

Dec. 7, 1965

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3,222,070

INDICATOR FOR STOCK MARKET GAME

Filed July 27, 1962

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1

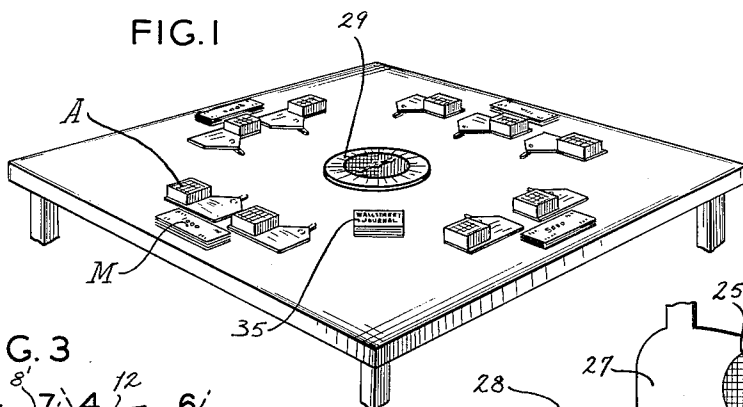


FIG. 3

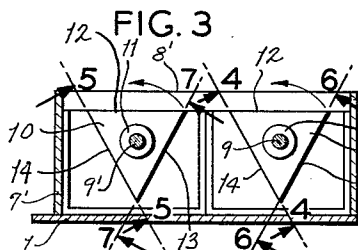


FIG. 8

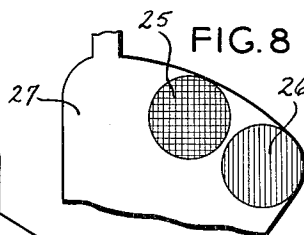


FIG. 2

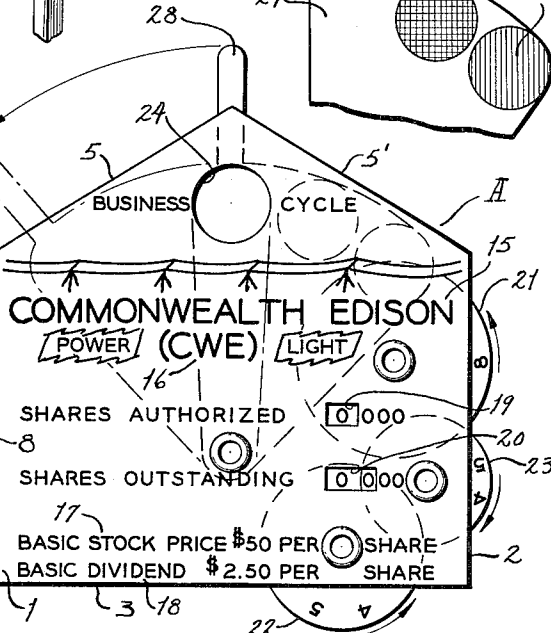
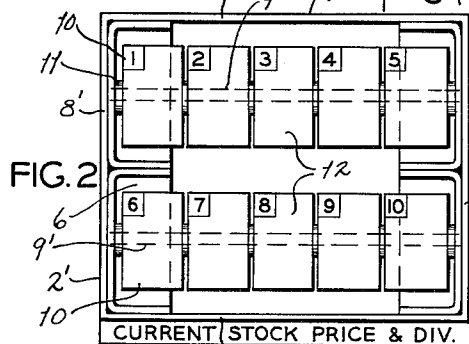


FIG. 4

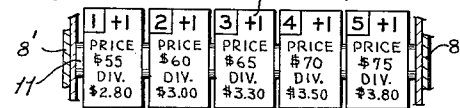


FIG. 5

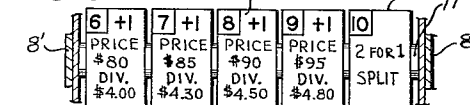


FIG. 6

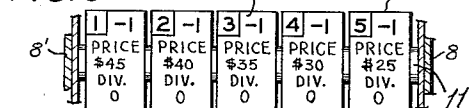


FIG. 7

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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 9

