March 12, 1940. W. B. MORTON 2,193,638

PLAYING CARD AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

Filed Feb. 12, 1938

Fig. 1,

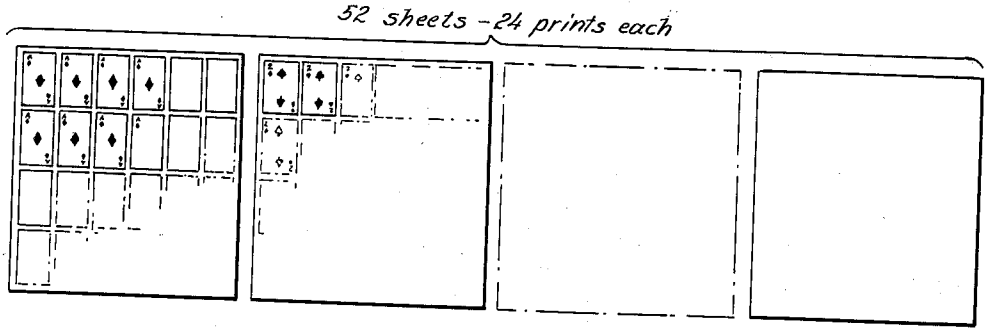


Fig. 2,

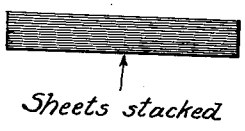


Fig. 3,

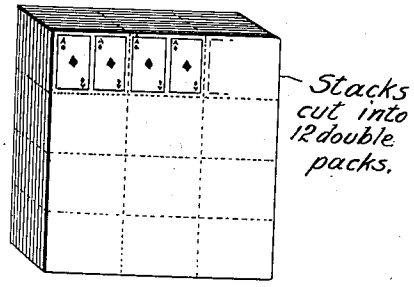


Fig. 4,

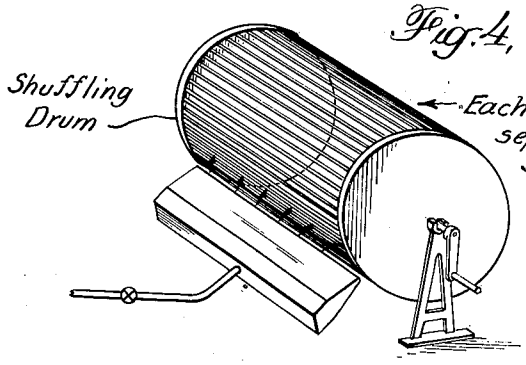


Fig. 6.

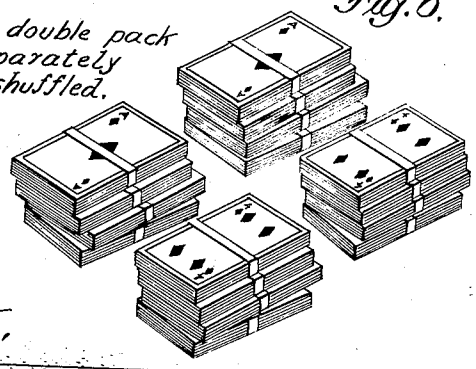
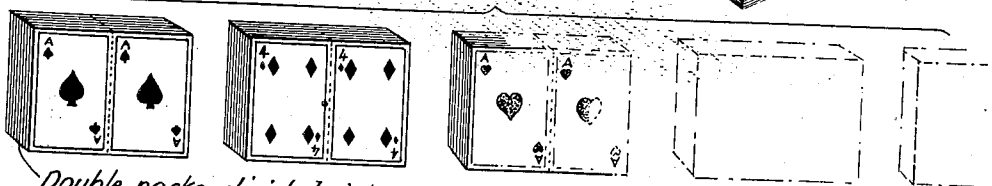


Fig. 5,



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PLAYING CARD AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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Application February 12, 1938, Serial No. 190,193

1 Claim. (Cl. 93—1)

This invention relates to improvements in playing cards and methods of making the same, particularly cards for playing duplicate bridge whist or like games where it is desired that the same exact hand be played over again.

There are now on the market various forms of apparatus for playing so-called duplicate bridge. The most common form of apparatus now used for the purpose is the so-called whist board wherein separate pockets are provided for each of the four hands, enough boards being provided in the set for an evening's play. A separate deck of cards is used for each deal, the cards being shuffled and dealt in the usual fashion. During the play, however, each player must keep his cards separate from those of the other players by placing them in front of him as they are played instead of putting them in the middle of the table along with the cards of the other players where they can be taken by the player of the winning card and counted as a trick.

