Nov. 9, 1943. J. J. HICKEY 2,334,092

MACHINE FOR PLAYING GAMES

Filed June 10, 1942 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

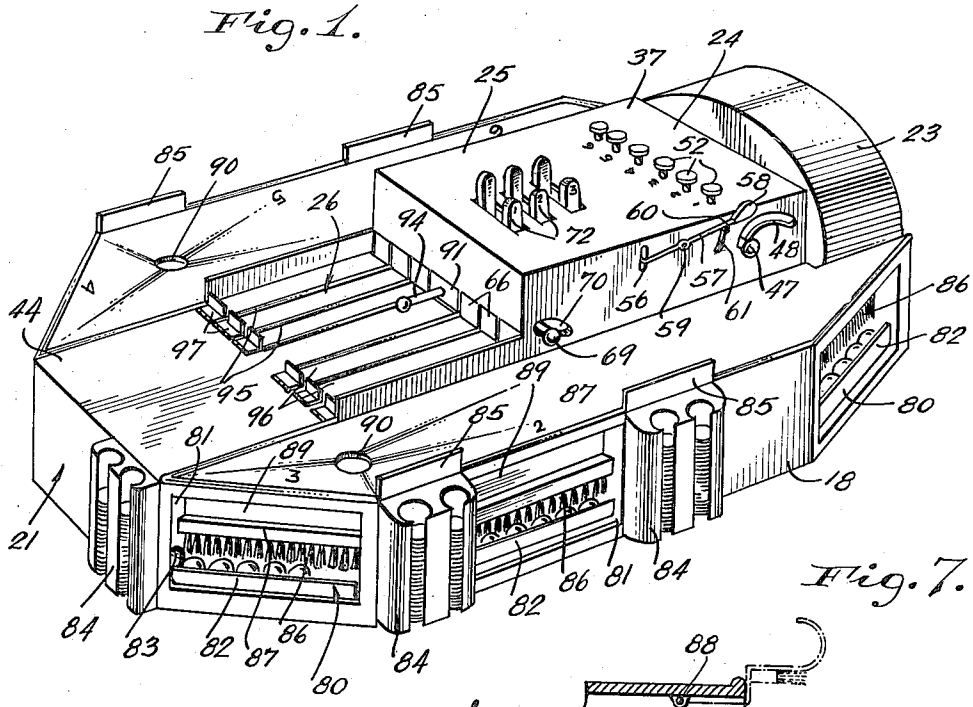



Fig. 7.

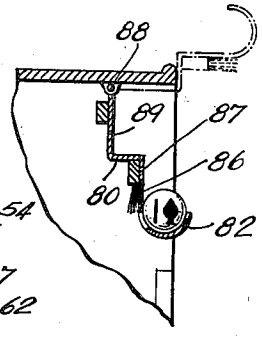



Fig. 4.




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Filed June 10, 1942 4 Sheets-Sheet 2

