

awards are associated with a probability of being indicated such that the relatively small awards include greater probabilities than the relatively large awards. In this aspect, a significant portion of the relatively small awards are indicated before the relatively large awards are indicated on the wheel. Once the designated number of games are reached, the gaming device resets the award wheel so that none of the sections are indicated (i.e., highlighted) on the wheel. It should be appreciated that the gaming device may reset the award wheel so that none, one, a plurality or all of the sections are highlighted on the wheel.

[0022] In another embodiment, a plurality of section indicators are associated with the wheel such that multiple sections are indicated on the wheel in a spin. This enables a player to obtain multiple awards associated with the multiple sections indicated on the wheel in a single spin. In one embodiment, the section indicators associated with the wheel are activated such that only the activated section indicators indicate sections on the wheel. The section indicators may be activated by particular sections on the wheel or based on the number of spins provided to the player in the game. The number of section indicators may also be based on a wager made by the player in the base game or in a bonus game.

[0023] In a further embodiment the multiple section indicators are moveable such that the section indicators move about the wheel at the beginning of a game and are stopped or locked in place by the gaming device or the player. The section indicators may move at the beginning of the game, during the game, after one spin or a plurality of the spins of the wheel or at any suitable point in a game. The moveable indicators enable the player to interact with the game and therefore provides additional excitement and enjoyment of the game.

[0024] In another embodiment, a time dimension is associated with the present invention to offer enhanced play and awards in the game. In one aspect of this embodiment, a larger award or a plurality of awards are provided to the player when a designated number of sections are indicated in a designated number of spins of the wheel. For example, the gaming device provides a larger award or a bonus award to a player when the player indicates all of the sections associated with one of the awards in a particular number of spins of the award wheel. The gaming device decreases the award for each additional spin or spins needed by the player to indicate those sections.

[0025] In another aspect of this embodiment, the gaming device only provides a bonus award when the player indicates a specific section or sections in a designated number of spins. If the sections or sections are indicated after the designated number of spins are reached, the gaming device does not provide a bonus or extra award to the player. It should be appreciated that the designated section or sections may be predetermined, randomly determined or determined according to any suitable determination method.

[0026] In a further aspect of this embodiment, a time period is associated with the game such that the gaming device or the player spins the wheel during the time period and indicates sections and accumulates awards associated with those sections during the time period. When the time period expires, the game ends and the player receives the total accumulative award for the game.

[0027] The present invention may be employed in a primary or base game or, a secondary or bonus game or any suitable type of game such as poker, blackjack, roulette, dice, slots, multi-line slots or any other suitable wagering game.

[0028] It is therefore an advantage of the present invention to provide a gaming device having a multi-coordinate wheel with an alternating bonus award where awards and award percentages are associated with multi-coordinate locations on the award wheel.

[0029] Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed disclosure, taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheets of drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like parts, elements, components, steps and processes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0030] FIG. 1A is a front perspective view of one embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention which includes a mechanical multi-coordinate award wheel.

[0031] FIG. 1B is a front perspective view of another embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention which includes a multi-coordinate award wheel in a video format.

[0032] FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the electronic configuration of one embodiment of the gaming device of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 3 is an enlarged elevation view of a display device illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0034] FIGS. 4A, 4B, 4C 4D, 4E and 4F are enlarged elevation views of a display device of the present invention illustrating three spins of the multi-coordinate award wheel in the bonus game.

[0035] FIG. 5 is an enlarged elevation view of another embodiment of the present invention where the section indicator moves about the perimeter of the multi-coordinate award wheel.

[0036] FIG. 6 is an enlarged elevation view of a further embodiment of the present invention where the multi-coordinate award wheel includes a terminator.

[0037] FIG. 7 is an enlarged elevation view of a further embodiment of the present invention where the multi-coordinate award wheel is stationary and the sections alternately illuminate to provide an award to the player.

[0038] FIG. 8 is an enlarged elevation view of a further embodiment of the present invention where the sections are arranged in a square configuration.

[0039] FIG. 9 is an enlarged elevation view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention where the sections of the wheel include awards and percentages of those awards.

[0040] FIGS. 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F and 10G are enlarged elevation views of an example of the alternative embodiment of FIG. 9.

[0041] FIG. 11 is an enlarged elevation view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention where the sections includes multipliers and percentages of those multipliers.