

Sept. 22, 1959

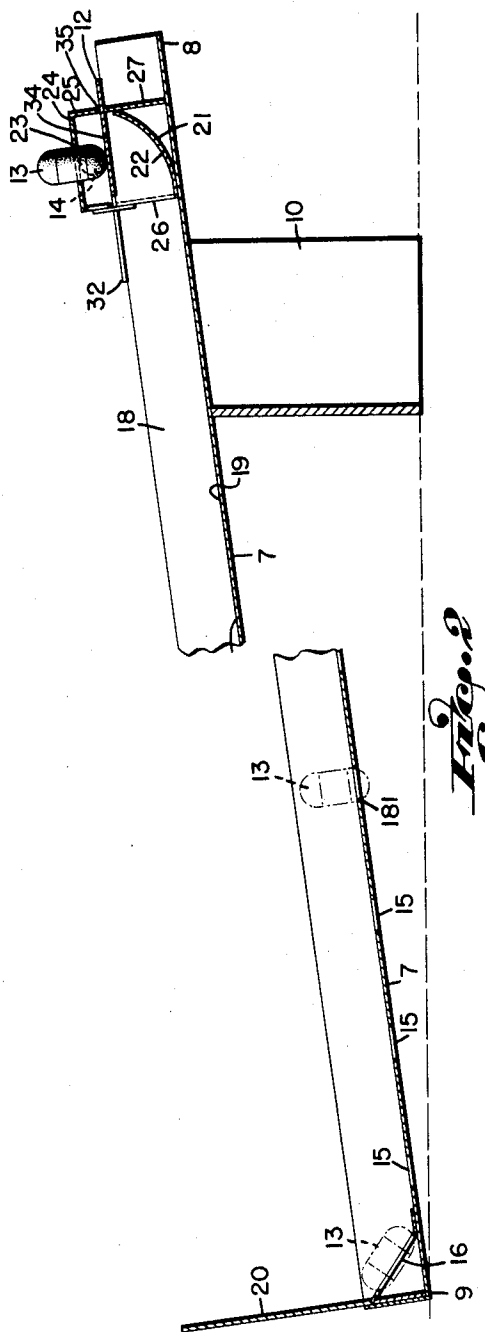
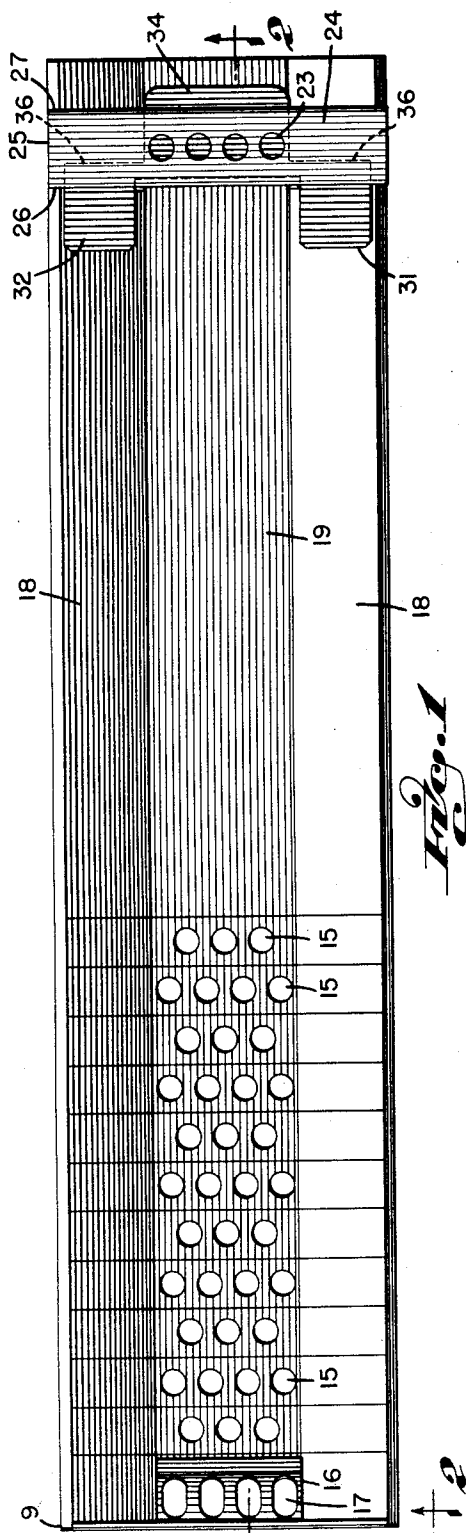
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2,905,472

