June 9, 1942. W. M. PHARR 2,285,782

INDOOR BASEBALL GAME

Filed May 8, 1940 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

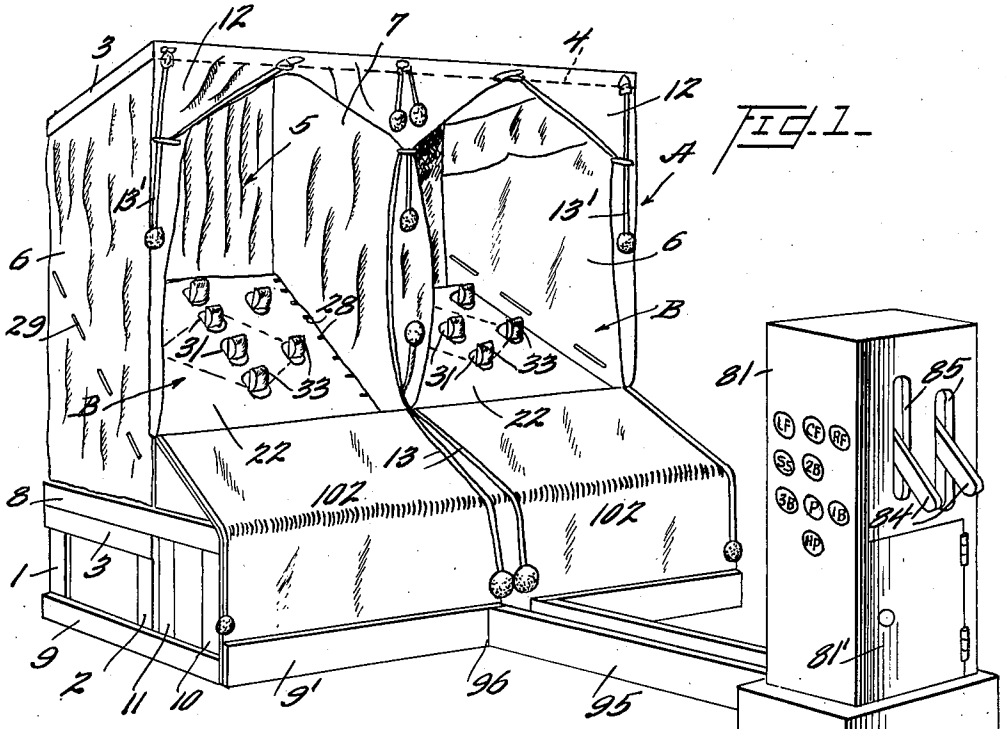


FIG. 1.

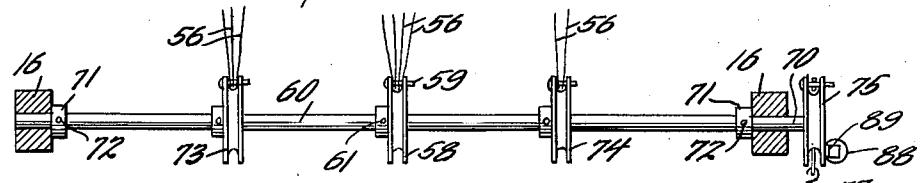


FIG. 10.

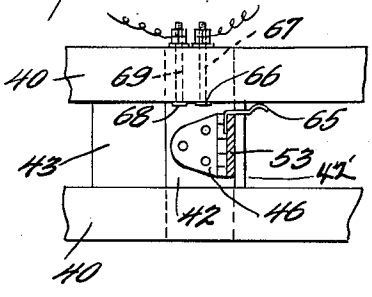


FIG. 11.

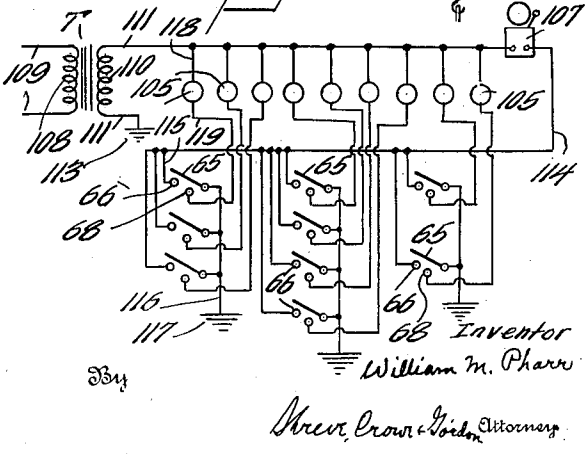


FIG. 12.

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INDOOR BASEBALL GAME

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FIG. 2.