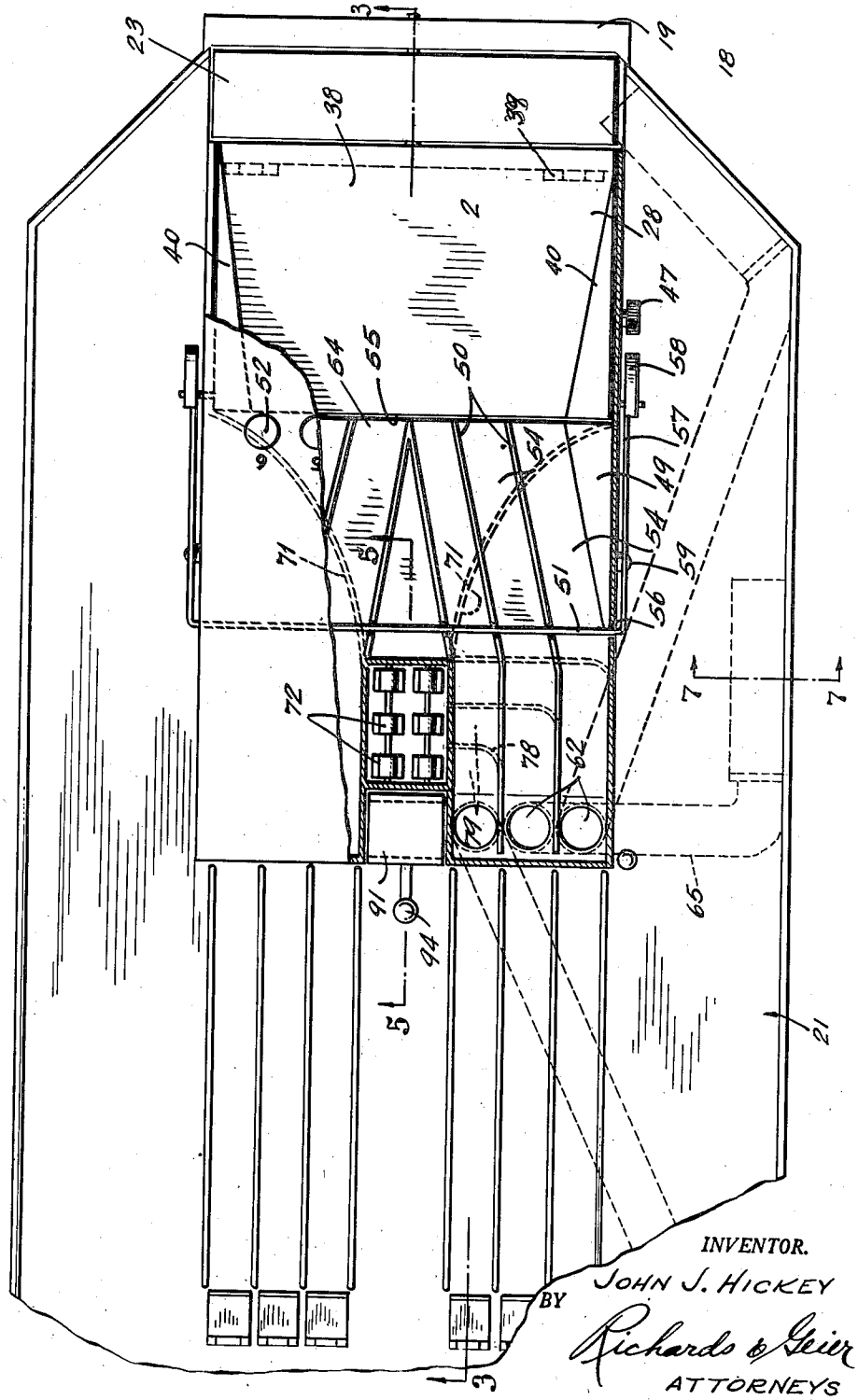



Fig. 2.

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MACHINE FOR PLAYING GAMES

Filed June 10, 1942 4 Sheets-Sheet 3

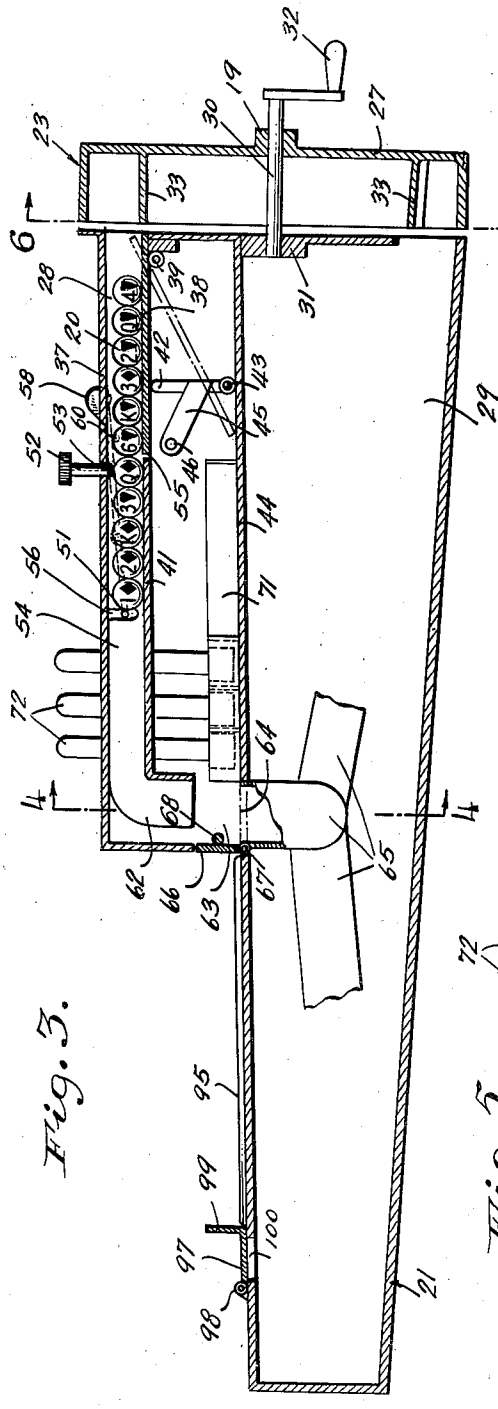


Fig. 3.

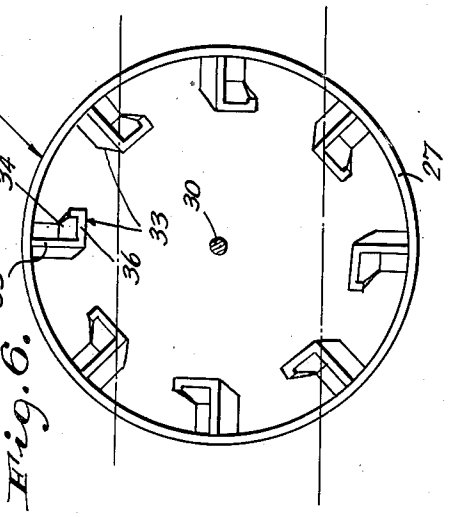


Fig. 6.

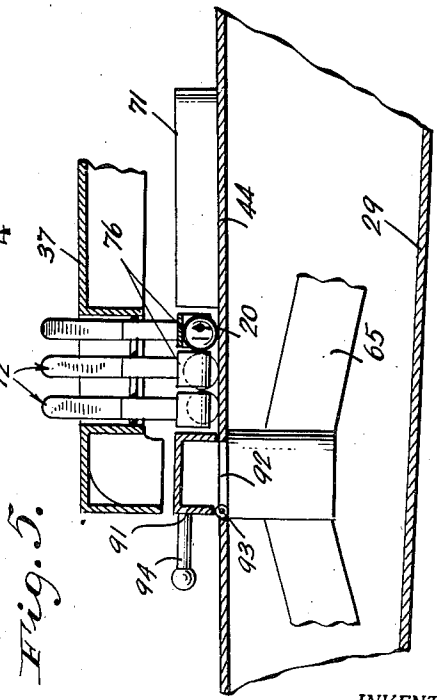


Fig. 5.

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Nov. 9, 1943. J. J. HICKEY 2,334,092

MACHINE FOR PLAYING GAMES

Filed June 10, 1942 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

Fig. 8.

