This invention relates to games and it has reference more particularly to the provision of a novel form of game and game device of the parlor and table top category; it being the principal object of the present invention to provide a "baseball" game device employing a baseball field simulating member upon which a ball confining bowl shaped member is mounted for spinning about a vertical axis, and upon the inside surface of which bowl shaped member the various plays which occur in playing the game of baseball are inscribed, and which plays are adapted to be individually designated in the playing of the game by the spinning of the bowl and allowing a ball that is confined therein to come to rest on the inscribed surface.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a game device of the character above disclosed wherein novel means is provided for spinning the bowl, and also novel means is provided for causing it to be suddenly stopped so that the confined ball, which continues to travel within the bowl, will be uncontrolled but will finally come to rest on one of the play designating notations within the bowl.

Further objects and advantages of the invention reside in the details of construction of the various parts of the game apparatus; in their combination with each other, and in the mode of operation of the game device as will hereinafter be described.

In accomplishing the above mentioned and other objects of the invention, I have provided the improved details of construction, the present preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a game device embodied by the present invention as seen from what will be referred to as the front side.

Fig. 2 is a top or plan view of a portion of the ball confining bowl, showing the play designating notations made thereon and also showing a part of the centrally located, peripheral notched disk.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the bowl-spinning rack bar and its mounting and guide member; a part thereof being broken away for better disclosure of their interfitting relationship.

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross-section taken through the game device in the axial plane of the bowl port.

Fig. 5 is a horizontal section taken on the line 5—5 in Fig. 4, showing the bowl spinning rack bar and gear, with which it is adapted to be meshed.

Fig. 6 is a vertical section through the base, showing the bowl-stopping lever and its mounting means.

Fig. 7 is one of the pegs used in playing the game.

Fig. 8 is a flattened view of the bowl surface showing the play designating notations as applied thereto.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

The present game device, as shown best in Fig. 1, comprises a flat baseboard or plate 10, preferably square in horizontal dimensions and preferably relatively thin, and equipped on its underside, at its four corners, with supporting buttons of rubber, or the like designated by numeral 11; this being fixed upon the upper end portion of a tubular hub 12 coaxial thereof and which, in turn, is mounted for rotation about a vertical bolt 13 that extends upwardly from and is fixed in the baseboard 10. It is shown in Fig. 4 that the bolt 13 has a flattened head 13' at its lower end engaged flatly against the under face of board 10, and has a nut 13x threaded onto its shank and tightened against the top surface of the board, thus to secure the bolt rigidly upright. The lower end of the hub member 12 rests upon the nut, but is adapted to spin freely thereon, and supports the bowl member 11 somewhat above the baseboard as shown in Fig. 4, for a purpose presently apparent.

The bowl member 11 is enclosed by a cylindrical housing 14 mounted in the base board 10. This housing is slightly greater in diameter than the bowl and is closed at its upper end by a transparent plate 15 which closely overlies the rim of the bowl. If desired, the housing 14 may be of transparent plastic, colored or otherwise for ornamentation, but it is preferred that the plate 15 be sufficiently transparent as not to interfere with clear view of the notations inscribed on the inside surface of the bowl, and the position of the ball which is contained in the bowl.

Fixed to the central inside surface of the bowl, which is substantially flat, is a flat disk 18 through which the upper end portion of the bolt 13 extends as seen in Fig. 4. A cap nut 19 is threaded onto the upper end of the bolt for the purpose of retaining the bowl in place but without interference to its rotation or spinning. As shown best in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, the peripheral edge of the disk 18 is formed with contiguous notches 20, of cylindrical curvature, or V-shaped, and radiating from the joining edges of these notches are lines, such as designated at 21 in Fig. 2, which extend to the outer peripheral of the bowl. These lines set off surface areas between them, radial of the bowl, on which the play notations are inscribed, such as, for example, "Struck Out," "Base Hit," "Walk," "Strike" and other plays which are typical of the game of baseball.

The walls of the bowl curve gradually upward from the disk and finally provide the vertical rim portion, the top surface of which is quite close to the plate 15.

Contained freely in the bowl is a small metal pellet, or ball 25, about ¾ of an inch in diameter. Normally this ball will rest against the periphery of the disk 18 when the bowl and ball are at rest, but when the bowl is spun in play, the ball spins therewith and moves under centrifugal force to its outer edge, and then if the bowl is suddenly stopped, the ball will continue to travel about the bowl and finally come to rest in one of the peripheral notches 20 of the disk, thus to designate the "play" that has just taken place; it being understood that the play is that which is noted on the radial area that is aligned with the notch in which the ball 25 comes to rest.

The means for spinning the disk bowl and for then suddenly stopping it has been shown best in Figs. 1 and 5, and will now be described. First, the bowl spining means; this comprises a relatively small gear 30 that is fixed on or formed integral with the hub member 12 upon which the bowl is fixed. Fixedly mounted on the baseboard 10, to extend beneath the bowl, is a straight channelled guide bar 31 in which a rack bar 32 is mounted for endwise travel. The guide bar 31 is so related to the bowl and the hub gear that its teeth 32x, formed on the rack bar along one side of its inner end portion can be engaged with the teeth of gear 30 for manual rotation or spinning of the bowl.

It is to be observed by reference to Fig. 1 that the guide bar 31 extends from beneath the bowl to near the front right hand corner portion of the baseboard 10, and that the rack bar 32 is equipped at its outer end with a vertical pin 33 serving as its operating handle and at its inner end has a short stop stud 34 thereon. The extent of inward movement of the rack bar is limited by the engaging of
the pin 33 with the outer end of an inturned flange 31 forming as a part of the guide bar 31 and overlying the inner portion of the rack bar. Its outward travel is limited by the stud 34 engaging the inner end of the guide member flange 31.

