Oct. 16, 1951 E. H. HUGHES 2,571,365

PUCK DELIVERING DEVICE

Filed April 4, 1950

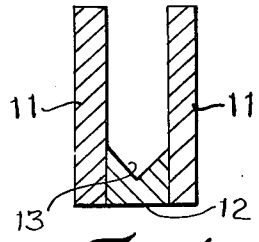


Fig. 4.

Fig. 1.

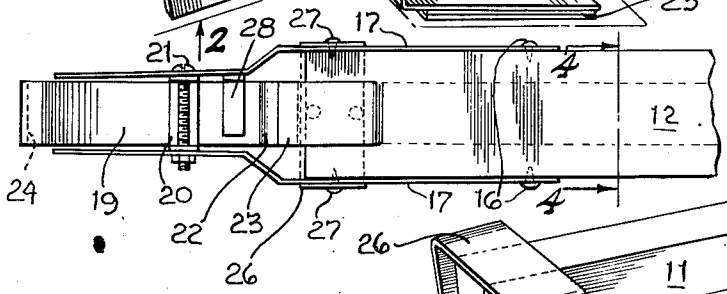


Fig. 2.

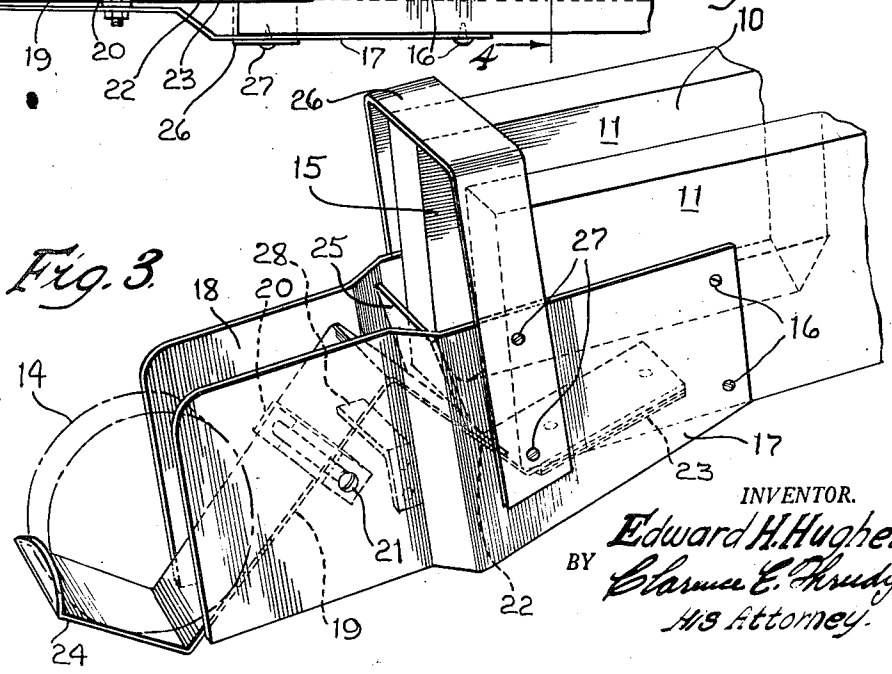


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR.
Edward H. Hughes
BY Clarence E. Brudy.
His Attorney.

Patented Oct. 16, 1951 2,571,365

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,571,365

PUCK DELIVERING DEVICE

Edward H. Hughes, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Exhibit Supply Company, Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Application April 4, 1950, Serial No. 153,842

4 Claims. (Cl. 273—126)

1

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a puck delivering device for delivering a puck to a player for play upon the playing field of an amusement game apparatus. The invention has for its principal object the provision in such a device of an arrangement for supporting the puck within convenient reach of the player and for blocking the return of other pucks to such position until the presented puck is removed by the player.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings showing the preferred form of construction, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a return trough of an amusement game apparatus showing my invention associated therewith;

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the puck supporting and blocking mechanism in puck delivery and blocking position; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional detail view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Fig. 2.

The several objects of my invention are accomplished by the preferred form of construction shown in the accompanying drawings.

My invention is especially designed to be associated with an amusement game aparatus, commonly referred to as a "shuffleboard," over the playing surface of which pucks are manually propelled by the player and in which game apparatus there is provided a puck return trough 10. This return trough 10 comprises spaced side walls 11 and a bottom wall 12 providing a V-shaped track 13 over which the pucks 14 roll by gravity. At the delivery end portion 15 of this trough, I secure as at 16 to the outer surfaces of the side walls 12 forwardly extending elongated plates 17 having their portions which extend beyond the trough 10 disposed inwardly toward each other to define a receiving pocket 18 of a width equal to the width of the track 13.

Arranged between the plates 17 and within the pocket 18 is a counterbalanced platform 19 onto which the pucks 14 from the track 13 are adapted to gravitate. This platform 19 has fixedly secured thereto a mounting bracket 20 pivoted as at 21 to the plates 17.