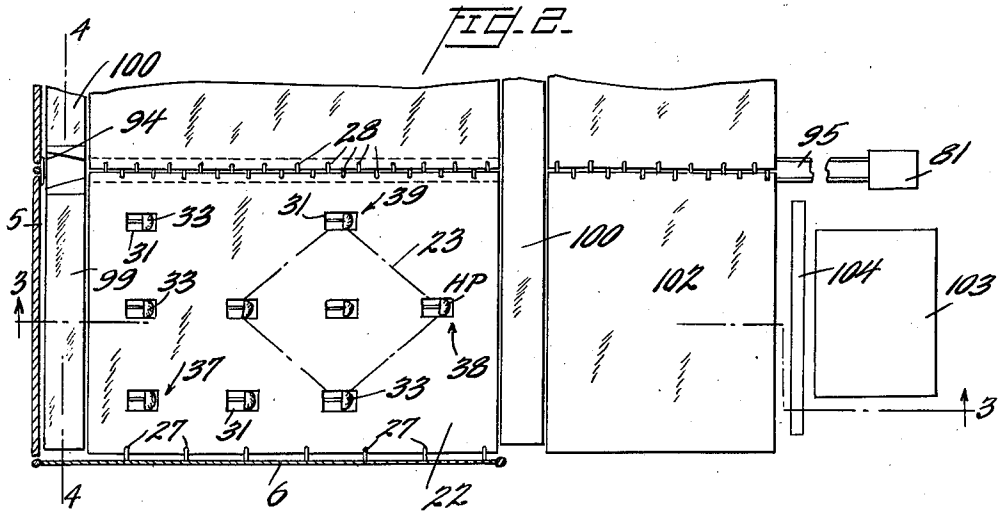


FIG. 3.

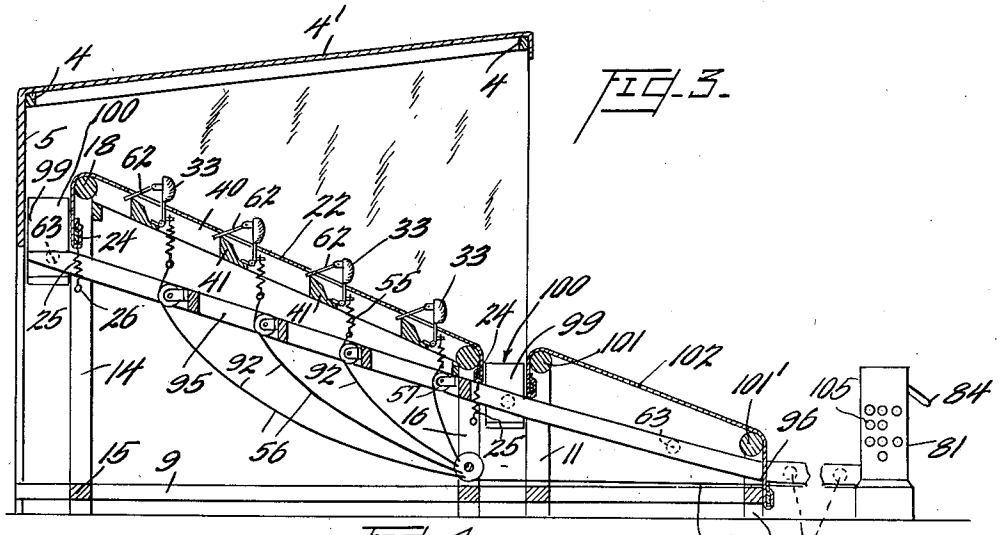
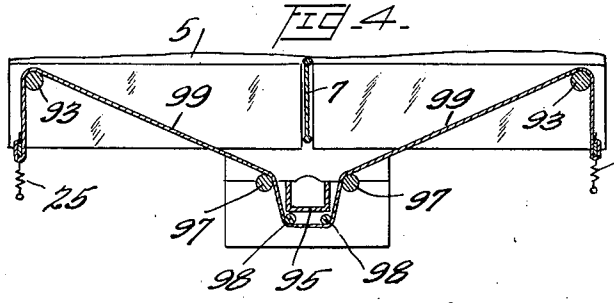


FIG. 4.



