Feb. 20, 1940. R. S. ROBINSON 2,191,160

DICE BOX

Filed Jan. 31, 1938

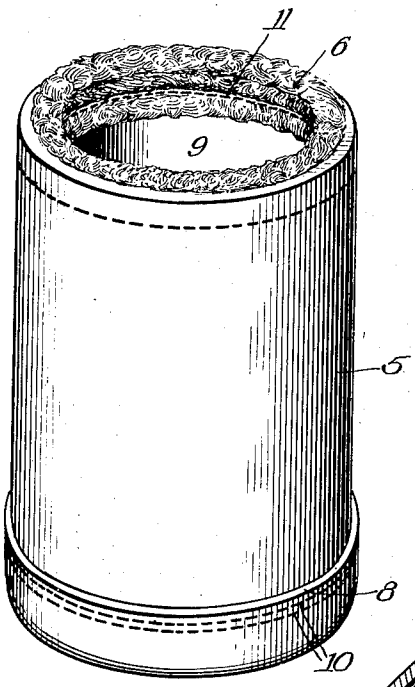


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

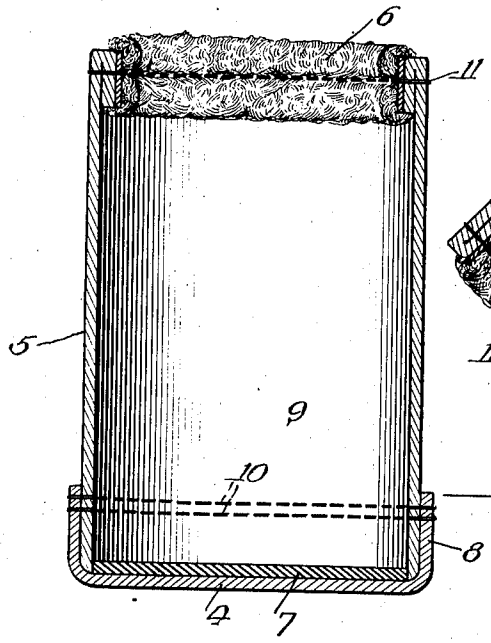
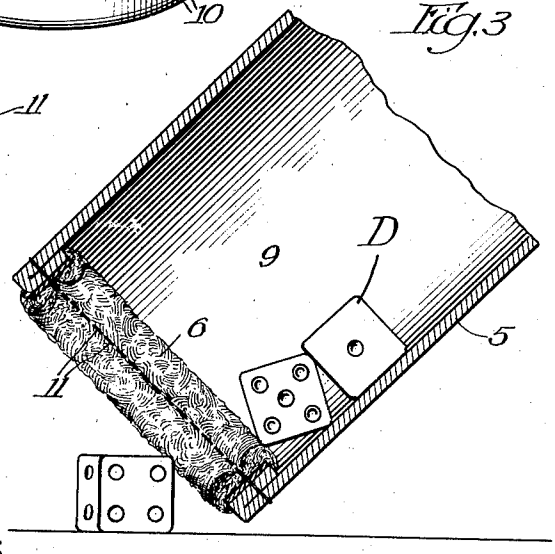


Fig. 3



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DICE BOX

Robert S. Robinson, Chicago, Ill.

Application January 31, 1938, Serial No. 187,799

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—145)

The present invention relates generally to dice boxes. More particularly the invention relates to that type of dice box which is formed for the most part of comparatively stiff leather and comprises a circular bottom and a separately formed cylindrical side wall which has one end thereof joined to the margin of the bottom and its other end open and forms with the bottom an open ended compartment into which dice may be inserted for shaking purposes and from which the dice after shaking may be discharged in connection with the playing of a game.

One object of the invention is to provide a dice box of this type which is an improvement upon, and fulfills its intended purpose more efficiently and effectively than, previously designed dice boxes of the same general character by reason of the fact that it embodies a hirsute ring which extends around the interior of the open end of the side wall of the box and operates (1) to prevent the user of the box from cheating by holding a die during shaking of the box flatly against the inner face of the side wall of the box in such manner that it is concealed or obstructed by the hand and then after releasing the die at the conclusion of the shaking operation tilting or tipping the box upside down in such manner as to cause the previously held die to drop onto the dice board or playing surface with a certain face thereof uppermost and the other dice to roll onto the board or surface over the dropped die without disturbing the latter; and (2) to trip the dice in connection with a normal or regular cast so that they roll over one another and onto the board in an uncontrollable manner.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved dice box wherein are employed a plurality of closely spaced, relatively short, flexible projections positioned circumferentially of the open end of the dice box and extending from the side wall interiorly of the open end of the box for frictionally engaging portions of the dice when they are cast from the box for the purpose of causing a random motion and course of the dice.

Another object of the invention is to provide a dice box of the last mentioned character in which the hirsute ring around the interior of the open end of the side wall of the box is formed of closely sheared sheepskin and is arranged so that the hairy or woolly side is interiorly disposed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a dice box which is generally of new and improved construction and may be manufactured with facility and with but little additional cost over conventional dice boxes.

