Dec. 28, 1948. M. C. MEYER 2,457,168

BASEBALL GAME

Filed April 19, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

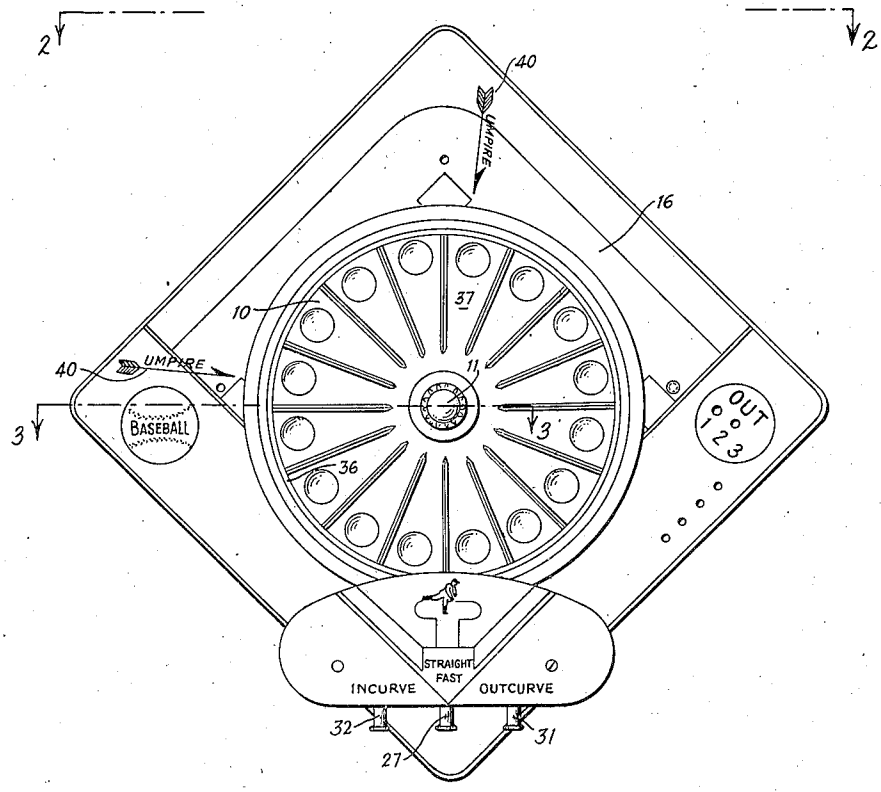


Fig. 1

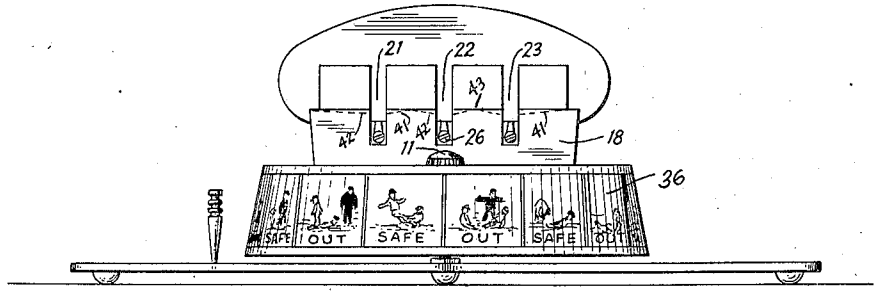


Fig. 2

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BASEBALL GAME

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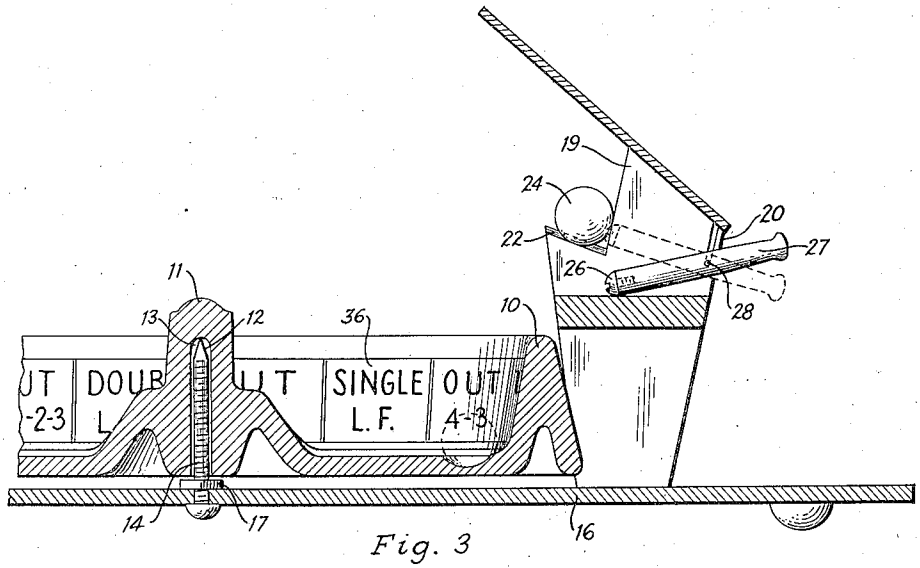