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INDOOR BASEBALL GAME

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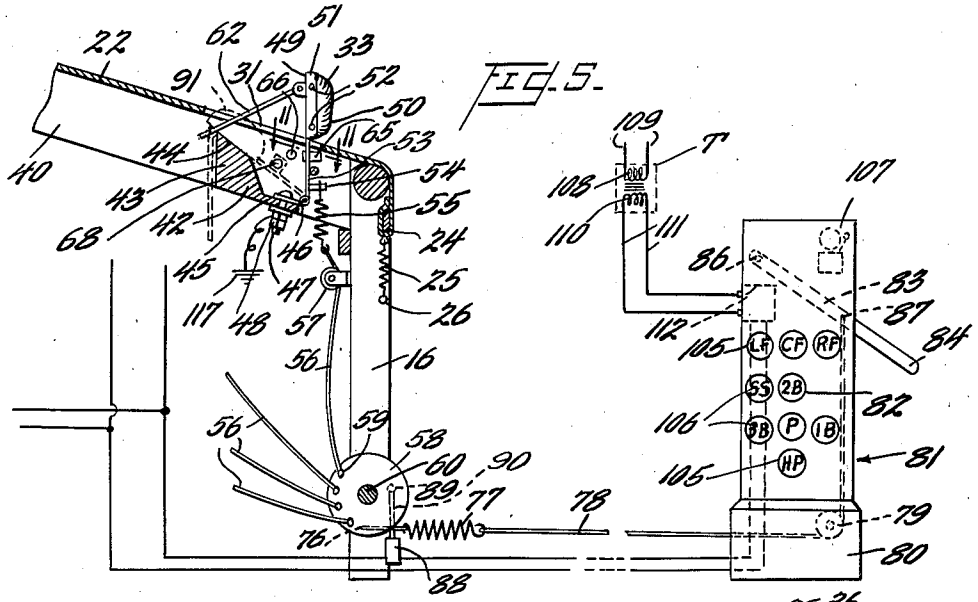


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

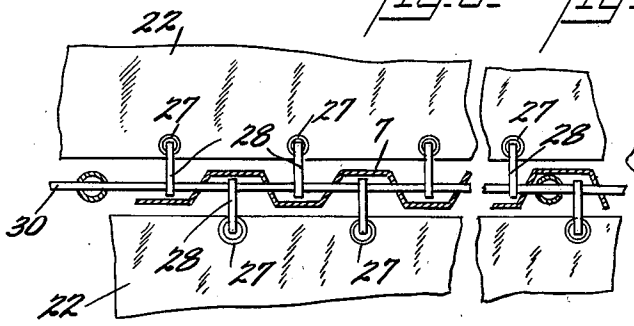
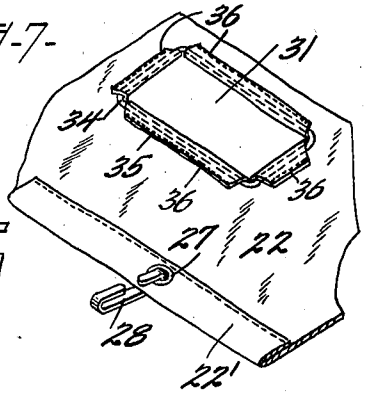


FIG. 7.



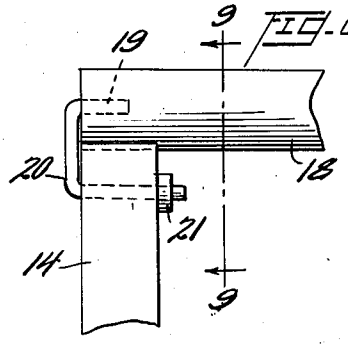


FIG. 8.

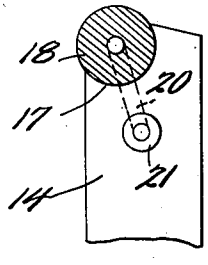


FIG. 9.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,285,782

INDOOR BASEBALL GAME

William M. Pharr, Atlanta, Ga.

Application May 8, 1940, Serial No. 334,057

9 Claims. (Cl. 273—103)

Generically this invention relates to games but it more especially is directed to a game apparatus for playing a game designated as indoor baseball and simulating the well known game of baseball.

One of the principal objects of this invention is the provision of a game device for playing a game simulating baseball, and adapted for playing other ball and number games, affording recreative, pleasurable, and healthful exercise and adapted to be played by one or several players or competitively by teams composed of any number of players up to nine, said device including a playing field or baseball diamond with field pieces representing baseball players arranged thereon substantially according to baseball player positions, said field pieces having an electrical connection with a game value indicating device so that when a field piece is knocked down by a thrown ball the play will be indicated by a light and an audible signal, and means for resetting said field pieces.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a game apparatus of the above character which may be played indoors or if desired out of doors, and which apparatus may embody one or a pair of playing fields combined in a unitary portable structure.

