April 28, 1953 O. C. McNEAL 2,636,740

DEVICE FOR PLAYING GAME OF MARBLES

Filed May 21, 1951

Fig. 1

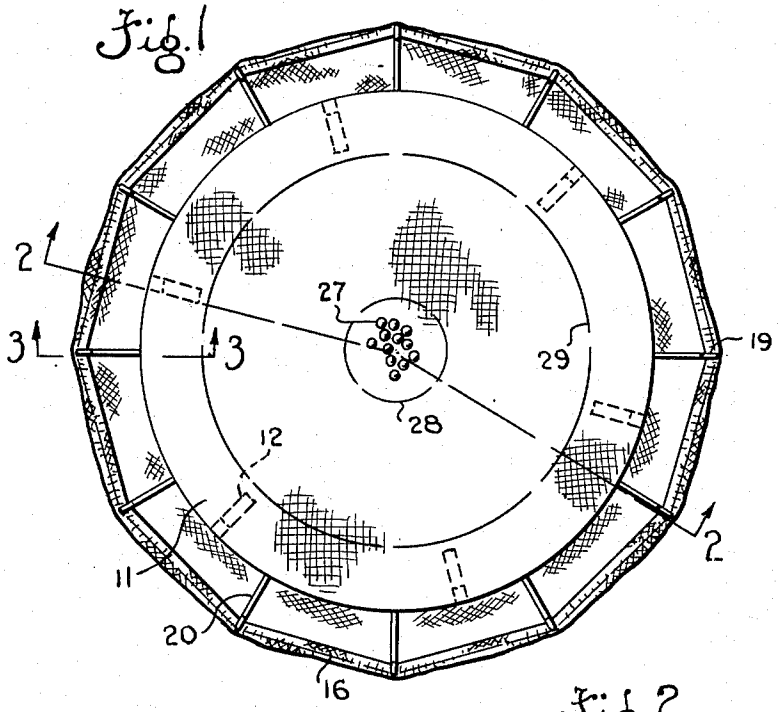


Fig. 2

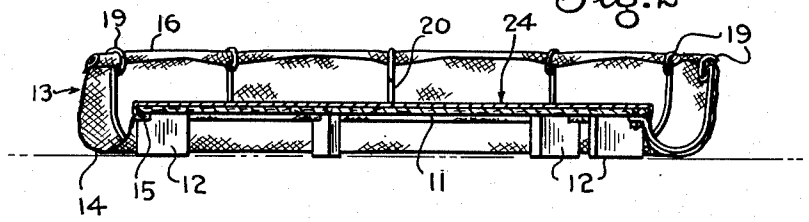
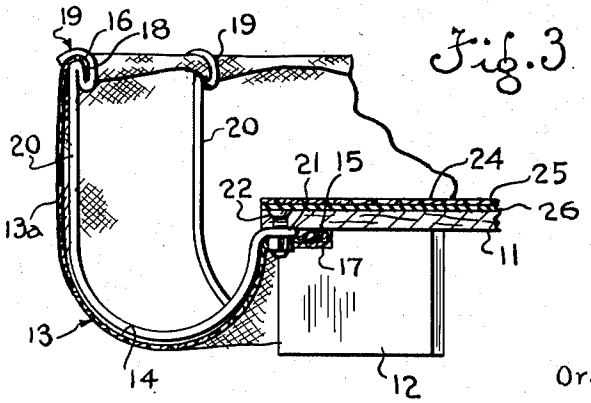


Fig. 3



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DEVICE FOR PLAYING GAME OF MARBLES

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—118)

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This invention relates to a marble game, and in particular relates to a device upon which the game of marbles is played.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved device for amusement, by which the game of marbles may be played indoors, as on a living room rug, without the marbles becoming a nuisance underfoot.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described, including a marble-shooting surface area and improved means for effectively retrieving marbles shot therefrom, and by which the marbles will not be deflected away from the device or back onto said surface area.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described wherein said retrieving means is readily removable, as for washing or replacement.

Other objects of the invention will be manifest from the following brief description and the accompanying drawings.

Of the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a marble game constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a cross-section taken substantially on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-section taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, and oppositely corresponding to the right hand portion of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates a marble-playing table, including a flat-topped board 11 of wood, fiberboard, hard plastic, or like rigid material, the board being shown as circular and being supported by a plurality of relatively short supporting blocks or legs 12, 12 secured to the underside of the same. The blocks 12 are arranged in peripherally spaced relation closely adjacent the marginal edge portion of the board 11.

