The present invention relates to a novel and improved game apparatus which, while usable in playing many different types of games, is primarily designed and purposed for playing a baseball game.

Briefly, the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises an especially constructed base constituting the game-board, this having a suitably depicted baseball diamond thereon and being provided with coacting and properly coordinated accessories for scoring and for enabling the participants to conveniently designate and tally the plays and scoring points.

More specifically the aforementioned preferred embodiment of the invention is characterized by a game-board having a marginal frame-work atop the same, projectible and retractible charts for indicating and evaluating the scores, and novel impact operated spinner means mounted on said board and actuated through the medium of simple and expedient operating elements and members.

In addition to the assemblage comprising the game-board and other parts just comprehended, I have in mind the provision of several different types of individual knocker operated spinners which, while directly attachable to the base or game-board, are in many instances, separately used.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the complete structural assemblage comprising a combination of the game-board suitably charted and diagrammed, this provided with its associated and controlled spinner type scoring device, and score evaluating panels for the participants.

Figure 1A is a fragmentary side elevational view of the upper right-hand corner of the structural assemblage seen in Figure 1.

Figure 2 is an elevational view of a knocker-type spinner and scoring device which may be made as a part of the base or independently used, as desired.

Figure 3 is a side or end elevation of the assemblage seen in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is an "exploded" perspective view of one of the ball-equipped rotors in the spinner device.

Figure 5 is an elevational view similar to Figure 2 showing a simplified spinner with the modified features.

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of the type of spinner disclosed in Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional and elevational view of a modified form of knocker-equipped spinner.

Figure 8 is a view like Figure 7 showing a slightly different arrangement.

Attention is first directed to the complete game apparatus or combination structure depicted in Figures 1 and 1A.

The game-board comprises a suitable substantially rectangular base of appropriate material and dimensions. A simple game-board supported on risers or the like as shown in Figure 1A will do. Atop the board and around the marginal portions I provide frame rails 10, 11, 12 and 13. The rails 10, 11 and 12 are fixedly mounted in place. The rail 13 is a removable part and is inserted between the ends of the two rails 10 and 12 merely to form a racking frame to accommodate the men or playing pieces 14. I take advantage of these marginally arranged elevated rails to define a pen in which the entire parts or accessories can be racked and stored when not in use. This is a feature of compactness and convenience worthy of note. In actual play the part 13 can, if desired, be removed. The baseball diamond 15 is of any suitable form or type. The rails 10, 11 and 12 are provided with a multiplicity of sockets 16 for the pegs 14 and these are arranged in proper groups and have indicia associated therewith such as, for example, "outs" "balls and strikes" and so on. The special sockets 17 are so-called "parking" holes for the pegs, that is, when the pegs are not movably in play. When the pegs are in play they are placed in the sockets or holes 16. Inasmuch as I do not make any special claim to the arrangement of sockets and pegs, I do not deem it necessary to dwell on these phases. In fact, the legends on the drawings are self-explanatory.

The numerals 18 and 19 designate slidable shelves or panels. These are mounted in proper guides (not detailed) on the underside of the gameboard. In practice, each participant, one to represent the home team and the other the visiting team, use these charted panels 18 and 19 individually. That is to say, when one team is at bat, the panel 19 is protected for use. The other panel at this stage is slid in and concealed so as to avoid confusion. In practice, I utilize certain "white" and "blue" marker balls as will be hereinafter seen and this accounts for the
The knocker-type spinner device or unit is referred to generally by the numeral 20 and this is removably supported on the rear end of the base board. It comprises a substantially U-shaped frame whose base portion 21 (See Figure 1A) is of dovetailed form to slip removably into a dovetailed keyway or slot 22 in the base board. A horizontal shaft 23 between the upper ends of the frame uprights 24 serves to support a plurality of rotors 43. Each rotor comprises a rod 25 secured intermediate its ends to the rotary shaft 23. The rod is provided with fixed stop elements in the form of balls 27 and 28, these being located at the extreme outer ends. So-called "blue" and "white" indicator balls 29 and 30 are shiftably mounted on the respective rods between the hub portion and the stop balls 27 and 28 on the outer ends of said rod. Incidentally, the construction of the rotors will be better brought out in some of the other forms of the invention to be hereinafter described. The knocker comprises a panel or paddle 31 rockingly mounted between the lower portion of the U-shaped frame, this having a buffer or bumper 32 which swings in an arcuate path to strike either of the impact balls 37 or 38. This paddle 31 is retained in an out-of-the-way position by a rubber band or the like 33 anchored in an adapter post 34 on the frame structure. The rocker shaft which carries the paddle also is provided with a rocker arm 35 to which a flexible cord 36 is connected. This cord is trained beneath the sheave or pulley 37 mounted on one side of the base board, the free end of the cord passing through a guide hole in a guide block or equivalent member 37' on the front portion of the base board. At this point and on the extreme free end of the cord is a rubber ball 38 which constitutes a finger-grip. Obviously, by catching hold of this ball 38 and pulling the cord in the direction of the user, the paddle 31 is drawn to a position against the tension of the rubber band 32 to strike one of the rotors, or all of the rotors 25 simultaneously. When the string is released the rubber finger-gripping ball 38 serves as a bumper to strike against the guide 37'. As before indicated the operation of the spinner device will become more evident from the following description and drawings. So far, I have covered the combination of the playing board 5, the projectile and retractable charting panels 18 and 19, suitable spinner means 20 detachably mounted on the board, and operating means for the paddle part of the spinner means.

