Nov. 23, 1948. M. A. ELLINGSON 2,454,691

CARD SHUFFLING AND PLACEMENT BOARD

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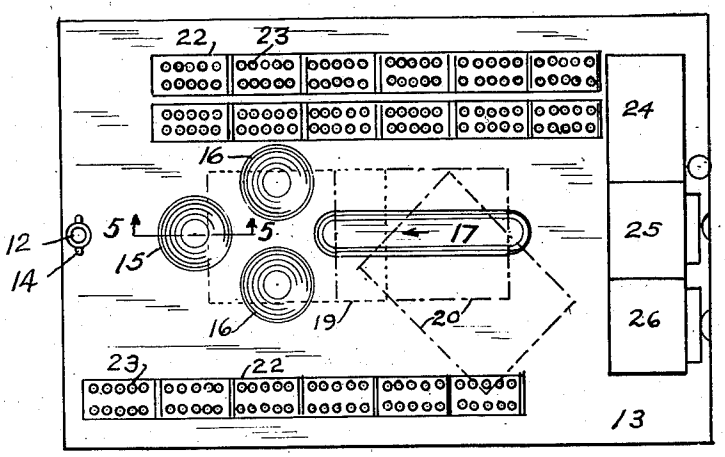


FIG. 1

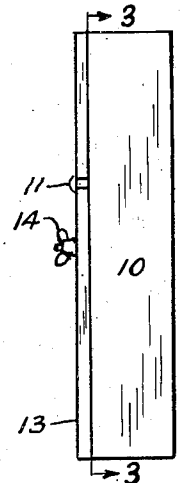


FIG. 2

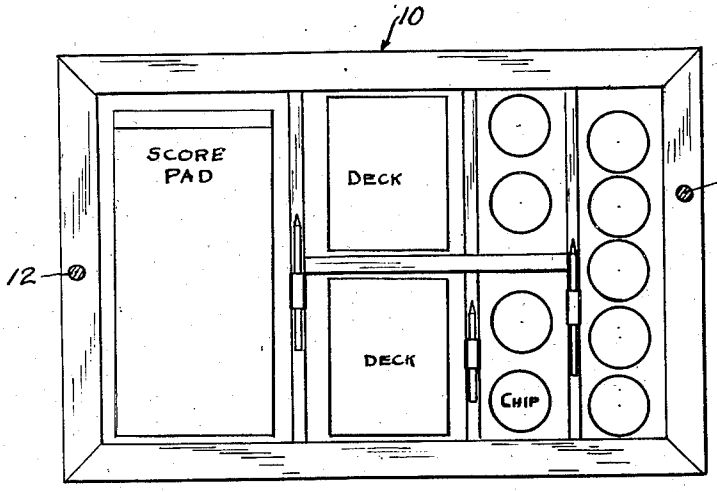


FIG. 3

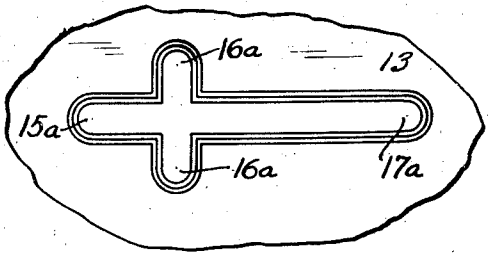


FIG. 4

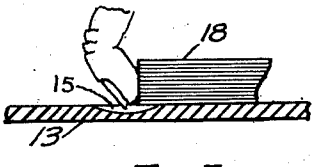


FIG. 5

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CARD SHUFFLING AND PLACEMENT BOARD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—149)

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This invention relates to improvements in card shuffling and placement boards.

In the playing of card games, such as whist, five hundred, cribbage and other games played with ordinary decks of cards, the cards are supposed to be thoroughly shuffled after each deal and the deal progresses towards the left, there being a new dealer after each play.

Since card tables are provided with smooth, flat, upper surfaces, it is some times rather difficult to pick up the whole deck as the lower cards cannot be readily grasped with the fingers and requires the insertion of a fingernail between the deck and the table surface in order to lift the same. It has also been found that during the playing of card games, disputes frequently arise as to whose turn it is to shuffle and deal the cards.

It is the object of this invention to produce a board that shall be constructed in such a manner that the cards can be conveniently shuffled thereon and lifted from the board.

Another object of the invention is to produce a board that will indicate who the next dealer is to be by being circulated and so positioned as to indicate this.

A still further object of the invention is to produce a container having compartments for the reception of decks of cards, chips, score cards and pencils and in connection with which the board forms the top or cover when it is not in use.

This invention, briefly described, consists in a board, preferably of rectangular shape, which is provided in its upper surface with a plurality of depressed areas spaced certain distances so as to provide depressions for the reception of the tips of the fingers of the dealer in picking up the deck and in manipulating the same during the shuffling operation.

