J. R. DUNCAN.

GAME BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 3, 1917. RENEWED JAN. 6, 1920.

1,349,190. **Patented Aug. 10, 1920.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

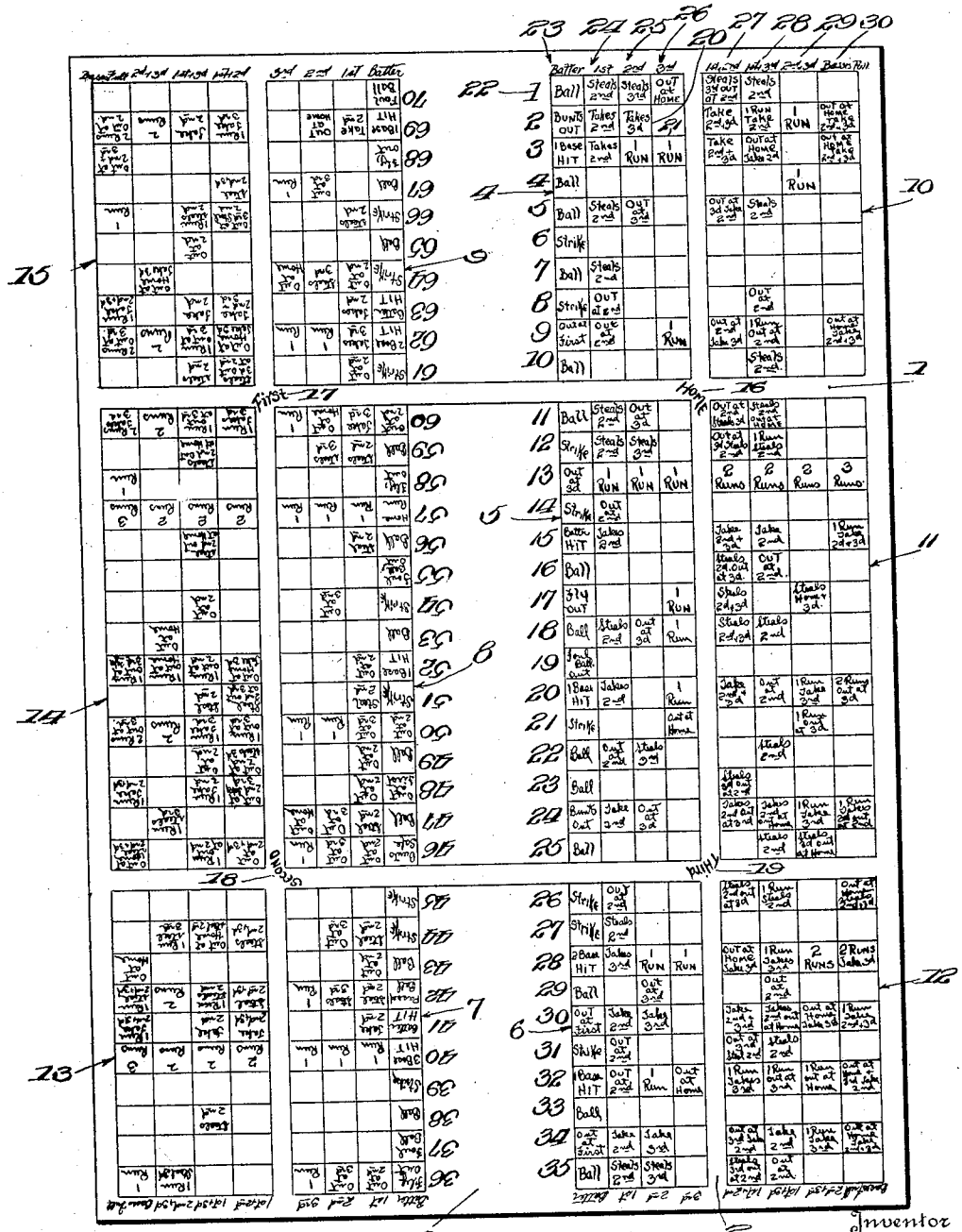


Fig. 1.