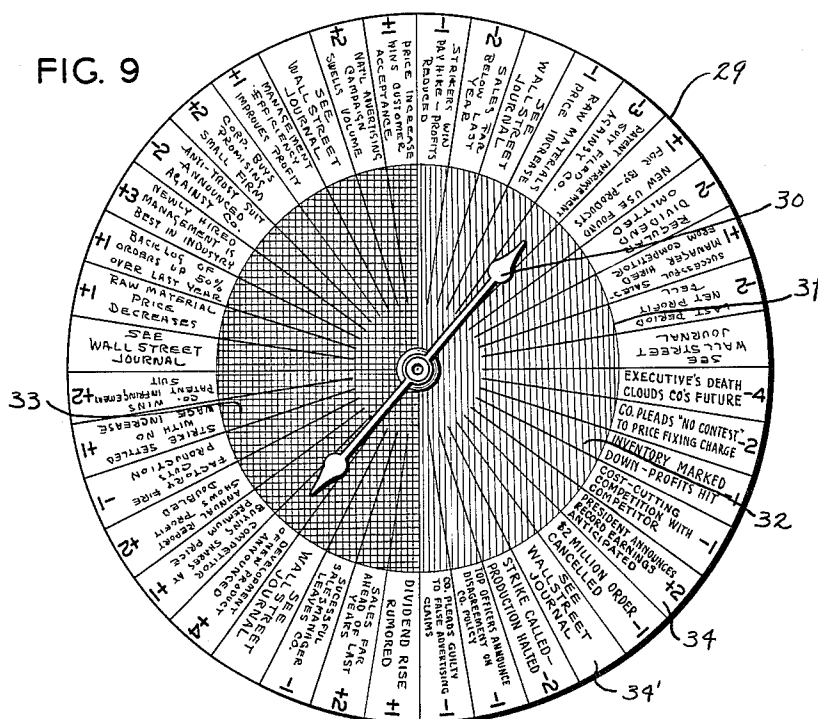


FIG. 10

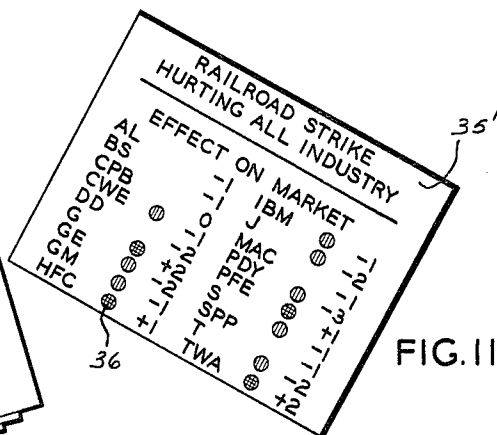
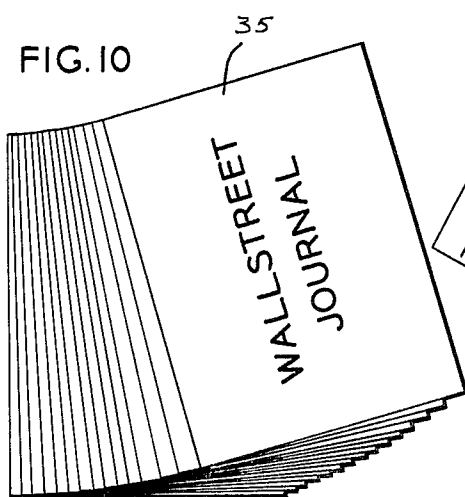