GAME

Original Filed April 28, 1955

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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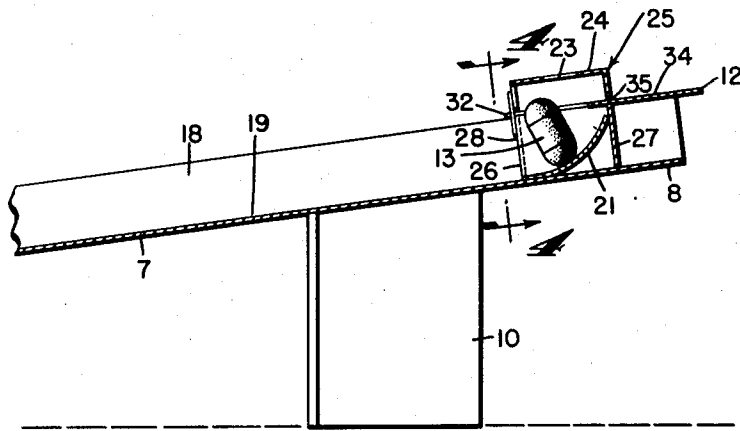


Fig. 3

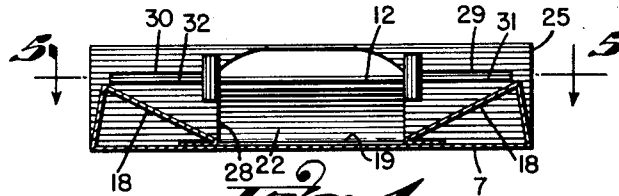


Fig. 4

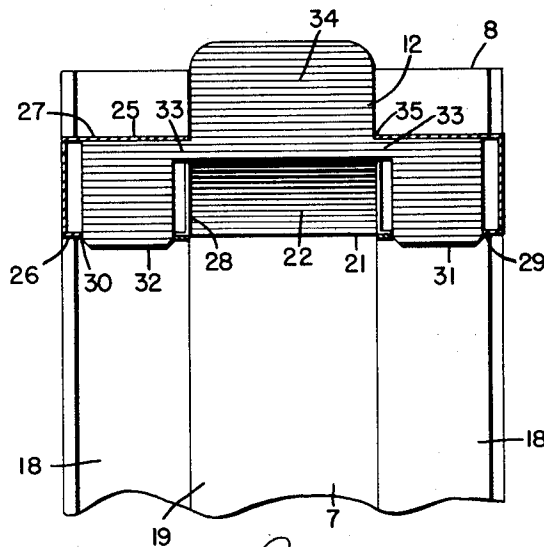


Fig. 5

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GAME

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Original application April 28, 1955, Serial No. 504,542.
Divided and this application April 25, 1958, Serial No. 733,224

3 Claims. (Cl. 273-129)

This application is a division of my co-pending application Serial No. 504,542 filed April 28, 1955.

This invention relates to a game, and to certain improved structural features of the game board upon which the game is played.

An object of the invention is to provide a game having novel characteristics which promote the interest and excitement of the players by eliminating entirely the element of skill and substituting therefor the element of pure chance.

A further object of the invention is to provide means in a game of chance for uniformly and accurately starting the playing pieces on a course of play, so that one contestant may not obtain an advantage over another, thereby adding to the interest and excitement of the game.

Another object of the invention is to so construct and arrange the constituent parts of a game, as to ensure great economy in manufacture and assembly, while at the same time preserving durability and the necessary pleasing appearance of the game.

These and other objects are attained by the means described herein and illustrated upon the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the game board embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, slightly enlarged cross-sectional view taken on line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the starting end of the game board, with the starting gate retracted and the playing piece or tumbler released.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view taken on line 5-5 of Fig. 4.

