July 16, 1935. A. W. PAYNE ET AL 2,008,153

GAME COUNTER

Filed March 30, 1934

Fig. 1.

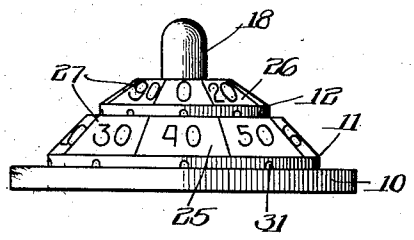


Fig. 3.

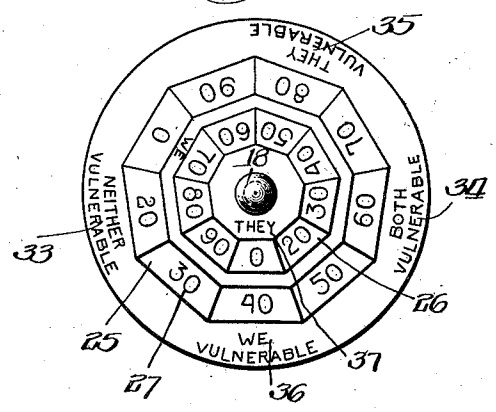


Fig. 2.

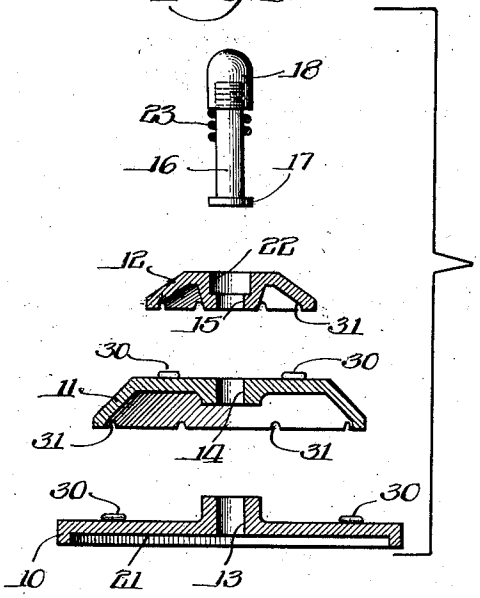


Fig. 4.

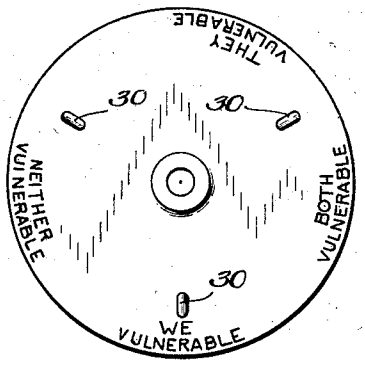


Fig. 5.

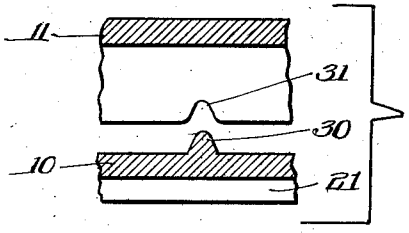


Fig. 6.

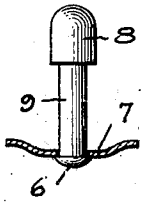
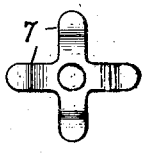


Fig. 7.



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GAME COUNTER

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Application March 30, 1934, Serial No. 718,238

12 Claims. (Cl. 273—148)

This invention relates in general to a counter preferably for keeping score of a number of players and having more particular reference to a counter for contract bridge.

An important object of the invention is in the provision of a number of counting members which are independently movable into any one of a number of set positions as referred to a variety of positions indicated on the periphery of a base member.

A further object of the invention is in the provision of a small compact game counter having a number of individual counting members separately adjustable and resiliently held in any one of a number of positions with respect to a base member.

A still further object of the invention is in the provision of a neat and attractive game counter having compactly and easily movable scoring members to indicate any part of a game made by the player or his opponent under a variety of conditions.

A still further object of the invention is in the provision of a game counter comprising a number of parts rotatable independently with respect to each other and having engaging notched means for holding the members in any set position with respect to each other.

