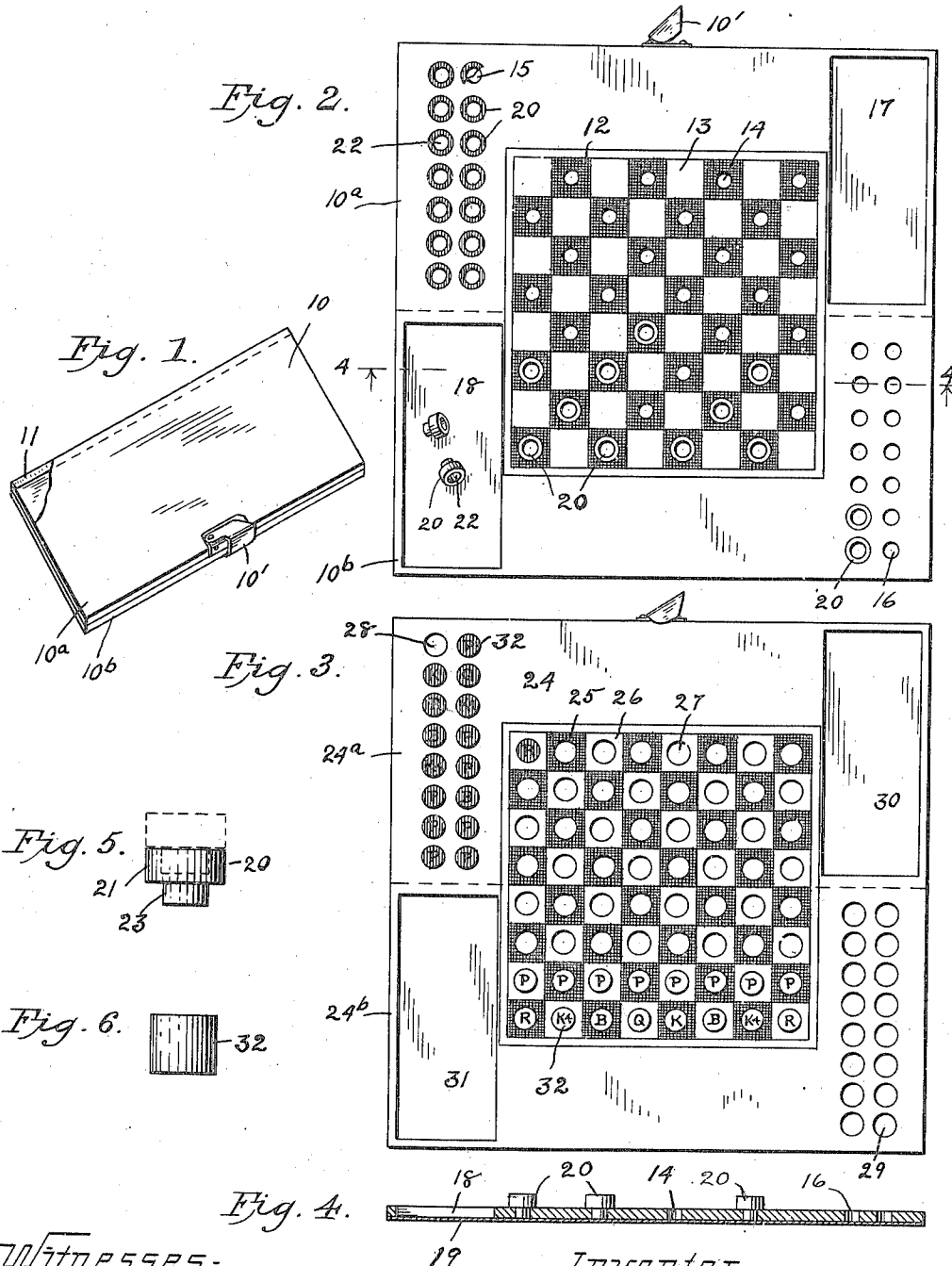


947,603.

Patented Jan. 25, 1910.



Witnesses:

A. L. Lord
 C. H. Pesch.

Inventor.

