

E. N. JOHNSTON
GAME SCORE RECKONER

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Fig. 1.

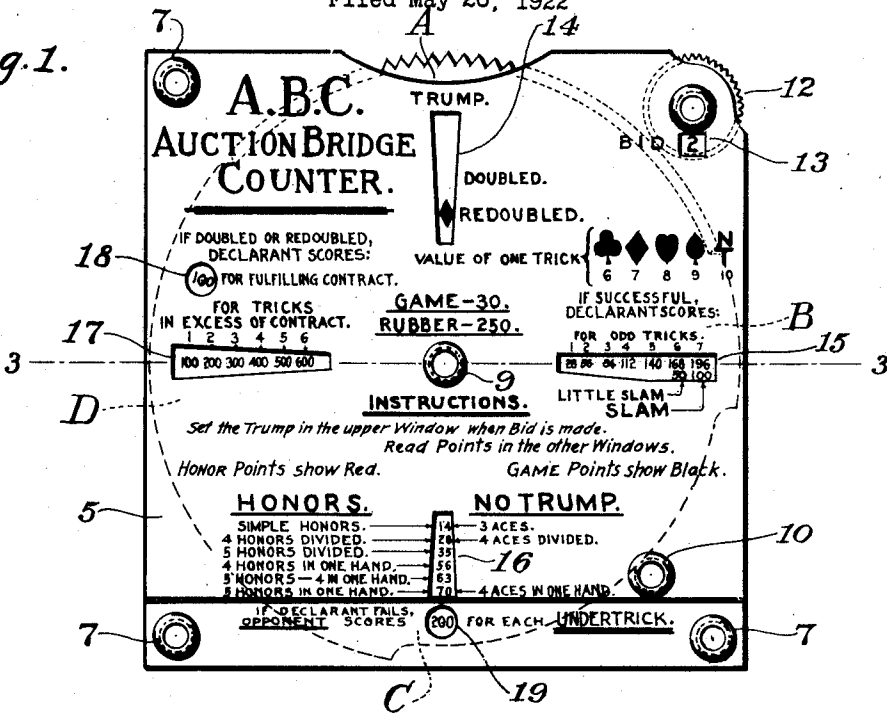


Fig. 2.

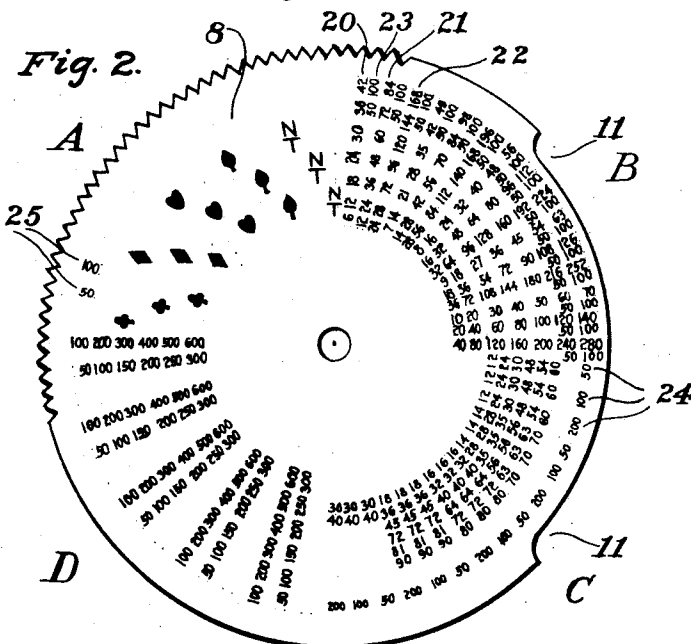


Fig. 4.

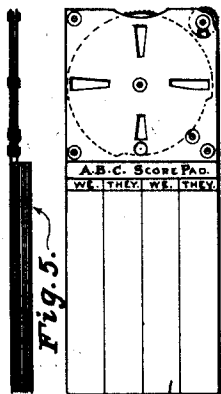


Fig. 5.

