Jan. 13, 1931. W. W. DEGLER 1,788,708

BASEBALL GAME APPARATUS

Original Filed Feb. 4, 1929 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

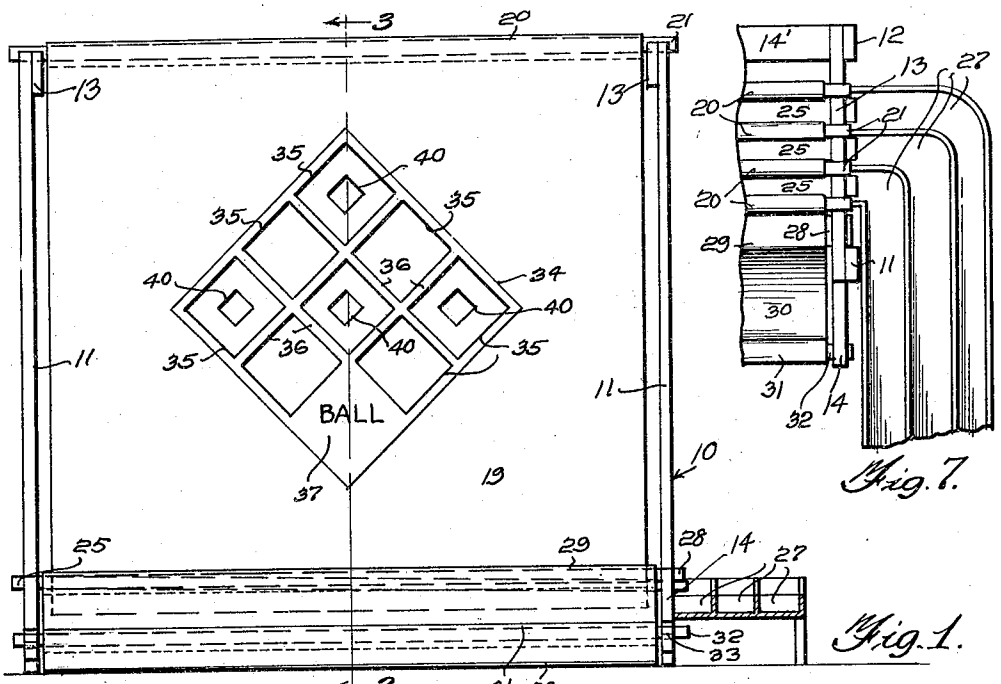


Fig. 1.

Fig. 7.

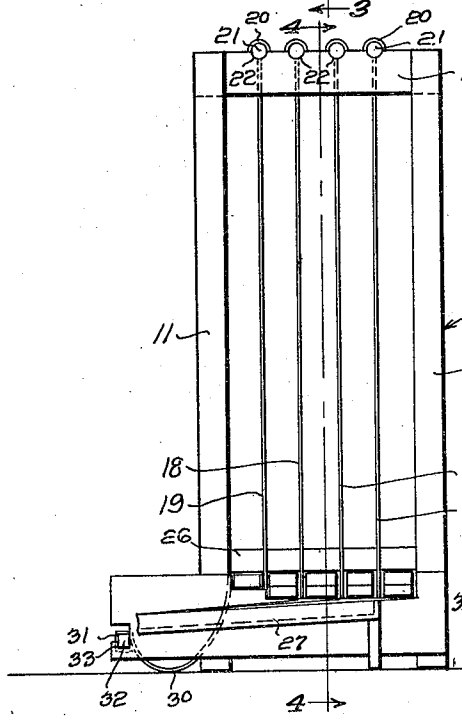


Fig. 2.

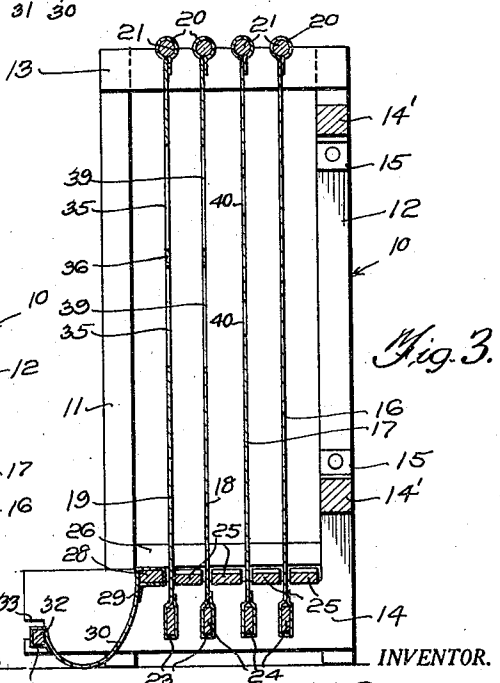


Fig. 3.

