Dec. 17, 1963 J. A. FLOWER 3,114,552

BRIDGE SCORE DEVICE

Filed April 13, 1962

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

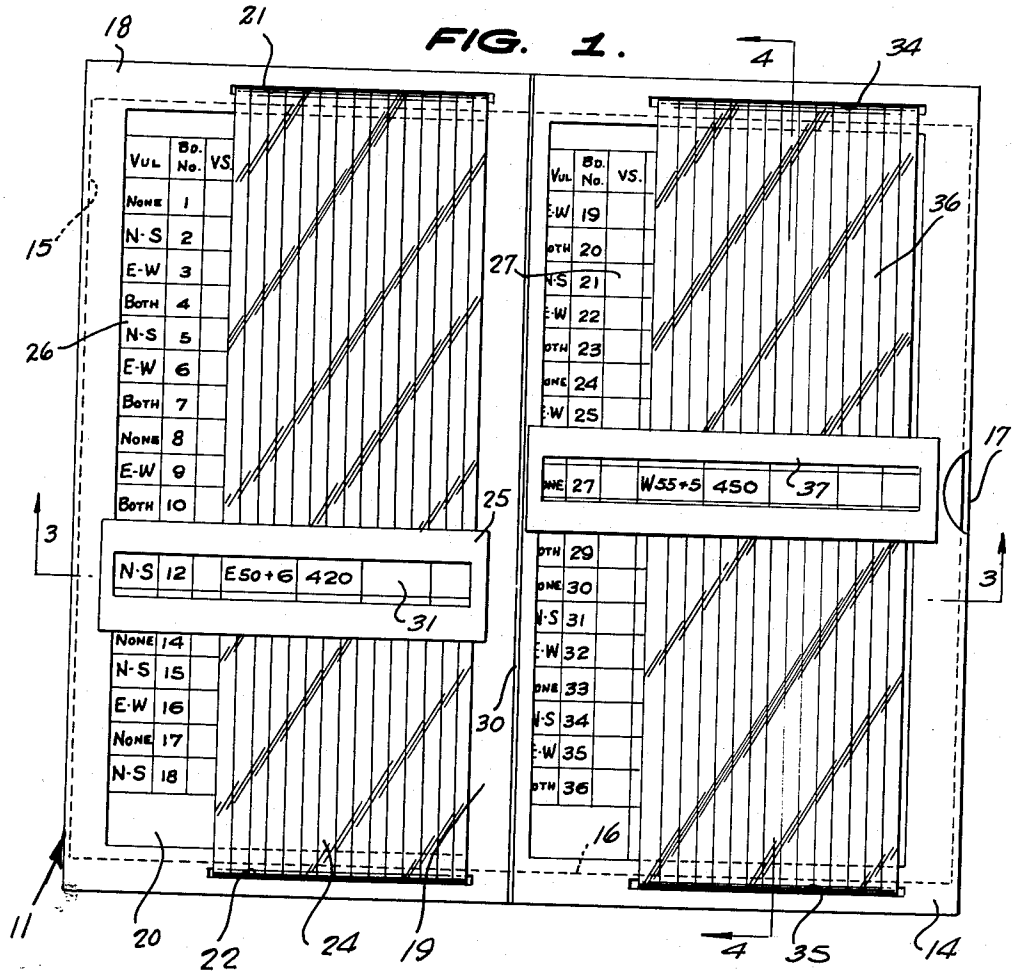


FIG. 2.

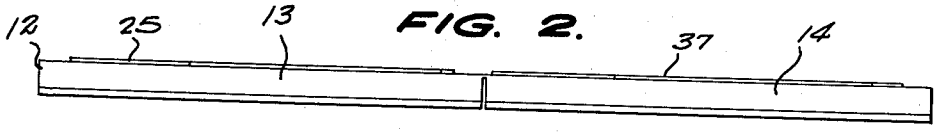
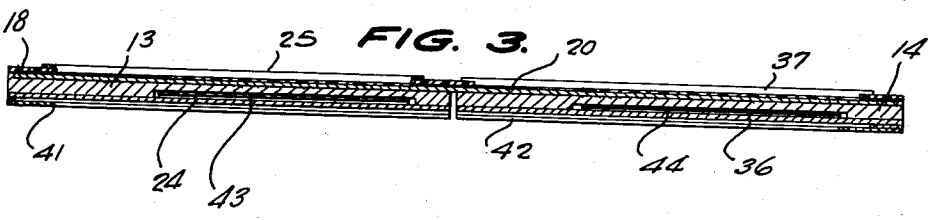


FIG. 3.



