April 1, 1969 S. A. UNGAR 3,436,081

GAME EQUIPMENT

Filed June 26, 1967 Sheet 1 of 2

FIG. 1.

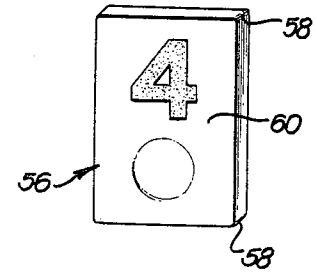
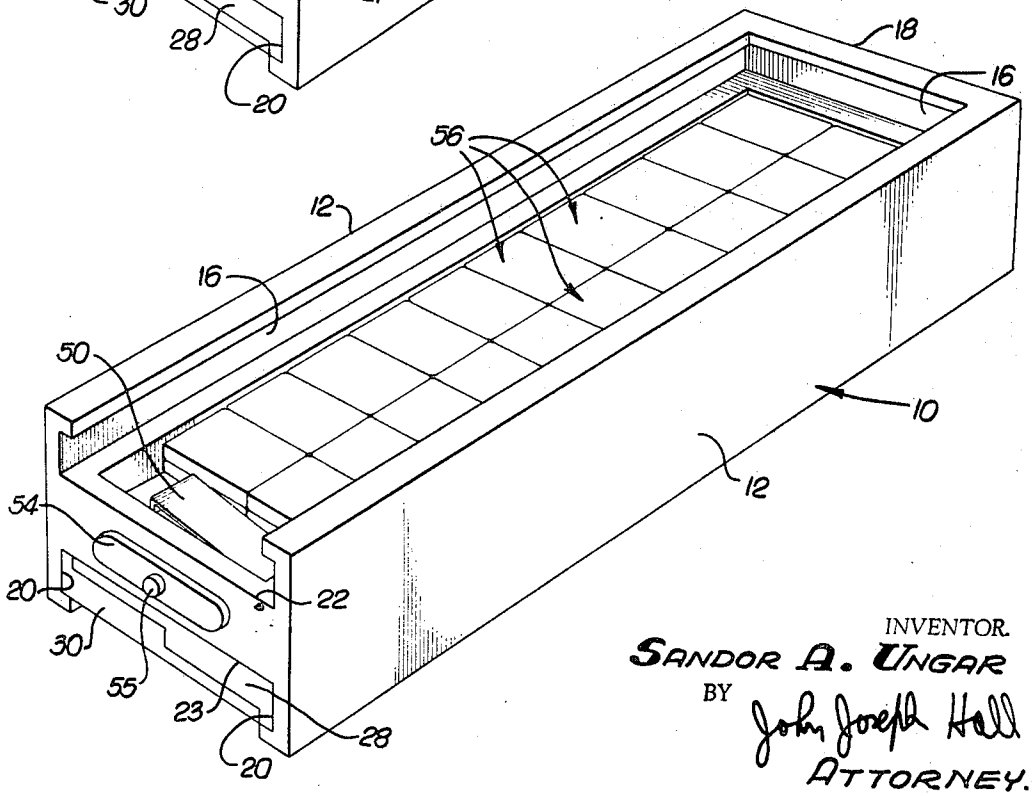


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



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FIG. 4.