The inner end portion of this platform is bent downwardly and rearwardly as at 22. The

2

rearwardly extending portion of this platform carries a counterweight 23, the effect of which is adapted to be overcome by the weight of the puck 14 when on the platform 19 so as to pivot the platform 19 to the position shown in Fig. 3 to present the puck 14 to the player for removal from the platform 19. The platform is limited in this pivotal movement by engagement of the rearwardly extending portion of the platform with the bottom wall 12 of the trough 10.

The forward or outer end of the platform provides an upstanding stop 24 against which the puck 14 rests when the platform is pivoted to puck delivering position.

Carried by the portion 22 of the platform is a stop finger 25 which is adapted to cooperate with a U-shaped strap 26 secured as at 27 to the walls 11 to block movement of the pucks from the trough 10 when the platform is pivoted to the position shown in Fig. 3, which position is puck delivering position. To limit pivotal movement of the platform 10 by the counterweight 23, a stop arm 28 is secured to one of the side walls 17 and extends beneath the platform 19 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The stop finger 25 in its cooperation with the strap 26 prevents a puck from moving onto the platform until the puck supported by the platform in the position shown in Fig. 3, is removed. By this arrangement the player is protected from injury in that the stop 25 and strap 26 will prevent delivery of more than one puck upon the platform 19 until the puck supported thereby is removed. The strap 26 cooperates with the stop finger 25 to prevent the pucks from bouncing out of the trough 10 when gravitating into striking engagement with the stop finger 25.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. For a combination comprising a return trough having a delivery end, a receiving pocket at said delivery end and adapted to receive a game piece from said trough, said receiving pocket comprising side walls extending coextensively with respect to the side walls of the

trough, a platform arranged between the side walls of the receiving pocket, means for pivotally connecting said platform to said side walls, said platform normally being disposed in alignment with the bottom of the trough, a counterweight provided at the opposite or inner end of the platform beneath said trough to engage the bottom thereof to limit pivotal movement of the platform under the weight of a game piece received in the pocket from the trough, and a stop on the platform adjacent said weight and pivotal with said platform when the latter is pivoted under the weight of said game piece to block the exit of the trough.

2. For a combination comprising a return trough having a delivery end, a receiving pocket at said delivery end and adapted to receive a game piece from said trough, said receiving pocket comprising side walls extending coextensively with respect to the side walls of the trough, a platform arranged between the side walls of the receiving pocket means for pivotally connecting said platform to said side walls, said platform normally being disposed in alignment with the bottom of the trough, a counterweight provided at the opposite or inner end of the platform beneath said trough to engage the bottom thereof to limit pivotal movement of the platform under the weight of a game piece received in the pocket from the trough, a stop on the platform adjacent said weight and pivotal with said platform when the latter is pivoted under the weight of said game piece to block the exit of the trough, and a strap extending across the top of the trough and cooperating with said stop to block game pieces within said trough.

3. For a combination comprising a return trough having a delivery end, a receiving pocket at said delivery end and adapted to receive a game piece from said trough, said receiving pocket comprising side walls extending coextensively with respect to the side walls of the trough, a platform arranged between the side walls of the receiving pocket, means for pivotally connecting said platform to said side walls, said platform normally being disposed in alignment with the bottom of the trough, a counterweight provided at the opposite or inner end of the platform beneath said trough to engage the bottom

thereof to limit pivotal movement of the platform under the weight of a game piece received in the pocket from the trough, a stop on the platform adjacent said weight and pivotal with said platform when the latter is pivoted under the weight of said game piece to block the exit of the trough, and a member carried by one of the side walls of the pocket and extending transversely of said pocket beneath said platform to limit pivotal movement of said platform by said counterweight.

4. For a combination comprising a return trough having a delivery end, a receiving pocket at said delivery end and adapted to receive a game piece from said trough, said receiving pocket comprising side walls extending coextensively with respect to the side walls of the trough, a platform arranged between the side walls of the receiving pocket, means for pivotally connecting said platform to said side walls, said platform normally being disposed in alignment with the bottom of the trough, a counterweight provided at the opposite or inner end of the platform beneath said trough to engage the bottom thereof to limit pivotal movement of the platform under the weight of a game piece received in the pocket from the trough, a stop on the platform adjacent said weight and pivotal with said platform when the latter is pivoted under the weight of said game piece to block the exit of the trough, a strap extending across the top of the trough and cooperating with said stop to block game pieces within said trough, and a member carried by one of the side walls of the pocket and extending transversely of said pocket beneath said platform to limit pivotal movement of said platform by said counterweight.

EDWARD H. HUGHES.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
495,351	Luster	Apr. 11, 1893
1,008,429	Osmer	Nov. 14, 1911
1,854,446	Campbell	Apr. 19, 1932