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

[0006]

An aspect of the present invention provides a method of manufacturing shuffled decks of playing cards, the method comprising:

manufacturing individual playing cards wherein a rank and a suit is printed on one side of a base paper, a back design is printed on another side of the base paper, and the base

paper is cut into the individual playing cards using a cutting machine;

shuffling, using a shuffling machine with a first set of multiple pockets in a linear arrangement and a second set of multiple pockets in a linear arrangement, a multiple number of decks of the playing cards at random in a factory utilizing at least a first card feeding step and a second card feeding step;

wherein the first card feeding step comprises transferring the individual playing cards to the first set of multiple pockets using a first card feeder;

wherein the second card feeding step comprises randomly transferring the individual playing cards from the first set of multiple pockets to the second set of multiple pockets using a second card feeder;

detecting, using an imaging device and an image processing unit, a rank and a suit of each of the cards;

counting, using the image processing unit, the number of each rank and each suit;

inspecting, using the image processing unit, during or after the shuffling of the decks of playing cards, but before packaging, whether or not there is an excess or deficiency in the number of the rank or the suit contained in the multiple number of decks of the playing cards; and

after the inspecting step, packaging a set of the shuffled decks of the playing cards in an individual package.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of manufacturing shuffled decks of playing cards, the method comprising:

manufacturing individual playing cards wherein a rank and a suit is printed on one side of a base paper, a back design is printed on another side of the base paper, and the base

paper is cut into the individual playing cards using a cutting machine;

shuffling, using a shuffling machine with a first set of multiple pockets in a linear arrangement and a second receiver, a multiple number of decks of the playing cards at random in a factory utilizing at least a first card feeding step and a second card feeding step;

wherein the first card feeding step comprises transferring the individual playing cards to the first set of multiple pockets using a first card feeder;

wherein the second card feeding step comprises randomly transferring the individual playing cards from the first set of multiple pockets to the second receiver using a second card feeder;

detecting, using an imaging device and an image processing unit, a rank and a suit of each of the cards;

counting, using the image processing unit, the number of each rank and each suit;

inspecting, using the image processing unit, during or after the shuffling of the decks of playing cards, but before packaging, whether or not there is an excess or deficiency in the number of the rank or the suit contained in the multiple number of decks of the playing cards; and

after the inspecting step, packaging a set of the shuffled decks of the playing cards in an individual package.

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 is 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;