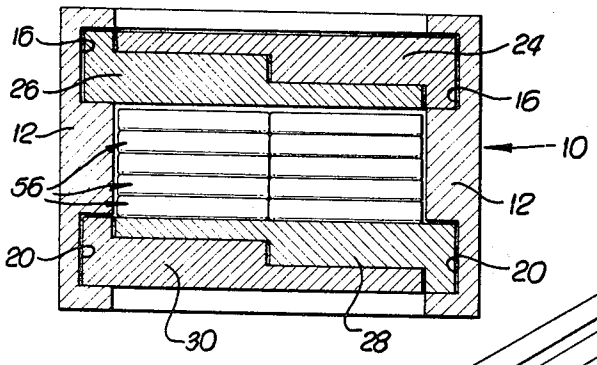


FIG. 5

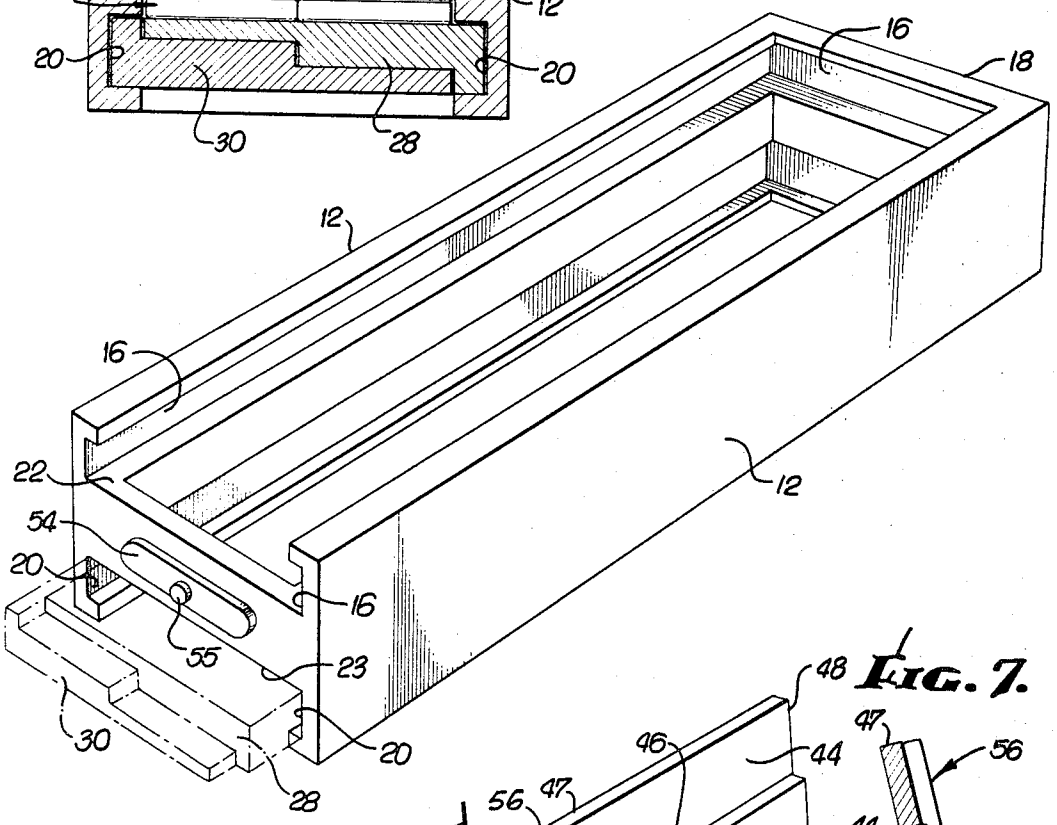


FIG. 6.

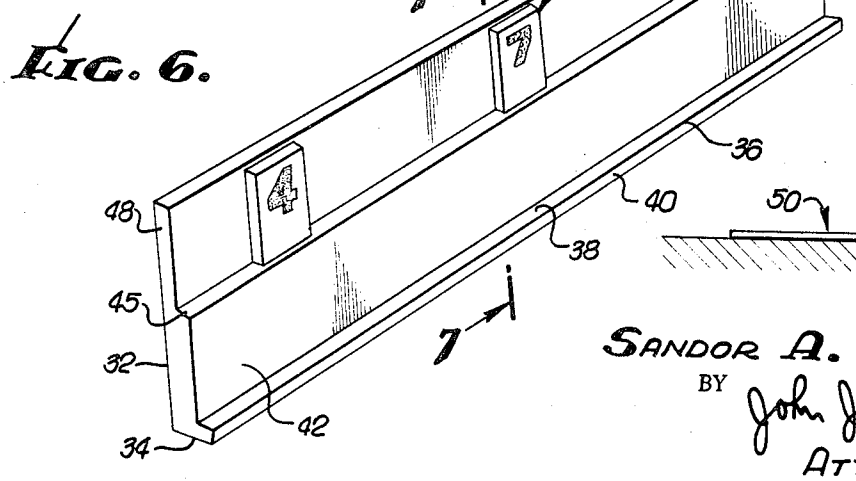
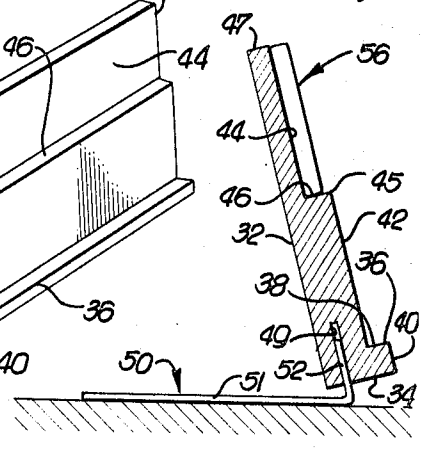


FIG. 7.