A still further object of the invention is in the provision of a game counter having a plurality of separate parts made of composition material which fits closely and compactly together with a common mounting means for pressing them neatly and compactly together.

Other objects of the invention will appear hereinafter, the accompanying drawing illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the drawing, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a counter in accordance with this invention; Fig. 2 is a composite view of the separate parts of the counter, some of them being shown in section; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the counter; Fig. 4 is a plan view of the base only; Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail of the engaging notch and projection means; Fig. 6 shows a variant pivot post and a washer in section; and Fig. 7 is a plan view of the washer.

In operating a game counter it is desirable to have the counting members individually movable and adjustable so that the score or tally of the opponents or players can be separately kept. In the case of a bridge score it is necessary only to keep the score of opponents, usually designated "we" and "they", and so only two counting members are shown in the present device although a larger number of counting members can be included or similarly assembled if desired.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, a base 10 and two counting members 11 and 12 are formed of any suitable material such as metal, fibre or a composition such as "bakelite" and they preferably fit smoothly or conform to each other to provide a device which is pleasing in appearance, preferably regular in form, either round or of symmetrical angular structure, the parts preferably tapering or being reduced in size toward the top as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

The base and counting members are provided with registering central perforations 13, 14 and 15 adapting them to receive a pivoting post 9 having an integral cap 8, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, and a spring-armed washer 7 held in place by an upset or riveted head 6, in which the extremities of the spring arms will press the base and counting members yieldingly together, or as shown by Fig. 2, a pivoting post 16 which has a small flat head 17 at one end and is threaded at the other end to receive a nut or rounded cap 18.

The base 10 has a bottom recess 21 deeper than the width of the head 17 to offset the post from the periphery of the base and in the upper member 12 above the central perforation 15 is an enlarged circular recess 22 sufficient in diameter to receive the lower end of the cap 18 and also to seat and enclose a spring 23 which surrounds the post 16 and when the base and members are assembled on the post the spring 23 is seated in the recess 22 which is closed at the top by the cap 18.

Each of the counting members 11 and 12 has an outer angular surface with flat portions 25 and 26 conforming in shape but differing in size for containing numerals 27 designating a partial score, the several flat portions or spaces containing all of the possible scores, in the case of a contract bridge counter, less than the score of a complete game, for which each side is striving. For a contract bridge counter there are nine possible scores less than a complete game, for which the score is one hundred, but it should be understood that this same counter or a similar one with different graduations may be employed for keeping track of other games.

Projecting from the upper surface of the base 10 and of any of the counting members except the top one are small radial knobs or ribs 30 preferably rounded at the top and adapted to be seated in corresponding notches or grooves 31 in the edges of the next upper member. Instead of

having only one ridge 30 a plurality of them are provided and spaced apart at intervals so that when the counting members are moved for relative adjustment they will be even instead of uneven at one side which might cause the members to catch or bind and consequently to wear, in turning them for adjustment. It will be understood that the spring 23 presses the base and the counting members resiliently together between the head and the spring 23 so that a space is left in the top recess 22 permitting a movement of the counting members 11 and 12 along the post 16 as the members 11 and 12 are raised by engagement of the ridges 30 and notches 31 in turning them for relative adjustment.

In the present device three ridges 30 are provided because the counting spaces are nine in number and they may be spaced equally apart. A ridge for each notch 31 may be provided but it is not necessary; or a different number of ridges 30 might be provided and they need not be spaced equally apart but need only engage the notches 31 in the proper positions.

In the game of contract bridge there are four different conditions which are important. These are designated on the base as 33, neither vulnerable, 34, both vulnerable, 35, they vulnerable, and 36, we vulnerable. In the case of a counter which has nine sides these designations in order to register with the grooves 31 will not be exactly opposite but will be sufficiently so as clearly seen in Figs. 3 and 4, that they are easily kept apart so that by turning the counter upon the base 10 any one of these four conditions may be brought opposite the view of the player who is keeping the count. For this type of counter and particularly for contract bridge it is intended that each player shall have his own counter. One of the counters, preferably the upper one, has a designation 37 "they" indicating that that one shall be used for the opponent's score so there can be no question as to which score is meant.

