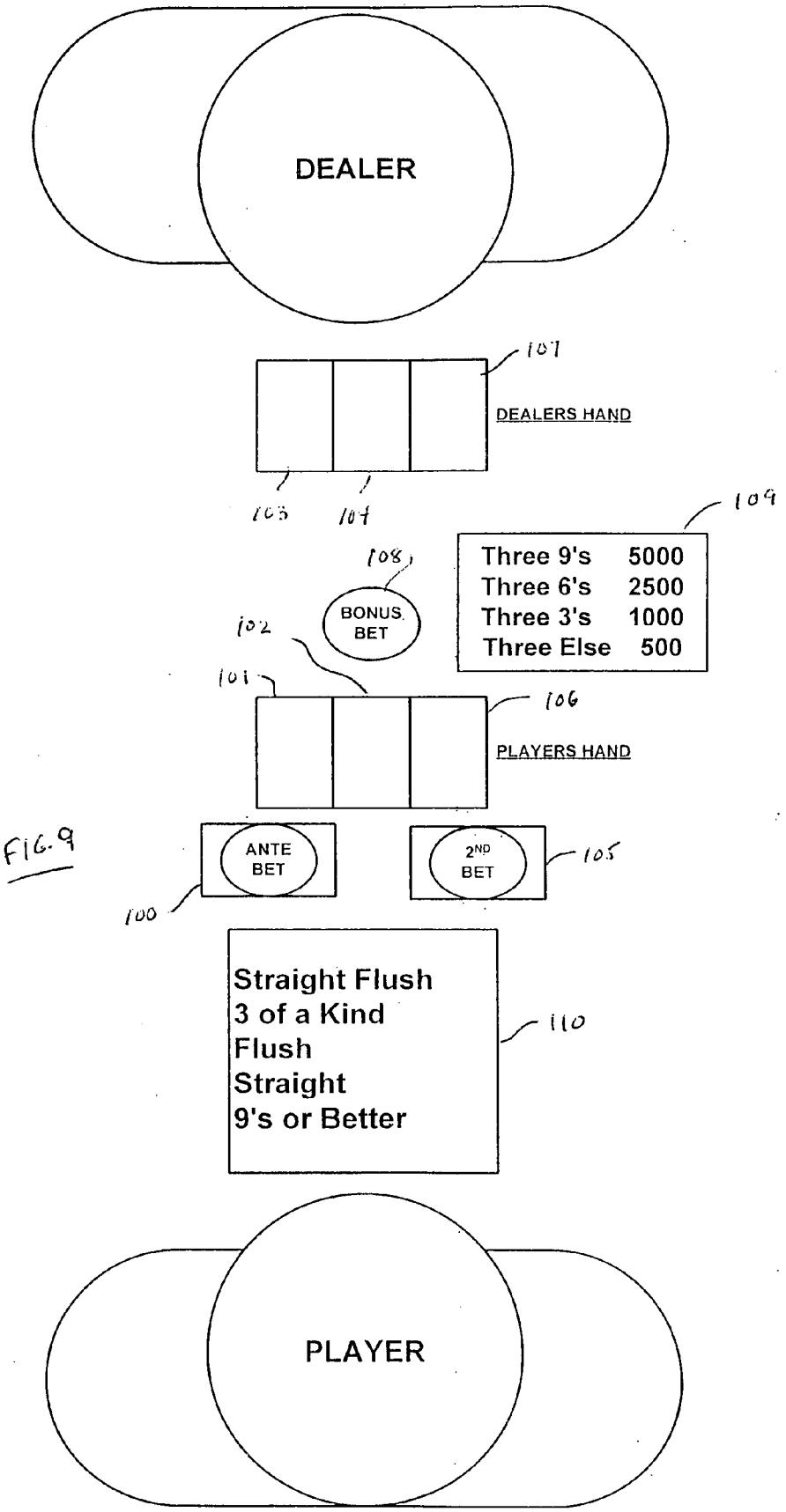

DEALER
DEALERS HAND
PLAYERS HAND
BONUS BET
ANTE BET
2ND BET
Three 9's 5000
Three 6's 2500
Three 3's 1000
Three Else 500
Straight Flush
3 of a Kind
Flush
Straight
9's or Better
PLAYER

FIG. 9

POKER-BACCARAT GAMING METHOD AND APPARATUS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] NONE

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Research and development of this invention and Application have not been federally sponsored, and no rights are given under any Federal program.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

[0003] NOT APPLICABLE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] 1. Field of the Invention

[0005] This invention relates to such casino gaming apparatus as a casino gambling card table game, in general, and to a modification of the card table game described in our pending application Ser. No. 10/880,476, filed Jul. 1, 2004—now U.S. Pat. No. _____, in particular.