In the drawings, the character 7 indicates an inclined board or track having a head end 8 and a foot end 9, the head end being elevated by means of a suitable standard 10 to incline the board as shown. In playing the game, a series of playing pieces hereafter referred to as tumblers 13 are supported at the head end of the board in a manner suggested by Fig. 2, and are subsequently released by retracting a gate 12, which permits the tumblers to advance toward the foot end of the board. The tumblers in themselves are not new, and each may comprise an ovoid case or capsule containing ball or weight 14 which may shift freely from one end of the capsule to the other, as the capsule is tilted or inclined in various directions. Usually the capsule contains a ball of relatively heavy solid metal.

As the tumblers are released at the head end of the board, they fall onto the inclined board and because of the inclination of the board the balls roll within the capsule from one end to the other, resulting in up-ending the tumblers and causing them to move end over end down the incline provided by the table. As several tum-

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blers are used in playing the game, their movements simulate a race.

At a point intermediate its ends, the board may be provided with certain hazards or stations, herein disclosed as apertures 15 in rows or groups extending to the foot end of the board. Each aperture or transverse row of apertures may be given a value for scoring purposes, it being understood that any tumbler may lodge within an aperture and be stopped thereby, or if a tumbler happens to pass between or over the apertures without falling in, it may eventually reach the goal indicated at 16 for a high score. The scoring values of the apertures may increase progressively toward the goal 16.

The goal may comprise an inclined stop or wall as shown, provided with elongated apertures 17 within which the tumblers may repose without falling through, as shown at 16 in Fig. 2. The circular apertures 15 likewise are constricted in size, so that tumblers caught therein, as indicated at 18 of Fig. 2, will not fall through but will be held substantially upright therein. Thus, none of the tumblers or playing pieces are to leave the upper surface of the board during progress of the game. Moreover, the tumblers are confined to the travel area carrying the various apertures, by means of sloping side walls 18-18 which as indicated upon Fig. 4 may be constituted of scored and inwardly folded side extensions of the playing area 19. At 20 is indicated a foot board which may be suitably decorated, or furnished with scoring or playing instructions.

In order that all the tumblers may be released and started upon the game course in unison and with equal momentum and advantage, an improved form of starting structure is provided consisting of the starting gate 12 and a subjacent impeller member 21 including an inclined upper surface 22 exposed to the leading ends of all tumblers released by the gate. By referring to Fig. 2, it may be noted that the tumbler 13 awaiting release is supported in substantial upright position upon the retractible gate 12, while embraced loosely intermediate its ends within the oversize opening 23 of an elevated stabilizer plate 24 which overlies the gate. With the tumbler, or several of them, so supported within the several openings 23, the game may be started by retracting the gate 12 to release position, Fig. 3, whereupon the tumbler will fall weighted end first, upon the inclined surface 22 of the impeller. In so striking the relatively severe incline of the impeller, the tumbler will be abruptly tilted with considerable force toward the foot end of the board or track, causing its ball or weight to shift suddenly toward the empty end of the capsule and in parallelism with the center-line of the board. This initial impulse has the effect of not only precluding wandering of the tumbler at the starting point, but in addition, sends it on an initial straight course down the incline of the board to avert collision and interference with other tumblers simultaneously released. In this manner the game is enlivened because all tumblers advance practically though not exactly in unison along the unperforated stretch above the scoring apertures, until upon reaching the latter, some exhibit greater ability than others in reaching the higher score stations.

In the absence of an impeller means such as above described, it frequently happens that no fair or close race precedes the scoring, because of a tendency of some tumblers to wander before starting down the inclined track. This, of course, disheartens certain players at the very start of the game, and interest is lost because no tumbler slowly started will usually develop sufficient speed to carry it into the high score area of the playing board. Numerous tests and comparisons of tumbler ac-

tion have proven the superiority of the game with the impeller incorporated therein.

