Sept. 5, 1933. F. E. HUMMEL 1,925,924

GAME DEVICE

Filed March 2, 1933

Fig. 1

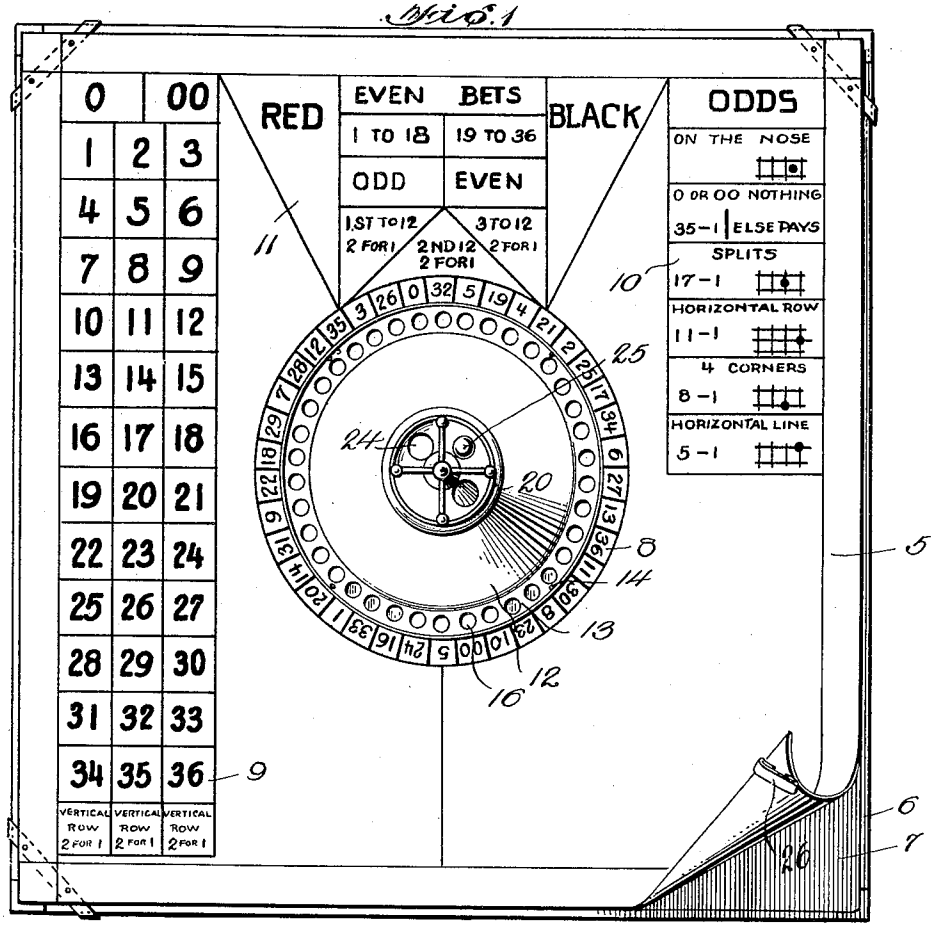


Fig. 2

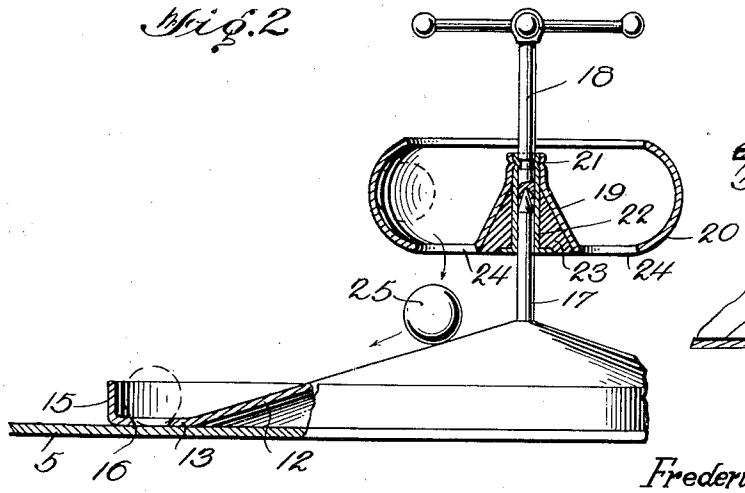


Fig. 3

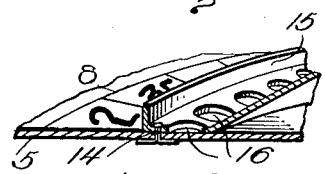
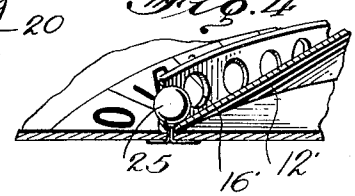


Fig. 4



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GAME DEVICE

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10 Claims. (Cl. 273—142)

My invention relates to improvements in game apparatus of the type in which a spherical game piece, such as a marble, is gravity released from a freely rotatable cup mounted at the apex of a stationary conical playing surface, the perimeter of the conical surface being formed to provide a stop for the gravitating marble and to retain the same in a definite scoring position relative to an annular series of markings upon a relatively flexible sheet, to which the conical device is secured and held in playing position. In the accompanying drawing the annular series of markings on the sheet take the form usually printed upon a roulette wheel and in playing the game, the rules governing the playing of roulette may be followed.

One of the objects of my invention is the provision of an extremely simple and portable game device for the playing of roulette, said device being formed in part by a rectangular flexible sheet having securing means at the corners for cooperation with the corners of a card table of usual construction, the sheet serving as a playing cover for the table and providing centering and supporting means for a relatively rigid gravity controlled device with respect to the four sides of the table.

A further object of my invention is to provide, in combination with a card table cover having a game playing surface, a gravity controlled chance device having a stationary conical ball gravitating surface and an annular series of pockets cooperating with said surfaces, whereby matter printed upon the table cover around the gravitating surface bears a direct scoring relation to each of the pockets of said device.