In keeping the score each player who has one of the counters simply adjusts the proper counting member in accordance with the scores as made by either pair of opponents and in accordance with the designation on the base as to whether either one or both of them are vulnerable. With this simple device it is therefore possible and convenient for each person to keep the most material part of the scoring in contract bridge clearly before him and the proximity and convenience of the device encourages him to keep and pay attention to any partial scores which either of the opponents may have which should be a material help and an important factor in his bidding.

The counting numerals may be indented, raised or painted upon the surface portions and the entire device may be painted or colored in one or more colors to present an attractive appearance. The cap 18 is rounded or conforms otherwise to the outline of the device and preferably extends sufficiently above the uppermost counter to provide a suitable knob for lifting and handling the counter.

It is obvious that various changes may be made in the size and number of the parts for similarly scoring other games but still embodying the principles of this invention.

We claim:

1. A game counter having a base, a pair of superposed counting members, a pivoting post extending freely through the base and counting members having a head at one end and a cap at the other end, and a spring mounted upon the post and pressing the members resiliently together and the members turning independenly of the post.

2. A game counter having a base and a plurality of counting members with registering openings, a post extending freely through the openings with a head at one end and a cap at the other, a spring on the post for pressing the members and base together, and each member being separately adjustable on the post.

3. In a counter, a base member and a plurality of counting members, means for pivotally mounting all of said members and pressing them yieldingly together, and corresponding notches and projections in and on the members for engaging them in any of a number of relatively adjusted counter positions, the yielding means permitting a movement of the counting members along the mounting means as they are turned to engage and disengage the notches and projections.

4. In a counter, a base and counting members having registering perforations, a headed post upon which they are independently rotatable and a cap for the other end of the post, the top member having an enlarged recess to receive the end of the cap, and a spring on the post between the cap and the top member and seated in the recess.

5. In a counter, a base and counting members having registering perforations, a pivot post upon which the members are freely and separately movable, a head at one end of the post and a removable cap at the other, the base member having a bottom recess to receive the post head, and spring means between the cap and top member to draw up the post head in the recess.

6. In a counter, a base and counting members, means for mounting the members together for turning and axial adjustment with respect to each other, a plurality of counting notations on the exposed faces of the counting members, a notch in the lower edge of each counting member corresponding to each notation, a plurality of projections on the upper surface of the next lower member at angularly spaced apart distances to engage the notches and hold the counting member in any adjusted position without tilting the member.

7. In a counter, a base having designations spaced apart indicating different game conditions, a plurality of counting members one upon the other and on the base, means resiliently mounting the members for rotative and axial movement, the members above the base having counting notations and notches in the lower edges corresponding thereto, the base and members below the top having radial projections to engage the notches, and the members being separately adjustable with respect to each other and to the base to move them to place any counting notations adjacent to any designation of different game conditions.

8. A game counter comprising a base with designations spaced about the periphery indicating game conditions of both parties, a pair of counters mounted upon the base to rotate independently, each counter having a number of counting notations for one of the opponents, and resilient mounting means pressing the counters and base together and permitting separate rotation of the parts to adjust either counting member with any of its counting notations with respect to any designation of the base, and to adjust the base with respect to any notation of either or both of the counters.

9. A contract bridge counter having a base member with spaced designations thereon indicating a condition of one or both opponents, a pair of counters independently rotatable with respect to the base, means on the base and lower counter for engaging the counter member above it and retaining it in any one of a number of different counting positions with respect to any of the designations on the base member.

10. A game counter comprising a base, a plurality of counter members arranged one above the other upon the base, a common post upon which the members and base are pivoted for free and separate movement, the post having a head and the base having a recess on the under side to receive the head, a cap for the upper end of the post extending above the upper member and forming a knob for handling the counter.

11. A game counter comprising separate base and counting members, a common post upon which the members are pivoted, retaining means mounted upon the post having spring arms to engage the base for pressing the members yieldingly together.

12. A game counter comprising separate base and counting members, a common post upon which they are pivoted, interengaging means on some of the members for retaining them in any one of a number of different counting positions, a cap at the top of the post, and a spring armed washer at the bottom of the post to press the members yieldingly together and yielding sufficiently to release the interengaging means for separate adjustment of the members.

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