In order to better appreciate the construction and functioning of one of the spinner devices, the multiple rotor type, I direct attention now to the form of the invention seen in Figures 2 and 3. The device as a unit is denoted by the numeral 39. It comprises a base 40 with vertical uprights 41 rigidly therewith, there being a horizontal fixed shaft 42 in the upper ends of said uprights. The various rotor elements 43 are freely rotatable on this shaft and are held apart by spacing sleeves 44. Each rotor comprises, as before indicated, a rod 45 having fixedly mounted impact and check balls 46 at opposite outer ends. There is a sleeve forming a hub member 47 on the central portion of the rod 45 and shaft 42. The freely shiftable or sidable balls, which are in effect the scoring indicators are denoted by the numerals 48 and 49. The numeral 49 designates a "white" ball and 48 a "blue" ball. These colors (represented by "W" and "B") serve to distinguish the 75 indicator elements and the scoring is determined when the balls 49 are at rest in the upper position seen in Figure 2. In other words, the hanging lower balls 48 do not count. Or to put it otherwise, if the spinners all come to rest as shown in the position seen in Figure 2, there are three white balls 49 and one blue ball 48 in proper sequence. By referring to the scoring panel or chart 49 (see Figure 1) and with reference to "14" it will be seen that this particular play represents a bust or sacrifice. The knocker comprises a simple inverting U-shaped wire frame 51 swungly mounted between the uprights. The pull cord 52 is attached at one end to the knocker frame (sometimes also referred to as an impact element), said cord passing through the upright or post 53 and carrying the rubber finger-gripping and shock absorbing bumper ball 54. The knocker frame is held in the position seen in Figure 3 by a rubber band or the like 55 anchored on the horizontal projection or adapter-pin 56 carried by the base. By simply catching hold of the ball 54 and pulling the string 51 in a direction from right to left in Figure 3 and thereafter of the rubber band 55 serves to "snap" the knocker frame 51 against the various rotors 43. Or more directly, the frame comes into contact with the impact receiving balls or stop elements 49 (see Figure 3). All of the self-righting devices or rotors 43 spin around somewhat independently and eventually come to rest and the score indicating balls (49 or 50, as the case may be) at the top designate the results of the then completed operation.

In Figures 5 and 6, I show a simplified single spinner. This comprises an appropriate base 57 and an adapter frame 58 to accommodate the rotor 59. This is the same in construction as the rotors already described and, therefore, the same reference numerals apply to corresponding parts. The only point to be brought out in connection with these two figures is the different type of impact-means employed. That is to say, I find it novel and desirable in certain instances to use a rubber band 60 which is anchored at 61 on one end of the base; the free end of said band being provided with a finger-gripping ball 62 which is grasped as shown in dotted lines and released so that it then becomes a spring-propelled projectile. This is aimed at the rotor to strike it and spin it around in the manner indicated by arrows.

In Figure 7, a different type of spring 63 is used for actuating the impact or knocker frame 51. Once the pull cord 62 is released. In Figure 8, I simply use a coiled spring 64. Otherwise, the constructions are the same. I have shown the single and multiple spinner devices to illustrate the scope of the invention and the claims are to be interpreted accordingly.

It is thought that persons skilled in the art to which the invention relates will be able to obtain a clear understanding of the invention after considering the description in connection with the drawings. Therefore, a more lengthy description is regarded as unnecessary.

Minor changes in the shape, size and arrangement of details coming within the field of invention may be resorted to in actual practice, if desired.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A scoring spinner for use in connection with a game apparatus of the class described comprising a base, upright means thereon, a
shaft included in said upright means, a spinner rotatable through 360° on said shaft, a frame rockably mounted on the upright means, a pull-cord connected to and for actuating the frame in one direction, and spring means anchored on the base and attached with the frame for actuating said frame in an opposite direction.

2. In a game apparatus of the class described, a base, vertical uprights on said base, a horizontal shaft between said uprights, a spinner mounted freely for rotation through 360° on said shaft, an impact frame rockably mounted on and between said uprights, spring means attached thereto and anchored on said base, a pull-cord attached to said impact frame, a post on said base, a resilient ball on the free end of the cord engageable with the post in the manner and for the purposes described.

3. Spinner means adapted for use in designating plays employable in connection with a base-ball game apparatus of the class described comprising horizontal base means adapted to be mounted on or used in connection with a prescribed base-ball game apparatus of the type shown and described, a pair of vertical uprights connected to and rising from said base means, a horizontal shaft supported between said uprights, a spinner swingably mounted between the ends of said shaft, said spinner including a rod, shoulder-forming elements secured to the respective outer ends of said rod, indicator balls, said balls being freely slideable on the rod-ends between the shaft and shoulder-forming elements, said rod being swingable through a circle of 360°, impact means pivotally mounted between the lower portions of the uprights and swingable through an arc and swingable in the path of rotation of the outer ends of said rod, return means for said impact means for returning and retaining said means in a predetermined ready-to-use position, and manual operating means connected with said impact means.

4. The structure as specified in claim 3, said impact means being an inverted substantially U-shaped frame having the free ends of the terminal limbs thereof pivotally mounted in said uprights, the bight portion of the frame constituting the impact element and being engageable with said spinner.

JOHN HENRY BIEHL.

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