# United States Patent

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[54] **TILT TOP POOL**
**7 Claims, 3 Drawing Figs.**


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[51] **Int. Cl.** ..... **A63f 7/16**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 273/110, 109, 113, 115



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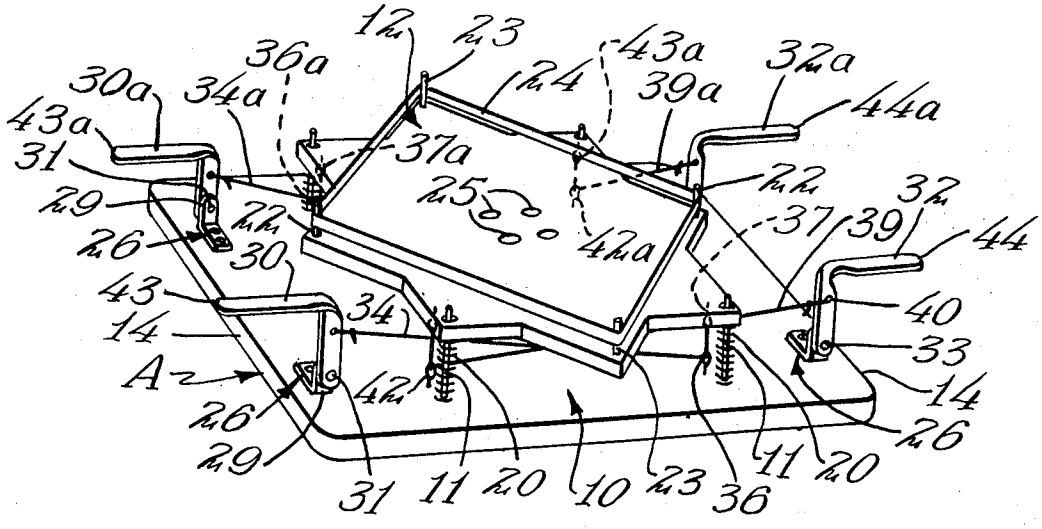
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*Attorney*—Robert M. Dunning



**ABSTRACT:** A game is provided including a base and a platform slidably and tiltably supported on four parallel pins extending upwardly from the base. Springs normally support the platform horizontal. A pair of levers are mounted on aligned axes to the base of each side of the platform. Flexible means connect one lever on each side of the platform to a corner at the opposite side of the platform to tilt the opposite corner downwardly upon pivotal movement of the lever, and flexible means connect the other lever on each side of the platform to the corner diagonally opposite that to which the first lever is connected. A wall defines a playing area on the platform, and a marble on the platform may be rolled by tilting the platform.

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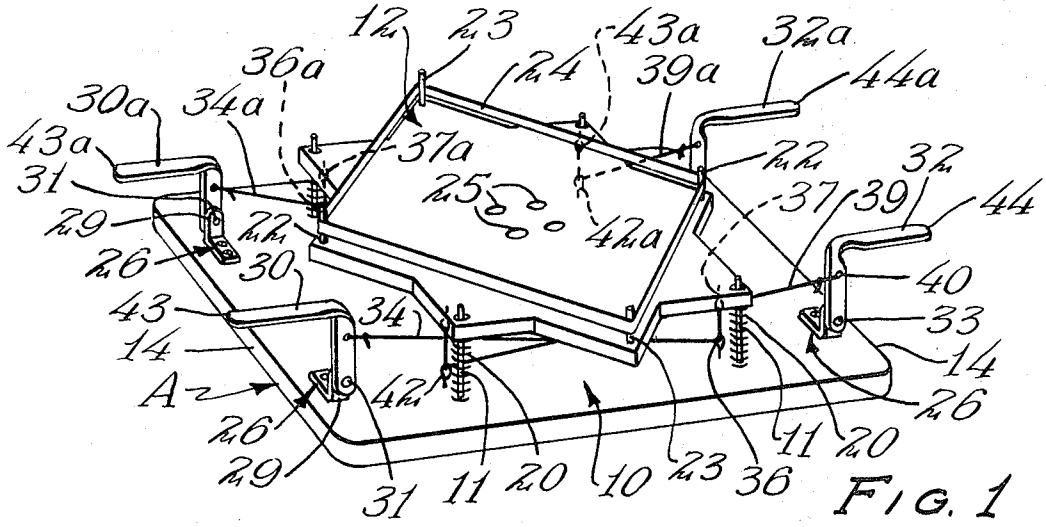



