Nov. 18, 1941. J. GORTNER 2,262,891

ROLLABLE GAME PIECE

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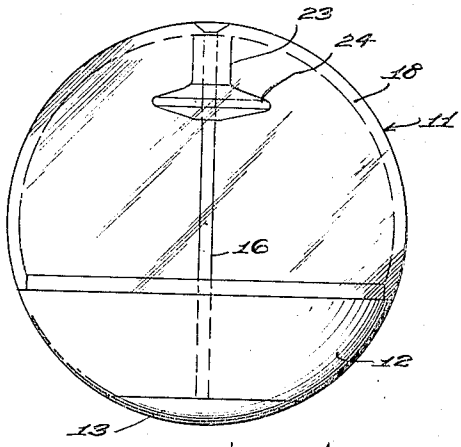


Fig. 1.

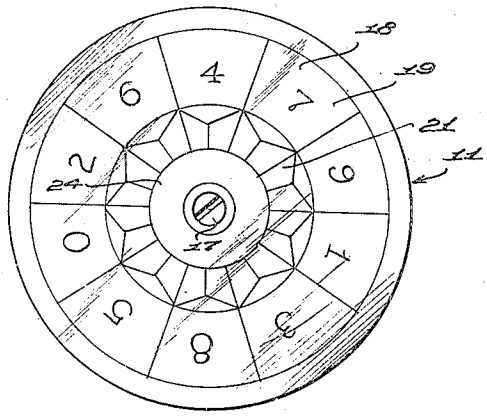


Fig. 2.

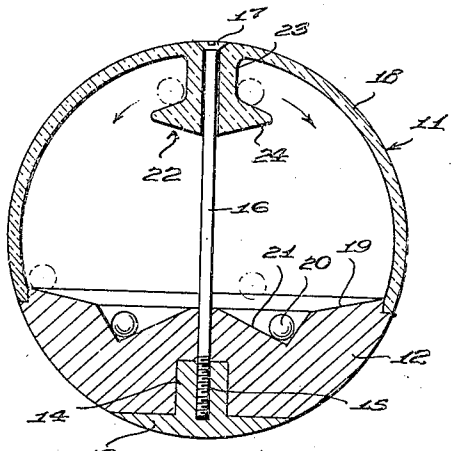


Fig. 3.

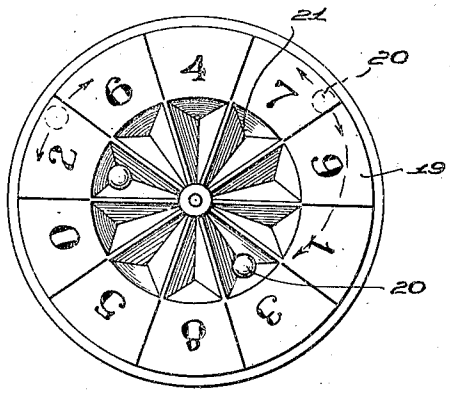


Fig. 4.

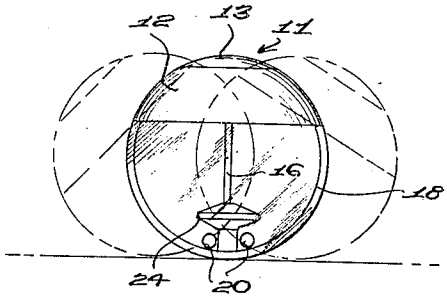


Fig. 5

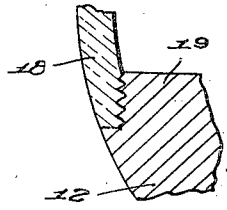


Fig. 6.

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ROLLABLE GAME PIECE

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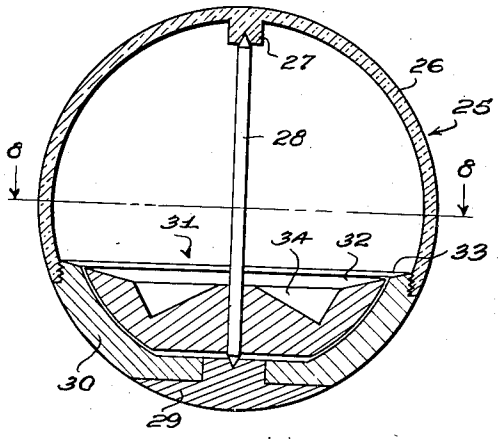


FIG. 7.