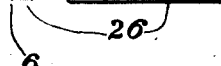
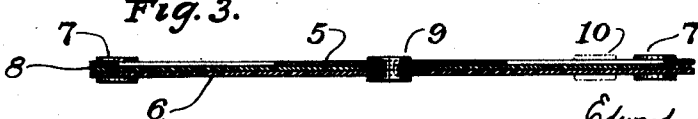


Fig. 3.



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GAME-SCORE RECKONER.

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While this invention is described with special reference to the card game known as auction bridge, it will readily be appreciated that the principles involved are applicable to counters for games other than auction bridge. The special object of the invention is to provide a simple adjustable device which may be set, after the bidding is settled for each hand, so that the points for tricks, honors, et cetera, corresponding to any particular trump, may be read direct from the reckoner, as more fully herein-after set forth.

In the drawings—

Fig. 1 is a face view of a device embodying one form of my invention in which the disks are set to indicate a re-doubled bid of two diamonds.

Fig. 2 is a face view of the disk-member of the device.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a face view of one form of the device in which the back-plate 6 is extended to form a base for a pad of several sheets of paper, 26, used for recording the scores indicated by the score reckoner.

Fig. 5 is a side-elevation of the device as otherwise illustrated in Fig. 4.

In the drawings annexed, 5 designates a face-plate; 6, a back-plate secured to the face-plate by eyelets, or other suitable fasteners, 7; and 8, a disk confined between the aforesaid plates and rotatively mounted upon a central pivot 9, which may be conveniently in the form of an eyelet similar to the eyelets 7. Inasmuch as it is desirable that the disk shall have only limited rotation with respect to the face and back plates, I provide a stop-pin 10, which works in an arcuate recess, 11, formed in the disk, this recess being approximately a quarter circle in length to thereby limit the disk to that degree of movement. To facilitate rotating the disk 8, the edge thereof is serrated for about 120° of the circumference, as indicated in Figure 2.

At a convenient place, between the two main plates or cards, I mount a supplemental disk 12, which is merely for the purpose of registering the amount of the bid, the numbers indicating the amounts of all possible bids being printed on the disk and being adapted to be exposed singly at a hole 13, in the face-plate.

The face-plate is provided with apertures and with slots, which in this particular form of the device are two and four in number, respectively. It will be appreciated that in the event of there being changes in the rules of the game it may be advisable to change the number, shape and position of the apertures and slots, as also the arrangement of numbers and symbols on the principal disk 8. In the particular form of the device herein illustrated, the apertures are circular and the slots are radial, and spaced equal distances apart. One of the slots, 14, is for indicating the trump; another, 15, for indicating the value of the odd tricks; another, 16, for indicating the value of the honors; and the remaining one, 17, for indicating the value of tricks in excess of the number contracted to be taken, in those cases where the bid is doubled or redoubled. Above the slot, 17, is an aperture, 18, for indicating the value of points scored for fulfilling the contract in those cases where the bid is doubled or redoubled. Below the honor-slot is an aperture, 19, for indicating the points scored by an opponent for each undertrick in case the declarant is unsuccessful.

Above the trump-slot, 14, is printed the word "Trump." Alongside of this slot are printed the words "Doubled" and "Redoubled," so positioned as to follow immediately after the corresponding suit symbols when the rotating disk is set to indicate a doubled or redoubled trump, in the manner hereinafter set forth. Along one edge of the trick-slot, 15, is printed, beginning at the inner end thereof, numerals from 1 to 7, seven tricks being the utmost number of odd tricks that can be made. Along one edge of the honor-slot is printed a series of lines and words telling the honor score in suits, while along the other edge of this slot, lines and words are printed to indicate the value of no-trump honors. Along one edge of the remaining slot, 17, is printed a series of numerals from 1 to 6, six tricks being the utmost that can be taken in excess of contract. Contiguous to the apertures 18 and 19, are printed words indicating that the values showing in them indicate, respectively, the points scored by declarant for fulfilling contract if the bid be doubled or redoubled, and the points scored by opponent if declarant fails.

