March 27, 1945. F. SHACKLEFORD 2,372,608

TARGET GAME

Filed March 8, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

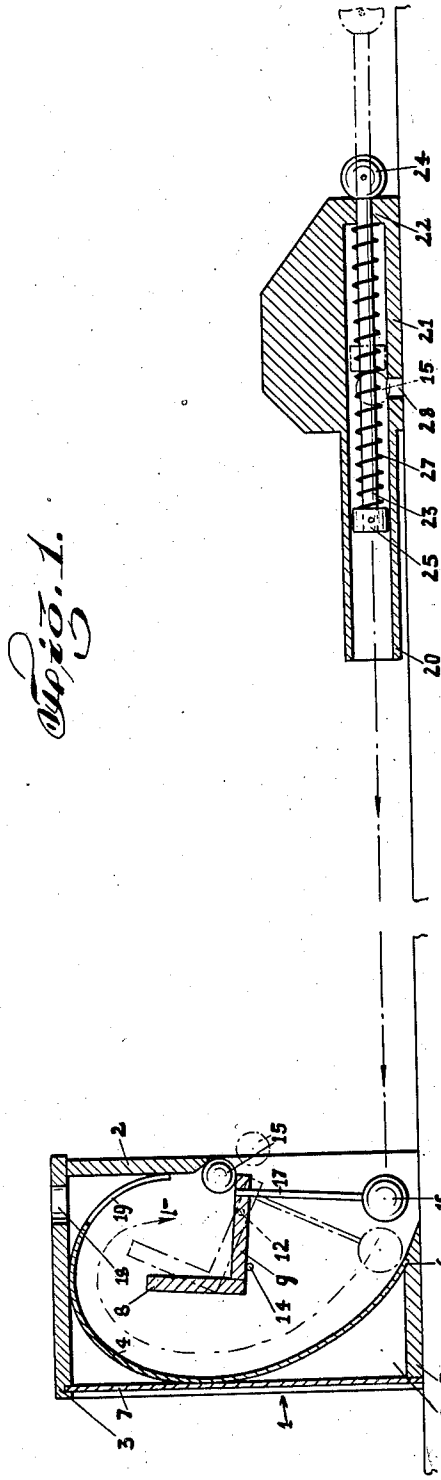


Fig. 1.

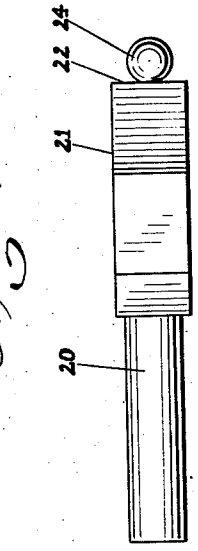


Fig. 3.

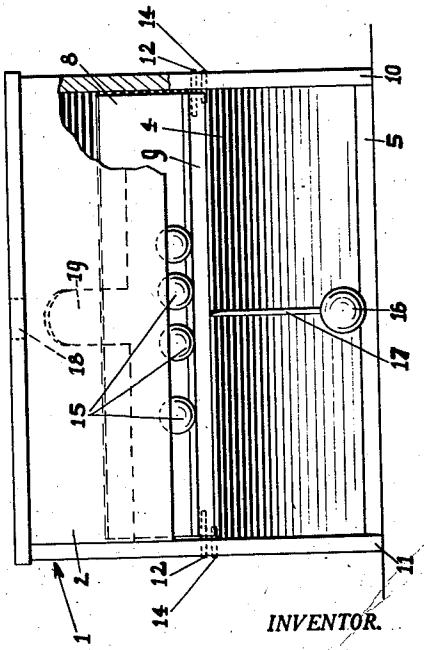


Fig. 2.

INVENTOR.

Forrest Shackleford

BY Henry J. R. Metzler

Agt.

March 27, 1945. F. SHACKLEFORD 2,372,608

TARGET GAME

Filed March 8, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

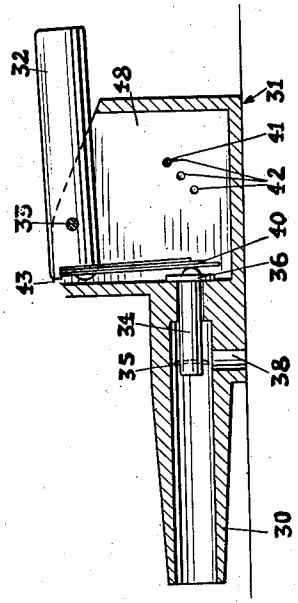


Fig. 6.

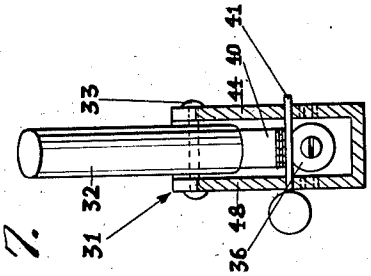


Fig. 7.

