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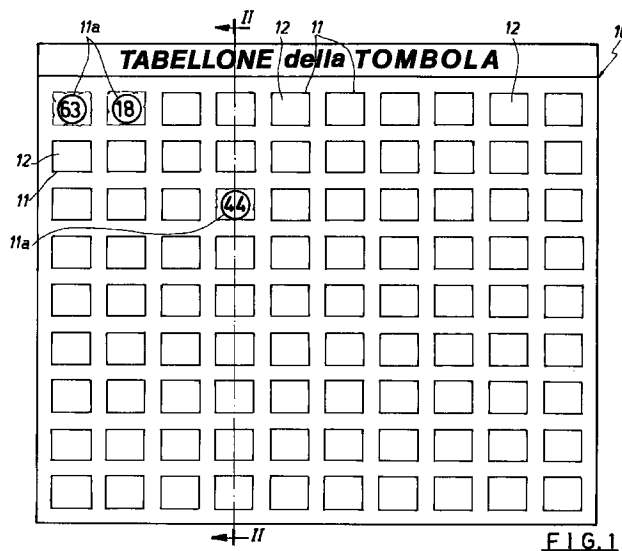
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(54) **Master card for the game of Tombola and similar games.**

(57) The master card for the game of *TOMBOLA* and similar games comprises a sheet on which the numerals (and/or letters, symbols, designs) for the game are printed, these being arranged in random and indeterminate succession, and a cover coating which covers and hides them; said coating is of the type which, if scratched, is removed to leave the underlying numeral (and/or letter, symbol, design) exposed.



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Description

[0001] This patent relates to the game of *TOMBOLA* and other similar games, ie games based on the chance extraction of different numerals (and/or letters of the alphabet, symbols, designs).

[0002] As is well known, the game of *TOMBOLA* is a sort of lottery of an informal character played with cards containing fifteen numerals, its equipment also comprising a bag of identical counters on which are printed the numerals (in particular from 1 to 90) involved in the game, and a master card on which the game numerals are printed in ordered arrangement. In playing the game, the numbered counters are extracted randomly from the bag and placed on the corresponding numerals of the master card.

[0003] Alternatively, a sort of *TOMBOLA* can be played in which the numerals are replaced by the same number of different symbols and/or designs and/or letters of the alphabet, in particular for relatively small children.

[0004] An object of this invention is to provide a means which simplifies the aforescribed equipment, and also makes the extraction of the numerals (and/or letters, symbols, designs) and their location more practical and secure.

[0005] This and further objects are attained by the master card of the invention, comprising a sheet on which the numerals (and/or letters, symbols, designs) for the game are printed, these being arranged in random and indeterminate succession, and a cover coating which covers and hides the numerals, said coating being of the type which, if scratched, is removed to leave the underlying numeral exposed.

[0006] The invention is described in detail hereinafter with the aid of the accompanying figures, which illustrate a non-limiting embodiment thereof.

Figure 1 shows one embodiment of the master card of the invention.

Figure 2 is a section on the plane II-II of Figure 1.

[0007] The master card illustrated is of the type specifically suitable for the game of *TOMBOLA*, but it is apparent that by appropriate modification it can be made suitable for other similar games based on the extraction of a plurality of numerals. A different sort of *TOMBOLA* can also be constructed in which the numerals are replaced by the same number of different symbols and/or designs and/or letters of the alphabet, particularly for relatively small children.

[0008] The master card comprises a support sheet 10, on the surface of which there are defined ninety locations 11 in which there are printed, one for each location, the numerals from 1 to 90, arranged in random disordered succession.

[0009] Different master cards have their numerals arranged in successions which differ from each other.

[0010] The numerals positioned in the locations 11 are then each covered with a small sector 12 of cover coating which covers and hides the underlying numeral. Said coating is of known type, and is such that it normally remains perfectly adhering to the sheet 10 to maintain good integrity when the sheet is handled. When however it is scratched with a sufficiently hard body possessing a fairly sharp edge, such as a coin, a knife etc., the coating is removed and the underlying numeral becomes visible. A coating of this type is used, for example, in those Italian State lottery cards known as "scratch cards".

[0011] In the figures the locations are nearly all covered by coating sectors. However some of these (indicated by 11a) are uncovered to expose the relative numeral, from 1 to 90.