FIG. 1

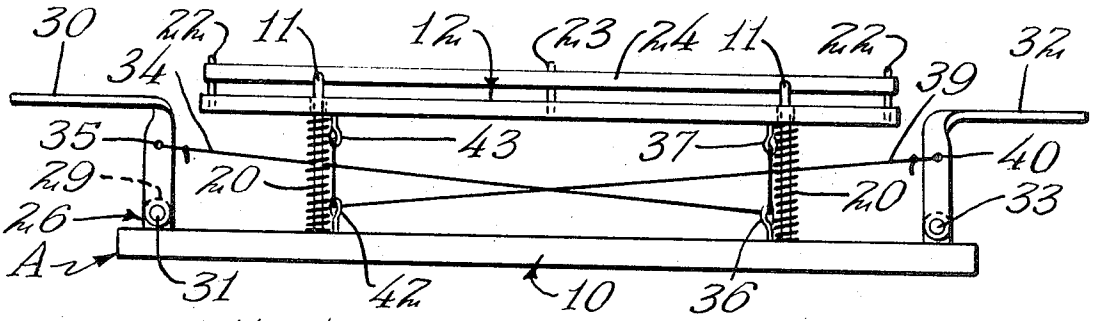



FIG. 2

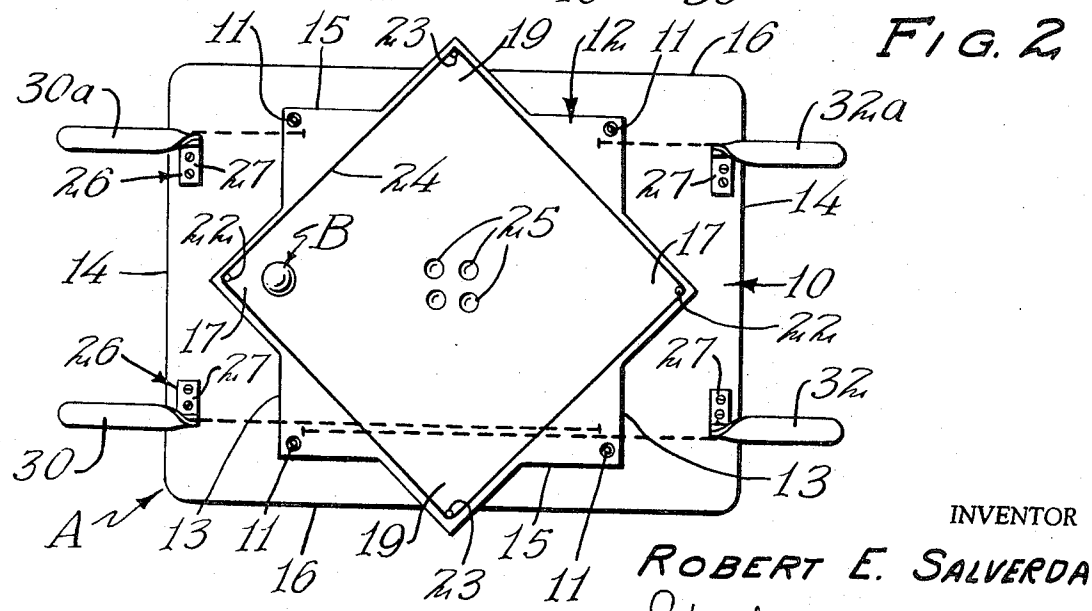



FIG. 3

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# TILT TOP POOL

This invention relates to an improvement in game and deals particularly with a game having a platform which may be tilted in various directions by the players to control the movement of the ball or marble on the platform.

An object of the present invention resides in the provision of a game of skill which is usually designed for operation by two players, although, it is possible for four players to play. In general, the device comprises a base panel having a series of upwardly extending supports thereupon. A platform is mounted upon these supports in such a manner that the platform may tilt in any direction while still supported. Coil springs or similar resilient means support the platform so that it is normally substantially horizontal. A wall of some type encircles at least a portion of the platform so as to retain a ball or marble on the surface of the platform. The platform is provided with one or more apertures or pockets into which the ball or marble may drop. The purpose of the game may be either to have one player attempt to roll the marble into one of the apertures or indentations while the other player tries to prevent such action, or may be to have one player attempt to direct the marble into one aperture or indention while the other player attempts to guide the marble into another aperture or indentation. Regardless of the manner in which the game is played, the platform is tiltable by the players, and the object is to roll the ball or marble on the surface of the platform in a desired direction.

A feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a platform which is supported by a series of springs which permit any portion of the platform to be tilted downwardly. Levers are provided designed for operation by the players. The levers are connected by flexible members to corners of the platform. By pressing the levers on one side of the base panel downwardly, diagonally opposite corners of the platform may be tilted downwardly. By operation of one of the levers, the platform may be tilted downwardly in a manner to roll the marble toward one corner of the base panel, and by operating the other, the diagonally opposite corner is lowered. When both players are operating the levers, the ball may move in any direction on the platform by proper manipulation.

A further feature of the present invention resides in the provision of a game of the type described including a platform which is preferably in the shape of an eight sided or eight pointed star, alternate points of which are supported by springs encircling upwardly extending rods which extend loosely through the platform. Levers are provided on each of two opposite sides of the base panel, these levers being pivotally anchored to the base panel. Each lever is connected by a flexible member to a portion of the undersurface of the platform. The flexible means extends through a suitable guide on the base panel, so that operation of the levers acts to pull the connected portion of the platform downwardly toward the base panel. The platform is supported normally in a substantially horizontal position. However, by operation of the levers, the diagonally opposite corners of the platform may be either singly or in combination drawn downwardly so as to tilt the platform.

It is a feature of the present invention to provide a platform area on the surface of the platform which is preferably square in outline with the corners of the square intermediate the points of the star-shaped platform which are mounted upon the springs. With this arrangement, opposite corners of the playing area are directed toward the players on opposite sides of the base panel. As a result, the points at which the platform is lowered are intermediate the corners of the playing area, thus further complicating the manner in which the ball tends to roll.

These and other objects and novel features of the present invention will be more clearly and fully set forth in the following specification and claims.

In the drawings forming a part of the specification are:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the game, showing the general arrangement of parts therein;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the game; and



FIG. 3 is a top plan view of the game.

The game is indicated in general by the letter A. The game includes a base panel **10** which is shown as being of rectangular form, although the shape of the base panel is unimportant, as it merely acts as a support for the various parts of the device. Extending upwardly from the base **10**, I provide four supporting pins **11** which are arranged at the corners of a square.

A platform **12** forms the surface upon which the ball or marble B may roll. The platform **12** may also vary somewhat in shape, as it is possible to make this platform circular in outline if it is so desired. In the particular arrangement illustrated in the drawings, the platform **12** is in the shape of an eight pointed star, the points of the star being equally angularly spaced. The shape of the platform **12** may be described as comprising the shape of two squares of equal size having a common center and with the corners of one square at 45° angle from the corners of the other.

Two opposite sides **13** on the platform **12** are shown as being parallel to the end edges **14** of the base panel **10**. The other sides **15** of the star-shaped platform are parallel to the longitudinal edges or sides **16** of the base panel **10**. Intermediate points **17** of the star-shaped platform are directed toward the ends **14** of the base panel, while the remaining points **19** of the platform **12** are directed toward the longitudinal sides **16** of the supporting platform. The platform **12** is supported at a predetermined elevation above the base panel **10** by means of compression springs **20** encircling the pins **11**. The springs **20** are of equal length and equal compressibility so that when the base panel **10** is resting upon a horizontal surface, the platform **12** is supported upon a parallel horizontal surface.

The corners **17** and **19** of the platform **12** are provided with upwardly extending stakes or pins **22** and **23** which support cords or resilient bands in **24** vertically spaced relationship. In other words, the upper surface of the platform **12** somewhat similates a boxing ring or wrestling ring which is located diagonally with respect to the end edges **14** of the panel **10** as indicated in the drawings.

The platform **12** is provided with one or more apertures or indentations **25** into which a ball such as B may extend. Depending upon the manner in which the game is played, the apertures or indentations **25** may be of sufficient size to permit the ball or marble B to pass entirely therethrough, or may be merely deep enough to permit the ball or marble to normally rest therein when properly guided by the players.

From the foregoing description, it will be obvious that the platform **12** is resiliently supported by the base panel **10** on a horizontal plane, and in order to propel the ball or marble B on the surface of the platform **12**, means must be provided for tilting the platform in any direction.

