

criteria, a means for transmitting at least a portion of the at least one display signal to a first display screen within the multi-layer display device, and a means for automatically displaying a substantially blank display on a second display screen of the multi-layer display device whenever one of the screen blanking criteria has been analyzed to be present with respect to the at least one display signal. As in the case of other embodiments involving a multi-layer display, the first and second display screens can be positioned front-to-back such that said the respective graphical displays thereon are adapted to combine for a single visual presentation to a viewer thereof.

[0011] In various embodiments, specific devices including one of the above multi-layer display devices or apparatuses are provided. Such specific devices can include, for example, a wager-based gaming machine. Such a gaming machine can be adapted to accept a wager, administer a game based on the wager, and award a monetary prize based upon the outcome of the game. Gaming machine components can include a cabinet defining an interior region and adapted to house a plurality of gaming machine components, a first display device disposed within or about the interior region and configured to output a visual image in response to a control signal, a second display device arranged relative to the first display device such that a common line of sight passes through a portion of the first display device to a portion of the second display device, at least one logic device configured to execute instructions to transmit display signals adapted for display on each of the first and second display devices, and at least one display controller in communication with the logic device, first display device and said second display device. The display controller can be configured to transmit the display signals from the logic device to the first display device and the second display device, can have a signal analyzer configured to analyze the display signals for one or more screen blanking criteria, and can be adapted to facilitate the presentation of a substantially blank display on one of the first and second display devices whenever one of the screen blanking criteria is present with respect to the display signals.

[0012] In various related embodiments, a gaming system is provided. Such a gaming system includes a plurality of wager-based gaming machine, which may be identical or similar to those gaming machines noted above. In addition, the gaming system can include a remote host that is in communication with each of the gaming machines and is adapted to provide one or more of display signals to each of the plurality of gaming machines, which gaming machines can be processor-based. One or more display signal analyzers configured to analyze display signals for one or more screen blanking criteria can also be present within the system, with such display signal analyzer or analyzers being adapted to communicate the presence of one or more screen blanking criteria to the gaming machines, and wherein the display controller of each such gaming machine is adapted to facilitate the presentation of a substantially blank display on one of its multi-layered display devices whenever one of such screen blanking criteria is present with respect to the display signals being transmitted to its respective gaming machine. Such display signal analyzer or analyzers can be located remotely on the gaming system, and/or within one or more of the gaming machines themselves.

[0013] Further features and items may also be found in any of the foregoing embodiments, and it will be readily appreciated that various combinations of the following features and items may be used. For example, the various screen blanking

criteria can include one or more of a specific display mode, a specific display resolution and a specific refresh rate detected within said at least one display signal. Such specific display resolutions can be selected from the group consisting of 640×480 pixels, 720×400 pixels, 800×600 pixels and 1280×1024 pixels, such specific display modes can be selected from the group consisting of DOS, BIOS and VESA modes, and such a specific refresh rate can be any rate that is other than about 60 Hz. In various embodiments, the substantially blank display can be generated for one of the first and second display screens whenever at least two of the screen blanking criteria are present with respect to the pertinent display signal or signals. Further variations may require even more screen blanking criteria to be present before a substantially blank display is generated.

[0014] In various embodiments, the multi-layer display screens can comprise liquid crystal display screens. In addition, the multi-layer displays can include a third display screen in communication with the display controller and adapted to present a third graphical display thereupon based upon the display signal or signals, with the third display screen being positioned between the first and second display screens such that the first, second and third graphical displays are adapted to combine for a single visual presentation to a viewer thereof. In such instances, the display controller can be adapted to facilitate the presentation of a substantially blank display on the third display screen whenever one of the screen blanking criteria is present with respect to the display signal or signals. Additional display screens beyond a third display screen may also be implemented into the multi-layer displays.

[0015] In various embodiments, the noted display signal(s) comprises multiple display signals, wherein each of the multiple display signals is designed for use on a separate display screen. In other embodiments, the noted display signal(s) comprises a single display signal, wherein this single display signal is adapted to be split into subcomponents that are each designed for use on a separate display screen.

[0016] Other methods, features and advantages of the invention will be or will become apparent to one with skill in the art upon examination of the following figures and detailed description. It is intended that all such additional methods, features and advantages be included within this description, be within the scope of the invention, and be protected by the accompanying claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] The included drawings are for illustrative purposes and serve only to provide examples of possible structures and process steps for the disclosed inventive multi-layer displays and methods of presenting displays thereupon.

[0018] FIG. 1A illustrates in partial perspective and cut-away view an exemplary device having a multi-layer display with two display screens.

[0019] FIG. 1B illustrates in partial perspective and cut-away view an exemplary wager-based gaming machine having a multi-layer display with three display screens.

[0020] FIG. 2 illustrates in perspective view an exemplary gaming machine.

[0021] FIG. 3 illustrates in block diagram format an exemplary network infrastructure for providing a gaming system having one or more gaming machines.