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(54) **Gaming machines**

(57) A gaming machine has the representation of movable reels 1 that can be spun and stopped in a random manner to reveal new combinations of symbols, some of which will represent a "win" outcome on a "win" line. One symbol on a reel can carry a "FREE TO WIN" indicator. When this appears on a winning line a panel

1 lights up to indicate to the player that this feature of the machine is in operation. The player then enters into a "free play" situation whereby no credits are taken from the player until such time as a winning situation is achieved. The winning situation could be the award of a prize, or the entry into a particular feature operation of the play of the machine.

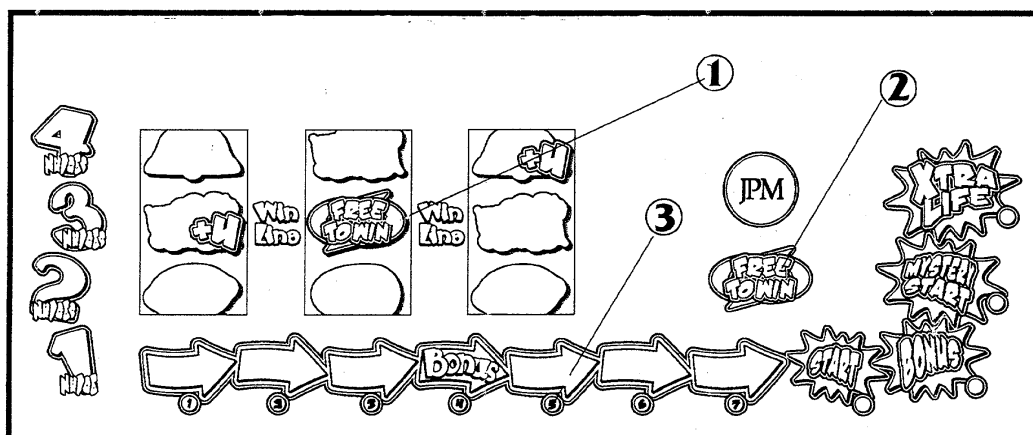


FIG.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
X	US 6 398 218 B1 (VANCURA OLAF) 4 June 2002 (2002-06-04) * column 1, lines 54-64 * * column 4, lines 60-66 * * column 5, line 5 - column 6, line 24 * * column 7, lines 29,30 * * column 8, lines 2-8 * * column 11, lines 11-16 * -----	1-4	G07F17/32 G07F17/34
X	US 2001/054794 A1 (COLE JOSEPH W ET AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) * abstract * * paragraphs [0046], [0049] * -----	1-4	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 July 2005	Examiner Breidenich, 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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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