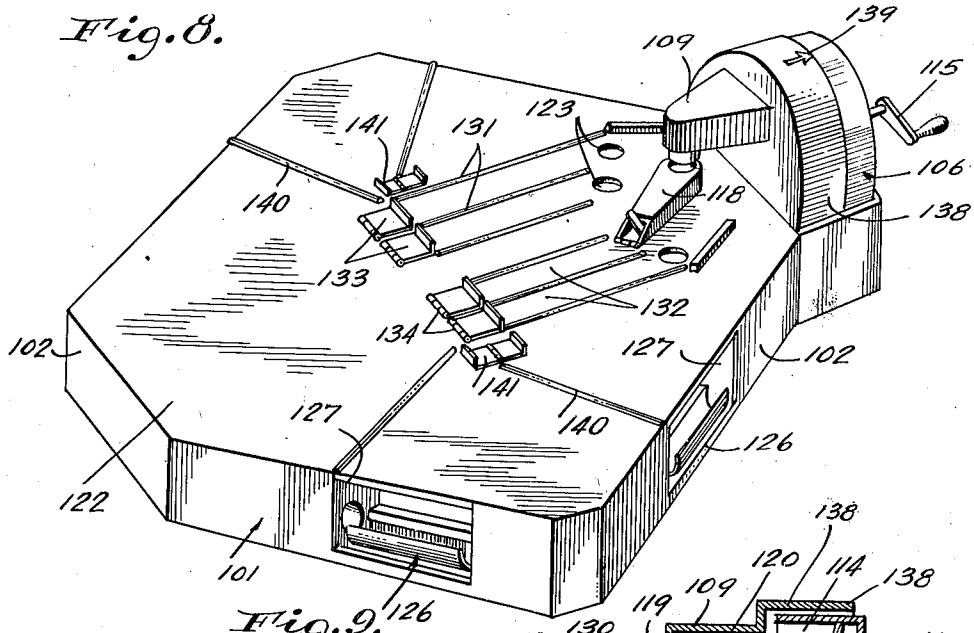



Fig. 9.

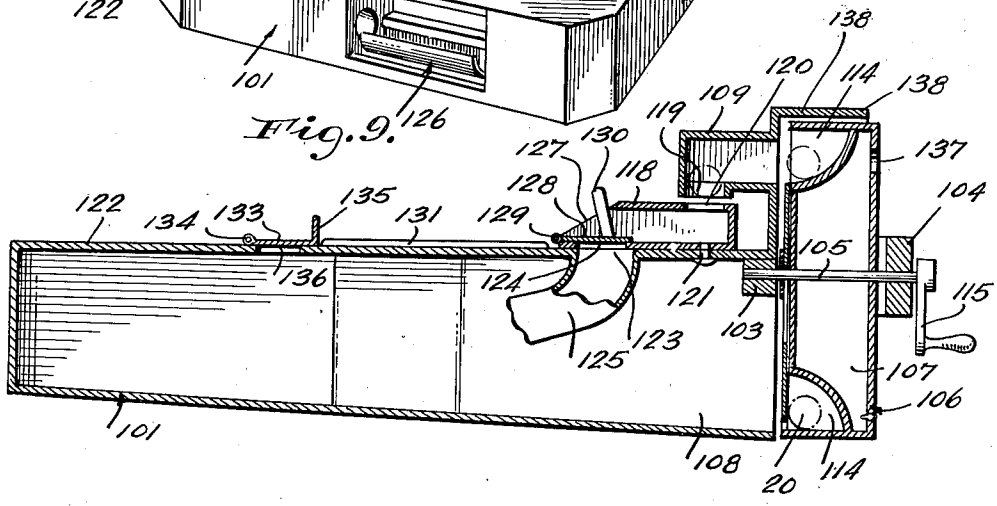
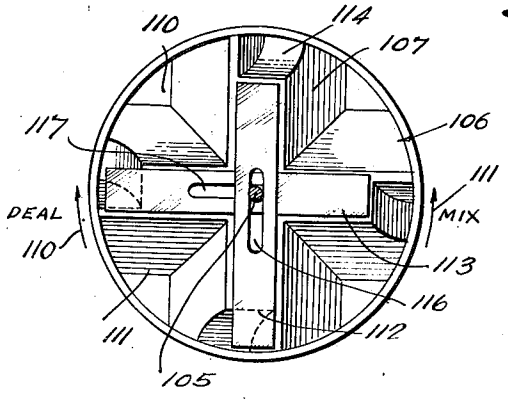



Fig. 10.




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Patented Nov. 9, 1943 2,334,092

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,334,092

## MACHINE FOR PLAYING GAMES

John J. Hickey, Arlington, N. J.

Application June 10, 1942, Serial No. 446,424

12 Claims. (Cl. 273—148)

This invention relates to games and refers more particularly to a machine for playing poker and similar games which are usually played with a deck of 52 or 53 playing cards.

An object of the present invention is the provision of a game playing machine which can be conveniently used by crippled or aged persons, or persons afflicted with various nervous ailments, who are unable to hold, shuffle or deal playing cards, for the purpose of playing various games similar to those which are played by means of cards.

Another object is the provision of a novel and entertaining substitute for card games, consisting of a machine the operations of which replace various manipulations which must be carried out in the course of a card game.

A further object is to substitute playing cards by units which are not affected by ordinary winds, thus making it possible to play card games outdoors, for instance, on lawns, beaches and decks of moving steamships.

A still further object is to eliminate slow and monotonous shuffling and dealing of playing cards which afford undue advantages to players with long practice, and to substitute therefor a more rapid, efficient and uniform machine-shuffling and machine-dealing of playing units.