[0006] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0007] As is well known in the casino gaming industry, one of the most popular card table gambling games is 3 card poker in which a player attempts to obtain a higher valued poker hand than the dealer. As will also be appreciated, one of the most raucous of the card table gambling games is baccarat, where it is common for a player to vocally exhort the dealing of a winning card to his/her hand, and a vociferous rooting of a losing card to the Bank so as to attain the objective of having a card total closer to "nine" than the Bank. As will become clear from the following description, the invention in our Ser. No. 10/880,476 Application combines features of both 3 card poker and baccarat in making the combined game demonstrative in its play, while at the same time providing a multitude of betting options; as will be seen, this gives the combined game a flavor closer to that of craps, where others than the shooter are able to place individual bets on each roll of the dice. As in both 3 card poker and baccarat, the combined card game of that invention utilizes a standard 52 card deck (without jokers)—and as in baccarat, aces count as "one" and tens, jacks, queens, and kings count as "zero".

[0008] As distinct from the commonly played 3 card poker, however, cards may be drawn and/or options selected based on the cards to be dealt rather than just to bet on cards already received. In such manner, a player becomes actively involved in each deal, and involves a certain degree of thought throughout. Having to make decisions concerning a series of bets in any one game makes the play more varied than baccarat, and thus more enjoyable to the participant and more attractive to the casino as well. All that will be seen to be required in its play are the calculations of the odds to be offered by the casino for any bet to be paid (which can be determined by mathematical analysis). Once such odds are set, all that is needed is the standard deck, a table, a game design overlay to sit 6 or 7 players, and the participants with their betting chips themselves.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] As is described in our Ser. No. 10/880,476 pending Application, each participant at the gambling card table game there set out wishing to play against the dealer places an initial "ante" bet on a space on the game design overlay. Once all parties have anted up, the dealer begins to distribute a shuffled deck of cards clockwise or counterclockwise to each individual, one card at a time, face down, until a total of two revolutions have taken place—with the dealer also receiving one card, face down, during each revolution. As with 3 card poker, one additional card will be dealt to each player, but with the player, according to the invention, being able to decline to bet on that third card if so desired. Because a third card could give each player the possibility of having "three of a kind", "a straight" of consecutively numbered cards, "a flush" of three cards of the same suit, or "a straight flush" of three consecutive cards of the same suit, each player will have the ability to place an additional wager beyond the initial ante bet before being dealt the third card. Such a decision to make a further bet is made by placing added chips on individual spaces also provided on the game design overlay, where the odds offered by the casino are displayed as well. Those players whose first two cards do not offer the possibility of obtaining such poker hands may have the opportunity of placing an additional bet that the third card dealt may offer them a hand whose point total is "low" (i.e., adding the value of each card and utilizing only the "ones" digit totals 0 to 4), or betting a "high" (i.e., adding the values gives a "ones" digit of between 5 and 9). Other type bets could be had as well, for example, that the third card dealt would provide a single pair along with a ten, jack, queen or king,—and, as previously mentioned, the player may elect not to bet on the third card at all. Each bet made would continue to have its own space displayed on the design layout, along with the odds offered by the casino if that bet were made.

[0010] Once all further bets are placed, a third card is dealt. This may be done by dealing a third card to each player in turn face down, who then reveal their three cards—or having them first reveal their two cards and dealing the third card face up. This allows the dealer to determine whether or not any of the additional bets wagered have been won or not. Preferably at that time, or later after all of the hands are completely played out, any appropriate monies won on those added bets will be paid by the dealer to the player based on the displayed casino odds, and any additionally wagered bets lost will be collected by the dealer. In such respect, the combination game of that invention exhibits attributes of poker.