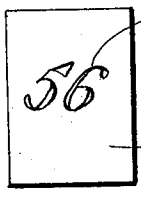


Fig. 2.

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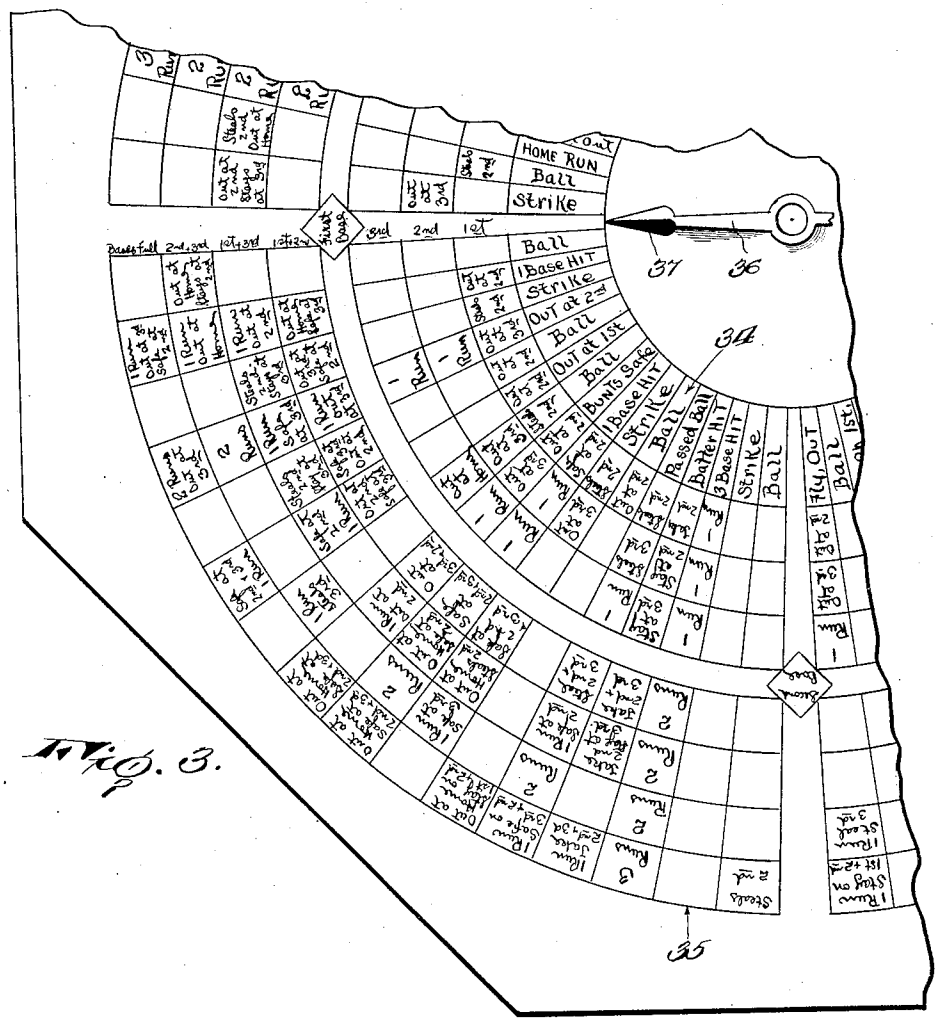


Fig. 3.

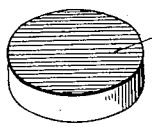


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAY R. DUNCAN, OF KEWANEE, ILLINOIS.

GAME-BOARD.

1,349,190. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 10, 1920.

Application filed December 3, 1917, Serial No. 205,063. Renewed January 6, 1920. Serial No. 349,841.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAY R. DUNCAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kewanee, in the county of Henry and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to game boards and has as its object to provide a game board upon which may be played a game closely simulating the game of base ball as actually played in the field, the primary aim of the invention being to so construct and arrange the board that the game played thereon will embrace practically every conceivable play which might be made in the actual game in the field and which will embrace substantially all conditions which could be met with in the playing of such a game in the field.