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FIG. 4.

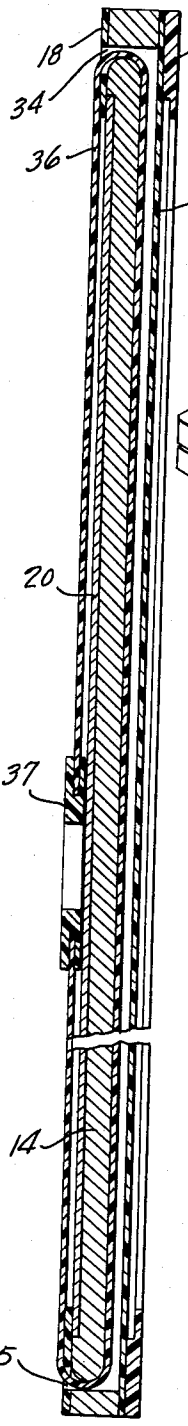


FIG. 5.

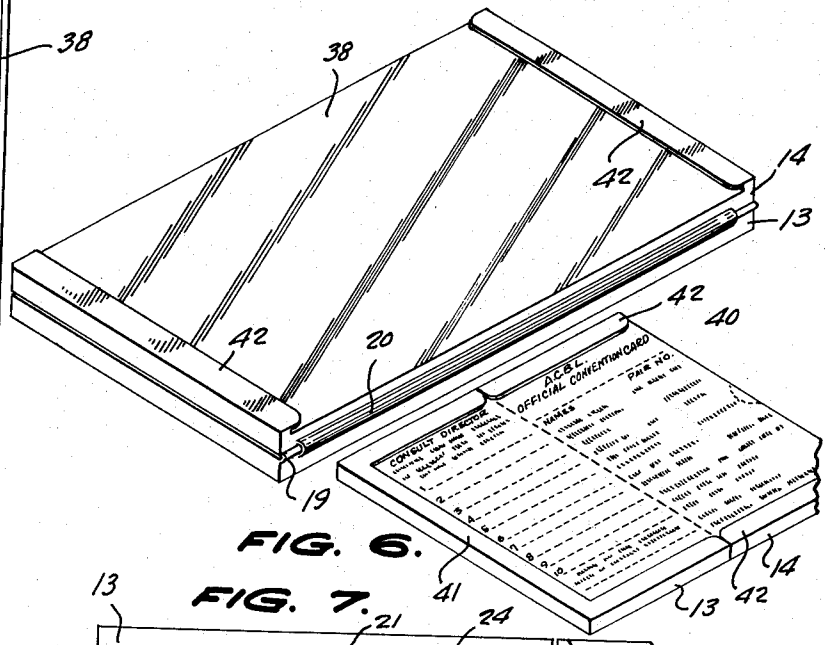
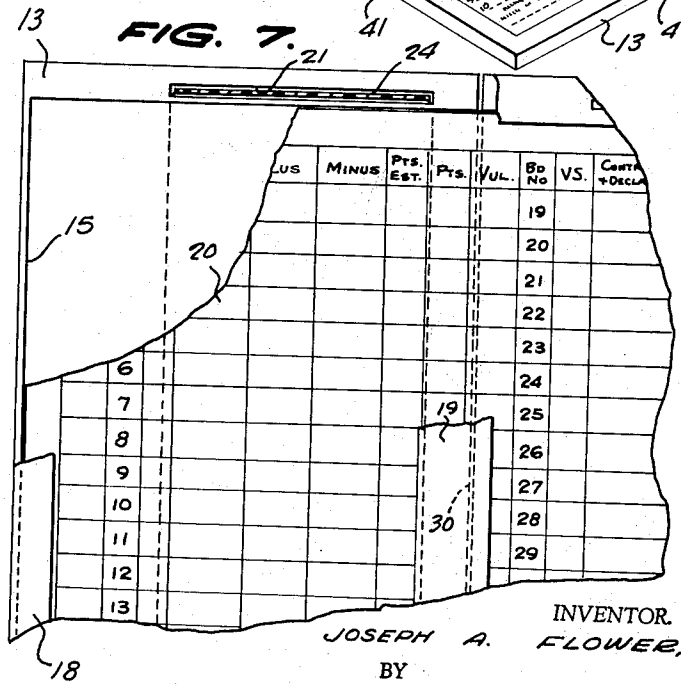


FIG. 6.

FIG. 7.



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3,114,552

BRIDGE SCORE DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—148)

This invention relates to score cards, and more particularly to an improved bridge score device for use in contract or duplicate bridge tournaments, or the like, where it is desirable to conceal the scores of other players while the score for one player is being written down.