[0011] The dealer then reveals his/her two cards, enabling the players to view what the dealer is holding. The dealer then draws a third card face up—and like the other players, adds up the values to determine which hands came closer to "nine". For each player hand closer to "nine", the player wins the initial ante bet; for each player hand further from "nine" than the dealer's, the dealer wins the ante bet. In this respect, the combined game resembles that of baccarat—and offers the further advantage that a player who elects not to bet further on the third dealt card can continue in the game, rooting against the dealer's draw in attempting to win the initial ante bet placed. As previously mentioned, in this phase of the game, aces count as "one", tens, jacks, queens

and kings count as "zero"—and the "ones" digit of the total value, is used in determining which hands are closest to "nine".

[0012] In other versions of the game, options of play could be provided in the event the two cards first drawn by the dealer total eight or nine when added, allowing the dealer to stand pat. Likewise, options could be provided to the player to stand pat when his/her first two cards total eight or nine, as well. A further option could be provided the player of selecting the third card to beat the dealer's hand, as in conventional poker.

[0013] As will be readily apparent, if the baccarat aspect of the game is sought to be combined, instead, with a 4 card rather than a 3 card poker playing arrangement, additional table layout spaces could be provided to cover such additional bets as "two pair", "four of a kind", and three of a kind along with a ten, jack, queen or king. Again, the odds for paying off such bets will be displayed on the design overlay.

[0014] Other gambling bets—such as tieing the dealer on the ante bet—could be afforded and set out on the overlay as well.

[0015] To better appreciate the features and advantages of such casino gambling card table game reference can be had to the following drawings here considered to be prior art to the present invention:

[0016] **FIG. 1** is a pictorial view of a table layout design helpful in an understanding of the set up of that game; **FIGS. 2-5** are combined pictorial views and flow charts indicating how in the combined 3 card poker-baccarat card playing game one shuffled hand may be played according to that invention; **FIG. 6** is a further combined view of a playing layout and flow chart helpful in an understanding of that invention; and **FIG. 7** illustrates a type of gaming table layout for seven participating players of such casino gambling card table game.

[0017] In accordance with this invention, however, such casino gambling card table game is modified to simplify its play, but still combining features of poker and baccarat. Two versions are described, each of which allows a player to bet only on a "baccarat" hand, or additionally to bet that one of a selected "poker" hand may be attained. Utilizing many of the features and steps of our pending Application, the method of play here provides alternatives as well as simplifications. Depending upon final "permutations" and "odds" determined by the casino or "house", rules may be set mandating that a particular hand ends upon the dealer reaching a specified point total in summing his/her cards or alternatively directing the continuation of a hand regardless of a dealer's draw. As will become clear from the following description, one version of play provides an option to the player of making an additional bet beyond the initial ante, while a second version allows a second ante bet to be withdrawn. In yet a further modification, a "bonus" bet can also be made for one of a specific hand to be reached, regardless of the "baccarat" or "poker" resolution of the cards being dealt.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] These and other features of the present invention will be more clearly understood from a consideration of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0019] **FIG. 8** is a pictorial view of a table layout design for a one-player competition helpful in an understanding of the set up of the game of this invention; and

[0020] **FIG. 9** is a pictorial view of a second table layout design according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0021] In the **FIGS. 1-7** drawings repeated from our Ser. No. 10/880,476 Application, Al illustrates a dealer position for three playing card placements **10**, **11**, **12** for the **3** card poker aspect of the game. A**2** illustrates a player position with three playing card placements **20**, **21**, **22** and an initial ante bet wager placement **13** for joining in the game. Seven betting placements **23**, **33**, **43**, **53**, **63**, **73** and **83** are illustrated. In the 3 card poker-baccarat combined game, "flush", "straight", "straight flush" and "3 of a kind" possibilities are apparent, as represented at placements **23**, **33**, **43** and **53**, respectively. Three additional betting placements are shown for "pair plus 0"**63** (i.e., for a pair plus a ten, jack, queen or king), for high/low **73** (i.e., the "ones" digit after totalling the three cards dealt being five, six, seven, eight or nine for a "high", and zero, one, two, three or four for "low"), and for a "tie" with the dealer on the ante bet **83**.

