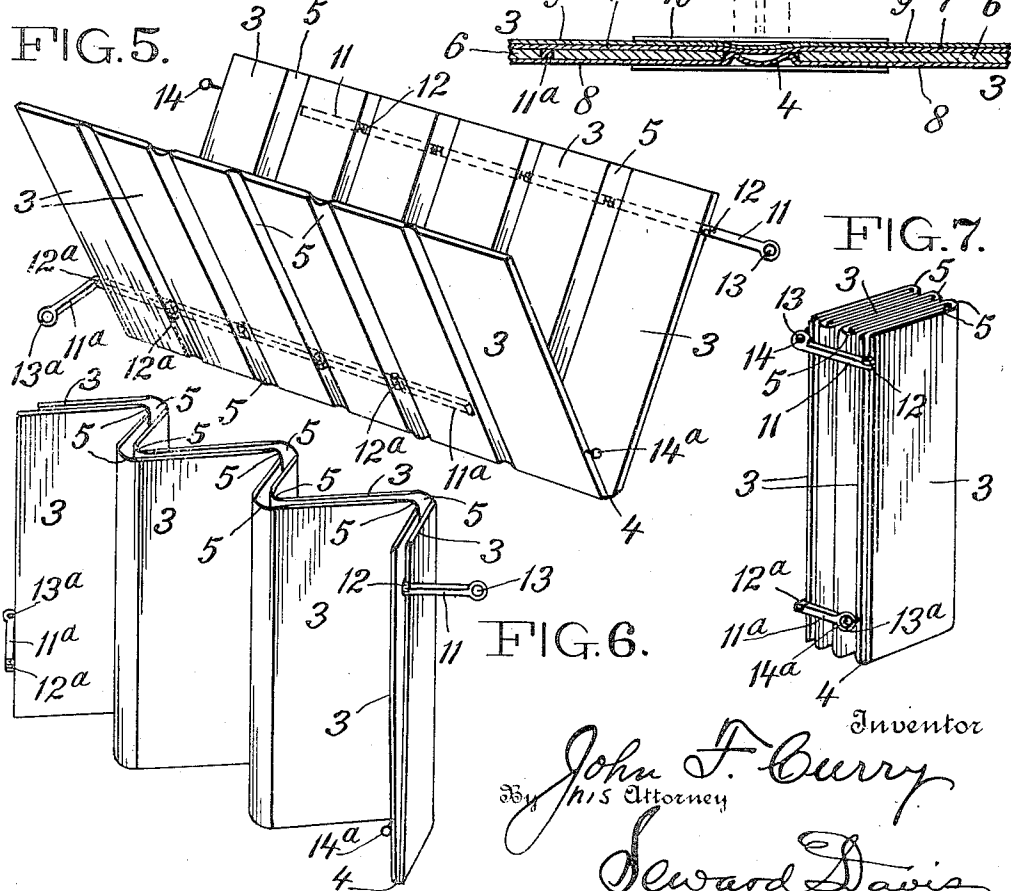
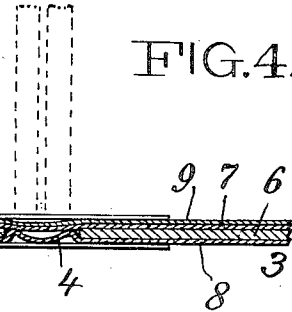
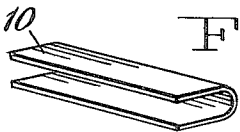
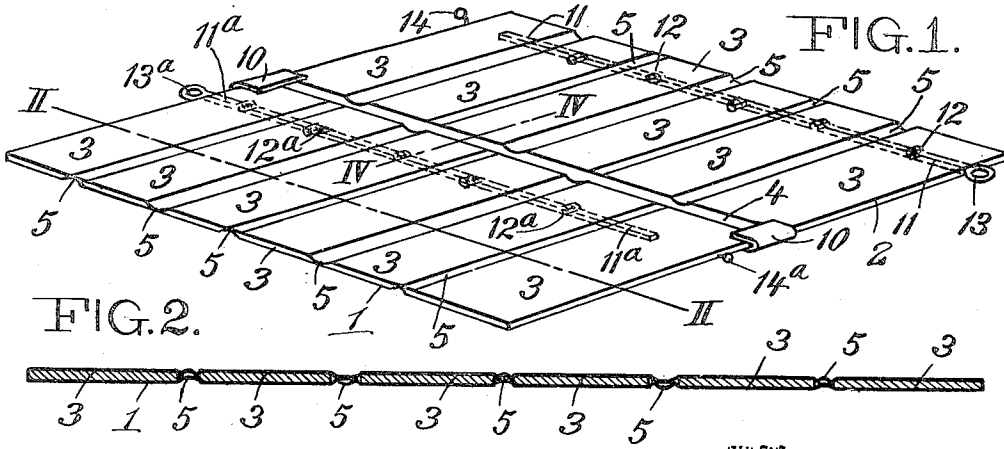


1,307,437.