The disk 8, is divided by imaginary radial lines into sectors, which in the particular form of the device herein described are four in number; a trump sector, A, a trick sector, B, an honor sector, C, and an excess-trick sector, D. It will be readily appreciated that changes in the rules may necessitate changes in the number, size and relative locations of these sectors. In the device herein described the suit sector is divided by imaginary lines into 15 smaller sectorial divisions, in each of which is graphically illustrated a suit symbol, except three of the sectorial divisions, in which latter the letters "N. T." are printed for a no-trump bid. The first three divisions are for clubs, the second three for diamonds, the third three for hearts, the fourth set for spades, and the last set of three for no-trump, as indicated in the drawing. It is obvious that if the sequence of value of the trump should be changed by a change of the rules, necessary changes may be made in the arrangement of the symbols in the sector A and the corresponding numbers in the other sectors. The symbols in each set are arranged at different distances from the center of the disk, so that by rotating the disk each one of the outer symbols may be brought to view immediately under the word "Trump" printed above the trump-slot, 14, the intermediate series opposite the word "Doubled," and the innermost series opposite the word "Redoubled," as shown in Fig. 1.

The trick sector, B, is divided by imaginary lines, in a manner similar to the trump sector A. In the first three divisions, the figures indicate the value of tricks in the club suit, the first division, 20, indicating their value when not doubled; the second division, 21, when doubled; and the third division, 22, when redoubled. The remaining divisions of this sector B, are similarly filled in with figures for the remaining suits. Associated with each radial row of figures is a short row, 23, consisting of the numerals "50" and "100" to indicate the amount to be added to declarant's score when a slam or a little slam is made. It is obvious that, if desired, these numbers may be placed on the face-plate 5, instead of on the rotative disk, since they do not change with a change of the trump.

The honor sector, C, is divided by imaginary lines into the same number of small sectorial divisions and in each of the divisions are placed figures which indicate the honor scores in the various suits, it being unnecessary to explain in detail the arrangement of these figures, as the arrangement will be obvious from an inspection of the drawing.

Near the circumference of this honor sector are five sets, 24, of three numbers each, corresponding to the four suits and to no-

trump. These numbers indicate the points scored for each undertrick by an opponent in case the declarant is unsuccessful. According to the present rules, in the case of a simple bid, 50 is scored; for a doubled bid, 100; for a redoubled bid, 200. These numbers appear in the aperture 19.

In the excess-trick sector, D, a similar number of divisions is made by imaginary lines, but five of the divisions are left blank, since the figures in the divisions of this sector do not come into use unless the bid is challenged by doubling or redoubling. The blank divisions are so placed that they will come opposite the excess-trick slot, 17, whenever there is a simple bid; and, when the bid is doubled or redoubled, one or the other of the rows of figures in the other divisions will be brought to view. One of the filled-in divisions is for a doubled trump and the adjacent one is for a redoubled trump, and they are so positioned with respect to the trump sector that the division having the higher order of figures will be exposed when the trump is redoubled, as shown in Fig. 1, and the adjacent division having the lower order of figures will come to view in the slot when the trump is simply doubled. When the trump is neither doubled or redoubled no figures will appear in the slot 17.

The aperture 18, in which appear the points scored for fulfilling contract, if the bid be doubled, or redoubled, is so positioned with respect to the excess-trick slot, 17, that, except for a no-trump bid, the numbers used to designate the value of one excess trick serve also to designate the points scored for fulfilling contract. To indicate this feature in the case of a doubled or redoubled, no-trump bid, additional numbers, 25, are suitably placed in the trump-sector. When the trump is redoubled, 100 appears in the aperture 18, as indicated in Fig. 1; when doubled, 50 appears. When the trump is neither doubled or redoubled no figures will appear in the aperture 18.

