Dec. 17, 1940. F. R. STEARNS 2,225,241

PROJECTING DEVICE FOR GAMES

Original Filed Sept. 27, 1937

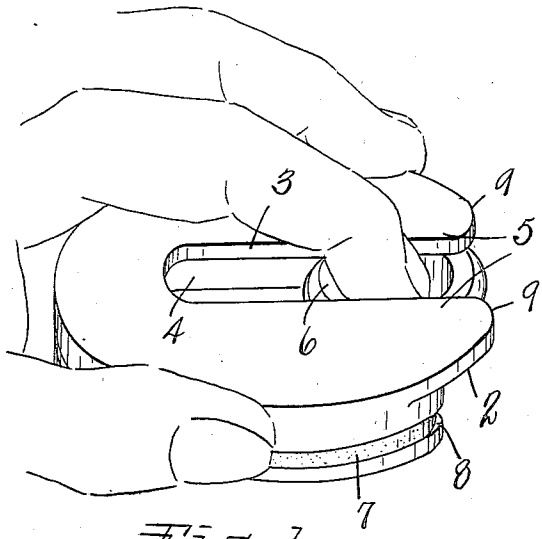



Fig. 1.

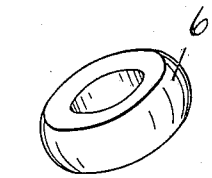



Fig. 4.

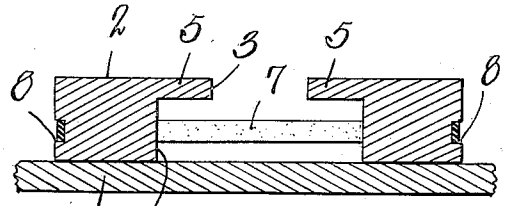



Fig. 3.

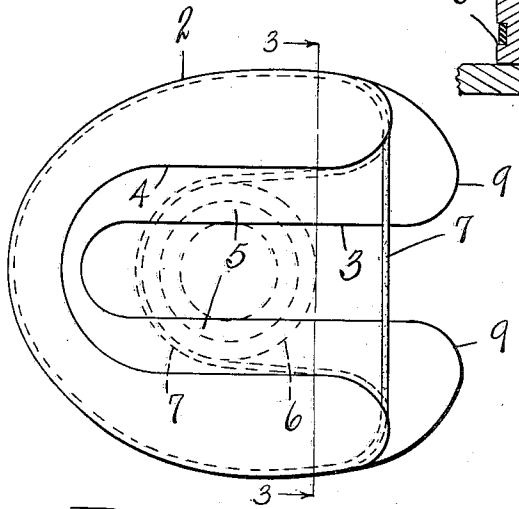



Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.
Freeman R. Stearns
BY Earl & Chappell
ATTORNEYS

Patented Dec. 17, 1940 2,225,241

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,225,241

## PROJECTING DEVICE FOR GAMES

Freeman R. Stearns, Ludington, Mich., assignor to The Carrom Company, Ludington, Mich.

Original application September 27, 1937, Serial No. 165,878. Divided and this application December 19, 1938, Serial No. 246,682

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—129)

This invention relates to improvements in projecting devices for games.

The main objects of my invention are:

First, to provide a projecting device for casting a projectile or sliding piece or ring employed in playing certain games, which is very efficient.

Second, to provide a projecting device of the type described which is so constructed as to expel rings or other missiles, at the same time restraining the same from movement in any direction other than a desired one and in sliding relation to the surface of a game board.

Third, to provide a projecting device of the type described which is compact and capable of projecting a missile or other playing piece at considerable velocity and with considerable force.

Further objects relating to details and economies of my invention will definitely appear from the description to follow. The invention is defined in the claims.

A structure embodying the features of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a projecting or throwing device in accordance with my invention and the manner of using the said device.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the device of my invention, the inoperative position of the projecting element thereof being illustrated in solid lines and the operative position with a missile associated therewith being illustrated in dotted lines.

