

July 19, 1949.

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2,476,457

SHIFTABLE PANEL WITH MARBLE GAME BOARD

Filed Oct. 28, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

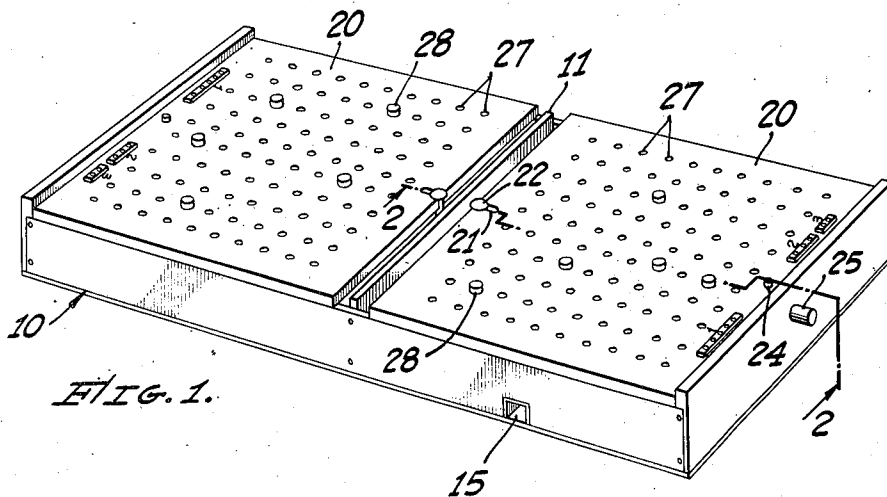


FIG. 1.

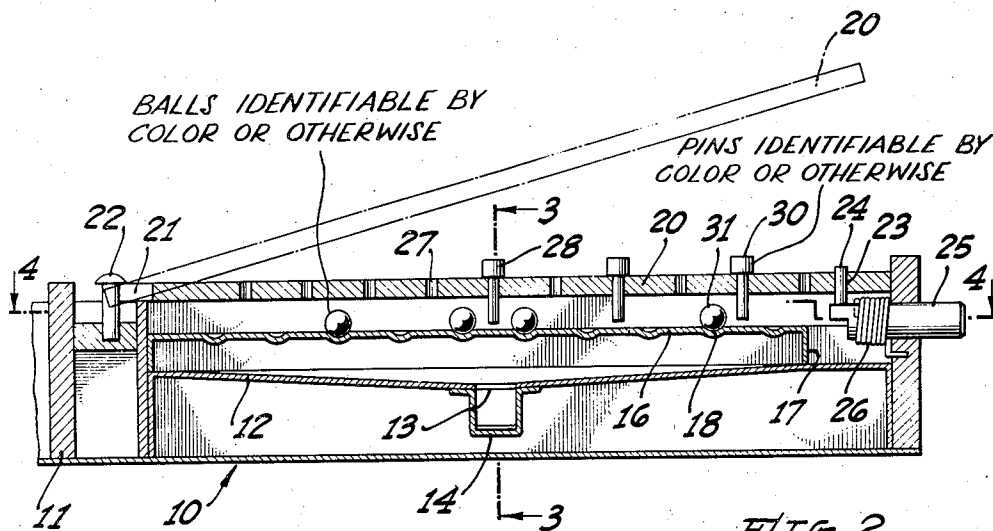


FIG. 2.

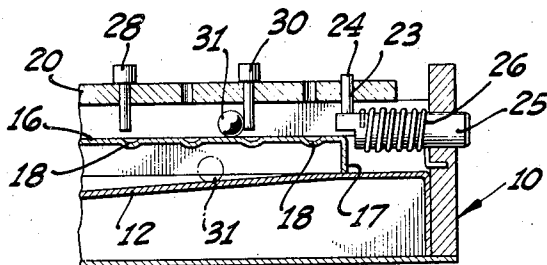


FIG. 5.

