May 7, 1929. J. B. O'DONNELL 1,712,159

COMBINATION BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL GAMEBOARD

Filed Nov. 14, 1927.

Fig. 1.

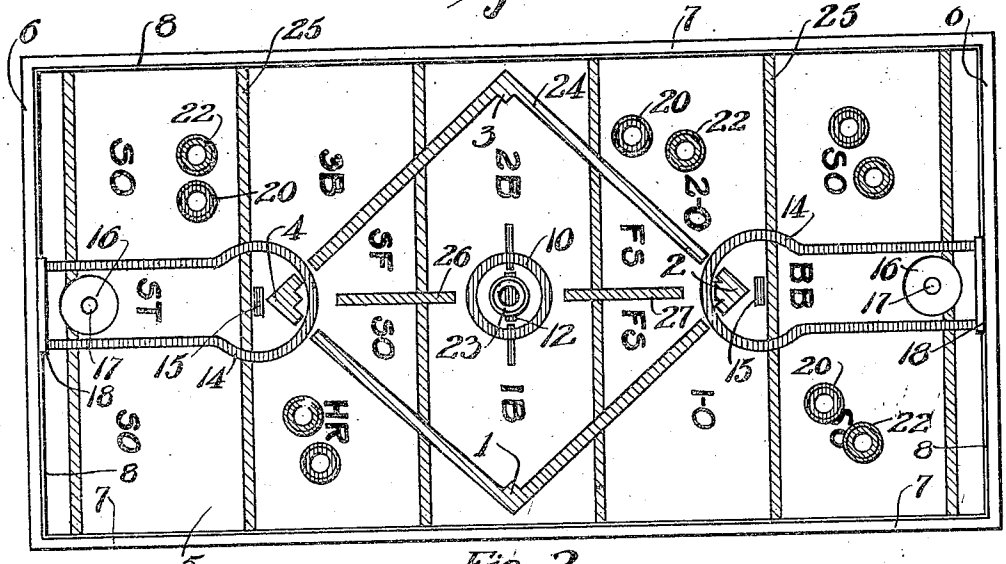


Fig. 2.

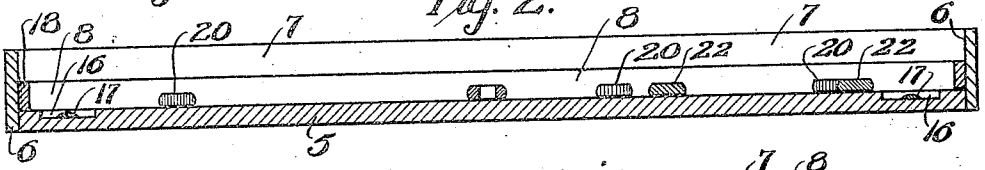


Fig. 3.

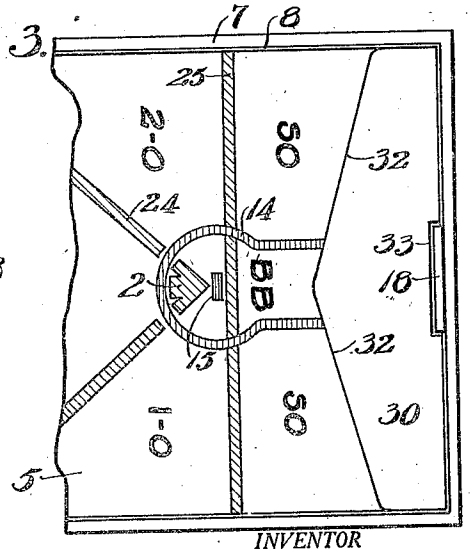
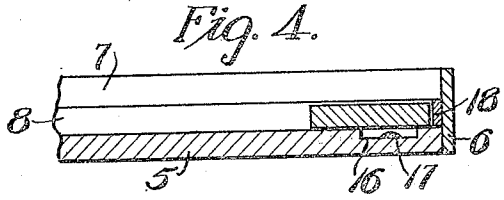


Fig. 4.



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Patented May 7, 1929. 1,712,159

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COMBINATION BASKET-BALL AND BASEBALL GAME BOARD.

Application filed November 14, 1927. Serial No. 233,079.

