Nov. 13, 1951 J. E. JONES 2,574,569

MARBLE GAME BOARD

Filed Sept. 9, 1948 2 SHEETS--SHEET 1

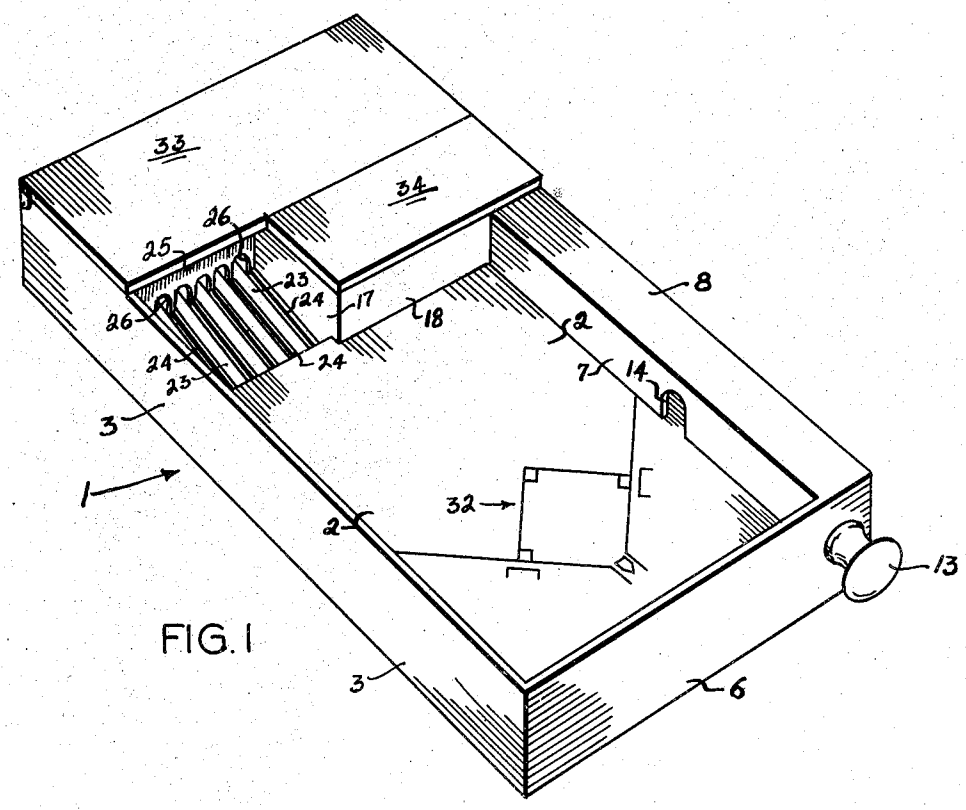


FIG. 1

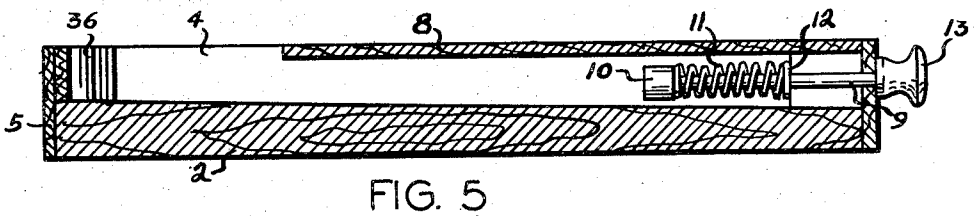


FIG. 5

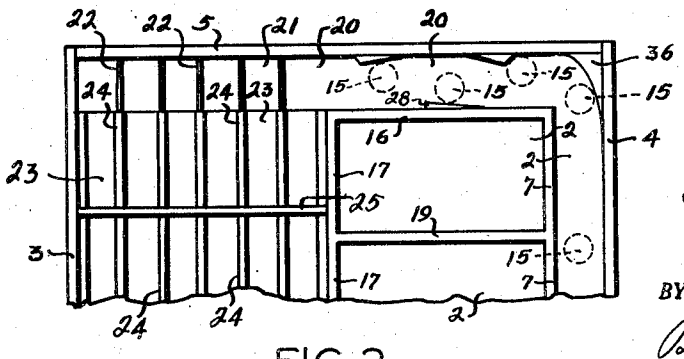


FIG. 3

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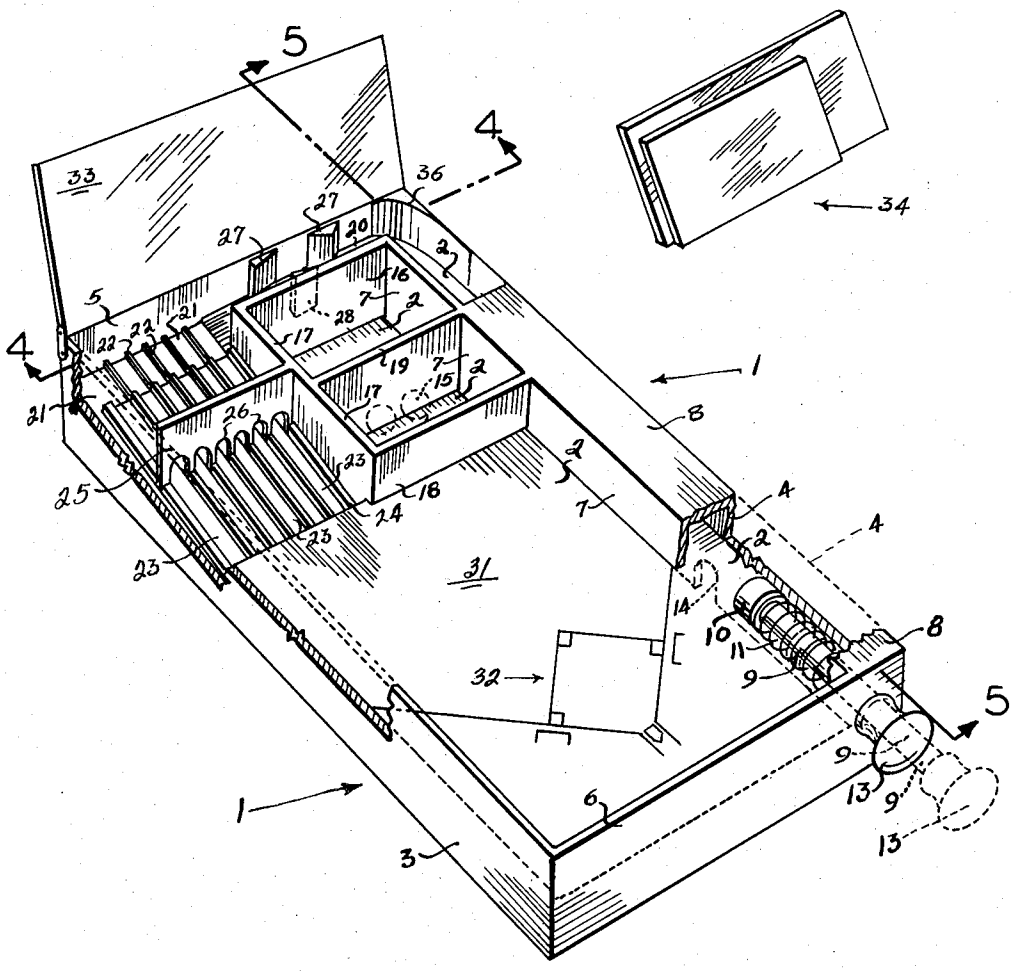
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MARBLE GAME BOARD

Filed Sept. 9, 1948 2 SHEETS--SHEET 2

FIG. 2



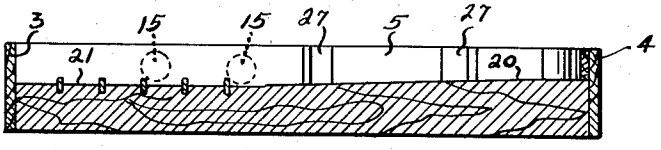


FIG. 4

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MARBLE GAME BOARD

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—119)

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The present invention relates to game boards, and more particularly to game paraphernalia wherein a marble is projected along a playing surface provided with deflectors and other hazards, and finally comes to rest within some one of a plurality of scoring pockets, slots, or other nesting points.