It should be noted that the inclination of the impeller member, at the point of contact where struck by the released tumbler, must be limited to a value such that the tumbler will be caused to overturn, rather than slide down the incline. The required degree of inclination at the point of contact will, of course, be dependent upon the surface finish of the impeller member and of the tumbler casing. If the impeller member is fabricated from paper or cardboard sheet which is not highly glazed or calendered, the inclination at the point of contact may be considerable, affording the tumblers a fast start without liability of slippage. The tumbler casings may be of metal, plastic, or other suitable material having frictional affinity for the material of the impeller member.

In the preferred form of the invention, the impeller member and the tumbler release gate are built into a rectangular compartmented box 25 situated upon the board 7 near the head end 8 thereof. The box includes front and rear walls 26 and 27, respectively, spanned by the perforated stabilizer plate 24 which may be made integral therewith if desired. Beneath the perforations 23 of the stabilizer plate, the front of the box is open to permit egress of the tumblers, this opening being most clearly indicated at 28 upon Figs. 3 and 5. At opposite ends of the opening 28 the front wall of the box is provided with a pair of slots 29 and 30 which accommodate a pair of forwardly extended coplanar tongues or guides 31 and 32 forming integral parts of the gate 12. As is best shown by Fig. 5, the gate consists of the tongues or guides 31-32 connected by the reduced neck portions 33-33 with a middle coplanar tab 34 which may be shifted in a slot 35 formed in the rear wall 27 of the box. The tab 34 performs as a finger piece or handle extending from the rear of the box, for actuating the gate in releasing the tumbler 13. It will be noted that the tab is imperforate, and therefore serves the purpose of a gate supporting the tumblers as indicated by Fig. 2. To release the tumbler, it is necessary only to grasp the rear margin of the gate tab, which extends from the wall 27 of the box in Fig. 2, and shift it to the right until support for the tumblers is removed. When the tab of the gate is fully retracted, the tongues or guides 31-32 will assume the position of Fig. 3. The heels 36-36 (Fig. 1) of the tongues may be depended upon to simply and effectively limit retractile movement of the gate.

As previously mentioned herein, the tumbler impeller member 21 is located so as to be struck by the tumblers when released. It is necessary, therefore, that the impeller member be positioned directly beneath the gate, and in the preferred embodiment, located also within the confines of the box 25. So located, the impeller member is fully protected by the box structure against derangement and damage at all times.

From the foregoing, it should be apparent that the game structure of the invention is simple and durable, and possesses features of construction and operation which render it interesting and fascinating. It should be understood that various modifications and changes in

structural details may be resorted to, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A starting gate structure for game playing-pieces in the form of ovoid tumblers containing shiftable weights, said gate structure comprising a box having an apertured top wall, end compartments, and an intermediate compartment open at one side, the end compartments each having a slotted front wall, the slots being in a common plane spaced from the top wall of the box, and the intermediate compartment having a rear wall slotted in the common plane aforesaid, a displaceable sliding gate comprising a central imperforate tab extending slidably through the rear wall slot of the intermediate compartment, from a tumbler supporting position beneath the top wall apertures to a retracted position clear of the apertures, and integral tongues at opposite ends of the tab extending slidably through the front wall slots of the end compartments, said tongues each including a heel portion to abut the rear wall of each end compartment to limit retraction of the sliding gate.

2. A starting gate structure for game playing-pieces in the form of ovoid tumblers containing shiftable weights, said gate structure comprising a box having an apertured top wall, end compartments, and an intermediate compartment open at one side, the end compartments each having a slotted front wall, the slots being in a common plane spaced from the top wall of the box, and the intermediate compartment having a rear wall slotted in the common plane aforesaid, a displaceable sliding gate comprising a central tab extending slidably through the rear wall slot of the intermediate compartment, from a tumbler supporting position beneath the top wall apertures to a retracted position clear of the apertures, integral tongues at opposite ends of the tab extending slidably through the front wall slots of the end compartments to guide the tab in movement from one of said positions to the other, and a tumbler impeller comprising a wall inclined within the intermediate compartment and disposed in the path of tumblers released by the displaceable sliding gate, said inclined wall sloping from the rear wall of the intermediate compartment toward the side opening thereof, in a direction away from the box top.

3. A starting gate structure as specified in claim 2, in which is included an inclined board supporting the box at substantial right angles to the board, and the impeller wall superposed upon the board beneath the box at an acute angle to the board.

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