The present invention relates to amusement devices, and the principal object in view is to devise an improved game board which will be adapted for playing of games simulating either the game of basketball or the game of baseball.

Accordingly, I have devised a game board having its field or playing surface provided with markings and goal cups corresponding to the field markings and goal baskets of a basketball field, and also with markings representing a baseball diamond and including a transverse banking strip or stop adapted to overly one of the goal cups in order to cover the same when playing the baseball game.

With these general objects in view, the invention will now be described by reference to the accompanying drawing illustrating one form of embodiment of this invention, after which those features and combinations deemed to be novel will be particularly set forth and claimed.

In the drawing:—

Figure 1 is a plan view showing a combination game board embodying the invention, and illustrating its use as a basketball game board;

Figure 2 is a transverse central longitudinal sectional view;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary plan view, showing one end portion of the board with the banking or rebound strip in position for use in connection with the playing of the baseball game; and

Figure 4 is a detail sectional view, showing said banking or rebound strip in place as in Figure 3.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, I have illustrated therein my improved game board device as comprising a substantially rectangular board 5, the top face of which will represent the field for each of the games to be played, around which at each side of said board 5 are positioned vertical end pieces 6 and side or longitudinal strips 7, preferably lined with suitable felt strips 8 for increasing the resiliency of the inner faces thereof when used as banking or rebound surfaces in the playing of the games, as hereinafter explained.

The top surface of the board 5, representing the field for the games, is marked with various characters and other designs or figures, corresponding to the field markings of the games to be played. Referring first to the markings of the basketball game, these comprise the circle 10 inside which is the line 12 indicating the center of the field, while at each end of the field is an approximately U-shaped outline or figure 14 containing the free throw line 15, and between each of the lines 15 and the adjacent end of the board is provided a depression or recess, which may be termed the goal cup 16 corresponding to the goal baskets of the regular game. Inside each of the goal cups 16 is preferably provided a knob or wafer 17 which may be of resilient material, and adapted to be engaged by the playing devices as these enter the cup. The resulting action will depend more or less upon the character of the shot and the speed of the device as it enters the cup, under some conditions interfering somewhat with the proper settling of the device into flat position upon the bottom of the cup while under other conditions facilitating in a measure the lodging of the device in such flat position within the cup, whereupon the knob or wafer will also serve to retain the device in place and render it more difficult to dislodge the same by one of the opponent's devices. Between each of the goal cups 16 and the adjacent end of the board is also positioned a relatively short cross cleat 18 of wood or the like, and with a plain unfinished rebound face, against which the playing devices may be banked in playing for goal.

In the playing of the basketball game, each player uses a set of five playing devices, such as disks 20 and 22 respectively, five for each player, or contestant, and preferably the disks are of different colors to distinguish each player's men. Another disk or similar device 23 is provided to represent the ball. In the playing of the game each contestant places one of his disks adjacent to his opponent's free throw line 15, from which the players respectively shoot for the center line 12, propelling their men by snapping the same with the finger, the player whose man comes nearest to said center line being allowed the first play. The ball 23 is now placed upon the center line, and the player having first shot begins the game, each player having first arranged his men on the field in position similar to that illustrated in Figure 1, representing positions similar to those assumed by players in the regular game. The first player shoots his man an an endeavor to strike the ball 23

and impel it in the direction of the goal; or he may cause the ball to strike another of his men, so as to make a pass, and thus entitle him to another shot. As long as he succeeds in striking another of his men, he may continue playing, and upon driving the ball into the basket represented by one of the goal cups 16, he thereby scores the number of points which may be agreed upon as the proper score for such play. However, should the player's man strike one of the opponent's men, this will count as a foul, and entitle his opponent to place the ball on the free throw line, and endeavor by direct contact with his finger to shoot it into the goal. If successful, this will also count as a score, and the game again is started from the center of the field. The game continues in the same fashion until a predetermined number of points have been scored, or for a fixed period of time agreed upon.

For the playing of a baseball game, the top surface of the board 5 is provided with a series of cross stripes or bars 25 spaced equidistant apart, and also with the diamond shaped figure 24 having the base markings 1, 2, 3 and 4 corresponding to a baseball diamond, within which, and between the circle 10 and the bases 2 and 4 are the longitudinal bars or stripes 26 and 27 for facilitating marking off certain areas or spaces within the diamond, for score markings as hereinafter explained. Preferably, these stripes and figures 24 to 27 are colored differently from the markings of the basketball game, to render the fields distinctive.