Each of the separate hands so played is placed in the appropriate pocket of the duplicate board and laid aside and the play continued with a fresh deck of cards and a new board until the desired number of games is played. The same players at some later date play the hand over again, the players, however, at the second session playing the hands held by their opponents at the first session.

The present-day bridge apparatus is bulky and cumbersome to handle and its use slows up the playing of the game.

The object of the present invention is to provide cards in duplicate packs with the cards already "shuffled," that is, in a random arrangement, but with the same random arrangement of both decks whereby one deck of cards may be played in the ordinary fashion and then at a later session the second deck of the pair may be played with each pair of players having the exact hands held by their opponents at the first session. The cards may be of the ordinary kind and used after the first use for games other than duplicate or they may be of very cheap cardboard so that they may be thrown away after the first hand is played. As the cards do not have to be shuffled or dealt in the usual manner they need not be of the quality required for ordinary playing cards, but are quite satisfactory when made of any form of cheap stock which is stiff enough to be held in the hand.

In the accompanying drawing I have illustrated the successive steps to be practiced in carrying out my improved method of manufacture.

Figs. 1–5 show the cards in various intermediate stages of manufacture, while Fig. 6 shows the completed cards ready for playing.

In manufacturing cards according to my invention I preferably proceed as follows: A roll of paper stock which may be printed on one side with some conventional design—which, however, need not be identically registered with the border of each card because the cards are to be played only once—is cut in sheets of a size equal to, say, twenty-four playing cards. Each sheet is then printed with twenty-four separate impressions of the same card as shown in Fig. 1. Fifty-two sheets, each one printed with one of fifty-two cards, are then stacked (Fig. 2) one upon the other and cut by a suitable die into twelve packs, the cards in each pack being the size of two finished cards and each containing two identical impressions of the same card as indicated in Fig. 3. Each of the twelve separate double packs is then delivered separately to a conventional shuffling drum (Fig. 4) which will effect a completely random rearrangement of the cards. After being shuffled, the cards making up each double deck are stacked and then cut as indicated in Fig. 5 along the middle line between the two separate impressions to form two separate decks of identically arranged cards. These two decks will then be boxed, preferably in a double box, or they may be separately boxed with an appropriate serial number which will be the same for both decks.

For convenience in handling and to avoid the possibility of a misdeal which might change the distribution of the cards so that the same distribution would not be had when the second of the duplicate decks was played, the cards may be advantageously divided into hands of thirteen each, fastened together with paper bands or other separators appropriately marked with numbers or the conventional designations, North, South, East and West. In Fig. 6 I have illustrated two pairs of identically arranged decks divided, as described, into separate hands, it being understood, of course, that the cards will ordinarily be sold in sets of twelve or more duplicate pairs so that there will be enough different hands to occupy an ordinary evening's play. By this arrangement it is only necessary to distribute the already made-up hands to the respective players and when the duplicate pack is played the North and South players of the first series will take the East and West hands.

The invention is particularly useful for the playing of duplicate bridge tournaments where a

number of tables simultaneously play identical hands. For making cards for tournament play the process above described will be modified. Instead of cutting the sheets of 24 or more imprints of the same card into double cards, as above described, the large sheets will be mechanically shuffled before they are cut at all. This shuffling can be readily accomplished without labor and without damage to the cards by discharging the large sheets of cardboard as they are printed into the upper end of a vertical column against a rising stream of air of varying velocity.

Fifty-two sheets each containing a like number of similarly arranged impressions of one of the cards of the deck will be "shuffled" at a time, and after they fall below the entrance ports of the air streams, will be stacked in the arrangement in which they fall and cut at one operation by a suitable die into a plurality of packs each with the cards identically arranged.

Various other methods may be employed for effecting the random arrangement of the multiple cards and if desired a greater number of identical decks than can be made at one printing as above described, may be produced by cutting in the margin of each of the large sheets containing a plurality of impressions of the same card, a differently located notch for cooperation with the separating finger of electrical sorting machines of the Jacquard type. In these machines the cards to be sorted are rearranged in any arbitrary order according to the arrangement of the perforations of a control card. After the sheets are arranged they are cut into individual decks as described and at the same time the marginal portion containing the sorting notch will be removed.

I claim:

The method of making playing cards which consists in providing a series of sheets equal in number to the number of cards in the pack, each having printed thereon respectively a plurality of impressions of the separate cards of the pack, shuffling said sheets to arrange them in a random sequence and thereafter cutting the sheets to provide a plurality of decks, each having the same identical random arrangement of the cards.

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