No. 672,999.

Patented Apr. 30, 1901.

W. J. BURTIS.

GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Mar. 5, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

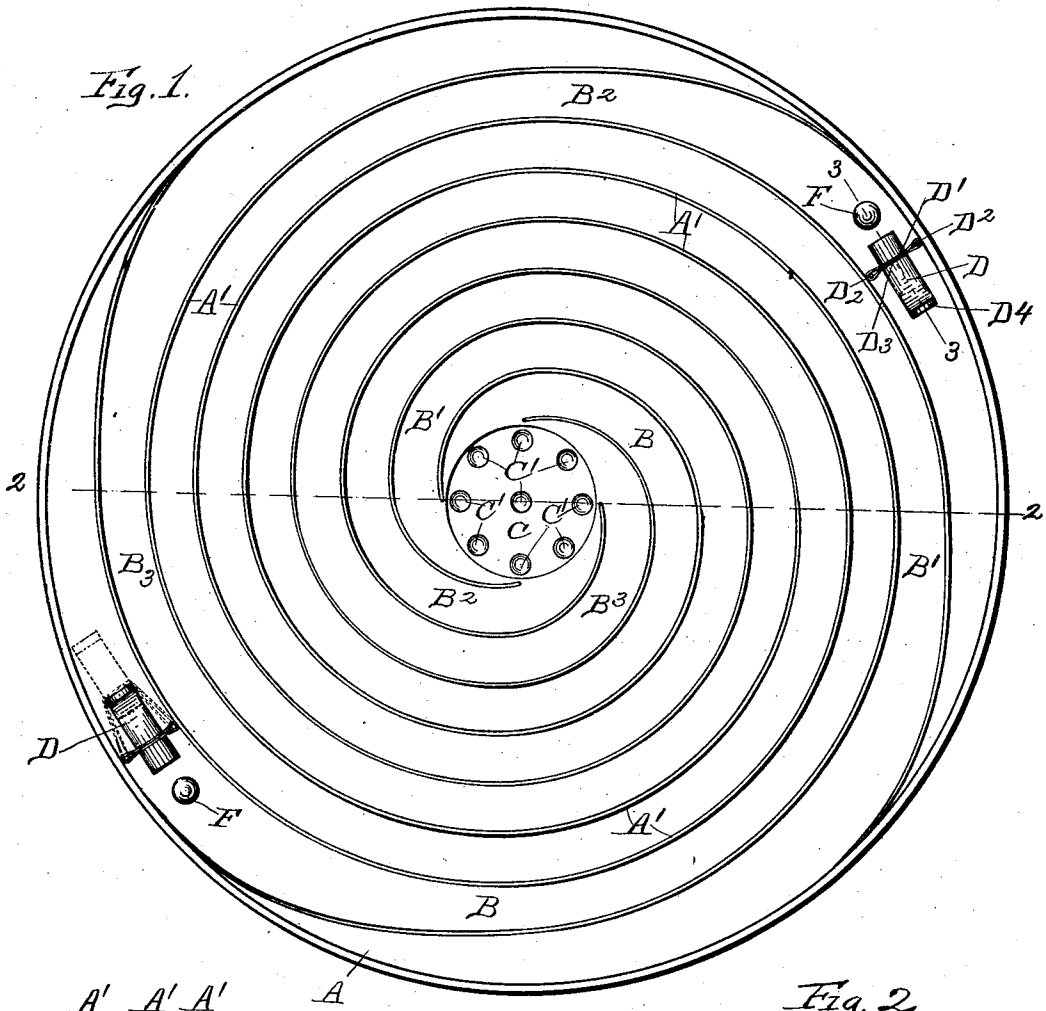


Fig. 2.

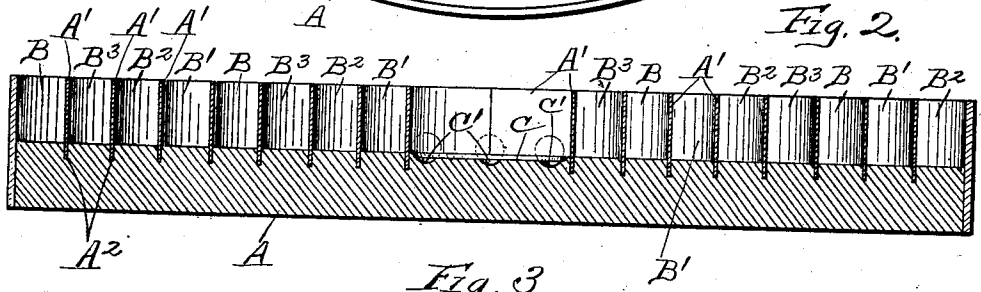
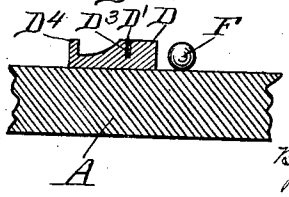


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
G. L. Curtis.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLARD J. BURTIS, OF GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 672,999, dated April 30, 1901.