The above and other aims and objects will be apparent from the detailed description hereinafter appearing, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of my game device in playing position upon a card table top; one of the corners of the device being shown turned back upon itself to illustrate the means for securing it to a corner of the table;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view in side elevation, of the central portion of my game device, with parts in section to illustrate the travel of the spherical game piece from a concealed position within the rotatable cup, under the influence of centrifugal force, to a position of rest in a scoring pocket at the periphery of the conical gravitating surface;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view partly in section of a peripheral portion of the gravitating surface and adjacent playing surface to which it is secured, showing in perspective the relationship of the printed matter upon the playing surface to the ball receiving pockets, and;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 of a slightly modified form of my invention showing the ball receiving pockets formed by aperturing the marginal ball retaining flange at the base of the conical gravitating surface.

In the embodiment of the device shown in the drawing, the playing surface 5 may consist simply of a rectangular sheet of cardboard, or other suitable relatively flexible material, of a size to fit within the marginal flange 6 of a card table top 7. Printed around the center of the sheet is an annular series of numbers 8, each enclosed within adjacent blocks of contrasting colors, or if desired, the numbers may be printed alternately with red and black ink to provide additional plays which may be made upon the playing surface in playing the game. At one side of the sheet is also printed three parallel rows of lines which are intersected by rows of lines extending at right angles thereto providing boxes 9, each having a number and color corresponding to a similar number of the circular series 8. In playing the game the players may place their game counters within the confines of these printed lines, or upon the lines if two or more numbers are being played with a single game piece, as indicated by the charts 10, printed on the opposite side of the sheet 5.

