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(71) Applicant: JPM International Limited  
Cardiff CF1 8AQ (GB)

(72) Inventors:  
• Samples, Heath  
Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham NG12 2HX (GB)

• Eaton, Leon  
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2EE (GB)  
• Short, Kevin Jonathan  
Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 0TT (GB)

(74) Representative:  
James, Michael John Gwynne et al  
Wynne-Jones, Lainé & James,  
33, St. Mary Street  
Cardiff CF10 1AF (GB)

### (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.

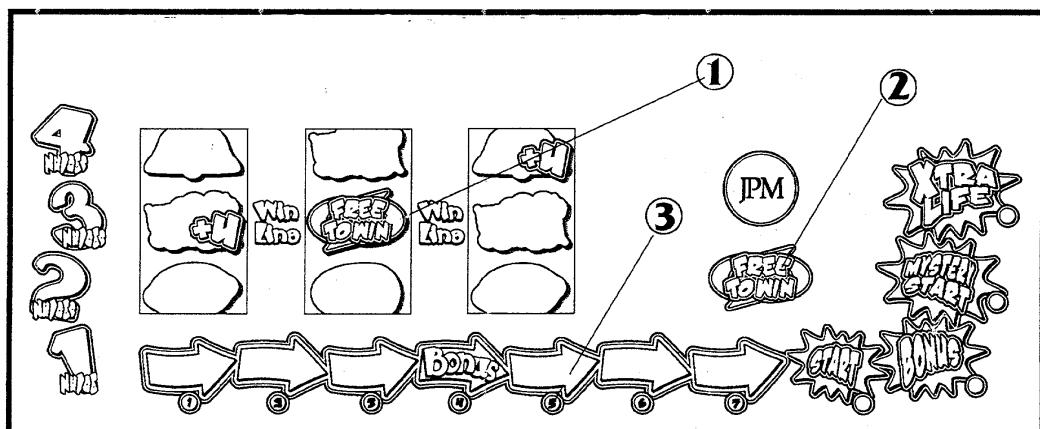


Fig. 1



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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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X	US 2001/054794 A1 (COLE JOSEPH W ET AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) * abstract * * paragraphs [0046], [0049] *	1-4	
X	US 2002/025847 A1 (THOMAS ALFRED ET AL) 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) * abstract * * paragraphs [0004], [0026], [0029] * -----	1-4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
2	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
EPO FORM 1503.03.82 (P04C01)	Munich	12 July 2005	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			
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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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. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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