Patented June 24, 1919.



Inventor  
*John F. Curry*  
By *Seward Davis* Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. CURRY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## GAME-BOARD.

1,307,437.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 24, 1919.

Application filed March 6, 1918. Serial No. 220,754.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN F. CURRY, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to game boards and particularly to boards for playing games  
10 with cards.

Because dangerous injuries have resulted due to the use of solid playing boards when collisions or the like accidents have occurred, certain railroads have forbidden the  
15 use of solid boards upon their cars, and employees of other roads are forbidden to furnish such boards to passengers. My invention has for its object the avoidance of the dangers inhering in such boards by  
20 affording a portable means of playing cards without the inconveniences and obstacles presented by the substitute commonly adopted on these roads, namely, a stretched  
25 cloth fastened at its corners, or the makeshift expedients otherwise necessarily adopted.

My invention also has for its object the production of a collapsible board adapted to be carried in small compass, and particularly to a board which may be folded compactly upon itself in flat form to fit the  
30 pocket.

A further object is to provide a board which, when opened, shall present a surface  
35 that is continuous, that is, without projections, depressions or crevices which would obstruct the movements of the cards thereover, and which surface shall be substantially in area equal to that of a standard  
40 card table, approximately 22 inches by 27 inches.

A further object is the provision in such a collapsible and foldable board of means for stiffening it when opened for play so  
45 that it shall present an approximately rigid self-supporting surface.

The foregoing and other desired objects are attained by the hereinafter described structure constituting the preferred embodiment of my invention, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part  
50 of this specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a board; Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line II—II  
55 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a perspective view of

one of the hinging pieces used to stiffen the hinge joints of the board; Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line IV—IV of Fig. 1, illustrating the method of construction and folding; Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing the board partially folded; Fig. 6 shows the board semi-collapsed; and Fig. 7 shows it collapsed.

In the board illustrated, there is shown two horizontal rows 1, 2 of rectangular, ob-  
65 long flats 3, arranged in the rows in corresponding pairs. Between the rows is formed a hinge joint 4 adapted to permit flexure in one direction, so that the rows may be folded together, one row overlying  
70 the other, each flat of the upper row registering with the respective flat below it. As thus folded, the flats are in pairs. Each flat is so jointed by the hinge 5 to the next flat adjacent it successively in its row, that  
75 when the rows are folded together, the corresponding pairs may be folded against the next pair to contact and lie flat therewith. This result is attained by forming alternate  
80 hinge joints in each row to permit flexure in opposite directions only, the direction of flexure of the joint between any pair in the same row being opposite to that of the joint of the corresponding pair in the other row  
85 with whose joint it is in alinement. Thus when the rows are superposed, the flats may be folded bellows-like. Each flat is of  
binders' board 6, or like thin, strong, light and stiff material. The flats are spaced  
90 apart to afford adequate room for the hinge joints between. These joints are formed by overlaying the flats with a sheet of thin  
hide, cloth, sheet rubber or the like, 7, and a similar backing 8, and by then suitably  
95 stretching the covering and backing materials at the joints in the desired directions, as by creasing with a suitable tool, until the plies are set, when they are suitably glued to the boards and the whole is pressed together by a bookbinder's press. The so-  
100 formed joints readily permit flexure in one direction, but resist in the opposite direction. When thus formed, I preferably cover the top or side to be played upon with a suitable playing surface 9 either of split  
105 leather or of fabric such as baize, to afford a surface free from projections or depressions that would interfere with the free movement of the cards thereover.

I have illustrated a board comprising 110

twelve sections each approximately 11 inches long by four and a half inches wide, disposed in two rows of six each, affording an area substantially that of a standard size card table, and a size particularly well adapted for use of passengers on railroad trains, as it can conveniently be spread between four players seated vis-a-vis in the usual coach seats. When collapsed, this board is so compact that it may be readily carried in the coat pocket.

