

987,151.

Patented Mar. 21, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

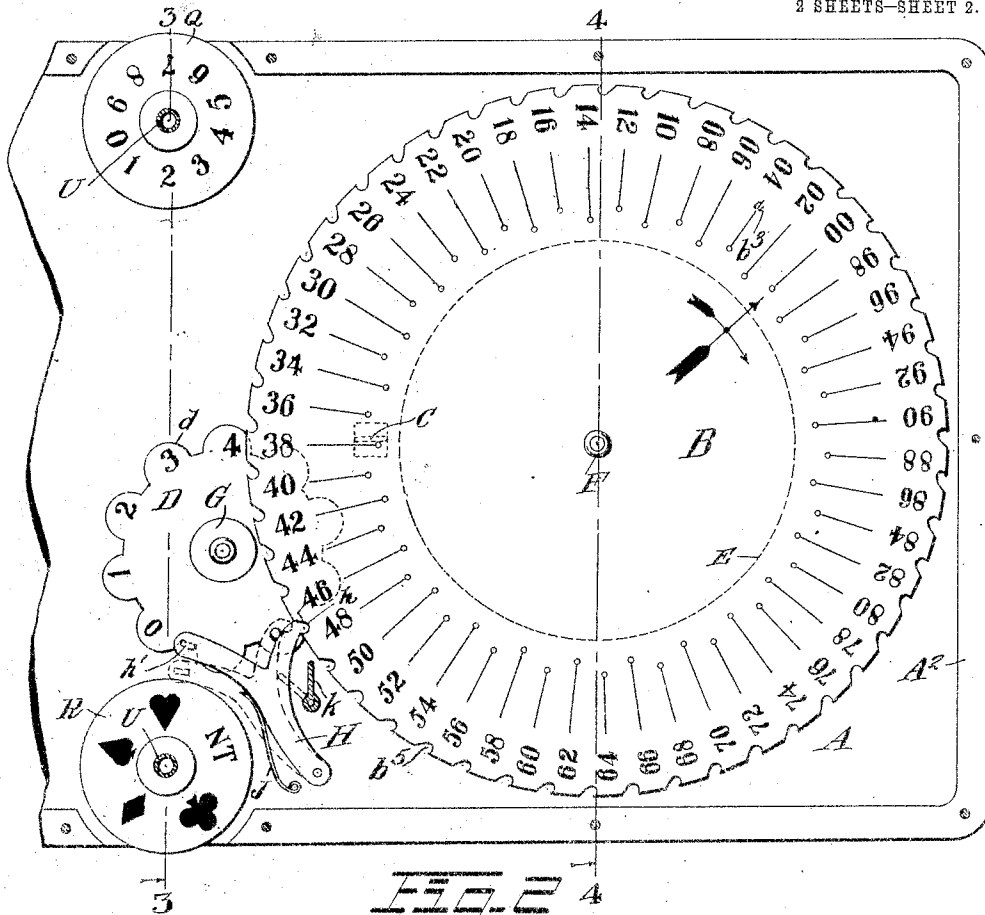


Fig. 2

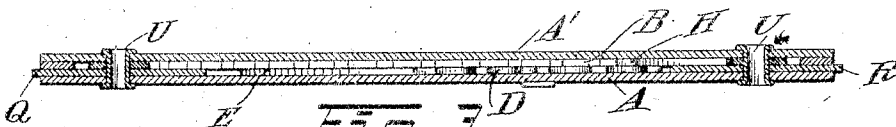


Fig. 3

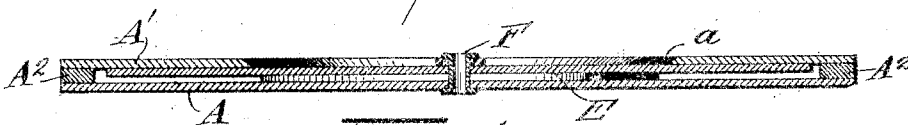


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOLMES MARSHALL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GAME-COUNTER.

987,151.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 21, 1911.

Application filed April 16, 1908. Serial No. 427,452.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HOLMES MARSHALL, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Game-Counters, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple and efficient mechanical adder for counting and showing game scores.

My adder is well adapted for showing bridge whist scores, for example. When so arranged it has one portion adapted to count the points and another to count the honors. It is arranged so that it shows at once the movement required to make the proper addition for any particular number of tricks or combinations of honors without requiring any computation whatever. It is provided with a lock so that the score may not be tampered with or inadvertently changed.

My counter is arranged to be made in the form of a flat structure adapted to lie conveniently on the table. It may be made of paper or metal, or other material as desired.

The above mentioned features of my invention and others will be apparent from the following more detailed description of a preferred embodiment thereof.

The drawings clearly illustrate my invention.

Figure 1 is a plan of my counter in a preferred form; Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan of the right hand half of the counter with the top plate removed; Figs. 3 and 4 are cross sections on the lines 3-3 and 4-4 of Fig. 2 respectively; Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view of a portion of the indicator shown in the lower left hand portion of Fig. 1; Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a stop for the movable dial.