Yet another object is to eliminate the inefficient and inconvenient manual shuffling and dealing of two decks necessary in various card games, such as stud poker, and to substitute therefor efficient and convenient shuffling and dealing of units equivalent to two decks of cards.

Still another object is to provide an entertaining departure in card games which is most suitable for a head table at poker and bridge parties.

Other objects of the present invention will become apparent in the course of the following specification.

In accomplishing the objects of the present invention it was found desirable to provide a table carrying a wheel wherein the mixing of balls or other rotary elements serving as a substitute for cards takes place. The rolling of the balls, which constitutes a most important feature of the games, is caused by gravity. The balls are introduced by the wheel into various channels which lead to the places occupied by players in the course of the game, these places being provided with suitable pockets or holders for the balls which are concealed from other players, as well as with means discarding one or more of these balls and means showing the winning balls to other players prior to the discard. The table is provided with suitable means enabling the player to draw additional balls. Furthermore, the table is provided with channels visible to the players wherein balls may be accumulated, thereby making it possible to play stud poker, as well as draw poker. Various parts of the table are provided with inclined surfaces returning the balls to the mixing wheel.

The invention will appear more clearly from the following detailed description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings showing, by way of example, preferred embodiments of the inventive idea.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a table or machine constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top view with a part of a casing removed.

Figure 3 is a longitudinally section along the lines 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a transverse section along the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal section along the line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a transverse section along the line 6—6 of Figure 3.

Figure 7 is a transverse section along the line 7—7 of Figure 2.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a somewhat differently constructed poker playing machine.

Figure 9 is a longitudinal section through the machine shown in Figure 8.

Figure 10 is a section through the mixing wheel illustrated in Figures 8 and 9.

The machines shown in the drawing are used to play games similar to those played by cards. Playing cards are substituted by balls 20 which may be made of wood, ordinary or magnifying glass, porcelain, plastics, ivory, cement or any other suitable material. The balls may be made in convenient sizes ranging from three-quarters of an inch to one and one-half inches in diameter and may be of four colors which are a well recognized component of ordinary playing cards, namely, black for spades, blue for clubs, red for hearts and white or ivory for diamonds. The balls are numbered, lettered and decorated in a manner similar to that provided on playing cards, possibly with the additions of luminous markings and the effects of magnifying glass.

Figures 1 to 7 of the drawings show a poker playing machine constituting the top 21 of a table. The table may be made of wood and metal parts,

or it may be made wholly or in combination of metal, plastics or other suitable materials. The shape of the table may be varied to suit different requirements. Obviously the table may be substituted by a case or a box.

The table top 21 shown in Figure 1 is about forty two inches long and twenty four inches wide with places for three players on each of the two longer sides, these places being designated by numerals 1 to 6.

When using the machine, the dealer of the poker game is substituted by an operator. The players in the first and sixth locations are in positions enabling them to operate the machine conveniently and any player can assume the operation by shifting to one of these two positions.

The top of the table 21 has inclined surfaces directed toward openings 90 which lead to a hopper 29 constituting the bottom of the table.

The machine comprises a mixing wheel 23, a device 24 for allocating the hands, a device 25 for dealing additionally drawn playing balls and a device 26 which forms open channels for the balls and which may be used in the game of stud poker.

The mixing wheel 23 is illustrated in greater detail in Figures 3 and 6 and comprises a casing 27 which has an open side directed toward the table, so that the interior of the wheel is always in communication with a ball-transmitting chamber 28 constituting the highest position of the balls, and the hopper 29 for returning the balls. The junction of the hopper 29 and the wheel 23 constitutes the lowermost position of the balls which roll by gravity within the machine from the highest position to the lowest position and are raised by the wheel 23 from the lowest position to the highest position.

The casing 27 of the wheel is rotatable along with its shaft 30 which is mounted in supports 19 and 31. The support 19 has the form of an elongated horizontally disposed body the two ends of which are joined to the side walls 18 of the main casing of the machine. The support 31 constitutes an inner vertical wall of the main casing. The crank 32 is used to rotate the shaft 30 and the casing 27 connected therewith.

The rim of the casing 27 carries a plurality of baffles 33 each of which has a straight portion 35 and a hook-shaped portion 36 provided with a surface 34 which is inclined in the direction toward the chambers 28 and 29 of the table.

The wheel 23 may be rotated in opposite directions and may contain a large number of balls 20. When the wheel is rotated in one direction, the baffles 33 will lift the balls which rest in the casing, various heights up to six inches and project them on top of the mass of balls in the hopper and will rotate the whole mass thus mixing them thoroughly. When the wheel is rotated in the opposite direction, the hook-shaped portions 36 of the baffles 33 will raise the balls while continuing to mix them. Due to the inclination of the surfaces 34 upon which the balls rest, they will be able to roll conveniently into the chamber 28.

The distributing devices 24 and 25 are enclosed by a casing 37. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the balls 20 which are led by guides 40, roll upon a platform 38 which is attached by hinges 39 to a vertical wall constituting a part of the machine casing.

The swingable platform 38 is held in a position in which it is somewhat inclined and in alignment with an immovable platform 41, by a lever 42 which is hinged at 43 to a lower platform 44 of the machine. The immovable platform 44 is also somewhat inclined. The lever 42 is connected with arms 45 carrying a rod 46 which is provided with a knob 47 (Figure 1). The rod 46 carrying the knob 47 extends through a curved slot 48 which is formed in a side wall of the casing 37.

In the position shown in Figures 1 and 3, the knob 47 is in the left-hand end of the slot 48 and the platform 38 is supported by the lever 42. When the knob 47 is moved manually into the right hand end of the slot 48, the lever 42 will be swung upon its hinges 43 and will lower the platform 38 which swings downwardly upon its hinges 39.

