Jan. 5, 1926. 1,568,548

L. EDELSON

GAME CARD

Filed Feb. 26, 1925

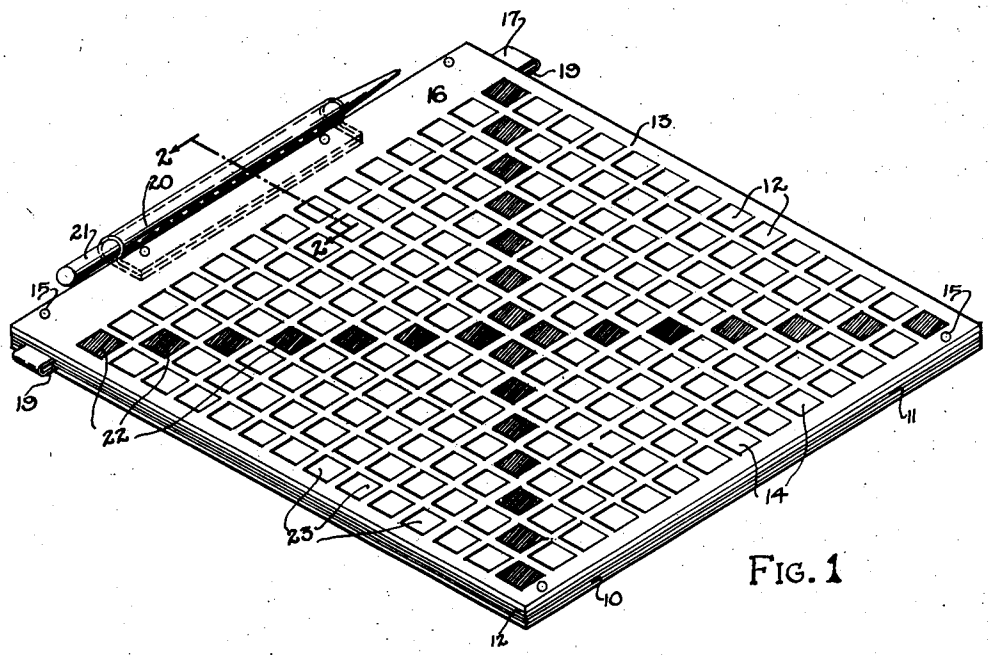


FIG. 1

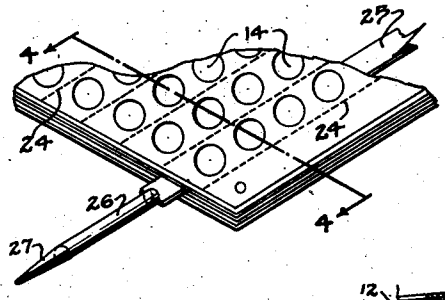


FIG. 3

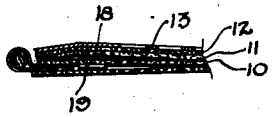


FIG. 2

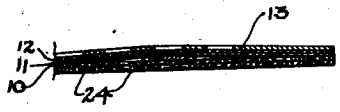


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.

Leon Edelson.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEON EDELSON, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

GAME CARD.

Application filed February 26, 1925. Serial No. 11,820.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that LEON EDELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore city, in the State of Maryland, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Cards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in games and has to do more particularly with a device for use in the solution of cross-word puzzles.

The principal object of my present invention is to provide a device upon which cross-word puzzles of any design may be quickly and easily blocked out.

A further object of my invention is to provide a cross-word puzzle pad adapted for repeated use without renewal by which a puzzle of a particular design, when solved, can be instantaneously obliterated without the use of any erasing means.

A still further object is to provide a cross-word puzzle pad upon which a particular design may be readily transferred without the aid of any drawing instruments, such as pens, pencils, scales and rulers.

Still another object is to provide a game pad of the type described having means associated therewith whereby incorrectly inserted words or letters may be obliterated without the use of any erasing means and without disturbing those words or letters deemed by the player to be correct.