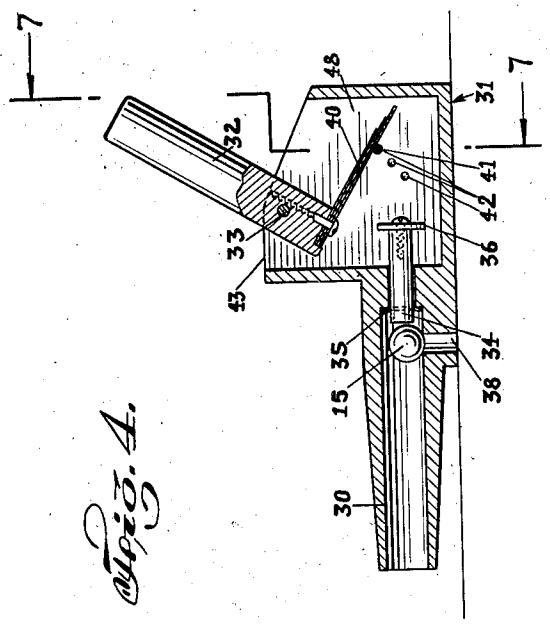


Fig. 4.

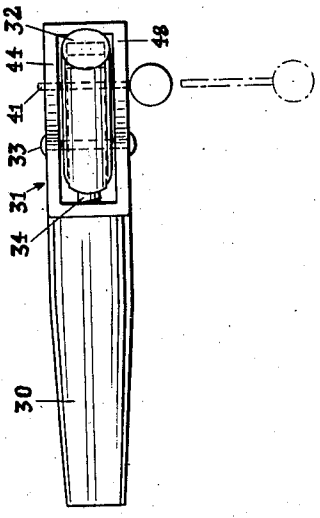


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR.

Forrest Shackleford

BY Henry J. L. Metzler

Agt.

Patented Mar. 27, 1945

2,372,608

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,372,608

TARGET GAME

Forrest Shackleford, New York, N. Y.

Application March 8, 1944, Serial No. 525,534

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—127)

This invention relates to target games and, more specifically, to a new and improved marble target game played by children indoors.

The main object of the present invention is the provision of safe target game for children wherein the marbles which are used as projectiles are confined to a comparatively small area, respectively to the surface of the table or floor on which the game is played, so that they cannot ascend in the air or get scattered all over the floor of the room, since each projectile must be accounted for in the playing of this game, thus preventing accidents from stepping on stray marbles;

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a toy gun to be used in connection with the game and being constructed in such a manner that horizontal adjustment of the gun is sufficient for hitting the target;

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a toy target game of the character described, which is simple and inexpensive in construction but sturdy and well adapted to withstand the rough usage to which such devices are usually subjected.

Yet still another object of the present invention is the provision of a toy target game which can be made primarily of wood, plastic material or the like and which requires very few metal parts.

Further objects of the instant invention reside in any novel feature of construction or novel combination of parts present in the embodiment of the invention described and shown in the accompanying drawings whether within or without the scope of the appended claims and irrespective of other specific statements as to the scope of the invention contained herein.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through a preferred embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the target unit of my invention;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the toy gun unit;

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of a modification of the toy gun unit as it appears before throwing a projectile;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the modification of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a vertical sectional view of the modification of Figs. 4 and 5 as it appears just after the throwing of a projectile; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Referring first to Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the numeral 1 denotes to a casing the front wall 2 of which is extended from the top portion 3 halfway downward so as to leave the lower part of the front portion of casing 1 open. A curved runway 4 is lengthwise extended through the entire casing 1, reaching from its bottom 5 at recess 6 (Fig. 1) to its rear wall 7, to its top portion 3 and to its front wall 2. A trap consisting of an L-shaped longitudinal member, which may be made as a unit or as two longitudinal boards 8 and 9 rectangularly joined together as in the instance shown, is lengthwise extended through runway 4 and is pivotally secured at 12 to the side walls 10 and 11 of casing 1. Pins 14 or any other suitable supporting means hold the member 8—9 normally in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1. In this position, the outer edge of part 9 is only slightly spaced apart from the lower horizontal edge of the front wall 2 so that marbles 15 or any other round projectiles lying upon part 19 are confined to the interior of casing 1. A target, preferably a spherical member 16, is secured to the lower side of member 8—9 by means of a rod 17, and is normally in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1. When target 16 is hit by a projectile, for instance by a marble 15, the target 16 and member 8—9 swing toward the position shown in dash-and-dotted lines in Fig. 1, the projectile hitting the target 16 runs through runway 4 in the direction of arrow 17 and will fall—together with other projectiles already lying on member 8—9—through the open front portion of casing 1. The top portion 3 of casing 1 and the upper portion of runway 4 are provided with registering apertures 18 and 19 respectively, so that marbles 15 can be dropped upon board 9 from above.