FIG. 11

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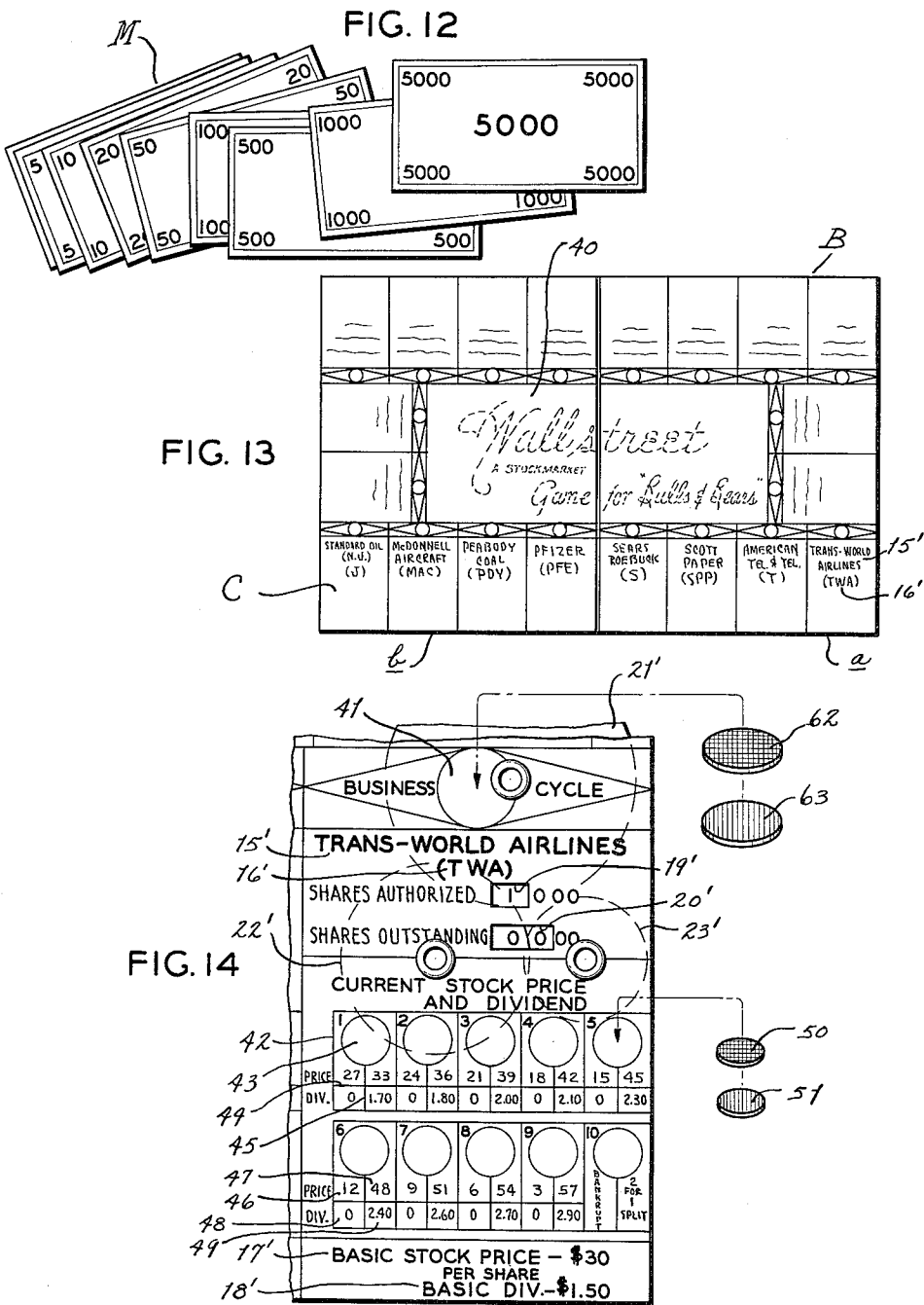
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INDICATOR FOR STOCK MARKET GAME

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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1

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INDICATOR FOR STOCK MARKET GAME

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Filed July 27, 1962, Ser. No. 212,951
3 Claims. (Cl. 273-148)

This invention relates to games and, more particularly, to apparatus adapted for a table game which simulates in a most novel and realistic manner the actualities of investment in securities.

It is an object of the present invention to provide game apparatus which is uniquely adapted to simulate the investing in equities of corporations, and with the presentation of economic conditions and forces causing variations in stock prices, the primary aim of the game being the acquisition of maximum wealth by any individual player.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide game apparatus of the character stated, the use of which is most instructive and educational in providing the players with a basic approach to the general field of equity investment and thereby providing insight into stock market operations, with the seemingly capricious movement of individual stocks.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide game apparatus which is adapted for playing by any desired number of players and which allows each player to imitate the office of president of various of the corporations whose stock is dealt with during the course of the game, and wherein each player is engaged in the problem of managing his own financial affairs without regard to the action of his opponents, whereby in the playing of the game constituting the present invention each player is concerned with his own respective investments and becomes aware of his success relative to his opponents at the termination of the game.

It is another object of the present invention to provide game apparatus which may be most economically produced; which is adapted for facile manipulation; and which permits of the use of any preselected number of game units for accommodating the number of players in the game.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide game apparatus of the type stated which is uniquely contrived to introduce the players in a simplified manner to a subject which is admittedly quite complicated, so that even youngsters playing the present game can gain a fundamental knowledge of the problems of investment in securities.

