April 20, 1954 M. E. FRALLIC 2,676,035

BRIDGE SCORING PAD

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Fig. 1

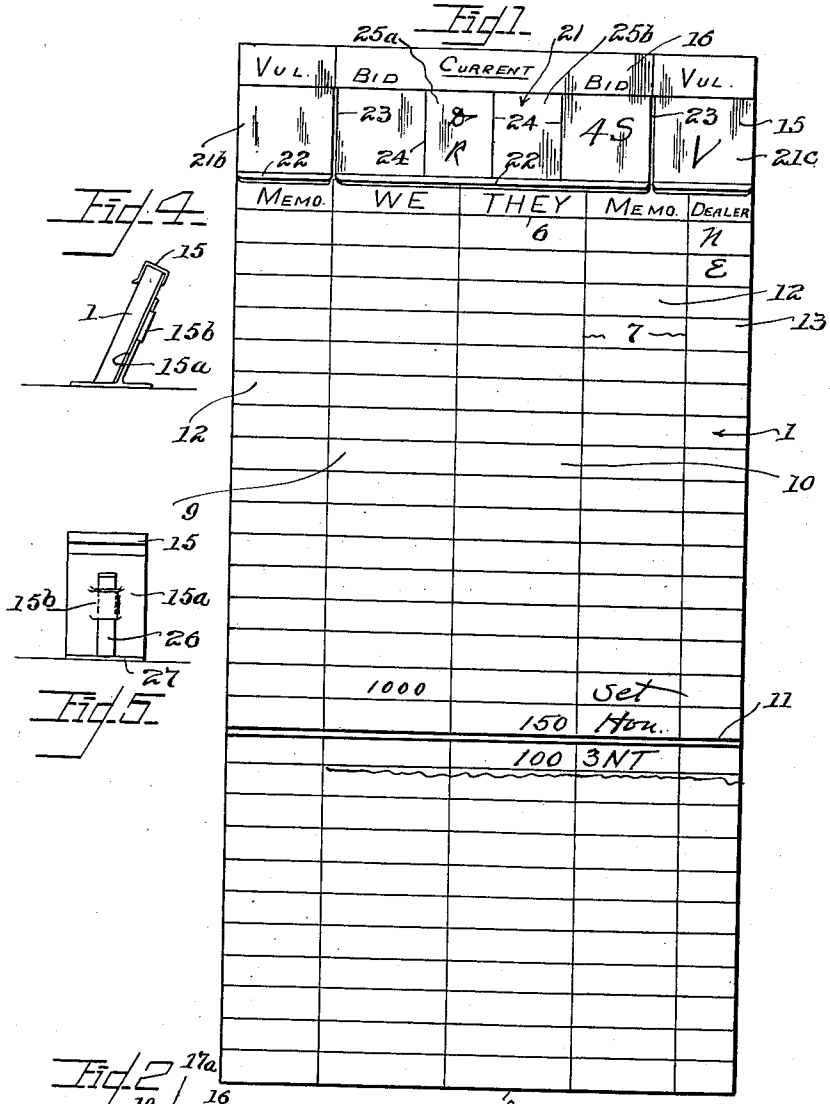


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 2

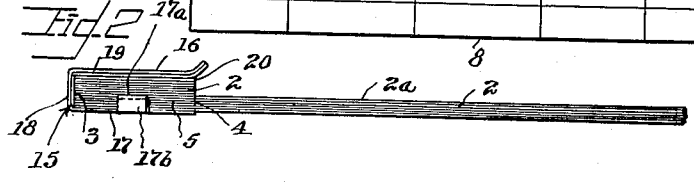
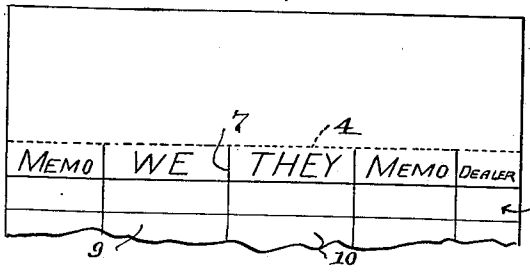


Fig. 3



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BRIDGE SCORING PAD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 283—50)

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This invention relates to a pad to be used for scoring gains and losses in playing a card game.

While the invention can be used in any game, in the present specification it is described as applied to a bridge score pad. Under the rules of contract bridge, partners who have made a game are considered "vulnerable" and in the scoring of the play any under tricks, or tricks by which they are "set" are reckoned at a higher rate if they have won a game and become "vulnerable."

An objection that some persons raise against the game of bridge is that many arguments occur as to what the final bid was on a "hand" just played; whether the bid was doubled, or doubled and re-doubled, and so forth. These difficulties are aggravated if the players indulge in what is called "conversational bridge."

