a video display providing a video image superimposed upon the reels.

2. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video display is a flat panel transmissive display positioned in front of the reels.

3. The slot machine of claim 2, wherein the transmissive display is a liquid crystal display.

4. The slot machine of claim 2, further including a touch screen mounted to the transmissive display.

5. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video image is a virtual image.

6. The slot machine of claim 1, further including a partially reflective mirror overlaying one or more of the reels, the video display and the partially reflective mirror being relatively positioned to project the virtual image in front of the reels between the reels and a player.

7. The slot machine of claim 5, wherein the virtual image is a three-dimensional image.

8. The slot machine of claim 5, wherein the virtual image is generally parallel to the display area.

9. The slot machine of claim 6, wherein the virtual image appears to be suspended in front of the reels and is generally perpendicular to a front surface of the video display, and wherein the partially reflective mirror is generally angled relative to both the virtual image and the front surface of the video display.

10. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video image is interactive with the reels.

11. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video image includes graphics selected from a group consisting of payout values, a pay table, pay lines, bonus game features, special effects, thematic scenery, and instructional information.

12. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video image includes a bonus game feature triggered by a start-bonus outcome of one or more of the symbols on the stopped reels.

13. The slot machine of claim 1, wherein the video image is adjustable in terms of opacity, translucency, and transparency.

14. A spinning reel slot machine, comprising:

a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels that, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area; and

a transmissive video display positioned in front of the reels and displaying a video image superimposed upon the reels.

15. The slot machine of claim 14, wherein the transmissive video display is a liquid crystal display.

16. The slot machine of claim 14, further including a touch screen mounted to the transmissive video display.

17. The slot machine of claim 14, wherein the video image is interactive with the reels.

18. The slot machine of claim 14, wherein the video image includes graphics selected from a group consisting of payout values, a pay table, pay lines, bonus game features, special effects, thematic scenery, and instructional information.

19. The slot machine of claim 14, wherein the video image includes a bonus game feature triggered by a start-bonus outcome of one or more of the symbols on the stopped reels.

20. The slot machine of claim 14, wherein the video image is adjustable in terms of opacity, translucency, and transparency.

21. A method of operating a spinning reel slot machine, comprising:

receiving a wager;

rotating and stopping a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area; and

superimposing upon the reels a video image provided by a video display.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the video image is a virtual image.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the virtual image is a three-dimensional image.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the virtual image is generally parallel to the display area.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the video image is interactive with the reels.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein the video image includes graphics selected from a group consisting of payout values, a pay table, pay lines, bonus game features, special effects, thematic scenery, and instructional information.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the video image includes a bonus game feature triggered by a start-bonus outcome of one or more of the symbols on the stopped reels.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein the video image is adjustable in terms of opacity, translucency, and transparency.

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