A further important object of this invention is an apparatus having an inclined floor section formed from a fabric or other flexible material resiliently anchored at its ends and comprising a playing field on which are predeterminedly arranged hingedly mounted field pieces, each adapted to be knocked down by a thrown ball, and when the ball strikes the floor said floor will tend to absorb the shock and prevent undue deflection of the ball and automatically assume its original position following such contact.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of a game apparatus of this character in addition to the canvas or other flexible playing field floor section having sides and end sections of similar or other flexible material adapted to likewise absorb the shock when hit by a thrown ball so that the same will not rebound as would otherwise be the case, and interconnected means in connection with the rear and front of the playing field for automatically returning the thrown balls to the player's position.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of a game apparatus embodying a flexible inclined floor and vertical side and end wall structures mounted in pairs, hinged field pieces extending above each playing field electrically connected with a play value indicating device and an audible signal device, each field piece when struck by a ball adapted to be knocked down and to remain in such position during the playing of the game, means at the player's position for simultaneously resetting said field pieces, and means for automatically returning the thrown balls to the player's position.

Another object is the provision of a game apparatus embodying a pair of enclosed game playing mechanisms normally open at one end, and independently operable curtain means for closing one or both of said playing fields, said pair of independent game apparatus being combined in a unitary housing structure adapted to be portably moved from one place to another as desired.

A further object of this invention is the provision of novel hingedly mounted field pieces, each field piece being so constructed, mounted, and electrically connected that when it is deflected by a thrown ball it will ring a bell and light a light to indicate the play or score made, and including means for breaking the light circuit and returning the field piece to its normal upright position.

With these and other objects in view, which will become apparent as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts, hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several figures, of which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of my improved game apparatus showing a pair of playing fields.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of one of the playing fields and associated parts.

Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail view showing one of the knock down field pieces and associated parts.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail view in plan showing the connection between the adjacent playing fields and the dividing curtain in section.

Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view showing the details of construction of the playing field or floor section.

Fig. 8 is a view of one of the roller mountings.

Fig. 9 is a section on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of the resetting shaft and associated pulleys.

Fig. 11 is a section on the line 11—11 of Fig. 5.
Fig. 12 is a wiring diagram.

The game devices of this general nature with which I am familiar have proven deficient in many respects, such as, being to complicated, too expensive to construct, not adapted to be played both indoors and out of doors, comprising a playing field so constructed as to cause the thrown balls to rebound or be sharply deflected, not having an indicating and resetting mechanism located adjacent the player's box, and simplified player pieces and electrical distribution system, etc., and it was to overcome such deficiencies and to provide a flexible, resiliently mounted playing field and substantially similarly constructed guide apron structure in advance of said field for guiding thrown balls thereon, and flexible side and end field enclosing sections adapted to absorb the shock and effect deadening of a thrown ball when hit thereby, simplified knock down player piece construction, a unique player piece resetting mechanism adapted to automatically relieve the tension on the reset pieces, and novel ball return means, the construction of the device being such as to embody a single playing field or a portable unitary double playing field with a common ball return means, said unitary device also adapted to be arranged in batteries, similar to bowling alleys, that I designed the game apparatus forming the subject matter of this invention.

In the illustrated embodiment characterizing this invention there is shown a game apparatus A including a pair of independently operable game devices B. The apparatus A may be constructed of any suitable frame construction such as corner posts 1 and 2 at each side of the device connected by side frame pieces 3 at top and bottom and front and rear pieces 4. Suitably secured to said frame is a rear end curtain or curtains 5, and side curtains or walls 6 and separating the devices B is a suitably secured hanging curtain 7. Secured to frame pieces 1 and 2 at each end are the spaced horizontal frame sections 8 and 9 extending frontwardly beyond standard 2 and which are connected at their ends by end posts 10 and adjacent to post 2 by posts 11 which are of greater height than posts 10 for a purpose directly appearing. Suitably connected to front top frame 4 and post 2 are drop curtains 12 adapted to be respectively dropped or drawn up to enclose or open the devices B by draw cords 13 and 13' as desired.

Mounted adjacent curtains 6 and 7 spaced from rear end curtain 5 are upright frame posts 14 suitably connected by frame pieces 15 and adjacent posts 2 are the similar front posts 16 which are of less height than posts 14. The upper ends of posts 14 are hollowed out as at 17 to conform to the configuration of roller 18 adapted to seat therein and which is journaled on the horizontal end portions 19 of bolt elements 20 which extend downwardly and through standards 14 to which they are secured by nuts 21. Posts 16 are similarly formed with cut-out portions 17 in which is mounted roller 18 journaled on portions 19 of bolt elements 20 similar to posts 14.

Mounted on said rollers is a fabric floor or bottom 22 constituting a playing field 23, and suitably secured to the ends of said floor 22 are hem secured rods or weights 24 suitably attached to one end of springs 25, the other end 26 of said springs being suitably attached to posts 14 at one end of the floor and to posts 16 at the other end to resiliently anchor said floor on said rollers, as will hereinafter more fully appear.

