

June 10, 1930.

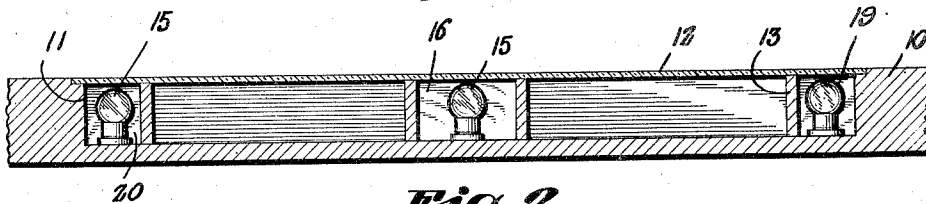
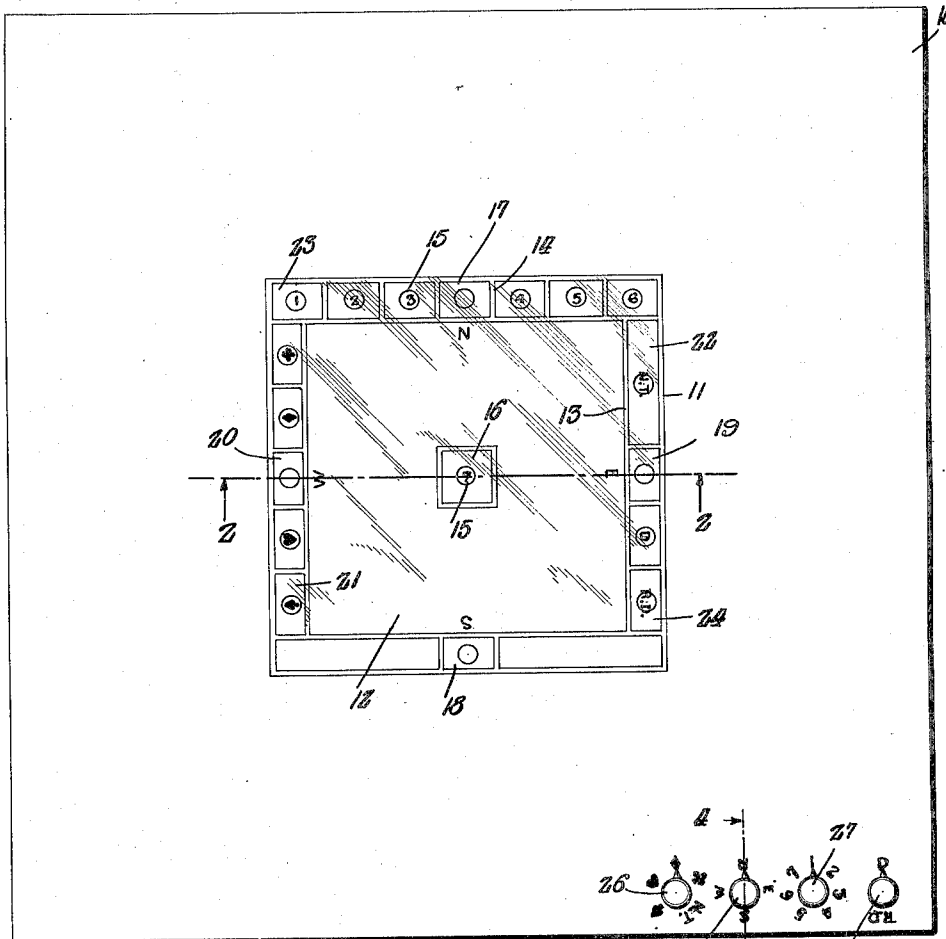
J. W. MORRIS

