

(No Model.)

P. M. CUNNINGHAM.
POCKET BILLIARD TABLE.

No. 573,262.

Patented Dec. 15, 1896.

Fig. 1.

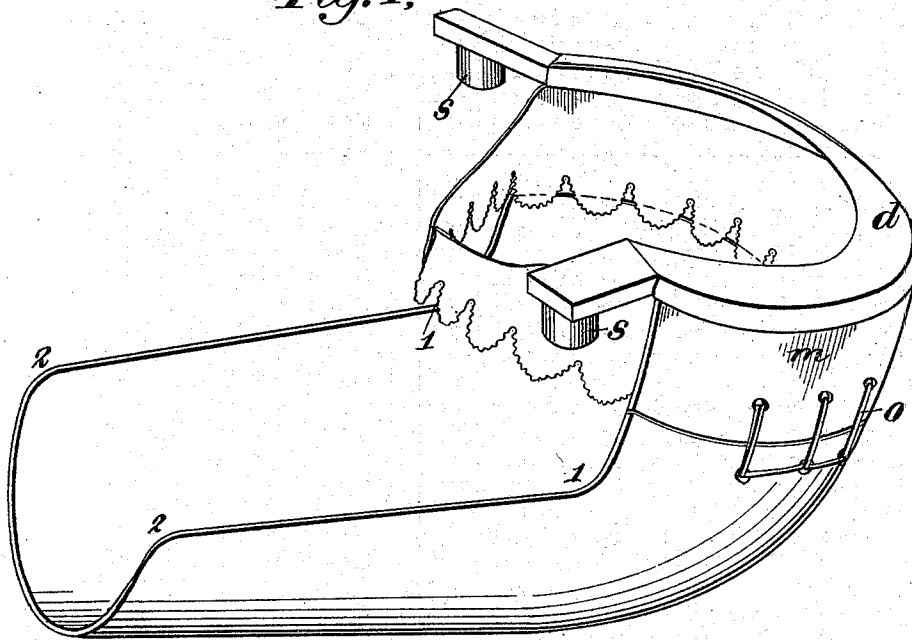


Fig. 2.

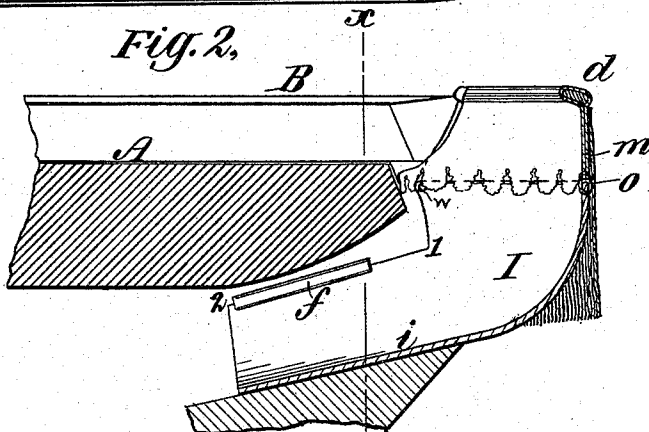
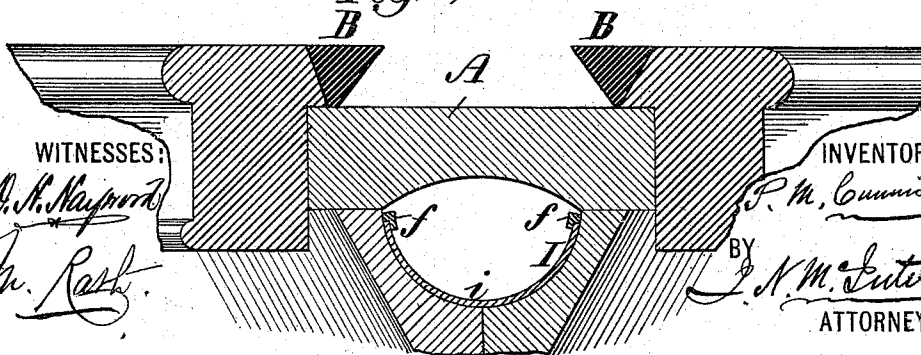


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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PATRICK M. CUNNINGHAM, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO THE
BRUNSWICK-BALKE-COLLENDER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

POCKET BILLIARD-TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 573,262, dated December 15, 1896.

