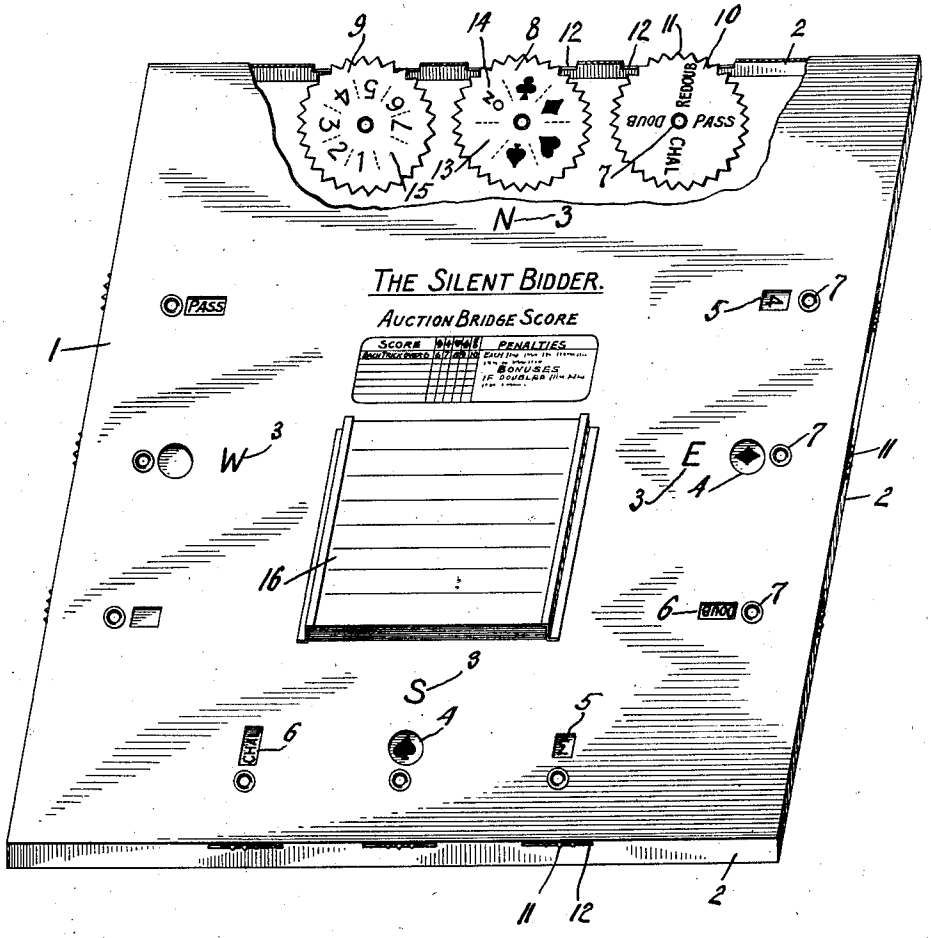
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SILENT BRIDGE BIDDING DEVICE

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SILENT BRIDGE BIDDING DEVICE

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The present invention relates to improvements in game accessories and more particularly to a device used as accessory means in playing card games. The invention pertains more specifically to a bidding board to be used in playing bridge.

A serious fault in the bridge game as ordinarily played resides in the oral method of bidding, in which a player may improperly indicate by tone of voice a strength or weakness in his bid without committing an actual breach of the rules. In a similar manner, the questioning of an opponent or partner as to a bid which has been orally made and, perhaps, not understood, may be made in a tone of voice which can improperly serve as an indication of strength or weakness in the player's hand. Other faults with the ordinary system of oral bidding are in the bidding out of turn, the accidental expression of an illegal bid by another player, and the occasional uncertainty as to the number of tricks bid after the hand has been played.

The main object of the present invention is to provide a device whereby oral bidding is eliminated, the bids being silently recorded, thereby eliminating unfair indications of strength or weakness in the bid, and failure to recollect the bid, and reducing the likelihood of a player bidding out of turn.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described which is simple in construction, efficient in operation, durable in use and capable of manufacture on a commercial scale, or in other words one which is not so difficult to make as to be beyond the reasonable cost of such a contrivance.

