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(54) **Gaming machine with persistent bonus state**

(57) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine during a single gaming session is disclosed. The wagering game includes a basic game and a bonus game. The bonus game is triggered by a special outcome in the basic game. According to the method, the machine receives a first wager to play the wagering game. In response to an occurrence of the special outcome, the bonus game is conducted until terminated at one of a plurality of possible states. The machine subsequently receives a second wager to play the wagering game. In response to a subsequent occurrence of the special outcome, the bonus game resumes from the one of the plurality of possible states as long as game credits remain in the machine between the occurrence and the subsequent occurrence of the special outcome. Otherwise, the bonus game resets so that it commences from an introductory state when the special outcome subsequently occurs.

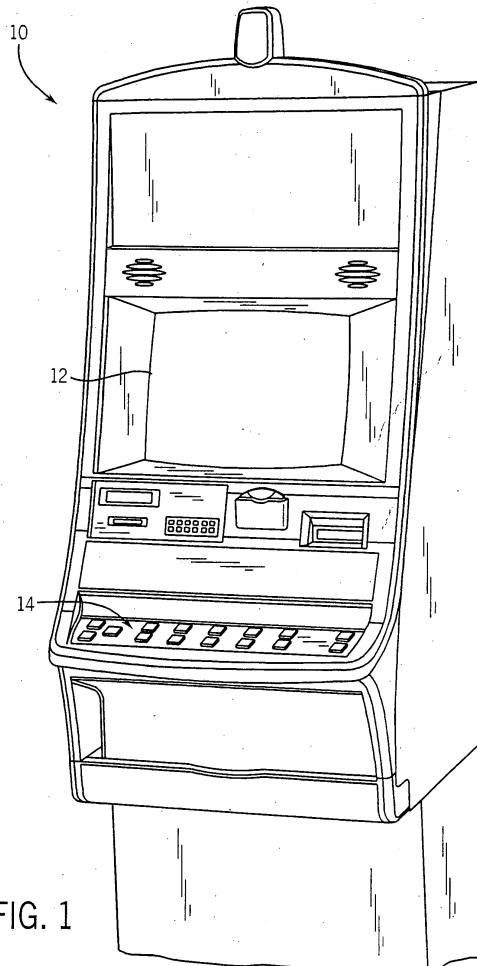


FIG. 1

EP 1 469 432 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 8885

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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 29 April 2005	Examiner Kling, J
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

3

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

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