

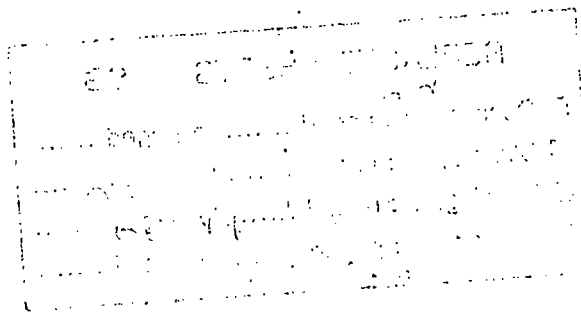
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FORM READER WITH LINEAR SCANNER AND DRUM FEED

Abstract of the Disclosure

A form reader especially for lottery forms with handwritten marks or bar codes includes a drum transport engaging the form, and a stepping motor advances the form circularly along a path around the drum, passing through a linear reading station elongated perpendicularly to the path. A light source illuminates the form at the read station and reflected light is incident on an elongated array of charge coupled device (CCD) light sensors via a focusing lens arrangement. An analog comparator coupled to a serial output of the CCD sensors digitizes encode and encodes each pixel in the elongated array repetitively during transport, sampling the reflectance of the form and defining an X-Y array of pixels. A digital processor coupled to an image memory analyzes the data for predetermined patterns such as handwritten marks, printed reference marks and/or printed bar code or OCR characters on the form. A throat sensor detects the form at an inlet to the reader for initiating operation of the stepping motor when the form is present. Form guides align the form generally to the transport path, and can be laterally movable for aligning one or both edges of the form to the transport path.



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