The upper immovable platform 41 carries guides 49 and partitions 50 which form six separate channels 54. The use of the partitions or rods 50 having edges which are sharp at the end like pencil points at the entrance to the channels, permits considerable latitude and flexibility in the shifting of the rolling balls 20 into the channels. The discharge from the baffles 33 of the wheel 23 is only a few balls at a time, and repeated blows of succeeding small lots of balls tend to overcome clogging of the channel entrance and to fill each channel 54. The maximum capacity of the six channels 54 is thirty balls, leaving twenty two balls upon the inclined platform 38. A rod 51 may extend across the channels 54 above the platform 41 to serve as a convenient stop for the balls rolling down the platform. The location of the rod 51 is preferably so selected that each of the channels 54 will hold five balls situated upon the platform 41 and extending from the outer edge 55 of the movable platform 38 to the rod 51.

Six pins 52 are carried by the top of the casing 37 and carry stops 53. Each of the stops 53 may be situated in a separate channel 54 directly in front of the outer edge 55 to prevent the balls 20 from reaching the channels 54. All the pins 52 are raised to withdraw the stops 53 from the channels 54 when six players participate in a game. However, when there is a smaller number of players, so that a number of locations marked 1 to 6 in Figure 1 is unoccupied, the pins 52 provided with corresponding numerals are depressed and then their stops 53 will prevent balls 20 from reaching the corresponding channels 54.

When balls of a smaller diameter are used, the length of the channels 54 is adjusted to ensure that five balls will be located in each channel.

The rod 51 extends through slots 56 provided in a side of the casing 37. A lever 57 has one end connected with the protruding end of the rod 51, while the opposite end of the lever 57 carried a weight 58. The lever 57 is mounted intermediate its ends and outside of the casing 37 upon a pivot 59 which is carried by the casing 37.

The platform 38 carries a supporting rod 60 which extends through a slot 61 provided in a side of the casing 37. In the position of the platform 38 shown in full lines in Figure 3, the rod 60 extends directly below the lever 57, so that it will support the lever 57 in the position shown in Figure 1.

When the knob 47 is moved to the right hand end of the slot 48, the lever 42 and the platform 38 will swing downwardly, the rod 60 moving

along with the platform 38. Thus the lever 57 will not be supported any more by the rod 60 and the weight 58 will move downwardly, turning the lever 57 about its pivot 59 and moving the rod 51 upwardly out of its position across the channels 54.

Each of the channels 54 is in communication with a separate vertical upper passage 62. Passages 63 are situated directly below the tubes 62, and enclose openings 64 in the platform 44 (Fig. 4). Six inclined tubes 65 lead from the openings 64 to the six locations marked 1 to 6 and assigned to the six players. Thus the hands of five playing units which are customarily used in playing draw poker are allocated and counted accurately and the balls are transmitted to the players from the channels 54.

The front of the casing 37 includes six doors 66 (Figs. 1 and 3) which are attached by hinges 67 to the platform 44 and which are situated close to the six passages 63. The doors 66 are interconnected by a rod 68 one end of which carried a knob 69 and extends through a slot 70 provided in a side of the casing 37. In the illustrated position, the doors do not interfere with the passage of the balls toward the tubes 65. However, the doors may be swung downwardly by shifting the knob 69 to the right hand end of the slot 70 (looking in the direction of Figure 1), and then the doors 66 will close the openings 64. As will be described hereinafter, this arrangement is utilized in the game of stud poker.

The dealing device 25 is mounted mainly upon the lower fixed platform 44. It includes two converging guides 71 leading toward six selector keys 72 marked 1 to 6, respectively. Each key 72 has an elongated body 73 which extends upwardly through a slot 74 formed in the top of the casing 37 (Fig. 4). The body 73 is pivoted at 75 intermediate its ends and its lower end has the form of a semi-cylindrical member 76 which is wide enough to hold a ball 20 situated upon the platform 44. The keys 72 are held in the illustrated positions by springs 77. The space directly beneath each key 72 is in communication with a separate passage 63 by means of guides 78 forming channels 79 (Fig. 2). The semi-cylindrical holders 76 are of such dimensions and are so located, that each of them may receive one ball directed by the guides 71. The channels 79 are so arranged that each key 72 will discharge its ball into a separate channel when the key is turned inwardly about its pivot 75. The channels 79 lead to passages 63 and are so disposed that a channel 79 ending at the key marked "1" is in communication with that passage 63 which communicates with the tube 65 leading to the location marked "1," and so forth. Thus a turning of each key 72 will deliver an additional ball to the location bearing the same number as the key which has been turned.

Six holders 80 are situated at the locations marked 1 to 6 which are assigned to the players or contestants (Fig. 1). These holders are located in windows 81 provided in the side walls 18 of the table 21. Each holder includes a channel or ball carrier 82 which extends across the window 81 and one end of which is situated directly below an opening 83 communicating with a tube 65. Thus the balls 20 transmitted by the tubes 65 are received in the carriers 82 where they are clearly visible to the individual players. However, each of the carriers 82 is so located in the window 81 and below the top of the table 21 that the balls upon that carrier are visible only to the player assigned to that particular location. Racks 84 which hold the poker chips are situated between the windows 81 and provide additional concealment.

If necessary, the balls in the holders 80 may be further concealed by the installation of railings 85 (Fig. 1) and the like.

It is apparent from the above that the balls 20 are concealed from the players while they are being moved or while they roll throughout the machine and until they emerge through the openings 83 and drop into the carriers 82, at which time each hand of the balls is readily visible and accessible to its player.

