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(54) **Slot machine with pattern-driven award feature**

(57) A pattern-based award system for a slot machine. In one embodiment, a basic payoff is made if a symbol group displayed on the slot machine includes a basic winning combination and a supplemental payoff is made if the basic winning combination matches a target pattern. In another embodiment, an enhanced payoff is made if the symbol group displayed on the slot machine includes a basic winning combination which matches a target pattern; otherwise, a basic payoff is made if the symbol group includes a basic winning combination which does not match the target pattern. The basic payoff in each embodiment comprises a predefined amount of coin(s) or credit(s) or a randomly selected mystery amount. The supplemental or enhanced payoff is the product of the basic payoff amount and a randomly selected mystery multiplier.

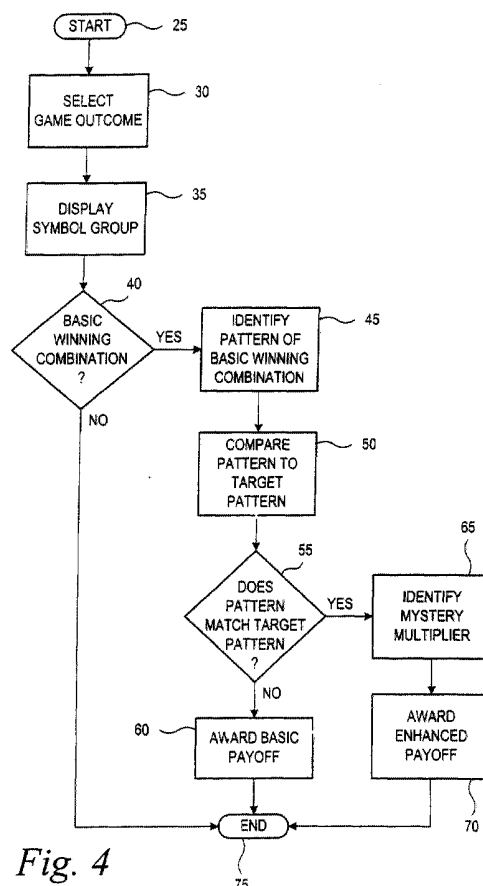


Fig. 4



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 40 2158

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 December 2001	Examiner Reule, D
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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