1,763,476

CARD TABLE INDICATOR

Filed Aug. 27, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

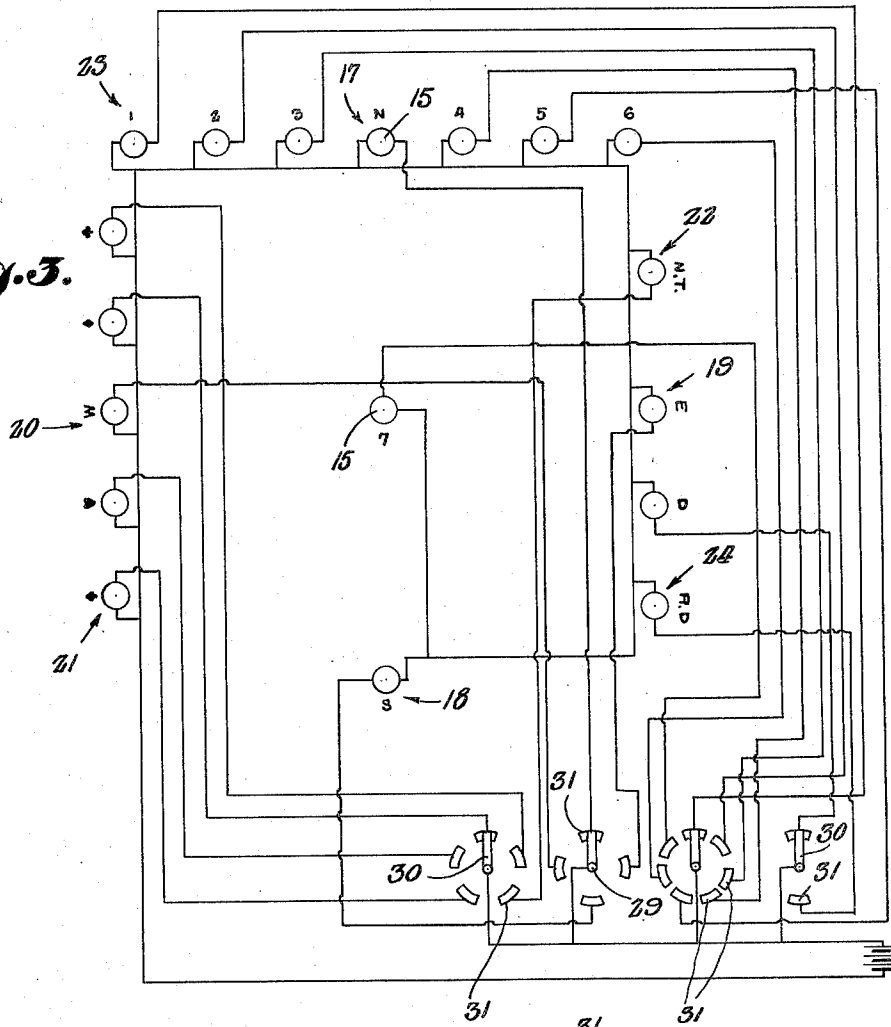


Fig. 4.

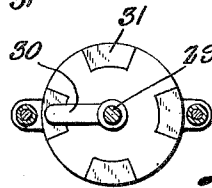
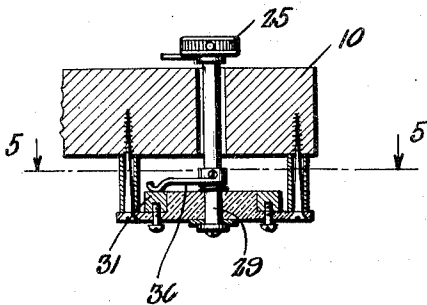


Fig. 5.

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CARD-TABLE INDICATOR

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This invention relates to card tables and particularly to means associated with the card table whereby the events of a game, as for instance, the events of a game of auction bridge or contract bridge may be indicated, and the general object of the invention is to provide a convenient indicating means which forms part of the table, whereby the dealer may be indicated from time to time, whereby the trump may be indicated, whereby the number of tricks contracted for may be indicated, and whereby it may be indicated whether or not the bid has been doubled or redoubled.