Floor 22 adjacent its edges is formed with eyelets 27 extending through the folded-over or hemmed edges 22' in which are suitably secured hook elements 28, the free ends of said hook members 28 at one edge of said floor are adapted to hook over a rod 29 threaded in curtain 6 adjacent the edge of floor 22 and at an angle corresponding therewith, the hooks 28 at the opposite side of said floor are adapted to similarly engage rod 30 threaded in the partition curtain 7. This construction operates to effect an interconnected bottom and side structure maintaining the parts in position, while permitting resilient movement of the parts and preventing the balls from falling between the floor and side curtain walls. Also floor section 22 of the adjacent device B is similarly connected at its inner edge to rod 30, the eyelets 27 of the respective sections 22 being in staggered relation. By virtue of this construction curtain 7 is common to both devices B and with rod 30 forms a common connection between the adjacent floors.

Each floor 22 constitutes a playing field 23 and is formed with nine rectangular openings 31 substantially corresponding to a baseball diamond including field pieces 33 adapted to extend through said openings and represent correspondingly positioned players at home plate, first base, second base, shortstop, third base, left field, center field, and right field, representing the playing positions in a regulation baseball game, as will hereinafter more fully appear. Surrounding each of said openings 31 is a stiffening wire 34 secured to the under surface of the floor by the overlapping portions 35 attached by stitching 36. This construction not only holds the floor in shape so that its resilient movement will not interfere with the action of said field pieces 33, but also prevents ravelling of the edges of said openings.

As previously described, the field pieces 33 are arranged on the playing field substantially in accordance with a regular game of baseball, but in order to simplify their mounting and operation it has been found expedient to arrange them in spaced rows 37, 38, and 39. Underlying each of these rows is a pair of parallel spaced frame members 40 connected to cross bars 41 suitably attached to the upper ends of posts 14 and 16, or if desired, to intermediate or additional posts 14 and 16.

As all of the field pieces are similar in construction and mounting only one will be described in detail. Underlying each opening 31 and intermediate the frame members 40 is an anchor block 42 having a thickened portion 43 formed with an inclined surface 44 and a reduced portion 45 on which is mounted hinge plate 46 by a suitably insulated bolt 47 secured by nut 48. The field piece 33 has a portion 49 on which is mounted the padded portion 50, the edge of which is detachably secured by the band or plates 51 by screws 52, said padded portion having a stem portion 53 adapted to extend through opening 31 when in erected position and with its free end hingedly connected to hinge plate 46. Stem 53 adjacent its lower end has a right angular projecting lug 54 to the free end of which is suitably connected one end of spring 55, the other end of said spring being connected to one end of a chain or cable 56 passing over anchor pulley 57 suitably connected to the frame structure, the other end being connected to pulley 58 by bolt or other connecting means 59. Said pulley 58 is mounted on shaft 60 and secured thereto by set screw 61. Hingedly or otherwise con-

nected to the under surface of field piece 33 adjacent its upper end is a baffle rod 62 adapted to extend through opening 31 with its free end normally supported by the upper edge of block 42 and which operates to prevent a ball 63 from lodging behind said field piece 33 when rolling down the incline floor 22 after having been thrown on the field 23 as will hereinafter more fully appear.

While the stem portion 53 has been described as hingedly connected to hinge plate 46, if desired this stem may extend below members 40 between which it is rotatably mounted and with the resetting wire or cable 56 attached to its lower end.

Each of the field pieces has electrical connections which will be directly more fully described. The respective field pieces are each suitably grounded through hinge plate 46 and bolt 43 as at 117. Stem 53 has suitably secured thereto spring contact member 65 adapted to engage the contact head 66 of bolt 67 which is mounted in the bell circuit and contact 68 of bolt 69 similarly extending through member 40 which is mounted in the light circuit and which circuits will directly be more clearly described.

The end field piece of row 38 and its connection to pulley 58 by chain 56 has been described and the remaining three field pieces in said row 38 are similarly connected to their respective chains or cables 56 which are connected to pulley 58 similar to bolts 59 at spaced points circumferentially of said pulley. Shaft 60 is journaled in posts 16 and at one end extends beyond said post as at 70. Shaft 60 is secured in position by collars 71 secured by set screws 72. Mounted on shaft 60 are pulleys 73 and 74 similar to pulley 58. Pulley 73 is in alignment with and adapted to be connected to the three field pieces 33, mounted in row 37, by chains or cables 56, and pulley 74 to the two field pieces mounted in row 39 by chains or cables 56 similar to the cables 56 described in connection with pulley 58.

Keyed or otherwise suitably mounted on the free end of shaft 60 is a control pulley 75 and connected to said pulley at a point 76 is spring 77 to the end of which is attached a chain or cable 78 which is adapted to travel over pulley 79 mounted in the base 80 of newel post 81 on which is mounted play indicating device 82 and field piece resetting mechanism 83, said resetting mechanism including manually operated handle 84 extending through slot 85 in one face of said hollow post, said handle 84 being pivotally mounted as at 86 within said post, and said chain or cable 78 extending upwardly through said post and connected to handle 84 as at 87, the normal position of said handle being in the lower position shown in Fig. 5.