Application filed August 26, 1896. Serial No. 603,954. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PATRICK M. CUNNINGHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Pocket Billiard-Tables, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to billiard-tables provided with pockets and to that species of pocket-tables (used mostly for the game of fifteen-ball pool) in which bottomless pockets are used that communicate with the outer ends of a series of ball conduits or gutters, by means of which all the holed balls are automatically conducted from the several pockets of the table into a receptacle at the foot of the table and beneath its bed in a manner and for the purposes well known.

On May 5, 1896, United States Letters Patent were granted to me, (as assignor to the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company,) No. 559,790, for an improvement in the above-stated kind of billiard-tables, which improvement or invention consists, mainly, in a device adapted for use in connection with the usual pocket-iron and ball-conduit, which device has a cup-shaped outer end extending nearly up to the pocket-iron and attached securely to a slightly-depending portion of the pocket-iron "leather," the said device also having an inner end, gutter-shaped, and connected with or forming a continuation of the ball-conduit or "concealed alley-way" of the table. The construction made the subject of my said Letters Patent is now and has been for some time back in very extensive public use; and the invention or improvement made the subject of my present application has for its object to overcome certain objections in the practical use of my patented contrivance, as will be hereinafter explained.

In the construction of pool-tables according to my patented invention it is necessary, for the manufacture and sale of the pool-tables, in "setting up" the tables or assembling the parts at the factory, (as has to be done in the case of all billiard-tables, which are of course subsequently taken apart and then reassem-

bled or set up in the billiard-parlor or place where the tables are finally delivered,) after having put the legs and framework of the table together and applied the concealed alley-ways, to tack in or otherwise fasten in place the gutter-like portion of the ball-receivers, then to put on the bed slabs or slates, then the cushion-rails, then fasten in place the pocket-irons, and, finally, to secure, by lacing, as shown in my patent, the outer upper edge of the cup-like portion of the ball-receiver to the leather of the pocket-iron, all the working parts of the table, including the ball receivers and receptacles, being then tested in the usual manner to determine that everything about the table works perfectly. In taking down the table again the lacing between the pocket-iron leather and the ball-receiver has to be cut and removed in order to take the table apart, the several devices being separated in the reverse order in which their assemblage has just above been explained, the assembled relationship of all the parts being marked, as usual, so that when the table shall again be set up for use all the parts will be reassembled with the perfection established by the test at the factory. Now, in the first place, according to this necessary mode of procedure, it has been found in practice that there is liability in taking apart the table, after setting it up for trial or test, to strike the outer cup-like portions of the ball-receiver devices, (which cannot, of course, be untacked and removed from the outer ends of the alley-ways until after the removal of the slabs;) and, further than this, a great objection has been found because of the necessity to repeat the operation of lacing the outer ends of the ball-receivers to the pocket-iron leathers in finally fitting up the table for use, as this has to be done at the place where the tables are put up by "setters-up" of tables, and not only does this operation of lacing together these parts have to be done twice in the course of manufacture and sale of the table, but it cannot always be done as successfully and perfectly by those who set up the tables at their final destination as by men at the factory, who make a specialty of doing this work and become expert at it. Further than this, whenever a table in use has to be

"overhauled," as it is called, or repaired, a disruption has to be effected between the ball-receiving device and the pocket-iron leathers, of course, before the cushion-rails of the table can be removed and the other parts (if necessary) separated for repair or adjustment.

I propose by my present invention to overcome all these objections and difficulties in the use of my patented construction of pool-tables and to provide for use this species of table changed and improved in construction, so that the ball-receiving devices and pocket-iron leathers, after having once been adjusted in a united condition in assembling the parts of the table for trial at the factory, need never be disunited, but can (together with the pocket-irons) be assembled with the other parts of the table in setting it up for final use, and so that all the parts of the table may be detached or separated at will for repairs of the table without ever disrupting the union between the devices constituting the whole pocket mechanism proper.