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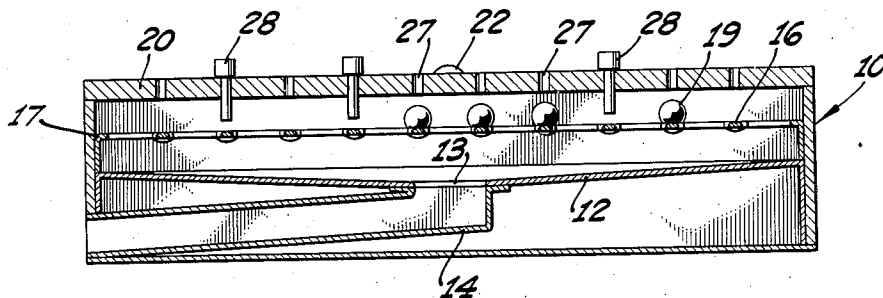


FIG. 3.

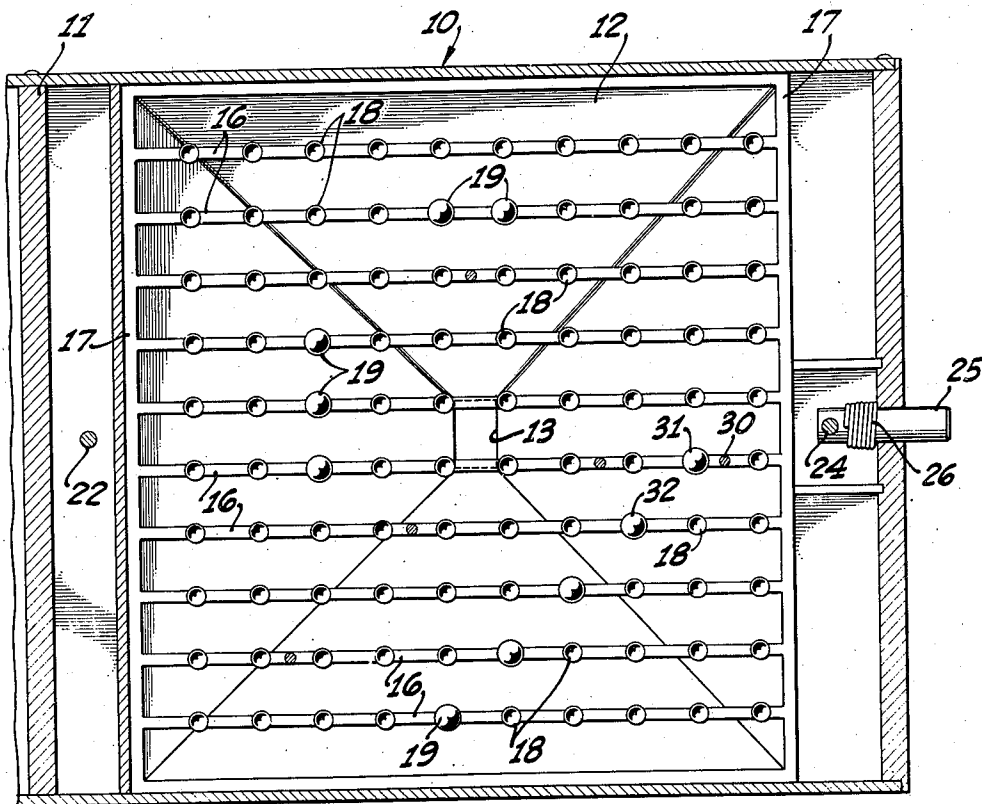


FIG. 4.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SHIFTABLE PANEL WITH MARBLE GAME BOARD

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273-138)

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This invention relates to improvements in games.

An object of the invention is to provide an improved game wherein the elements of chance and logical deduction are advantageously combined to impart a continued interest in playing the game.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be made manifest in the following detailed description and specifically pointed out in the appended claims, reference is had to the accompanying drawings for an illustrative embodiment of the invention, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved game;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially upon the line 2-2 upon Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken substantially upon the line 3-3 upon Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a horizontal section taken substantially upon the line 4-4 upon Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a partial view in vertical section similar to Fig. 2, but illustrating the operation of the game.

Referring to the accompanying drawings wherein similar reference characters designate similar parts throughout, the improved game consists of a boxlike frame, generally indicated at 10, divided by a central partition 11 into two compartments. As the structure within each compartment is identically the same that construction which is within only one of the compartments will hereafter be described.

