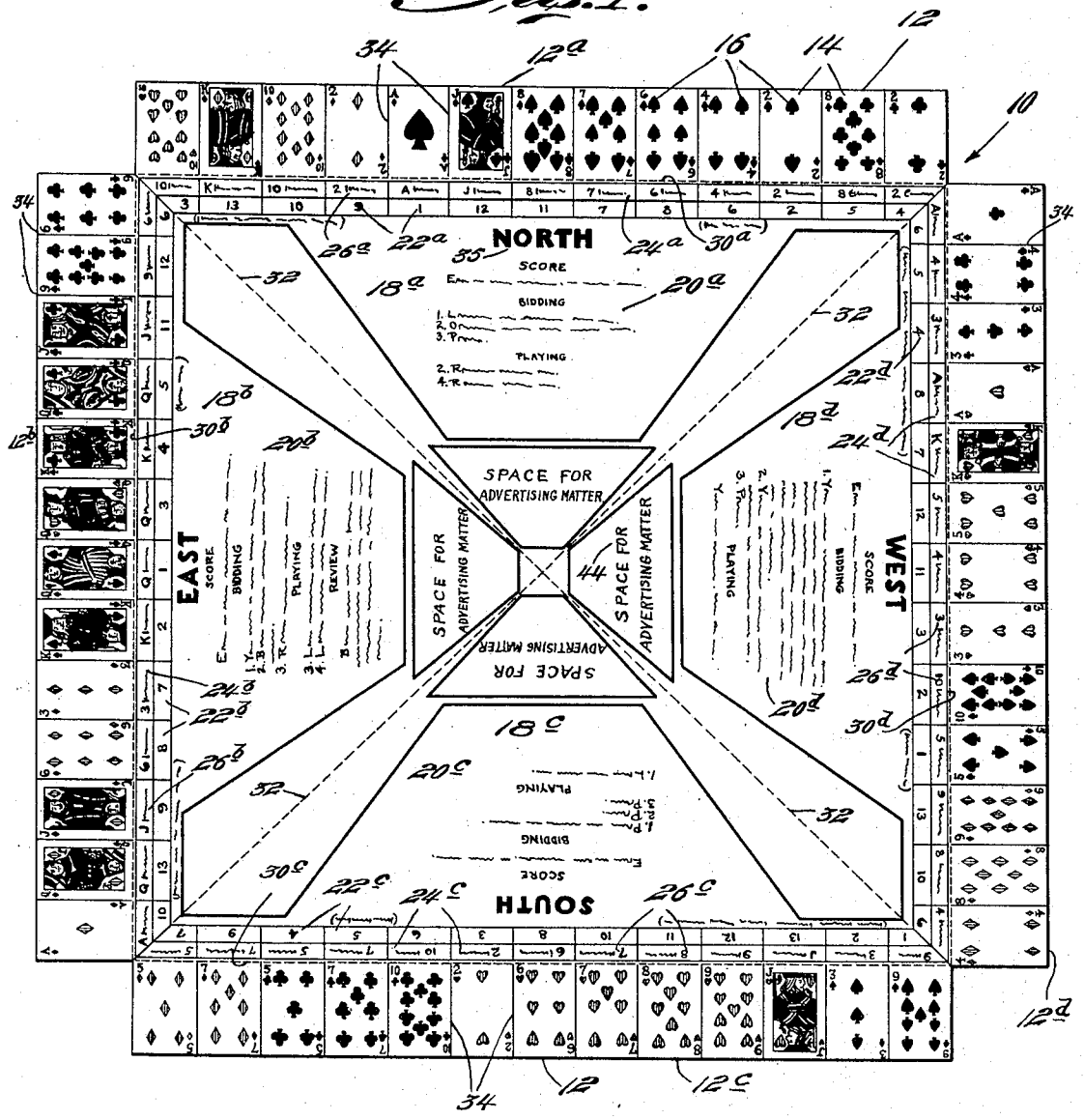
Dec. 31, 1935. R. G. WILLIAMS 2,025,966

COMBINATION GAME AND INDIVIDUAL PLAYER INSTRUCTION SHEET THEREFOR

Filed March 7, 1932 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

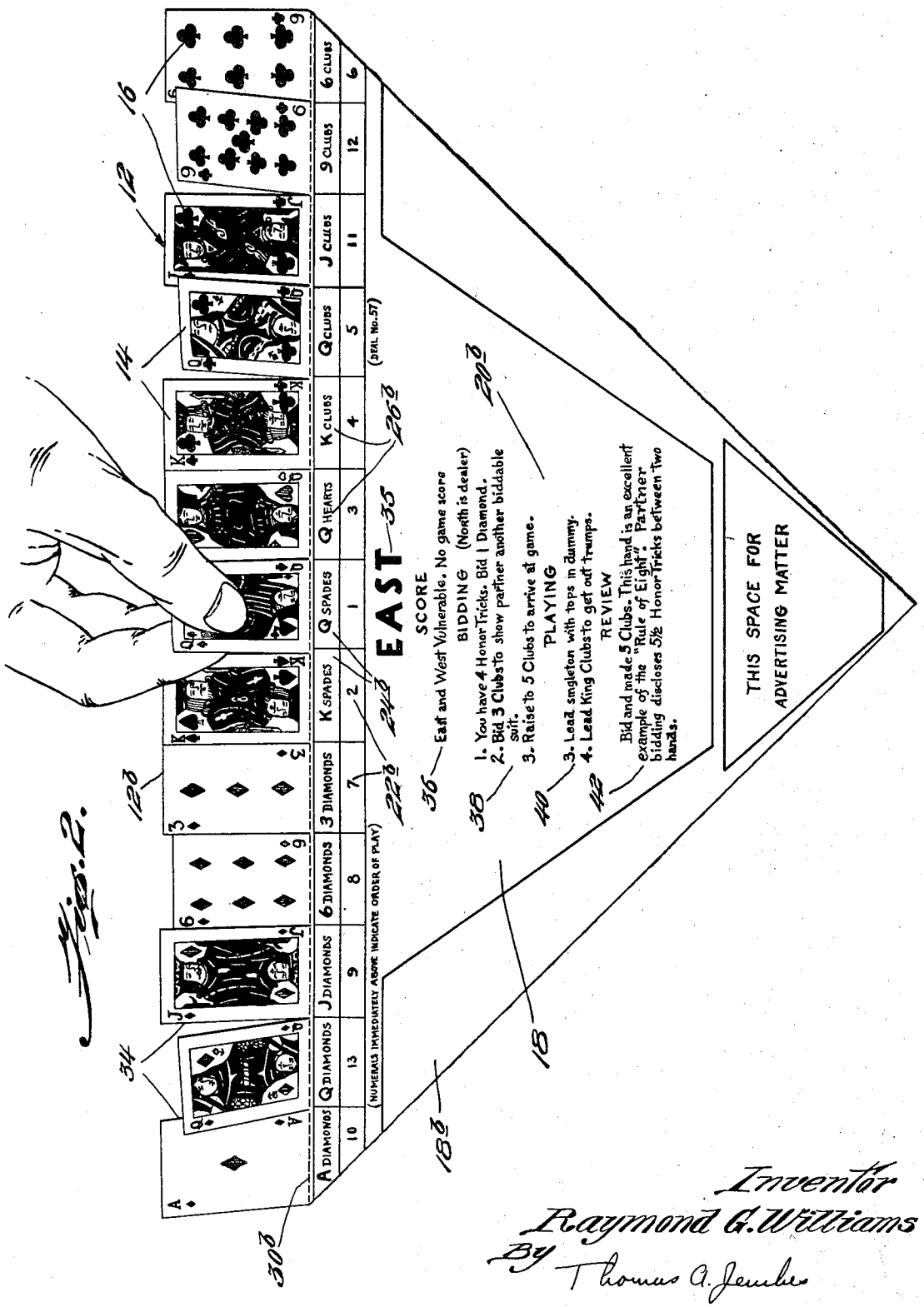


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COMBINATION GAME AND INDIVIDUAL PLAYER INSTRUCTION SHEET THEREFOR

Filed March 7, 1932 3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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COMBINATION GAME AND INDIVIDUAL PLAYER INSTRUCTION SHEET THEREFOR

Filed March 7, 1932 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 3.