Removably mounted on the table 10, to surround the same, may be a marble-deflecting shield 13 of shock-absorbent material, providing also an annular trough 14 for retrieving marbles shot from the table. The shield 13 may, for example, be a wide band of soft, flexible fabric having opposite or inner and outer edges 15 and 16 thereof hemmed over bands of elastic or yieldingly expansible material. Thus, the inner edge portion of the shield is yieldingly expandible within recesses 17, 17 provided in the outwardly presented portions of the blocks 12 and the outer edge portion 16 is similarly expandible within retaining recesses 18 of attaching portions 19 at

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the upper ends of a plurality of peripherally spaced supports 20, 20 secured to the underside of the board 11. Each support 20 may be formed of relatively stiff wire to provide an eyelet 21 at one end for reception of a suitable bolt 22 (Figure 3) extended from the underside of the board, the wire being looped downwardly from said eyelet to a point substantially below the top surface of the board and reversed upwardly to a terminal end substantially above said surface, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, said terminal end being formed into a relatively small loop providing said attaching portion 19 for the shield. The recess 18 opens radially outwardly of the table and may off-set downwardly as shown to assure firm retention of the edge of the shield therein. The arrangement is such that the flexible shield is conformed around the underside of said spaced supports, thereby to provide the annular trough 14 of substantial depth. Sufficient room is provided between the outer wall 13a of the shield and the peripheral edge of the table top 11 to enable players to position the hands for "knuckling" the marbles at said edge without substantial interference.

A suitable cover 24 may be applied to the table top 11 to simulate as nearly as possible the usual surface conditions under which marbles are played outdoors, as for example on hard but even dirt. To this end the cover 24 may be of canvas duck, or a thinner cloth layer 25 upon a thin layer 26 of vulcanized foam rubber, as best shown in Figure 3.

In use of the device each player, for example, may first place a given number of marbles 27 in a center ring 28 marked upon the playing area. Then the players take turns shooting at these marbles with "shooters" in accordance with known rules. If desired a foul line or circle 29 may be provided just inside the outer edge of the top 11, beyond which the players must not place their hands for any shot. Marbles shot from the table in this manner with any substantial degree of force are deflected from the outer wall 13a of the shield 13 into the trough 14 where they are easily retrieved by the players who win the same. Although the shield extends above the table top a sufficient distance to catch the marbles effectively, the elastic top on the shield may be engaged by the players' arms or wrists while shooting marbles, thereby providing a maximum of freedom of action in playing the game.

The shield is easily removable as for washing, repair, or replacement, by expanding the elastic

edge portions out of the retaining recesses 17 and 18 in the blocks 12 and supports 20, respectively. It is also contemplated that the supports 20 may be of springy material, such as flat or round spring steel, in order to support the shield and yet be yielding to the weight of a child or equivalent pressure.

Modifications of the invention may be resorted to without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a game device used with marbles or similar playing pieces, the combination with a table having a flat upper playing surface of substantially broad lateral area, of peripherally spaced supporting elements attached to said table to extend therefrom unobstructedly of said playing surface, said supporting elements having thereon attaching portions to be spaced radially outwardly of the peripheral edge of said table and at points substantially above the plane of said playing surface, and an annular shield of relatively thin, flexible material attached to said elements to extend in loosely draped condition between said attaching portions and said table to provide a pocket surrounding said peripheral edge of the table for receiving said playing pieces.

2. In a game device used with marbles or similar playing pieces, the combination with a table having a flat upper playing surface of substantially broad lateral area and having retaining recesses below the peripheral edge of the playing surface, peripherally spaced supporting elements attached to said table below said playing surface to extend outwardly and unobstructedly of the same, said supporting elements having thereon recessed attaching portions presented radially outwardly of said peripheral edge of said table and at points spaced substantially above the plane of said playing surface, and an annular shield attached between said table and said attaching portions of said elements in loosely draped condition to provide a pocket surrounding said peripheral edge of the table for receiving said playing pieces played therefrom, said shield being a band of relatively soft, flexible sheet material, and having yieldingly expansible inner and outer continuous marginal edge portions, said inner and outer marginal edge portions being yieldingly receivable in said recesses of the table and said elements, for said attachment of the shield.

3. In a game device used with marbles or similar playing pieces, the combination with a table having a flat upper playing surface of substantially broad lateral area, of a continuous shield of relatively thin, flexible material, shield-supporting means attached to said table below said playing surface and having terminal portions to be spaced radially outwardly of the peripheral edge of said table and at points upwardly terminating substantially above said playing surface, the space between said attaching portions and said peripheral edge of the table being free and unobstructed to a substantial depth below the plane of said playing surface, and means for mounting said shield to extend between said terminal portions and the table at points below the said playing surface thereof to have the shield loosely draped in the form of pockets of substantial depth surrounding said peripheral edge for receiving said playing pieces, said shield being substantially free and unobstructed above the outer peripheral edge thereof and said outer peripheral edge being at a height above said playing surface permitting the marble player's arms to extend toward the peripheral edge of the playing surface at a convenient angle for playing marbles.

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