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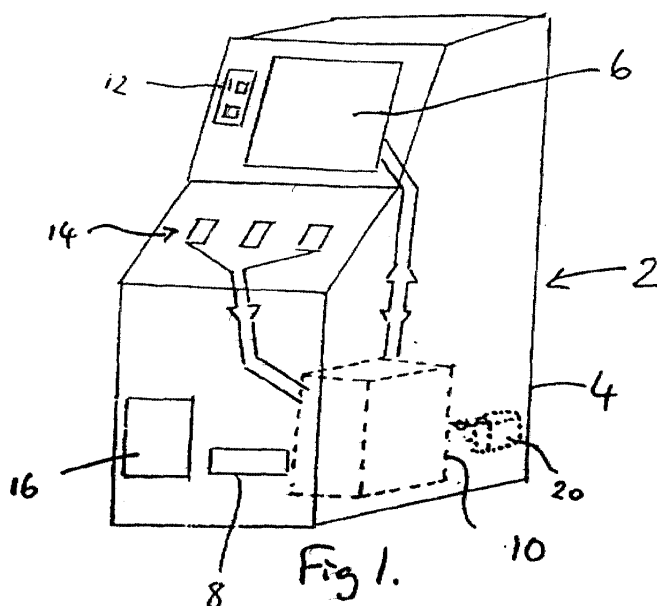
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(54) **Improvements relating to entertainment machines**

(57) An entertainment machine (2) comprising a game means for providing a game for which a player, in use, is awarded qualifying points according to his/her performances, prize selection means for providing the player with a selection of non-monetary prizes each having a predetermined value associated therewith; and qualifying point conversion means for allowing the play-

er, in use, to convert points that they have been awarded into a prize of his/her choice. Prizes can be delivered from remote sites to addresses specified by the player, thereby reducing the need to store prizes at the site of the entertainment machine.

To be accompanied, when published, by Figure 1 of the drawings.



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# DECLARATION

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 01 30 0494 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

The Search Division considers that the present application, does not comply with the provisions of the EPC to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of all claims

Reason:

The claims relate to subject matter excluded from patentability under Art. 52(2) and (3) EPC. Given that the claims are formulated in terms of such subject matter or merely specify commonplace features relating to its technological implementation, the search examiner could not establish any technical problem which might potentially have required an inventive step to overcome. Hence it was not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art (Rule 45 EPC). See also Guidelines Part B Chapter VIII, 1-6.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that a search may be carried out during examination following a declaration of no search under Rule 45 EPC, should the problems which led to the declaration being issued be overcome (see EPC Guideline C-VI, 8.5).

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## CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)

G07F17/32

EPO FORM 1504 (P04C37)

Place of search

THE HAGUE

Date

19 August 2002

Examiner

Van Dop, E