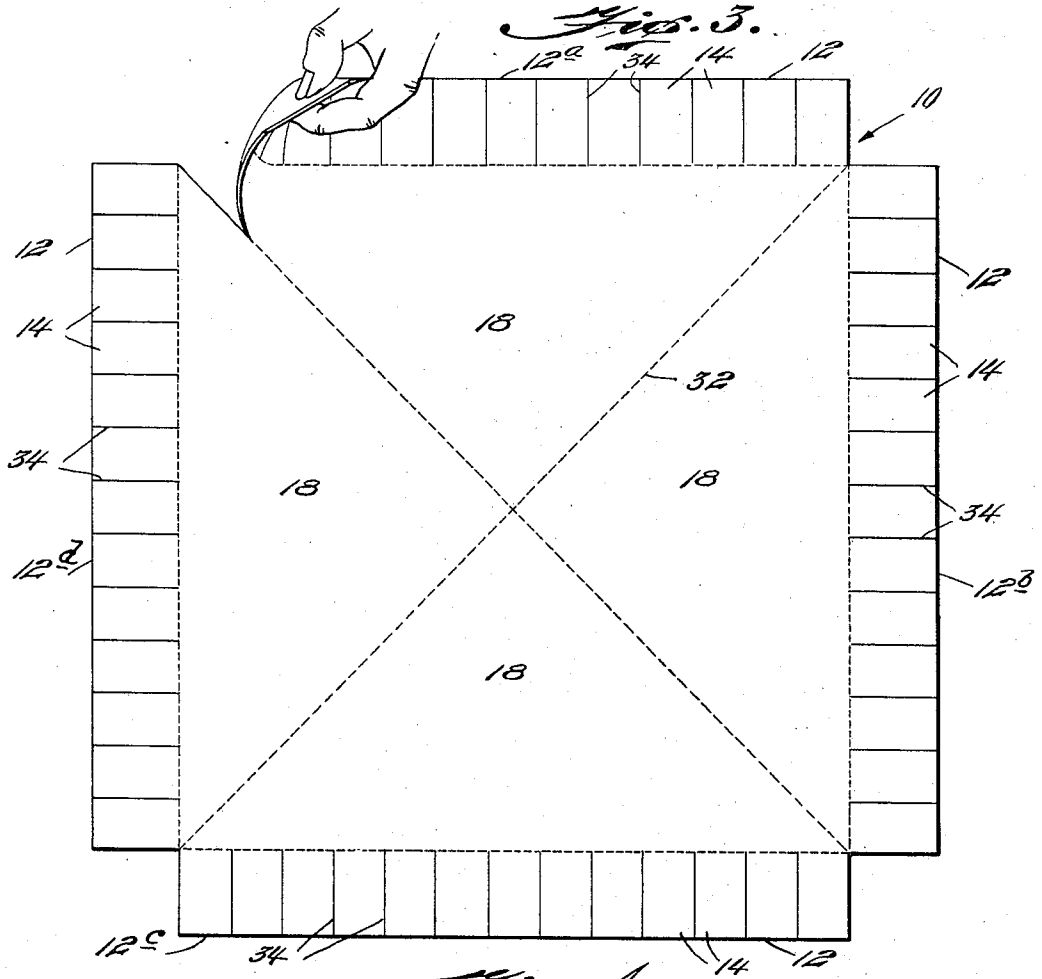
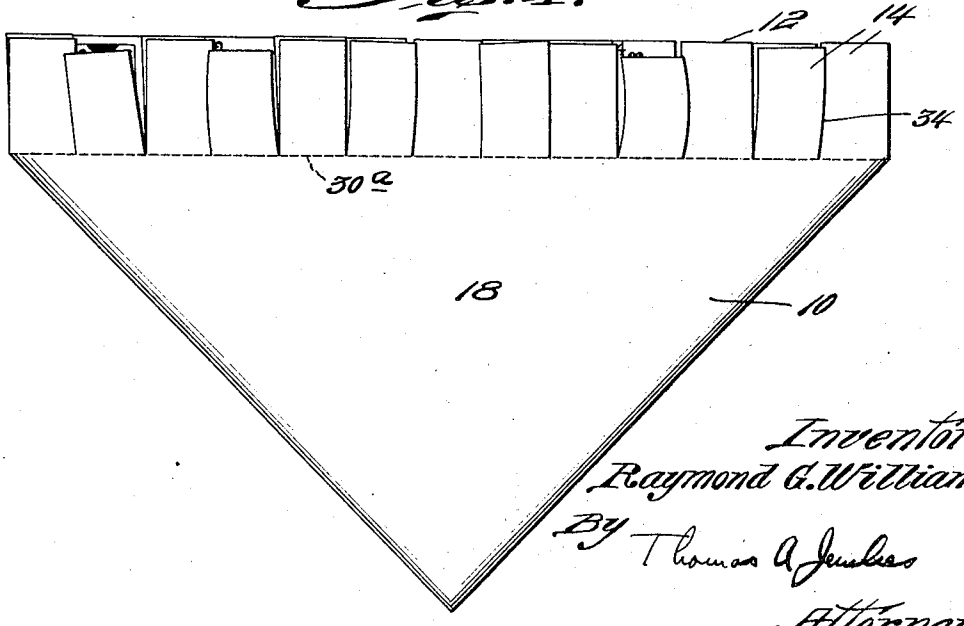