Another aim of the invention is to so construct and arrange the playing surface of the board that the players will be enabled to ascertain at a glance the results of each play so that the game may be played quickly thereby adding to the excitement and interest attending the playing thereof.

Briefly stated the playing surface of the board embodying the present invention is divided into distinct series of zones which in turn are subdivided by intersecting lines of spaces bearing indicia relative to plays or moves to be made upon the board, the plays being decided by chance as by the drawing of numbered cards in one form of the invention or by the use of a rotary indicator device in another form of the invention and the invention contemplates the location within the zones of one series of all indicia relating to conditions which would exist with a player at the bat and no men on bases or only one man on a base, the indicia within the zones of the other series relating to conditions which would exist with two men on bases or with the bases full. Thus with the use of game pieces representing men which are placed upon distinct positions upon the playing surface of the board to indicate the batter and a man or men on bases, a player may quickly determine what disposition is to be made of his men for if he has no men on bases or but a single man on base he is required only to consult the indicia in a line of the indicia bearing spaces within the zone of the first-mentioned series or if he has two or more men on bases he has only to consult the corresponding line of spaces in the corresponding zone of the second-mentioned series.

Another feature of the invention resides in the fact that not all of the spaces into which the zones are divided, bear indicia so that when there is no disposition to be made of a man or game piece this fact is readily made apparent by the presence of a blank space.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a plan view of one form of game board embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of one of the numbered cards employed in the playing of the game by the use of this form of game board;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view illustrating a modified form of board;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the game pieces employed.

It will be understood, of course, that in both embodiments of the invention the board in itself may be made of any suitable material either flexible, semi-flexible, or rigid and either integral throughout or in sections to be assembled or sections foldably connected with each other. It will also be understood that the board may be of any desired dimensions.

In that form of the invention shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the playing surface of the board is ruled with lines to define the zones and spaces therein heretofore mentioned and the adjacent boundary lines of the several zones define narrow intersecting spaces 1 and 2 which serve to separate the zones of the several series so that the zones of the several series may be readily distinguished one from another. Certain of the boundary lines of certain of the zones further define a blank space 3 extending longitudinally from end to end of the said board, this space serving to further separate and distinguish the zones and serving also a further purpose which will be presently explained. One of the series of zones, namely that one in which the spaces within the zones bear indicia relative to plays to be made when there are no men on base or when there is only one man on base embraces the zones which are specifically indicated in the drawings by the numerals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and the other series of zones

or, in other words, that series which bears indicia relative to plays to be made when two or more men are on bases, embraces the zones which are indicated in the drawings specified by the numerals 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. In that form of the invention shown in Fig. 1 the zones are rectangular in outline and it will be observed that the zones 4, 5 and 6 of the first-mentioned series are located at one side of the spaces 3 or, in other words, at one side of the middle of the board and that the zones 7, 8 and 9 are similarly arranged at the other side of the said space 3, the zone 4 being opposite the zone 9, the zone 5 opposite the zone 8, and the zone 6 opposite the zone 7. At this point it may be remarked that while it is not absolutely essential to separate the zones 4 and 5 from each other, the zones 5 and 6, the zones 7 and 8 from each other, and the zones 8 and 9 from each other, it is preferable that this be done through the provision of the blank spaces 1 so that a well defined path is provided from the home plate position which is indicated by the numeral 16 to the first base position indicated by the numeral 17, and also a path from the second base position, indicated by the numeral 18, to the third base position indicated by the numeral 19. In like manner the spaces 2 divide or separate the zones 4, 5, and 6, respectively, from the zones 10, 11, and 12, and the zones 7, 8, and 9, respectively, from the zones 13, 14, and 15 so that there is also provided a well defined path between the first base and second base positions and between third base and home plate positions, thus completing the representation of the diamond.