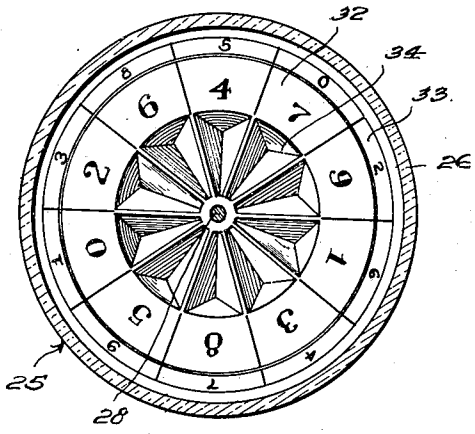


FIG. 8.

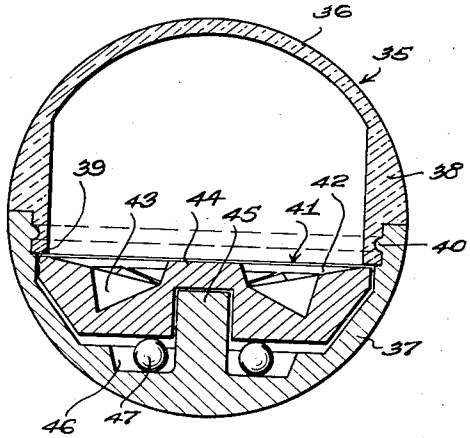


FIG. 9.

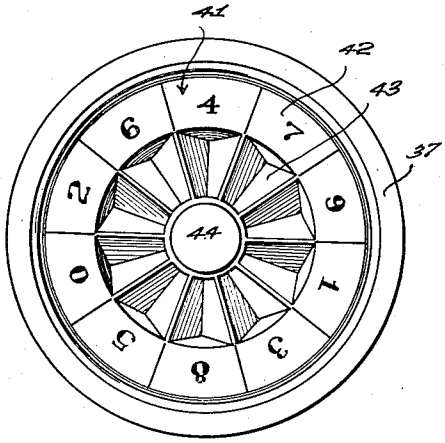


FIG. 10.

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ROLLABLE GAME PIECE

John Gortner, Shamokin, Pa.

Application February 21, 1939, Serial No. 257,732

6 Claims. (Cl. 273—138)

This invention relates to that classification of amusement accessories and equipment such as rollable dice, special rollable die units, tumbling objects, spheres and the like, and the principal purpose of the invention is to provide what is believed to be an innovation in this line of endeavor in the nature of a unique especially constructed and marked or otherwise charted rollable die.

In reducing to practice the principles of the inventive concept, I have evolved and brought into being what is believed to be an ingenious object or game-piece, the same being in the nature of a self-righting body of spherical or equivalent geometrical shape so that it will revolve, steady and right itself to occupy a substantially still upright position, whereby to clearly reveal uncontrollable tallying and scoring means.

I aim to improve upon certain known prior art game pieces and the like by providing one which is structurally distinct, distinguishable embodiments being utilized to illustrate the generic principle, and one form being characterized by a relatively rotatable element within the main revolvable element, the same being structurally made and designed in such a way as to provide the aforementioned indeterminate results.

An outstanding feature and object is to provide a spherical body, the same having a properly weighted self-righting base and a companion capping shell, the latter being transparent to permit the final tell-tale result to be visibly seen at a glance.

A further object of the invention is to provide a unique base and shell assembly, the shell being provided with what may be called an internally depending ball deflector member, this serving to react on the internal ball indicators to cast the same away from the axial center and to thus divert said indicator balls in a manner to avoid direct dropping of the same into the calibrated receiving pockets.

Other features and advantages will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of one embodiment or form of the invention as constructed in accordance with my specific ideas.

Figure 2 is a top plan view of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a central vertical sectional view.

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the base or bottom part-section.

