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PORTABLE SHUFFLEBOARD COURT

Filed Oct. 23, 1964

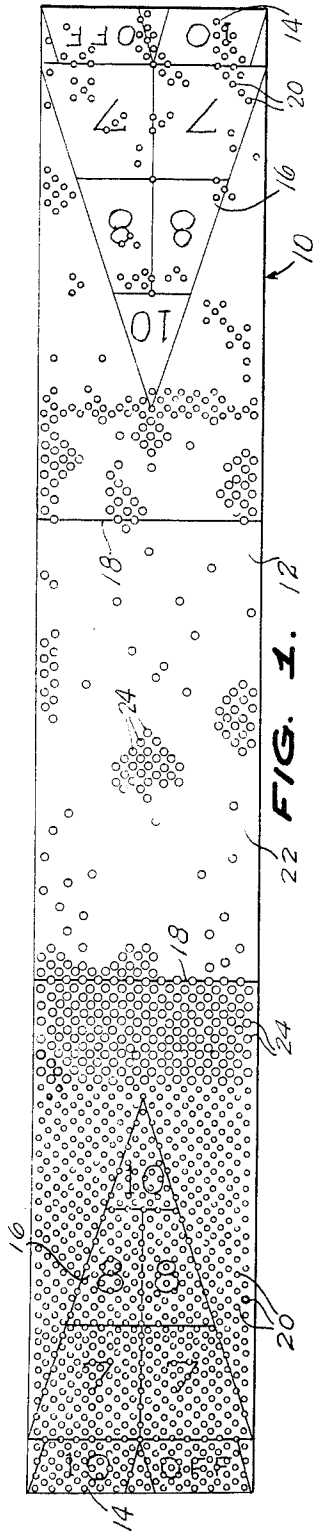


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 4.

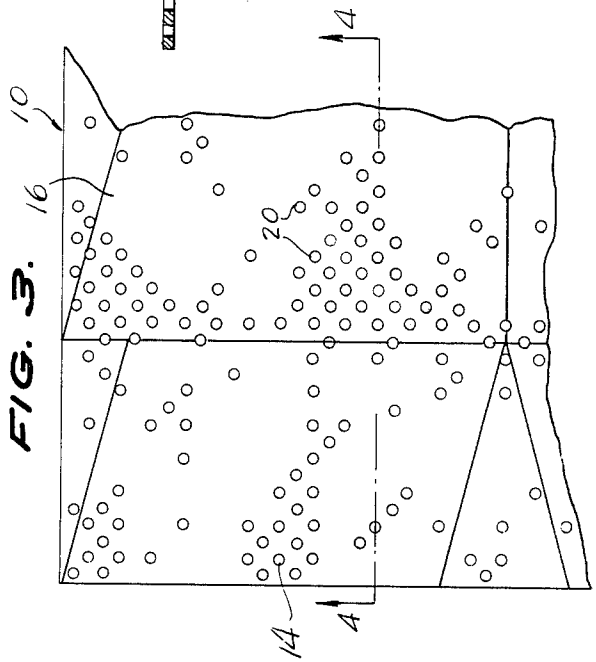


FIG. 3.

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PORTABLE SHUFFLEBOARD COURT

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This invention relates to a portable shuffleboard court designed for both outdoor and indoor use.

Shuffleboard installations are usually permanent outdoor installations exposed to the weather, which is not a prohibitive situation, in clement weather areas, but is not practical in colder areas subject to prohibitively low temperatures and snow. As consequence, outdoor shuffleboarding in inclement areas is substantially nonexistent.

An object of the invention is the provison of a portable shuffleboard court which is adapted to be laid out upon any suitable surface, outdoors or indoors, and to be removed and stored when not in use, with very little effort and trouble, so that shuffleboard can be played and promoted in all climate areas.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a court of the character indicated above, which is provided with a permanent friction reducing playing surface, which does not require waxing or other treatments commonly required to be applied thereto in order to reduce the excessive and objectionable friction between the discs or blocks, propelled thereover, which renders playing the game on conventional shuffleboards overtaxing for the less vigorous and the elderly.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of a shuffleboard court of the present invention, the dimensions of which are proportioned to the dimensions of a conventional shuffleboard playing surface;

FIGURE 2 is an edge elevation of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view of an end of the court; and,

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary longitudinal section taken on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the illustrated shuffleboard court comprises an elongated rectangular plate or sheet **10**, made of lightweight metal, or of plastic material, or combinations of any other hard material, which is six feet wide and thirty-nine feet long, to correspond to the measurements of a conventional shuffleboard court. The plate **10** should not be more than one-quarter of an inch in thickness, in the interest of lightweight and portability.

The playing surface **12** of the plate **10** has suitably marked thereon conventional off areas **14**, inwardly of which are scoring layouts **16**, and transverse limit lines **18**. The playing surface **12** is factory-polished to provide a substantially permanent frictionless finish, which does not require frequent waxing or like treatments.

For the dual purposes of further enhancing the frictionless character of the playing surface, and of reducing the

over-all weight of the court and facilitating portability thereof, the off areas **14** and the scoring layouts **16** are formed with small perforations or holes **20**, not larger in diameter than one-eighth of an inch. The small holes **20** are, as shown in FIGURES 2 and 3, evenly distributed over the mentioned areas, and are spaced from each other at distances not substantially greater than their diameters.

Because of the reduction of playing surface area produced by the presence of the small holes **20**, and reduction of suction between moving shuffleboard discs or blocks characteristic of a conventional shuffleboard court playing surface, and the highly polished condition of the playing surface **12**, discs or blocks can be propelled thereover with much reduced effort. The small holes **20** are held down in size to eliminate the possibility of cues catching therein.

In the area **22**, between the scoring layouts, the plate **10** is formed with larger perforations or holes **24**, which are substantially larger in diameter than the small holes **20**, for the purpose of more greatly reducing disc or block suction and similar reduction of sliding contact between the discs or blocks with the playing surface **12**.

Thus, the middle area of the court, which the discs reach with dying momentum, in ordinary courts, a substantially frictionless condition obtains, which enables less vigorously propelled discs to easily reach the opposing scoring layout, which would ordinarily fail to reach the same.

What is claimed is:

A portable shuffleboard court comprising an elongated rectangular lightweight sheet of conventional shuffleboard dimensions, said sheet being of relatively small thickness and having a highly-polished playing surface, said surface being formed at the end portions thereof with similar scoring layouts, the end portions having evenly distributed and closely uniformly-spaced perforation means of relatively small diameter, said perforation means being smaller in diameter than and spaced from each other at distances substantially less than the diameter of a shuffleboard disc adapted to be propelled over the surface to thereby reduce both the weight of said sheet and friction and suction caused by the sliding contact of the disc with the playing surface.

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