The carriers 82 are supported by a vertically disposed line of brush or bristles 86 carried by bars 87 which are suspended upon hinges 88 by angular supports 89. The brush 86 may serve as a convenient retaining wall enabling the player to discard any one of his balls.

The front of the casing 37 includes a trap door 91 having the form of an inverted box situated in front of the keys 72 and over an opening 92 leading to the hopper 29 (Fig. 5). The trap door 91 is connected by hinges 93 to the platform 44 and carries a handle 94.

The trap door 91 may be operated to dislodge the balls when they become blocked or jammed when descending into the keys 72.

The device 26 which is used in the game of stud poker is situated in front of the casing 37 upon the exposed part of the platform 44. The device includes parallel guides 95 forming six channels 96 which extend between the doors 66 and trap doors 97. Each trap door 97 is hinged at 98 to the platform 44 (Fig. 3) and has an upturned edge 99 facing its channel 96. The trap doors 97 cover opening 100 leading to the hopper 29 (Fig. 3). The edges 99 maintain the balls 20 in the channels 96 when the trap doors 97 are closed.

As already stated, the machine may be used for playing draw poker as well as stud poker. In all games the rolling of the balls 20 by force of gravity is utilized for carrying out the various steps of the game.

The balls which are collected in the lower portion of the wheel 23 (Figs. 3 and 6) by the hopper 29 are mixed by rotating the wheel in a direction in which the straight portion 35 of the baffles 33 will shift and turn the mass of balls, thereby effecting a more efficient and thorough mixing and shuffling than can ordinarily be attained through hand shuffling of playing cards. Then the wheel is rotated in the opposite direction and in the course of this rotation each baffle 33 will entrap some of the balls and lift them to the uppermost chamber 28, so that the balls will roll down the inclined surface 34 of a baffle and into the chamber 28. A few such revolutions of the wheel 23 will lift all the balls necessary for the playing of the game into the chamber 28.

When the knob 47 is in the left hand position shown in Figure 1, the platform 38 of the chamber 28 is held by the lever 42 in alinement with the immovable platform 41. If the stops 53 are raised, the balls will roll down the platform 38 and into the six channels 54 carried by the platform 41, until they are stopped by the rod 51. The location of the rod 51 is so selected that each of the six channels 54 upon the platform will carry five balls. Thus five ball hands, which are the

equivalent of five card hands used in draw poker, are allocated to the six players.

Then the operator moves the knob 47 to the right hand end of the slot 43 (Fig. 1), thereby turning downwardly the lever 42 and the platform 38 and moving the rod 60 out of engagement with the lever 57. Then the weight 58 will swing the lever 57 and raise the rod 51, permitting the balls to roll in the channels 54 and to drop through the upper vertical passages 62, the lower passages 63 and the opening 64 into the inclined tubes 65 which lead to the carriers 82 located at the six locations marked 1 to 6 and assigned to the six players. The doors 66 are in their raised positions at that time. Thus each player receives a hand of five balls.

When the platform 38 is moved to its inclined position, at least twenty two balls located upon that platform will roll downwardly upon the platform 44 and will be guided by the guides 71 as two parallel single columns or files toward the keys 72. The first six balls will be held by the ends 76 of the keys 72.

The players can discard some or all of the balls carried by the holders 82 by pressing the balls to be discarded through the bristles 86. The balls drop upon the inclined surfaces of the hopper 29 (Fig. 4) and roll toward the wheel 23.

Upon discarding, each player may draw from the residue of the balls upon the platform 44 the same number of balls which he discarded. This is accomplished by operating the key 72 marked with the same numeral which is allotted to the players. Thus the operator may quickly deal to any player the number of balls, one at a time, which that player desires to draw and calls for.

As the drawing operation has filled and completed the hand of each contestant, the betting, withdrawing and determination of the winning hand may proceed in the same manner as that used in playing draw poker with playing cards.

A player shows his winning hand by swinging his holder 80 about its hinges 83, as shown by broken lines in Figure 7. The support 89 is so bent that it fits conveniently around the edge of the table, while the carrier 82 and the balls carried thereby will be raised above the table. These balls may be dumped conveniently upon the top of the table 21 and will roll along inclined surfaces to the apertures 90; they drop through these apertures into the hopper 29.

The game of stud poker involves the additional use of the device 26.

The channels 96 of the device 26 are separated by doors 66 from the passages 63 connected with the keys 72 by the channels 79 (Figs. 2 and 4). When the knob 69 is moved to the right hand end of the slot 70 (Fig. 1), the doors 66 are swung downwardly to close the openings 64 and provide a direct connection between each key 72 and a separate channel 96. Each turning of a key 72 will now cause a ball to roll into the corresponding channel 95. When the knob 69 is returned to its left hand position, the keys 72 will be again connected to the holders 80. By manipulating the knob 69 any ball 20 can be dealt down, i. e. concealed in a holder 80, or dealt up, i. e. exposed in a channel 96, thus duplicating the concealed and unconcealed dealing which is used in playing stud poker.

Balls situated in the channels 96 are discharged by opening the trap doors 97 and permitting the balls to drop through the openings 100 into the hopper 29 (Fig. 3). Balls situated in the carriers 82 may be pushed through the brushes 86 directly into the hopper 29 (Fig. 1). Undealt balls remaining in the keys 72 and the channels leading thereto will roll by gravity to the hopper 29 when the trap door 91 is raised by operating the lever 94. As all the balls in the hopper 29 descend into the wheel 23, the round of play is completed and the next round will be a repetition of that described.

The keys 72, the open channel device 26 and the parts cooperating therewith may be used separately for playing various games of solitaire and similar games which are now played by the use of playing cards.

