Patent Document 1: Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2005-198668

Disclosure of the Invention

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

[0004]

However, when the game host shuffles cards before a game, the shuffling can sometimes take a lot of time, hampering efficient operation of the game. Also, when the game host shuffles, there is a problem of possible cheating such as insertion/removal or switching of cards.

[0005]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to provide shuffled playing cards and manufacturing method thereof which may eliminate the need for a game host to shuffle cards before games by taking a lot of time as well as eliminate the possibility of cheating.

Means for Solving the Problems

[0005a]

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing one or more shuffled decks of playing cards in a factory including at least two different shuffling process, card information obtaining process by using a card information obtaining means, and management process using a management system communicably connected with

the card information obtaining means, the method comprising:

automatically shuffling one or more decks of playing cards by at least two different shuffling process by using a first card feeder and a second card feeder, each card feeder feeds the cards into multiple receptacles 101a-101g in each different shuffling process and the first card feeder and the second card feeder are controlled independently of each other,

automatically inspecting by a card information obtaining means and a management system each of the playing cards delivered by at least second card feeder from the one or more shuffled decks during or after shuffling, but before packaging;

and

automatically packaging a set of the shuffled decks of the playing cards in an individual package wherein a predetermined number of shuffled decks of the playing cards are packaged together.

[0006]

There is also disclosed a manufacturing method of shuffled playing cards characterized by comprising: a shuffling step of shuffling a predetermined number of decks of playing cards by a shuffling machine and thereby producing a set of shuffled playing cards; a packaging step of

individually packaging each shuffled playing cards subjected to the shuffling step; an ID generating step of creating a different shuffled card ID for each set of shuffled playing cards subjected to the shuffling step using an information processor; an ID affixing step of affixing the shuffled card ID as an ID code to a package of the shuffled playing cards; and an ID registration step of registering the shuffled card ID in a database by associating the shuffled card ID with information which allows identification of the shuffling machine or a shuffling machine group involved in the shuffling step of the shuffled playing cards affixed with the shuffled card ID.

[0007]

There are also disclosed shuffled playing cards which are a predetermined number of decks of playing cards shuffled and individually packaged, characterized in that a shuffled card ID for use to access information in a database is affixed as an ID code to a package of the shuffled playing cards, where the information allows identification of a shuffling machine or a shuffling machine group used to shuffle the shuffled playing cards.

Advantages of the Invention

[0008]

The present disclosure can provide shuffled playing cards which may eliminate the need for a game host to shuffle cards before games by taking a lot of time as well as eliminate the possibility of cheating. Also, since a shuffled card ID associated with information which allows identification of the shuffling machine or shuffling machine group used to shuffle the shuffled playing cards is affixed to the package, if there is any problem with playing cards and it is believed that the cause of the problem lies in a shuffling machine, the manufacturer can easily identify which shuffling machine or shuffling machine group has caused the problem and take quick measures.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0009]

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) are perspective views showing appearance of a shuffled playing card set (packaged individually) according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a diagram showing a schematic configuration of a shuffling machine used to shuffle playing cards in a manufacturing process of the shuffled playing card set according to the embodiment of the present invention;

Claims

1. A method of manufacturing one or more shuffled decks of playing cards in a factory including at least two different shuffling process, card information obtaining process by using a card information obtaining means, and management process using a management system communicably connected with the card information obtaining means, the method comprising:

automatically shuffling one or more decks of playing cards by at least two different shuffling process by using a first card feeder and a second card feeder, each card feeder feeds the cards into multiple receptacles 101a-101g in each different shuffling process and the first card feeder and the second card feeder are controlled independently of each other,

automatically inspecting by a card information obtaining means and a management system each of the playing cards delivered by at least second card feeder from the one or more shuffled decks during or after shuffling, but before packaging;

and

automatically packaging a set of the shuffled decks of the playing cards in an individual package wherein a predetermined number of shuffled decks of the playing cards are packaged together.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first card feeder is functionally independent of the second card feeder.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the multiple number of decks of playing cards are shuffled at random using a random number generator.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein

a shuffled playing card ID is attached to the individual package after the inspecting step.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the shuffled playing card ID is attached to a sealing label.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the shuffled playing card ID is a bar code, an RFID tag or a two-dimensional matrix code.

7. The method according to claim 4, wherein the shuffled playing card ID is further associated with product type of the shuffled deck of the playing cards, shipment information or customer information.

8. The method according to claim 1 to 7, wherein the card information obtaining means is a camera being operable to capture an image of each of the playing cards.

9. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the card information obtaining means is a card sensor being operable to count the number of the playing cards.