

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 August 2008 (21.08.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/100431 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
A63F 9/24 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2008/001702

(22) International Filing Date: 8 February 2008 (08.02.2008)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/889,260 9 February 2007 (09.02.2007) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report
— with amended claims and statement

Date of publication of the amended claims and statement:
13 November 2008

(54) Title: UNIVERSAL PLAYER CONTROL FOR CASINO GAME GRAPHIC ASSETS

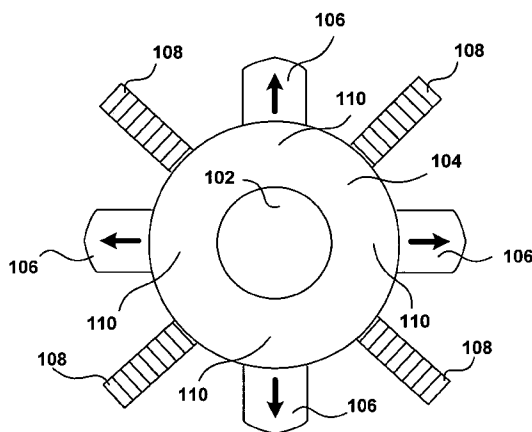


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Universal Player Controls for regulated pay computer-controlled video games afford players an efficient, intuitive method for customizing the layout and appearance of their favorite electronic games. A popup control featuring a jog wheel for fast selection and geometric control using the touch screen may be attached to each predetermined group of graphic assets allowing players to move, resize, dim, animate, temporary hide or overlap them. Predetermined presentation styles (skins) may be successively rendered. Whereas the displays on the regulated pay computer-controlled video games of the prior art were often visually cluttered and not visually appealing to adult game console players, the present Universal Player Controls enables the players to tailor the game appearance then save it in a player profile for latter retrieval.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 04 August 2008 (04.08.2008);
original claim 1 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A universal player control rendered on a video display of a pay-for-play or of a pay-for-wager video game for enabling a player to interactively control predetermined game parameters or game actions via player activation using a pointer, comprising:

a ring area delimited by an outer circular perimeter and an inner circular perimeter, a first continuously variable signal being generated as a function of an arc or circular motion activation within the ring area;

a circular central area within the inner circular perimeter, a second continuously variable signal being generated as a function of the activation time of the central area, and

predetermined first selection areas within the ring area, each of the predetermined first selection areas generating a third continuously variable signal as a function of an activation time thereof.

2. The universal player control of claim 1, wherein the central area is further configured to generate a fourth continuously variable signal as a function of a motion activation thereof.

3. The universal player control of claim 2, wherein the universal player control is configured to be displaced by the fourth continuously variable signal to track the motion activation of the central area, the central area following the pointer.

4. The universal player control of claim 1, further comprising predetermined second areas outside the outer circular perimeter, a fifth continuously variable signal being generated as a function of an activation time of any one of the predetermined second areas.

5. The universal player control of claim 4, wherein the predetermined second areas are disposed radially outside the outer circular perimeter.

6. The universal player control of claim 1, further comprising predetermined graphic assets disposed outside the outer circular perimeter, a continuously variable graphic asset signal being generated as a function of the activation time of each activated graphic asset.

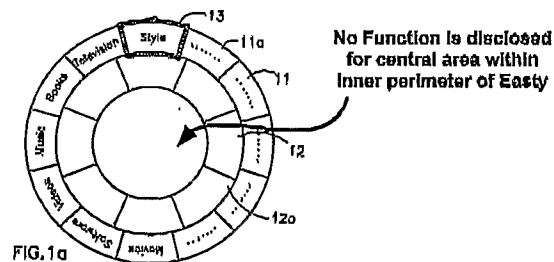
7. The universal player control of claim 6, wherein the predetermined graphic assets are disposed radially outside the outer circular perimeter.

8. The universal player control of claim 6, wherein the graphics assets include at least one of a directional symbol, a menu selection symbol, a color selection symbol, a volume control symbol, a resize symbol, a hide symbol, an un-hide symbol, and an immediate action symbol.

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

This 494 word Statement is in response to the Written Opinion of the ISA mailed 12 June 2008, which indicates that claims 1-14, 16-30 and 32 lacked novelty over Easty et al. and that claims 15, 31 lacked inventive step over Easty in view of Erdelyi.

Easty does not teach or suggest any central area configured such that a signal is generated as a function thereof, and much less any signal being generated as a function of an activation time of the central area. To ensure that the claimed central area is not interpreted as corresponding to Easty's inner ring 12, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the central area is circular, in contradistinction to Easty's ring-shaped inner ring. The central area within the inner circular perimeter in Easty is not disclosed to have any function at all. Easty's drawings also do not teach or suggest any function for the central area within the inner circular perimeter:



The claimed second continuously variable signal is generated as a function of the activation time of the central area, and each of the claimed predetermined first selection areas is configured to generate a third continuously variable signal as a function of an activation time thereof. Easty discloses no signals that are generated as a function of an activation time. Easty mentions time in only two respects: that the categories displayed on the inner and outer rings may be “dynamically determined at the time of the display based on the content available to a given user” and “As used in this specification, “on-demand” describes delivery of digital information in real time in response to individual users' requests” (Col.2, lines 1-2). Therefore,

as Easty does not mention any use for the central circular area of his GUI and makes no mention of generating signals as a function of activation time, Easty cannot anticipate the claims.

Even if the claimed predetermined first selection areas within the ring area are analogized to Easty's icons within the outer ring or inner ring, the analogy breaks down, as Easty does not teach or suggest that the icons along the inner or outer ring generate any signal as a function of activation time thereof, as claimed. Easty, therefore, cannot anticipate the claims.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) be reconsidered and that the amended claims be found to have Novelty and Inventive Step and that a favorable IPER be issued.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a favorable IPER cannot be issued on the basis of the above, Applicant requests the issuance of an additional written opinion under Rule 66.4 and/or a telephone interview under Rule 66.6. Such additional communication will facilitate the issuance of a favorable IPRP, and provide efficiencies in subsequent regional and national phase examination.