Other objects and details of the invention will be apparent from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a table having disposed thereon in playing position various elements of the game apparatus constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of a corporation data unit.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4-4 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5-5 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6-6 of FIGURE 3.

2

FIGURE 7 is a sectional view taken on the line 7-7 of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary plan view of the business cycle indicator segment of the unit illustrated in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 9 is a top plan view of the spinner disc.

FIGURE 10 is an enlarged plan view of the stack of Wall Street Journal cards in game-starting condition.

FIGURE 11 is a plan view of the reverse side of a typical Wall Street Journal card.

FIGURE 12 is a plan view of play money or scrip used in the game.

FIGURE 13 is a plan view of a game board which constitutes another form of the present invention and is constructed in accordance therewith and embodies the same.

FIGURE 14 is an enlarged plan view of a section of the game board illustrated in FIGURE 13.

The game of the present invention is played, as on a table or other convenient surface, by the utilization of various game elements together with either individual units A, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, or, if desired, with a gameboard B, as illustrated in FIGURE 13, which may be used in lieu of units A; both of which structures will be more fully described hereinbelow. The game may be played by any number of players, but, for purposes of illustration only, FIGURE 1 demonstrates places for four players; but such is not to be considered as a limitation with respect to the number of players who might simultaneously enjoy this game.

The essential object of the game is to simulate the accumulation of wealth through, primarily, the appreciation of fictitious stock interests in various corporations, as well as through income received as dividends on stock held and compensation for "operating" the corporations. Said game is uniquely adapted to present in a most realistic fashion the hazards and vicissitudes encountered in developing and managing successfully investments in industrial concerns.

Referring now by reference characters to the drawings which illustrate practical embodiments of the present invention, A designates a corporation data unit which may be formed of any suitable, relatively rigid, durable material, such as cardboard, plastic, and the like, comprising a flat base plate 1 having parallel end edges 2, 2', one side edge 3 extending between aforesaid end edges in perpendicular relationship thereto, and an opposed side edge indicated generally 4 but which includes a portion 4' parallel to side edge 3, and a pair of converging portions 5, 5' which project, and meet, beyond said portion 4'. The region of base plate 1 defined by end edge 2', side edge 3 and parallel side edge portion 4' forms the bottom wall of an upwardly opening, upstanding container 6 having parallel side walls 7, 7' and end walls 8, 8'. Journaled in said end walls 8, 8' in spaced-apart, axially parallel relationship is a pair of rods 9, 9', extending lengthwise of container 6. On each rod 9, 9' there is mounted for independent rotation thereon a group of five three-sided price indicators 10 which are maintained in spaced-apart relationship by spacers 11. It is to be understood that the number of indicators 10 on any one rod 9, 9' is merely a matter of choice, since any number of such devices may be utilized. But for purposes of describing the present invention, the provision of five of such indicators on each rod will be sufficient. Each price indicator 10, being triangular in cross-section, comprises three outwardly directed surfaces being designated 12,

13, and 14, as may best be seen in FIGURE 3. By virtue of the height of walls 7, 7' and 8, 8', only one face of each indicator 10 will be visible at a time, and that being the one presented upwardly in planar parallel relation to base plate 1. The surfaces 12 of indicators 10 are numbered consecutively 1 through 10 (FIGURE 2), with the first five being carried on rod 9 and the second five being disposed on 9'. In initial or starting position for the game, the said surfaces 12 will be presented upwardly, as shown in FIGURE 2. Each price indicator 10 is so mounted upon its related rod 9, 9', that it may be easily rotated by appropriate finger manipulation, and such indicators are stable in selected position.