A further object is to provide a construction of such character that the indicator may be plainly seen by the several players at all times and whereby the indicator may be operated from one point on the table by a player designated for this purpose.

Still another object is to provide a construction of this character in which the table is recessed, the recess being covered with a sheet of transparent material flush with the top of the table, the recess containing a plurality of very small electric lamps associated with indicia indicating the dealer, the trump, the number of tricks bid and the additional contract, the table being provided at one point with means operable by one of the players whereby these lamps may be energized to thereby indicate the events before mentioned.

Other objects will appear in the course of the following description.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a card table constructed in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic view of the wiring connections and switches;

Figure 4 is a detailed sectional view through one of the switches;

Figure 5 is an inside face view of one of the switches;

Referring to these drawings, 10 designates the top of a card table of any approved character and of the usual size. The middle portion of this card table is recessed at 11, this recess being rectangular or square in form and

covered by a glass plate, designated 12, this glass plate being set into the wall of the recess so that the upper face of the plate is flush with the face of the card table and thus forms no obstruction to the proper playing or handling of the cards.

Disposed outward of the wall of the recess 11 in spaced relation thereto is a rectangular wall 13.

The space between this wall 13 and the wall of the recess is divided into a plurality of compartments by partitions 14. Each of these compartments contains an electric lamp designated 15. Preferably there is a central lamp compartment 16 formed at the center of the recess 11 within which a lamp 15 is disposed. On one side of the recess 11 there is only one lamp compartment formed, while on the other side of the table, there are a plurality of compartments formed, as for instance seven in number. At another side of the recess 11, there are compartments formed for five lamps and opposite these, there are compartments formed for four lamps. I have merely stated this arrangement as being that shown in the drawing, but do not wish to be limited thereto, as other arrangements of compartments may be made as will appear more clearly hereinafter.

Associated with the compartments 17, 18, 19 and 20 are letters such for instance as N, S, E and W, indicating whether the dealer sits at the north, south, east or west side of the table. It is designed that the lamp in the proper compartment to indicate the dealer shall be energized at the proper time, this lamp remaining energized until the next lamp of this series has been energized. This lamp will indicate, as before remarked, whose deal it is.

The compartments designated in the drawing 21 are four in number and associated with each of these compartments is a suit indicator, as for instance, the conventional pips for clubs, diamonds, hearts and spades. When the appropriate lamp opposite one of these pip indications is energized, it will indicate that clubs, diamonds, hearts or spades is the trump.

On the opposite side of the table, in the arrangement illustrated in the drawing,

there is a compartment 22 having therein the lamp 15 and having associated therewith an indication for "no trump", such as the letters N. T., or the letter W. meaning without. When the lamp in this compartment is energized, it indicates that "no trump" is being played. The number of tricks which the declarant bids is indicated by the lamps in the compartments 23. There are six of these compartments 23 and associated with these compartments are the numerals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The central compartment 16 has associated therewith the numeral 7, thus indicating the highest possible bid. If three is bid, the lamp opposite the numeral 3 is to be energized. If five is bid, the lamp opposite the numeral 5 is to be energized. Thus it will be seen that I have provided means whereby the dealer may be indicated, the trump may be indicated, and the amount of the bid may be indicated.

The two compartments designated 24 have associated therewith indications in the form of letters or other arbitrary marks showing whether the bid has been doubled or redoubled, as for instance, the letter "D" for doubled and the letters R. D. for redoubled. Thus when one of these letters is energized, it indicates the additional contract. These lamps are intended to be energized from switches disposed adjacent one corner of the table or adjacent one of the players. For this purpose, I have shown the switch actuating knobs 25, 26, 27 and 28. Each of these knobs has a pointer or index mark associated therewith. These knobs are set into the table and preferably, though not necessarily, each knob will have appropriate designations or indices extending circumferentially around the knob and indicating the points to which the knob must be turned in order to energize the proper lamp.