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,025,966

COMBINATION GAME AND INDIVIDUAL PLAYER INSTRUCTION SHEET THEREFOR

Raymond G. Williams, Providence, R. I.

Application March 7, 1932, Serial No. 597,349

8 Claims. (Cl. 35—8)

My invention relates to improvements in combination game and individual player instruction sheets therefor, particularly adapted for a so called game of chance, wherein the element of luck, in awarding as by a deal more favorable tokens to one player than to another, comes in play. While my invention is adapted for use in any type of game of chance employing play tokens having chance indicia thereon, it is particularly adapted for games of cards.

The preferred embodiment of my invention shown is particularly adapted for an instruction sheet for playing various hands of contract bridge, although it is obvious that it may be applied for teaching or playing poker or any other card game or any other of the various variations of whist such as plain whist, bridge whist, auction bridge whist, and more particularly contract bridge whist, where the skill in bidding is quite intricate, and where an intricate set of rules have grown up which is hard for a novice to readily learn.

To these ends, I have taken a complete set of flat play tokens such as a set of fifty-two playing cards, having the usual chance indicia such as the usual card indicia printed on one side thereof, arranged them in individual groups as in play, provided an instruction sheet for each player group, having player instruction indicia and preferably also token order of play indicia on one side thereof, and also if desired, token stubs including not only said token order of play indicia, but indicia of the various tokens thereon; and I have combined these four individual player instruction sheets and also preferably its respective group of play tokens, such as cards, for each player into a single flat unitary sheet by providing means to detachably hingedly secure each player group of tokens to each player instruction sheet, printed sides coincident, and means to detachably hingedly secure the player sheets together with the printed sides coincident to form a single sheet printed on one side including not only the chance tokens, but also individual instruction sheets for each player.

When it is desired to play the game, it is merely necessary to lay the single sheet face side down, revolve it until any hand thereof comes adjacent to the desired player, then by tearing or otherwise undoing the detachable hinge means between the various player instruction sheets, provide one for each player preferably with his individual play tokens attached thereto so that each individual player may be provided with his individual play tokens and his individual instruction sheet without the other players seeing it. When each player is thus provided with his instruction sheet preferably containing stubs for play tokens, and preferably also the play tokens themselves detachably secured thereto, he preferably receives a complete set of instructions in not only how to bid his hand, but also how to play his hand and if desired for a discussion afterwards a review of his hand.

It is obvious that my unit may also be employed for so called duplicate games of whist if the individual instruction sheets are provided with the token stubs so that either the detached tokens themselves or other tokens may be individually sorted in accordance with said stubs for a supplemental game by a non-player or in turn by each individual player from a common pack so that the instruction may be used over again or applied to a different player group with one single unit of my invention. And it is also apparent that the individual play sheet may be provided with token stubs thereon and without the tokens detachably secured thereto.

