

**31.** A slot machine comprising:

means for accepting a player wager;

a display to present a plurality of display segments;

a random number generation module configured to randomly select symbols for presentation in the display segments;

a processor configured to identify at least one dynamically-generated winning symbol combination by recognizing at least a predetermined minimum number of adjacent display segments presenting corresponding symbols therein.

**32.** The slot machine as in claim 31, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a payout award in response to the player wager and in response to identification of the at least one dynamically-generated winning symbol combination.

**33.** The slot machine as in claim 31, further comprising a hopper controller integrally implemented with the processor to determine a payout award in response to the player wager and in response to identification of the at least one dynamically-generated winning symbol combination.

**34.** The slot machine as in claim 31, further comprising a hopper controller configured to determine a payout award in response to the player wager and in response to identification of the at least one dynamically-generated winning symbol combination.

**35.** A method for facilitating participation in a slot game, comprising:

enabling player selection of one or more symbols that will be played in the slot game;

establishing a player wager amount which is dependent on the number of symbols selected for play;

identifying a winning slot game payline for a symbol combination resulting from corresponding symbols being randomly presented in at least a predetermined number of adjacent display segments; and

providing a payout for the winning slot game payline, wherein a payout amount is dependent on the player wager amount.

**36.** The method of claim 35, wherein identifying a winning slot game payline comprises identifying a plurality of winning slot game paylines for respective symbol combinations resulting from corresponding symbols being randomly presented in at least a predetermined number of adjacent display segments for each of the respective winning slot game paylines.

**37.** The method of claim 35, wherein establishing a player wager amount comprises establishing increased player wager amounts as the number of symbols selected for play increases.

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