As shown in the drawings, the frame of my counter consists of a base plate A, a top plate A', and a suitable intermediate separator A² located adjacent to the edge of the base and top plates. The base and top plates are fastened together by suitable pins passing through the separating border,

wherefore there is provided a flat hollow frame.

Within the flat hollow frame are mounted two dials, one, indicated by B, for scoring the points, and the other B' for scoring the honors. Each dial stands behind a circular opening *a* or *a'* in the top plate A' which is somewhat smaller than the dial. Formed on the top plate adjacent to the edge of this circular opening are indications of the series of numbers running from 0 to 100. Preferably only even numbers are shown, as there is no combination in bridge whist giving an odd score. Every even number from 2 to 98 inclusive is preferably printed in this series, while for convenience, the figures 0 or 100 may be omitted. Each dial is divided, near the edge of the portion which shows, into a number of equal spaces by marks *b* which equal in number the indications on the top plate, that is, fifty indications.

Formed through the top plate adjacent to the dials opposite the 100 or zero position are suitable windows *a²* and *a²*, these windows overlapping the dials. On the outer periphery of the dials in such position as to be visible through the corresponding window as the dials are turned are a series of numbers comprising all the even numbers from 2 to 100 arranged in the same order as the figures on the top plate, that is, the series increase as one goes in a direction contra-clockwise.

At the inner end of each of the dividing marks *b* on the dials are small openings *b'* and secured to the base plate A opposite the 100 or zero position on the frame is a suitable block C which stands in the path of any pin or stylus which may be projected through any of the openings *b'*. The stop C may be formed in any suitable manner, as, for example, a metal clip, such as shown in Fig. 6, which has prongs *c* projecting through the base plate, the center portion of the clip thus extending upward from the upper side of the base plate, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

It will be seen from this construction that if a dial B or B' stands with its opening "zero" showing through the window, and a

suitable stylus be inserted in any of the holes b' (for example, the hole opposite the numeral 8) and the dial be moved by such stylus in a clock-wise direction until the stylus abuts against the stop C, a corresponding amount (8 in this instance) will show through the window. Now, with "8" showing through the window, if the stylus be again inserted at the numeral 8 on the top plate and the dial shoved forward again until the stylus abuts the stop, the numeral visible through the window will be 16, and so on; so that the figure showing through the window will be the sum of the successive amounts indicated by the initial position which the stylus occupies.

The apparatus so far described would be effective for adding up to 100. To allow higher additions, I provide carrying wheels. There is one of these for each dial, one of them being shown in Fig. 2, and designated D. Each wheel has ten teeth or projections d on its periphery numbered respectively from zero to 9, any of which numbers is adapted to show through the corresponding window a'' or a' , alining with the figures on the corresponding dial which show through that window. A suitable pin b'' (Fig. 2) is carried by each dial on its under side and is adapted to engage one of the teeth d and turn the adding dial one tooth whenever the main dial passes from 98 to 100. By this means 100 is added to the amount showing through the window whenever the dial makes a complete rotation, and the total amount is read as one number. For example, as shown in the right hand portion of Fig. 1, the dial B has made four complete rotations and an amount corresponding to 38 on the fifth rotation.

The counting dials B and B' preferably lie adjacent to the top plate A', being held up by a suitable washer or filler E beneath them. The journaling of these dials may be accomplished by an eyelet F. The adding dials preferably extend beneath the main dials and have suitable fillers G above them.

To provide against any inadvertent or improper shifting of the dials, I provide a suitable lock. This comprises a pawl H (Fig. 2) which is pivoted to the base plate and has a nose h adapted to enter any of the notches b'' which are formed in the peripheries of the dial, one adjacent to each number thereon. The pawl also has a suitable pin h' which is adapted to stand between the teeth d on the adding dial. The pawl is normally held by a spring J in this position, as shown in full lines in Fig. 2. With the pawl in this position, both the main dial and the adding dial are locked. The pawl, however, may be turned back into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2,

where it releases both the main dial and the adding dial. To so turn the pawl back, a suitable key is required, which consists of a thin blade or pin k projecting from a suitable stem or shank which is adapted to be inserted through the key-hole a'' in the top plate. Fig. 2 shows this arrangement for the dial B only, but an identical construction is provided for the dial B'.