The remainder of base plate 1, being that portion defined by edge 2, converging side edge portions 5, 5', the opposed portion of side edge 3, and wall 8 of container 6, is adapted to provide fundamental or basic information relative to the related corporation, such as setting forth the corporate name, as at 15, which, in this case, is "Commonwealth Edison"; the ticker tape symbol, as at 16, and adjacent the lower edge presents the basic stock price, as at 17, and the basic dividend, as at 18. Said remaining portion of base plate 1 is provided adjacent end edge 2 with a pair of spaced apertures or windows 19, 20, said latter being of relatively increased extent. Mounted for rotative movement upon the rearward or under-surface of base plate 1 is a plurality of flat dials indicated at 21, 22, and 23; each of said dials 21, 22, and 23 having circumferentially arranged numerals for presentation through the aforesaid windows. It is to be noted that dial 21 cooperates with window 19 so as to indicate the current number of shares authorized which will be presented in units of a thousand. Dials 22, 23 are of different diameter so that the same may cooperate to simultaneously present numerals for visibility through window 20 so as to indicate in multiples of one hundred the number of shares outstanding. Base plate 1 is also provided with an enlarged, preferably annular, aperture 24 in the region of the convergence of side portions 5, 5' for visible presentation therethrough of one of a pair of colored patches 25, 26, the former being black and the latter red. Said patches 25, 26 are carried upon a segmental plate-like member 27 mounted for rotation upon the under-surface of base plate 1 and incorporating a projecting arm 28 to facilitate swinging of segmental plate 27 so as to present the pertinent patch 25, 26 through aperture 24 for purposes of indicating the particular business cycle in momentary effect. The black patch 25, if exposed through aperture 24, indicates that the related corporation is operating within a favorable economic climate or that, in other words, there does exist a business uptrend; conversely, if the red patch 26 is presented for visibility, an unfavorable business climate is indicated. The significance of these colored patches 25, 26 will become all the more apparent in light of the following details of the operation of the game.

It is quite apparent that any number of corporation data units A may be utilized for playing the present game. However, from the standpoint of convenience of operation, it has been found that the utilization of such units is quite suitable for a four-handed game.

The corporation data units A are obtained by the individual players through purchase of the controlling interest in the outstanding shares of stock as at the commencement of a game, or by effecting such purchase from another player or the banker during the course of a game. At the start, each player is provided with a predetermined amount of play money, as indicated at M in FIGURE 12, with the total thereof being some pre-selected sum, such as, for instance, \$50,000.00. Each player may then purchase from an individual who has been selected as banker the controlling interest in such of the corporations as he may desire and for which he has adequate means to make payment. Also, during the course

of the game a player may purchase from the banker any corporations which either have been unsold up to that time or which the banker may have acquired. It is to be recognized that the banker serves as a market for corporations during the course of the game. Thus, for instance, if the total number of outstanding shares of Commonwealth Edison was 1,000, then, with a basic stock price of \$50.00 per share, as indicated at 17 in FIGURE 2, the total value of the outstanding shares would be \$50,000.00 but a player would only need to purchase \$30,000.00 worth of stock, or 600 shares; it should be observed that shares are handled in blocks of 100 so that consequently 100 shares more than one-half of the outstanding shares would, perforce, have to be acquired to obtain control. By making the payment to the banker the player is then entitled to have the corporation data unit A placed before him on the playing surface. A player may, of course, purchase minority interests in corporations, but such would not entitle him to have the related unit A before him at the table. Also, as stated, during the course of the game a party having controlling interest may be in need of funds to such an extent that he would sell his controlling interest for a nominal amount, or the stock of such company may have depreciated, during the course of the game, to considerably below the basic stock price so as to make purchase of a controlling interest therein a relatively inexpensive procedure. Thus, each player will have in front of him the units A for the corporation in which he holds a controlling interest. By maintaining such a controlling interest, each player will be entitled to a "salary" as president for such corporations, which salaries, being payable in money M from the banker, will thus add to the financial status of the particular player.

The game of the present invention includes a spinner disc 29 having a rotatably mounted double-ended pointer 30; said disc having further delineated thereon a central annular zone 31, one-half of which is colored red, as at 32, for indicating an unfavorable business cycle or climate, and the other half of which is colored black, as at 33, to signify a favorable business cycle or climate. Outwardly of central zone 31 disc 29 is circumferentially divided into a plurality of radial sections 34. There are two general types of such radial sections 34, one of which states a fact or condition having an effect upon the current price of the stock of the company controlled by the player spinning pointer 30. Such sections thus carry information of the following type: For example, "Management efficiency improves operations"; "Dividends rise rumored"; "Factory fire affects production"; etc.; and each such segment also contains a numeral preceded by a plus (+) or a minus (-) sign indicating the point rise or fall in the current price of the particular stock due to the related or accompanying fact. It will be observed that the sections 34 adjacent the black zone 33 predominantly recite favorable facts and thus, for the most part, indicate point rises, with the converse being true relative to the sections adjacent the red zone 32. The other type of radial section 34 is indicated at 34' and merely states "See Wall Street Journal"; there being a plurality of such sections 34' interspersed with sections 34. Sections 34' direct the player to a stack of cards which on their upper face bear the name "Wall Street Journal," such cards being indicated at 35 in FIGURES 1 and 10. The player who would be so directed would then pick up the top card of the stack of cards 35 and look at the reverse face thereof, as indicated at 35' in FIGURE 11. It will thus be seen that on such card face 35' there is set forth a fact or condition having economic effect upon all of the stocks in the game which are listed on such card by their ticker tape symbols. Adjacent such symbols there will be set forth a color patch, as at 36, which may be either black or red, or there may be no patch at all. Adjacent such patch or unmarked area there will be presented a numeral preceded by a

