

May 16, 1961

S. W. KIRCHNER

2,984,488

ARTISTIC GAME APPARATUS

Filed June 9, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

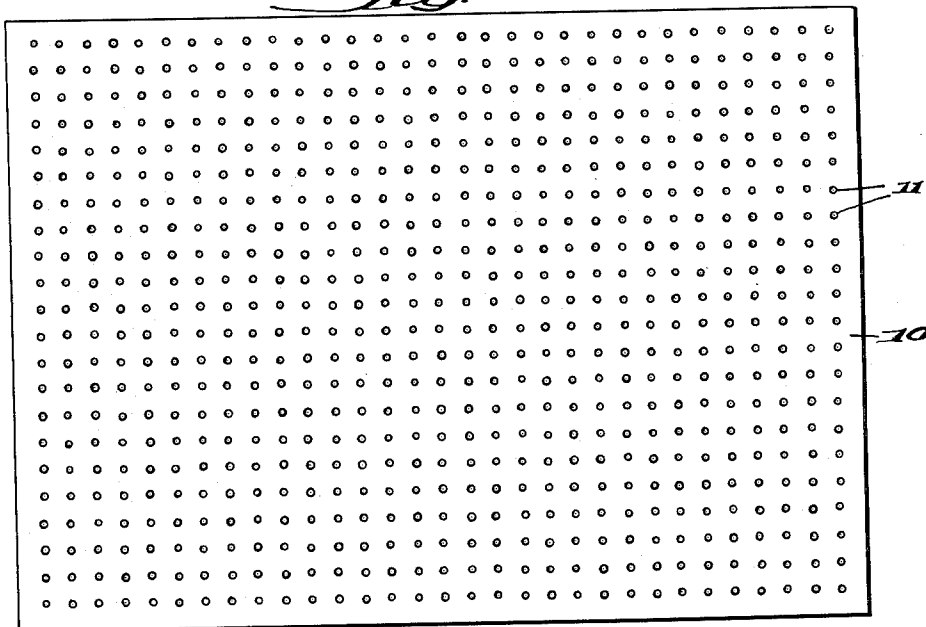
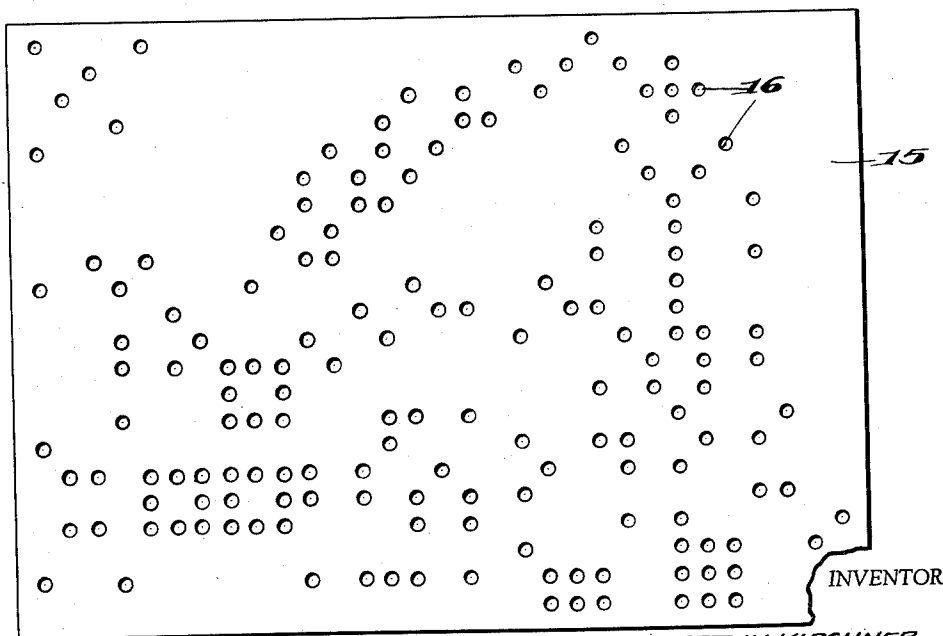


Fig. 2.