It is obvious, therefore, that I have provided a means of learning a game by actually playing it and one which may be readily adapted for instructing the details of a certain system of bidding or playing the game such as the various systems of bidding and playing contract bridge in vogue today. I thus provide in a single unit, not only a complete set of play tokens such as cards, but with the cards individually arranged in player groups as dealt or otherwise sorted for play and with complete individual player instruction sheets therefor, indicating the score, instructions how to bid, instructions how to play, an actual criticism of each individual hand, all combined into a single flat unit which may be readily folded along the detachable hinge means for attaching each individual player instruction sheet together for mailing purposes and which may be readily laid flat on a table, printed side down so as to conceal the other tokens and the other instruction sheets from the other players, torn into the desired number of player parts, as in my preferred embodiments, quartered for the usual four players at bridge along the detachable hinge means so that each player may not only be provided with a dealt hand for use as in play, but also complete instructions for playing that hand without any of the other players having knowledge of his hand. It is also obvious that any desired rearrangement of the cards in a different player's hand may be made so that different units of my invention may afford dif-

ferent play possibilities and different instruction sheets therefor.

When the hands are thus arranged, it is obvious that each player is provided with specific instructions for the preferred order of play for his tokens and individual playing instructions according to the best known means of teaching either for bidding according to a certain system of contract or for playing according to the best known manner. It is thus obvious that I have provided a single unit providing the result of having the best type of instructor individually behind each individual to guide his proper bidding and playing, taking into consideration a similar expert instruction or procedure on the part of the partner or opponent, so that each individual player is not only given the benefit of the best individual instruction but is playing against the best type of players who are following their own individual instructions. It is thus apparent that my invention makes it possible to give instruction directly applicable to particular deals or situations which would not be covered in a general book of rules in any specific manner, and enabling a definite method or manner or means of teaching contract or other games of chance, according to specific situations as they may develop and impossible to cover in generalities in any set of printed rules, instruction convenient and timely to meet any given situation of bidding or playing, in contrast to a book instruction which is very difficult to find where absolutely required to meet a given situation. The effect is, therefore, that in teaching a game of contract according to my improved system, it is not necessary for each individual player to thumb through an instruction book until he is able to figure up the bid applicable to his own particular situation, but he is advised of the proper bid with the reasons for so-doing on his individual instruction sheet right in front of him, but concealed from the other players.

A further feature of my invention is that it provides an excellent means of following and understanding an unusual hand played by experts, thus when a national contract bridge title is being contested for, enabling within a short space of time players all over the country to actually play and bid the hands according to the best instruction of rival experts, thus making it possible for individual contract fans all over the country to actually be in the shoes of contesting experts and know the why and reasons for each of the expert's play. Thus, in an international bridge contest, it would be possible to provide the fans all over the country soon after each title play with both the cards and instruction sheets whereby it would be possible for any fan in any part of the country to play the actual hands played in these international contests and obtain the benefit of the instruction of each individual expert playing therein as actually played in the title contest.

A further object of my invention is to provide a combination game and individual player instruction sheet which may readily be fabricated out of relatively cheap sheet material such as paper, with both the play tokens and the play instruction indicia printed thereon with as little trouble as there is in printing a sheet of a newspaper, and thereby enabling my combined game and instruction sheet to be produced with a minimum amount of cost, thereby rendering it accessible to a multitude of would be fans all over the country to which the cost of obtaining instruction in games of chance would otherwise be prohibitive.

These and such other objects of my invention as may hereinafter appear will be best understood from a description of the accompanying drawings which illustrate an embodiment thereof.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a plan view of a complete combination game and individual player instruction sheet constructed in accordance with my invention, printed side uppermost. Fig. 2 is a plan view of an individual player instruction sheet with a set of tokens attached thereto, after said individual instruction sheet has been detached from other individual player instruction sheets. Fig. 3 is a reverse plan view of the embodiment of my invention shown in Fig. 1 illustrating how the individual player instruction sheets may be readily detached from a common player instruction sheet along the detachable linear hinge means securing said individual player instruction sheets together without indicating to other players either the play tokens or the matter on the individual instruction sheets. Fig. 4 is a plan view showing how my invention may be folded along the detachable hinge means for detachably securing each player instruction sheet together so that it may readily be shipped if desired through the mail.