The stud poker machine shown in Figures 8 to 10 of the drawings may have the form of a table 101 approximately twenty six inches square with a place on each side for one of the four contestants. The table may be made of wood and metal parts, but a satisfactory table can also be made of plastics and other suitable materials. The table can be round, oblong or other shapes and it can be of any suitable dimensions. A case having the form of a box can be used instead of the table.

The table 101 has side walls 102 carrying an inner support 103 and an outer support 104 serving as bearings for the shaft 105 of a mixing wheel 106. The shaft 105 carries a crank 115.

The wheel 106 may be about nine inches in diameter and have a rim about two and one quarter inches wide, but it admits of considerable departure from these dimensions.

The wheel 106 has four partition walls 107 and is in communication with a hopper 108 constituting the bottom of the table, and with a dealing chamber 109.

Balls 20 used in the game may be the same as those previously described and have one inch in diameter. The balls drop or roll by gravity within the machine from their highest location in the chamber 109 to their lowest location in the hopper 108 and are raised and carried back to the chamber 109 in the pockets 114 of the walls 107 by the rotation of the wheel 106 in the direction of the arrow 110. The balls are guided into the pockets 114 by inclined surfaces of the partition walls 107. Each pocket 114 is open on one side to receive the balls.

When the wheel 106 is rotated in the opposite direction, namely, in the direction of the arrow 111, the walls 107 will mix and shuffle the balls 20 situated in the wheel 106 and in the adjacent part of the hopper 108.

Two metal strips 112 and 113 situated in the wheel 106 are sufficiently wide to cover the pockets 114 of the walls 107 and have elongated slots 116 and 117, respectively, through which the shaft 105 extends. The pockets 114 are dimensioned to hold one ball each. As the wheel 106 rotates in the direction of the arrow 110, a strip drops by gravity and closes a pocket 114 when that pocket is in the lower position, thereby entrapping the ball in the pocket; the ball is raised by the further rotation of the wheel, whereupon the strip drops again by gravity and opens the pocket when the pocket is near its highest position. Thus the balls are singled out of the pockets 114 and are released one at a time into the chamber 109 leading to the dealing tube 118.

The rear wall of the wheel 106 may be provided with four holes 137 situated opposite the pockets 114. The crank 115 may be eliminated and the wheel 106 may be conveniently rotated by an operator who may insert a finger in one of the holes 137. The wheel 106 may be partly en-

closed in a casing 138 connected with the table 101 and having indicia 139 at its top. One ball will be dealt whenever a hole 137 is brought opposite the indicia 139.

The chamber 109 is provided with an opening 119 situated directly above an opening 120 provided in the dealing tube 118.

The dealing tube 118 is swingably mounted upon a pin or pivot 121 which is carried by the upper platform 122 of the table 101. Four openings 123 are provided in the table top 122 and are so located in relation to the dealing tube 118 that they may be selectively covered by the outer end of the tube 118. The tube 118 has an opening 124 which may be placed directly over that opening 123 which is covered by the tube. The openings 123 are in communication with inclined troughs or channels 125 leading to four ball holders 126 which are located in windows 127 at places to be occupied by the four players.

The outer end of the tube 118 has an opening 127. A door 128 is hinged at 129 to the tube 118 and carries a lever or handle 130 to facilitate its manipulation. The door 128 may be swung to close the opening 127 or the opening 124.

The table top 122 carries parallel guides 131 forming four channels 132 which extend between the openings 123 and trap doors 133 hinged at 134 to the table top 122 and having raised edges 135 which face the channels 132. The trap doors 133 cover openings 136 leading to the hopper 108 constituting the bottom of the table.

The distributing tube 118 and the table top 122 are inclined in a direction away from the wheel 106 so that when the door 128 closes the opening 124, balls will roll out of the tube 118 through the opening 127 and into a channel 132. On the other hand, when the opening 127 is closed by the door 128, the balls 20 will drop through the openings 124 and 123 and will roll down the channels 125 to the holders 126. Thus the balls may be singly dealt down and concealed or dealt up and made visible to all the players, thereby simulating a similar dealing of playing cards in games of the various kinds of stud poker. Balls rolling in the wheel 106, the chamber 109, the tube 118 and the channels 125 are invisible to the players.

The ball holders 126 may be substantially similar to those previously described and are suspended upon hinges in the table windows 127, so that the holders 126 may be swung above the table top 122 to discharge the balls which they carry on top of the table.

The table top 122 carries rails or guides 140 and includes surfaces which are inclined in the directions from the locations of the players toward four trap doors 141 which cover openings communicating with the hopper 108. Thus the balls dumped on the table top 122 by each player roll toward a trap door 141 and the discard without being mixed with the balls of another player.

The playing and determination of the winning hand proceed in this game in the same manner as when playing cards are used, the winning hand being deduced from balls visible in a channel 132 and balls in the corresponding holder 126 which is swung upwardly by the winner to reveal such balls to the other players. The round of play is completed when all balls are returned to the hopper 108.

It is apparent that the illustrated playing elements and described games are capable of wide variation and modification without departing from the intent, principles or spirit of the present invention.

These mixing and dealing wheels 23 or 106 may be used independently of other parts of the machines as number selecting devices for the purpose of selecting a lot or a winning ticket or number out of a large mass of tickets sold by churches, fraternal societies and the like. For that purpose, the wheels may be enlarged and the balls numbered to correspond with the numbers on the tickets sold. The operations, including the movement of the balls from the hopper into the wheel, the mixing of the balls when the wheel is turned in one direction and the allocation and discharge of the balls singly when the wheel is turning in the opposite direction, can, by appropriate construction of the apparatus, be concealed to whatever extent is desired, or made visible in whole or in part. Thus the selection of the winning numbers would be wholly mechanical without the contact of the human hand, but each step of the process may be made visible.