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BASEBALL GAME APPARATUS

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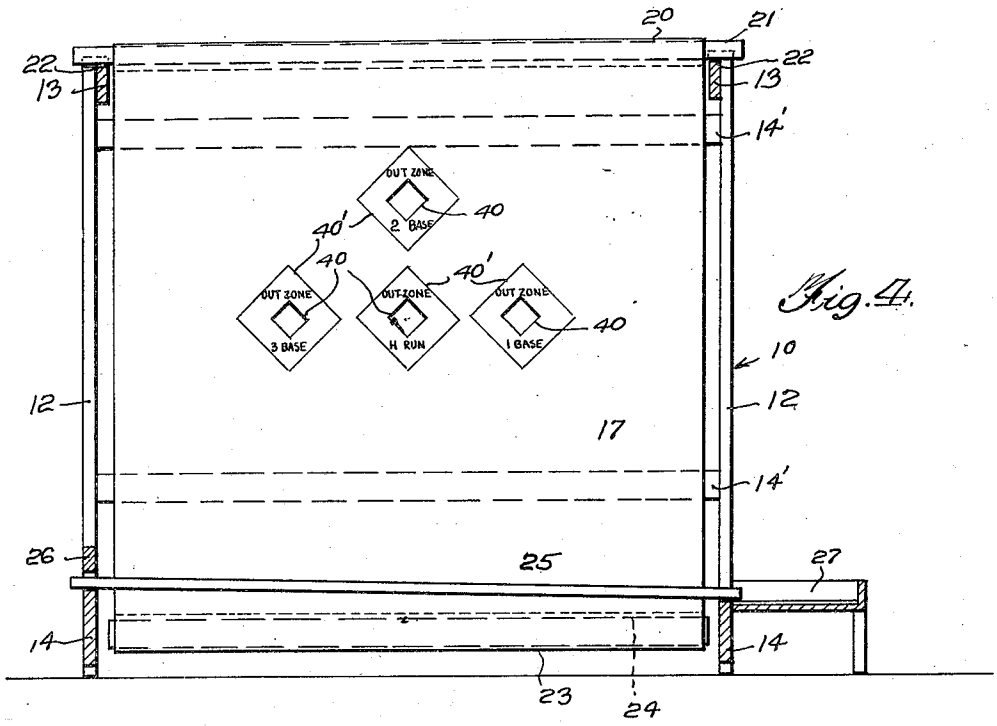


Fig. 4.

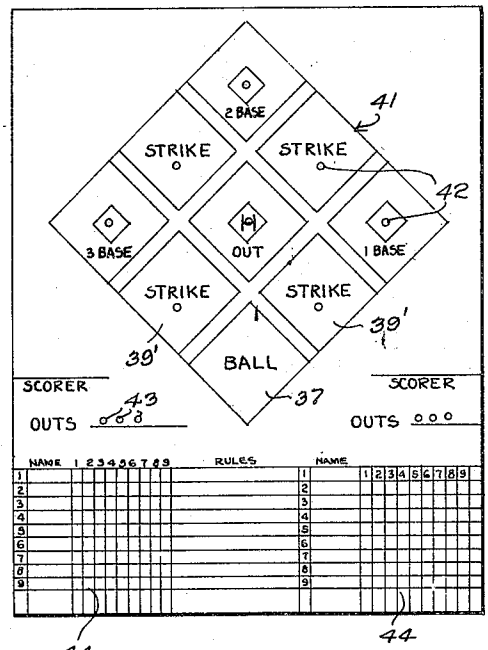


Fig. 6.

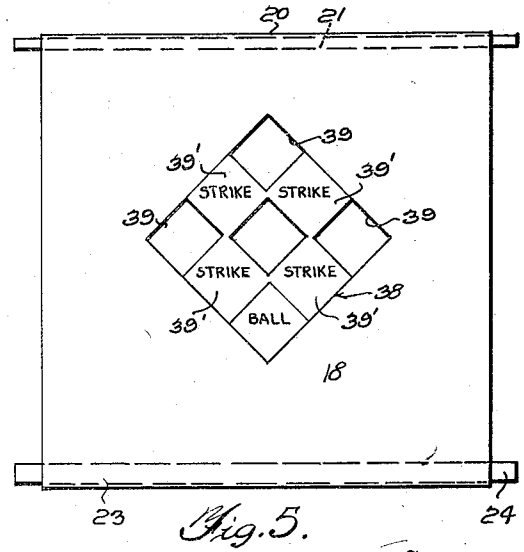


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

WILLIAM W. DEGLER, OF CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

BASEBALL-GAME APPARATUS

Application filed February 4, 1929, Serial No. 337,406. Renewed June 18, 1930.

