Oct. 14, 1947. J. SELTZER 2,428,997

RECEPTACLE FOR STORING AND DISPENSING DISCS USED AS GAME COUNTERS OR THE LIKE

Filed April 17, 1947

Fig. 1.

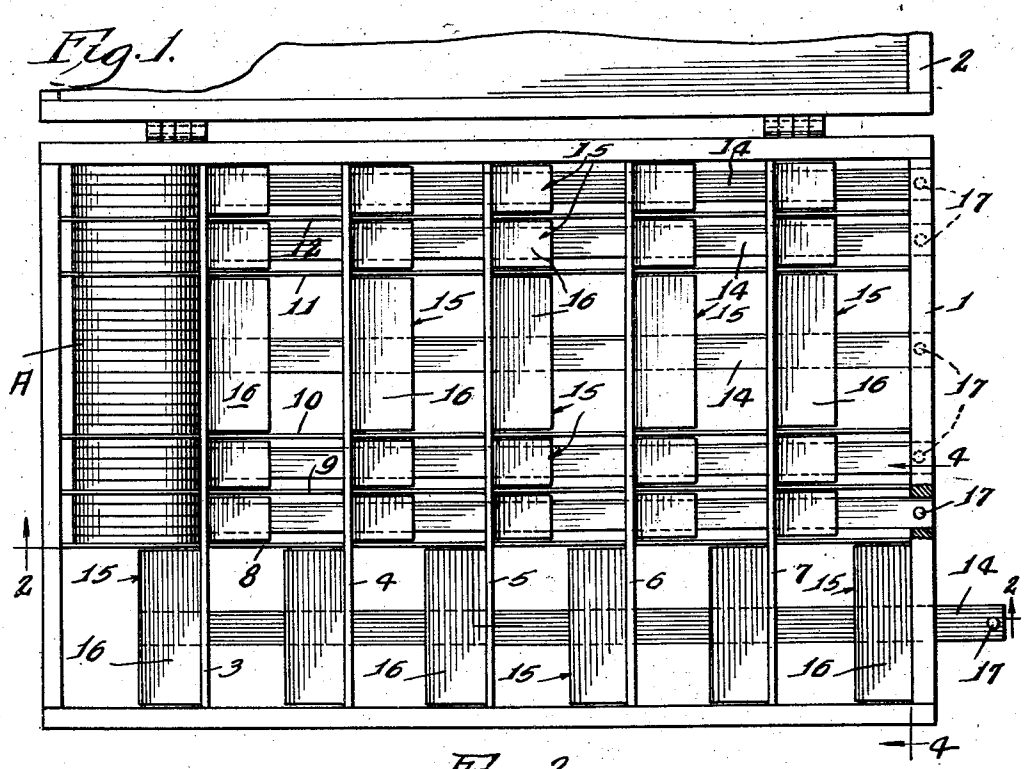


Fig. 2.

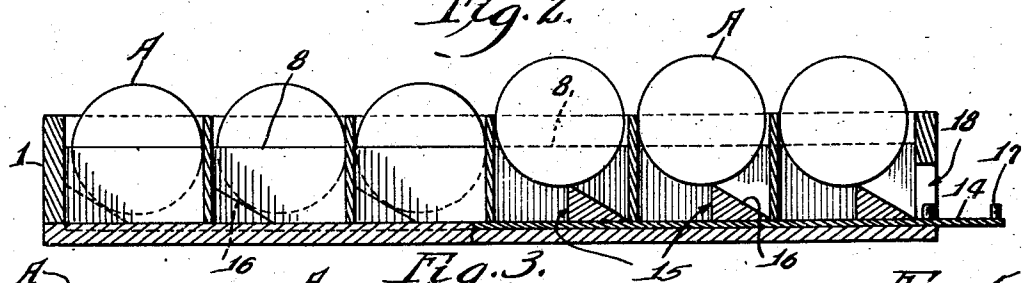


Fig. 3.

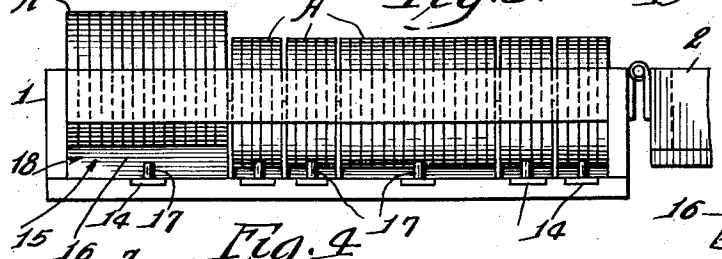


Fig. 5.

