Dec. 4, 1934. M. D. MAYNARD 1,983,044

GAME

Filed May 6, 1932

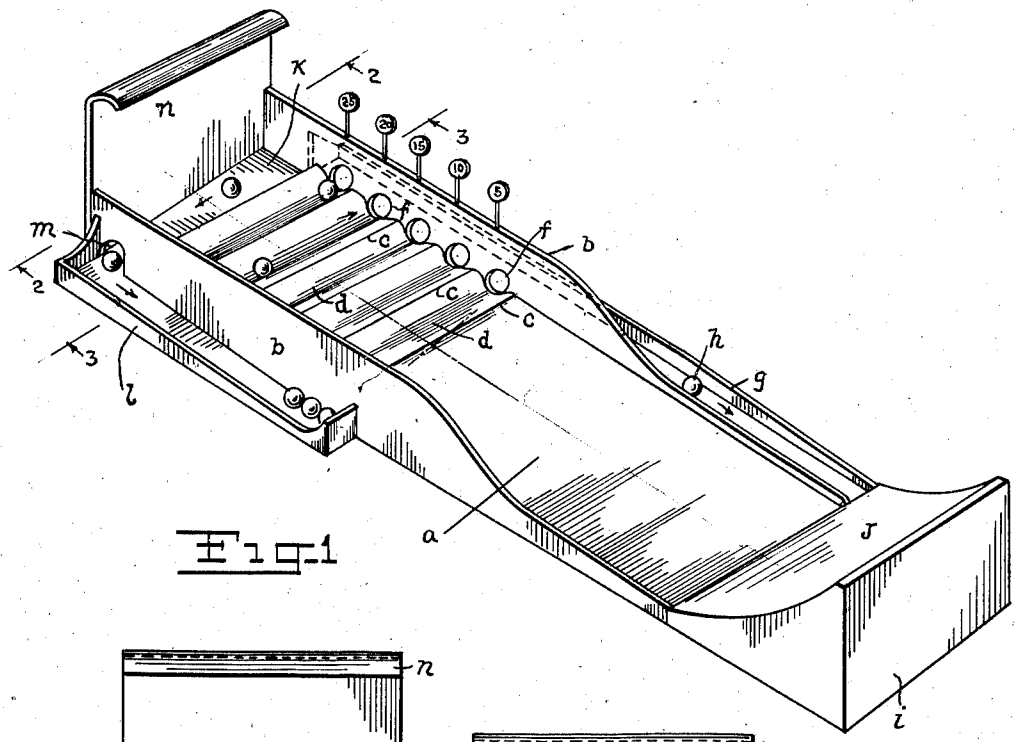


Fig-1

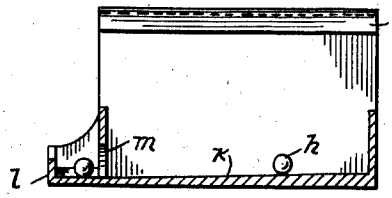


Fig-2

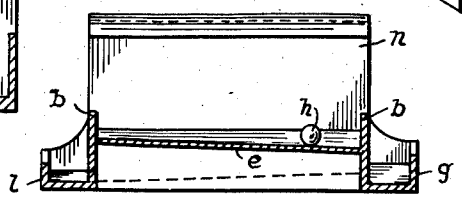


Fig-3

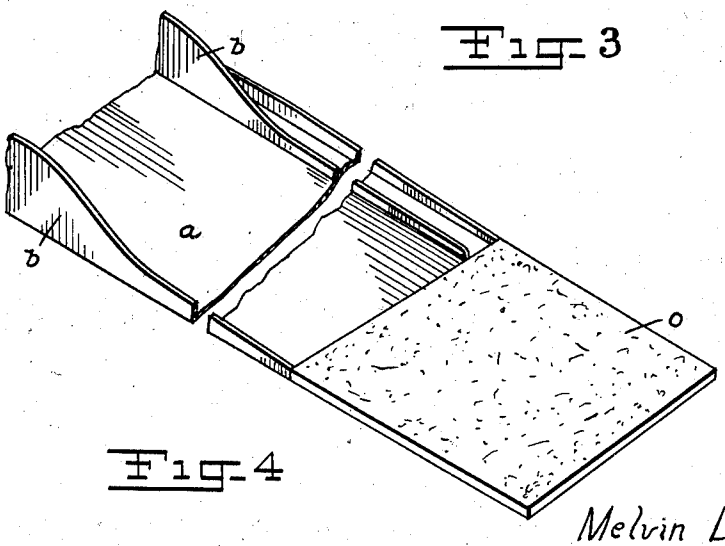


Fig-4

INVENTOR
Melvin D. Maynard
BY
Arthur H. Serrell Jr.
his ATTORNEY

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GAME

Melvin D. Maynard, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 273—125)

My invention relates to improvements in game apparatus and has, for its primary object, the provision of an interesting and novel game in which any desired number of players may participate.

Another object of the invention is to provide a game in which the skill of the players participating, therein, is paramount in determining the final winner.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention further includes novel features and details of construction, to be, hereinafter, more fully described, the preferred form of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an apparatus constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 4 is a partial perspective view illustrating the front of the game apparatus and showing the manner in which a golf mat may be employed in playing the game, as an alternative form to the ball launching means shown in Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the drawing and particularly to Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, the apparatus embodying the present invention includes an inclined runway (*a*), which defines a playing surface over which the balls employed in the game are adapted to travel. On the respective sides of the runway are vertical walls (*b*), which confine the balls in their movement upon the inclined playing surface. The inclined runway (*a*), is constructed so as to contain, on its surface, a plurality of crests and troughs, indicated respectively at (*c*) and (*d*) in the drawing. The surfaces of the dips and elevations created by the crests and troughs are preferably uniformly curved to present a smooth rounded face to the balls passing over