

nary symbol start gate) for starting variable display of the ordinary symbol display device making it condition that a gaming ball passes the port.

[0071] A big winning port is also provided, which is switched, when the stopped display state of the symbols on the image display device becomes a predetermined winning pattern, to a state (such as big winning, middle winning or small winning) in which the winning port tends to accept a game ball for a predetermined period of time and by a predetermined number of times more easily.

[0072] When a predetermined display result appears on the ordinary symbol display device, the special symbol start port (special symbol start gate) is opened or enlarged (e.g., winning state).

[0073] When the special symbol is a specific symbol (probability changing symbol), a so-called probability change game is carried out, in which the 'big winning' probability becomes high in a game after the special game is completed.

[0074] As for a specific symbol (probability changing symbol), for example, symbols of odd numbers among 'big winning' symbols represented by numbers "0" to "11" becomes the specific symbol (probability changing symbol).

[0075] [Appearance of Pachi-slot Machine]

[0076] Hereafter, explanation will be made in connection with a specific embodiment of the gaming machine according to the invention, by referring to the attached drawings. Although explanation will be made in connection with a pachi-slot machine as a representative gaming machine in the following embodiment, the present invention is not restricted to the specific gaming machine.

[0077] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a pachi-slot machine according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0078] As shown in FIG. 1, the pachi-slot machine according to the embodiment of the invention includes three display windows 3a, 3b and 3c, to which each surface of three rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c disposed in a cabinet 1 of the game machine faces, are provided abreast on the cabinet 1 of the gaming machine at an upper side of a nearly center of the front face. In the lower side of the display windows 3a, 3b and 3c, a game medal insertion slot 4 for inserting game medals provided for the game, a bet switch 5 for inserting game medals provided for the game in a credited range, a deposited-medal adjusting switch 6 for paying out the credited game medals, a start switch 7 for starting the rotation of the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c at the same time, three stop switches 8a, 8b and 8c for individually stopping the rotation of the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c and the like, are provided.

[0079] To the three display windows 3a, 3b and 3c, five activated line displays 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d and 9e are provided so as to traverse the display windows 3a, 3b and 3c. The activated line displays consist of the three transverse activated line displays 9b, 9c and 9d and the two oblique activated line displays 9a and 9e crossing them. The number of lines made activated varies with the number of game medals used for the game. On the left side of the display window 3a, three activated line lamps 10a, 10b and 10c are provided for displaying a correspondence relationship between the number of game medals used for the game and

the activated line displays 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d and 9e. In front of the activated line lamps 10a, 10b and 10c, numerical characters such as "1", "2" or "3" are displayed to demonstrate clearly the number of inserted game medals and the activated line displays 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d and 9e as associated with the turned-on activated line lamps 10a, 10b and 10c. Further, at upper and lower sides of the activated line lamps 10a, 10b and 10c, a plurality of display lamps 11a, 11b and 11c are provided for displaying game information on the pachi-slot machine. The display lamps 11a, 11b and 11c function as other display units. For example, the display lamps can be used to indicate various displays such as game medal insertion permission, game start permission, internal winning of bonus game, game prohibition and game close.

[0080] At the lower front side of the cabinet 1 of the gaming machine, a game medal payout opening 12 for paying out game medals and a game medal deposition tray 13 for depositing game medals provided so as to face the game medal payout opening 12, are provided. Also at the upper front side of the cabinet 1 of the gaming machine, a decorative section 14 and a pair of speakers 15a and 15b are provide.

[0081] Though not illustrated, a hopper for paying out game medals when a predetermined winning state is established, is provided in the cabinet 1 of the gaming machine.

[0082] [Rotatory Reel]

[0083] The rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c are members which function as the first display means in the present embodiment and which are disposed by three in a row. Each of the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c is rotated by driving associated stepping motors or the like. Each of the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c is made of a light transmitting material, and a light-transmitting reel tape (not shown) having a plurality of symbols marked thereon is applied onto the front surface of the reel.

[0084] Note that the number of such rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c are not limited to three but any number such as 2 or 4 may be employed. Further, the type of symbols given on the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c is not specifically restricted, but various types of symbols such as "7", "BELL", "ORANGE", "CHERRY", "JAC", "BAR", "PERSON", "ANIMAL", "FISH" or "VEHICLE" can be applied.

[0085] Referring FIG. 2, explanation will be made as to the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c. FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram showing vertical cross-sectional views of a rotatory reel (2a is shown as a representative), a liquid crystal display device 16 and a liquid crystal shutter display device 112. As shown in FIG. 2, three backlights 17a, 17b and 17c are provided in the rotatory reel 2a to illuminate the rotatory reel 2a from its interior side. Note that the number of such backlights is not restricted to three but 1, 2, 4 or more backlights can be used according to the number of symbols stop-displayed in the display window 3a. Lamps, LEDs or the like may be used as the backlights 17a, 17b and 17c.

[0086] At upper and lower forward sides of the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c, forward illuminating devices 18a and 18b are disposed each by one to illuminate the liquid crystal display device 16 and liquid crystal shutter display device 112 from their back sides and illuminating the rotatory reels 2a, 2b and 2c from their front sides. As the forward illuminating devices 18a and 18b, for example, fluorescent