Intermediate the rows of numbered boxes 9, and charts 10, may be printed additional rows of boxes 11, for plays other than upon the numbers of the circular series 8, such as "red", "black", "odd", "even", etc., which greatly enhances the interest and educational value of the game.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that all the printed matter required to designate both points and plays in the playing of the game is produced by a simple printing operation upon the single planate surface of the sheet 5, which greatly reduces the cost of manufacture and also functions to aid the players in following and comparing the points and plays from various positions about the table upon which the sheet is stretched by corner securing means later to be described.

At the central portion of the rectangular sheet 5, is located a hollow conical member 12, the annular base portion 13, of which rests upon the sheet, adjacent the inner periphery of the annular series of printed numbers 8. Pins

or rivets 14, shown in Figs. 1 and 3, serve to secure the cone to the sheet 5, at points opposite the four corners of the sheet for a purpose hereinafter explained.

In Figs. 1, 2 and 3 the base 13 of the cone is shown flattened radially to provide an alleyway which rests upon the sheet and terminates in an upturned annular guard flange 15, the flattened surface of the base being formed with an annular series of apertures 16; there being an aperture for each of the numbers of the adjacent annular series of printed numbers upon the sheet 5. By reference to Fig. 2 it will be noted that the apertures 16 are closed at their bottoms by the underlying material of the sheet 5, providing pockets adapted to receive and hold a gravity projected ball or marble in a definite scoring position relative to the radially disposed series of numbers upon the sheet.

While the game may be successfully played by simply tossing a small ball or marble upon the conical surface of the member 12 from which it will roll by gravity into one of the scoring pockets 16, I have devised a novel chance controlled means for dispensing a ball at an unknown radial point adjacent the apex of the cone 12 after retaining the ball concealed for a sufficient period of time for the players to complete their plays upon the printed areas 9 or 11 of the sheet 5, which greatly adds to the amusement and interest of the game. For this purpose I have mounted at the apex of the conical member 12 a vertical guide pin 17 which is pointed at its upper end to provide an antifriction bearing for the conical recessed end of a vertical rotary spindle 18 affixed centrally within the reentrant bottom 19 of a cup-like member 20. As shown in Fig. 2, the upper end of the reentrant central bottom portion 19 is crimped as at 21 into a groove in the side of the spindle 18 from whence the material of the cup extends downwardly and outwardly about the pin 17, then curving upwardly and inwardly to provide curved sides 20, terminating in an open top surrounding the spindle 18.

To maintain true alignment between the spindle 18 and its supporting pin, when spinning the cup from the spindle and during rotation thereof, a sleeve 22 may be secured between the reentrant bottom portion and spindle, as at 21, so as to freely embrace the sides of the guide pin 17, and the space between the sleeve and bottom portion 19 may be filled with a weighty substance, such as lead 23. The bottom of the spinner cup 20 is further formed with one or more apertures 24, each of a diameter slightly greater than that of the playing ball 25.

In playing the game the cup 19 is spun by the spindle 18 and the ball 25 dropped into the open top of the cup. Under centrifugal action of the spinning cup the ball is thrown outwardly and against the curved sides of the cup where it is held concealed from the players, as indicated in dotted lines, until the speed of the cups rotation drops below that which will sustain the weight of the ball. The ball then drops through one of the openings 24 upon the conical surface 12 while the cup is still rotating and rolls to the guard flange 15 where it settles into one of the pockets 16.

To insure proper gravitation of the playing ball 25 in all radial directions on the conical ball rolling surface 12, it is important that the chance device be held against movement and supported in perfectly level position. It is also important in positioning the device for plays by a number of persons that it be held at the center of the supporting table around which the persons may be grouped.