My invention relates to game apparatus of the aerial projectile type.

In accordance with my invention, I provide game apparatus embodying a target so constructed that projectiles, such as balls, are thrown at the target, in the playing of a game, in accordance with the general rules of playing baseball. The playing of the game is interesting and affords excellent exercise. The target is so constructed that it may be readily separated and assembled and parts thereof may be renewed, if necessary. The target is constructed for the return of the balls, the runways receiving the balls indicating, to some extent, the character of the play.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of game apparatus embodying my invention,

Figure 2 is an end elevation of the same,

Figure 3 is a transverse vertical section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a longitudinal section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a side elevation of one of the curtains,

Figure 6 is a plan view of the score board, and,

Figure 7 is a fragmentary plan view of the ball return raceway.

In the drawings, wherein for the purpose of illustration, is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the support or frame of the target embodies sides 10, each of which includes front and rear posts 11 and 12. These front and rear posts are connected by top strips or bars 13, rigidly attached thereto, and bottom strips 14, also rigidly attached thereto. The rear posts 12 of the sides 10 are detachably rigidly connected by horizontal bars 14′, secured thereto by brackets 15, or the like. By separating the bars 14′, from the sides 10, the frame of the target may be collapsed, for storage in a small space.

The target embodies curtains 16, 17, 18 and 19, formed of canvas or other suitable flexible material. These curtains are provided at their tops with hems 20, receiving rods 21, removably mounted within notches 22, formed in the top horizontal strips 13. At their lower ends, the curtains are provided with hems 23, receiving slats 24, disposed between the strips 14, as shown.

The numeral 25 designates slats, arranged between the curtains 16, 17, 18 and 19, as shown. The rearmost slat 25 is arranged between the curtain 16 and the rear posts 12. The slats 25 have corresponding ends thereof resting upon the lower strip 14 to the left, see particularly Figure 4, with a stationary guard strip 26 arranged above the same. The opposite ends of these slats rest upon the right end strip 14, as shown, and may be held to the strip 14, by any suitable means, such as screws or the like. The strip 14 to the right has its upper surface at an elevation below the upper surface of the strip 14, to the left, and hence the slats 25 are inclined downwardly to the right. These slats co-act with the respective curtains, producing channels through which the balls roll from between the curtains. The slats discharge into separate return runways 27, whereby the balls are fed into separate runways, and by this operation, the character of the play is indicated, to a certain extent.

The numeral 28 designates a slat arranged in advance of the curtain 19, with its ends engaging the upper surfaces of the bottom strips 14, behind the front post 11. The slat 28 may be horizontally arranged. The slat 28 is held within a hem 29, formed upon a section of canvas 30, or the like, provided at its forward end with a hem 31, receiving a slat 32. This slat is held within notches

33, formed in the front ends of the strips 14. The canvas or flexible element 30, forms a trough for catching the balls, which strike the curtain 19, without passing through the same. If desired, a separate return runway may be provided for the pocket 30, or its ends may remain closed by the strips 14, as shown.

The curtain 19 is provided with a diamond shaped figure or design 34, including preferably diamond shaped openings 35, separated by strips 36. The numeral 37 designates a closed diamond shaped zone, completing the diamond shaped design. This "ball" zone 37 is formed by marking the uncut portion of the curtain 19.

The next curtain 18, to the rear, Figure 5, is provided with a diamond shaped figure 38, including diamond shaped openings 39, and diamond shaped "strike" zones 39′. The "strike" zones are formed by the uncut portions of the curtain 18. Certain openings 35 register with the openings 39, while the remaining openings 35 register with the "strike" zones 39′.

The curtain 17, at the rear of the curtain 18, has a group of diamond shaped openings 40, corresponding in arrangement to the openings 39, and in alignment, with the same, but much smaller. The openings 35 and 39 are preferably considerably larger than the balls to be thrown through the same, while the openings 40 are smaller than these openings but are sufficiently large to permit of the passage therethrough of the balls. The openings 40 are surrounded by diamond shaped "out" zones 40′, the same size as the openings 35 and 39. The "out" zones are formed by marking the uncut portions of the curtain 17, as shown. The purpose of making the openings 40 smaller than the openings 39 is to increase the hazard, rendering it more difficult for the balls to pass through the openings 40. The curtain 16 at the middle is regarded as home plate, and the other openings as first base, second base, and third base, as indicated in Figure 4.

