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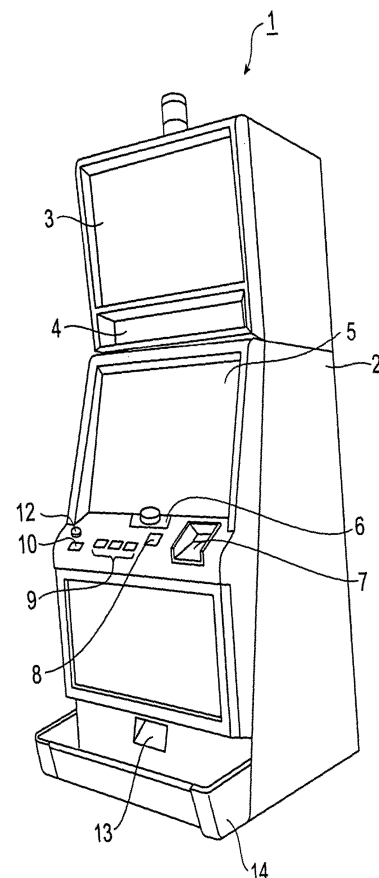
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(54) **Gaming machine and control method thereof**

(57) A gaming machine is configured to shift from a normal game mode to a special game mode based on the result of determination on establishment/non-establishment of a shift condition. After shifting to the special game mode, the gaming machine extracts a predetermined number of card data to be used in the special game mode, and selects card data to be assigned to a first group and card data to be assigned to second groups from among the extracted card data. Then, the gaming machine compares a winning combination based on the card data of the first group to winning combinations based on the card data of at least two the second groups, and pays the payout amount to the player in accordance with the comparison result.

Fig.1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 02 9300

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 2003/130023 A1 (ANGEL MARK) 10 July 2003 (2003-07-10) * page 2, paragraph 18 - paragraph 22 * * page 2, paragraph 26 - page 3, paragraph 28 *	1-8	G07F17/32
X	EP 1 288 875 A (ARUZE CO., LTD) 5 March 2003 (2003-03-05) * page 6, paragraph 9 - paragraph 16 *	1-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 24 August 2005	Examiner Bohn, P
<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>			

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**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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24-08-2005

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