Feb. 23, 1954

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2,670,208

LIGHT TRANSMITTING CHECKER PIECE

Filed April 11, 1950

Fig. 1.

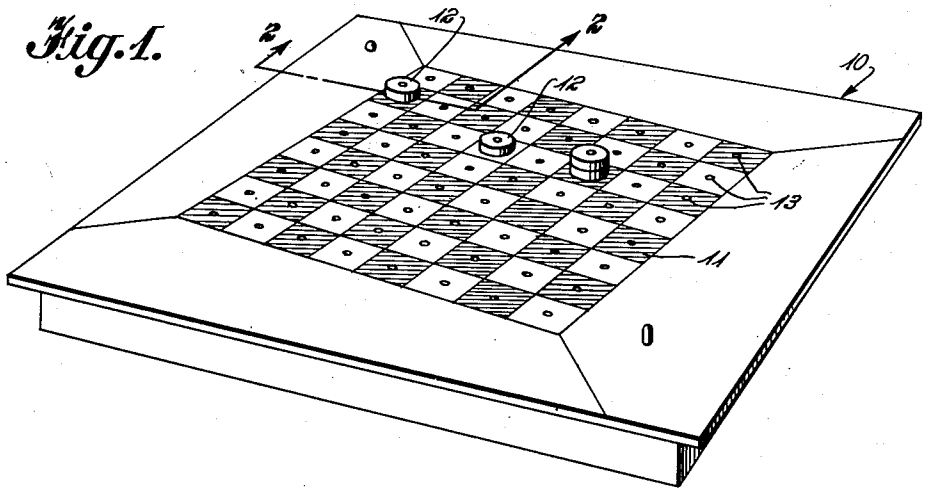


Fig. 2.

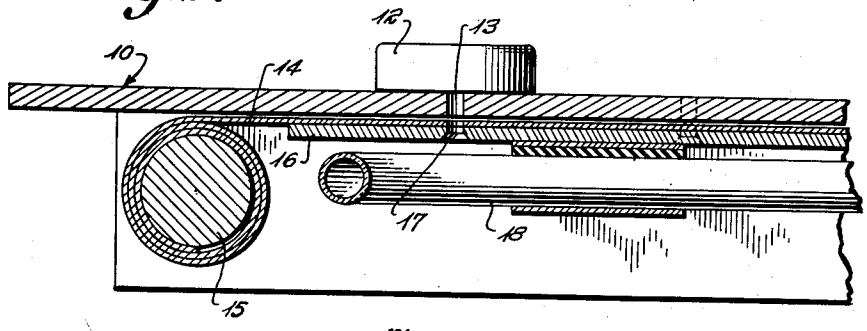


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

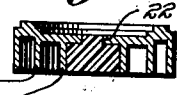


Fig. 5.

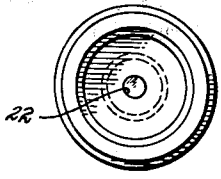


Fig. 6.

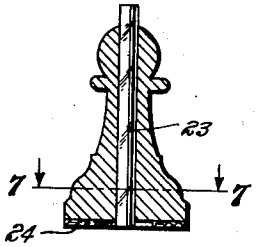


Fig. 7.

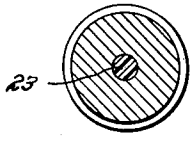
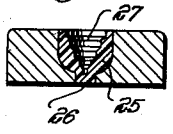


Fig. 8.



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LIGHT TRANSMITTING CHECKER PIECE

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Application April 11, 1950, Serial No. 155,149

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—137)

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This invention relates to devices for indicating and illustrating the plays of games of position such as chess, checkers and the like, and more particularly the invention is concerned with the game pieces, or men, employed in connection with such devices.

A game device of the type and for the purpose generally described is disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 150,671, which is now Patent No. 2,647,749, issued August 4, 1953, wherein a game board having a checkered playing area is illustrated and wherein windows are formed in the game board in the squares of the checkered area. A record form is supported beneath the playing area in such a manner that it is visible through said windows, the record form being adapted to be perforated by suitable instruments inserted through said windows and being movable in a direction which is angularly related with respect to the direction of the columns of squares of the checkered playing area. Thus, by perforating the record form to indicate the origin and destination of the playing piece involved in each move, a play-by-play record of any game may be made so that at any subsequent time such game may be replayed or the moves thereby indicated or illustrated, exactly as originally played, the game device described being available not only for replaying games recorded on it but also being available for the replaying of games otherwise recorded.

In order to facilitate the replaying of recorded games, the device shown in said co-pending application includes a light source which is located beneath the record form so that when perforations, or light pervious areas, in the record form register with the windows in the squares of the checkered playing area, light from the light source will pass through said windows and in so doing indicate the game pieces involved in the various moves, their origin and their destination.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide a game device for the purpose described which is so designed that the use of game pieces, or men, and their movement upon the playing area of the game board in conventional manner is permissible and will not reduce to any substantial degree the effectiveness of the device in its capacity as a medium for simultaneously indicating and illustrating the moves of a game.

A further object is to provide a novel game piece, or man.

A still further object is to provide a game piece which embodies the features of the invention but which may, if desired, have the configuration of a conventional game piece, or man.

A still further object is to provide a game piece, or man, which is so designed as to direct toward

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the eyes of the players the light which passes through the windows of a game board of a device of the character described.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a game device embodying features of the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged detail section taken along line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figures 3 and 4 are sectional views through different forms of checkers, or checker-like game pieces, designed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 5 is a top view of the game piece shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a sectional view through a chessman embodying features of the invention;

Figure 7 is a horizontal section taken along line 7—7 of Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is a sectional view through still another form of checker, or game piece.