A main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved bridge scoring device particularly adaptable for use in tournaments or in regular play and which is arranged so that the scores of other boards or hands will be concealed while the score of one board or hand is being written down, the device being relatively simple in construction, being easy to use, and being relatively compact in size.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved scoring device for keeping bridge scores, or the like, in regular or tournament play, the device being relatively inexpensive to fabricate, being neat in appearance, being durable in construction, and being provided with easily operated means for obscuring the scores of other players while one player is writing down his score on the device, thereby enabling the scoring device to be simultaneously used by a group of players, but being provided with means to maintain the previous scores hidden while a player is inscribing his score on the device.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of an improved bridge scoring device constructed in accordance with the present invention, shown set up for use.

FIGURE 2 is an elevational view of the bridge scoring device shown in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of the device of FIGURES 1 to 4, shown in folded position.

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary perspective view, to a smaller scale, of the scoring device set up for use in inverted position, illustrating the manner in which the back of the scoring device is employed as a support for an instruction card.

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of a corner portion of the device of FIGURE 1, with parts in cross section and with other parts broken away to reveal structural details.

Referring to the drawings, **11** generally designates an improved bridge scoring device constructed in accordance with the present invention. The device **11** comprises a relatively flat casing **12** of generally rectangular shape which is centrally hinged, namely, on a central vertical axis, as viewed in FIGURE 1, so that it is foldable to a book-like configuration, as illustrated in FIGURE 5. Thus, the casing **12** comprises a pair of rectangular segments **13** and **14** of relatively rigid material, such as rigid plastic material, or the like, the flat segment **13** being formed with a generally rectangular recess **15** which is open at one side thereof, and the flat segment **14** being formed with a transversely extending groove or recess **16** which registers with the recess **15**, the recess **16** being open at the side edge **17** of segment **14**. Secured on the segments **13** and **14** is a marginal frame member **18** of relatively flexible flat sheet plastic material, the frame member **18** being provided with the vertically extending intermediate portion **19** which overlies the adjacent margins of the segments **13** and **14** and which is secured thereto so as to define a central hinge. Thus, when the segments **13** and **14** are closed upon each other in the manner of a book, the intermediate flexible strip **19** is folded in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 5 so that said strip serves the purpose of a hinge.

A conventional rectangular bridge score card **20** may be disposed in the rectangular recess defined by the registering recess portions **15** and **16**, the card **20** being flexible so that when the segments **13** and **14** are folded upon each other in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 5, the intermediate portion of the card **20** folds around the crease of the hinge strip **19**, as is clearly illustrated in FIGURE 5.

The top and bottom marginal portions of segment **13** and the portions of frame element **18** secured thereon are formed with respective horizontally extending slots **21** and **22**, and extending through said slots is a flexible band **24** of substantially opaque material, for example, substantially opaque flexible plastic sheet material, and secured to the ends of the band **24** is a horizontally extending elongated rectangular exhibiting frame **25**. As shown in FIGURE 1, the card **20** is provided with the respective vertical rows of player designations **26** and **27**, one vertical row being located on each side of the hinge plane of the casing assembly, namely, the vertical plane of the crease **30** in FIGURE 1, the card being provided with respective horizontally extending rows of scoring spaces **31** located adjacent each of the player designations. As shown in FIGURE 1, the exhibiting frame **25** is of sufficient length and width and is suitably located so that a single played designation and the associated scoring spaces **31** will be visible in the frame member **25**, the flexible band **24** being of sufficient width and being located so as to hide the scoring spaces associated with the remaining player designations.

As will be readily apparent, the exhibiting frame **25** may be vertically moved manually so that any player designation and the scoring spaces associated therewith may be exposed in the frame.

The casing segment **14** is provided with a similar pair of slots **34** and **35** receiving a flexible band **36** of substantially opaque material carrying an exhibiting frame **37** similar to the exhibiting frame **25** and arranged in substantially the same manner with respect to the player designations **27** and the scoring spaces associated therewith. As in the case of the exhibiting frame **25**, the exhibiting frame **37** may be manually moved vertically to expose a selected player designation and the scoring spaces horizontally aligned therewith and associated therewith.