Application filed March 5, 1898. Serial No. 672,735. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLARD J. BURTIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Granville, county of Washington, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to such improvements; and it consists of the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter described and subsequently claimed.

Reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Similar letters refer to similar parts in the several figures.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a top plan view of my improved apparatus. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section of the same, taken on the broken line 2 2 in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on the broken line 3 3 in Fig. 1.

The game played with my improved apparatus consists in projecting a marble or similar object along a spiral channel or raceway to an interior depressed plane surface having a plurality of cup-like depressions, each adapted to receive and retain a marble lodging therein.

A is a base-plate, preferably made of some light material, as wood, though I do not wish to limit myself in this particular.

B, B′, B^2, and B^3 are grooves or raceways formed on the top surface of the base, extending in a spiral form from the central depressed plane surface C outwardly toward the peripheral edge of the base-plate. The raceways are so disposed relatively to each other that each one incloses its neighboring raceway on one side and is inclosed by its neighboring raceway on the opposite side. The raceways are preferably formed by inserting metal strips or bands A′ edgewise in grooves A^2, formed in the upper side of the base-plate, in the manner shown in the drawings; but the strips or fillets forming the raceways, together with the base-plate, may be cast in one integral piece of metal, or the separate strips may be secured to a separate base-plate in any known manner.

The plane surface C is depressed below the surface plane of the base-plate to form a central well and provided with a plurality of cup-like depressions C′, adapted to severally receive and retain a marble or other small spherical object.

By having a plurality of raceways—for example, four of them—disposed, as shown, with their outer ends ninety degrees apart at the peripheral edge of the base-plate, which may be two or three feet in diameter, it is possible for four players to play the game and each have a separate raceway, all usable simultaneously.

The apparatus may be provided with any desired number of raceways—one or more.

Each player should be provided with marbles differing in appearance or color from the marbles of the other players.

The players may play successively or simultaneously by projecting a marble along a raceway to the depressed plane surface, making a count if he lodges his marble in one of the cup-like depressions. The different depressions may be given different values, as desired. For example, the lodgment of a marble in one of the outer depressions would count ten and in the center depression one hundred.

The marbles may be snapped or propelled by the hand in any known manner or by some spring-actuated device. I prefer to make use of a device which I believe to be novel and peculiarly adapted for this and similar purposes, consisting of a ram supported and actuated by a single spring.

D represents the ram, which is supported in the bottom of a raceway by the rubber spring D′, which may be a common elastic band having the loop at each end slipped over a stud or nail D^2, inserted in and projecting upwardly from the base-plate. The band is forced into a narrow transverse groove D^3 in the head of the ram, and the other end of the ram is provided with an operating-handle, as the finger-catch D^4.

To operate the device, place the marble F just in front of the ram, as shown. Then draw the ram back to the position indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1 and release it. The spring will guide the ram and at the same time cause it to strike the marble with sufficient force to propel it through the raceway to the central depressed surface or well C.

The force of the blow upon the marble will depend upon the force expended in drawing the ram back away from the marble before releasing it.

It will be observed that the propelling device is very simple and easily constructed and that the transverse spring has the double function of guiding and actuating the ram.

The raceway is preferably made wider at its outer end, where the propelling device is inserted.

By having a central depressed surface or well C at the end of the several raceways and providing the bottom surface of this well with a plurality of cup-like depressions adapted to receive the marbles the marbles are all made to pass in different lines of movement across the bottom of the well, according to the degree of force with which they enter the well and strike its vertical wall. They may be propelled with sufficient force to make them bound from one side of the well to another and back again, striking the vertical wall of the well several times before the marble finally becomes seated in one of the cup-like depressions.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A game apparatus consisting of a base-plate provided with a plurality of spiral raceways leading inwardly to a well common to all the raceways having a plurality of cup-like depressions in its bottom surface, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 3d day of March, 1898.

WILLARD J. BURTIS.

Witnesses:
GEO. A. MOSHER,
FRANK C. CURTIS.