

[0021] A coin tray **30** is mounted beneath the console **12** for cash payouts from the machine **10**.

[0022] Referring now to **FIG. 2** of the drawings, a control means or control circuit **40** is illustrated. A program which implements the game and user interface is run on a processor **42** of the control circuit **40**. The processor **42** forms part of a controller **44** which drives the screen of the video display unit **14** and which receives input signals from sensors **46**. The sensors **46** include sensors associated with the bank **22** of buttons and touch sensors mounted in the screen **16**. The controller **44** also receives input pulses from the mechanism **24** indicating that a player has provided sufficient credit to commence playing. The mechanism **24** may, instead of the coin input chute **24.1** or the bill collector **24.2**, or in addition thereto, be a credit card reader (not shown) or any other type of validation device.

[0023] Finally, the controller **44** drives a payout mechanism **48** which, for example, may be a coin hopper for feeding coins to the coin tray **30** to make a pay out to a player when the player wishes to redeem his or her credit.

[0024] Referring now to **FIGS. 3 and 4** of the drawings, a first embodiment of the invention is illustrated and described.

[0025] A game **16** played on the gaming machine **10** has, as described above, a simulation of a plurality of spinning reels **18**. Each reel position on a reel strip which is mapped to an associated reel **18** is comprised of a polyhedral element **50** as shown in **FIG. 4** of the drawings.

[0026] Each element **50** is a fixed representation on its associated reel **18**. In other words, the elements **50** do not rotate or spin relative to their reels **18**.

[0027] As a result, although each reel strip is, as illustrated in **FIG. 3** of the drawings, only twenty positions in length, the effective length of each reel strip is trebled. This is achieved by showing each polyhedral element **50** so that multiple faces of the elements **50** are visible on the reel strips **18** as shown in **FIG. 4** of the drawings. Accordingly, each position on the reel strip will represent at least three symbols in the case of a cubic element as shown and could conceivably represent more than three symbols rather than just one symbol as for the standard spinning game.

[0028] The screen display of the game **16** shown in **FIG. 4** of the drawings assumes that the first reel stops at position two, the second reel stops at position eight, the third reel stops at position four, the fourth reel stops at position twelve and the fifth reel stops at position eighteen of the table of **FIG. 3**. Assuming that the game pays only for left-to-right combinations and for three or more of a kind of any of the symbols on any of the three indicated paylines the player will be paid for 3×SYB and 3×SYC on payable one, 4×Q on payable two and 4×K on payable three.

[0029] It is to be noted that, in assessing prize winning combinations, the symbols need not be on corresponding faces on the elements **50** on winning paylines. Hence, for example, considering the payment of 433 K on payable three, the first occurrence and third occurrence of K are on side faces of the elements **50**, the second occurrence is on a front face and the fourth occurrence is on a top face of the elements **50**.

[0030] In another version of this embodiment of the invention (not shown) each symbol **50** could, instead of the symbols described above, carry normal markings of a die thereon. Then, paylines passing through five of the symbols **50** are designated. The total applied to the sum of the resulting values of the five dice on a particular payable governs the prize awarded. The prize may be in accordance with the following table:

Total	Prize/Credits
30	10000
25 to 29	100
20 to 24	50
15 to 19	10
10 to 14	5
5	5000

[0031] In still other embodiments of the invention, each element **50** may carry a plurality of standard spinning reel game-type symbols and other patterns and multiplier numbers thereon. Thus, for example, if one of the elements **50** shows an Ace symbol and a second element, adjacent the first element **50**, has a multiplier of five thereon then the prize which will be awarded is that for 5×Aces.

[0032] Referring now to **FIGS. 5 and 6** of the drawings, a second embodiment of the invention is illustrated.

[0033] In this embodiment of the invention, not all reel strip positions have a polyhedral element. Only certain reel strip positions have the polyhedral elements **50**. The elements **50** are spaced on each reel strip such that no two elements **50** are displayed simultaneously on any one reel **18** on the screen.

[0034] Further, unlike the embodiment described above with reference to **FIGS. 3 and 4** of the drawings, the elements **50** are rotatable with respect to their carriers or reels **18**. Accordingly, when the game **16** commences and the reels **18** are spun, once the reels **18** come to rest, the elements **50** which are displayed commence spinning and, at a later instance in time, come to rest. The elements **50** normally carry special symbols thereon which are picture symbols. These picture symbols function as scatter symbols, substitute symbols or top pay symbols.

[0035] In the example illustrated in **FIG. 5** of the drawings, left-to-right pays only apply, prizes are paid for three or more of a kind and prizes are paid in respect of the three illustrated paylines. Assuming SYA is a substitute symbol, a prize is paid for 3×Q on payable one. If SYB is a scatter symbol, then a prize is paid for 5×SYB.

[0036] It is an advantage of the invention that a more versatile spinning reel game is provided than other types of spinning reel games of which the applicant is aware. Also, with the provision of carriers **18** and elements **50** which can rotate relative to the carriers **18**, heightened tension will be provided thereby increasing player interest. Still further reel strips are effectively increased without increasing the actual length of the reel strips.

[0037] It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments