

device 21. With regard to the betting operation, as shown in the enlarged view of display windows 43L, 43C, and 43R in FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C, a center line L1 is made an active pay line (abbreviated hereinafter as "active line") by a one-bet operation, a top line L2A and a bottom line L2B are made active lines in addition to center line L1 by a two-bet operation, and a cross-down line L3A and a cross-up line L3B are made active lines in addition to center line L1, top line L2A, and bottom line L2B by a three-bet operation.

[0098] Next, when start lever 13 detects the game starting operation by a player, a random number is sampled by sampling circuit 109. The sampled random number is compared with the prize probability table stored in ROM 104, and if there is a winning combination, a winning flag for the corresponding prize pattern is set to on. This software-based lottery process is referred to as the "probability lottery process," and the details thereof will be described below.

[0099] Drive pulses are supplied to each of the stepping motors 112L, 112C, and 112R via motor driving circuit 111 and each of the reels 24L, 24C, and 24R starts rotating. CPU 103 monitors the drive pulses supplied and updates a "pulse counter" secured in RAM 105. The pulse counter value is monitored, and if it becomes a predetermined value, a symbol is determined to have moved by one symbol (also referred to as "one segment"), and the "symbol counter" secured in RAM 105 is incremented by one count.

[0100] For example, if a stepping motor performs one rotation at 400 pulses and 21 symbols are arranged on the outer peripheral surface of a reel, since a symbol moves by one segment by about 19 pulses, CPU 103 determines a symbol to have moved by one segment and increments the "symbol counter" by one count when the pulse counter value becomes 19 pulses.

[0101] On the other hand, with reels 24L, 24C, and 24R, each time the reference point of a symbol passes the center line L1 of display window 43, an index detection signal is generated and a reset pulse is input into CPU 103 through reel index detection circuit 115. Upon detecting the input of the reset pulse, CPU 103 clears the symbol counter that is counted up by RAM 105. Correspondence between a symbol position recognized on a software basis and the one actually displayed in the display window 43 is thus ensured.

[0102] When reels 24L, 24C, and 24R reach a constant rotation speed after a predetermined period of time from when they start rotating, operations of stop buttons 15L, 15C, and 15R are activated. When a player carries out a stop operation, a reel stop signal is input into CPU 103 via reel stop signals circuit 118. After a processing such as the selection of the stop position, etc., on a software basis, a stop pulse is supplied to the corresponding stepping motor 112L, 112C, or 112R via motor driving circuit 111 and the corresponding reel 24L, 24C, or 24R is stopped.

[0103] In carrying out stop control of reels 24L, 24C, and 24R, CPU 103, upon receiving a stop signal from reel stop signals circuit 118, stores in a predetermined area of RAM 105 a code number for the symbol on center line L1 as a stop operation position and refers to a stop table that associates the stop operation position with the symbol to be stopped and displayed at center line L1. CPU 103 then stores a symbol stop position corresponding to the stop operation position in a predetermined area of RAM 105, calculates the

number of pulses (segments) to be supplied to stop at the intended symbol, and carries out stop control after supplying the calculated number of pulses.

[0104] When the reels 24L, 24C, and 24R are all stopped, a prize search is carried out. In the prize search, the symbol stop positions stored in RAM 105 are compared with a symbol table stored in ROM 104, and the stop mode of the current game that is stopped in display windows 43L, 43C, and 43R is ascertained. The symbol table is configured so as to correspond to the symbol arrangement drawn on the outer peripheral surface of each reel 24L, 24C, and 24R, associates a code number indicating the order of a symbol from a reference position with a symbol code provided in correspondence to the code number, and serves the role of a software-basis reel band. Then, for each active line L1, L2A, L2B, L3A, and L3B, the stop mode is compared with a prize symbol combination table stored in ROM 104 to determine the existence of a prize. The prize symbol combination table associates a prize symbol combination with the number of coins paid out when a prize is won. Processes are performed upon switching the prize symbols in cases where the active prize symbol combination or number of coins paid out is to be differed according to the gaming state.

[0105] CPU 103 pays out a predetermined number of coins from the hopper 114 by supplying a payout signal to hopper driving circuit 113 if "the winning of a prize" is determined in the prize search. At that time, coin detector 120 counts the number of coins that are paid out from hopper 114 and stops the driving signal to the hopper driving circuit and the payout of coins when the count reaches a predetermined number.

[0106] The block diagram of FIG. 5 shows the configuration of sub-control circuit 201. Sub-control circuit 201 controls peripheral devices for attraction such as image display device 21, electronic shutter 22, speakers 5L and 5R, etc., based on game information from main control circuit 101 and input signals from a touch sensor 209 on the touch panel.

[0107] The sub-control circuit 201 is configured with a sub-microcomputer 202 as a main component and is composed of an image control circuit 250 for controlling the image display device 21, a sound source IC 230 for controlling the output of sound from the speakers 5L and 5R, a power amp 231, serving as an amplifier, and a reel back lamp control circuit 240. These control circuits are configured on a circuit board other than that of the main control circuit.

[0108] The sub-microcomputer 202 comprises a sub-CPU 203, a sub-ROM 204, serving as storage means, and a sub-RAM 205. Like the main control circuit 101, sub-control circuit 201 in FIG. 5 comprises a clock pulse generating circuit, a frequency divider, a random number generator, and a sampling circuit although they are not shown in the FIG. 5. The sub-ROM 204 stores a communication sequence program for communication with main control circuit 101, an attraction selection table for selecting various attractions based on received game information, a sound sequence program, etc. The sub-RAM 205 is used as a working area for carrying out these control programs.

[0109] The sub-CPU 203 determines the attraction to be carried out by various attraction control circuits based on a game information command which is transmitted from main