



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## COUNTER.

No. 855,827.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 4, 1907.

Application filed September 22, 1906. Serial No. 335,688.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD TEMPLE WILLSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of and whose post-office address is No. 1235 Watchung avenue, Plainfield, in the county of Union and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Counters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to counters, and particularly to counters intended and designed to be used in games such as whist, etc.

The objects of my invention are to provide an attractive, simple, inexpensive, convenient and effective counter, which from its novel construction and method of operation may be of interest also as a puzzle. I attain these objects by the device described and illustrated in the accompanying description and drawings, in which like letters of reference refer to like parts throughout the respective views.

Figure 1 is a front view of the complete device showing the projecting interlocking corners of the shield in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a rear view of the complete device. Fig. 3 is a front view with the shield and one of the counter plates or ring  $d$  removed to show more plainly the construction, operation and manner of assembling the various parts. Fig. 4 is a front view of the shield. Figs. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are views of the several wheels, disks or rings forming the counting elements or indices of the device.

Heretofore in most game counters and devices of this nature it has been customary to attach the various movable parts to the whole or to each other by pivots or other similar means. In my invention I eliminate all fixed pivots, the various parts preferably being firmly retained in relation each to each by their resilience or elasticity, and the interlocking construction, the moving parts being capable of revolving in the slits or openings in the body of the device while held therein. Thus, it will be seen, I obtain a device of compact and pleasing appearance, not easy to get out of order, and yet one that may be easily and quickly taken apart for cleaning, repair, replacement, change, or other purpose, and without tools.

I prefer to make the device of celluloid, thin rubber, aluminium or other comparatively thin, hard and springy material, any particular substance, of course, not being material, nor need it be resilient, as the re-

taining corners or flaps may be bent in place after the insertion of the indices.

Referring to the figures,  $a$  is the main body or frame. It is pierced or provided with apertures, slots or openings of various shapes so arranged or disposed as to form flaps or similar retaining means co-operating with the portions left to secure the parts, as will be later more particularly pointed out.

$b$  is a cover adapted to be slipped into the aforesaid slits or apertures  $a'-a'-b'-b'-c'-c'-d'-d'-e'-e'-f'-f'$  in  $a$ , and is provided with the corners or shoulders  $t$  which bear against the back of the body  $a$  and prevent its slipping out.  $b$  is also provided with openings  $r-s$  and  $q$  through which the several disks or rings  $c-d-e-f$  and  $g$  may be seen. One of the objects of this cover is to conceal the counter disks or rings as well as to form a means of securing them and making the whole device more secure. This shield is preferably of some different color from the body  $a$  and the wheels or disks, so as to make both a pleasing and a useful contrast.

$c$  is a disk provided with suitable characters adapted to be slipped into the apertures or slits  $c'-c'-d'-d'$  in the lower part of the body  $a$  where it is covered by the lower part  $b'$  of the shield  $b$  except at the aperture  $p$ , as shown in Fig. 1. (It will be noticed on reference to Fig. 4 that the aperture  $q$  in the shield  $b$  registers with the aperture  $p$  in the body  $a$ , and permits the disk  $c$  to appear.) Disk  $c$  is moreover held in place in the body  $a$  by the portions  $n$  forming flaps which lie in rear of  $c$  and keep it from slipping out (see Fig. 2). It will be observed that  $c$  revolves around an imaginary center or pivot which is preferably the center of the lower part of the body  $a$ .

$d$  is a ring or annular counter adapted to slip into the frame  $a$  as shown in Fig. 2. It is held in the slits  $a'-a'-b'-b'-c'-c'-f'-f'$ . This annular counter is not shown in Fig. 1 as it is there covered by the shield  $b$  except at the aperture  $s$  registering with  $o$  in  $a$ . It will be observed that it is free to revolve around an imaginary center corresponding with the center of the whole device.

$e$  is a disk adapted to be slipped into the slits  $a'-a'-v'-v'-y'-y'$  (see Figs. 2 and 3); the body  $a$  being cut away in such manner as to form flaps in front of the disk

which retain it while permitting its free revolution therein around its center. *f*— is a similar disk secured in a similar way but lying in the apertures —*v*—*v'*—*y*—*y'*—*x*—*x'*—*z*—*z'*— in rear of the flaps just mentioned, and also in rear of the disk —*e*— (see Fig. 2). *g*— is an annular counter smaller than, but similar to, —*d*—, and is adapted to slip into the slits and apertures —*b'*—*b'*—*x*—*z*—, in rear of the disk —*e*— and flaps above mentioned, but in front of the disk —*f*—. It will be observed that these disks and rings are provided with characters arranged in such way that by the revolution of the respective disks and rings various combinations either of numbers or other characters are secured showing through the apertures —*r*—*p*—*s*—*o*—*g*— in the body —*a*— and shield —*b*—. It will be noted, moreover, that these rings and disks are so placed relative to each other and to the body and shield that they do not interfere with each other in their revolutions, and that the numbers are so disposed thereon as to permit the forming of the combinations referred to; and also that these rings and disks serve to support and retain each other in co-operation with the various flaps of the body —*a*—, such as the portions or flaps —*i*—*i*—*h*—*h*—*j*—*j*—*n*—*n*—, etc., which flaps are, of course, formed by the peculiar shape of the slits or apertures.