Fig. 3 is a view in section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, a playing surface being likewise illustrated fragmentarily in section.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a missile or ring such as is used in playing a game for which my device is designed.

This application is a division of my copending application, Serial No. 165,878, filed September 27, 1937, for Game boards and apparatus for use therewith.

The aforesaid copending application relates to a baseball game board embodying a field marked out in a manner to simulate play occurring in baseball and wherein a pivoted batting device is employed. Due to the particular nature of the batting device illustrated therein, there is a need for a device to project a missile against the batting device at considerable velocity and from different angles and the present projecting device was particularly devised for this purpose; however, it has utility in connection with the playing of any game wherein a mobile projecting device, capable of projecting a missile at various velocities, is desired, and hence I do not desire to be unnecessarily limited in this respect.

Referring to the drawing, the reference numeral 1 indicates a game board of any type whereon the projecting device of my invention, generally designated 2, is rested for sliding movement as desired by the player. This device consists of a block suitably shaped for ready grasping in the hand of a player, as illustrated in Fig. 1, and preferably of oval form. The block is medially slotted at 3 to provide an elongated channel 4 on the side thereof adjacent the board when the device is in operative position during play. The said channel is overhung on the upper side of the block by elongated shoulders 5 serving to horizontally guide the player's finger which is inserted in the hole of the missile 6, to prevent upward movement of the missile during retraction into and projection from the channel. The slot or channel 4 forms a laterally guiding path along which the missile is projected outwardly.

The force producing this projection is furnished by a rubber band or similar resilient element 7 surrounding the block below the shoulders 5 and disposed in a peripheral channel or recess 8, to thereby prevent displacement of element 7 and insure that it engages the missile at the center thereof. The shoulders 5 are continued outwardly at 9 beyond the channel 4 to overhang the path of the missile and prevent upward movement thereof even should the rubber element be improperly applied thereto. The slot or channel 4 is made sufficiently long so that the player is afforded an opportunity to shoot the missiles at any desired speed dependent upon the distance to which the missile is retracted in the channel, as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

Although any type of missile may be employed, it will be appreciated that the annular form of the missile illustrated considerably facilitates the use of the projecting device by permitting the player to insert his finger in the missile to retract the same against the band. The manner of using the device is illustrated in Fig. 1. After retraction in the channel against the projective force of the rubber band, the missile is released and is rapidly projected outwardly from the channel in sliding relation to the surface of board 1.

I have illustrated and described my improvements in an embodiment which is very practical. I have not attempted to illustrate or describe other embodiments or adaptations as it is be-

lieved this disclosure will enable those skilled in the art to embody or adapt my improvements as may be desired.

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

1. A projecting device comprising a substantially oval block having a central slot therein, the full width of the slot opening to the lower side of the block whereby a missile slidable on a supporting surface or board for the block may be retracted on the board in the slot, said block having shoulders overhanging the slot on its upper side to guide a missile projected therefrom, and a continuous flexible rubber member surrounding the block and extending across the mouth of the slot, said member being stretched by insertion of a missile in said slot in opposition to the tension of the member and serving to project the missile from the slot when the same is released.

2. A projecting device comprising a block having a slot therein opening to the lower side of the block whereby a missile slidable on a supporting surface or board for the block may be slidably retracted on said board in said slot, said block having shoulders overhanging the slot to guide a missile projecting therefrom, and a continuous flexible rubber member surrounding the block and extending across the mouth of the slot, said member being stretched by insertion of a missile in said slot in opposition to the tension of the member and serving to project the missile from the slot when the same is released, said block having a peripheral groove in which said member is seated.

3. A projecting device comprising a block having a slot therein, said slot opening to one side of the block whereby a missile slidable on a supporting surface may be slidably retracted on the surface in the slot, a continuous flexible rubber member surrounding the block, said member being stretched by insertion of a missile in said slot in opposition to the tension of the member and serving to project the missile from the slot when the same is released, said block having a peripheral groove in which said member is seated.

FREEMAN R. STEARNS.