Fig. 3

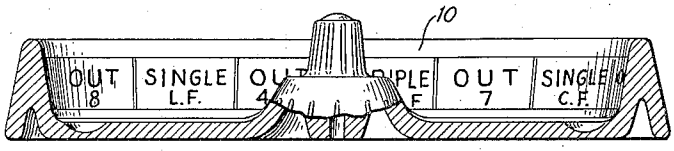


Fig. 4

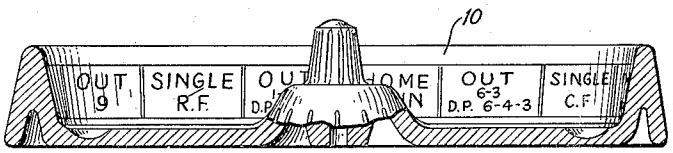


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,457,168

BASEBALL GAME

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Application April 19, 1946, Serial No. 663,523

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—93)

1

My invention relates to a novel educational and recreational baseball game and more particularly my invention relates to a baseball game that is mechanically operated but is substantially entirely governed by the discretional acts of judgment exercised in playing the game of baseball.

Many games based on baseball have been proposed but they have lacked public acceptance primarily because they are baseball games in name only and have no realistic relation to the game of baseball as it is known and played by substantially all American men and boys. Although the prospective user may be drawn to such games because of their appearance or because they are called baseball games, any specific examination soon makes evident the fact that the playing of the game basically depends on pure chance alone as exemplified by the use of a spinner dial and no baseball strategy or judgment is required or useful in their playing.

It is the object of my invention to provide a novel baseball game that can be played by two individuals or two teams in such a manner that the team that exercises the superior baseball judgment and strategy will have the advantage over its opponent in the same way that that superior judgment and strategy will constitute an advantage in the ordinary game of baseball.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a baseball game in which the moves are controlled so as to prevent predetermination of the play.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a novel baseball game that embodies in mechanical form a true reincarnation of baseball as played on the diamond.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a novel mechanical baseball game in which a pitcher can exercise his own discretion and present to the batter a variety of pitches according to his judgment.

It is a further object of my present invention to provide a novel mechanical baseball game in which the batter can, through the exercise of his own discretion, decide whether to hit at or "take" the ball delivered by the pitcher.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a mechanical baseball game in which the batter can exercise his judgment as to the kind of pitch that the pitcher is delivering and govern his own response accordingly as is the practice in the playing of the actual game of baseball.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a mechanical game of baseball in which various moves can be made effectively or which correspond generally to the baseball strategy in the ordinary game of baseball.

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It is a further object of my invention to provide a novel mechanical game in which a ball may be delivered into a rotating element comprising a series of separate compartments in such a manner that the ball will remain within that element and quickly settle in one compartment thereof.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide ball actuating means so spaced as to prevent the opposing player from predetermining the batter's operations and from allowing the batter to predetermine the pitcher's operations.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a batting device or a means for knocking the ball from the slot which is so constructed as to give the ball a pronounced spin as it is knocked from the slot into the rotating bowl.

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 587,071, filed April 7, 1945, which has become Patent No. 2,457,167, patented December 28, 1948.

I accomplish these objects by a mechanical game in which a batting stand is provided on a board adjacent to a rotatable wheel. The pitcher places a ball, while concealed from the batter, into a selected hole or slot according to whether he wishes to pitch a ball or a strike, and he may also elect whether the ball will be an incurve or an outcurve. A batter can either decide to hit at the ball, or to "take" the ball. If he takes the ball then he is credited with the ball or charged with a strike, depending on whether the pitcher delivered a ball or strike. If he strikes at the ball, then he must judge as to whether the pitcher delivered an incurve, straight ball or an outcurve, and tap a corresponding batting device. If he guesses incorrectly, he is charged with a strike because the bat will not contact the ball. If he guesses correctly, then the bat discharges the ball from the opening into the rotating wheel, where, as in ordinary baseball, upon the ball being hit out into the field, a safe hit or an out may result.

Both the pitcher's actions and the batter's actions are determined by the number of strikes, balls, the outs, and the presence of men on bases.

The side at bat may elect to attempt to steal when their runner is on base and are provided with means for determining whether or not such steals are successful.