plus (+) or a minus (−) sign indicating the increase or decrease in the value of the particular stock by reason of the related fact or condition. Thus, for purposes of illustration only, it will be seen that the Commonwealth Edison stock, having ticker tape symbol CWE, carries a red dot, and with the stock being devalued by one point, as signified by the numeral 1 preceded by the minus sign. However, it should be particularly noted that the Wall Street Journal cards will have an effect upon each of the stocks in the game, so that when one player is directed to such card, all players must take note of the color patch and the point increase or decrease for his particular stocks on such card.

In operation of the game, the players will in turn operate spinner disc 29, in turn spinning said disc for each of the corporations controlled by the player. Each player will start with his corporation or corporations in a favorable business cycle so that color patch 25 will be exposed through window 24 at the game's commencement. The first player will then spin pointer 30 and will note the segment 34 or 34' adjacent the end of pointer 30 which overlies zone portion 33, being the black zone, which thus corresponds to the color patch 25. In this instance it will be noted that pointer 30 indicates a segment signifying a four-point increase in the value of the stock. If the player had caused the pointer to indicate a section 34' and thus had drawn Wall Street Journal card indicated 35', he would note, by virtue of the red dot adjacent letters CWE, that his company would go into an unfavorable business cycle and that there would be a one-point depreciation in the stock value. On his subsequent turn for operation of spinner disc 29 he would be required to note the radial section 34 indicated by that portion of pointer 30 overlying the red central zone 32 of disc 29. Thus, the particular business cycle in which any one corporation might momentarily be, will indicate which side of disc 29 will be pertinent for each spinning operation, and, as stated, the business cycles of all corporations are effected by Wall Street Journal cards 35. It is to be noted, however, that wherein there does not appear a color patch adjacent the ticker tape symbol on card face 35', no change is to be effected in the business cycle indicator on the associated corporation data unit A.

In order that each player may maintain in an orderly manner the current price and dividend of each of the stocks under his control, appropriate setting for manipulation of price indicators 10 must be effected; the operation of the same being now described: On surfaces 14 of said indicators 10 there is progressively set forth in pre-selected increments, such as 10% of the basic stock price, the appreciation in value of the stock over the basic stock price so that, if such basic stock price is \$50.00, then the first of indicators 10 will show on its face 14 a price of \$55.00, representing a one point or 10% increase over the basic stock price. Each of the indicators will thus successively demonstrate a like increase over the previous indicator 10 until the stocks shall have reached a ten point increase, whereupon, by turning the tenth price indicator 10 so as to present face 14 upwardly, it will be seen that the stock is to be split ten shares for each share outstanding. To effect such stock splitting, the player will then turn dials 22 and 23 so that the number of shares outstanding will be thereby doubled; and with a corresponding operation of dial 21 to indicate a two-fold increase in the number of shares authorized, in the event a doubling of the then outstanding shares will exceed the number of authorized shares. Thereupon, the player will turn each of the price indicators 10 so that faces 12 thereof will be presented upwardly as in starting position shown in FIGURE 2. Surfaces 14 of each price indicator 10 also carry a notation indicating an increase in divided as the price of the stock increases. With the effecting of a stock split upon a ten point increase, then each of the shares then outstanding will be entitled to the basic dividend.

The surfaces 13 of price indicators 10 indicate a downward progression in stock price from the basic stock price and being likewise in increments of one point or 10% which in the present example represents \$5.00. When a total decrease of ten points has been brought about, the company is then deemed bankrupt, with all shares then being worthless.

