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**Loose et al.**

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(54) **SIMULATION OF MECHANICAL REELS ON A GAMING MACHINE**

(57)

**ABSTRACT**

(76) Inventors: **Timothy C. Loose**, Chicago, IL (US);  
**Jacob C. Greenberg**, Rolling Meadows, IL (US)

A spinning reel slot machine has increased versatility, while having reels that are aesthetically similar to traditional mechanical reels. In one embodiment, the slot machine includes a plurality of optical fibers having first ends optically coupled to a surface of an image display device and seconds ends defining a curved display surface for displaying simulated mechanical reels to a player. In another embodiment, one or more of the mechanical reels has a transparent window at a location where a symbol would normally be present. A video display displays a video symbol in the transparent window. In yet a further embodiment, one of the plurality of mechanical reels has a miniature image display located at selected ones of the symbol regions for providing video symbols for the game. In yet further embodiments, a symbol region can produce more than one symbol in response to exposure at certain wavelengths or polarizations of light.

Correspondence Address:

**Michael J. Blankstein**  
**WMS Gaming Inc.**  
**800 South Northpoint Boulevard**  
**Waukegan, IL 60085 (US)**

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