Charles B. Steacy
 by Brockett & Kwis
 Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES B. STEACY, OF ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY.

GAME EQUIPMENT.

947,603.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 25, 1910.

Application filed February 1, 1909. Serial No. 475,330.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES B. STEACY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Atlantic City, in the county of Atlantic and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Equipments, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to game apparatus generally, and particularly to checker and chess equipment including the construction of the boards and of the so-called "men".

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a novel form of checker or chess equipment including a board which receives and carries the men when the latter are not in use, and which when folded is compact and is of such a size and weight that it can be conveniently carried in the pocket.

A further object is the provision of a board and of men which engage or fit into the board in a manner such that the positions of the men will not be disturbed in case the board is jarred or moved, the parts having a construction such that the men are shifted and the game is played with practically the same movements and in practically the same manner as with an ordinary equipment.

A still further object is the provision of a board and men adapted particularly for the game of checkers wherein the board has suitable sockets in the squares or spaces, and the men have on one side shanks adapted to fit in any of the sockets of the board, and on the opposite side sockets preferably of the same size as those in the board, so that the checkers can be definitely located or positioned on the board and will not be shaken or moved out of place during play, and so that a king can be formed as in the customary manner by placing one man upon the other with the shank of the upper man extending into the socket of the lower man.

Still further objects will appear from the following detail description.

The invention may be briefly summarized as consisting in certain novel details of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts which will be described in the specification and set forth in the appended claims.

In the figures of the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the board with the two sections thereof folded and held or secured together. Fig. 2

is a face or plan view of a checker equipment including the board and the men that are used in connection therewith, one set of men being in the position which they normally occupy when not in use, and part of the other set being in playing position on the board. Fig. 3 is a view of a modification of the invention, an equipment being shown which can be employed for either chess or checkers. Fig. 4 is a transverse section taken through the board shown in Fig. 2, substantially along the line 4—4. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of one of the checker men, and showing by dotted lines the manner in which one man can be placed upon another to form a king. Fig. 6 is a side view of one of the men which may be employed on the chess or combined checkers and chess board.

Referring now to the figures of the drawings and first to the modification shown in Fig. 2 wherein there is illustrated a checker board 10 consisting of two sections 10^a and 10^b hinged together by any suitable means such as by one or more thin strips of muslin 11 glued or pasted to the faces of the adjacent portions of the two sections. The board may be made of any suitable material but thin wooden plates are preferably employed for the sake of lightness, and, although some of the features of my invention are of considerable value when employed in boards of ordinary size, the dimensions of the board are preferably made such that when the sections are folded together, or when the board is closed it can be conveniently carried in the pocket. Upon the inner face of the board and centrally thereof is the playing space or square which is divided into the usual number of square spaces of two contrasted colors, the spaces of one color, which, in this case, is black, being designated 12 and being alternated with the spaces of the other color which are designated 13. As is clearly shown in Fig. 2 the alternate squares or spaces and in this case the black squares are provided with centrally located sockets 14 which are preferably cylindrical in shape and extend entirely through the wooden portions of the board for convenience of manufacture. As will appear presently these sockets are adapted to receive the shanks of the men so as to definitely position the latter with respect to the proper squares and to prevent the men from being accidentally shifted or moved about on the board. Located along opposite sides of the board are

two groups of sockets 15 and 16, the sockets of one group being at the end of one section or half of the board adjacent the "double corner" and the other group being at the opposite end of the other section adjacent the "double corner" of that section. The sockets of each of these groups are preferably arranged closely together in two or more rows, and their purpose is to receive the men when not in use. As here shown there are fourteen sockets in each group so that spaces are provided for two extra men of each set or color, the sockets being here arranged in two rows. It is to be here noted that these sockets 15 and 16 are located at the right of the opposing or facing players in convenient position for the players to remove the men from these sockets and to place them in the sockets of the squares or in position for playing. At the other two ends of the two sections or halves of the board respectively are two rectangular recesses 17 and 18 each having a depth equal to the thickness of the wood or other material of which the board is formed, and each being so located that it will register with or overlie the sockets 15 or 16 of the opposite half or section when the board is closed. Pasted over the back of the board is a sheet 19 of some material preferably paper which is preferably the same size as the board and covers all the sockets and rectangular openings or recesses so as to conceal them from view when the board is closed and forms a bottom for the same when the board is open.

