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(54) Title: MULTIPLE PASS SHUFFLER/SORTER AND METHOD OF OPERATION THEREOF

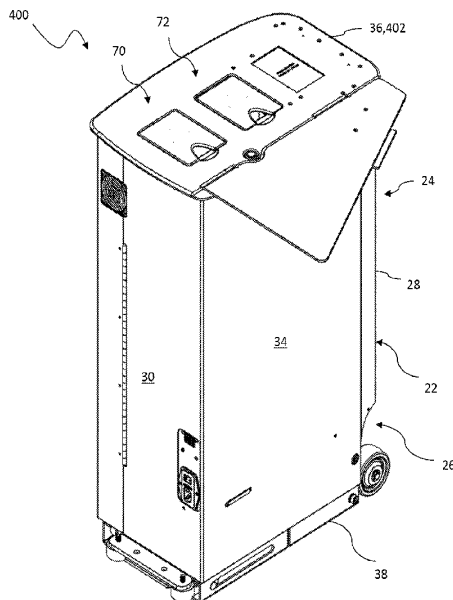


FIG. 18B

(57) Abstract: A card shuffler and a method of operating a card shuffler is provided. The method includes the step of establishing a virtual deck structure defines a virtual card assignment, defined by a matrix, for a plurality of cards. Each card is associated with one of the cells of the matrix. The method includes a first pass including the steps of placing a set of cards into the card receiving area of the shuffling device and delivering the cards, using the shuffling device, into the associated first assigned card receiving pockets of a card receiver forming a partially shuffled set of card. A second pass includes the steps of placing the partially shuffled set of cards into the card receiving area of the shuffling device and delivering the cards, using the shuffling device, into the associated second assigned card receiving pockets of the card receiver forming a shuffled set of cards.

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