Having thus briefly set forth the objects of the invention and its general construction, the invention will now be described in detail and for this purpose reference will be had to the accompanying drawing in which it has been illustrated, and in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the cover which forms the subject of this invention;

Figure 2 is an end view of the container and cover shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view looking into the container along plane 3—3, Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of another embodiment of the invention; and

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Figure 5 is a section taken on line 5—5, Figure 1.

In the drawing reference numeral 10 designates a box which forms no part of the present invention but which is intended to be sold in connection with the cover that embodies the invention for which protection is sought.

The box is provided with several compartments as shown in Figure 3 and forms a convenient storage place for the cards, chips, score pads and pencils.

Extending upwardly from the ends of the box are bolts 11 and 12 which serve to hold the cover in place.

The shuffle and placement board comprises the top which has been designated by reference numeral 13. This may be made of a thin sheet of plywood or other suitable material, among which may be mentioned fiber board or any suitable plastic. In the embodiment shown, the shuffle and placement board is of the same size as the box and has one end provided with a notch for the reception of the screw 11 and the other with an opening for the bolt 12. A wing nut 14 is associated with this bolt and serves to attach the cover to the container.

The upper surface of the cover is provided with a plurality of depressed areas. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, there are three round depressed areas, one of which has been designated by reference numeral 15 and the others by reference numerals 16. The three depressed areas shown in Figure 1 are positioned with their centers at the vertices of an isosceles triangle. An elongated depression 17 is positioned in alignment with the vertical bisector of the triangle. It will be seen that the three depressions outline roughly a figure corresponding in shape to a Latin cross. The depth of the depressions should be sufficient to permit the finger tips to project downwardly below the surface and below the bottom card to such an extent that the balls of the fingers will contact the entire depth of the deck of cards which have been indicated by reference numeral 18 in Figure 5.

In Figure 1, two rectangles have been outlined; one of these has been designated by reference numeral 19 and is shown by a broken or dotted line and the other has been designated by reference numeral 20 and is shown by dot and dash lines.

These rectangles are of a size slightly larger than a playing card. It will be observed that there are two rectangles shown by dot and dash lines. one of which is positioned at an angle of

forty-five degrees to the longitudinal axis of the Latin cross or of the elongated depression 17 and the other position is parallel with the axis of the cross.

These rectangles are intended to indicate the positions to be occupied by the two parts of the deck during the shuffling operation.

The usual way of shuffling cards by players who are adept at this, is to position the two halves in the angular relationship shown in Figure 1 and bend the corners up, releasing them in such a way as to interlay the cards, after which the part of the deck indicated by dot and dash lines is moved upwardly into the second position and the two parts are then pushed together. During this operation one finger is positioned in the depression 15 and the other in the elongated depression 17, the latter depression being of sufficient length to permit the two halves to be entirely superposed.

The shuffling may be repeated, of course, as many times as desired. After the shuffling is completed, the player picks up the deck by inserting the thumb and forefinger in the depression 16, which permits the lower card, as well as the others to be grasped.

In Figure 4, the depressions instead of being separated into four separate depressions, are combined into the shape of a Latin cross. Either one of the arrangements may be employed as the object sought is attained by either one. It is to be observed that the relationship of the depressions shown in Figure 1 outline a Latin cross and that the object sought is attained whether or not the surface between the different depressions shown in Figure 1 is on the level with the rest of the board or not.

For the convenience of keeping tally during cribbage games, the upper surface of the board or cover has been provided with a plurality of rectangular areas 22, each of which contains ten openings 23 for the reception of tally pins. This score keeping arrangement is, of course, merely provided for convenience and does not in any way affect the shuffling operation. The surface of the board is also provided with areas such as 24, 25 and 26 in which certain printed instructions may be positioned. For example, in the areas designated by reference numeral 24, a card showing the International contract bridge score may be inserted. Slides 25 and 26 are provided in the end of the board and contain a rapid bridge scorer that can be removed or reinserted at will.

During the playing of the game the dealer employs the board during the shuffling operation and after the cards have been dealt, he passes it to the next player at the left and the board therefore serves as a positive and reliable indicator as to who the next dealer is, thereby avoiding any argument or controversy concerning this.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A device for use in shuffling cards, comprising a board having a plurality of depressed areas, two of which are so spaced that the distance between their farthest outer edges is greater than the width of a playing card, the distance between their inner edges being less than the width of a playing card, and two other depressed areas positioned on the perpendicular bisector of the line joining the centers of the first mentioned depressions, the maximum distance between the farther outer edges of the depressions on the perpendicular bisector being substantially equal to twice the length of the cards, one of the last named depressed areas having a length slightly greater than the length of the cards.

2. A device for use in shuffling playing cards, comprising a board having its upper surface provided with a plurality of depressed areas at least one of which is longer than a card, three additional depressed areas, one of which is positioned in axial alignment with the elongated depression, the distance from the farther end of the elongated depression to the farther edge of the said aligned depression being substantially equal to two times the length of a playing card, there being two additional depressed areas positioned on opposite sides of and equidistantly spaced from the center line of the elongated depression, the distance between the centers of the two laterally spaced depressions being substantially equal to the width of a playing card, the four depressions outlining a Latin cross.

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