



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
05.11.2003 Bulletin 2003/45

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07F 17/32**

(43) Date of publication A2:
27.06.2001 Bulletin 2001/26

(21) Application number: **00128132.8**

(22) Date of filing: **22.12.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
 • **Yoshida, Hiroshi**
Koutou-ku, Tokyo (JP)
 • **Ito, Keiji**
Koutou-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(30) Priority: **22.12.1999 JP 36570799**
28.12.1999 JP 37399799
31.01.2000 JP 2000021130

(74) Representative:
Prechtel, Jörg, Dipl.-Phys. Dr. et al
Weickmann & Weickmann
Patentanwälte
Postfach 86 08 20
81635 München (DE)

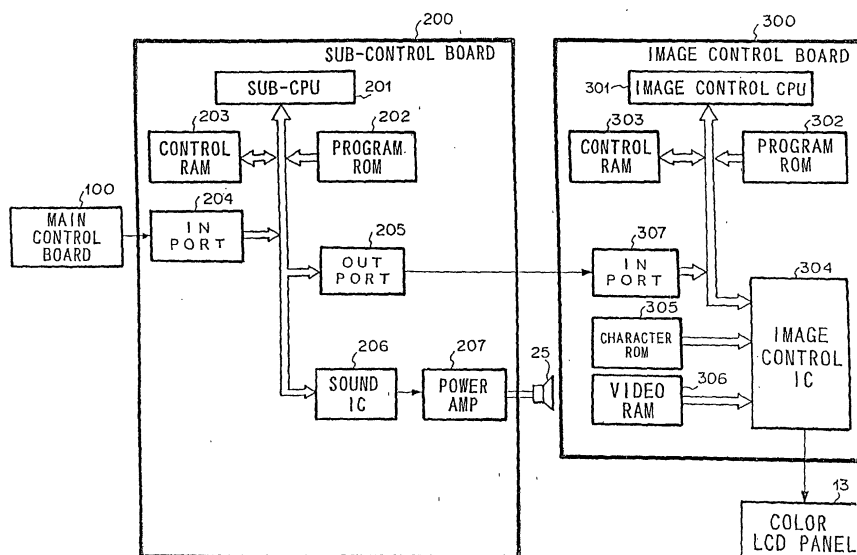
(71) Applicant: **Aruze Corporation**
Tokyo (JP)

(54) **Gaming machine**

(57) Described is a gaming machine capable of performing smooth control operation even when effecting a variety of gaming presentations and realizing a reduction in manufacturing and maintenance costs. A control device for electrically controlling a gaming machine is constituted of a main control device (a main control board 100) for controlling the first hierarchical level, which is the highest hierarchical processing level of the

gaming machine; an intermediate control device (a sub-control board 200) for controlling the second hierarchical level situated lower than the first hierarchical level, under control of the main control device; and a lower control device (an image control board 300) for controlling a third hierarchical level situated lower than the second hierarchical level, under control of the intermediate control device.

FIG. 3





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 12 8132

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.7)
X	EP 0 953 930 A (ARUZE CORP) 3 November 1999 (1999-11-03) * the whole document *	1-8	G07F17/32
A	US 5 584 764 A (INOUE HARUO) 17 December 1996 (1996-12-17) * column 3, line 59 - column 4, line 65 * * figures 7,8 *	1-8	
A	DE 44 02 101 A (NSM AG) 10 August 1995 (1995-08-10) * the whole document *	1-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		11 September 2003	Van Dop, E
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 03/02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 12 8132

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-09-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0953930	A	03-11-1999	JP	11309264 A	09-11-1999
			AU	2398099 A	04-11-1999
			EP	0953930 A2	03-11-1999
			ZA	9902550 A	07-10-1999
US 5584764	A	17-12-1996	CA	2113705 A1	19-07-1995
DE 4402101	A	10-08-1995	DE	4402101 A1	10-08-1995
			DE	9421089 U1	13-04-1995

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82