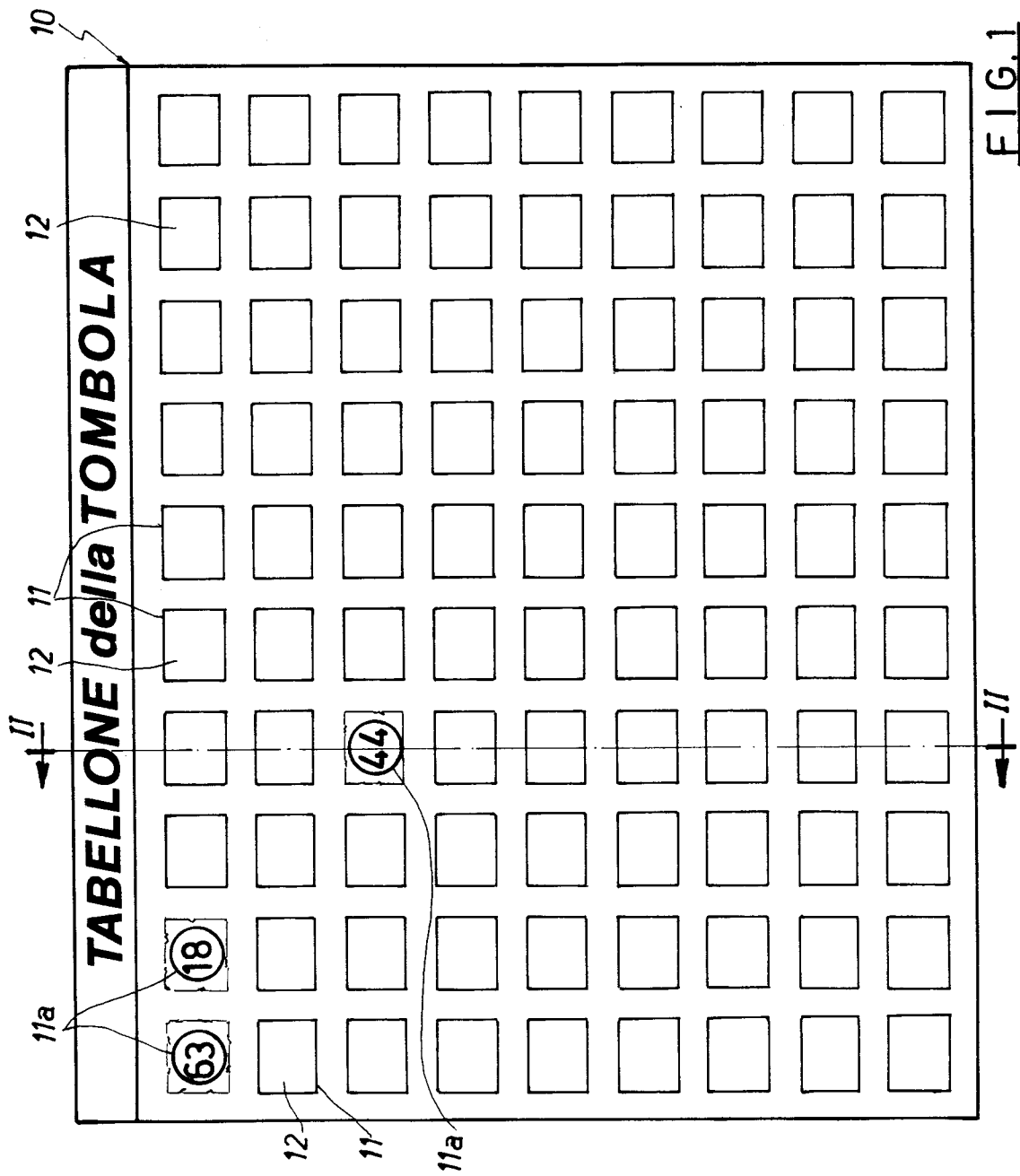
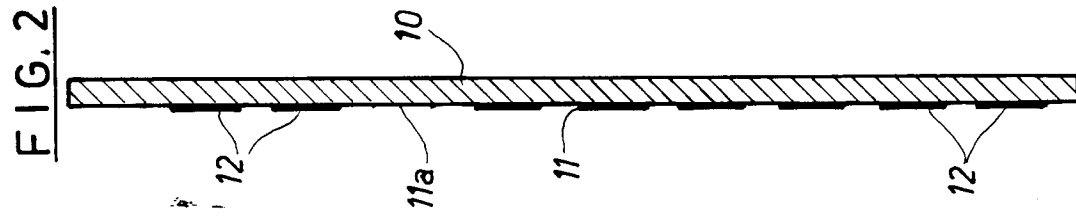
[0012] In use, the person whose task it is to extract the numerals scratches the coating sections 12 one at a time to expose the underlying numerals. The extractor can either follow any determined order in scratching the sectors 12, or alternatively not follow any order. As the numerals are arranged totally randomly on the master card, he never knows which numeral he is scratching, with the result that for each numeral he always makes a totally random choice, as is in fact required.

[0013] By virtue of the invention, in order to play the game it is not necessary to possess a bag of counters, which could easily be lost. Moreover, if the sectors are scratched in a predetermined order the sequence of numerals extracted will remain in the memory, which could be useful for any required checks on the game.

[0014] Numerous modifications of a practical and applicational nature can be made to the invention, but without leaving the scope of the inventive idea as claimed hereinafter.

Claims

1. A master card for the game of *TOMBOLA* and similar games, characterised by comprising a sheet on which the numerals (and/or letters, symbols, designs) for the game are printed, these being arranged in random and indeterminate succession, and a cover coating which covers and hides them, said coating being of the type which, if scratched, is removed to leave the underlying numeral (and/or letter, symbol, design) exposed.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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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)
X	EP 0 048 961 A (RUBBEL-SPIEL) 7 April 1982 * the whole document * ---	1	A63F3/06
X	EP 0 115 903 A (DON MARKETING MANAGEMENT) 15 August 1984 * the whole document * ---	1	
X	WO 88 06911 A (CHETJACK) 22 September 1988 * the whole document * ---	1	
X,P	WO 97 41934 A (INSPIRED ENTERPRISES) 13 November 1997 * the whole document * -----	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A63F
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 November 1998	Examiner Raybould, B
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