Further objects, and objects relating to details and economies of construction and operations will definitely appear from the detailed description to follow. In one instance, I accomplish the objects of my invention by the devices and means set forth in the following specification. A structure constituting a preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows a modified form of my invention;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In the drawings, the same reference numerals refer to the same parts throughout the several views.

The solving of puzzles has been practiced by man since time immemorial, but it has been only within a recent period that the cross-word puzzle has become almost universally popular. The popularity of this newest pastime has created great demands for cross-word puzzle blanks, that is, blanks having any desirable number of squares blocked out. Certain of the squares are adapted to be completely filled in in accordance with any preconceived or predetermined design, leaving a number of empty squares in which to form the words. It is among the special purposes of my present invention to meet this great demand for cross-word puzzle blanks by providing a single pad-like device which is capable of being repeatedly used for the variously designed cross-word puzzles.

My invention contemplates the use of a relatively soft base portion which has been treated with wax, paraffin, oil, or some other similar material to render it plastic. Preferably this treating material is colored, and over this base portion is placed a thin sheet of paper which is transparent to a certain degree. If a blunt instrument, such as an ordinary orange stick, nail, pen, or even the finger nail, is drawn over this paper a line will appear where the paper has adhered to the treated base. In order to obliterate this line or mark, it is only necessary to lift the paper away from the base and all traces of it will have disappeared. To protect the paper from injury and to preserve its life I preferably cover it with a thin transparent sheet of cellulose material. Overlying the paper and cellulose sheets is placed a perforated plate, the perforations being preferably in the form of squares, though it may be found advantageous to provide other kinds of perforations, and the paper cellulosic and perforated sheets are all secured together in any desirable manner. It will be seen that by using the upper perforated plate as a guide any of the squares may be darkened to obtain the desired cross-word puzzle design. The remaining undarkened or empty squares may then be filled with the letters forming the words of the puzzle.

Means have been provided, which are described in greater detail hereinafter, for obliterating those certain portions only of the puzzle card which have been incorrectly filled in by the player.

Referring to the drawings my invention comprises a relatively soft base, 10, such as blotting or filter paper or asbestos which is treated with a wax or other plastic compound and preferably colored. Immediately above this plastic base 10 is a thin sheet, 11, of paper which is transparent to a certain degree such that upon drawing a blunt instrument inherently incapable of producing a visible mark itself across the pad a mark will appear at the zone of adherence of the paper to the base. If the paper, 11, be now lifted from the base the mark will instantaneously be obliterated. In order to protect the paper, 11, against injury due to any untoward abrasion, as where too sharp an instrument is used, a celluloid cover, 12, is preferably employed. This sheet, 12, is, of course, transparent and is thin enough so that upon drawing a blunt instrument across its surface the paper, 11, will be caused to adhere to the base, 10, in a zone coincident with the travel of the instrument.

Covering the protecting sheet, 12, is a guide plate, 13, which may be made of any suitable material of sufficient stiffness to withstand considerable use. Preferably I employ a thin sheet metal plate, though cardboard, wooden, or celluloid or mica sheets may be as advantageously employed. The plate, 13, is provided with a plurality of perforations, 14, which may be in the form of squares as shown in Fig. 1, or which may be circular openings as shown in Fig. 3. These openings, 14, are preferably alined in horizontally and vertically extending rows. The base, 10, paper sheet, 11, transparent sheet, 12, and guide plate, 13, are secured together in any suitable manner, the preferable manner being to clinch them together at the corners, as shown at 15.

A space, 16, is provided at one edge of the guide plate, 13, substantially equal in width to that of one of the openings. Adapted to be inserted between the paper sheet, 11, and the plastic base, 10, is a sliding member, 17. This sliding member is preferably formed of thin material such as paper, wood, or sheet metal. Small gauge wire may also be advantageously employed. Normally this sliding member, 17, is disposed with its body, 18, intermediate the elements, 10 and 11, beneath the space, 16, of the guide plate, 13. The ends 19—19 of the member 17 are bent backward against the under surface of the base to prevent displacement of the guide and to afford guiding means therefor in its movement between the sheet 11 and the base 10.

