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(54) **Slot machine with collection-based award feature**

(57) A collection-based award system for a slot machine operable in a bonus round. The bonus round consists of a fixed number of spins of the reels of the slot machine. The outcome of each spin in the bonus round is represented by the display of a symbol group including various collection symbols and standard symbols. Each symbol group in the bonus round is evaluated for the presence of collection symbols and for the presence of standard symbols defining a standard winning combinations. Following the bonus round, a payoff is made to the player corresponding to the cumulative value of the collection symbols and standard winning combinations.

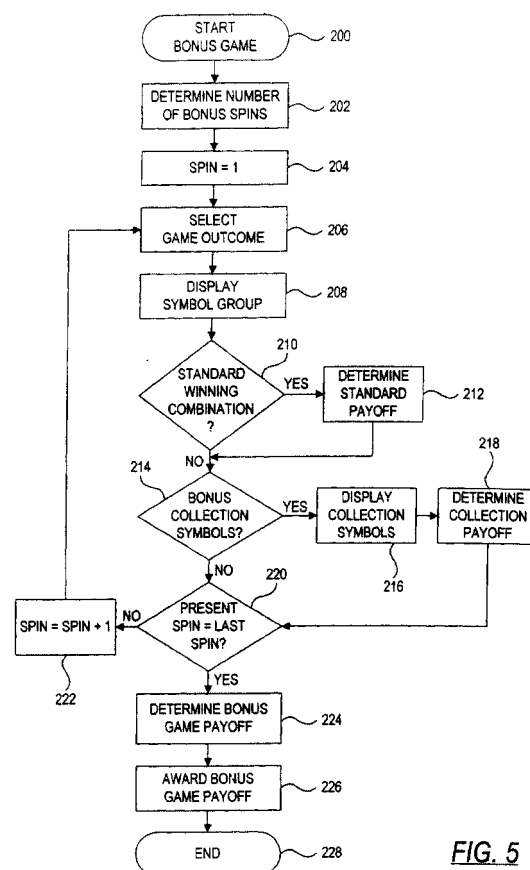


FIG. 5



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 40 2172

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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 3 August 2001	Examiner Reule, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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