CLAIMS

1. A method of altering an orientation of cards being shuffled in an automatic card shuffler, comprising:

providing an automatic card shuffler with a card intake, a card outlet, a card shuffling apparatus, a card path between the card intake and the card output, a card imaging system, at least one processor configured to control the card imaging system, and to operate the card shuffler, wherein the card shuffling apparatus comprises multiple compartments;

receiving a plurality of cards in the card intake, the cards arranged in a stack wherein cards are generally arranged with card faces in a face to back orientation;

automatically feeding each card individually from the stack along the card path and inserting the card into one of the multiple compartments of the card shuffling apparatus;

reading card face information of each card as the card is being fed with the card imaging system;

identifying unreadable cards, wherein unreadable cards include cards that lack card face information from the card imaging system;

inserting the unreadable cards into at least one designated compartment in the card shuffling apparatus;

randomly inserting each card not identified as unreadable into a randomly selected compartment;

unloading all cards except the cards in the at least one designed compartment into the card outlet, forming a stack of cards, wherein each card in the stack of cards is oriented in the face-to-back orientation; and

unloading the unreadable cards from the at least one designated compartment.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

causing a user display to display an alert indicating that at least one card in the outlet requires at least one of inspection or reorientation;

accepting at least one reoriented card from the card output in the card intake;

automatically feeding each card of the at least one reoriented card in the card intake into the card shuffler;

unloading the at least one reoriented card in the card shuffler to the card outlet; and

combining the at least one reoriented card with the stack of cards to form a shuffled set of cards in the face-to-back orientation.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising feeding at least some of the plurality of cards into the card shuffling apparatus comprising a carousel with a plurality of radially aligned compartments configured to receive more than one card.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising stacking at least some of the plurality of cards in a substantially horizontal stack, with card faces in a substantially vertical plane.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising shuffling between 8 and 10 decks of cards with the card shuffling apparatus.

6. A card-handling device comprising:

a card intake configured to receive playing cards;

a card output configured to provide at least one of the playing cards;

a playing card-shuffling apparatus positioned along a card path through the card-handling and configured to randomize at least some of the playing cards, the playing card-shuffling apparatus comprising multiple compartments; and

a card-imaging system positioned along the card path and configured to image a surface of the playing cards;

wherein the card imaging system is configured to recognize card face information and identify one or more unreadable playing cards, wherein the one or more unreadable playing cards comprise playing cards that do not include card face information on the surface of the playing cards oriented toward the card imaging system;

wherein the playing card-shuffling apparatus is configured to receive the one or more unreadable playing cards in at least one designated compartment selected from the multiple compartments.

7. The card-handling device of claim 6, wherein the card-handling device is configured to provide the one or more unreadable playing cards for reorientation.

8. The card-handling device of claim 7, wherein the card-handling device is configured to combine the one or more unreadable playing cards with the remaining playing cards after reorientation.

9. The card-handling device of any one of claims 6 through 8, wherein the card-handling device is configured to shuffle the playing cards that are not designated as the one or more unreadable playing cards.

10. The card-handling device of claim 9, wherein the card-handling device is configured to combine the one or more unreadable playing cards with the shuffled playing cards after the one or more unreadable playing cards have been reoriented.

11. The card-handling device of any one of claims 6 through 8, wherein the playing card-shuffling apparatus comprises a carousel and the multiple compartments are oriented radially about the carousel.

12. The card-handling device of any one of claims 6 through 8, further comprising at least one processor configured to control operation of the playing card-shuffling apparatus and the card-imaging system.

13. The card-handling device of any one of claims 6 through 8, further comprising a display configured to alert a user when the unreadable playing cards are detected.