Preferably secured to one edge of the base, 10, in any suitable manner is a holder, 20, adapted to receive an instrument, 21, such as an ordinary bluntly pointed piece of wood, though it is conceivable that a slate or metallic rod may be used in connection with my device to great advantage.

In use, the player or cross-word puzzle solver transfers the original puzzle design as it appears in a book or newspaper, to the game card, by merely darkening those squares which are shown dark in the original puzzle. This is done by pressing the instrument, 21, on the sheet, 12, through the proper openings, 14, corresponding to the dark squares in the original puzzle outline. By pressing the entire surface within the square a complete dark square, 22, may be obtained. Undarkened or empty squares, 23, will remain to correspond to the similarly arranged empty squares of the original puzzle. These squares may then be filled in with the correct letters of the words defined in the puzzle in the manner well understood by those familiar with this popular game.

Having completed the solution of the puzzle, all that is necessary is to slide the member, 17, between the base, 10, and the sheet, 11, to free the latter from the former and the solved puzzle will be entirely and immediately erased. A new puzzle of different design may then be transferred to the clean card in a manner similar to that just described.

Figures 3–4 show a modified form of my invention wherein the base, 10, sheet, 11, and celluloid cover, 12, are sewed together by rows of stitching, 24. Such an arrangement is of advantage where it is desirable to obliterate only portions of the solution, as where only a certain word has been incorrectly inserted. Fig. 3 shows an instrument particularly adapted to be used with the modified form of my invention shown in Fig. 3. This instrument comprises a thin, flat portion, 25, of a width less than the width of the opening in the plate, 13, but of a length equal to the width of the plate; and a round portion, 26, having a pointed end, 27. Thus, with such an instrument it is possible to insert it between the base, 10, and the sheet, 11, in any horizontal row as defined by the rows, 24, of stitching, in the manner shown in Fig. 3, whereby to obliterate as many squares and their markings in any single row as may be desired. The portion, 26, with its pointed end, 27, is the marking element, so that it will be seen that I have provided in a single instrument a marker for my game card and an obliterator of any undesirable letters or columns of letters.

Where a plurality of slides are used, it is possible to try certain words and combinations of letters which, if not correct, may be readily obliterated and new ones

substituted in their stead. Thus, should a column be completed but with a word incorrectly included therein, the proper slide may be manuipulated to erase that column. The letters which were properly inserted therein may be immediately replaced leaving again clean spaces to be filled out with the proper letters. Of course, if the column included a darkened space, this same space should be re-darkened to maintain the cross-word design in its original form.

It is entirely within the purview of my invention to omit entirely the guide plate, 13, and to merely draw parallel horizontal and vertical lines on either the paper, 11, or the sheet, 12. Essentially, the game card would be still operated in the same manner as above described. However, it has been found that a card employing the guide plate, 13, is the most practicable and gives best results.

Again, it is to be understood that the relative positions of the sheet, 12, and the plate, 13, may be reversed. If the latter is made of thin paper, then it would be of advantage to protect it by disposing it beneath the celluloid sheet. Thus, the game card may be constructed in many different ways and the relative arrangement of the elements of which it is comprised may be varied in any desirable manner. I have shown certain arrangements which have proved most satisfactory, but my invention in its broadest scope is not to be limited or restricted in respect to details of assembly.

I am aware that the particular embodiments of my invention, which I have here shown and described, are susceptible of considerable variation without departing from the spirit thereof, and therefore, I desire to claim the same broadly, as well as specifically, as indicated by the appended claims.

What I claim is:—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a relatively soft plastic base and means superimposed upon said base whereby upon the application of pressure thereto by an instrument inherently incapable of producing a mark, a mark will be caused to appear thereon in the zone of adherence of said means to said base, of a guide plate provided with a plurality of apertures.