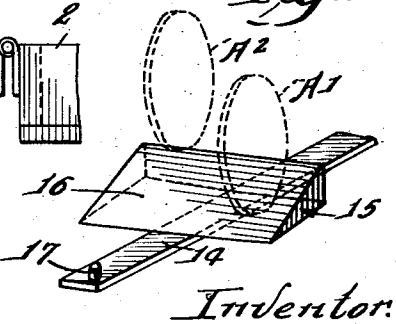
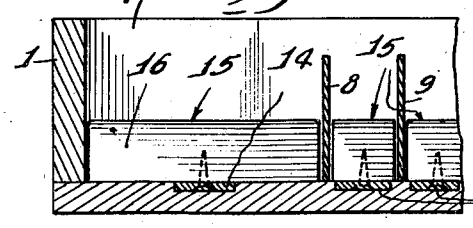


Fig. 4



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RECEPTACLE FOR STORING AND DISPENSING DISCS USED AS GAME COUNTERS OR THE LIKE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 133—4)

1

The present invention has for its object to produce a simple and novel tray, chest or box in which chips used as game counters may be stored and from which they may readily be taken in quantities that are automatically counted.

A further object of the present invention is to produce a device, as aforesaid, wherein there may be caused to be placed in position to be grasped between a thumb and a forefinger, for removal, a stack of chips that is of any one of several predetermined sizes.

The various features of novelty whereby the present invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claims, but, for a full understanding of the invention and of its objects and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of an opened chest embodying my invention in a preferred form and containing a few chips or discs, with the greater part of the lid being broken away; Fig. 2 is a section on staggered line 2—2 of Fig. 1, the chest being shown filled with chips or discs; Fig. 3 is an end view, looking at the chest from a point to the right of Fig. 1, with chips in all compartments into which the chest is divided; Fig. 4 is a section, on a larger scale, on line 4—4 of Fig. 1, showing a fragment of the empty chest; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a fragment of one of the slides for lifting the chips, showing in broken lines a chip in a raised position and another in its lowered position, relatively to the lifting element on the slide.

Referring to the drawing, 1 represents a rectangular tray or shallow body member of a box or chest having a hinged lid 2. The interior of the tray is divided into many rectangular compartments by two sets of partitions crossing each other. One set is shown as comprising five sturdy partitions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, parallel to each other and to the end walls of the tray, the partitions being spaced apart from each other and from said end walls a distance slightly greater than the diameter of one of the discs or chips A to be stored in the same. The depth of the tray should not be greater than the diameter of the discs and is preferably less. Partitions 3—7 may conveniently reach to the top of the tray. As shown, there are also five partitions 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the second set, these partitions being quite thin and preferably so narrow that their upper edges lie well below the top of the tray.

The spacings between the partitions of the

2

second set, and between them and the front and rear walls of the tray, determine the size of the little stacks into which the chips are divided when the chest is filled with chips standing on edge. In the arrangement shown, the spacings are such that each compartment will accommodate either five or fifteen chips, according to its size; the compartments next to the front wall of the tray, and between partitions 10 and 11, being of the fifteen-chip size while the rest are only large enough to receive five chips each.

Chips are usually of several colors, poker chips, for example, being in sets containing red, white and blue chips. In such case, each row of compartments between partitions 3—7, and between these partitions and the end walls of the tray, is preferably filled with chips of the same color.

In accordance with my invention, means are provided to raise the chips that are to be taken out, so that they may readily be grasped between a thumb and forefinger. To this end I have mounted in the bottom of the tray a series of slides 14, one in each transverse row of compartments, parallel to the transverse partitions 8—12 and the front and rear walls of the tray; the slides extending from one end of the tray to the other, midway between the front and rear sides of the corresponding compartments. On each slide are fixed a set of elevators or cams in the form of cross bars 15 that are as long as space permits. The cross bars may conveniently be half as wide as the distance between the partitions paralleling the same. Each bar is triangular in cross section, so that the upper face 16 slopes downwardly from left to right as viewed in Figs. 1 and 2 and, therefore, constitutes a wide short wedge. On the right hand end of each bar is a finger piece 17, of any suitable size or shape, that may be used to pull the slide lengthwise. The lower part of the right hand end wall of the tray is cut away to provide an opening 18 extending along the bottom of the tray from front to rear. Normally the finger pieces are positioned in this opening, within easy reach of a finger when it is desired to pull a slide out; the slides at this time lying entirely within the tray without creating external protuberances.