It is believed that the detailed manner of using this apparatus will be obvious from the foregoing when taken in connection with the annexed drawings. In Fig. 1 the appliance is set for playing a hand in which a two-diamond bid has been redoubled, in which case each odd trick will be worth 28 to the bidders, with 100 additional points if the contract be fulfilled; and each trick in excess of contract will be worth 100 points; if declarant fails, the opponent scores 200 for each undertrick. It will be observed that by a simple adjustment of the disk 8, after the bidding is settled for each hand, the value of the possible scores to the bidders, as well as the honor scores to either the bidders or the opponents, will be made known without mental calculation. It will be obvious that my invention is not confined to

the specific construction illustrated and described, as the spirit of the invention may be carried out in a number of obvious ways.

I claim:

5 1. In a score reckoner for card games, a face-plate having four radial slots marked off to indicate respectively the value of the trump, odd tricks, honors, and excess tricks; and a rotatively adjustable disk associated
10 with said face-plate and having its face divided into four sectors, one a trump sector, another an odd trick sector, another an honor sector, and the remaining one an excess-trick sector, said sectors being provided
15 with symbols and figures adapted to indicate the value of odd tricks, honors and excess tricks for any particular bid.

2. In a score reckoner for card games, a face-plate provided with a plurality of aper-
20 tures, one of which is a radial trump slot; and a movable member associated therewith and provided with a plurality of radial series of trump symbols adapted to be brought to view in said trump slot and also provided
25 with a series of figures adapted to be brought to view in the other apertures to indicate the value of the tricks and other features contributing to the score, substantially as set forth.

30 3. In a score reckoner for card games, a stationary member provided with indicia indicating the number of odd tricks possible, the number and character of honors possible, and the number of excess tricks possible; and a movable member cooperating
35 therewith and carrying symbols and numbers indicating the trump and the possible values of odd tricks, honors and excess tricks, substantially as set forth.

40 4. In a score reckoner for card games, a face-plate provided with a plurality of slots and apertures, one of which is a trump slot and a movable member associated therewith, and provided with a series of trump sym-
45 bols adapted to be brought to view in said trump slot, and also provided with a series of figures adapted to be brought to view in the other slots and apertures to indicate the points scored for odd tricks, honors, excess
50 tricks, fulfilling contract, for tricks in excess of contract and points scored by opponent in case declarant is not successful.

55 5. In a score reckoner for card games, a face-plate provided with a plurality of slots and apertures one of which is a radial trump-slot; and a movable member associated therewith and provided with a plu-

60 rality of radial series of trump symbols adapted to be brought to view in said trump-slot and also provided with a series of figures adapted to be brought to view in the other slots and apertures to indicate the values of the tricks and other features contributing to the score, substantially as set forth.

65 6. In a score reckoner for card games, a stationary member provided with indicia indicating the number of odd tricks possible, the number and character of honors possible, and the number of excess tricks possible; and a movable member cooperating
70 therewith and carrying symbols and numbers indicating the possible values of odd tricks, honors and excess tricks; value of fulfilling contract, and points scored by an opponent in case the declarant is unsuccessful, substantially as set forth.

75 7. A score reckoner for card games embodying two relatively-movable members and indicia carried thereby for indicating the character of the trump, indicia associated therewith for indicating the points
80 scored by either or both opponents whether or not the contract be fulfilled, and additional means for indicating the amount bid.

85 8. In a score reckoner for card games, two relatively-movable members, one being provided with a slot and words indicating the character of the trump and the other being provided with a series of suit symbols positioned to be brought to a point adjacent the
90 words on the face-plate so as to be read in connection therewith, the number and arrangement of the symbols being such as to indicate every character of bid within the limits of the game, and additional indicia
95 associated therewith for indicating the points won by each opponent whether the contract be fulfilled or not.

100 9. In a card game reckoner, a pair of relatively-movable members, one of them being provided with a window-slot and adjacent words indicating the character of the trump and the other being provided with five series of trump symbols, the symbols in each series having a stepped arrangement
105 so as to be brought singly into view in the window-slot at different points along the same, and additional indicia associated with said members for indicating the points scored by either opponent.

110 In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

EDWARD N. JOHNSTON.