2. In the bowl, the rack bar 32 is first pushed slowly inwardly to cause its inner end to assume the dotted line portion shown in Fig. 5, and its teeth to engage with gear 30. Then, it is pulled quickly outwardly, thus causing its teeth, meshing with the teeth of gear wheel 30, to spin the bowl. When the rack bar reaches its outer limit, its teeth disengage the gear. This spinning will cause the ball 25 to move to the outer periphery of the bowl, being restrained by the glass or transparent cover plate 15, and to move to more or less extent with the bowl.

The means provided for suddenly stopping the spinning bowl is shown best in Figs. 5 and 6. It comprises a short lever 40 disposed beneath the bowl and pivotally supported on the base 10 in a position radial of the hub 12 by a mounting plate 42. This plate is equipped with two laterally spaced, vertical ears 42'-42' between which the lever 40 is mounted by a horizontal pivot pin 44. At its inner end, the lever 40 is equipped with a brake pad 45 and at its outer end has a flattened head 46 against which down ward pressure may be manually applied to cause the pad to engage against the under surface of the bowl to stop its rotation. Normally the stopping lever 40 rests in the position in which it is shown in Fig. 6.

It is to be observed more particularly by reference to Fig. 5, that the bowl enclosing housing 14 is recessed as at 47 for the passage of the rack guide and rack bar, and also at 48 to receive the outer end portion of lever 40 therethrough.

To simulate a baseball playing field on the baseboard 10, I provide the representation of first, second, third and home bases 50, 51, 52 and 53, joined by the base lines 54. At each base, the board is framed with a bored peg receiving socket 55 and near the home base area, it is likewise formed with three bored sockets 56, each designed to receive a play piece in the form of a pin or peg such as shown at 60 in Fig. 7.

The dimensions of the parts 10 and 11 of the present game device are not critical and may be varied within reasonable limits. However, it has been found quite satisfactory to employ a wooden baseboard twelve inches square and one-half inch thick. The bowl member may also be of wood, and is approximately six inches in diameter and approximately two inches deep. The disk 18 contained in the bowl has a diameter of about two inches and is one-fourth inch thick. The housing 14 is shown to be cylindrical, but not necessarily so.

Various materials may be used in the making of the various parts of the game device. While it has herein been indicated that the base 10 is or may be of wood, it is recognized that it might also be a molded plastic member, suitable for the present use, and that the means for mounting the rack bar 32 and stop lever 40 might be cast integral with the base. The guide and rack bar, and also the stop lever might also be quite satisfactorily made of plastic, fiberglas, wood or other suitable metal. In view of the above, it is not my intent to confine the making of the apparatus to any particular material or materials. Any suitable materials may be employed so long as their use is practical and also economical.

Assuming that the various parts are so constructed, the game device is used in the playing of the game as follows:

The game is best played by at least two persons, respectively, representing two baseball teams. To start play, the first player grasps the handle member 33 and pushes the rack bar 32 all the way, or a part of the way, inwardly thus engaging its toothed surface with the bowl spinning gear 30. He then gives it a quick outward pull to its full limit causing the bowl to be spun. This movement disengages the rack from the gear and the bowl spins freely about bolt 13. With this spinning, the confined ball 25 moves to the outer rim of the bowl 12 and to more or less extent spins with the bowl. Then, while the bowl is spinning, the player pushes down on the outer end of the bowl stop lever 40 and thus suddenly stops the spinning action of the bowl; the ball, however, continues to travel and gradually slows down and comes to rest in a notch of the disk 18. The "play notation" which is assigned with this notch is the player’s "play." For example, if the ball comes to rest in a notch which indicates a "one base hit," a peg 60 is inserted in the first base hole. If the ball should stop in a notch indicating a "right field fly catch," the imaginary batter is thus counted out, and another peg is inserted in one of the three holes 55. Various plays in the field are thus indicated and marked on the field by applying or removing pegs from the bases. Whenever all three holes 55 are pegged, the inning is then over, and the player or players representing the other team take over for the spinning of the bowl. A score card may be kept as in the real game of baseball if desired to keep account of the entire game.

Games of this kind are interesting, educational and can be played by various numbers to players representing two teams.

It is recognized that details of construction of parts might be changed or modified without departing from the spirit of the invention which resides in the combination of base 10, and bowl 11 as shown, together with its spinning and stopping means and the play designating ball or pellet.

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

A game device of the character described comprising a base plate, a pivot bolt fixed centrally therein and extended vertically upward therefrom, an upwardly facing bowl-like container, equipped with a coaxial, downwardly extended, hub revolutely applied to said bolt for mounting the bowl for spinning action, said hub having a gear formed thereon beneath the bowl, a rack bar guide applied to the top of said base plate, a rack bar mounted in said guide for endwise shifting therein, a handle member on the bar for its manual actuation, means on the bar for limiting its travel in opposite directions; said rack bar having teeth formed along a portion thereof adapted to be meshed with the hub gear for imparting spinning action to the bowl, by the manual shifting of the rack bar, a lever pivotally mounted between its ends on the base member substantially radially of the pivot bolt, having a brake pad at its inner end adapted to be pressed upwardly against the bottom of said bowl-like container by an application of downward pressure against the contact end of the lever, thus to stop the spinning of the bowl, a disk-like member in the bowl, centrally of its bottom surface formed with a succession of peripheral notches; said bowl having play notations inscribed on its inside surface in areas extending radially in the bowl in alignment with said notches, and a ball confined in the bowl and adapted to roll freely on the inside surface to come to rest in any of said notches.

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