With the tray full of chips, the slides are all normally in their retracted positions, with the cross bars at the rear of the corresponding compartments, as shown in the left hand half of Fig. 2 and in all of Fig. 1 except in the case of the front slide; the chips resting on the thin parts of the wedges. When it is desired to take out

chips, one or more slides are pulled out, each slide raising all of the chips above it. In the left half of Fig. 2 the slide is in its normal retracted position, and the chips are close to the bottom of the tray. As the slide is moved toward the right, the chips begin to ride up on the wedge faces, as illustrated by chip A^1 in Fig. 5, until they reach the top, as shown by chip A^2 in the Fig. 5 and by the three chips in the right hand half of Fig. 2.

In the drawing, the forward slide has been pulled out, so that six stacks of fifteen chips each have been raised until they protrude well above the rest of the chips. Any one of these stacks may therefore be grasped and lifted out of the tray. If only five chips are to be taken out, any one of the slides operating in the four transverse rows of small compartments is pulled out, making all of the corresponding five-chip stacks accessible. Should ten similar chips be required, two adjacent slides operating on five-chip stacks are drawn out, so that a set of ten-chip stacks is placed in position for ready removal. In this latter situation, the halves of each ten-chip stack are separated from each other by one of the transverse partitions 9 or 12. By making these partitions thin and low, the two sections of a stack may be pressed together above the partition that divides it and be lifted out in substantially the same way as though all of the chips were in a ten-chip compartment. In a like manner, a stack of twenty chips or of twenty five chips may be removed by making them available through pulling out, for example, the first and second slides, or the first three slides, respectively.

The removal of two or three little stacks of like chips at a time is made possible through segregating the chips according to color, each column of little stacks containing chips of only one color; but, if desired, stacks of one color may be intermingled with stacks of one or more different colors and yet permit the ready removal of individual five-chip or fifteen-chip stacks of any color.

The weight of the chips normally holds the slides in their retracted positions, so that no other means are required for this purpose. When the tray is provided with a lid, the closing of the lid converts the tray into a shallow chest that may be handled without giving any especial thought to its contents. Furthermore, by properly shaping the lid, it will prevent the chips from being displaced even though the chest be turned upside down. If the lid be of the inverted tray type, as shown, packs of cards, score pads, etc., may be held therein when not in use. It can thus be seen that I have provided simple and novel means for storing large quantities of chips, counters or other discs in a manner to permit stacks of various sizes and colors or styles to be quickly removed; thus making it easy to deliver chips in required quantities without counting individual chips, since any counting that need be done has to do only with precounted stacks.

While I have illustrated and described with particularity only a single preferred form of my invention, I do not desire to be limited to the exact details thus illustrated and described, but intend

to cover all forms and arrangements that come within the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A device for storing and dispensing discs, such as chips, used for game counters and the like, comprising a tray the interior of which is divided into compartments arranged in two sets of parallel rows extending crosswise of each other, the dimensions of all compartments transverse to one set of rows being approximately equal to the diameter of one of the discs. and means, including an elevator in each compartment, to cause all of the discs standing on edge in any row or rows of the second set to be raised or lowered at will in unison with each other.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the dimensions of the compartments transverse to the rows of the second set are alike for any given row but are larger in at least one than in another such row.

3. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the width of the compartments in each of two consecutive rows in the second set is equal to the thickness of five discs so that, when the discs in both of these rows are raised, ten discs may be lifted from the tray while gripped between a thumb and a forefinger.

4. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the compartments in two consecutive rows have widths equal, respectively, to the combined thickness of five discs and to a multiple of five discs.

5. A device of the character described comprising a tray, vertical partitions arranged in the tray in two sets of spaced, parallel partitions standing at right angles to each other and dividing the interior of the tray into compartments arranged in rows paralleling the partitions of one set, and means, including an elevator in each compartment, to cause discs standing on edge in all of the compartments in any row to be raised or lowered at will in unison with each other.

6. A device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the partitions that separate the rows from each other are thin so that when the discs in a plurality of consecutive rows are raised, those in corresponding compartments may be gripped between a thumb and a forefinger and be lifted out of the tray together.

7. A device for storing and dispensing discs, such as chips used for game counters and the like, comprising a tray, vertical partitions disposed in two sets of parallel partitions standing at right angles to each other to divide the interior of the tray into compartments adapted to receive discs standing on edge, slides in the bottom of the tray between and parallel to the partitions of one set, and cams on each slide in such spaced relation that there is one cam device in each compartment; the cams being shaped to serve as elevators to raise all the discs standing above any slide when the latter is moved from one predetermined position to another.

8. A device as set forth in claim 7, wherein the cams are bars, wedge shaped in cross section and each extending across the dimension of the corresponding compartment transverse to the slide.

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