[0022] As illustrated, the first two cards dealt to the player A**2** are assumed to be an eight of diamonds and a nine of diamonds, giving the player an option of betting that the third card dealt would give him/her any or all of a "flush" (three diamonds), a "straight" (being dealt a seven or a ten), or a "straight flush" (being dealt a six of diamonds or a ten of diamonds). Using the "ones" digit after adding the eight and nine to give a "seven", the player may also bet that the next card dealt would give him/her a total of 5 to 9 for a "high", or a 0 to 4 for a "low". Upon dealing the third card, the dealer can determine whether any or all of these "flush", "straight", "straight flush" or "high/low" bets were made, paying off on those that were made at the predetermined casino odds displayed for each such bet. Those bets that weren't made are collected by the dealer.

[0023] **FIGS. 2-5** illustrate a possible game being played by three participants, each of whom has placed their initial ante bet at table layout location **13** (B**1**). Each player is then dealt one card face down, in turn, either clockwise, or counterclockwise, the face down card being shown at **90** (B**2** in **FIG. 2**). The dealer then draws its first card face down **91** (B**3** in **FIG. 3**). Each player is then dealt a second card face down **92** (B**4** in **FIG. 3**). The dealer then draws its second card face down **93** (B**5** in **FIG. 3**).

[0024] As **FIG. 4** next illustrates, each player after viewing their two cards has the option to choose further bets depending upon their holdings—for example, the seven wagers of **FIG. 1** as **23**, **33**, **43**, **53**, **63**, **73** and/or **83** (B**6**) . If they so desire, each player then places the appropriate chip wager or wagers into the respective display space corresponding to the make-up of their hand (B**7**). In the example of **FIG. 4**, the cards **90** and **92** for Player **1** are shown for understanding as a nine of diamonds and a ten of diamonds; those cards **90** and **92** for Player **2** are shown as a jack of diamonds and a jack of hearts; those for Player **3** are shown as a six of hearts and a six of clubs. Player **1**, having a nine of diamonds and ten of diamonds, opts to wager the third card will give a straight and a straight flush (**100**), and places

appropriate bets of whatever chip amount at layout locations **33** and **43**. Player **2**, having a jack of diamonds and jack of hearts, opts to wager that the third card would result in a pair plus a ten, jack, queen or king and places a bet in layout location **63**. Additionally wagering that the third card would also be a jack, Player **2** places an additional bet in location **53** for three of a kind. Player **2** might place a further bet that he and the dealer would tie on the ante bet—all as shown at **101**. Player **3** similarly may wager a third card being a six of spades or six of diamonds to get three of a kind, or that it would be a ten, jack, queen or king to yield a pair plus "0" (**102**)—and places additional bets of whatever chip amount desired in accordance with casino rules on the layout locations of **53** and **63**.

[**0025**] In **FIG. 5**, after all bets have been placed, each player and the dealer reveals the first two cards and the players are dealt a third card, face up (B**8**). At that point, each of Players **1**, **2** and **3** and the dealer will know whether the respective wagers have been won or not. With Player **1** receiving a third card **94** of a jack of diamonds, Player **1** wins the "straight" and "straight flush" wagers and is paid then or at the completion of the hand the bet multiplied by the house odds displayed on the layout. Player **2** draws a queen of spades as its third card **94** and thus loses its "three of a kind" bet but wins its "pair plus **0**" bet (all face cards have a value of "zero") . Player **3** is dealt a two of diamonds as its third card **94**, and thus loses its "three of a kind" bet and its "pair plus 0" bet as well.

[**0026**] This essentially ends the three card poker aspect of the combined game of that invention, with the understanding that a player does not have to make any of these additional wagers as to "flush", "straight", "straight flush", "three of a kind", or "pair plus 0" bets, depending on the first two cards received (as where a three of hearts and a queen of clubs are dealt). Such player, however, may continue in betting the third card will yield a "high" or a "low"—but, in any event, continues to be in the game with respect to the initial ante bet placed. Each player is able to vocally "urge on" the third card to be dealt for their respective bets, giving the game the attribute of "craps" in this respect.