Bridge is one of those games in which the scoring depends upon occurrences immediately related to the play of a certain "hand." Also, for example, not only upon whether the players who are playing the hand are "vulnerable" or not, but also upon whether the contract was fulfilled. If it was not, the penalties are severe, and are increased if the bid was doubled, or re-doubled.

In canasta also the scoring is complicated and depends upon the total score already achieved by a player, or a pair of partners.

In bridge much of the information related to the playing of a certain "bid" or "hand" is of passing interest, but is often a matter of disagreement, sometimes actually breaking up long standing friendships.

One of the objects of this invention is to produce a score pad for card games, having features that particularly adapt it for the entry of items the value of which depend upon the temporary conditions in bridge such as are set up by the players, and which exist when the play of the "hand" begins.

Another object of the invention is to produce a pad having spaces or "boxes" for receiving temporary entries, some of which are of passing interest; also to provide such a pad with special means preferably limited to those spaces or "boxes" for quickly eliminating the temporary entries; for example, entries that indicate whether certain partners are vulnerable or not; also to provide such a pad on which information of temporary interest will be conspicuously displayed, thereby avoiding the necessity for players located across the table from the scorer, to scrutinize carefully the entries of the games won that have been entered below the line that divides the game score in tricks from the honor, bonus, and penalty scores above that line.

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Another object of the invention is to improve the general construction of a scoring pad for a card game.

Further objects of this invention will appear in the following description and drawing.

The invention consists in the novel parts and combination of parts to be described hereinafter, all of which contribute to produce an efficient scoring pad.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described in the following specification, while the broad scope of the invention is pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a plan of a bridge score pad illustrating a preferred embodiment of my invention.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through the upper portion of the pad further illustrating its construction.

Figure 3 is a plan of the upper portion of one of the sheets of the pad.

Figure 4 is a side elevation of one of the pads of my invention set up in a holder that maintains it in a more or less upright position to enable the scoring and characters written upon the pad to be easily distinguished and read by the players at the table.

Figure 5 is a rear elevation of the pad and holder illustrated in Figure 4.

In practicing the invention I provide a book or pad 1, composed of superposed sheets 2 of paper. These superposed sheets are preferably connected together at their upper ends by a binder strip 3 that may be attached in place by a suitable adhesive.

Preferably at a point near the upper end of the pad the sheets 2 are provided with aligned transverse score lines 4 (see Figures 2 and 3), at which their lower portions may be detached.

When the scoring on the top sheet 2a of the complete pad, or partially used pad, is to be removed, it should be torn off at its score line 4, and after a few of these sheets have been removed the upper end of the pad body becomes substantially a block form head 5 composed of the stubs of the removed sheets. In other words, the partially used pad will have substantially the appearance indicated in Figure 2.

Just below the tearing line 4 a horizontal head line 6 on each sheet is provided, carrying the head line legends "We" and "They." These are located between the head line legends "Memo." At the right the legend "Dealer" is placed. The body of each sheet is provided with vertical ruled lines indicated generally by the reference numeral 7. As illustrated these ruled lines extend

all the way to the bottom edge 8 of the pad, and divide the pad transversely into a series of columns including two main columns 9 and 10 under the head lines "We" and "They." The columns 9 and 10 are divided in two by the usual accentuated horizontal line 11; the space below being used for entries of scores toward "Game" while the space above the line 11 is for the entry of items such as honors, bonuses, and penalties, etc. The "Memo" columns 12 on the body of the pad at each side receive entries of scoring acquired from "sets" or "over-tricks," charged against, or credited to, the players designated as "We" or "They"; and the column 13 at the extreme right is for indicating the succession of dealers.

This column 13 is used for entries to indicate who the dealer is when each deal is about to be made. Each dealer is not indicated by name but by an initial indicating his position at the table with respect to the points of the compass. The succession of deals are indicated from the top line downward, for example the letters "N" and "E" indicate that two deals have occurred: "North" dealt first, and then "East" dealt.

The pad also includes means at the upper end for making temporary entries to show the relation of the players on every deal, for example, the contract resulting from the bidding of the "hand," which pair of partners is playing the "hand," and which partners are vulnerable. Boxes for other entries are provided to indicate whether the bid was doubled or re-doubled.

In order to accomplish this I prefer to provide an attachable clip 15 (see Figures 1 and 2) which is preferably formed of transparent or translucent material such as clear cellophane or thin plastic. This clip includes an upper portion 16 and a bottom portion 17 the former of which lies superposed on the block portion of the pad. These two parts 16 and 17 are connected integrally by a back portion 18 from which they project laterally.

The upper flange 16 is flexible enough to enable a pointed instrument like a stylus or pencil applied to it to impress the sheet below it. The lower face of the flange 16 does not lie directly against the upper face of the "block" 5, but upon an impression flap 19 that is interposed between it and a base flap 20. The impression flap is thin and flexible.