These indications correspond to the indications opposite the several lamps 15 set into the recess 11. Electrical connections are made between these switches and the lamps and with a source of current. These connections may be of any suitable character. Thus, for instance, the knob 25 will have its metallic spindle 29 connected in circuit with a source of current and will carry a switch arm 30 moving over four segments 31. Each segment will be connected to one of the lamps N. S. E. or W, that is, the lamps associated with these letters. When the knob 25 is thus turned with its arm 30 resting upon one of these contacts, the lamp associated with the letter W will be energized, this lamp being connected by return wire to the source of current. When the arm is turned to another of the segments, the lamp associated with the letter N. will be energized and so on; thus the position of the dealer may be indicated. The knob 26 has a like switch arm 30 movable over four contact segments 31 which are

connected in an obvious manner in an electrical circuit with the lamps in the compartments 21 so that as the switch arm is moved successively over the several segments, lamps in the compartments 21 indicating the different trumps will be successively energized and the trump indicated. The knob 27 has a switch arm 30 which moves over seven segments, each of these segments being electrically connected to a lamp in one of the compartments 23 so that as the knob is turned, these lamps from 1 to 7 will be successively energized and thus the amount of the bid indicated. The knob 28 moves over two segments, these segments being electrically connected to the lamps in the compartments 24 so that the knob will energize either the lamp associated with the letter "D" designating "double" or the letters R. D. designating that the bid has been redoubled.

I do not wish to be limited to the particular electrical connections whereby these lamps are energized as obviously these might be varied without departing from the spirit of the invention. Neither do I wish to be limited to the particular form of switches used, nor to the use of indicia disposed concentric to the switches and indicating the position of the switch arm, though this is convenient.

Obviously slight modifications might be made in the make-up of this table without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings I have illustrated the indications for the trumps and for double and redouble and the number of tricks bid as being disposed upon the panes of glass covering the different compartments and immediately over the lamps but it will be understood that this is merely illustrative and that the indications may be disposed exteriorly of the compartments or interiorly of the compartments in the recesses 11 or in any other position desired.

I claim:—

1. A card table having a recess in its face, a glass transparent cover for the recess a plurality of series of electric lamps disposed in the recess, the lamps of one series indicating who should deal, the lamps of another series indicating the several trump suits, the lamps of another series indicating the amount bid, the lamps of another series indicating additional contracts, indicia associated with each of the several lamps and indicating the event to which the lamp relates and independent controlling means for each series of lamps shiftable to energize or deenergize any particular lamp of the series, said controlling means being manually actuatable and being carried by the table but disposed remote from said recess.

2. A card table having a recess in its face and divided into compartments, transparent cover for the recess, an electric lamp in each

of said compartments, the lamps being arranged in a plurality of series, one series indicating the dealer, the lamps of another series indicating trump suits, the lamps of another series indicating the amount bid, and the lamps of another series indicating additional contracts, each of said lamps having appropriate indicia associated therewith to indicate the event to which that lamp relates, and independent controlling means for each of said series of lamps and adapted when shifted to energize or de-energize any particular lamp of the series, said controlling means being carried by the table and being disposed remote from the said recess.

3. A card table having a recess in the face thereof, a glass pane covering said recess and flush with the top of the table, said recess being divided into a plurality of lamp compartments arranged in series, electric lamps disposed in the compartments of the several series, the lamps of one series being arranged on the four sides of the table to indicate the dealer and being associated with corresponding indicia, another series of lamps including five lamps associated with indicia indicating the four trumps and "no trumps" and arranged along certain of the sides of the recess, another series of lamps being disposed along another side of said recess and in the middle of said recess and being associated with numbers indicating the number of tricks contracted to be taken by the declarant, and another series of lamps indicating additional contracts and disposed along one side of the recess, and controlling means for the lamps remote from said recess, said controlling means carrying switches whereby the circuit from a source of energy through any one of said lamps may be opened or closed.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

JOSEPH W. MORRIS.