As before stated, each of the zones is divided by intersecting lines into spaces bearing indicia relative to plays to be made upon the diamond, and as this feature is common to all of the zones it is sufficient to state that the spaces are provided by parallel lines 20 which extend longitudinally of each zone and parallel lines 21 which extend at right angles to the lines 20 and intersect the same at equal intervals. Within the rectangular spaces thus formed there is printed or otherwise inscribed the indicia above referred to. It will further be understood that by thus subdividing the zones each zone has a plurality of transverse lines of spaces and in the particular instance of the zones of the first-mentioned series, or, in other words, the zones 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, there are four spaces in each line. In like manner each of the zones of the other series, or, in other words, the zones 10, 11, etc. comprises a number of lines of spaces, each line consisting of four spaces and in the general arrangement of the board corresponding lines of spaces in corresponding zones of the two series extending in alinement. In other words, for example, in the instance of the zones 4 and 10, the first line of spaces in the zone 4 is an alinement of the first line of spaces in the zone 10 and in order that these lines of spaces may be suitably designated, numerals 22 are printed upon the face of the board within the space 3 opposite the said lines of spaces. For example, the numeral 1 indicates the first line of spaces in each of the zones 4 and 10, the numeral 2 indicates the second or next line of spaces in each of these zones, etc., there being in the present instance seventy such lines of spaces. Not only may each zone be considered to embrace a plurality of transverse lines of spaces but it also embraces a plurality of longitudinal lines of spaces or what in the present instance might be considered as columns. Thus in the instance of the zones 4, 5, and 6 each zone has four columns of spaces and corresponding columns in the several zones 4, 5, and 6 are in vertical or longitudinal alinement upon the board. This also holds true, of course, of the zones 7, 8, and 9, the zones 10, 11, and 12, and the zones 13, 14, and 15. For convenience in describing the invention, the several columns of spaces in the zones 4, 5, and 6 and the zones 7, 8, and 9 are indicated in order from those nearest the space 3, respectively by the numerals 23, 24, 25, and 26 and each column 23 bears preferably at the outer ends of the zones 4 and 6 and the outer ends of the zones 7 and 9, a designation such as the word "Batter." In like manner the columns 24, 25, and 26 are respectively designated as, for example, by the legends "1st," "2nd," and "3rd." The numerals 27, 28, 29, and 30 indicate, respectively, the first, second, third, and fourth columns of spaces in the zones 10, 11, and 12 and in the zones 13, 14, and 15 and these columns, as in the instance of the columns 23, 24, 25, and 26 are designated, respectively, by the legends "First and second," "First and third," "Second and third," and "Bases full."

It will be understood from the foregoing that all of the spaces in the columns 23 bear indicia indicating the results of a batter's play; that all spaces in the columns 24 relate to moves by a player on first base; that all spaces in the columns 25 relate to the movements of a man on second; and, that all spaces in the columns 26 relate to movements of a man on third. However, not all of the spaces in the columns 24, 25, and 26 bear indicia for under some conditions there will be presumably no action on the part of the players occupying one or another of the bases. It will further be understood that the spaces in the columns 27 relate to plays to be made when there are players or men upon both first and second bases; that the spaces in the columns 28 relate to plays

to be made when there are men upon first and third bases; that the spaces in the columns 29 relate to plays to be made when there are men on second and third bases; and, that the spaces in the columns 30 relate to plays to be made when the bases are full. As in the instance of the columns 24, 25, and 26, all of the spaces of the columns 27, 28, 29, and 30 bear indicia.