The various disks and rings may and preferably should be slightly roughened on the back as at —*o'*—, Fig. 2, in order that sufficient resistance may be secured to the pressure of the finger as to permit the revolution of the disk or ring in the body —*a*—.

In assembling the various members of this device, the disks may be slightly bent and the body —*a*— also bent when necessary, and the flaps lifted to permit the insertion of the disk or ring into the proper slits or openings. Preferably, I first insert the disk —*e*— then —*e*—*g*—*f*— and —*d*— in the order named, and finally place the shield —*b*— over all, although this particular order need not necessarily be followed. Indeed, the interest excited by the endeavor to assemble the device easily, properly and quickly is one of the attractive features of my invention.

It may be noted that by revolving the ring and disks —*g*—*f*—*e*— various combinations of numbers, or other symbols as the case may be, are obtained showing through the aperture —*r*—, Fig. 1, and different numbers, letters or other characters may be made to appear in the apertures —*o*— and —*p*—, Figs. 1 and 3, by the revolution of the ring —*d*— and disk —*e*—.

Of course, one of the principal functions of this device is to conveniently count and register the points of a game or series of games such as bridge-whist, and to this end I preferably number the disk —*g*— in consecutive numbers up to 9, a hole preferably indi-

cating the zero mark. The ring —*d*— I provide with consecutive even numbers as 2, 4, 6, 8, etc., up to 30; a hole preferably indicating the zero mark. The disk —*e*— is provided with consecutive even numbers 2, 4, 6, 8 on both sides of the center line, which center line runs through the two zero marks, one of which may be an aperture. The disk —*f*— is provided with consecutive numbers up to 9 with an aperture for the zero mark, but in the case of this disk the numbers are placed comparatively near the center so that when placed in the body —*a*— in connection with disk and ring —*e*— and —*g*— they will come into proper position relative to the characters on —*c*— and —*g*— and make the resulting combination clear. The disk —*c*— is provided preferably with letters in the following order:— Starting with an aperture which indicates "O" and going to the right, follows— W, R, L, R on each side of the center line; the letter "O" being on the dividing line opposite the aperture designating "O."

In using this device for a game counter for bridge-whist, the combination of numerals formed by the disks —*e*—*f*— and ring —*g*— visible in the aperture —*r*—, (see Figs. 1 and 3) represents various points secured. The numerals on the ring —*d*— shown through the aperture —*o*—, same Figs., represent the number of game points, while the letters on the disk —*c*— shown through the aperture —*p*—, same figures, indicate respectively the words —"Won"—"Rubber"—"Lost."

It is clear that the device may be quickly assembled or taken apart for any purpose such as repair, change or otherwise, and it is evident that there is sufficient friction between the various parts to prevent unintentional disarrangement of the various moving parts while yet permitting the necessary or desirable manipulation, and all without any permanent attachment.

I do not limit myself to any particular material, shape, color, design, arrangement or order of characters, or other qualification of the whole or various parts of this device, nor to the peculiar arrangement or relation of the various parts or the slits or apertures in which they fit, as illustrated, nor to any particular use or purpose for the device, as whist, card or game counter, but

What I do claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A counter, comprising a body of resilient material provided with apertures; a plurality of adjustable circular indices movably secured in said apertures, said indices being so arranged as to co-operate with each other, and a shield also fitting into said apertures and provided with apertures in itself, through which the indices may be observed.

2. A counter consisting of a body provided with apertures, a plurality of indices lying in said apertures, a part of each index being ex-

posed in the rear, by which they may be re-  
 volved in said body, and a shield provided  
 with apertures through which the indices  
 may be observed, fitting into the apertures  
 5 of the body and securing the indices therein.

3. A counter, comprising a frame provided  
 with apertures extending through the same;  
 a plurality of adjustable plates provided with  
 characters and each secured in two or more  
 10 of said apertures so as to be retained in place  
 by the frame, and arranged so that the char-  
 acters thereon can be brought in such mutual  
 relation as to produce various combinations  
 of characters.

15 4. The combination of a frame provided  
 with apertures extending through the same,  
 and a plurality of adjustable indices held be-  
 tween the edges of the apertures and over-  
 lapped by the remaining portions of the  
 20 frame.

5. The combination of a body provided  
 with apertures, a plurality of adjustable in-  
 dices movably retained therein by the re-  
 maining portions of the frame, parts of which  
 25 indices are exposed in the front and parts of  
 which are exposed in the rear for the purpose  
 of rotation.

6. A counter comprising a frame provided  
 with apertures extending through the same;  
 and an adjustable plate provided with char- 30  
 acters and held between the edges of the ap-  
 ertures by the edges of the frame.

7. The combination of a frame provided  
 with apertures, and a plurality of adjustable  
 indices retained in said apertures and over- 35  
 lapped by adjacent portions of the frame.

8. The combination of a frame provided  
 with apertures, a plurality of adjustable in-  
 dices held therein, a part of each index being  
 in front and a part in rear of the frame. 40

9. The combination of a frame provided  
 with apertures in its surface, a plurality of  
 adjustable indices larger than the apertures,  
 the outside edges of which bear against the  
 inside edges of the apertures and lie partly in 45  
 rear and partly in front of adjacent portions  
 of the frame.

Signed at city of New York in the county  
 of New York and State of New York this 20  
 day of September A. D. 1906.

EDWARD TEMPLE WILLSON.

Witnesses:

HENRY S. REYNOLDS,

ANNA R. BENNETT.