The checker men 20, which may be formed of any desired material such as wood, are each preferably of the shape shown in Fig. 5, and each consists of a cylindrical head or body portion 21 having at the top a cylindrical socket 22 of the same diameter as the sockets in the board, and having on the opposite side from the socket 22, a cylindrical shank 23 of such a diameter and length that it will fit nicely in the sockets of the board or in the sockets 22 of any of the other men. The total length of the men measured from the upper face of the head or body portion to the end of the shank will preferably be no greater than twice the thickness of the board or twice the length of the sockets in the board in order that the board may be compactly closed in the manner to be described presently. There will of course be two sets of men, one set being of a color radically different from the color of the other set.

When the checkers are not in use, those of one set or color will be placed in one group of sockets 15, that is with the shanks in the sockets and with the body portions of the men above the board. These men will then be arranged in a group along one side of the board and at the end of one section or half of the board, directly opposite or in line with

the rectangular recess 18 at the corresponding end of the other section or half of the board. The other group of men will be arranged with their shanks extending into the sockets 16 which are located along the opposite side of the board and directly opposite or in line with the rectangular recess 17 at the end of the other section or half of the board and at the corresponding side of the board. When the men are in this position the board can be closed with the inner faces of the two halves or sections thereof in engagement with each other for the reason that the body portions of the men or portions extending above the face of the board will be received in these rectangular recesses 17 and 18, each of which will be of such a size that it will accommodate the men of one group when arranged in the sockets. Any suitable means may be provided for locking or securing the two halves or sections of the board together or for holding the board in its closed position so as to retain the men in place, and I have here shown for this purpose a metal clasp 10' which is pivoted to one of the sections and has side portions which embrace the two sections so as to hold them together.

When it is desired to put the men in play the board will be opened and will be turned so that one group of men will be at the right of one of the players and the other group will be at the right of the other player, and they can then be removed from these sockets 15 and 16 and placed in the sockets 14 of the proper squares of the playing field or space, it being apparent that the arrangement of the two groups of men when not in use or rather their positions with respect to the players are such that they can be placed in the sockets 14 of the squares very conveniently. During the play to make a move, the man will be grasped by the fingers as in the ordinary manner and will be moved to some other square and placed in the corresponding socket, and when the king row has been reached a king will be formed by placing one man upon the other with the shank of the former in the socket of the latter. When a man has been jumped it can be removed from the board and dropped into one of the rectangular recesses 17 and 18 which will then be a convenient repository for the men as they are put out of play until it is again desired to rearrange them in the sockets 14. It will be seen, therefore, that although I have provided a checker equipment, the main desideratum of which is compactness with the view of providing an equipment which can be easily carried about in the pocket, and although I have provided an equipment wherein the playing space or field is considerably smaller than in ordinary boards together with means for definitely positioning men on the playing squares, it is to be noted that the movements neces-

sary in shifting the men about and the manner in which the kings are formed follow very closely those ordinarily employed and to which the players have become accustomed. It is to be noted also that these rectangular recesses 17 and 18 have dual functions; namely, they permit the board to be folded or closed compactly although the board carries the men which do not add to the size or thickness of the board, for the reason that the portions of the men projecting above the face of the board are accommodated by these rectangular recesses, and still further the rectangular recesses form temporary receptacles or repositories for the men as they are put out of play. Although the men put out of play may if desired be inserted in the sockets at the sides of the board, they are preferably placed in the recesses 17 and 18 for the reason that the placing of the men in these sockets, requires a little more time and mental effort than is required to merely drop them in the recesses.