In order to enable my counter to show at once just how much the dials shall be turned for each number of odd tricks or each combination of honors held, I print or otherwise form on the top plate adjacent to the numbers referred to the various combinations which may give that number. Thus, one odd in spades counts 2, so that opposite the figure 2 on the points scorer, I print the numeral 1 with the pictorial character of a spade. Similarly, opposite the number 8, I print 4 spades, 2 clubs, and 1 heart, since such number of odds in the respective suits would give 8. Opposite 12, I print 6 spades, 3 clubs, 2 diamonds, and one "no trumps," which latter I indicate by "N T." This system is carried throughout for each suit or for "no trumps," and for each number of odds from 1 to 7, so that it is not necessary for the scorer to figure up what the tricks amount to, as he can read directly on the indicator and score accordingly. Thus, for example, if one is fortunate enough to have 7 no trump odds, he at once places the stylus in the hole opposite the mark "7 N T," that is, opposite 84, and swings the dial around clockwise until the stylus stops by engaging the stop C. The pictorial indication is carried out also on the honor indicator, the picture of the different suits with the number held being placed opposite the amount which such honors count. Thus, 3 spades is opposite the figure 4; 4 spades and 3 clubs opposite the figure 8; 5 spades opposite the figure 10. 4 spades in one hand would count 16, and to indicate this I form on the picture of the spade, a circle about the figure 4. 4 spades in one hand and one in the partner's would count 18, and this I indicate by forming on the spade picture the figure 4 and a circle with the character "1 P." 5 spade honors in one hand, counting 20, are designated by the figure 5 with a circle around it on the spade. This is shown more clearly in Fig. 5. The same system of indication is carried out for the other suits.

In addition to the suit honors, are the no trump honors. 3 no trumps count 30, 4 no trumps count 40, and 4 no trumps in one hand—100, these being indicated by the characters 3 N T, 4 N T, and 4 N T within a circle respectively. There is also the amount of 20 to be added for a "little slam"

and 40 for a "big slam." These are indicated by the characters "L S" and "B S" opposite the numbers 20 and 40 respectively.

It will be seen that with each of my dials the amount which the various points or honors count need not be calculated, but the sum may be scored directly. Or, if one does make the mental calculation and score by the addition of definite numbers, by my dials, the pictorial representations form a check on the numbers. In any event, all chance of error is done away with, not only in allowing the right value for the tricks or honors but also in the addition itself. If desired, the points at the end of each game may be added to the honor score and the points dial set back to zero. Thus at the end of the evening the honor indicator will show at a glance the total score, and the delay in adding columns is accordingly avoided. In bridge whist tournaments or contests all the scoring can be done by one appointed scorer, who keeps the key for releasing the various dials. Thus the scores have an official character which would otherwise be lacking.

If desired, I may add to my counter suitable dials showing the number of games played and showing what the trump is. These dials are indicated by Q and R respectively. They are held between the top and bottom plates by suitable eyelets U. They project beyond the edges of the frame so that they may be conveniently turned by one's finger engaging their periphery. The indication on these dials shows through suitable openings or windows a'' and a' on the top plate.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a game counter, the combination of a member having thereon progressively arranged pictorial representations of the score value to be added, of a member movable with respect to the first member and provided with numerical indications arranged similarly to the pictorial representations.

2. In a game counter, a support and member mounted on the support and having thereon progressively arranged pictorial representations of the score value to be added, of a member mounted on the support and movable with respect to the first member and provided with numerical indications arranged similarly to the pictorial representations.

3. In a game counter, the combination of a member provided with an index point, and having thereon pictorial representations progressively arranged according to their score value, of a member movable with respect to the first member and having similarly arranged numerical indications where-

by the indication on the movable member adjacent to the appropriate pictorial representation may be moved to the index point to add the score.

4. In a game counter, the combination of a member provided with an opening, and having thereon pictorial representations progressively arranged according to their score value, of a member movable with respect to the first member, and having thereon similarly arranged numerical indications, the said numerical indications being in line with the opening in the first member, and means upon the second member adjacent each numerical indication, which means is adapted to be engaged to move the same opposite the opening in the first mentioned member.

5. In a game counter, the combination of a top plate having a circular opening, there being a series of pictorial representations around the said opening, progressively arranged according to their score value, a dial behind such opening, a series of numbers formed on said dial and progressively arranged similarly to the pictorial representations, and means for moving the various numerical indications upon the said dial adjacent an indexing point.

6. In a game counter, a combination with a member having thereon pictorial representations of the value of the odds in the various suits, of a member movable with respect to the said member and provided with numerical indications similarly arranged to the pictorial representations.

7. In a whist counter, a combination of a member having thereon progressively arranged pictorial representations of the score value of the honors in the various suits, of a member movable with respect to the first member and provided with numerical indications arranged similarly to the pictorial representations.

8. In a bridge whist counter, a combination of a top plate having two circular openings therein, and each provided with an index point, there being a series of pictorial representations progressively arranged according to their score value, of the odds in the various suits around one of such openings, and a series of pictorial representations progressively arranged according to their score value of the honors in the various suits surrounding the other of the openings, dials behind each of the openings, there being a series of numerical indications formed upon each of the said dials whereby the indications on the dials adjacent the appropriate pictorial representation may be moved to the index point to add the score.

9. In a bridge whist counter, the combination of a top plate having two circular open-

ings therein, dials behind such openings respectively and extending beyond them, a series of even numbers formed on the top plate adjacent to each opening, corresponding marks on each dial, and two series of pictorial representations for the different suits and holdings therein opposite the corresponding numbers on the top plate respectively,

one of such series being for points and the other for honors.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HOLMES MARSHALL.

Witnesses:

R. McCANCE,
PETER P. BECK.