Figure 5 is a diagrammatic view showing the functioning of the internal ball diverter knob or member.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary detail view showing the method in which the glass shell and base may be adjoined.

Figure 7 is a central vertical section through a modification showing the internal relatively rotatable turn-table.

Figure 8 is a horizontal section on the line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a view similar to Figures 3 and 7 showing a further modification utilizing anti-friction balls between the base member and turntable.

Figure 10 is a top plan view of the base and turntable assembly, the shell being omitted for clearness of illustration.

Attention is directed first to Figures 1 to 6 of the drawings. The game-piece as a whole, is denoted by the numeral 11. As stated, this is preferably spherical, although it may be of some other equivalent configuration. The part-spherical base section 12 is of wood or any other suitable material. This is provided at the center of its bottom with a counter-weight 13 having a stem or plug 14 projecting into an accommodation socket in the part 12. This stem 14 is provided with a screw-threaded socket to accommodate the screw-threaded end 15 of a rod or bolt 16. This part 16 has a head 17 which serves to hold in place the part-spherical glass or transparent capping shell 18. Thus, the bolt serves to secure the parts 12 and 18 in assembled relation. The marginal peripheral portion 19 of the base member is beveled and inclined toward the center to facilitate discharging the indicator balls 20 into the segmental circumferentially spaced pockets or recesses 21. In this arrangement, as before indicated, there is a knob-like device 22 which may be conveniently referred to as a diverter and this has a stem 23 attached to the crown portion of the glass shell and carrying an internal disk-like baffle and ball casting head or flange 24.

It is to be understood that the top face of the base member 12 is properly colored and divided into segmental sectors, these being provided with indicia. In the arrangement depicted numerals are employed to designate the different sectors and the numerals may be in any predetermined order of arrangement. Ordinarily there are two balls 20 used within this so-called rollable die.

In practice it is held in the hand and cast on a table or other flat surface where it is allowed to tumble and roll haphazardly, all depending on the force imparted to the throw. As the device gradually comes to a stand-still, the balls roll, jump and otherwise move within the confines of the transparent shell, at times rolling on the marginal runway or track **19** and at other times bobbing and jumping in and out of the pockets. When the device finally comes to a standstill in the upright position seen in Figure 3 the balls finally lodge themselves in the numbered pockets so that the results can be visibly determined and calculated. As before stated, as the device becomes inverted as seen in phantom lines in Figure 5, the intercepter and diverter **22** comes into play to cause the balls to be thrown by centrifugal force out toward the marginal limits and somewhat in the direction of the arrows in Figure 3. The actions are of course diversified and indeterminable and hence no particular motion can be attributed to the indicator balls **22**. The activity of the coacting elements however, is such as to develop unexpected and substantially uncontrolled results. Thus these features have been organized with a view toward promoting fair play and, to some extent, allowing skill to be challenged in order to obtain what may be thought to be predetermined results.

It is obvious that in the arrangement described the upper and lower sections forming the container are fixedly adjoined together but under certain conditions it is desirable to add a further feature. That is to say, in the arrangement seen in Figures 7 and 8 and 9 and 10, the base portion is of two-part construction.

The rollable game-piece in Figure 7 is differentiated by the numeral **25**. This includes a part-spherical glass or transparent shell **26** having an internal projection **27** forming a bearing for a spindle or pin **28**. The lower end of the spindle is journaled for rotation in a bearing socket in the weighted element **29**. The latter part **29** is mounted securely in the companion concaved member **30**. That is, the member **30** is concavo-convex and the cavity serves to accommodate the turn-table **31**. The turn-table has a marginal periphery or edge **32** which coacts with the adjacent concentric edge **33** of the base member **30**. These concentric marginal edges function as relatively stationary and movable tracks or runways. Then, as shown in Figure 8, the parts are properly colored and calibrated to obtain variable scoring results. Furthermore, the turn-table has recesses or pockets for final landing of the indicator balls, (not shown in this view).

It is obvious that with the construction just described the main object is revolvable while the turn-table is rotatable in relation thereto. This provides an ingenious planetary action which is desirable in a game-piece of this character.

