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(11) **EP 1 139 310 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
10.09.2003 Bulletin 2003/37

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07F 17/32, G07F 7/10**

(43) Date of publication A2:
04.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/40

(21) Application number: **01400743.9**

(22) Date of filing: **22.03.2001**

(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: **22.03.2000 US 534406**

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(54) **Open-loop cashless gaming system and method using smart data mediums**

(57) An open-loop cashless gaming system and method employ a portable smart data medium and a gaming machine. The smart data medium is inherently more secure and less susceptible to fraud than other mediums of exchange. The smart data medium is embedded with a microcontroller having a memory storing first monetary data. The gaming machine includes a visual display, a credit meter, and a receptacle for receiving the smart data medium. To start playing a game of chance on the visual display, a player inserts the smart data medium into the receptacle. The first monetary data is transferred to the gaming machine and, if the monetary data is a currency amount, converted to a first number of credits that are added to the credit meter. With credits on the credit meter, the player can place wagers and play one or more cycles of the game of chance. Unless the player exhausts all of his or her credits, a second number of credits remain on the credit meter after the game of chance has been played. In response to the player activating a "collect" switch on the gaming machine, the second number of credits are converted to a currency amount (if the monetary data is a currency amount) and transferred to the memory of the smart data medium. The cashless gaming system and method are open-loop in that the credit-in and credit-out transactions are performed by the gaming machine without communicating with any remote computer linked to the machine.

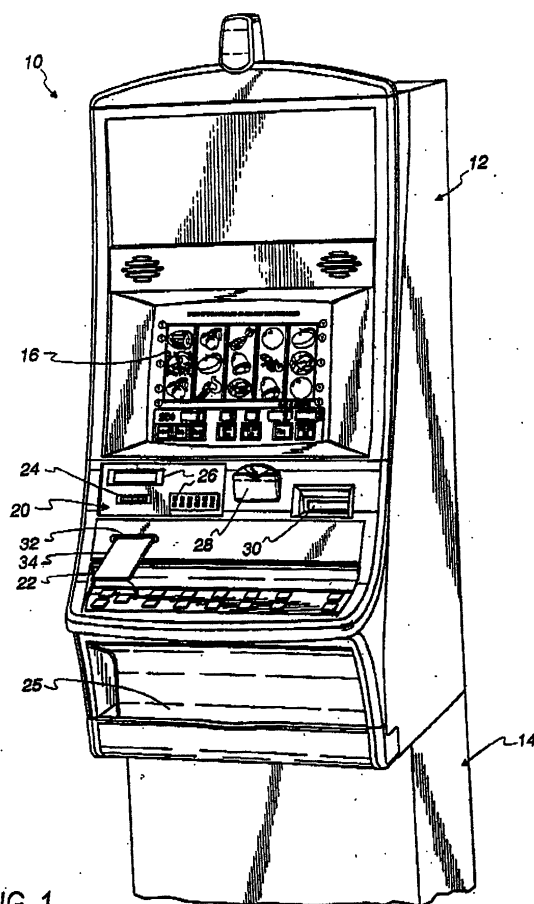


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 40 0743

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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 10 June 2003	Examiner Kling, J
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.
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