In my preferred construction there are shown a series of spaced clips substantially U-shaped adapted to be slid along the margin of the board to bridge the joint between adjacent rows of flats and thus to stiffen the board when spread open. Reinforcing strips or jointed rods 11, 11<sup>a</sup> also may be provided, as shown, for each joint, between flats, if desired, to add to the stability of the structure when it rests on the knees of the players, and additional weight, as of counters, is to be supported thereby. These reinforcing strips have hinges 12 and 12<sup>a</sup>. The link at the end of each rod has an eye 13 and 13<sup>a</sup>, respectively, engaging knobs or hooks 14 and 14<sup>a</sup> at the remote side of the flat at the other row end. These rods are preferably rectangular metallic strips, slidably movable between the plies of the board to bring their hinges in register with those between flats, the hinges 12 being alternately disposed as to direction of swing in correspondence with the joints between flats. When the board is opened, the reinforcing strips or rods 11 are pushed in, whereby the hinges 12 lie in the centers of the flats, and the portions of the rod between hinges bridge the joints, making the board rigid. When the board is to be collapsed, the rods are pulled out until the hinges register with the joints as described, the outermost link being withdrawn until its hinge is free. When the board is folded this link is swung around until the eye 13 at its extremity engages a fastening means, as the hook 14, upon the outer flat, whereby the folded board is fastened in compacted form at top and bottom.

While I am aware that sectional game boards have heretofore been used, I believe the playing surfaces of such boards have been too limited to afford sufficient area for games of cards, being solely intended for chess, checkers, and the like, and further, that the surfaces of such boards were discontinuous and not suitable for card games, and were not adapted as lap boards, and therefore I claim:

1. A sectional board for card games comprising a plurality of rows of flats, each row comprising a plurality of flats, each flat having a plurality of its edges integrally united to the flats adjoining it, said board being adapted to present a continuous play-

ing surface when open, and to fold upon itself when collapsed.

2. An integral game board composed of a plurality of bellows-jointed units each unit being flexibly connected to the units adjoining it, said board being adapted to be collapsed to the linear dimensions of a single unit.

3. An integral game board composed of bellows-jointed units each unit being flexibly connected to the unit adjoining it, said board being adapted to be collapsed to the linear dimensions of a single unit, and spaced means, slidably disposed about the periphery of said board, adapted to rigidly support adjacent units when positioned across the joints between them.

4. A collapsible game board composed of a plurality of rows, each row being composed of a series of rectangular rigid sections flexibly hinged together, adjacent hinges being adapted to close in opposite directions only.

5. A sectional, foldable game board composed of a series of pairs of sections arranged in two rows, one row being foldable upon the other, the pairs of sections being hinge-connected and adjoining pairs being also hinge-connected, the rows being adapted to foldably overlie as rows, the hinges between adjoining pairs in each row presenting successive folds oppositely disposed.

6. A sectional, foldable game board comprising a series of rectangular sections each section being integrally joined to adjacent sections at a plurality of its edges, the sections being arranged in rows, one row being foldable upon another, the corresponding sections of respective rows being adapted to fold against the adjacent sections, alternate folds being disposed in the same direction.

7. A collapsible playing board for card games adapted to fold flat upon itself and comprising six pairs of rectangular oblongs each oblong being flexibly united at a plurality of its sides to adjacent oblongs, the pairs being arranged in two rows, the rows being hinged to fold together in one direction only, the resultant corresponding pairs being hinge-jointed to fold against adjacent pairs.

8. An integral game board composed of a plurality of bellows-jointed units and an included metallic reinforcing strip having hinges corresponding in number and direction of swing with said joints.

9. An integral game board composed of a plurality of bellows-jointed units and an included reinforcing strip having hinges corresponding in number and direction of swing with said joints, said strips being adapted to be moved in one direction to stiffen said board when opened, and in the opposite direction to permit the board to be collapsed.

10. An integral game board composed of a plurality of bellows-jointed units and an included reinforcing strip having hinges corresponding in number and direction of swing with said joints, said strips being adapted to be moved in one direction to stiffen said board when opened, and in the opposite direction to permit the board to be collapsed, and fastening means for securing said board when collapsed comprising in part a free end of one of said strips.

JOHN F. CURRY.