Other objects of the invention and the various advantages and characteristics of the present dice box will be apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description.

The invention consists in the several novel features which are hereinafter set forth and are more particularly defined by the claim at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawing which accompanies and forms a part of this specification or disclosure and in which like numerals of reference denote corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dice box embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view illustrating in detail the construction, design and arrangement of the hirsute ring around the interior of the open end of the side wall of the box; and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary longitudinal sectional view showing the manner in which the hirsute ring operates during tilting of the box for dice casting purposes to trip the dice so that they roll over one another in an uncontrollable manner.

The dice box which is shown in the drawing constitutes the preferred embodiment of the invention. It is adapted for use in shaking and then casting or rolling a plurality or set of dice D and comprises a bottom **4**, a continuous side wall **5**, and a hirsute ring **6**.

The bottom **4** is circular. It is formed of comparatively stiff leather or like material and has a circular or disk-like pad **7** on the inner face thereof. The margin of the bottom is bent upwards at right angles, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, and forms an annular flange **8** which surrounds and is spaced outwardly from the pad **7** and serves to stiffen or reinforce the bottom of the box. The pad **7** is formed of rubber or any other suitable elastic material and causes the dice D when brought into contact therewith as the result of a shaking operation to bounce and jostle against one another.

The side wall **5** is cylindrical and has the bottom end thereof disposed within the annular flange **8**. It is formed of the same material as the bottom **4**, that is, comparatively stiff leather and forms with the bottom an open ended compartment **9** for the dice. The bottom end of the side wall is connected by a row of stitches **10** to the flange and surrounds and engages the edge of the elastic pad **7**, as shown in Figure 2. The upper end of the cylindrical wall **5** is bent in-

wardly and downwardly so that it is of double thickness and hence suitably reinforced. The dice D are adapted to be inserted into the compartment 9 through the open upper end of the side wall of the dice box and then after shaking of the box for dice mixing purposes to be cast or discharged from the compartment by tipping or tilting the box upside down over the board or playing surface for the dice.

The ring 6 fits against the inner face of the open upper end of the side wall of the box and is secured in place by stitches 11. It is formed of sheepskin and is arranged so that the hairy or woolly side thereof is disposed interiorly. Use of the hirsute ring serves to provide a plurality of closely spaced, relatively short, flexible projections extending within the mouth or open end of the dice box. The hide part of the ring abuts directly against the inner face of the inwardly and downwardly bent portion of the upper open end of the side wall of the box and corresponds in height to such portion. The stitches 11 are in the form of a single row and are centrally positioned with respect to the ring. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the stitches pass through and are centrally positioned with respect to the leather part of the ring and the doubled back portion of the upper end of the side wall 5. The hairy or woolly part of the ring is sufficiently bushy so that it overlies and underlies the top and bottom edges of the hide part of the ring. The ring 6 which contains a plurality of flexible projections serves a two-fold purpose. In the first place it operates when the dice box is tilted after shaking of the dice to trip the dice in an effective manner as they leave the compartment 9. Secondly it prevents cheating because when an attempt is made by a dishonest user of the box to control the throw of a die onto the dice board or playing surface by holding it in a concealed manner and flatly against the inner face of the side wall of the box during shaking of the dice and then sliding it or dropping it in a predetermined manner onto the board so that it rests with a certain face thereof uppermost such die embeds itself into the hairy or wooly side of the ring and the hair or wool operates as a result of frictional contact with one of the corners to trip the die and prevent it from dropping onto the board without rolling. During a normal cast of the dice the dice are arrested momentarily by the ring and as a result of contact of their corners with the hairy or woolly side of the ring catapult or roll in a well disorganized or random manner from the box.

The herein described dice box may be manufactured with but little increase in cost over conventional dice boxes and is extremely durable due to the fact that the hirsute ring 6 serves to reinforce the upper open end of the side wall of the box and in addition forms a cushion for the top edge of the box side wall when the box is inverted and thrust downwards onto the dice board. By employing the hirsute ring 6 the dice box effectively and efficiently fulfills its intended purpose by causing pronounced tripping of the dice during cast of the latter and in addition it is practically impossible during use of the box to control the roll or action of any die with a view of cheating. The side wall 5 of the box is made so that it is five or more inches in height. By having the side wall of such height it is impossible when the box is grasped for shaking purposes by placing the palm of one hand over the open end of the side wall and the palm of the other hand over the bottom and arranging the fingers of both hands around the side wall to cheat by passing a palmed die in the fingers of one hand to the fingers of the other.

The invention is not to be understood as restricted to the details set forth, since these may be modified within the scope of the appended claim, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A dice box comprising a bottom, a continuous side wall having one end thereof connected to the bottom and its other end open and forming with said bottom an open ended compartment for shaking dice, a plurality of closely spaced, relatively short, flexible projections positioned circumferentially of the open end of said compartment and extending from said side wall interiorly of said open end for frictionally engaging portions of the dice when they are cast from the compartment thereby resulting in a random motion and course of the dice.

ROBERT S. ROBINSON.