The above and other variations and modifications are to be included within the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, means for mixing said balls and raising them to an elevated position, means having inclined causeways leading from said elevated position to a plurality of players' locations for selectively delivering said balls to said locations by causing said balls to roll by gravity upon said causeways, holders at said locations for receiving said balls, means concealing the balls in a holder at each location from view from other locations, means swingably supporting said holders to expose the winning balls in a holder, and a hopper for transmitting balls discarded from said holders to said mixing and raising means.

2. A holder for a plurality of balls carrying card indicia, said holder comprising a groove-like ball carrier, a line of brush having ends connected to an edge of said carrier, and suspending means carrying other ends of said line of brush, whereby balls located upon said groove-like ball carrier may be removed therefrom by being pushed through said line of brush.

3. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, means constituting grooves, each of said grooves being adapted to contain a predetermined number of said balls, locking means maintaining said number of balls in said grooves, a movable platform adapted to connect said position with said grooves and to interrupt this connection, means actuating said locking means to release the balls in said grooves when said platform interrupts the connection between said position and said grooves, and means transmitting balls released from each groove to a separate player's location.

4. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, a swingable platform receiving said balls, an immovable platform receiving balls from said swingable platform in the raised position of the latter, guides carried by said immovable platform and forming a plurality of grooves thereon, a rod adapted to extend across said grooves to hold a predetermined number of balls therein, a pivoted lever having one end connected with said rod, a weight carried by the other end

of said lever, means connected with said swingable platform and engaging said lever to maintain said rod in its holding position when said swingable platform is in its raised position, a lever supporting said swingable platform in its raised position and movable out of engagement therewith to lower said swingable platform, whereby said lever-engaging means release said lever and whereby a turning of said lever caused by said weight moves said rod out of its holding position, and means transmitting balls released from each groove to a separate player's location.

5. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, means for mixing and raising said balls, ball-containing holders at a plurality of players' locations, means concealing the balls in a holder at each location from view from other locations, means constituting open ball-containing channels visible from all locations, means selectively transmitting the raised balls to said holders and said channels, and means for supplying discarded balls from said holders and said channels to said mixing and raising means.

6. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, ball-containing holders at a plurality of players' locations, means concealing the balls in a holder at each location from view from other locations, a casing containing said balls and having two sets of openings formed therein, doors for selectively closing each set of openings, tubes connecting one set of openings with said holders, an open platform adjacent said casing, and guides carried by said open platform and constituting channels communicating with said other set of openings and visible from all locations.

7. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, ball-containing holders at a plurality of players' locations, means concealing the balls in a holder at each location from view from other locations, a swingable casing receiving raised balls and having two openings formed therein, a door selectively closing each opening, an open platform, guides carried by said open platform and constituting channels visible from all locations, said open platform having openings formed therein, tubes connecting the openings formed in said open platform with said holders, means swingably supporting said casing to connect one of the openings formed in said casing with any one of the openings formed in said open platform and to connect the other one of the openings formed in said casing with any one of said channels, depending upon the position of said door, and means for supplying discarded balls from said holders and said channels for the purpose of raising said balls.

8. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, a casing enclosing at least one channel formed therein and transmitting said balls, a plurality of keys pivotally mounted one behind the other in said casing and having semi-cylindrical ends each holding one ball situated in said channel, and means constituting other channels formed therein and extending toward said keys transversely to the first-mentioned channel, whereby said keys when swung selectively remove the balls held in said ends from the first-mentioned channel to said other channels, said other channels extending to a plurality of players' locations.

9. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, ball-containing holders at a plurality of players' locations, means concealing the balls in a holder at each location from view from other locations, a platform, guides carried by said platform and constituting channels visible from all locations, means selectively transmitting the balls to said holders and to one end of said channels, said platform having openings formed therein and situated at the other end of said channels, said channels being inclined toward said openings, trap doors closing said openings and maintaining the balls in said channels when said openings are closed, and a hopper situated adjacent said holders and communicating with said openings for supplying balls discarded from said holders and through said openings for the purpose of raising said balls.

10. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, means having inclined causeways leading from an elevated position to a plurality of players' locations for selectively delivering said balls to said locations by causing said balls to roll by gravity upon said causeways, means selectively interrupting the supply of said balls from said elevated position to any one of said locations, and means for supplying discarded balls from said locations for the purpose of raising said balls to said elevated position.

11. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, means for dividing balls into counted sets, means for delivering said sets of balls to a plurality of players' locations, holders at said locations for receiving said balls, means for transmitting balls discarded by players from said holders for the purpose of raising said balls, means communicating with said ball-delivering means for transmitting additional balls to said players' locations, whereby said additional balls replace balls discarded by the players, and means swingably supporting said holders to expose the winning balls in a holder.

12. An apparatus simulating the playing of card games, wherein the cards are replaced by balls carrying card indicia, said apparatus comprising, in combination, a casing constituting the top of a table having a plurality of sides, means within said table top for dividing the balls into counted sets, windows formed in said table top at the sides thereof and constituting locations for the players, each window being visible to its player and concealed from other players, means within said casing for delivering said sets of balls to said windows, the movement of the balls within said casing being concealed from the players until the delivery of the balls, holders situated in said windows and receiving said balls, means within said casing for transmitting balls discarded by players from said holders for the purpose of raising said balls, and means swingably supporting said holders for raising them to the table top and thereby displaying the winning balls in a holder.

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