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3,436,081

GAME EQUIPMENT

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Int. Cl. A63f 1/10, 9/00; B65d 5/52
U.S. Cl. 273—148 1 Claim

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A plurality of flat oblong pieces bearing various identifications in combination with a rectangular box with interlocking top covers and bottom covers, each cover being formed with bases on their respective bottoms and longitudinal ledges on their respective sides. Upon removal from the box, the covers stand upright and their ledges provide support for, and maintain, the oblong pieces in a substantially vertical position.

Until this invention, conventional game equipment having a plurality of game pieces was relatively complicated to manufacture and to assemble because of the many parts required to construct a suitable container with support features for game pieces.

Further, where a plurality of players are present in a particular game, such conventional game equipment failed to provide containers having a plurality of support members for each player's game pieces, as well as support members which could be readily detached from the containers for the game pieces, and used to maintain the game pieces in a substantially upright position.

Particularly with reference to card games, conventional game equipment failed to provide means by which the cards, or pieces containing identifications similar to cards, could be supported by support members other than a person's hands and fingers, so that other players of the game would be unable to see the hand held by an other player of the game.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide equipment for facilitating the playing of various games, including card games such as rummy, gin rummy, and contract rummy, which employ game pieces bearing various identifications of value.

Another object of my invention is to provide a container for convenient holding of the game pieces used in playing such games.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a container as previously mentioned and formed in part with a plurality of members capable of being detached from the container for use as support means previously mentioned.

A yet further object of my invention is to provide a container to hold game pieces bearing various identifications for playing games, including various card games, which pieces are relatively easy to manufacture, handle, and store in the container.

These and other objects will be more readily understood by reference to the following specification and claim, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which—

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one of the pieces bearing an identified value to be used in conjunction with box elements.

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of an embodiment of my invention illustrating a box with top and bottom covers in place.

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURE 2 with the top covers of the box removed and showing the game pieces stored therein.

FIGURE 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a view similar to FIGURES 2 and 3 but with the top and bottom covers and game pieces removed.

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of a box cover in upright position and supporting game pieces for use in playing a game.

FIGURE 7 is a section taken on line 7—7 of FIGURE 6.

With respect to the drawings, the game equipment includes a generally rectangular box member **10** open at its top and bottom, and with parallel side walls **12** and parallel ends at right angles to the side walls **12**. The side walls **12** have longitudinal grooves **16** in their upper interior surfaces. A corresponding groove **16** is formed in the upper interior surface of end **18** of the box member **10**.

Longitudinal grooves **20** are formed in the lower interior surfaces of sidewalls **12**, as well as in the lower interior surface of end **18** of the box member **10**.

End **21** of the box member **10** has its top edge **22** on the same level as the bottom portion of grooves **16** and its lower edge **23** at the same level as the top portion of grooves **20**.

The game equipment includes two mutually interlocking top covers **24** and **26** to close the top of box member **10** and two mutually interlocking bottom covers **28** and **30** to close the bottom of box member **10**. Each of the four covers **24**, **26**, **28**, and **30**, is interchangeable with each other in closing the box member **10** and in actual use in playing games with the game equipment.

Covers **24**, **26**, **28** and **30**, each have a generally flat back surface **32** and a flat longitudinal base **34** which is formed at right angles to back surface **32**. The back surface of base **34** is planar with back surface **32**.

The front portion of base **34** is formed into a shelf **36** with a generally level top surface **38** and bottom surface **39** formed at right angles to the front side **40** of shelf **36**. The front side **40** of shelf **36** is generally parallel to the back surface **32** of the covers.

The covers have a lower front surface **42** and an upper front surface **44**. The lower front surface **42** begins at the back of shelf **36** and is parallel to the back surface **32** and has its top portion formed into a recessed horizontal ledge **45** which is parallel to the shelf **36**. Ledge **45** has a top surface **46** which is level and formed at right angles to lower front surface **42**.

Upper front surface **44** begins at the back of ledge **45** and is parallel to back surface **32** and has a level top **47** formed at right angles to back surface **32** and upper front surface **44**.

Sides **48** of the covers are flat and are at right angles to the back surface **32** and to the lower front surface **42** and to the upper front surface.

Covers **24**, **26**, **28**, and **30**, each have a slit **49** in the bottom of base **34** to receive a base stabilizing member **50**. The base stabilizing member **50** is preferably formed with a flat shank member **51** terminating at one end in a flange **52** inclined toward the shank **51** at a suitable angle less than **90** degrees.