To these ends the relatively rigid conical member 12 is secured at four symmetrical points around the center of the sheet 5, the points of connection being opposite the corners of the sheet as formerly described, and at each of the corners of the sheet is secured a strap of elastic material 26. The straps 26 are adapted to be sprung under the adjacent corners of the table top 7 whereby to draw and stretch the material of the sheet between the corners of the table and center and level the relatively rigid change device with respect to the sides of the table.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a modified construction of ball rolling and scoring device in which the flattened pocketed alleyway is done away with. In this form the combined ball retaining and guard flange 15′ is formed by upturning the marginal portion of the material of the cone 12′ immediately at the base of the cone, instead of radially spaced therefrom, and by aperturing the flange at closely spaced intervals adjacent the cone as indicated at 16′. The apertures 16′ are of a diameter slightly less than that of the playing ball 25 so that the ball rolled upon the inclined surface of the cone is caused to settle into one of the apertures and project beyond the flange into clearly visible position over a number space of the annular printed series 8 on the sheet 5.

While I have described and shown but a few embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that it is capable of many modifications. Changes, therefore, in the construction and arrangement may be made which do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as disclosed in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A game board device comprising a flat sheet of flexible material having an area thereof provided with means to designate points in playing the game, and a conical game piece gravitating surface immovably carried upon said sheet, the area designating the points being disposed annularly with respect to said conical surface.

2. A game board device comprising a flat sheet of flexible material having an area thereof printed to designate points in playing the game, a conical game piece gravitating surface immovably carried upon said sheet, the area designating the points being disposed annularly with respect to said canical surface, and game piece retarding means between said last mentioned area and conical surface.

3. A game board device comprising a sheet of flexible material having means for detachably securing the same over a plane surface, said sheet bearing indicia designating points in playing the game, a conical game piece gravitating surface secured to said sheet, the indicia designating the points being disposed annularly with respect to said conical surface, game piece retarding and holding means between said last mentioned indicia and conical surface, and a gravity controlled game piece projector supported above the apex of said conical surface.

4. A game board device comprising a flexible sheet of material having a relatively rigid game piece gravitating portion inclined with respect

to the surrounding area of the sheet, and game piece scoring means on said sheet and surrounding said inclined portion.

5. A chance game device comprising a rectangular flexible sheet having means to detachably secure the same over the top of a card table, said sheet having an area thereof printed to designate points in playing the game, and a gravity controlled device having ball receiving pockets, said device being secured to said sheet with the pockets thereof adjacent the printed area, whereby to provide scoring means for said pockets.

6. A game device comprising a sheet of flexible material having means for detachably securing the same over a plane surface, said sheet being provided with scoring means disposed annularly with respect to its center, and a conical game piece gravitating surface secured to the sheet within the area surrounded by the means.

7. A game device comprising a sheet of flexible material having means for detachably securing the same over a plane surface, said sheet being provided with scoring indicia disposed annularly with respect to its center, a conical game piece gravitating surface secured to the sheet within the area surrounded by the indicia, and an annular series of pockets disposed intermediate the indicia and the perimeter of the conical surface.

8. A game device comprising a sheet of flexible material having means for detachably securing the same over a plane surface, said sheet being provided with scoring indicia disposed annularly with respect to its center, a conical game piece gravitating surface secured to the sheet within the area surrounded by the indicia, an annular series of pockets disposed intermediate the indicia and the perimeter of the conical surface, and game piece retarding means between the series of pockets and indicia.

9. A game device comprising a sheet of flexible material having means for detachably securing the same over a plane surface, said sheet being provided with scoring indicia disposed annularly with respect to its center, a conical game piece gravitating surface secured to the sheet within the area surrounded by the indicia, an annular series of pockets disposed intermediate the indicia and the perimeter of the conical surface, game piece retarding means between the series of pockets and indicia, and a gravity controlled game piece projector supported above said conical surface.

10. A game device comprising a rectangular flexible sheet having corner means for detachably securing the sheet over a card table top, said sheet being provided with scoring indicia disposed annularly with respect to its center, a game piece gravitating means, and means disposed in line with the diagonally opposite corners of the sheet for securing said gravitating means to the sheet within the area surrounded by the indicia.

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