



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
22.05.2002 Bulletin 2002/21

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

(43) Date of publication A2:
05.09.2001 Bulletin 2001/36

(21) Application number: **01100279.7**

(22) Date of filing: **03.01.2001**

(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

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(30) Priority: **03.01.2000 US 476143**

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(54) **A microcontrolled backlit keypad assembly and method for a gaming machine**

(57) A keypad assembly and method for use with a gaming machine including a keypad having a plurality of keys to input data, and a plurality of illumination devices operably coupled to a corresponding key for inde-

pendent illumination thereof. A microcontroller device is coupled to the plurality of illumination devices for illumination thereof in a manner visually communicating information relating to a game accessible by the gaming machine.

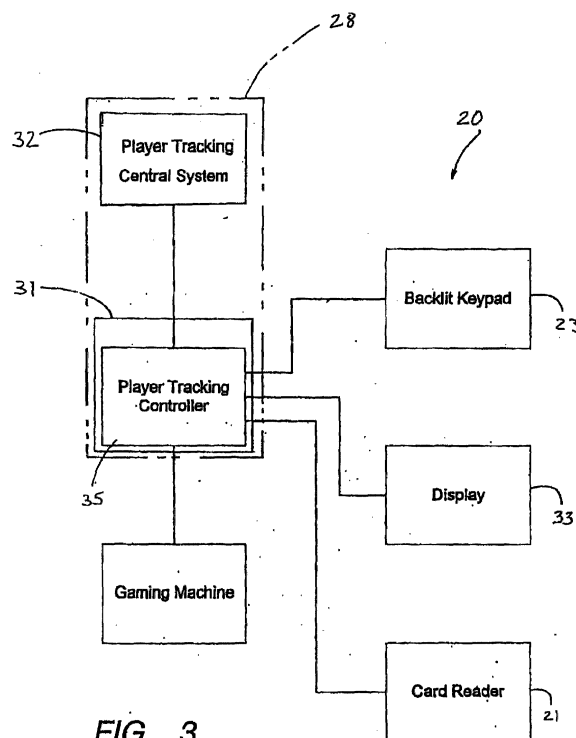


FIG. 3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 0279

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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Y	US 5 326 104 A (PEASE LOGAN L ET AL) 5 July 1994 (1994-07-05) * abstract * * column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * * ---	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	
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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 28 March 2002	Examiner Lindholm, A-M
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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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
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