[**0027**] The baccarat aspect of the combined game then comes into play. Thus, as B**9** of **FIG. 5** illustrates, the dealer then draws its third card **95**—with the players rooting against him/her—giving the dealer a two of diamonds to go along with its previously drawn seven of clubs **91** and king of hearts **93**. Totalling the dealer's three cards and using only the "ones" digit gives to the dealer a "nine", a baccarat winning hand. This ties the value of Player **1**'s hand and Player **1**'s ante bet at **13** is a draw. Player **2**'s three card total is a "zero", so that Player **2** loses its ante bet. Player **3**'s hand totals "four" (six+six+two=fourteen=four), so that Player **3** loses its ante bet as well. Had Player **1** placed a bet in layout space **83** that there would have been a tie with the dealer, then Player **1** would have won its ante bet. In accordance with that invention, an additional wager possibility could be had, that the player's hand after being dealt all three cards would be of a greater poker value than that of the dealer—and a space provided for that on the layout overlay. In the illustration of **FIG. 4**, any of Players **1**, **2** or **3** would have won such wager, as the dealer only showed "king high".

[**0028**] In a summarization of the invention of that Application as shown in **FIG. 6**—referring to the game fancifully by the name "TO THE 9's" (the winning total for baccarat)—the player places an ante bet whose outcome is based on having the sum of three cards totalling closer to nine, and beating the dealer. The dealer deals two cards A and B face down to the player along with two cards C and D face down to himself. With the dealer cards remaining face down, the player looks at his/her cards determining whether or not he/she wishes to place an additional wager. If the player wishes to place an additional wager, that wager is marked on the table with chips hoping for the result that will come when the third card is dealt. With the player's cards being an eight of diamonds and a nine of diamonds, for example, the player can select four additional bets—a "flush" hoping to draw another diamond, a "straight" hoping to draw a six or a ten, a "straight flush" hoping that the third card is either a six of diamonds or a ten of diamonds, and a "low" hoping that the third card adds to the "seven" of the first two cards to provide a total value of 0 to 4. With the player's third card being a four of diamonds, the outcome of the further wagers is determined and the dealer may pay off preferably then the player's bets according to the table odds—paying off for the "flush", collecting for the "straight", collecting for the "straight flush", and paying off for the "low" (as the three cards add up to a "one"; eight+nine+four=twenty one=one). The dealer then reveals its two cards, a three of hearts and a four of diamonds, draws its third card a jack of hearts to total "seven" (three+four+zero=seven). The dealer thus wins the ante bet **13** as its hand of "seven" comes closer to "nine" than the player's "one". If an additional bet for the better poker hand were available and made, the player would have won that also.

[**0029**] **FIG. 7** shows a possible layout for up to seven participants playing the combined game of our Ser. No. 10/880,476 invention at any one time. Reference numeral **13** represents the space for the initial ante bet for each player. Reference numerals **90**, **92** and **94** represent the card placement positions for the players while **91**, **93** and **95** represent the card placement positions for the dealer. Reference numerals **96** and **97** are the spaces for betting "high" and "low" values for the three card totals respectively, as 5 to 9 and 0 to 4. Reference numerals **201**, **202** and **203** represent betting spaces for the "flush", "straight" and "straight flush" wagers. Reference notations **204**, **205** and **206** represent the betting locations for the "pair plus 0", "three of a kind" and "tie wager" bets. If a further bet for the player having a poker hand greater than the dealer's is to be provided, that might be shown as **207**—and other betting locations could be provided if the casino sets up other wagers to be made (or if the layout is also to be used for a combined game of baccarat with a 4 card poker layout). In any event, the casino odds for successfully winning any of the bets will be displayed on the layout, as with a conventional craps table design.

[**0030**] As previously mentioned, a player not being dealt a promising poker hand with the first two cards can elect to proceed with no further additional wagering. The player will, however, continue to root for his/her third card dealt giving a baccarat hand close to "nine", and to vocally bet against the dealer's third card in hoping to win the ante bet. Obviously, those players making further wagers still cheer on their third cards to win their additional bets, and against the dealer's third card in getting closer to "nine", to win the ante bet as well.

