

in an "internal winning state". In the ST, a plurality of "stop tables" are prepared which determine the number of frames to be slid after the stop operation is performed during rotation of each reel and before the corresponding reel stops. When the internal winning is obtained with a winning combination, one of the stop tables to be used is determined by random number lottery. If the player does not perform the stop operation in a predetermined order which is set on the determined stop table, the slot machine performs stop-control to disable the winning even if a stop button is pushed with the observation push at a good timing so that a desired symbol is supposed to appear on the surface facing the front to be aligned along the activated pay line. In the ST (or with the ST function), the player may be notified of the kind of the selected stop table or the player may not be notified of such information, thereby realizing a large number of coins to be paid out comparable to that in the bonus game, in a similar manner of the case of the above-described "AT".

[0010] For example, if the slot machine has three stop buttons for stopping a left reel, a center reel, and a right reel, respectively, six operation orders are prepared such as "left stop, center stop, right stop", "left stop, right stop, center stop", "right stop, left stop, center stop", "center stop, right stop, left stop" and "center stop, left stop, right stop". If the player does not operate in the operation order of a stop table determined by random number lottery, the winning shall not occur.

[0011] In an actual game, a special game state where the probability of the winning generation is rather high if compared to that in the above-described general game state and the general game state being different from the special game state are realized alternatively according to occasional game conditions. In either game state, it is required that a winning combination of symbols, which corresponds to the predetermined combination, are to be aligned along the pay line in order that coins are actually paid out to the player. In a general gaming machine, a plurality of winning modes (or combinations) with which the number of coins to be paid out ought to be determined, respectively. For example, small winning combinations such as a "cherry" winning combination and a "bell" winning combination and big bonus winning combinations such as a "big bonus" winning combination may be referred to.

[0012] Different numbers of coins to be paid out are set in advance with respective winning combinations, and a payout table having such numbers is displayed on a display panel so as to become visible to the player. The display panel is composed of optically transparent cell sheets on which the winning symbols and the numbers of payout coins are drawn respectively and a transparent acrylic plate on which the optically transparent cell sheets are stacked. The symbols are illuminated with a light such as a fluorescent lamp from the inside of the gaming machine. A slot machine of a general type is provided with a plurality of display panels of the above-described type. The slot machine specifically includes a central display window, a reel display panel through which reels provided in the inside of the gaming machine are set visible to the player, an upper panel which is provided above the reel display panel and is made of a panel which is small in area if compared to the reel display panel, and a lower panel which is provided below the reel display panel so that the title of the pachi-slot and a character which is a symbol of the pachi-slot are depicted.

[0013] In a general type of pachi-slot, common front door and cabinet are utilized with the pachi-slot in terms of productive efficiency and cost, but the display panels of the pachi-slot have symbols drawn according to the planned game contents of its own such that the symbols may serve an indicia differentiating the pachi-slot from other gaming machines (referring to Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H06-261972 (JP-A-6-261972)).

[0014] As a matter of course, different types of machines have different symbols drawn on their plurality of display panels, and for example, if the machines are left unsold, display panels thereof may not be utilized for another kind of machine because of the drawn symbols unlike other parts such as cabinets and front door bodies. Therefore, the unsold display panels may remain as dead stock. In addition, during the assembly of the machine, the step of attaching a display panel unit to a front door is so necessary that the number of manufacturing steps would not be decreased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] An object of the present invention is to reduce or eliminate such dead stock caused by manufacturing different display panels for respective different machines. It is another object of the present invention to reduce the number of assembling steps of display panels so as to provide a gaming machine having superior cost performance.

[0016] A gaming machine according to the present invention comprises variable display means for providing or performing a variable display of a plurality of symbols, lottery means for executing a lottery of a winning combination, and stop means for controlling the variable display means to stop the variable display based on a result of the lottery. The stop means includes a stop button operable by a player. The stop button is provided below the variable display means. A lower display means is provided below the stop button.

[0017] The variable display means may include an optically transmissive electronic display means, which may show images in a varying manner and include a variable display device. The variable display means may include a variable display device such as a reel with a plurality of symbols on the outer surface thereof and a liquid crystal display device. The variable display may be provided on the variable display device such as the liquid crystal display device with an appropriate control program. A rotating reel may show the variable display if the outer surface thereof is viewed from one direction such that a symbol on the outer surface in a front position is most clearly visible to the player. Therefore, the rotating reel and a window over the front outer surface of the reel display a plurality of symbols variably. The lottery means may include a lottery device such as a computer with a program generating a random number and detecting or storing such random number. The lottery device may also include a mechanical device comprising a gear, a shaft for the gear, and a rotation mechanism for the gear. The stop device may include a button, a lever, and any other operable switches. The lower display means may include a lower display device and a panel.

[0018] In the present invention, a lower display means, which may include a lower display device such as a panel display, is provided below the variable display means, which may include a reel display panel and a liquid crystal display