In Fig. 3 I have shown an equipment which may be employed for either checkers or chess and which contains most of the novel features of the board shown in Fig. 2. This board 24 is provided with two hinged sections 24^a and 24^b as in the prior case and the board is provided on its inner face with the usual squares 25 and 26 of contrasted colors. One of the main distinguishing features between this board and the board shown in Fig. 2, is that the chess and checker board 24 has a socket 27 in each of the squares instead of in the alternate squares only, as shown in Fig. 2. Each socket 27 will preferably be slightly larger than those shown in Fig. 2 for a purpose to be explained presently. This board is also provided on opposite sides with two groups of sockets 28 and 29 having the same relative location as the groups of sockets 15 and 16 of the board shown in Fig. 2 and these sockets 28 and 29 serve the same purpose as the sockets 15 and 16; namely, to receive the two sets of men when not in use. The sockets 28 and 29 will be of the same size as the sockets 27 in the different squares of the playing space of the board, and the number of sockets in each group will be sufficient to accommodate at least sixteen men. The board is also provided with two rectangular recesses 30 and 31 having the same relative arrangement with respect to the groups of sockets 28 and 29 as have the rectangular recesses 17 and 18 with respect to the sockets 15 and 16.

The men 32, one of which is shown in Fig. 6, differ in shape from the men first described. In this instance the men 32 each preferably consists of a cylindrical disk or button of a size such that it may be readily inserted in any of the sockets 27, 28 or 29, and having a length no greater than twice

the thickness of one of the sections of the board, or twice the depth of the sockets. In order that these disks may be used for chess each will have on one end a mark, letter or symbol of a particular character to designate its name in chess parlance, the different men having the necessary marks or symbols to designate the men of two sets of sixteen each. In the present case and as shown clearly in Fig. 3, the men are provided with designating letters. The opposite faces of the men will preferably be plain, in order that the same men may be used for checkers. When the game of checkers is played with this equipment, the men will be placed in the proper sockets of the squares with the plain faces up and when the king row has been reached, the man will be inverted so as to distinguish the king from an ordinary man. This equipment will be used in practically the same manner as described in connection with Fig. 2 and the board will have practically the same dimensions and when closed will be just as compact as the checker board shown in Fig. 2.

It is to be noted that either the checker board or combined chess and checker board can be used under circumstances which would not be favorable for the use of an ordinary checker equipment, since either equipment constructed in accordance with my invention can be easily held in the lap or used conveniently in a moving train or under any other condition wherein stability is lacking.

I do not desire to be confined to the exact details shown but aim in my claims to cover all modifications which do not involve a departure from the spirit and scope of my invention.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a game equipment, a board consisting of two sections having a playing space over which men are adapted to be moved, one of the sections having a plurality of sockets adapted to receive portions of the men when not in use, and the other section being recessed opposite said sockets so as to receive the portions of the men which project outwardly from said sockets and to permit the two sections to be placed one upon the other when the board is not in use.

2. In a game equipment, a board consisting of two hinged sections having a playing space over which men are adapted to be moved, one of the sections having a plurality of sockets adapted to receive portions of the men when not in use, and the other section being recessed opposite said sockets so as to receive or accommodate the portions of the men which project outwardly from said sockets and to permit the two sections of the board to be folded together with their faces in engagement.

3. In a game equipment, a board consisting of two hinged sections having a playing field divided into spaces of contrasted colors upon which groups of men are adapted to be moved, each section having outside of the playing field a plurality of sockets adapted to receive portions of one of the groups of men when the latter are not in use, and each of said sections being recessed opposite the group of sockets of the other section so as to receive the portions of the men which project outwardly from said sockets of the other section and to permit the two sections to be folded together with their faces in engagement.

4. In a game equipment, a board consisting of two hinged sections having a playing field divided into spaces of contrasted colors, certain of said spaces having sockets adapted

ed to receive portions of men which are moved over said board, and each section having a group of sockets outside of the playing field adapted to receive portions of the men when not in use and having also a recess located opposite the group of sockets of the other section whereby the portions of the men projecting outwardly from the two groups of sockets are received in said recesses and the board may be compactly folded together with the faces of the two sections in engagement.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES B. STEACY.

Witnesses:

G. O. FARQUHARSON,
A. F. KWIS.