The prime object of the invention is to provide an inexpensive light weight game board of this class, whereon a simulated game of base ball may be played.

A further object is to provide a simple game apparatus which includes: a ball projecting mechanism or "shooter"; a hazard course; scoring stations; a counting field; and a storage bin for the balls and the counters.

Another object is to provide a game apparatus of this class wherein the course of the ball from the projector to the scoring stations is controllable by the player, only by the speed of projection.

Other objects will be apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying two sheets of drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device with its two lids in closed positions;

Figure 2 is a similar view with the lids open, and with parts broken away to reveal interior structure;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary top view of the scoring end portion of the device, with an imaginary ball path being shown in dotted lines;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along the line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Figure 5 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially along section line 5—5 of Figure 2.

Like characters of reference designate like parts in those figures of the drawings in which they occur. In the drawings:

The reference numeral 1 indicates, as a whole, a substantially rectangular open topped box, the major portion of which has a flat bottom or floor 2. The box 1 further includes: two vertical side walls 3 and 4 which are parallel to each other; and two vertical end walls 5 and 6 which respectively connect the rear and front ends of the walls 3 and 4.

The right hand side portion of the floor 2 is provided with an elongated vertical partition 7 which extends from the front wall 6 to a point somewhat adjacent, but not reaching, the rear end wall 5, and which lies spaced from and parallel with the right hand side wall 4. The partition 7 and the side wall 4 complementally

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form an elongated ball conveying channel or chute, or runway, and this runway is covered by a top or roof 8.

At the forward end of the runway, the front wall 6 is through bored to slidably receive a spring loaded ball shooting plunger 9 has an enlarged head 10, and a helical expansion spring 11 surrounds the plunger between the head and a guide collar 12 which is attached to the floor in front of the wall 6, so that the head is normally urged toward the rear end of its throw. The forward end of the plunger 9 is provided with an enlargement 13 whereby it may be manually pulled forwardly against the action of the spring 11.

The partition 7 has an opening 14 whereby a ball or marble 15 may be inserted into the channel. The ball may be discharged rearwardly along the channel by retrieving and suddenly releasing the plunger 9. It is pointed out that the floor 2 is slanted slightly downward toward the front end of the device, so that the ball in the channel will follow the head 10 forwardly as the plunger is retrieved, in that direction.

Spaced from and parallel with the vertical rear wall 5, is a vertical partition 16 having its right hand end united with the rearmost end of the partition 7. Spaced to the left hand of and parallel with the rear portion of the partition 7, is a vertical partition 17 having its rearmost end united with the left hand end of the partition 16.

A transverse vertical partition 18 extends between, and is united with, the front end of the partition 17 and the side of the partition 7. Another transverse partition 19 extends between the adjacent faces of the partitions 17 and 7, and has its ends rigidly connected thereto.

Between the end wall 5 and the transverse partition 16, there is a floor 20 which slopes downwardly from the wall 4 to a point substantially even with the partition 17. This downwardly sloping floor surface may best be seen in Fig. 4, and together with the wall 5 and partition 16 forms a channel along which the ball must travel. As also best seen in Fig. 4, there is a horizontal floor surface 21 lying to the left hand of the sloping surface 20, and extending to the left hand wall 3 of the box 1. Laterally, the floor surface 21 is horizontal or level, but its rear edge is higher than its front edge, or in other words, the surface 21 slopes downwardly toward the front of the box 1. The surface 21 has a plurality of spaced upwardly projecting ribs 22 which extend longitudinally of the box 1.

Directly in front of the forward edge of the floor 21, there is provided a forward and down-

wardly sloping surface 23 having a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs 24 which form slots along which the ball may gravitate. The front end of the surface 23 lies somewhat below the level of the floor 2.