Fundamentally, the same rudimentary principle is involved in Figures 9 and 10 where a revolvable game-piece **35** is depicted. Here again, we have the transparent part-spherical shell **36** and the part-spherical bottom section **37**. It will be noted that the central portion of the shell is thickened as at **38** and provided with an annular flange **39** having a groove for reception of a retention bead or rib **40** carried on the base member **37**. The flange **39** forms an overhanging lip to hold in place the freely rotatable turn-table **41**. The turn-table is provided with a beveled marginal rim or periphery **42**, ball-receiving pockets **43** and a central circular protuberance **44**. The playing side is of course suitably colored and calibrated and marked, this being a somewhat immaterial phase of the invention. The underside of the turn-table is provided with a socket to receive the assembling stem or shank **45** on the base member **37**. The base member is here provided with a recess or depression **46** to accommodate antifriction balls **47**. By interposing the balls between the respective parts **37** and **41**, free rotation of the latter is insured.

It is understood that the rules and regulations for using a game piece of this type will vary. Moreover, in the absence of seeing the device itself, the motions and movements of the respective parts cannot be sufficiently described to be precisely visualized. It is believed, however, that the disclosure is sufficient to give some idea of the captivating result obtainable with a rollable die or game-piece of the type disclosed.

It is thought that the description taken in connection with the drawings will enable a clear understanding of the invention to be had. Therefore, a more lengthy description is thought unnecessary.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is to be understood that minor changes coming within the field of invention claimed may be resorted to if desired.

I claim:

1. A game piece of the class described comprising a base, the normal top side thereof being provided with a marginal runway and centralized circumferentially spaced ball-receiving pockets, a part-spherical transparent shell mounted on said base, and internal means carried by said shell and located on the crown portion thereof, said means being in the form of a flanged ball deflecting diverter.

2. In a game device of the class described, a weighted self-righting base member, a transparent shell connected thereto, a bolt securing the base member and shell in assembled relation, the shell being provided on its crown portion with a depending neck having a flanged diverter head.

3. A game device of the class described comprising a hollow base member, a hollow capping and shell member attached thereto, said base member being provided with a central upstanding projection and a recess, anti-friction balls in said recess, a turn-table mounted for rotation on said projection, said turn-table having its marginal portion interposed between the adjacent marginal portions of the base member and shell member respectively to facilitate assembling and maintenance of parts.

4. In a game-piece of the class described, a hollow spherical body of a rollable self-righting character, said body comprising a semi-spherical base portion and a complemental semi-spherical capping shell portion, the portions being operatively connected with each other, the capping portion being transparent, the base portion being non-transparent, the internal normal top surface of said base portion having concentric centralized circumferentially spaced ball receiving pockets, the marginal portion of said surface being inwardly beveled and constituting an annular ball accommodating runway, said runway having unobstructed merging communication with said ball receiving pockets.

5. A game-piece of a rollable self-righting type comprising a spherical hollow body and a turn-table freely mounted for idling rotation therein, said hollow body being partly transpar-

ent and partly non-transparent, and said turn-table being provided with an inwardly beveled marginal annulus forming a ball accommodating runway, and that portion of the table concentrically and inwardly of said annulus having a plurality of circumferentially spaced depressions constituting ball receiving pockets, the juncture of the area between the runway and pockets being smooth and unobstructed to facilitate unimpeded lodging of the balls in said pockets in the manner and for the purposes described.

6. A rollable game-piece of the class described comprising a hollow spherical body of a self-righting character, said body including a concavo-convex base section the normal upper edge of which is bevelled radially and inwardly, a weighted member incorporated in the central part of the normal bottom portion of said section, and a semi-spherical capping shell section, the sections being operatively connected in assembled relationship, the capping section being transparent and the base section being non-transparent, a turn-table located within the confines of the concavity of said base section, the marginal wall thereof having a bevelled edge coordinated with the first-named bevelled edge and the concentric central upper face being provided with ball receiving pockets, a perpendicular spindle piercing the central portion of said turn-table, the lower end of the spindle being journalled for rotation in said weighted member, and the upper end journalled for rotation in a bearing provided in said capping shell.

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