

(No Model.)

D. K. HORTON.

GAME COUNTER.

No. 280,375.

Patented July 3, 1883.

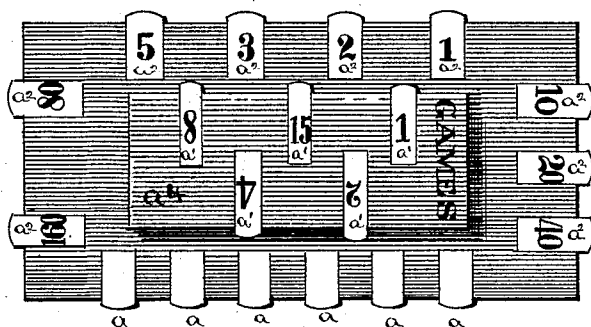


Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.

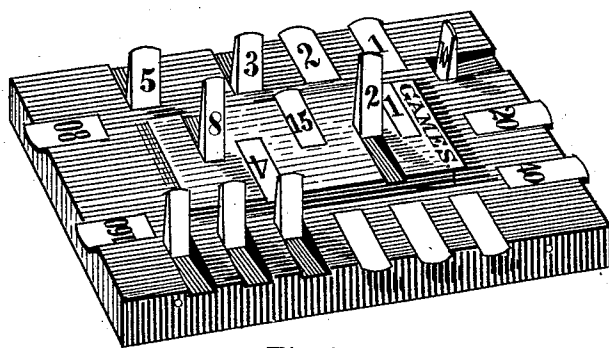


Fig. 2.



Fig. 5.

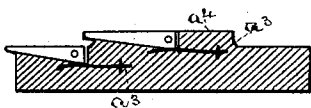


Fig. 3.

Witnesses:
Ch. Houghton
H. P. Bailey.

Inventor:
David Kimball Horton.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID K. HORTON, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

GAME-COUNTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 280,375, dated July 3, 1883.

Application filed April 27, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID KIMBALL HORTON, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Tally-Board, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a convenient apparatus for scoring the points gained in a game of whist, and also the number of games won and the whole number of points gained in all the games played at a sitting.

It consists of a tally-board of convenient shape and dimensions, in the upper surface of which are placed three sets of movable keys—one set to mark the points gained in a game, one set to mark the number of games won at a sitting, and one set to mark the whole number of points gained in all the games played at a sitting. The tally-board is made of ebony or other dark-colored wood or suitable material, and is rectangular in form, about three inches by four inches, and about five-eighths to three quarters of an inch thick, with a tablet in the middle of the upper side, raised about one-quarter of an inch above the plane of the tally-board, and covering about one-half of the area of the tally-board. The keys are made of ivory or other suitable material, white, or of a lighter color than the tally-board, and are on pivots which admit of their being raised in a vertical position. When not in use, the keys are in a horizontal position in recesses made for them in the upper surface of the tally-board. The upper surface of the keys, when they are in a horizontal position, are in a plane with the upper surface of the tally-board. These keys are controlled by a spring attached to each key on the under side, so adjusted that the key will be retained in the horizontal or vertical position in which it is placed, as the use of it may require. I use five keys to mark the number of games won, which are set in the raised tablet and have figures, the same in black on both sides—viz., 1, 2, 4, 8, and 15—so that they can be readily seen by all the players, and which, when used as hereinafter described, will mark an aggregate number of thirty games, if so many are won at a sitting. To score the number of points gained in one game, I use six keys, which are set in the lower plane of the tally-board in a row along

one side of it, having no figures on them, each key counting one when in vertical position and nothing when in horizontal position, a key being raised to the perpendicular position to mark each point as it is gained. When the seventh point is gained, the six standing keys are brought down to the horizontal position, and a key on the raised tablet having the figure 1 on it is raised to the vertical position to mark one game won. I use nine keys to mark the whole number of points gained in all the games played at a sitting, which are also set in the lower plane of the surface of the tally-board, in lines across both ends and the length of one side. Each key has the same figures in black on both sides of it—viz., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, and 160; and when all the keys are raised to the vertical position an aggregate of three hundred and twenty-one points will be indicated as gained at the sitting; or, if a less number of points are gained, the keys will be raised to the vertical position which have figures on them, all which added together will make a number equal to all the points to be scored.

Figure 1 is a top plan of my improved tally-board with the indicator-keys all lying in the horizontal plane of the surface of the tally-board. Fig. 2 is a perspective of the tally-board, showing a top, end, and side view with a portion of the indicator-keys standing in a vertical position, indicating the number of games won at the sitting, the whole number of points gained in all the games played at the sitting, and the number of points gained in the game in progress. Fig. 3 shows a cross-section of the tally-board, a side view of two keys, and the springs by which they are held in the position, either vertical or horizontal. Fig. 4 shows one of the indicator-keys detached, the upper side of the key as it is in a horizontal position in front with the figure in view. Fig. 5 is the opposite or under side of Fig. 4.

The six keys on the lower plane of the tally-board (marked *a*) are the keys used to mark the number of points gained in a game up to six, the seventh point gained completing the game. Raising one of these keys to the perpendicular indicates one point gained, and so on up to six, and when the seventh point is gained the key on the raised tablet bearing the figure 1 is raised to the vertical position to indicate one

game won, and all the keys marked a are brought down to the horizontal position, ready for use in the next game.

The keys in the center tablet (marked a') are used to indicate the number of games won at a sitting, as one game is marked by raising the key bearing the figure 1 to the perpendicular. When two games are gained the key marked 1 is brought down to the horizontal and the key bearing the number 2 is raised to the perpendicular. When three games are gained the key bearing the figure 1 is again raised to the perpendicular and the two keys standing indicate the number of games. When four games have been won the key bearing the figure 4 is raised to the perpendicular and the keys 1 and 2 brought down to the horizontal position, and so on, the aggregate of the figures on standing keys indicating the number of games won.

The keys marked a'' are used to indicate the aggregate number of all the points gained at a sitting without reference to the number of games played, the aggregate of the figures on the keys a'' in a vertical position indicating the whole number of points gained at a sitting.

a'' a'' are the springs which retain the keys either in a vertical or horizontal position, as they may be placed.

a' is a tablet in the middle of the tally-board, raised about one-quarter of an inch above the general plane of the upper side of the tally-board, in which the indicator-keys are set, so that the keys set in the tablet may be manipulated more conveniently.

I am aware that various devices have been used as counters in the game of whist; but, so far as I am aware, there have been none like or even similar to my tally-board.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new—

The above-described improved tally-board, consisting of a block of ebony with a raised tablet, a' , on the upper surface, the keys a , a' , and a'' , and the springs a'' , all substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

DAVID KIMBALL HORTON.

Witnesses:

FREDK. L. HOUGHTON,
CHS. HOUGHTON.