Strategy in judgment that plays so important

a part in ordinary baseball, plays an equally important part in this game.

The game itself and the baseball judgment and the strategy that may be exercised in the playing of the game will best be understood from consideration of the drawings and the specific description which here follows:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the game of my invention.

Figure 2 is a side view of the game of my invention.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view, taken along line 3—3 of Figure 1, of the game of my invention.

Figures 4 and 5 are cross sectional views of the batting stand of my invention.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a rotating wheel 10 centrally balanced at 11 so as to rotate as shown in Figure 3 by means of a bearing surface 12 on which rests the center cap 11, the bearing 12 resting on a seat 13 on the top of a central pin 14 secured to the base board 16 by means of a fastening device 17. The wheel 10 is adapted to the manually spun and rotates freely on the bearing surface 12.

As shown in Figure 2, there is located on the rear of the base board 16 a batting stand 18 which comprises a pitching side generally denoted as 19 and a batting side generally denoted as 20. The pitcher side 19 comprises a cavity in which are disposed three openings 21, 22, and 23. As shown in the view of Figure 2, this opening, such as 22, is such that when the ball 24 is disposed in the opening 22 it can be propelled by screw head 26 adjustably mounted at the end of the bat 27 which is pivotally connected at 28 to the stand 18 so that it may be impelled upwardly to eject the ball from the cavity 22. This is a description of the central ball propelling mechanism and on each side thereof are similar propelling mechanisms designated as 31 and 32.

The screw head 26 is adjustably mounted in the end of the bat 27 so that the impact force of the screw head 26 on the ball 24 can be so adjusted that the ball 24 on being impelled will land within the side wall 36 of the wheel 10 so that it will eventually come to rest in one of compartments 37 of the wheel 10. The bat is so constructed as to strike the ball an upwardly glancing blow and thereby give it a pronounced spin so that the tendency for the ball to bounce out of the member 10 is minimized. If desired, the end of the screw device 26 is covered with rubber so as to give the ball a greater spin. When so spun the ball tends to take a low long bounce in the member 10 rather than a high bounce. Since the ball may bounce in any direction owing to the fact that the bottom surface of member 10 is uneven, there is considerably less likelihood of a low bouncing ball bouncing out of the member 10.

The top walls of the member 18 slope downwardly towards the cavities 21, 22 and 23 as shown in dotted lines 41, 42, of Figure 2. By this construction the pitcher is further able to conceal his movements as he can deposit the ball on the ridge 43 between any two cavities and permit the ball to roll to one side or the other.

The side wall 36 of the wheel 10 has on its inside face certain designations which are to be taken as controlling the progress of the game and are determined by the position of the ball as it comes to rest in one or the other of the compartments 37. For example, the batter is credited with one base hit to center field when the ball rests in the compartment which is designated "Single L. F." (Left Field).

The outside face of the wall 36 (see Figure 2) contains various designations of "Safe" and "Out" which determine whether a stealing base runner safely steals or is thrown out in the game. This determination is effected by the proximity of the "Safe" or of the "Out' designation to the pointer 40.

The mechanical operation of the game is instituted by the rotation of the wheel 10 through cap 11. The pitcher moves the ball 24 in the cavity 19 so as to conceal his movements from the batter who stands and views only the batter side 20 of the batting stand 18. The pitcher then places the ball 24 in either the opening 21, 22 or 23. The batter attempts to guess just as a batter in baseball attempts to guess the nature of the pitch delivered.

His judgment in this respect is determined by the previous actions of the pitcher, the number of men on base and the number of balls and strikes against him.

Having decided what kind of ball has been delivered, he strikes either now 27, 31 or 32, and if he guessed incorrectly and the ball is not in the corresponding opening on the pitching side then a strike is called against him. If he guesses correctly then, as shown in Figure 2, the ball is spun through the air and falls into the revolving wheel 10. It comes to rest in a compartment 37 thereof and by the legend on the wall of that compartment the result is determined. All the rules of baseball are employed and followed from the individual plays which result.

As shown in Figure 5, certain double plays are indicated on the wheel by, for example, D. P. 6–4–3. This indicates that the shortstop No. 6 has called a grounder and then throws to the second baseman No. 4 at second base forcing out the runner from first base. The second baseman No. 4 throws to first baseman No. 3 retiring the batter. This is effective only when a base runner is on first base. The ordinary plays are indicated as for example by 4–3 when the second baseman 4 catches a grounder hit by the batter and throws the batter out at first base No. 3. 1–3 means pitcher No. 1 catches a grounder and throws the runner out at first base.

The players are sequentially numbered as in ordinary baseball scoring.

