

T. W. LANCASTER.
PUZZLE.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 7, 1917.

1,264,944.

Patented May 7, 1918.

Fig. 1.

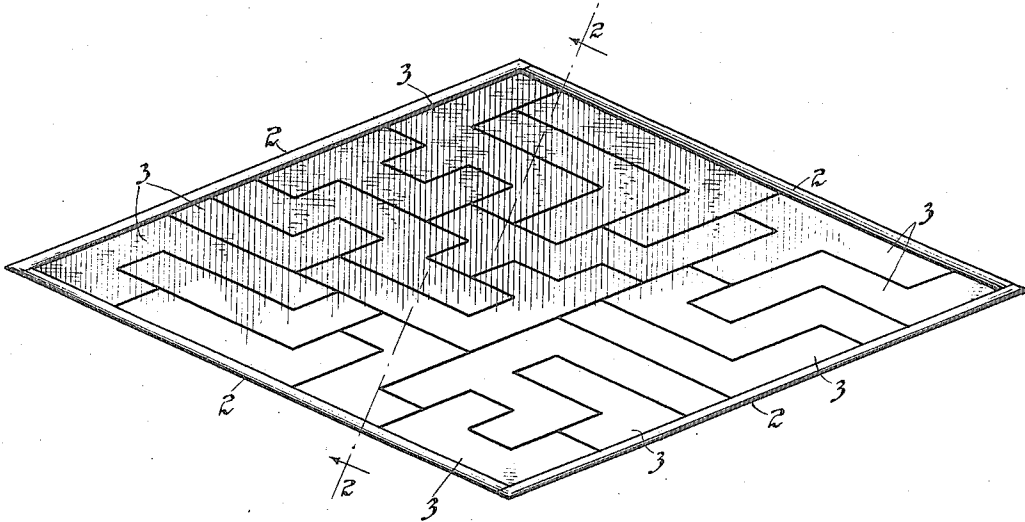


Fig. 2.

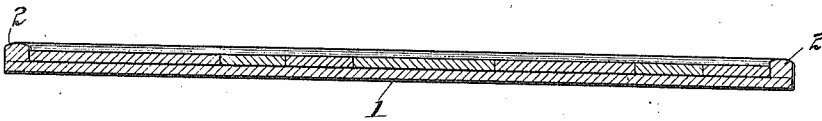
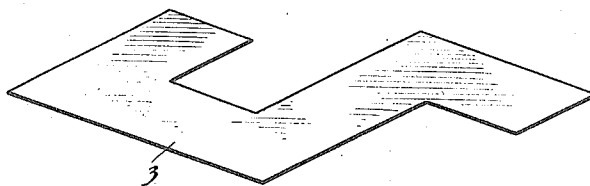


Fig. 3.



Inventor:
Thomas W. Lancaster;
By Cheever & Cox
Atty's.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS W. LANCASTER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

PUZZLE.

1,264,944.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 7, 1918.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS W. LANCASTER, a subject of the King of England, who has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Puzzles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to puzzles of the sectional type, and the object of the invention is to provide a construction such that the sides and ends of the interfitting sections shall be rectilinear and arranged at either acute or obtuse angles relatively to each other, with the sides parallel to the sides and the ends parallel to the ends, respectively, the sections, at the same time, presenting a diamond-shaped outline when assembled.

I accomplish my object by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is not a perspective but is a top plan view of the complete puzzle.

Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation on the line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is the top plan view of one of the sections of the puzzle.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

I provide a diamond-shaped box or container, having a bottom 1 and a marginal flange or beading 2. The flange is shallow and preferably rounded over at the top. This makes it easy to insert or withdraw the sections and adds to the appearance of the puzzle.

The sections 3 are of many different shapes; in fact, practically speaking, no two are alike. They all have certain characteristics in common, however, to wit: the sides are parallel to the sides, and the ends are parallel to the ends, and all of the angles at which the sides meet the ends are either obtuse or acute. Furthermore, the obtuse angles are all of the same degree, and the acute angles are all of the same degree, and, in the preferred form shown, each section has at least two portions which are arranged either at an obtuse or an acute angle relatively to each other. The puzzle is distinctly different, therefore, from those puzzles in which the sections have sides and ends arranged at right angles to each other and those puzzles which have sections ar-

anged at a great many different angles relatively to each other. A puzzle of my construction makes for apparent simplicity but real complexity compared to puzzles of the other types mentioned. In puzzles where the parts of the sections are at right angles to each other, it is easy to fit the individual parts together, and there is a greater probability that there is more than one way in which the sections can be assembled. In a puzzle in which the sides and ends approach at various angles, the size of the angle is itself an indication to the eye of the player as to what piece it should be mated with. In my puzzle not only are the sections themselves constructed in the manner indicated, but, when assembled, they form a diamond-shaped figure corresponding to the shape of the box.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that in my puzzle the sections have nothing but acute or obtuse angles; their sides are parallel to their sides; their ends are parallel to their ends; their outline, when assembled, is diamond-shaped; and practically every instance, if not every instance, each section has a plurality of portions arranged either at an obtuse or an acute angle relatively to the adjacent portion. This makes a very difficult puzzle, which, nevertheless, has the appearance of being very simple, thus adding to the interest which the player will take and the time which will be required in solving the puzzle. Furthermore, as all obtuse angles are of the same degree and all acute angles are of the same degree, the degree of the angle affords no clue to solution.

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

1. A puzzle having a plurality of interfitting pieces, which, when assembled, have the outline of a diamond; the sides of the pieces being parallel to the sides of the diamond and the ends of the pieces being parallel to the ends of the diamond, whereby all angles on the pieces are either obtuse or acute.

2. A sectional puzzle consisting of a diamond-shaped box and loose interfitting sections having rectilinear sides and ends, the angles of all of the sections being either acute or obtuse, and the box having a shallow, upstanding marginal flange or beading for retaining the sections and at the same

time permitting them to be readily introduced or removed.

3. A puzzle consisting of a diamond-shaped box and a set of interfitting sections
5 fitting into and covering the floor of the box, the sides and ends of the sections being rectilinear and parallel to the sides and ends of

the box, whereby the angles are all either obtuse or acute, some of said pieces having acute, reëtrant angles.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name.

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THOMAS W. LANCASTER.