[0031] As will be appreciated from the following description, the casino gambling card table game of the present invention represents a simpler game, livelier and faster to play by reducing the number of poker side bets to two, rather than the many side bets possible with our pending Application game. In accordance with one version of play—and referring, for example, to **FIG. 8** of the drawings, each gambling player puts up an initial ante bet at wager placement **100** prior to the dealer dealing one card to each player (preferably clockwise) face down until a total of two cards are dealt. Such card placements at **101** and **102** are interspersed with the dealer's drawing his/her own first card face down at placement **103** and second card face up at **104**. In accordance with one aspect of this version of the combined game of the present invention, the player can "stand pat" betting that the baccarat sum of the two cards at **101** and **102** (as before) will beat the dealer's hand, being closer to "9"—with face cards and "10's" continuing to represent a digit score of zero, and "aces" equaling one. In such situation, the player then wins the ante bet placed. If not satisfied that the "baccarat summation" of placements **101** and **102** will beat the dealer's hand, or believing that there is a good chance for obtaining a winning 3-card "poker" hand, the player could make a second bet at wager placement location **105**, requesting a third card be dealt from the dealer and placed in location **106**. As with the play of our prior filed Application, such "poker" hand might consist of those "straight flush", "3 of a kind", "flush", "straight", or "9's or better" possibilities illustrated at **110**—or that other possibilities may be reached such as "jacks or better", or a "pair plus zero". The player's third card may win the second bet placed at odds set by the casino as exemplified by the table below:

9's or Better	2 to 1
Jacks or Better	2 to 1
Pair plus Zero	2 to 1
Flush	4 to 1
Straight	5 to 1
Straight Flush	20 to 1
Three of a Kind	30 to 1

[0032] Although the Casino may set out how many options may be included in such selection, as well as the odds to be paid if such "poker" hand comes in, the realization follows that drawing a third card to win the second bet at **105** could also have a result of reducing the player's chances of winning the initial ante bet at **100**. As with the game of our prior Application, once all players have decided whether to place this second bet or not, the third cards are dealt to each or all of them by the dealer—with the players' hands then all being revealed for comparison with the dealer's hand then revealed to determine whose hands are closer to 9 in the winning of the "baccarat-ante" bet at **100** and in determining whether the second "poker" bet at **105** has been won.

[0033] As will be understood, different methods of play for the dealer are possible. First, the dealer may be restricted—as the Casino rules set out—to only the two cards drawn at locations **103** and **104**; secondly, the dealer may always be required to take a third card at location **107**—and using the one's digit total of the two or three cards in determining the "baccarat-ante" bet closer to 9 as against each player. Obviously, players who do not draw a third card to obtain a "poker win" would not wish their "baccarat bet" based on the dealer's "open" card to be changed by any third card that the dealer may draw. One way of taking care of this is to total only the first two cards of the dealer's draw in determining the baccarat winner.

[0034] In a further method of play according to the invention, the Casino may set a rule that the dealer does not draw a third card regardless of what any player might do should the one's digit total of the dealer's first two cards be any one of 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9—again, with the totalizations of face cards and "10's⇆ counting as "zero", "aces" counting as "one", and the other cards having their usual point values.

[0035] The table game layout of **FIG. 9**, on the other hand, adds yet another placement for a further bet made at the beginning of play, at placement location **108**, that a particular 3-card hand will be dealt to the player. Such bet—made before play begins like the ante bet at **100**—thus differs from the wager made at placement **105** after a deal has begun, and provides a payout of many times the bet in accordance with odds established by the Casino. As shown at **109**, for example, obtaining "three 9's" provides a 5000 times payout, while being dealt "three 6's", "three 3's" or "three of anything else", provides a payout of 2500, 1000 or 500 times the bet, respectively. This provides yet another betting feature to the game of this invention, where a single dollar bet, for example, could lead to a very large payout.