A base runner may attempt to advance after the outfielder's catch and in that case the marking on the outside wall of the wheel as shown in Figure 1 will indicate whether the runner is safe or out, this being determined by the "Safe" or "Out" area indicated by the marker "X."

The various rules and plays that generally apply and take place in baseball are employed in this game. When a single is hit all men on bases advance two bases. All men on base score when a double, triple or home run is hit. Men not involved in double plays advance one base only with none out.

When a batter is thrown out on first base men on bases advance one base only.

A batter may declare aloud base runners who are attempting to steal one base only at the particular moment he hits at the pitch ball or allows it to pass. If the batter swings and misses with the pitched ball or allows it to pass, the result of the catch ball is decided by the arrow (the umpire) which points to either a block lettered "Safe" or "Out" on the outer wall of the playing field of the wheel when it stops revolving.

A strike is declared when the ball is hit out of the revolving playing field which is regarded as a foul ball which is not called if it occurs for the third strike.

The batter permits the ball to pass by raising his index finger instead of tipping one of the ball impellers.

To pitch an incurve the pitcher places the ball without indicating his placement in the right cavity of the battery box. To pitch an outcurve he places it in the left cavity. To pitch a fast straight ball he puts the ball in the center cavity.

The ball is deceptively introduced into the proper cavity so that the batter has no indication of where the ball is placed. The batter must tip his preferred bat while the field is revolving.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the novel principles of the invention disclosed herein in connection with the specific exemplifications thereof will suggest various other modifications and applications of the same. It is accordingly desired that in construing the breadth of the appended claims they shall not be limited to the specific exemplifications of the invention described herein.

I claim:

1. A baseball game comprising a rotatable wheel element containing a plurality of separate compartments adapted to receive a ball, a stand positioned adjacent to said wheel, said stand having a pitching side and a batting side, the pitching side facing said wheel, a plurality of openings located in said pitching side adapted to receive said ball, a separate means for each of said openings for impelling said ball located in said opening into the air with the proper force and direction so as to land said ball within said rotatable wheel element, said means for impelling said ball comprising a pivotally mounted lever arm one end of which extends into said opening and the other end of which extends beyond the batter's side of the stand to form an actuating element, means for concealing said openings in said pitching side of said stand from said batting side, said means for impelling said ball comprising a means for adjusting the distance the end of the lever arm extends into the opening.

2. A baseball game comprising a rotatable wheel element containing a plurality of separate compartments adapted to receive a ball, a stand positioned adjacent to said wheel, said stand having a pitching side and a batting side, the pitching side facing said wheel, a plurality of openings located in said stand on the pitching side thereof, said openings being adapted to receive said ball, the upper surface of said stand sloping upwardly from said openings so that the ball wherever placed on the stand will roll into one of the openings, a separate means for each of said openings for impelling said ball located in said opening into the air with the proper force and direction so as to land said ball within said rotatable wheel element, said means for impelling said ball comprising a pivotally mounted lever arm one end of which extends into said opening and the other end of which extends beyond the batter's side of the stand to form an actuating element, means for concealing said openings in said pitching side of said stand from said batting side, said means for impelling said ball comprising a means for adjusting the distance the end of the lever arm extends into the opening.

3. A baseball game comprising a means containing a plurality of separate compartments adapted to receive a propelled ball, in combination with a stand positioned adjacent to said compartment means, said stand having a pitching side and a batting side, the pitching side facing said compartment means, a plurality of openings located in said pitching side adapted to receive said ball, a separate means for each of said openings for impelling said ball located in said opening into the air with the proper force and direction so as to propel said ball toward said compartment means, said means for impelling said ball comprising a pivotally mounted lever arm one end of which extends into said opening and the other end of which extends beyond the batter's side of the stand to form an actuating element, means for concealing said openings in said pitching side of said stand from said batting side, said means for impelling said ball comprising a means for adjusting the distance the end of the lever arm extends into the opening.

4. A baseball game comprising a means containing a plurality of separate compartments adapted to receive a propelled ball, in combination with a stand positioned adjacent to said compartment means, said stand having a pitching side and a batting side, the pitching side facing said compartment means, a plurality of openings located in said pitching side adapted to receive said ball, a separate means for each of said openings for impelling said ball located in said opening into the air with the proper force and direction so as to propel said ball toward said compartment means, said means for impelling said ball comprising a pivotally mounted lever arm one end of which extends into said opening and the other end of which extends beyond the batter's side of the stand to form an actuating element, means for concealing said openings in said pitching side of said stand from said batting side each of said means for impelling said ball comprising an intermediately pivoted bat-like structure, and said means for impelling said ball comprising a means for adjusting the distance the end of the lever arm extends into the opening.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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