In order to facilitate the hitting of the target 16, I prefer to use a toy gun which is to be placed upon the same even surface as is casing 1 at a distance of not more than about twelve feet therefrom, and which is adapted to throw a marble in such a manner that the marble—while being thrown—is at substantially the same distance from said surface as is the target. In this way no vertical adjustment of the gun is necessary, but horizontal adjustment alone is sufficient for hitting the target 16.

I prefer to carry out this feature of my invention in the manner shown in Fig. 3 and in the right hand part of Fig. 1, or according to the modification shown in Figs. 4 to 7 inclusive.

According to Figs. 1 and 3, my improved toy

gun comprises a gun barrel 20 which is preferably formed as a unit with the base portion 31 and the bore of which is extended deeply into portion 21, leaving a comparatively thin rear wall portion 22 through which a rod 23 is extended. A knob 24 is secured to the rear end of rod 23, and a piston 25 is secured to the front end of rod 23. A spiral spring 27 is inserted between piston 25 and the inner side of the rear wall portion 22, and rod 23 is extended through spring 27. A recess or an aperture 28 (Fig. 1) in the lower inside portion of barrel 20 is adapted to hold a marble 15 when rod 23 is pulled out and spring 27 compressed. When rod 23 and knob 24 respectively is released, the force of spring 27 will act upon piston 25 so that the marble 15 will be projected.

According to the modification of Figs. 4 to 7 inclusive, my improved toy gun comprises a gun barrel 30 which is preferably formed as a unit with a casing 31. The casing 31 is open at its top 43, and a lever 32 pivotally carried at 33 within casing 31 projects with its upper portion over the open top 43 of casing 31. A piston or a plunger 34 is slidably arranged in barrel 30, and its movement is limited by means of a pin 35 radially extended through the front portion of plunger 34 and by means of a disk 36 secured to the rear end of plunger 34. Resilient blades 40 are secured to the lower end of lever 32, and a pin 41 is extended through registering apertures 42 in opposite side walls 48 and 44 of casing 31. A recess or an aperture 38 (Figs. 4 and 6) in the lower inside portion of barrel 30 is adapted to hold a marble 15 when lever 32 and plunger 34 are in the position shown in Fig. 4. While lever 32 is being moved from a substantially vertical position (Fig. 4) to a substantially horizontal position (Fig. 6), pin 41 will temporarily resist the movement of the blades 40 so that the blades 40 will be bent during the major part of the movement of lever 32 and will, at the end of said movement, leave pin 41 and hit upon plunger 34 (Fig. 6) thus projecting marble 15.

My improved target game is usually played in the following manner:

Casing 1 is placed on a large table or on the floor, and the toy gun is placed on the same surface at a distance of twelve feet or less from casing 1. The game can be played by any number of persons. Each player must first drop a marble 15 in aperture 18, and each player must supply his own marbles, with which to shoot. The players follow each other in succession, each player shooting a marble at the target 16. Marbles which miss the casing 1 entirely are dropped into the aperture 18. Marbles which miss only the target are carried into the trap 8—9 by the runway 4. When the target is hit, the trap 8—9 opens in the manner previously described and all marbles 15 in it fall out of casing 1 and become the property of the player who hit the target 16. Then the game is started all over again by each player dropping one marble into aperture 18.

It is understood that my improved target game may be further modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, as set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent in the United States is:

1. In a target game, a casing the front wall of which is partially open, a curved runway being arranged within said casing and reaching from the lower portion of the opening in said front wall to the upper portion of said opening, an angle plate lengthwise extended through said runway and pivotally secured to the side walls of said casing in such a manner that its bottom portion is normally in a horizontal position and is slightly spaced apart from the upper portion of said opening, and a target suspended from said angle plate in such a manner that a projectile hitting said target will swing said angle plate around its longitudinal axis so that the projectiles lying upon the normally horizontal portion of said angle plate will fall through said opening, the upper portion of said runway and of said casing having registering apertures for manually dropping projectiles upon said angle plate, all substantially as set forth.

2. In a target game, a casing the front wall of which is extended from the top halfway downward leaving the lower front portion of said casing open, a curved runway lengthwise extended through said casing and reaching from its bottom to its front wall, an L-shaped longitudinal member lengthwise extended through said runway and pivotally secured to the side walls of said casing in such a manner that its bottom portion is normally in a horizontal position and is slightly spaced apart from the lower horizontal edge of said front wall, and a spherical target secured to the lower side of said L-shaped member by means of a rod so that a projectile hitting said spherical target will swing said L-shaped member around its longitudinal axis thereby allowing the projectiles lying upon it to fall through the open front portion of said casing, the upper portion of said runway and of said casing having registering apertures for manually dropping projectiles upon said L-shaped member, all substantially as described.

FORREST SHACKLEFORD.