In the bottom of the compartment there is a relatively shallow hopper or collector indicated at 12 which slopes from all sides of the compartment towards a central outlet opening 13 that discharges into a trough or tube 14, the exit of which is on the side of the frame as indicated at 15. Over this shallow hopper there is disposed a lower ball supporting deck. This deck may be formed of sheet metal and provides a number of relatively narrow parallel supporting strips 16 that are equally spaced from each other and which may be connected at their ends to the marginal portions 17 of the deck. On these strips at equally spaced intervals there are shallow depressions 18 constituting ball supports for balls 19. The spacing between adjacent ball supports 18 is preferably, but not necessarily, equal to the spacing between adjacent strip 16 and between

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adjacent ball supports 18. The top surfaces of the strips 16 are preferably rounded so that a ball may not rest thereon but will fall off between adjacent strips onto the shallow hopper 12 and descend therefrom by gravity through the outlet 13, trough 14, and out of the exit 15.

In association with each compartment there are three groups of balls, each group being separately identifiable such as by color. In the embodiment of the invention illustrated, one group of balls consists of five balls which may be colored red for example. Another group consists of three balls which may be colored yellow, and the third group consists of two balls which may be colored blue. On the top edges of the sides of the frame 10 there is positioned an upper deck or lid 20, the inner edge of which is notched as at 21 for engagement with a stud 22 which serves to guide the forward sliding movement of the upper deck. Adjacent the outer edge of the upper deck there is an aperture 23 receivable over a dowel 24 on a push button 25 that slidably extends through the outer wall of the frame. A coil tension spring 26 urges the push button 25 into its outermost position wherein the outer edge of the upper deck abuts against the outer wall of the frame 10. The spring 26, however, will enable the upper deck 20 to be pushed forwardly by the push button on overcoming the spring 26 and when the push button is released the spring will automatically return the upper deck to its initial or normal position. Apertures 27 are formed in the upper deck 20 there being one aperture for each ball support 18. These apertures, however, are so arranged that when the upper deck 20 is in its normal position as illustrated in Fig. 2 that they will be displaced from or disaligned from their respective ball supports. However, when the deck is formed forwardly by the push button 25 as illustrated in Fig. 5, each aperture 27 occupies a position vertically over its respective ball support 18. A plurality of groups of identifiable pegs or pins 28 are provided the shanks of which are receivable through the apertures 27. These pegs or pins preferably have heads which will prevent them from dropping through the apertures and their shanks are of such length that when a pin is inserted in a hole 27 whose ball support has a ball positioned thereon the lower end of the shank will engage and displace or dislodge the ball from

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its ball support when the deck 20 is moved forwardly as illustrated in Fig. 5. The pegs or pins may be separately identified in any suitable manner, such as for example by being numbered. Thus there may be five pegs or pins each numbered 1 to be utilized by the player during his first play or turn. Similar groups of pegs or pins numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. are also provided to be used by the player on his second, third, fourth, fifth, etc. turns, respectively.