the same. The crests and troughs are constructed to angularly traverse the playing surface of the runway, the variation of inclination to the center line of the runway placing the high points of the crests below a perpendicular to the center line at the right-hand side of the confining surface (*b*) and above the left hand confining surface. To clearly emphasize this point in the construction, I have shown a center line in the drawing with a perpendicular thereto to illustrate the angular deviation of one of the crest surfaces across the runway. The troughs, also, slope in the direction of the side confining surface at the right-hand side of the apparatus as clearly shown at (*e*) in Fig. 3. From the foregoing it will be apparent that the crests and troughs are angularly disposed across the playing surface, both with reference to the longitudinal center line and with respect to the plane of the runway. Adjacent each of the troughs (*d*), at the lowest elevation of the same and located in the right-hand confining wall (*b*), in this instance, are openings (*f*). A channel (*g*) is situated on the exterior of the runway and provides a means for returning the balls, passing through the openings in the side wall, to the player. Balls employed in the game are shown in the drawing at (*h*). A launching board (*i*), having a concaved surface (*j*), which extends to a higher elevation than the inclined runway (*a*), is positioned in front of the same as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing.

To the rear of the inclined runway, along which the balls are projected from the launching board (*i*), by the players, is a hazard (*k*), which comprises an inclined surface lower than the crest of the highest point of elevation in the runway. The hazard (*k*) communicates with a ball retaining channel (*l*) through an opening (*m*) in the side of the confining surface (*b*) located at the rear of the left-hand confining wall. A back board is indicated at (*n*) to assure that any balls passing beyond the inclined surface (*a*), and the crests and troughs therein, will be retained by the hazard (*k*).

Each of the openings (*f*) in the right-hand confining surface (*b*) are designated by markers or otherwise to indicate a numerical count utilized in scoring the game. In the instant case, I employ markers as shown in the drawing, Fig. 1, having counts of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25, respectively, the openings being assigned markers of proportional valuation in accordance with its proximity to the hazard (*k*). It will be understood that the players locate the balls one at a time at a chosen elevation upon the surface of the launching board (*i*) in an effort to attain the degree of movement of the ball upon the inclined surface (*a*), that will bring the same to rest in a particular or desired trough (*d*). If the desired length of movement of the ball is accomplished by the player, the ball will come to rest in one of the troughs from which position it will pass down the inclined surface of the trough through the opening (*f*) to the channel (*g*) and be returned to the launching board.

While it is apparent that many variations may be made in the manner of playing, or scoring, the game, I prefer to employ the following way. Any number of players may partake in the game,

each player being allotted a predetermined number of balls, which, for example, may be ten balls apiece. The first player then takes his position at the launching board and playing one ball at a time, endeavours to make as high a count as possible. In scoring the game, a player continues projecting the balls up the runway and counting each scoring play as it is designated by the markers until either the ball in use passes through a scoring opening (*f*) a second time before a successive run of the entire five openings is made, or the ball is projected so hard as to finish its course in the hazard (*k*), from which it assumes a position in the channel (*l*) and is not returned to the player. In either event, the next player continues for his turn at the launching board in a similar manner. In scoring the game, it is further provided that each time a player projects the ball and the same returns down the runway (*a*) without having come to rest in one of the troughs, a point deduction is made from the player's score. Also, for each time a player scores a consecutive run of the entire five openings, without repetition, the individual score of each opening of the run is added and the sum multiplied by ten for a score of 750. The play continues until the balls of the participants have all come to rest in the channel (*l*), the player having the highest score winning the game.

Referring particularly to Fig. 4, a modification in the method of playing the game is shown in which I employ a golf mat (*o*) from which golf balls may be putted in the usual way over the inclined surface (*a*), the scoring in this instance, if desired, being the same as for that, hereinbefore, described. The length of the inclined runway may obviously be varied so as to impose a harder test of the accuracy of the golfer in playing the game from the putting mat (*o*).

The invention is susceptible of various changes in its form, proportion and minor details of construction and the right is, herein, reserved to make such changes as properly fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game apparatus comprising a ball confining inclined runway, a plurality of crests and troughs situated across the runway in angular relation with respect to the longitudinal center line thereof, said crests and troughs also sloping toward one side of the runway, and a plurality of openings designating different counts located in the confining surface of the runway adjacent each of the troughs.

2. A game apparatus comprising a ball confining inclined runway, a plurality of crests and troughs situated across the runway angularly disposed with respect to the longitudinal center line thereof, said crests and troughs also sloping toward one side of the confining surface in which openings are located in juxtaposition to the lower level of each of the troughs.

3. A game apparatus comprising a ball confining inclined runway, a plurality of crests and troughs situated across the runway in angular relation with respect to the longitudinal center line thereof and along the surface of highest elevation, said crests and troughs also sloping toward one of the side confining surfaces in which openings are located in juxtaposition to the lower level of each of the troughs.

4. A game apparatus comprising a ball confining inclined runway, a pluarlity of crests and troughs situated across the runway angularly disposed with respect to the longitudinal center line thereof and along the surface of highest elevation, said crests and troughs sloping in the direction of one of the side confining surfaces, a plurality of openings designating different counts located in the side confining surface adjacent the lower level of each of the troughs, and a ball launching board having a concave surface extending to a higher elevation than the runway.

5. A game apparatus comprising a ball confining inclined runway, a plurality of crests and troughs situated across the runway in angular relation with respect to the longitudinal center line thereof and along the surface of highest elevation, said crests and troughs also sloping in the direction of one of the side confining surfaces, a plurality of openings designating different counts located in the side confining surface adjacent the lower level of each of the troughs, a ball launching board having a concave surface extending to a higher elevation than the runway, and means for returning the balls passing through the openings adjacent the troughs to the launching board.

MELVIN D. MAYNARD.