To these ends and objects my invention consists, essentially, in a device adapted for use in connection with the usual pocket-iron and ball-conduit which has a cup-shaped outer end extending nearly up to the pocket-iron and attached securely to a depending portion of the pocket-iron leather, the said device also having its inner end gutter-shaped and the upper edges of its gutter-shaped portion inclined or tapered and adapted to fit within the outer portion of the ball-conduit, so as to form a continuation thereof, in combination with inclined housings or holder devices on the inner surfaces of the outward extension of the ball-conduits, with which housings the upper inclined edges of the gutter-shaped portions of the ball-receiving device engage, (when said device is pushed inwardly into the proper position in assembling the parts of the table,) all as will be hereinafter more fully explained and as will be most particularly pointed out in the claim of this specification.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my improvement relates to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to more fully describe the latter, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, and in which I have shown my improvement carried out in that precise form of parts in which I have so far practiced it, although modifications may, of course, be made without departing from my invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the leather ball-receiver and leathered pocket-iron devices assembled for use in carrying into effect my present invention, said ball-receiver being preferably molded into the form or shape illustrated and being substantially identical with that shown in my patent of May 5, 1896, with the exception that the upper edges of the gutter-like portion are tapered or inclined downwardly or

toward the bottom of the receiving device, as these edges run from the cup-shaped portion to the inner end of the ball-receiver. Fig. 2 is a partial central section through a billiard-table bed and the pocket mechanism or devices thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail vertical cross-section at the line *xx* of Fig. 2.

In the several figures the same part will be found always designated by the same letter of reference.

A is the bed of the table, formed with the usual cut-outs at the vicinities of the pockets, of which there are usually six, and provided with the usual cushions B and cushion-rails, of which there are usually six, the adjacent ends of which rails have secured to them in the usual manner the pocket-irons *d*, all as well understood by the billiard-table manufacturer.

From the vicinities of the lower portions of the pockets, or rather of the holes into which the balls are played, extend inwardly of and beneath the bed of the table the usual ball-conduit or concealed alley-ways, (not shown,) which conduct the holed balls to the common receptacle therefor, all as well understood.

To the walls or inner surfaces of the gutter-like cut-outs or conduit extensions, that are formed, as usual, in the frame of the table, are securely fastened, (by screws or otherwise,) two to each extension, a pair of undercut or grooved wooden housings *ff*, (see Figs. 2 and 3,) which perform the function of holding, both downwardly and laterally, the inclined upper edges of the gutter portion *i* of the leather ball-receiver I, the outer cup-shaped portion of which has its upper edge laced fast, as seen at *o*, to the leather *m* of the pocket-iron *d*.

As usual, each pocket-iron is cast with a teat *s* projecting downwardly from the under surface of each straight end portion and is secured in position to the adjacent ends of two cushion-rails by vertical bolts passing vertically through the cushion-rails and engaging with said teats.

As will be plainly seen from the drawings, (especially by reference to Fig. 2,) the upper edges of the gutter-like portion *i* of the ball-receiver, instead of running in planes parallel with the bottom or lowermost part of the receiver, (as in the case of my patented construction,) lie in a plane oblique to the bottom line of the part *i*; or, in other words, these upper edges are inclined or run downwardly (relatively to the bottom of the gutter) from the point 1 to the point 2, and the confining-housings *ff* are arranged in like inclined positions. By this combined arrangement of the parts it will be seen that the instant the device I is slid or pulled outwardly in its seat within the conduit extension formed in the framework of the table the inclined upper edges of the part *i* are drawn out of contact with the stationary hold-down devices *ff*, so that the outer portion of