At one end of the board I also provide a transverse banking or rebound device comprising a cross piece 30 adapted to rest flatly upon the top surface of the field and extending entirely across the board and formed with the angular banking or rebound surfaces 32 against which the playing devices may be shot, in the playing of the baseball game. The straight edge of the member 30 is also formed with a recess 33 of the same size as the banking or rebound member 18 for accommodating the latter in order that the cross piece 30 may be fitted snugly within the end of the board, where it overlies and covers the corresponding goal cup 16, which is not to be used during the playing of the baseball game.

Within the various outlines or spaces thus marked off upon the field 5 I provide various score markings whereby different plays in the baseball game may be designated, according to the points where the men shot by the players come finally to rest. For example, at each end of the board the spaces in the corners of the field are provided with the letters S. O. to indicate that a man coming to rest in such space will cause his side to be out. Correspondingly, the other spaces next to the S. O. spaces and between them and the diamond 24 are marked 1—0, 2—0, 3—1 and H R, indicating one out, two outs, third base, and home run, respectively. Inside the diamond the spaces are provided with other markings, such as F—S for foul strike, 1—B and 2—B for one base and two base hits, respectively, S. S. for sacrifice, and S. O. for side out. Further, the space inside one of the outlines or figures 14 is marked with the characters B B indicating base on balls, and inside the other outline 14 the space is marked with S T indicating a strike.

In the playing of the baseball game, each player's men may be moved around the bases according as the player is able to advance them. Nine innings would represent a game, the same as in the regular play, and three outs or side out indicating a half inning. Having placed the cross piece 30 over the goal cup 16 at one end of the field, the player entitled to next play shoots toward the rebound or stop surfaces 32, contact with which causes the man or playing device to rebound against one of the side walls 7 and thence irregularly across the board until it comes to rest upon a space, the player scoring according to the markings of the space where his man comes to a stop. It may be agreed that in case the disk stops upon any straight line, this will score or count as a strike. Again, in case at any time the player's man should bounce into the uncovered goal cup 16, this may be equivalent to winning the game.

It will thus be apparent that I have devised a very simple and interesting combination game board, for fulfilling the desired objects of the invention, and at the same time it will be understood that the rules used in the playing of the games may be varied to almost any desired extent, according to the fancies of the players. While I have illustrated and described what I now regard as the preferred form of embodiment of the invention, I desire also to be understood as reserving the right to make all changes or modifications as may fairly fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus illustrated and described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A combination basketball and baseball game board, comprising a board having its upper face provided with markings simulating the markings of both a basketball and baseball field and formed with a cup or depression below the surface of the field at each end thereof at points representing the goals of the basketball field, and a cross piece having angularly arranged banking or rebound surfaces for use in the baseball game, said cross piece being positioned over one of said goal depressions to close the

same during the playing of the baseball game.

2. A basketball game board device comprising a board having its upper face provided with markings simulating the markings of a basketball field and formed with a cup or depression below the upper surface of the field at each end thereof at points representing the goals of said fields, and a rebound member located at the surface of the board at each end thereof adjacent to the corresponding goal cup and projecting slightly above said surface in position to be struck by a player device when shot across the cup.

3. A basketball game board device comprising a board having its upper face provided with markings simulating the markings of a basketball field and formed with a cup or depression below the upper surface of the field at each end thereof at points representing the goals of said fields, each of said cups having a central button or knob of resilient material acting as a buffer and tending to prevent a player device resting flat upon the bottom of the cup from becoming readily dislodged by an opponent's device.

4. A combination basketball and baseball game board, comprising a board having its upper face provided with markings simulating the markings of both a basketball and baseball field and formed with a cup or depression below the surface of the field at each end thereof at points representing the goals of the basketball field, a relatively short cleat at each end of the board adjacent to the corresponding goal cup and providing a rebound surface projecting slightly above the surface of the board for use in the basketball game, and a transverse rebound member extending entirely across the board for covering one of said cups and providing rebound or banking surfaces extending at an angle to each other and slightly above the surface of the board for use in the baseball game.

In witness whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JOHN B. O'DONNELL.