INVENTOR

STEWART W. KIRCHNER,

BY

Philip E. Liggers
ATTORNEY

May 16, 1961

S. W. KIRCHNER

2,984,488

ARTISTIC GAME APPARATUS

Filed June 9, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

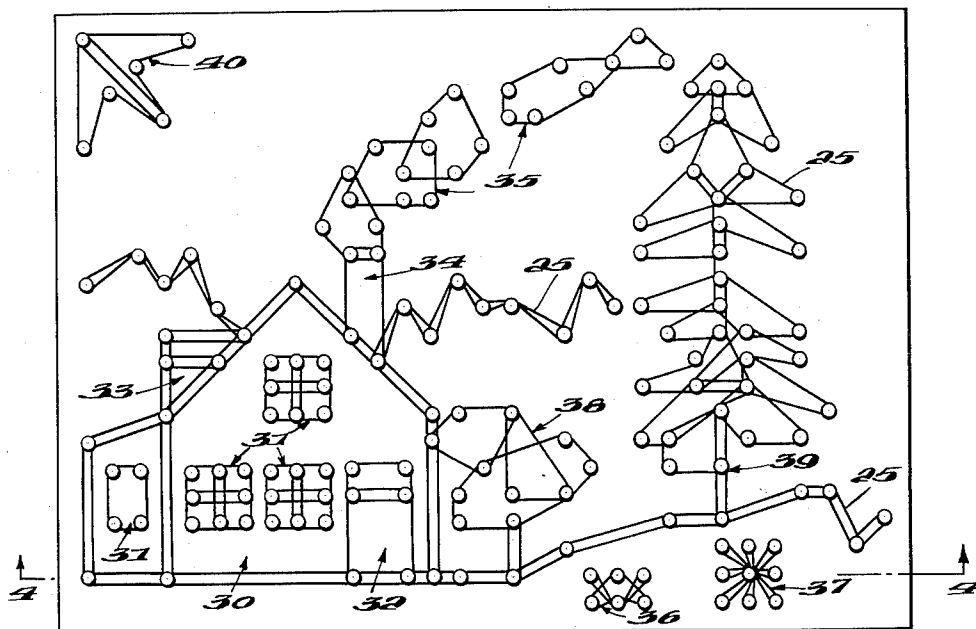


Fig. 4.

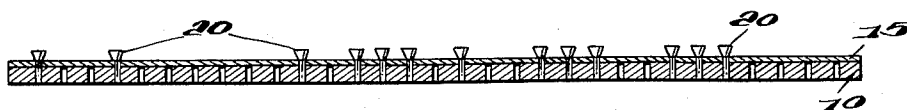


Fig. 5.

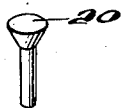
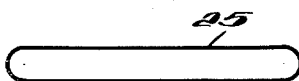


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR
STEWART W. KIRCHNER,

BY *Philip E. Liggins*
ATTORNEY

1

2,984,488

ARTISTIC GAME APPARATUS

Stewart W. Kirchner, Furth, Bavaria, Germany
(1150 Chestnut St., Menlo Park, Calif.)

Filed June 9, 1958, Ser. No. 740,900

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—157)

This invention relates to games or amusement devices, suitable for children, patients confined to beds or wheel chairs, and others seeking entertainment but unable to obtain partners or playmates and hence forced to depend upon their own activities.

In general, the game or amusement device of my invention employs a perforated board in which pegs or pins may be inserted, an overlay consisting of a sheet having holes punched therein so as to form a design or picture, said holes receiving the pegs or pins and the imperforate portions of the sheet overlying the board to conceal the holes not useful for the design, and a multiplicity of elastic or rubber bands, preferably of different lengths and colors, manually placed over and around the pegs or pins that project through the overlay and thus forming, on top of the overlay, a design or picture which is completed only when all the pegs or pins are properly joined by the stretched elastic bands. The overlay is one of a series I have designed to show different pictures or scenes which the user of the apparatus himself creates by properly placing the elastic bands. As the playing of the game utilizes a measure of skill and also art sense, I have named my game Elastic Art and intend to protect that name by appropriate steps taken under the trademark statutes of the United States.

The invention has as a principal object the provision of improved game apparatus, played or used by one person, and designed to entertain and amuse in a unique manner by requiring the player himself to build a picture, scene or design out of elastic bands placed around pins. The game of my invention has a pronounced surprise element and hence arouses curiosity, since the finished scene cannot be imagined until it has been almost completed by assembling the elastic bands. Also the employment of elastic bands of different colors, as is preferred, adds to the artistic result. Another object is the provision of game apparatus which is simple and easy to manufacture and hence may be sold for a reasonable price and yet yield a profit to all concerned. Another object is the provision of game apparatus having additional sales appeal (from the retailer's standpoint) in that new overlay sheets may be offered to the public from time to time, arousing new interest in game apparatus already purchased. Other objects will be understood from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, including one overlay sheet (exemplifying the many that may be designed), shown in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification.