the device I can be slightly lifted, and inas-
 much as this capacity to lift up the outer end
 of the ball-receiver increases as the latter is
 further moved inwardly and as the tapering
 5 teats *s* are not very long (and do not fit tightly
 in the wooden cushion-rails) it follows that by
 a combined outward and upward movement
 of the united pocket devices—*i. e.*, the united
 receiver *I* and leathered pocket-iron *d*—these
 10 assembled parts or this group of devices may
 be separated from the other parts of the table,
 after the removal of the pocket-iron bolts,
 without even first removing the cushion-rails,
 (as was necessary heretofore,) and thus in
 15 taking down the table, after it shall have been
 first set up, (at the factory,) there is no neces-
 sity to disconnect the receiver *I* and the
 leathered pocket-iron to which it has been
 laced. These parts or devices, after having
 20 been perfectly put together at the factory,
 remain ever afterward assembled, and in
 again setting up the table for use by the pur-
 chaser, and whenever thereafter (in overhau-
 ling the table) the pocket mechanism may
 25 have been removed, this group of devices is
 easily replaced by simply sliding the receiver
 and its attachments into place with a com-
 bined inward and downward motion of the
 parts to properly seat the gutter-shaped part
 30 *i* and enter the teats *s* in their receptacles in
 the cushion-rails, the group of united parts
 being then fastened in place by means of the
 pocket-iron bolts, operating in the usual
 manner.

35 Preferably, as in the case of my patented
 construction hereinbefore referred to, the
 cup-shaped portion of the ball-receiver (when
 made of leather or other non-metallic sub-
 stance) is secured near each of its inner up-
 40 per corners, by means of a carpet-tack, to the
 ends of the wooden cushion-rails, and of
 course in taking out of place and reassem-
 bling with the rest of the table the group of
 devices composing the pocket mechanism
 45 these tacks have to be removed and reinserted.
 This is very easily done, as they are perfectly
 accessible to the workman.

It will be understood, of course, that the
 degree of obliquity given to the upper edges
 50 of the portion *i* of the receiver (and to the
 confining cleats or housings *ff*) need be only
 sufficient to permit the removal and replace-
 ment of the group of assembled devices

(when the pocket-iron bolts are removed and
 the tacks at *w*, see Fig. 2, removed) in the 55
 manner I have explained, and it will be seen
 that, made according to my present improve-
 ment, a pool or pocket billiard table of the
 type made the subject of my patent herein-
 before mentioned possesses the great advan- 60
 tage of a capacity for the setting up of the
 table when sold and for the overhauling or
 repairing of the table without any disruption
 of the several devices which combined con-
 stitute the whole pocket mechanism proper. 65

In practice the means shown for retaining
 in] working position the inwardly-extended
 gutter-like portion *i* of the ball-receiver—*i. e.*,
 the securing cleats or housings *ff*—is just as
 reliable and efficient as the tacking of this 70
 part of the receiver to the framework of the
 table, as shown in my said patent, since the
 part *i* of the receiver, fitting as it does within
 the conduit extension formed in said frame-
 work or being perfectly seated therein, is per- 75
 fectly held in place by the said housings,
 which sufficiently hold in place the upper
 edges of the part *i* of the receiver, both lat-
 erally and against any tendency to rise, while
 the said part is supported vertically by its 80
 seating on the conduit extension.

Having now so fully explained my inven-
 tion that those skilled in the art can make
 and use the same, what I claim as new, and
 desire to secure by Letters Patent, is— 85

In combination with the framework and
 cushion-rails of a concealed alley-way pool-
 table, the usual, leathered, pocket-iron; a
 ball-receiver having a gutter-like portion fit-
 ting within the outward extension of one of 90
 the ball-conduits of the table, also having its
 outer, cup-shaped portion united to the pock-
 et-iron leather; and having the upper edges
 of its gutter-like portion inclined; and ob-
 liquely-arranged housings, or confining de- 95
 vices, operating to embrace and hold in place
 the said upper edges of the ball-receiver; all
 substantially as and for the purposes herein-
 before set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my 100
 hand this 15th day of August, 1896.

PATRICK M. CUNNINGHAM.

In presence of—

ERNEST J. TAROF,
 JAMES J. BYRNES.