2. In a device of the class described, in combination, a soft plastic base, a thin transparent writing surface and an apertured guide plate, whereby upon the application of pressure to said writing surface by an instrument inherently incapable of producing a mark through the apertures of said guide plate markings may be caused to appear in accordance with a predetermined design.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination with means adapted to receive a mark by an instrument inherently incapable of making a mark itself and means for the instantaneous obliteration of said mark without the use of any erasing means, of a guide plate provided with a plurality of apertures whereby said instrument may be pressed upon said mark receiving means through said apertures to darken portions of the surface of said mark receiving means defined by certain of said apertures.

4. In a game card of the type described, the combination with means to provide a guide for the transfer of a certain predetermined design to said card, of means capable of being visibly marked in accordance with said design by an instrument in itself inherently incapable of producing a mark and means for instantaneously obliterating said mark to provide a new surface for receiving a mark.

5. In a game card of the type described, the combination with means adapted to have a mark produced thereon by an instrument in itself inherently incapable of producing such a mark and means whereby said mark may be instantaneously obliterated to provide an unmarked surface upon which to produce a mark, of a guide plate provided with a plurality of apertures through which said instrument may be impressed to produce marks in accordance with a preconceived design.

6. In a cross-word puzzle card, in combination, a colored base adapted to be impressed by an instrument inherently incapable of producing a mark, a transparent sheet disposed over said base whereby upon drawing said instrument across the surface thereof a mark will be produced coincident with the zone of adherence of said sheet and said base due to the impression of said instrument, a guide plate provided with a plurality of apertures through which said instrument is adapted to operate in accordance with a predetermined design, and means for fastening together said base, sheet and plate.

7. In a cross-word puzzle card, in combination, a colored base adapted to be impressed by an instrument inherently incapable of producing a mark, a transparent sheet disposed over said base whereby upon drawing said instrument across the surface thereof a mark will be produced coincident with the zone of adherence of said sheet and said base due to the impression of said instrument, a guide plate provided with a plurality of apertures through which said instrument is adapted to operate in accordance with a predetermined design, and means for lifting certain portions only of said sheet from said base.

8. A cross-word puzzle card comprising a colored plastic base, a transparent sheet covering said base, and guide means dis-

posed above said sheet whereby an element inherently incapable of producing a visible mark may be pressed upon said sheet to cause the same to adhere to said base at the points of pressure application to produce a visible mark, said pressure being applied through said guide means in accordance with a predetermined design.

9. A cross-word puzzle card comprising a soft colored base having adhering characteristics, a transparent sheet covering said base and adapted to adhere to said base in zones of pressure application thereto whereby a mark is produced and a plate disposed above said sheet, said plate having a plurality of apertures suitably arranged therein whereby a pressure applying instrument may be operated through certain of said apertures to darken portions of the sheet therebeneath, the remaining apertures being left undarkened to be filled in with suitable marks in accordance with the proper solution of the puzzle.

10. A cross-word puzzle card comprising a soft colored base having adhering characteristics, a transparent sheet covering said base and adapted to adhere to said base in zones of pressure application thereto whereby a mark is produced and a plate disposed above said sheet, said plate having a plurality of apertures suitably arranged therein whereby a pressure applying instrument may be operated through certain of said apertures to darken portions of the sheet therebeneath, the remaining apertures being left undarkened to be filled in with suitable marks in accordance with the proper solution of the puzzle, and means to instantaneously obliterate all or any of said marks and darkened portions.

11. A cross-word puzzle game card comprising a colored plastic base, means superimposed on said base whereby a mark will be caused to appear thereon by drawing an instrument across the surface thereof and applying pressure thereto, a guide disposed on said means adapted to facilitate the transfer of any particular design thereto, and means for instantaneously obliterating said transferred design whereby another design may be transferred to the card.

12. A cross-word puzzle game card comprising a colored plastic base, means superimposed on said base whereby a mark will be caused to appear thereon by drawing an instrument across the surface thereof and applying pressure thereto, a protecting sheet covering said means and a metal guide adapted to facilitate the transfer of any particular design upon said means.

13. In a cross-word puzzle game card, the combination with a base adapted to have marks produced thereon by an instrument inherently incapable of producing any mark and means for obliterating said produced marks, of guide means for facilitating the transfer to said base of a puzzle of predetermined design.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

LEON EDELSON.