In said drawings:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the game board per se;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of one of the overlay sheets;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the complete picture created by placing the overlay sheet of Fig. 2 over the game board of Fig. 1, and properly assembling the pins and bands;

Fig. 4 is a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3, omitting the bands and distant parts;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the pins;

Fig. 6 is an elevation of one of the elastic bands.

2

Referring particularly to the drawings, the apparatus of my invention includes a game board 10, which may be of wood, plastic, or other suitable material, flat on its bottom and top, and of sufficient dimensions to provide a substantial area on which to form a picture, scene or design. The illustrative board 10 is rectangular, but this is not essential, as oval or circular or other shapes of boards could be used. The board 10 is pierced by a large number of perforations 11 arranged in straight rows, or in some cases the perforations could be in curved or circular rows. In the present example, there are 682 perforations 11, but there may be many more or many less. The greater the number of perforations, the more complex the design or picture may be. For young children, therefore, a small board with relatively few holes may be made. The perforations are shown as extending entirely through the board, and this is preferred, as the holes then will not become clogged with lint, paper particles, tobacco crumbs or other debris; however, the holes could extend only partly through the board.

For superposition on board 10, a series of overlay sheets are provided, one of which is shown at 15. Each overlay sheet is of the same or about the same size as the game board. Sheet 15 may be of stiff paper or light cardboard or thin plastic and if preferred it may have a trademark, directions for use, a copyright notice, or other legends or insignia imprinted or lithographed on its upper surface. Sheet 15 incorporates a design or picture made by punching a series of holes 16 through it. The user or player lays sheet 15 over the game board 10, as shown in Fig. 4, and then inserts pegs or pins 20 having enlarged heads (Fig. 5) through all the holes 16 into the perforations 11. The pins are held in place by friction. Finally, the user completes the design or picture by stretching elastic bands 25 (one of which is shown in Fig. 6) around and between the heads of the pins 20. These elastic bands are preferably of several (at least three) different lengths and of several colors, e.g., red, yellow, blue, green, black and white. The larger the assortment of colors, the greater the opportunity for an artistic result.

Referring to Fig. 3, it is fairly clear that the completed picture shows a house 30 having four windows 31, a door 32, a dormer window 33, a chimney 34 with smoke 35, shrubs 36, 37 in the yard, a small tree 38 near the house, and a large tree 39 away from the house. A futuristic design of airplane 40 zooms overhead. Such a picture could be made with the house outlined with red bands and having white windows and door, with blue smoke issuing from the chimney. The trees would be outlined with green bands while the shrubs could be of almost any color or color combination. The airplane might be black, it appearing to be a pursuit plane suitable for night flying.

Another of my designs for an overlay shows a sailboat rocking on large blue waves, with a pennant flying from its mast, water birds circling overhead, and large fancifully colored fish in the water below. The overlay need not be directed to natural scenes as abstract designs or geometrical designs could be incorporated.

In order to stimulate interest in the game, the manufacturer or distributor may offer prizes for the most artistic scene or the most unusual design created from the elements of the apparatus. Thus widespread publicity may be obtained and sales may be stimulated.

Having described one form of my invention, without limiting myself thereto, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A puzzle apparatus capable of making artistic and interesting pictures and designs according to a concealed plan comprising, in combination, a flat board having on

3

its upper face a multiplicity of pin-receiving holes; a flexible sheet adapted to overlie said board, said sheet having a multiplicity of perforations forming an illegible picture or design but otherwise being imperforate and opaque and concealing the board; all said holes and perforations being of the same size; a multiplicity of manually insertable and removable pins, each of said pins being adapted to pass through a selected perforation in the overlay sheet and into the board beneath, being then held frictionally by the hole into which it has been thrust and projecting upwardly from the upper surface of the

4

sheet; and a multiplicity of elastic bands adapted to be manually stretched between and around the projecting portions of the pins so as to make legible the illegible picture or design of the overlay sheet.

References Cited in the file of this patent**UNITED STATES PATENTS**

2,463,270	Hirsch	Mar. 1, 1949
2,545,409	McCall	Mar. 13, 1951
2,871,619	Walters	Feb. 3, 1959