A vertical barrier 25 having wicket opening 26 is provided across the sloping surface 23. Each wicket of the barrier 25 may be marked with indicia not shown, representing a score or condition encountered in the game of base ball, for instance "one base hit," "struck out," "Home run," etc. The surface 23, ribs 24, and barrier 25 may well be called the scoring station or stations.

When a ball is discharged along the channel, it is turned in its course so that it must travel along the surface 20 toward the ribbed surface 21. To insure this turning of the ball, an arcuate block or fillet 36 is provided in the corner formed by the meeting of the two walls 4 and 5.

In order to slow the speed of the ball, and also to make its final speed unpredictable, the forward face of the rear wall 5 is provided with spaced apart vertically extending cleats 27. A similar cleat 28 is provided on the rear face of the partition 16, and the cleat 28 is positioned laterally so that it resides substantially equidistantly from each of the cleats 27. The cleats 27 and 28 have laterally slanting surfaces which tend to throw the ball from one side to the other of the surface 20. Any desired plurality of the cleats 27 and 28 may be provided.

The firing channel, the slanting surface 20, the cleats 27—28, the sloping surface 21 with its ribs 22, and the rearmost ends of the ribs 24, might well be termed as the "hazard course" of the device.

The "counting field" of the device is indicated, as a whole, by the reference numeral 31, and consists substantially of that portion of the floor 2 which is not partitioned off by the partitions 17, 17 and 18. The "counting field," has indicia 32 thereon, representing a base ball diamond and playing field therearound.

Of course, the indicia 32 and the scoring indicia on the barrier 25 might well be altered to simulate some activity other than base ball, for instance, the indicia 32 could well represent an oval race track with distance markings distributed therealong. In such case, the indicia on the barrier 25 would be made to indicate terms of horse racing, for instance, numbers of yards, "disqualified," or some certain number of yards "ahead of the field," etc.

In playing a game with the above described apparatus, movable markers or "men" may be used for counting. The two "rooms" or "cells" formed by the partitions 7, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are used to store the men and marbles with which the game is played.

A hinged lid 33 is provided to cover the rear portion of the device, and a removable or liftable lid 34 (Fig. 2) is provided for covering the forward cell. In Fig. 1, the lids 33 and 34 are shown in closed positions.

It is thought that the mode of operation of the devices will be apparent to any one interested in games.

Obviously the invention is susceptible to some

change or alteration without defeating its practicability, and I therefore do not wish to be confined to the preferred embodiment shown in the drawings and described herein, further than I am limited by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a game apparatus, the combination with a chute for guiding the rolling travel of a ball, and with a shooter in one end of the chute, of a hazard course upon which the ball is projected from the discharge end of said chute, said hazard course including: a downwardly sloping channel extending laterally from said discharge end and through which the ball must pass; deflecting members on the walls of said channel for retarding but not stopping the forward movement of the ball; a floor surface upon which the ball is discharged from said channel, said surface sloping downwardly from said channel at right angles thereto; spaced vertically projecting ribs on said floor surface at right angles to the path of the ball for retarding the ball in its travel, and over which the ball may roll; a plurality of downwardly sloping ball receiving slots aligned with the spaces between said ribs, and any one of which may receive and retain the ball for scoring purposes.

2. Structure as specified in claim 1, and a counting field at the ends of said slots and upon which counters may be moved to indicate scores made by the ball.

3. In a game apparatus: a ball guiding chute having a ball receiving end and an open ball discharge end; a manually operated ball shooter at the receiving end of the chute; a hazard course upon which the ball is discharged from the chute; a floor for said course sloping downwardly from the discharge end of the chute at right angles thereto, said floor tilted laterally toward the receiving end of the chute; deflecting members on the walls of said course; transversely positioned vertically projecting ribs on said floor for retarding the ball in its downward travel, and over which the ball may roll; and a plurality of downwardly sloping ball receiving scoring slots aligned with the spaces between said ribs, the slope of said slots being complemental to the lateral tilt of the floor of said hazard course, any one of said slots adapted to receive the ball and retain the same for scoring purposes.

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