In Figure 6, I have shown a score card adapted for use in connection with the target or apparatus. This card has a diamond figure 41, formed thereon, representing the total areas of the combined designs of the curtains 17, 18 and 19. The ball zone 37 of the curtain 19 is marked "Ball". The strike zones 39′ of the curtain 18, are marked "Strike". The openings 40 upon the score board are marked, "H, First base, Second base, Third base", and have apertures 42 for receiving a peg. The score board is also equipped with apertures 43 for receiving a peg for keeping count of the outs, and tables 44 for receiving the names of the players, the number of runs made by each player, and the innings.

In the use of the apparatus, the ordinary rules employed in playing baseball are utilized, as far as possible. The game may be played by two teams, and each team may consist of any suitable number of players, usually from one to nine. The player throws the ball toward the target and continues to pitch until a score has been made, either a strike out or a base, or home run obtained. When the ball is thrown at the target, it may strike the front curtain 19. If it strikes the curtain entirely outside of the diamond shaped design, each throw is counted as a foul, the first two being regarded as strikes.

If the ball strikes the ball zone 37, within the diamond shaped figure, it is counted as a ball, and four of these balls would entitle the player to go to first base. If this occurs, the peg is inserted in the openings 42, Figure 6, indicating that the man has reached first base. The next player proceeds in the same manner, and if the ball is thrown through the openings 35, hitting the strike zone 39′, it is counted as a strike, the ball falling upon the slat 25 between the curtains 18 and 19, and discharging to the return runway. Upon the next throw, if the ball passes through the opening 35 and strikes the out zone 40′, about the openings 40 in the curtain 17, the ball falls upon the slat 25 between the curtains 17 and 18, and this counts as out. This player will have made one strike and then is out. The next player throws the ball and if it passes through the opening 35 and through the second base opening 40, in the curtain 17, a two base hit has been made. The peg at first base will now be advanced to third base and the last player will place his peg at the second base aperture 42. In this manner, each player throwing the ball may either take a base on balls, strike out, become out on a play, or obtain a first, second or third base, or home run play, depending upon through which of the openings 40 his ball is thrown. Each side continues to play until three outs are made, when the other side plays.

It is to be understood that the form of my invention, herewith shown and described, is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape size and arrangement of parts, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention, or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. In game aparatus, a support, a plurality of curtains arranged upon the support in spaced overlapping relation, the front curtain having a plurality of openings through which a ball may be thrown, the remaining curtains having a smaller number of openings each of which is arranged in

substantial alignment with one of the openings in the front curtain.

2. In game apparatus, a support, a curtain having openings for "base" hits with "out" zones surrounding such openings, a second curtain in advance of the first curtain and having larger openings registering with the "base" hit openings and "out" zones and also having "strike" zones, and a third curtain in advance of the second curtain and having openings exposing said openings and "strike" zones of the second curtain.

3. In game apparatus, a support, a curtain having openings for "base" hits with "out" zones surrounding the openings, a second curtain in advance of the first curtain and having larger openings registering with the "base" hit openings and "out" zones and also having "strike" zones, and a third curtain in advance of the second curtain and having openings exposing the openings and "strike" zones of the second curtain, said third curtain also having a "ball" zone.

4. In game apparatus, a support, a curtain arranged upon said support and having ball receiving openings formed therein which represent home, first, second and third bases, a second curtain arranged in advance of the first curtain and having ball receiving openings formed therein which register with the first named ball receiving openings, the second curtain also having "strike" zones arranged near its ball receiving openings, and a third curtain disposed in advance of the second curtain and having ball receiving openings exposing the openings in the second curtain and also the "strike" zones.

5. In game apparatus, a support, a plurality of curtains associated with the support, rods attached to the upper ends of the curtains and engaging the top of the support to suspend the curtains in spaced overlapping relation, certain of the curtains having ball receiving openings, slats removably mounted in the lower portion of the support and arranged upon opposite sides of the curtains to engage with the lower ends thereof to retain them in place and to provide raceways for the balls.

6. In game apparatus, a support, a plurality of curtains associated with the support, rods attached to the upper ends of the curtains and detachably engaging the top of the support to suspend the curtains in spaced overlapping relation, certain of the curtains having ball receiving openings, rods attached to the lower ends of the curtains and arranged within the support, inclined slats removably mounted within the lower end of the support and disposed upon opposite sides of the curtains and co-acting with the lower rods for holding the lower ends of the curtains in place, said slats co-acting with the curtains to produce ball receiving raceways, and separate ball receiving raceways leading from said slats.

7. In game apparatus, a support, a plurality of spaced overlapping curtains arranged therein, certain of the curtains having openings, inclined slats arranged between the lower ends of the curtains and co-acting with the curtains for producing ball receiving raceways, and a trough arranged in advance of the forwardmost curtain.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM W. DEGLER.