End **21** of box **10** has a securing or stop member **54** pivotally mounted at **55** to maintain the covers **24**, **26**, **28**, and **30** in position when assembled inside the box. Various other means may be used to secure the covers inside the box **10**. The box **10**, covers **24**, **26**, **28**, and **30**, the stabilizing member **48**, and stop member **54**, each may be made from any suitable material, such as wood, various plastic materials, metal, and the like.

As shown in the drawings, the game pieces **56** are preferably oblong in shape, with rounded corners **58**, and parallel flat surfaces **60**. Various methods may be

used to indicate values for the game pieces **56** in playing various types of games. The game pieces **56** are adapted for compact storage in the box **10** as shown in FIGURE 3 of the drawings and for placement in a substantially vertical position on a cover as shown in FIGURE 6. The game pieces **56** may be made from any suitable material such as wood, various plastics, metal, or cardboard, and the like.

In operation, the box **10** may be used initially as a storage means for the game pieces **56**. Bottom covers **28** and **30** are superimposed, one on the other, as shown in FIGURES 2, 3, 4, and 5, so that the lower front surface **42** of one cover contacts the upper front surface **44** of the other cover, with the top surfaces **46** of each ledge **45** in contact with one another. In this position, the two bottom covers **28** and **30** form an oblong with bases **34** on each side and sides **48** forming ends of the oblong. In this position, the two bottom covers **28** and **30** may be inserted in grooves **20** to close the bottom box **10**. Game pieces **56** may then be stacked in rows on the top of the bottom covers **28** and **30**.

Covers **25** and **26** are then superimposed in the same manner as covers **28** and **30**, and then inserted in grooves **16** to close the top of box **10**. The securing member **54** is then placed in a vertical position to maintain covers in place.

To play a game, the box **10**, initially fully closed with game pieces **56** stored therein, is opened by moving the securing member **54** from its vertical position securing the box covers, to a horizontal position permitting removal of covers **24**, **26**, **28**, and **30**. The covers are then placed in a substantially vertical position, and the stabilizing members **48** are preferably placed in the slits **46** for greater stability of the covers in an upright position.

The game pieces **56** are then removed from the box **10** and are stacked face down in the desired number of stacks for playing the particular game desired. The box **10** will hold at least **52** individual game pieces **44** and more, thereby providing at least as many playing pieces as a standard deck of playing cards.

Since the covers receive as many individual game pieces **44** as there would be playing cards held in a person's hand, the use of my invention obviates the use of a person's hand for holding cards in playing card games. Thus, persons using my game equipment have their hands and fingers completely free for other uses, and can then concentrate better on the game without concern for dropping cards being held in their hands.

Since my invention preferably uses game pieces **56** with identifying symbols on one side only, a player using my invention may turn his game pieces over to prevent disclosure of his game pieces to other players.

After the game is over, the bottom covers **28** and **30** may be readily re-inserted as before in grooves **20** of box **10**, the game pieces **56** then stored in box **10**, the top covers **24** and **26** re-inserted into grooves **16**, and the securing member **54** moved to a vertical position, thereby securing the covers and contents of box **10**.

The fully assembled game equipment may be then readily transported to another location for re-use as desired.

Although I have described my invention in detail with reference to the accompanying drawing illustrating a preferred embodiment of my invention, it is understood that numerous changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A generally rectangular box member with an open top and open bottom and having parallel side walls and parallel ends at right angles to said side walls, said side walls and one end having upper longitudinal grooves in their upper interior surfaces, and lower longitudinal grooves in their lower interior surfaces;

two interchangeable top covers, each having an upper and lower front surface and a generally flat back surface and a flat longitudinal base formed at right angles to the back surface and into a shelf, said back surface being planar with the back of said base, and a horizontal ledge at the top of said lower front surface above and parallel to said shelf, said top covers being interlocking and capable of being superimposed one on the other so that the lower front surface of one cover is in contact with the upper front surface of the other cover, with their respective bases parallel to each other and insertable into said upper longitudinal grooves in the upper interior surfaces of said side walls and end to close the top of said box;

two interchangeable bottom covers, each interchangeable with each top cover and each having an upper and lower front surface and a generally flat back surface and a flat longitudinal base formed at right angles to the back surface into a shelf, said back surface being planar with the back of said base, and a horizontal ledge at the top of said lower front surface above and parallel to said shelf, said bottom covers being interlocking and capable of being superimposed one in the other so that the lower front surface is in contact with the other front surface of the other cover, with their respective bases parallel to each other and insertable into said lower longitudinal grooves in the lower interior surfaces of said side walls and end to close the bottom of said box;

and means for securing said top and bottom covers in position when inserted into said grooves after game pieces have been stored inside said box member.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

273—150; 206—1; 220—41