Reverting once again to FIGURE 9 and to the segment indicated by the portion of pointer 30 overlying the red zone 32, it will be seen that the stock has had a three-point drop. To reflect such drop, the user will then successively turn the first, second and third price indicators so as to expose faces or surfaces 13 thereof. With special reference to FIGURE 6, it will thus be seen that the current price of the Commonwealth Edison stock is \$35.00 per share and that the dividend has been eliminated.

Thus, upon operation of spinner disc 29 in the manner above described, and with reference to Wall Street Journal cards 35, as the same come into play, each player will be manipulating the price indicators 10 for each of his corporations so as to show the current price; it being recognized that each stock may fluctuate in value over a range of twenty points, that is, for example, between \$100.00 per share and zero dollars per share. It is imperative that a player properly maintain his price indicators so that he might be able to readily tally his current financial position at any juncture of the game.

The playing time of the present game may be of a predetermined time duration or limited by any other convenient determinant, such as playing until all players but one are bankrupt. However, the total playing time may be divided into intervals, such as of one-half hour or the like, which intervals shall correspond to the fiscal year of all corporations and thus allow each player to be accorded, and paid by the banker, an amount equal to the dividends to which he is entitled by virtue of his holdings for such fiscal year, as well as to receive his "salary" for each of the corporations which he controls. Thus, by utilizing such intervals, the players are given an opportunity to receive items of income which thus increase their financial position and allow for additional stock purchases.

At the termination of the game, each of the players would determine the value of each of his stock holdings by multiplying the number of shares held by the then current stock price, adding to the total value of his total stock holdings all such additional money as he may then have. In this connection, it would, of course, be preferable that each player have at his place a tally sheet wherein he may maintain a running record of his various stock transactions and of all income received, so that at any one particular moment each player would have full information as to his current financial condition. The player having the maximum wealth at the game's termination will, of course, be the winner.

In view of the foregoing, it is most evident that the game of the present invention is uniquely conceived and contrived so as to realistically approach conditions met in the actual stock market, and, thus, in a very straightforward and non-complex manner, instruct and educate the players as to the fluctuations in stock prices as the same are brought about by economic conditions or forces which are constantly at play. Thus, spinner disc 29 and Wall Street Journal cards 35 provide marked realism to the game of the present invention, and the corporation data units A serve to allow each player to maintain in a most accurate manner full current intelligence relative to the particular stocks. Thus, the game may move forward in an orderly, non-dilatory fashion, as record-keeping is at a minimum in view of the novel construction of price indicators 10. Accordingly, the present invention, while providing amusement and competition to the players, also simultaneously instructs them as to the rudiments of wealth accumulation by equity investment.

Furthermore, the elements of the game are most simple in construction, so that the various parts thereof are durable and reliable and are easily manipulated during the course of the game.

Reference now being made to FIGURES 13 and 14, B, as stated, designates a unitary gameboard being comprised of a pair of hinged parts *a*, *b*; which board is divided, as by suitable delineation, into a plurality of rectangular corporation data sections C. As shown in FIGURE 13, there are twenty of such sections C comprising gameboard B, but it is recognized that said gameboard may be of any dimension so as to encompass more or less of such sections C as may be desired. Said sections C are arranged about the periphery of gameboard B and on their inner margins define a rectangular central zone 40 on which may be disposed during play spinner disc 29 and the stack of Wall Street Journal cards 35 which will be utilized with gameboard B in the same manner as with corporation data units A above described. Each corporation data section C relates to a single corporation, having the corporate name and ticker tape symbol suitably inscribed thereon, as at 15', 16', respectively, and each such section C includes a pair of spaced-apart apertures or windows 19', 20' for exposure therethrough of the numerals appearing on the edge-adjacent portions of flat discs 21' and 22' and 23', respectively; said discs being suitably mounted, as by rivets, for rotation upon the under-surface of gameboard B. Thus, by suitable manipulation of disc 21' the number of shares for the particular corporation authorized will be indicated in units of a thousand, while the number of shares outstanding will be indicated through window 20' by numerals appearing on cooperating discs 22', 23', with such shares being set forth in units of one hundred; all as in the manner set forth and described with respect to the corresponding parts of corporation data unit A. In the other edge portion of each corporation data section C there is set forth, as at 17', 18', the basic stock price and the basic dividend per share of the stock of the related company.