With these and other objects in view, which will more fully appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the combination, arrangement and construction of parts hereinafter described, pointed out in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it being understood that many changes may be made in the size and proportion of the sever parts and details of construction within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

One of the many possible embodiments of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, which represents a perspective view of a bidding board constructed in accordance with the present invention, part of the structure being broken away in order to more clearly show the interior construction.

In the drawing the numeral 1 indicates a plate made of any suitable material, and provided along its edges with downwardly extending flanges 2, to space the said plate from the support on which it is to rest, in the present case from the card players' table. This plate is square in configuration and is provided in spaced relation to each of its edges with an indication 3 in the form of a letter, the same being the letters N, S, E, W, which are the initials of the words, north, south, east and west, the said initials being arranged in the proper order to indicate the four players participating in the game. Between each of the indications 3 and adjacent each edge of the plate are provided three apertures, denoted by the numerals 4, 5 and 6.

In operative relation to the said apertures are pivotally mounted at 7 on the underface of the plate disks 8, 9 and 10, having each a roughened periphery, as shown at 11, projecting through slots 12 in the flanges 2 beyond the plate 1, whereby the said disks may be rotated by the players in relation to their respective apertures. The disks 8, which co-operate with the apertures 4, are each provided on a circle with six spaces, one of the same, denoted by the numeral 13, being blank, one having printed thereon the word "No", as indicated at 14, and the remaining four having printed thereon the successive suits, that is club, diamond, heart and spade. The said blank space and any one of the indications on a disk 8 are adapted to be displayed through the respective aperture 4 by turning the disk to the proper position. The disks 9, which co-operate with the apertures 5, are each provided on a circle with eight spaces, one of the same, denoted by the numeral 15, being blank, and the remaining spaces hav-

ing displayed therein the numerals 1 to 7, inclusive, in their order. The disks 10, which co-operate with the apertures 6, have each displayed thereon the word "Pass", an abbreviation of the word "Double", an abbreviation of the word "Redouble", and an abbreviation of the word "Challenge".

As an additional feature, the plate 1 may be provided with a score pad 16, the score being recorded in writing as the game progresses.

The operation of this device is as follows: At the conclusion of the dealing, the bidding commences, the player first rotating the disk 8 adjacent the indication 3 marking his seat at the table and thereby displaying through the respective aperture 4 the trump to be named. Thereafter the player turns the disk 9 to display through the respective aperture 5 the number of tricks bid. The disk 10 is then turned to a blank space. Assuming that the player occupying the south position shown in the drawing bids three hearts, he will display the numeral 3 and the heart symbol through the apertures 5 and 4, respectively, adjacent the indication "S". Assuming now that the player occupying the west position wishes to pass, he will turn the disks 8 and 9 adjacent the indication "W" to display the blank spaces on the said disk, and turn the disk 10 to display the word "Pass" through the aperture 6, as shown in the drawing. In this way the bidding is done without the necessity of spoken word and the turning of the disks is continued until the bidding is completed. Where it is intended to indicate a double, the player wishing to express the bid does so by turning the disk 10 adjacent his indication 3 until the word "Double" appears through the aperture 6. In the same way a redouble would be indicated, or a challenge. It is intended that the disks be left in position until the completion of the playing of the hand, thus recording, for the time being, the bidding of the hand and avoiding all question as to the contract or preliminary bids.

What I claim is:

1. A bridge bidding device comprising a plate of quadrangular configuration having a group of apertures adjacent each edge thereof corresponding to the location of four players around a card table, and a disk rotatably mounted on the underface of said plate adjacent each aperture, one disk of each group bearing trump indicating means adapted to be displayed through the respective apertures, another disk in each group bearing indications of the number of tricks to be bid, said indications being adapted to be displayed through the respective apertures, and a third disk of each group carrying indications of other bids to be made, said indications being also adapted to be displayed through the respective apertures.

2. In a bridge bidding device according to claim 1, said disks projecting beyond said plate so that their peripheral portions are adapted to be engaged by the fingers of the operator for rotating the same.

3. In a bridge bidding device according to claim 1, said plate being provided with downwardly extending flanges around its edges, said flanges having slots through which said disks project beyond said plate.

Signed at New York city, in the county of New York, and State of New York, this 11th day of March, A. D. 1930.

DAVID F. WOLYN.