

and 28c via the EL drive circuit 63. Data (display data) such as graphics to be displayed on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c are stored in the ROM 52 that functions as a display data memory means 50h. The EL display control means 50g displays the overlapping patterns 32, etc., on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c using the display data which the CPU 51 as a display data selection means 50j read from the ROM 52. Because the stationary displays of the overlapping patterns 32 on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c are primarily triggered by an input of the EL stop signal from the EL stop switch 45, the EL stop signal is inputted into the display data selection means 50j. The data that show the types and positions of the overlapping patterns 32 as stationary displays are provided to the arrangement determination means 50j by the display data selection means 50j.

[0069] As shown in FIG. 6, the CPU 51 waits for the starting event of varying display of the overlapping patterns 32 (S101), and starts the varying display of the overlapping patterns 32 when it recognizes the starting event (S102). The varying display can be started with, for example, the input of the start signal from the start switch 42a. However, there is a possibility that the back patterns 31 may become difficult to be seen due to overlapping of the varying overlapping patterns 32 with the scrolling display of the reels 30a, 30b and 30c. In this connection, this embodiment is constructed in such a way that the varying display of the overlapping patterns 32 by the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c is started approximately synchronizing with the timing when all of the reels 30a, 30b and 30c stop.

[0070] Since each of the reels 30a, 30b and 30c stops independently, the overlapping patterns 32 of the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c may start performing the varying display respectively each time when the corresponding reel 30a, 30b, or 30c stops.

[0071] Next, the CPU 51 makes a determination whether any EL stop signal is inputted by the EL stop switch (S103) and, if no EL stop signal is received, makes another determination where a preset time (e.g., 10 seconds) has elapsed since the start of the varying display of the overlapping patterns 32 (S104). This step S104 is to be ready for a case where the player fails to operate the EL stop switch 45.

[0072] If the EL stop signal from the EL stop switch 45 is inputted (S103: YES) or the preset time has elapsed since the start of the varying display of the overlapping patterns 32 (S104: YES), the CPU 51 makes a determination (lottery) whether the combination of the back patterns 31 determined by the stop pattern selection means 50d is in a winning condition or not (S105). If the combination is determined to be in a losing condition, it displays a set of stationary overlapping patterns 32 on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c that does not affect the losing stationary displays (i.e., maintains a losing status) of the back patterns 31 displayed by the already stopped reels 30a, 30b and 30c (S108).

[0073] On the other hand, if the combination of the back patterns 31 determined by the stop pattern selection means 50d is in a winning condition, a determination (reel determination) is made whether the winning combination is displayed by the already stopped reels 30a, 30b and 30c (whether the winning combination of the back patterns 31 determined by the stop pattern selection means 50d has materialized) (S106).

[0074] If the winning combination is not displayed by the back patterns 31 despite the fact that it is selected as a winning combination by the lottery, the CPU 51 makes the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c display the overlapping patterns 32 to display the winning combination in coordination with the back patterns 31 and the overlapping patterns 32 (S107).

[0075] An example of displaying a winning combination with the overlapping patterns 32 is described below referring to FIG. 3. In the example shown in FIG. 3, as the back patterns 31, the winning line L1 displays \$, 7, 7, the winning line L2 displays \$, \$, X, the winning line L3 displays X, X, \$, the winning line L4 displays \$, 7, \$ and the winning line L5 displays X, 7, X. Thus, no winning combinations are shown in any of these winning lines L1 to L5.

[0076] If an X pattern of the overlapping patterns 32 is displayed on the bottom place of the transparent EL panel 28c, the X pattern is displayed overlapping the \$ pattern of the back pattern 31 on the right side of winning line L3 (as if the \$ pattern is replaced with the X pattern), thereby producing three X's on the line, i.e., a winning combination of X, X, X.

[0077] Also, if an X pattern of the overlapping patterns 32 is displayed in the middle place of the transparent EL panel 28b, the X pattern is displayed overlapping the 7 pattern of the back pattern 31 in the middle of winning line L5 (as if the 7 pattern is replaced with the X pattern), thereby producing three X's on the line, i.e., a winning combination of X, X, X. Similarly, winning combinations can be displayed on other winning lines by controlling the overlapping patterns 32 (displayed patterns and positions).

[0078] In case where winning combinations are displayed by the combinations of the back patterns 31 and the overlapping patterns 32, it is not only possible to allow (effectuate) winning combinations unconditionally as described above, but is also possible to set up in such a way that a winning display is effectuated by a combination of the back patterns 31 and the overlapping patterns 32 only when a pair of identical patterns of the back patterns 31 and the overlapping patterns 32 exists (for example, when the 7 pattern of the back patterns 31 and the same 7 pattern of the overlapping pattern 32 are displayed in the middle of the transparent EL panel 28c). It is also possible to set up that a winning condition is established by a combination of the back patterns 31 and the overlapping patterns 32 only when a certain overlapping pattern 32 (e.g., 7) is displayed in the center (in the middle of the transparent EL panel 28b).

[0079] Thus, in the present embodiment, the winning condition is established by the combination of the overlapping patterns 32 and the back patterns 31 only when the display content of the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b and 28c or the relation between the overlapping patterns 32 and the back patterns 31 meet a certain preset condition (front/back combination-permitting condition). Here, it should be noted that the front/back combination-permitting condition is not limited to a specific one, but may be preset arbitrary. For example, the front/back combination-permitting condition may be present to be satisfied when a state (reach-state) where only one pattern is required to get a winning condition by the back patterns or overlapping (front) patterns.

[0080] On the other hand, if a winning condition is determined by the lottery and the corresponding winning com-