The game device, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 includes a game board 10 which is generally similar to the game board disclosed in my aforementioned co-pending application Serial Number 150,671, the top of the game board having a checkered area 11 suitable for playing checkers and chess thereon. Game pieces in the form of checkers are indicated at 12. Centrally of each square of the checkered area the top of the game board is formed with a window, or aperture, 13 through which a record form 14 is visible, the record form being carried on suitable rolls (one of which is indicated at 15) and being movable between the under side of the top of the game board and a die plate 16. The latter is formed with apertures 17 which register with the windows, or apertures, 13 so that the record form may be perforated by inserting a punching element through any pair of aligned apertures. The punching element may, if desired, be of the type carried by the game pieces, or men, as disclosed in my co-pending application Serial Number 155,150, which is now Patent No. 2,651,521, issued September 8, 1953. A tubular light source 18 of sinuous shape extends back and forth under the rows of perforations 17 in the die plate.

It will thus be apparent that the record form may be perforated to record play-by-play, and in the proper sequence, the moves of a game. Hence such game, or moves thereof, may be replayed at any time by advancing the record form through the device in the same manner it was advanced during recording of the original game and moving the game pieces, or men, as indicated by the record forms, it being noted that whenever a perforation in the record form

registers with a window in the top of the game board, light from the light source 18 will pass through the window to the eyes of the players and thereby indicate that the particular squares having the illuminated windows correspond to the origin and destination of the particular move which is represented.

In accordance with the invention, the game pieces, or men, which are employed in carrying out the various moves indicated by the record form are so designed that they may be employed generally in the same manner as conventional game pieces without interfering to any material degree with the passage of light to the eyes of the players in the manner and for the purpose described. To this end, the game pieces are preferably transparent or are opaque and have transparent cores which register with the windows in the top of the table so that any light which is permitted to pass through the windows will also be permitted to pass through the game pieces.

The game pieces may be formed in various ways to permit the passage of light through them. For example, the game piece shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 is in the form of a checker. It is solid and opaque, may be of plastic and has a central, transparent, plastic core 19. When such a game piece is located on the game board so that the core 19 is located over one of the windows 13 and a perforation in the record form permits light to pass through the window, such light will pass through the core 19 to the eyes of the players and thereby indicate that this particular game piece is the one to be moved.

In Figures 4 and 5, a different form of checker is illustrated, the checker in this instance being in the general shape of a flanged disk and having annular concentric ribs 20 and 21, the latter providing a cavity which terminates in a reduced bore extension 22 in the top wall of the checker. The checker in this instance may also be formed of an opaque plastic material and the cavity and bore extension filled with a transparent plastic. This form of game piece has the advantage that the diameter of the base portion of the transparent plug is considerably larger than that of the windows in the top of the game board. Hence the game piece does not have to be accurately positioned over the windows to insure transmission of light through the transparent core in the manner contemplated.

A chessman embodying the features of the invention is illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. In this embodiment, the game piece has a central bore in which the light transmitting core 23, preferably a transparent plastic, is accommodated. The core 23 may extend above the top of the game piece, as shown, and the base of the game piece may carry a felt pad 24, the latter having a central opening for accommodating the lower end of the core 23. As in the case of the checkers heretofore described, the chessman is adapted to be positioned on the game board so that the lower end of the core 23 will be located over the window of the square which the game piece occupies. Under such conditions, light which is permitted to pass through the window by the record form is transmitted through the core 23 and through the upper end of the latter to the eyes of the players.

A fourth modified form of checker is shown in Figure 8. In this embodiment, the checker is solid and the body thereof is opaque as in the case of the checker in Figure 3. However, the transparent, light-transmitting core has a cup-shaped upper end 25 and a stem-like lower end 26 of reduced diameter, the cup-shaped upper end being formed with annular, light-reflecting facets 27. This form of light-transmitting core has the advantage that the illumination of the core may be readily observed by the players even though the light source may not be bright, or the game piece may be inaccurately positioned over the window, or the perforation in the record form inaccurately registered with the aligned apertures through which the light is transmitted.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the various forms of game pieces illustrated and described have the advantage that the transparent cores thereof pipe through the game pieces the light which is permitted to pass through the windows over which the game pieces may be positioned. Consequently such light is emitted from the tops of the game pieces in such a manner as to be readily and clearly visible to the eyes of the players.

The specific type of game board and the specific forms of game pieces illustrated and described in connection with the game board are intended by way of example and not by way of limitation, it being apparent that the advantages of the invention may be obtained with various other designs of game boards and game pieces.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game piece for use with game apparatus wherein moves of said game piece are indicated by the emission of light through windows in said apparatus which identify positions which the game piece may occupy or to which it may be moved, said game piece being movable over said apparatus and to register selectively with one of said windows and having an opaque body and a light-transmitting, transparent core positioned therein and extending therethrough, said core having the emission end thereof formed to provide light-reflecting facets.

2. A game piece for use with game apparatus wherein moves of said game piece are indicated by the emission of light through windows which identify positions which the game piece may occupy or to which it may be moved, said game piece having an opaque body with a centrally-disposed light-transmitting core positioned therein and extending therethrough, said core having a cup-shaped upper end and a stem-like lower end of reduced diameter, the cup-shaped upper end being formed with annular, light-reflecting facets.

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