The preferable manner in which the game is played is as follows: The game may be played by two players each, of whom first make their installations on their respective lower decks in their respective compartments. Thus each player may lift the upper deck or lid 20 to the dotted-line position shown in Fig. 2 exposing to himself but shielding from his opponent the lower deck on which the ball supports 18 are disposed. While the lower deck is thus concealed from his opponent each player positions the balls 19 on the ball supports 18, the requirement being merely that the balls of each group shall be arranged in one continuous straight row and each group being spaced from all other groups by at least one ball support 18. Thus, as illustrated in Fig. 4 the red balls of the five-ball group have been arranged diagonally. The yellow balls of the three-ball group have been arranged transversely and the blue balls of the two-ball group have been arranged longitudinally. When the installations have been made the lids or upper decks 20 are returned to their full-line position shown in Fig. 2 and the frame 10 is then reversed so that each player proceeds to play over the deck on which his opponent has made his installations while the lower deck was concealed. Play may now commence. The first player positions his five pegs or pins numbered 1 in apertures 27 in the upper deck 20. In so positioning these pins he, of course, does not know of the locations of the installations made on the lower deck and the initial setting of the pins is entirely by guesswork. After the pins have been set the player then pushes the push button 25 to shift the deck 20 from the position shown in Fig. 2 to the position shown in Fig. 5. If the pins have been set as illustrated in Fig. 4, it will be noted that the pin 30 has been so set that it will engage the red ball 31 dislodging it. This ball when the deck is shifted will be moved from its seat on its ball support 18 and will drop from the lower deck onto the hopper and be discharged through the exit 15, thus indicating to the player that one of his five pins numbered 1 is in such position as to engage the large or red installation. In the position shown in Fig. 4, none of the other pins have been so positioned as to engage any of the other balls. The player, however, being aware that one of his pins is so positioned as to engage the large installation and knowing that the rules require that installations be in a straight row, may then so arrange his pins on his succeeding play with relation to the pins set by him on the first play as to endeavor to determine the direction of the installation that he has dislodged. Of course, not knowing which of the first pins engaged the large installation the arrangement of the pins on the second play may also be largely a matter of guesswork. However, should the player on his second play position a pin so as to dislodge the ball 32 it is possible for him to logically deduce from the relationship of the pin 30 and the pin which displaced ball 32 the direction of the large or red installation and

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on succeeding plays quickly so dispose his pins as to displace all balls of this installation.

The player and his opponent alternate in taking their respective plays and the object of the game is to displace all balls of all installations as soon as possible, that player which displaces all balls being the winner. After the large or five-ball installation has been completely displaced or demolished by a player, that player is thereafter restricted to the use of three pins or pegs per play while attempting to displace the remaining three-ball or yellow installation and the two-ball or blue installation.

It will be appreciated from the above description of the method of play that the improved game combines the element of chance with the element of logical deduction in that when balls of an installation have been displaced by noting the color of the balls discharged it can be determined whether a pin or pins are near a five-ball, three-ball, or two-ball installation and by subsequently properly arranging pins on subsequent plays with relation to the pins that have been previously used. It can be deduced therefrom the location and the direction of the row constituting that installation so that thereafter pins may be most advantageously or efficiently used to completely displace the entire installation.

Various changes may be made in the details of construction without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims:

I claim:

1. A game comprising means providing a lower deck on which identifiable groups of balls may be positioned for displacement from their set position, an upper deck adapted to be positioned thereover concealing the positions of the ball groupings, means for supporting one of the decks for movement relative to the other and settable identifiable means applicable to the upper deck for engagement with the balls if properly positioned upon relative movement taking place between the decks, means for collecting and returning to the player the displaced balls, and means for causing relative movement to take place between the decks.
2. A game comprising means providing a lower set of equally spaced ball supports, identifiable groups of balls adapted to be positioned thereon, an upper deck movably mounted with relation to the ball supports having an aperture therein for each ball support, identifiable pins adapted to be positioned in the apertures and extend there-through so as to be engageable with the balls on the supports to displace them from their supports upon movement of the upper deck with relation to the ball supports, and means for moving the upper deck with relation to the ball supports.
3. A game comprising means providing a lower set of equally spaced ball supports, identifiable groups of balls adapted to be positioned thereon, an upper deck movably mounted with relation to the ball supports having an aperture therein for each ball support, identifiable pins adapted to be positioned in the apertures and extend there-through so as to be engageable with the balls on the supports to displace them from their supports upon movement of the upper deck with relation to the ball supports, means for moving the upper deck with relation to the ball supports, and means for returning the upper deck to its normal position wherein the apertures are disaligned from the ball supports.
4. A game comprising means providing a lower

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set of equally spaced ball supports, identifiable groups of balls adapted to be positioned thereon, an upper deck movably mounted with relation to the ball supports having an aperture therein for each ball support, identifiable pins adapted to be positioned in the apertures and extend there-through so as to be engageable with the balls on the supports to displace them from their supports upon movement of the upper deck with relation to the ball supports, means for moving the upper deck with relation to the ball supports, and means for collecting and returning to the player those balls which are displaced from their supports by the pins.

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