A weight 88 is connected to pulley 75 at a point 89 circumferentially offset with respect to point 76 by a chain or cord 90 and to which is resiliently connected the chain 78 so that manually raising the handle 84 to its upward position rotates pulley 75 and shaft 60 with pulleys 73, 58, and 74, exerting a pull on cables 56 attached to field pieces 33 thereby simultaneously moving said pieces from their knocked down positions as shown at 91 to erect position (Fig. 5), and when the hand of the operator is removed from handle 84 counterweight 88 will rotate in anti-clockwise direction which pulls handle 84 to its initial lower position and effects a slackening and removal of tension on cables 56 as at 92 thereby permitting each field piece to be knocked down when struck by a thrown ball without disturbing the remaining field pieces.

Suitably mounted on the frame adjacent corner posts 1 intermediate the end of floor 22 and curtains 5 and at right angles to said curtains are the rollers 93 which are of a length substantially corresponding to the width of the space between the rollers 18 and said rear curtains. Suitably mounted adjacent the rear curtain 5 as at 94 is the end of the conveyor or ball return track 95 which underlies curtain 7 and extends at an incline downwardly to a point 96 and thence horizontally to the indicating mechanism or post 81, and suitably mounted on either side adjacent the upper edges of said ball return chute 95 are rollers 97 similar to rollers 93, and positioned at the lower corners of said chute are the smaller but otherwise similar rollers 98. A fabric belt-like conveyor floor 99 is adapted to extend over rollers 93 and 97 and under rollers 98 with its ends resiliently anchored by rods or weights 24 and springs 25 similar to floor 22. It will thus be seen that fabric 99 constitutes a bottom of the rear transverse return conveyor extending at an incline downwardly in meeting direction from the opposite rollers 93 to form with the ends of floor 22 and rear end curtains 5 the transverse ball return conveyor section 100 which is adapted to deliver the balls that fall to the rear of floor 22 to track 95. Therefore the balls hitting the side curtain 6 or 7 are deadened by the shock absorbing qualities thereof, and the balls passing beyond the end of floor 22 fall into said conveyor and are gravity returned to post 81, as will be well understood. A similar conveyor track having similar structure and flexible bottom 99 is mounted adjacent the lower or front end of said bottom 22 or playing field 23 which delivers the thrown balls not passing into rear conveyor track 100 to track 95 as above described. Mounted on posts 11 similar to roller 18 and in substantially horizontal alignment therewith is roller 101, and similarly mounted on post 10 is a corresponding roller 101'. Adapted to be mounted on said rollers and resiliently anchored at its ends similar to floor 22 is a fabric platform floor or apron 102 which is similar to and operates as floor 22, and where a thrown ball falls short of the floor 22 it serves to guide the ball on to the playing field or into said device as will be apparent.

Adjacent the indicating post or device 81 is the player's box or station 103 and intermediate said box and apron platform section 102 is foul line 104. Mounted on one face of indicating device 81 is a plurality of electric lights or lamps designated generally as 105. These lights are arranged in three rows corresponding to the field pieces in rows 37, 38 and 39 and in the same order and have indicia 106 corresponding to said player pieces. Each of these lights 105 is electrically connected with its corresponding field piece so that when said field piece is knocked down it will close the light circuit and illuminate light 105 displaying the play value indicia 106 as will be well understood. Each field piece is also electrically connected with a bell 107 so that as said field piece is knocked down it completes the circuit through said bell thereby giving an audible signal as well as lighting its respective light as above stated.

A facing member 9' may be suitably positioned at the front of the device on either side of ball return track 95 to add to the appearance of the device and conceal the lower edge of platform

apron 102. Also the newel post structure may be provided with a door 81' so that ready access may be had to the interior as will be well understood and bell 107 may be mounted on or within the newel post or at any convenient location as desired.

The electrical distribution system by means of which the sounding of an audible signal and indicating device is operated to light a light to indicate the play when a field piece is knocked down by a thrown ball, will now be described.

In order to step down the voltage from, say, 110 volts to that suitable to take care of, for instance, a 15 watt bulb, or suitable for operation of the bell and lights, a conventional reducing transformer T is employed, and which may be conveniently mounted on the frame of the device or post 81 or within said post as desired. Said transformer has its primary coil 108 connected to a source of power supply by conductors 109 and its secondary coil 110 by conductors 111 to switch or terminal box 112 and from one side of secondary coil 110 to ground 113; said ground may be conveniently located at post 81 or from 112 as desired. The conductors or wires 119 from the lights to the field pieces at contacts 68 may extend through suitable conduit within post 81 and from the base of said post to the respective field pieces as shown in Fig. 5.

