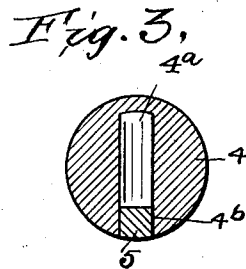
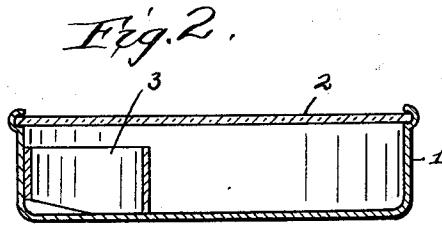
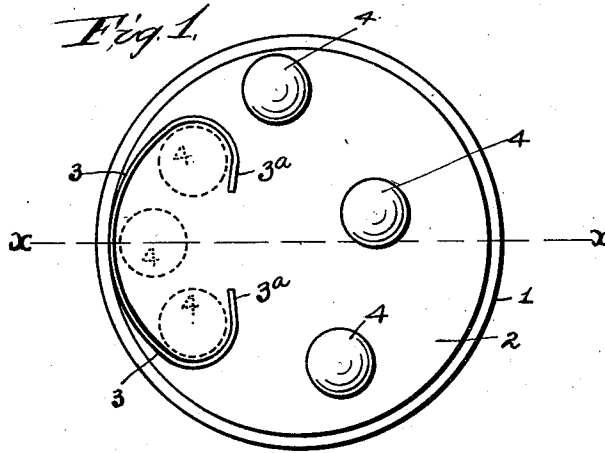


E. G. JOHNSTON.  
PUZZLE GAME APPARATUS.  
APPLICATION FILED APR. 3, 1909.

1,029,016.

Patented June 11, 1912.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD G. JOHNSTON, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

## PUZZLE GAME APPARATUS.

1,029,016.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 11, 1912.

Application filed April 3, 1909. Serial No. 487,706.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD G. JOHNSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Columbus, in the county of Franklin and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Puzzle Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the improvement of puzzle game apparatus and the objects of my invention are to provide a simple and inexpensive game device, the successful manipulation of which will require skill and at the same time furnish amusement. This object I accomplish in the manner illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved game device, Fig. 2 is a sectional view on line  $x-x$  of Fig. 1 and, Fig. 3 is an enlarged central sectional view of one of the balls which I employ.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

In carrying out my invention, I employ a substantially cup-like casing 1 of metal or other suitable material, the vertical wall of which has its upper edge portion recessed to receive a transparent disk or cover plate 2. Within the box and at one side thereof, I provide a pen or partial inclosure, which is produced by bending a strip of sheet metal or similar material 3, into an elongated C-form, the ends of the strip being curved or bent inward to form separated and substantially hook-shaped terminals 3<sup>a</sup>. At the center of its length, the strip 3 has its rear portion secured by soldering or otherwise, to the inner surface of the vertical wall of the case body 1, said strip thus being made to form an elongated pen or partial inclosing space at one side of the center of the box or case. Within the box, I also employ a plurality of balls 4, there being preferably three of these balls in number and the same being free to roll upon the floor or upper side of the box or casing bottom. In constructing each of the balls 4, I provide the same with an internal recess, which may be of the straight form shown at 4<sup>a</sup> in Fig. 3 of the drawing, or which may be in the nature of an elongated hollow space within said ball. This internal chamber or space has leading outward therefrom an opening 4<sup>b</sup>, the mouth of which is securely closed by a closure plug 5 of

a heavier material than that of which the body of the ball is formed, the outer surface of the plug being rounded to conform to the surface of the ball.

It will be understood that the object to be accomplished in the playing of the game is to so tip or manipulate the box or case 1, as to induce all of the balls to run into the mouth of the partial inclosure at the side of the box and to cause said balls to lie in the relative positions shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing, in which the surfaces of the balls are against or adjacent to the inner surface of the strip 3. Ordinarily this is accomplished by first so tipping the box or case, as to induce two of the balls to enter the compartment, then further manipulating the device in such manner as to cause the third ball to enter said compartment and to pass between the two balls previously introduced therein.

In further explanation of the operation of my improved puzzle game apparatus, it will be noted that the pocket or compartment which serves as the goal for the player, is of a size calculated to receive the three balls comfortably and no more. In addition, it will be observed that the ends of the compartment are turned inwardly to form a gateway and that this gateway is of such a size in comparison with the depth of the pocket or compartment at this point, that it will be an impossibility to cause a third ball to enter such compartment when one of the two balls already in the compartment is disposed in front of such gate. Because of these combined dimensions and structural features, it becomes impossible to cause the ball to enter the compartment unless the two balls already in the compartment are disposed at either end thereof.

It is obvious that by drawing or bending the end portions of the strip 3 inward or toward each other and thereby contracting the space within the compartment or inclosure, the playing of the game or the attainment of the object in the playing of the game, may be rendered more difficult.

In view of the fact that each of the balls is weighted at one point on its periphery, or weighted out of center, it will be understood that difficulty will be met in causing the first two balls introduced into the compartment to remain seated at the ends of said compartment until the third ball is introduced between said first two balls, unless

the weighted points of said balls first introduced, are down or in contact with the bottom of the case and owing to the fact that the entire periphery of the ball is so coated  
5 or plated as to prevent the weight point being observed, it will be understood that the difficulty of attaining the object of the game, will be increased.

What I claim, is:

- 10 1. Puzzle-game apparatus comprising a receptacle having a plane surface, three balls movable about said plane surface by the tilting of the receptacle, and a pocket approximately of a size to receive all of said  
15 balls, said pocket having its ends turned inwardly to form a narrow gateway for the passage of the balls and being of less depth than twice the diameter of a ball.

2. The combination with a cup-like casing, of a C-shaped compartment located therein and against the wall of said casing, the ends of said compartment terminating in inturned hook-like portions, and balls adapted to roll within said casing, the size and form of said compartment being such as to permit the passage of only one of said balls between one end of the compartment wall, and a second ball at the center of the length of and in contact with said compartment wall.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD G. JOHNSTON.

Witnesses:

C. C. SHEPHERD,  
A. L. PHELPS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."