Two angle brackets **26** are mounted upon the base panel **10** near each of the opposite ends **14** thereof. Each angle bracket **26** includes a horizontal flange **27** which is bolted or otherwise secured to the upper surface of the base panel **10**, and a vertical flange **29** extending upwardly from one end thereof. The upwardly extending flanges **29** at opposite ends of the base panel **10** are aligned, and the horizontal flanges **27** at each end of the base panel **10** are also aligned. Levers **30** and **30***a* are pivotally supported by pivots **31** to the angle brackets **26** at one end of the base panel **10**. Cords or similar flexible means indicated at **34**, and **34***a* are connected at **35** to the levers **30** and **30***a*, the points of connection **35** being spaced upwardly above the pivots **31**. The cord **34** extends downwardly through a direction changing means such as a screw eye **36** extending upwardly from the panel **10**, the cord **34** being anchored at **37** to a point on the platform **12** above the screw eye **36** and near the aperture through which one of the rods **11** extends. The cord **34***a* extends from the lever **30***a* through a screw eye **36***a* extending upwardly from the base panel **10**, the cord **34***a* being anchored at a point **37***a* above the screw eye **36***a* and near the aperture through which one of the rods **11** extends at the rear end of the base panel. The anchoring points **37** and **37***a* are at diagonally opposite corners of the platform **12**.

In a similar manner, flexible cords or wires **39** and **39***a* are anchored at **40** to the levers **32** and **32***a* at points spaced well above the pivots **33**. The cord **39** extends through direction changing means such as a screw eye **42** extending upwardly from the surface of the panel **10**, the cord **39** being anchored at **43** to the undersurface of the platform **12** above the screw eye **42** and near the aperture where the pin **11** extends through the platform at the opposite end thereof.

The flexible cord **39***a* extends through a screw eye **42***a* extending upwardly from the surface of the panel **10**, the cord **39***a* being anchored at **43***a* to the undersurface of the platform above the screw eye **42***a* and near the aperture through which one of the rods **11** extends at the rear end of the base panel. The anchoring points **43** and **43***a* are at diagonally opposite ends of the platform **12**.

As will be evident from an examination of the drawings, the levers **30**, **30***a*, **32** and **32***a* may be generally L-shaped in form with the handle end **43**, **43***a*, **44** and **44***a* of the levers **30** and **32** extending generally horizontally and in a direction away from the platform **12**. As a result, downward pressure on the handle end **43** of the levers **30** and **30***a* tend to rotate these levers in a counterclockwise direction about their pivots **31**, this action tilting the corresponding corners of the platform toward the base panel **10**. Similarly, downward pressure upon the handle ends **44** of the levers **32** and **32***a* acts to pivot these levers about their pivots **33** in a clockwise direction, exerting a pull upon the cords **39** and **39***a* which tends to tilt the corresponding corners of the platform **12**, downwardly toward the base panel **10**.

By proper manipulation of the levers **30** and **32**, the table **12** may be tilted in any direction. While the manner of playing the game may vary, it is obvious that a tiltable platform is provided in which either of the players may tilt diagonally opposite corners of the platform downwardly from its normal horizontal position, and neither player has means of tilting the remaining opposite corners of the table upwardly beyond horizontal position. By proper operation of the levers, the ball or marble B may be rolled in any desired direction upon the platform. However, as one player manipulates the position of the platform the other player may counteract the movement by means of a similar operation of the control levers. As a result, a game is provided which is entertaining to play, and which at the same time requires skill to manipulate most effectively.



In accordance with the Patent Statutes, I have described the principles of the construction and operation of my improvement in game and while I have endeavored to set forth the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that changes may be made within the scope of the following claims without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

**1**. A game including: a base; a plurality of spaced vertical parallel pins fixed to said base and extending upward therefrom; a generally horizontal playing platform slidably and tiltably supported on said pins above said base; vertical spring means attached to said base and engaging said platform to normally maintain said platform in a substantially horizontal plane; at least one pair of player actuated levers hingedly secured to one end of said base with their axes aligned; elongated flexible means connecting each said lever to points on the platform diagonally opposite from one another whereby the actuation of one said lever causes the diagonally opposite end of the platform to tilt downward as its respective end slides and tilts on the associated pin.

**2**. The structure of claim **1** and including a pair of second player actuated levers secured to the other end of the base with their axes aligned, and second elongated flexible means connecting each said second lever to points on the platform in diagonally opposite relation and spaced from the points of connection of said first named flexible means with said platform.

**3**. The structure of claim **1** and in which said player actuated levers are generally L-shaped with one end hinged to said base and the other end extending generally parallel to said base.

**4**. The structure of claim **1** and in which said base is generally rectangular and said pins are substantially equally spaced both longitudinally and transversely thereof.

**5**. The structure of claim **1** and in which said springs encircle said pins between said base and said platform.

**6**. The structure of claim **1** and in which platform is in the shape of an eight pointed star, and said pins extend through alternate points of the star.

**7**. The structure of claim **6** and in which a point of each star extends substantially between the levers of each pair.