Adjacent its inner end margin, each corporate data unit C has a circular region 41 outlined thereon for disposition thereon of a flat circular disc drawn at 62 and 63. Said disc 62 is black, while disc 63 is red, and the same respectively relate to favorable and unfavorable business conditions in the same manner as patches 25 and 26 of segment 27 of corporation data unit A. Thus, the player will place within the outlined area 41 whichever of the said discs 62, 63 corresponds to the particular business climate within which the related corporation is then operating. Hence, discs 62, 63 will be changed as the game progresses and as fluctuations are encountered in the business cycle.

There is also delineated upon each corporation data section a series of ten price indicator boxes 42 which are arranged in two rows of five boxes each; said boxes being numbered chronologically from 1 to 10. Each box 42 has defined thereon an annular space 43 and a transverse line 44 spaced from said annular space 43; which line 44 extends across all boxes 42 in the first row, and in the second row the corresponding line 44 extends across all boxes except the tenth one. Within each box 42 the transverse line 44 is intersected by a line 45 normal thereto so as to provide a pair of per-share price compartments 46, 47 on the annular space side of said line and a pair of per-share dividend compartments 48, 49 on the opposite or remote side of said transverse line 44. The compartments 46 of the said boxes 42 successively indicate a diminution in the basic stock price of one point, in this case \$3.00, so that as in the first box the price so indicated would be \$27.00, and in the ninth box the stock price would be down to \$3.00 per share. The stock price compartments 47 of each box 42, conversely, indicate increases in increments of one point, or \$3.00, in the basic stock price, so that for the first box the increased price would be

\$33.00, while in the ninth box the price would be \$57.00. With respect to the tenth box 42, if there is a further decrease in the stock price from the \$3.00 in box number nine, the company would be considered bankrupt; whereas if there is a one point increase over the valuation in the ninth box 42, the stock would be split two for one, with the stock price returning to its basic price of \$30.00, but with the holder having twice as many shares. The dividend compartments 48 correspond to the price compartments 46 so that said dividends as appearing in compartments 48 will be on a declining basis in view of the declination of the stock. On the other hand, the dividend compartments 49 correspond to the stock price compartments 47 and reveal an increase in dividend as the price per share of the stock increases. For purposes of ready reference, it would be desirable that the figures appearing in compartments 46 and 48 of each box 42 be in red numerals, with the figures in compartments 47, 49 being in black. Discs 50, 51, sized for disposition upon annular spaces 43 of boxes 42, are provided so that the player can indicate the precise price and dividend current at the particular moment. The discs 50, 51 will be colored so as to correspond to the coloring of the price and dividend notations, having that color which indicates whether the value of the stock is above the basic stock price or below, so that the player can then refer to the particular pertinent compartments.

The game of the present invention is played with gameboard B in the same manner as described above in conjunction with corporation data units A, the difference residing in the incorporation of the various corporation data units into a unitary construction as embodied in gameboard B, as opposed to the individual corporation data units A.

It should be understood that changes and modifications in the formation, construction, arrangement, and combination of the several parts of the table game apparatus may be made and substituted for these herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A table game involving simulation of investment in stocks of various corporations comprising data recording devices for each such corporation, each device comprising a flat base of relatively rigid and thin material, a plurality of openings provided in one zone of said base, at least one disk associated with each opening, said disks being rotatably mounted on the under-face of said base for exposure of a preselected radial portion through the related opening, spaced apart bearings mounted on said base member in another zone thereof, a shaft journaled in said bearings, and a three-sided stock valuation indicating member mounted on said shaft for rotation thereupon, stock valuations being presented on various of the sides of said indicating member.

2. A table game involving simulation of investment in stocks of various corporations comprising data recording devices for each such corporation, each device comprising a flat base of relatively rigid and thin material, a plurality of openings provided in one zone of said base, at least one disk associated with each opening, said disks being rotatably mounted on the underface of said base for exposure of a preselected radial portion through the related opening, at least two sets of aligned bearings mounted on said base in another zone thereof, first and second shafts journaled in said bearings in axial parallel relationship, a plurality of multi-faced stock valuation indicating members mounted on each shaft for rotation thereof.

3. A table game as defined in claim 2 and further characterized by each indicating member being three-sided, and such members being arranged in numerical progression.

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RICHARD C. PINKHAM, *Primary Examiner.*DELBERT B. LOWE, *Examiner.*