The base flap 20 presents a dark slightly tacky upper face. This face should be tacky enough to enable it to adhere to the impression flap 19 when the cover flange is written upon. The adherence occurs along the line impressed by the stylus or pencil. The cover flange 16 preferably has a glossy surface so that a pencil will not make any conspicuous mark upon it. But the pencil point will press the upper flange down against the impression flap and cause it to adhere to the base flap 21 along any line scribed by the pencil point. In this way entries can be made and displayed which are quite legible as long as the impression flap is adhering to the base flap. Material suitable to be used for the two flaps 19 and 20 is readily obtainable in the market today.

The upper flange has a body portion, or main flap 21. The main flap 21 and the end flaps 21*b* and 21*c* are separated by slits 23 that terminate above on a horizontal line, and above this line there are two legends "Vul" printed on the flange 16 over the two end flaps 21*b* and 21*c*.

Vertical lines 24 divide the area of the main flap 21 into four areas or boxes; and over each of the two end boxes the word "Bid" appears. The one on the left corresponds to the "We" players and the one on the right is allotted to the "They" partners.

In Figure 1 the "They" players are supposed to have won a game that has been scored as 100 in column 10 below the dividing line 11; so this is indicated by the "V" written on flap 21*c*. In that "hand" the bidding partner held four aces which is scored 150 just above line 11 with an "H" entered in their "Memo" column to indicate that this occurred on North's deal.

The second deal has been made as indicated by the "E" in the second line under the caption "Dealer." It is assumed that in bidding on the second "hand" they bid four spades; this is indicated by the entry "4S" on the main flap under their "Bid" caption. "We" doubled that bid, which is indicated by the "D" written in box 25*a*. And "They" redoubled, which is indicated by the "R" written in the same box. The partners "They" are vulnerable.

In playing this hand with that set-up it is assumed that "They" were set two tricks. Computed on the scoring used today this would give 200 for the first trick, on account of the double and 300 for the next trick. As the bid was redoubled this gives "We" 1000 that is scored, as indicated in the "We" column above the line 11.

After this score is entered, the main flap 21 is lifted with the impression flap 19 under it which eliminates all the entries except the "V" at the right, which entry is left there until the end of the rubber. In this connection it should be understood that the slits 23 pass down through the impression flap 19 so as to divide it into sections.

Overtricks are scored, of course, in the "Memo" columns above the line 11, an "O" being placed in these columns to indicate "overtricks."

If desired, in order to enable the clip 15 to hold itself securely to the upper end of the pad, its bottom flange may be provided with an integral fin 17*a* that is connected by a shank 17*b* to one end of the bottom flange 17. This fin 17*a* is parallel with the bottom flange so as to lie somewhere between the sheets of the block. The clip should be applied to the pad by a lateral movement, and when applying it the fin can be shoved up slightly so that it will exert some downward pressure on the sheets of the block 5 caught between it and the bottom flange 17.

If desired, the impression flap 19 may be made as a flap integral with the binder strip 3 and the flap treated with any suitable dry gum that when dry, will be sufficiently tacky to enable it to function properly, in co-operating with the base flap 20.

It is obvious that instead of printing the header legends "Vul," etc. on the upper flange 16 of the clip they could be printed on the upper face of the pad adjacent its upper edge. This is on account of the fact that the upper flange 16 of the clip is of clear material.

In Figures 4 and 5 I illustrate means that may be employed with this pad to hold it uprightly, but in an inclined position so that it can be in view of players located across the table from it. The pad clip 15 co-operates with this feature by reason of the fact that the "boxes" for the "V's" are large enough to enable the "V's" to be plainly seen, across the table. The "V's" are constant reminders to use caution in bidding be-

cause the penalties are greater for setting tricks.

As indicated in Figures 4 and 5, the pad has the usual card board back 15*a* which has two horizontal slits in it to form an integral strap 15*b* through which a long tongue 26 can be projected up from a base 27 with which it can be integrally connected.

Many other embodiments of the invention may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a clip to be attached to the head of a score pad having vertical columns to receive the players' scores, said clip having means including a translucent cover sheet enabling writing made with a stylus to appear below the translucent sheet and having a plurality of separate flaps adjacent respectively to said columns, capable of being independently lifted, a co-operating sheet below each of said flaps functioning when the cover sheet is written upon with a stylus, to receive and display temporary entries indicating conditions affecting the scores to be given to the respective players; each of said flaps operating when raised, to eliminate the entry made at that flap.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a clip to be attached to the head of a contract bridge scoring pad having a pair of scoring columns, said clip including a translucent sheet having transversely disposed separate flaps capable of being independently lifted and located laterally with respect to each other, and also including co-operating sheets below the translucent flaps, said flaps and co-operating sheets functioning respectively when written upon by a stylus to receive and display temporary entries indicating facts affecting the scores to be awarded the players in the columns corresponding to the said flaps, each flap functioning when raised to eliminate the entries at that flap.

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