[0036] One, or multiple, decks could be employed in the playing of the game of the present invention if the play continues either as so far described, or in a different manner where a player puts up both the ante bet and second bet at **100** and **105** at the start of play to begin with, giving the player then the option of withdrawing the second bet at **105** after being dealt his/her two cards, declining a third card, instead of placing a second bet and requesting to have a third card dealt. In either event, placing the second bet down or leaving it at location **105** qualifies the player to participate in the side bet table listing of payouts at **110**, with that bet being determined when the third card is dealt in finalizing the poker style hand. Not placing the second bet at **105**, or withdrawing it from play disqualifies that player from participating in the poker aspect of the game, but continues the player in the "baccarat" aspect. Obviously, the payout table **110** set out in FIGS. **8** or **9** only applies where the player engages in having the second ante bet made.

[0037] While there have been described what are considered to be preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be readily appreciated that modifications can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the teachings herein. For example, additional side bets could be had—such that any pair together with a "9" could be equated to a "full house", or side bets could be allowed enabling a player to "double-up" on the second bet, enabling a player to put down another bet which would double the odds within a payout table.

[0038] Also, each of the cards dealt or drawn, the determining of the poker bets won or lost, and the totalling of the one's digit values for baccarat could all be carried out electronically and displayed on a video screen, and the excitement of the combined game still be had. And, as with the game of our Ser. No. 10/880,476 Application, a replication of each player's card and bet placements and posi-

tionings according to the present invention, could be had side-by-side on a gambling table design layout along the lines shown in **FIGS. 4, 5** and **7**.

[**0039**] For at least such reasons, therefore, resort should be had to the claims appended hereto for a true understanding of the scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. A method of playing a casino gambling card game comprising the steps of:

a player placing a predetermined initial ante bet to participate in the game;

a dealer dealing two playing cards from a deck to the player face-down;

the player given the option of placing a second bet that a third card dealt by the dealer to the player would give the player a poker hand of one of a straight, a flush, a straight flush and three of a kind;

the dealer dealing the player said next card;

the dealer drawing to itself one card face-down and one card face-up;

ascribing to the cards dealt to the player and the cards drawn by the dealer a value of "one" for each ace, a value of "zero" for each ten, jack, queen and king, and the point face value of each other card;

totalling the value of all cards received by the player;

totalling the value of all cards drawn by the dealer;

comparing the "ones" digit of said total value of cards received by the player with the "ones" digit of said total value of cards drawn by the dealer for itself; and

awarding the winning of said ante bet to the player or dealer whose "ones" digit total comes closer to "nine";

wherein the dealing of said third card by the dealer to the player is one of an optional deal by the dealer at the request of the player and a mandatory deal irrespective of the player's request.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the dealer draws to itself a third card face up to be totalled with said first and second cards drawn and compared with the "ones" digit of all cards dealt to the player and totalled in value.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the dealer draws to itself a third card face up to be totalled with said first and second cards drawn and compared with the "ones" digit of all cards dealt to the player and totalled in value except when the "ones" digit of said first and second cards drawn total one of a 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the player is given the option of placing a bet that the third card dealt by the dealer would give the player a poker hand of a single pair together with a ten, jack, queen or king.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the player is given the option of placing a bet that the third card dealt by the dealer would give the player a poker hand of one of three "3's", three "6's", and three "9's".

6. The method of claim 1 wherein all playing cards dealt to the player and drawn by the dealer are from a fifty two card deck.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein each individual step is carried out electronically, and displayed on a video screen.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the dealing of each playing card to the player precedes in turn the drawing of each playing card by the dealer.

9. Apparatus for playing a casino gambling table card game comprising:

a deck of playing cards; and

a gambling design layout for a table for two or more players, including a) a first space for each player placing a predetermined initial ante bet; b) three spaces for each player's placing of individual playing cards dealt by a dealer; c) three spaces for playing cards drawn by the dealer for itself; and d) a second space for each player for placement of bets made by each player as to the obtaining of a poker hand to be reached upon receipt of a third playing card from the dealer to each player.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said layout also includes a display of payout-odds for obtaining at least one of a poker hand of three of a kind, a straight, a flush, and a straight flush.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said layout also includes a third space for each player for placement of bets made by each player as to the obtaining of a poker hand of one of three "3's", three "6's", and three "9's".

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