A step down current is utilized to operate the bell and the various lights and for purpose of illustration one circuit will be traced through the bell and one of the lights, the circuits to the remaining lights and through the bell being similar.

A source of electrical energy (not shown) is connected to primary coil 108 by conductors 109 and secondary coil 110 connected at one side to ground 113 and from the other side by conductor 111 to bell 107 and from said bell by conductors 114, 115, contact 66, spring contact 65 and conductor 116 to ground 117 which completes the bell circuit. The light circuit is completed through said secondary coil 110 to ground 113 and from said coil by conductors 111 and 118 to light 105 and from light 105 through conductor 119, contact 68, contact 65, conductor 116 to ground 117 as will be apparent.

It will be noted that the bell circuit is common to all of the light circuits so that as the field piece is knocked down and contact 65 passes over contact 66 the circuit through the bell will be momentarily completed sounding the audible signal and when said field piece reaches the limit of its downward movement said contact 65 will engage contact 68 closing the light circuit and which circuit will remain closed and the light on until said field piece is reset to erect position.

While the operation of the device would seem to be clear from the above description, it might be well to further state that the player from his position in the player's box 103 throws a ball 63 in the direction of playing field 23 in an effort to knock down one of the field pieces 33. If the ball does not strike a field piece but hits the floor 22 the impact causes said floor to give and move one or both of the rollers 18 against the action of springs 25, and such action together with the flexible nature of the floor tends to absorb the shock and deaden the ball against pronounced rebound or deflection, and if the ball is thrown with sufficient force to go beyond field 23 and hit the rear curtain 5 said curtain acts in much the same manner to deaden the ball and cause it to drop into conveyor 100, the floor of which by reason of its similar shock absorbing qualities prevents any substantial rebound, and the ball is delivered by gravity to track 95 for return to the newel post 81 or a point available to the player's box 103, as will be well understood. The same deadening effect is produced if the ball hits the side curtains 6 or 7 and if it falls on floor 22 it rolls into the front conveyor 100 for delivery to conveyor 95. If the throw falls short and the ball strikes apron 102 it is directed onto field 23, as will be well understood.

If the thrown ball knocks down one of the field pieces, for instance HP, to the position shown at 91 in Fig. 5, which is permitted by the slack in cable 56, as it moves downwardly from erect position it momentarily engages contact 66, closing the bell circuit and causing ringing of the bell, and when said field piece reaches its limit of movement as at 44, contact 65 will be in engagement with contact 68 completing the light circuit and lighting light 105 on the indicating device illuminating the corresponding indicia HP thereby indicating the play, and which indicia remains illuminated until the game is terminated.

At the termination of the game the field pieces are simultaneously reset by manually moving handle 84 to its high position which causes cable 78 to rotate shaft 60 and its pulleys, thereby pulling cables 56 connected to lugs 54 attached to stems 53 of field pieces 33 and moving said field pieces to erected position, limited by stops 42'. Upon removal of the hand from handle 84 weight 88 will rotate pulley 75 and shaft 60 in anti-clockwise direction causing a slack in cables 56, thereby removing the tension on field pieces 33 so that a respective field piece may be again knocked down without interfering with the remaining field pieces, as hereinbefore described.

While not essential to the operation of the apparatus, in order to protect the interior from dust and the elements, when used out of doors, a roof 4' constructed of suitable material is provided. Also, a single rear end curtain 5 may be employed but if desired said curtain may be divided, the adjacent sections being connected to each other and to curtain 7, similar to the connection of said curtain 7 and floor sections 22, hereinbefore described, or in any desired manner.

From the above it is apparent that I have designed a game device by means of which a game of indoor baseball may be played but which is likewise adaptable to other games, said device being simple in construction and operation, manufacturable at a reasonable cost, and efficient for the purposes intended.

Although in practice I have found that the form of my invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings and referred to in the above description as the preferred embodiment, is the most efficient and practical; yet realizing the conditions concurrent with the adoption of my invention will necessarily vary, I desire to emphasize that various minor changes in details of construction, proportion and arrangement of parts, may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from or sacrificing any of the principles of this invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I

desire protected by Letters Patent is as set forth in the following claims:

1. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising a movably mounted resiliently anchored fabric playing field, a frame structure supporting said field, a plurality of normally erect knockdown field pieces carried by said frame extending through said fabric and predeterminedly arranged with respect to said field, said field pieces adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown on said field, means for automatically returning the thrown balls to the player's station, and means connected to the respective field pieces permitting any one to be knocked down without regard to or interference with any of the others and for resetting said field pieces in erect position, said means including a manually operable rotatable means.

2. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising an inclined playing field, a plurality of normally erect knock-down field pieces predeterminedly arranged on said field, said field pieces adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown on said field, deflector means carried by the respective field pieces adapted to prevent balls rolling down said incline lodging behind the erected field pieces, means for resetting said field pieces in erect position including means connected to each field piece, and means in connection with said connected means for automatically releasing the tension on the connected means of said field pieces whereby each field piece can be knocked down without disturbing the remaining field pieces.

3. A game apparatus of the character described comprising an inclined playing field, said field being constructed from a fabric material and having a plurality of cut-out openings predeterminedly arranged therein, a frame underlying said field, resilient connections between the ends of said field and said frame, a plurality of knock-down field pieces hingedly mounted on said frame and normally projecting in upright position through said openings and adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown from the player's station, a resetting mechanism in connection with said field pieces, said mechanism including a rotatable element, resilient connections between said element and field pieces, manually operable means connected to said rotatable element for operating said resetting mechanism to effect simultaneous return of the field pieces to erect position, and interconnected means at each end of the playing field adapted to automatically return the thrown balls to the player's station.

4. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising a chamber, a player's station exterior thereof and from which balls are to be thrown, an inclined fabric floor for said chamber constituting a playing field, the sides and end of said chamber constructed of a fabric material adapted when hit by a thrown ball to present a deadening effect thereon, a plurality of hingedly mounted knock-down field pieces extending through openings in said floor in normally erect position and predeterminedly arranged with respect to said playing field, each field piece having a contact member, said floor being resiliently anchored at its ends and adapted to substantially absorb the shock when hit by a thrown ball and to automatically return to its normal taut position, means for automatically returning the thrown balls to the player's station, and means connected to each field piece and operable for effecting simultaneous resetting of said field pieces, said means including means for automatically releasing the tension of the respective connected means of said resetting mechanism with respect to said field pieces.

5. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising a chamber having an inclined fabric floor constituting a playing field, flexible sides and rear end, a frame structure adapted to support said floor, sides, and end, said frame including rollers for each end of said floor, resilient anchor means for the ends of said floor, a plurality of normally erect knock-down field pieces carried by said frame extending through and predeterminedly arranged with respect to said field, said field pieces adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown from a player's station, ball deflecting means carried by the rear of each field piece, manually operable means for simultaneously resetting said field pieces including a rotatable element, and means connected to said rotatable element adapted to automatically release the tension of said resetting mechanism on said field pieces upon release of said manually operated means, and means for automatically returning the thrown balls to said player's station.

6. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising a frame, sides and rear end carried by said frame, an inclined fabric floor resiliently anchored at its ends constituting a playing field connected with said sides, an auxiliary field resiliently mounted and located in advance of and slightly spaced from the playing field, adapted to direct balls on to said playing field, a plurality of knock-down normally erect field pieces predeterminedly arranged with respect to said field and hingedly connected to said frame, said field pieces adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown on said field, said floor, sides and end adapted to produce a deadening effect on said balls when struck thereby, ball return means, said means including ball receiving means intermediate the end of said playing field and rear end.

7. A game apparatus of the character described, comprising an enclosure into which balls are adapted to be thrown, the sides, end wall, and floor of said enclosure having shock absorbing qualities, said floor being mounted on rollers and at an incline constituting a playing field and having resilient anchor connections, a plurality of normally erect knock-down field pieces predeterminedly arranged with respect to said field, means for automatically returning the thrown balls to the player's station, and means for resetting said field pieces in erect position, said means including a rotatable means, cables resiliently connected at one end to said field pieces and at their other end to said rotatable means, and means for operating said rotatable means.

8. A game device of the character described comprising a flexible resiliently mounted playing field, a plurality of normally erect knock-down field pieces arranged on said field adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown thereon, an auxiliary resiliently mounted field located in advance of said playing field, adapted to direct balls on to said playing field, ball return means, means for re-setting said field pieces in erect position, said means including a rotatable means, cables connected at one end to said rotatable means and at their other end to the respective field pieces, manually operable means connected to said rotatable means, and means connected to said rotatable means automatically operable

upon release of said manually operable means to effect a slack in the respective cables to relieve the tension on said field pieces.

9. A game device of the character described comprising a flexible resiliently mounted playing field, a plurality of normally erect knock-down field pieces arranged on said field adapted to be knocked down by balls thrown thereon, ball return means, a rotatable shaft, cables attached at one end to said shaft and at their other end resiliently attached to the respective field pieces, manually operable means resiliently connected to said shaft for rotating said shaft to effect simultaneous re-setting of said field pieces, and means in connection with said shaft for effecting its operation upon release of said manually operable means to release the tension of the respective cables on their connected field pieces whereby any field piece may be knocked down without interfering with any of the remaining field pieces.

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