In order that the different plays may be determined by chance, there are provided in connection with the game board just described, a number of cards, in the present instance seventy, one of which cards is shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings and indicated by the numeral 31. These cards are numbered from 1 to 70, each bearing a separate number as indicated by the numeral 32. There are also provided a number of game pieces 33 preferably in the nature of wooden disks such as illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawings. In the playing of the game, the player whose move it is will place one of his game pieces 33, representing a batter upon the home plate position 16. The cards 31 having been previously thoroughly shuffled and placed in a pile, face downward upon the table, the player selects one of the cards and notes the number borne thereby. If, for example, the card drawn bears the number 20, the player moves his game piece from home plate position to first base inasmuch as the first space in the horizontal line of spaces opposite the number 20 upon the playing surface of the board bears the legend "1 base hit." He then places another one of his game pieces upon the home plate position and again draws from the shuffled pack of cards. If, for example, he this time draws the card bearing the number 26 the play indicated is that the batter has one strike against him and that the player which was on first, in attempting to reach second, has been put out whereupon he removes the first-mentioned game piece from the board. As before stated, the columns 27, 28, 29, and 30 relate to plays which take place when two or more men are on bases and from the foregoing brief example given it is thought that the manner of playing the game under all conditions will be clear.

In that form of the invention shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the arrangement of the zones is based on a circular instead of on a rectangular board as in the previously described form, although the principle remains the same and it is thought that it will suffice to say, with regard to this modified form, that the zones indicated by the numeral 34 correspond to the zones 4 to 9 inclusive in the previously described form, and that the zones indicated by the numeral 35 correspond to the other zones in the previously described form, the zones being divided into the spaces which bear the indicia, by radial and concentric intersecting lines as distinguished from the longitudinal and transverse lines 20 and 21 in the form of the invention shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Also in this modified form the plays are determined by chance through the use of a rotary indicator of any suitable type indicated by the numeral 36 which indicator may be spun in the well-known manner and permitted to come to rest with its pointed end registering with one or another of the spaces in which the zones 34 are divided, or, in other words, to position opposite one or another of the radial lines of spaces which lines correspond to the numbered transverse lines of spaces at 22 in the previously described form of the invention.

It will be understood that either form of the game illustrated in the drawings may be folded or rolled to compact form and that when the game board is folded the fold line will extend between the spaces which divide the series of zones so that the folding of the board or sheet will not obliterate any of the legends indicating plays or moves to be made.

By reference to Fig. 3 of the drawings it will be observed that the end of the indicator 36 has one side of a distinguishing color as indicated by the numeral 37 so that when the extremity of the pointer comes to rest in registration with one of the radial lines dividing the zones, that space at that side of the line corresponding to the side at which the color side 37 of the pointer is located will be consulted in determining the play to be made, thus avoiding disputes.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A game board, for use in the playing of a game simulating an actual field game, having its playing surface divided into distinct series of zones, each zone of each series being subdivided by intersecting lines into spaces certain of which bear indicia relative to plays to be made upon the board, the indicia within the zones of one series relating to conditions different from those to which the indicia within the zones of another series relates.

2. A game board, for use in the playing of a game simulating an actual field game, having its playing surface divided into distinct series of zones, each zone of each series being subdivided by intersecting lines into lines and columns of spaces, certain of which bear indicia relative to plays to be made upon the board, the lines of spaces being indicated by numbers and the zones of the two series being so arranged that corresponding lines of spaces in corresponding zones of the two series will be in alinement.

3. A game board, for use in the playing of a game simulating an actual field game, having its playing surface divided into dis-

tinct series of zones, each zone of each series being subdivided by intersecting lines into spaces bearing indicia relative to plays to be made upon the board, the spaces being arranged in lines and columns, the lines of spaces being designated by numbers, and the columns of spaces being designated to indicate conditions under which moves indicated in the spaces in the respective columns become available.

4. A game board, for use in the playing of a game simulating an actual field game, having its playing surface divided into distinct series of zones, each zone of each series being subdivided by intersecting lines into lines and columns of spaces, the board having game piece positions indicated thereon at intersections of the divisions between the zones of the several series, the lines of spaces being designated by numbers, the columns of spaces of one series being designated to indicate the conditions under which the moves designated by the indicia in the spaces of said columns indicating plays become available, and the columns of spaces in the zones of the other series being indicated to designate other and different conditions under which plays designated by the indicia in the spaces of the said columns become available.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JAY R. DUNCAN.