Each of the segments **13** and **14** is provided with a backing member **38** of any suitable thin, relatively rigid material, such as rigid plastic material, or the like, and retaining means are secured on the marginal portions of the backs of the segments to receive an instruction card **40**. Thus, the back of the segment **13** is provided with the inwardly extending retaining flange **41** which is offset from the back **38** of the segment **13** to receive marginal portions of the card **40**, and the casing segment **14** is provided with the similarly offset inwardly extending flange portion **42** registering with the top and bottom portions of the flange **41** so as to receive the top and bottom marginal portions of the card **40** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6. The card **40** may comprise a specific set of instructions for a particular match or tournament, and may be inserted in the retaining recess defined by the flange elements **41** and **42** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 6, to be retained with the scoring device during a particular tournament or match. However, the instruction card **40** is readily removable so that the scoring device may be folded to the closed position thereof shown in FIGURE 5 in the manner above described.

As will be readily apparent, in using the device, a player may adjust the exhibiting frame **25** or **37** to the position wherein his designation will appear at the left portion of the exhibiting frame, enabling him to inscribe his scoring information on the scoring spaces adjacent his designation. While this is being done, the scores of the other players are hidden by the opaque bands **24** and **36**. This enables a scorer or user to score the individual information in complete privacy so that opponents cannot see any of the scores which have been entered in the device. As shown in FIGURE 7, the columns to be covered by the opaque members **24** and **36** will overlie the spaces given the "Contract and Declarer," "Plus," "Minus," and the "Point Estimated" information.

As shown in FIGURE 3, the back portions of the casing segments **13** and **14** are formed with shallow grooves or recesses **43** and **44** which slidably receive the back portions of the flexible bands **24** and **36** and which serve as guide grooves therefor and as means for retaining the bands in proper alignment.

While a specific embodiment of an improved bridge scoring device has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bridge score device comprising a flat casing having a recess adapted to receive a score card of the type having a vertical row of player designations with horizontally extending scoring spaces adjacent the respective player designations, said casing being formed with horizontally extending top and bottom slots, a flexible band of substantially opaque material engaged through said slots, and a horizontally extending elongated rectangular exhibiting frame secured to the ends of the band and supported thereby in overlying relation to said recess, said frame being of sufficient width and length to expose a single player designation and the scoring spaces associated therewith of a score card, said band being movable to vertically adjust the position of the exhibiting frame to selectively expose the different player designations while the band covers the scoring spaces associated with the other player designations.

2. A bridge score device comprising a flat casing formed with a rectangular card-receiving recess, a bridge score card positioned in said recess, said score card being of the type having a vertical row of player designations with horizontally extending scoring spaces adjacent the respective player designations, said casing being formed with horizontally extending top and bottom slots located adjacent the top and bottom margins of said recess, a flexible band of substantially opaque material engaged through said slots, and a horizontally extending elongated rectangular exhibiting frame secured to the ends of the band and supported thereby in overlying relation to said recess, said frame being of sufficient width and length to expose a single player designation and the scoring spaces associated therewith, said band being movable to vertically adjust the position of the exhibiting frame to selectively expose the different player designations while the band covers the scoring spaces associated with the other player designations.

3. A bridge scoring device comprising a flat casing hinged vertically at its mid portion to fold in the manner of a book, said casing being formed with a rectangular card-receiving recess, a bridge score card positioned in said recess and having respective vertical rows of player designations and horizontal scoring spaces adjacent thereto, one vertical row being located on each side of the hinge plane of the casing, the casing having respective top and bottom pairs of horizontal blocks located adjacent the top and bottom marginal portions of the recess aligned with the scoring spaces, respective flexible bands of substantially opaque material engaged through the pairs of slots, and a horizontally extending elongated rectangular exhibiting frame secured to the ends of each band, the frame being of sufficient width and length to expose a single player designation in the associated scoring spaces, the bands being movable to vertically adjust the exhibiting frame so that only a single player designation and associated scoring spaces will be exposed at any one time by each exhibiting frame.

4. A bridge scoring device comprising a flat casing hinged vertically at its mid portion to fold in the manner of a book, means on the casing defining a rectangular card-receiving recess opening at one side of the casing, a bridge score card positioned in said recess and having respective vertical rows of player designations and horizontal scoring spaces adjacent thereto, one vertical row being located on each side of the hinge plane of the casing, the casing having respective top and bottom pairs of horizontal slots located adjacent the top and bottom marginal portions of the recess aligned with the scoring spaces, respective flexible bands of substantially opaque material engaged through the pairs of slots, said casing being formed at its back portion with guide grooves slidably receiving the bands and holding them on the casing in positions overlying the scoring spaces, and a horizontally extending elongated rectangular exhibiting frame secured to the ends of each band, the frame being of sufficient width and length to expose a single player designation and the associated scoring spaces, the bands being movable to vertically adjust the exhibiting frames so that only a single player designation and associated scoring spaces will be exposed at any one time by each exhibiting frame.

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