In the drawings, where like characters of reference generally indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates a combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor constructed in accordance with my invention. While my invention may be adapted for use with any type of tokens having chance indicia thereon, it is particularly adapted as shown for use with a game of cards; and includes a preferably complete set 12 of flat play tokens 14 each having chance indicia 16 printed or otherwise marked on one side thereof, said tokens being preferably arranged into individual player groups 12^a, 12^b, 12^c, 12^d as dealt or otherwise sorted for play, an individual instruction sheet 18 for each player, such as the sheets 18^a, 18^b, 18^c, and 18^d having play instruction indicia 20^a, 20^b, 20^c, and 20^d and also token order of play indicia 22^a, 22^b, 22^c, and 22^d printed on one side thereof, said sheets being also preferably provided near their outside edges with token stubs 24^a, 24^b, 24^c, and 24^d including individual token indicia 26^a, 26^b, 26^c and 26^d and token order of play indicia 22^a, 22^b, 22^c, and 22^d for its adjacent group preferably along an edge thereof. I also provide means to preferably detachably hingedly secure each token group 12^a, 12^b, 12^c, and 12^d preferably each individual token 14 thereof to each player instruction sheet 18^a, 18^b, 18^c, and 18^d preferably along the outside edge thereof so that the printed matter on each player instruction sheet will be coincident with the printed matter on the other sheets and so that the chance indicia on each token will be on the same flat side of each flat token as the printed matter on its corresponding instruction sheet 12^a, 12^b, 12^c, and 12^d. While said detachable hinge means for joining the tokens to the player instruction sheets may consist of any suitable detachable hinge means, it preferably as shown consists of a scored or perforated line 30^a, 30^b, 30^c, and 30^d permitting individual tokens to pivot along said lines and permitting a ready separation of the tokens therefrom to play them on the table with the tokens of the other players to make up each individual playing trick. It is also obvious that the detachable hinge means permits a pivoting of each individual card upwards from its in-

dividual playing sheet so that if the hands of the player are momentarily engaged, he may lay his player sheet flat on the table, pivot his tokens upward so that he may readily pore over both the individual tokens and instruction sheet therefor. It is thus obvious that I have thus far described an individual player instruction sheet 18b with its attached token group 12b as shown in Fig. 2. To make up my complete unit, however, I also provide means 32 to detachably hingedly secure the individual player sheets 18a, 18b, 18c, and 18d preferably with the attached groups of tokens 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d where employed together with the the printed sides of each player instruction sheet 18a, 18b, 18c, and 18d and attached token group 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d where employed coincident to form a single sheet 10 having both the player sheet instruction indicia 20a, 20b, 20c, and 20d and the token chance indicia 16 printed or otherwise indicated on the same side thereof.

Approaching my invention from a slightly different angle I provide a combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor, comprising a flat sheet of multiedged paper having the outer edges thereof divided by spaced cuttings 34 into a plurality of flat play tokens 14, each having chance indicia on one side 16 thereof and arranged into individual groups 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d as in play for each individual player along each individual outside edge of said sheet 10, as dealt or otherwise sorted in play. I then provide detachable linear hinge means 30a, 30b, 30c, and 30d, dividing said groups 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d of tokens from a central play instruction portion 18 and detachable linear hinge means 32 dividing said central portion into a set of individual instruction sheets 18a, 18b, 18c, and 18d, one for each player, each of said instruction sheets having play instruction indicia 20a, 20b, 20c, and 20d and preferably token stubs 24a, 24b, 24c, and 24d, including individual token indicia 26a, 26b, 26c, and 26d and token order of play indicia 22a, 22b, 22c, 22d along each edge thereof for each adjacent respective token group 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d to form a single sheet 10 foldable along said detachable hinge means 32 for joining said individual player's sheet 18a, 18b, 18c, and 18d together, having both play instruction and chance indicia on the same side thereof. As shown more particularly in Fig. 2 the play or instruction indicia 20a may be further subdivided into the following: indicia 35, indicating the general name of the hand, indicia 36 for the score, indicia 38, including specific bidding instruction, indicia 40, including specific playing instruction and indicia 42, including a general review of the hand. If desired general scoring or bidding instructions may be printed on the back of each individual sheet 10 and if also desired advertising matter may be otherwise printed on either side of my improved instruction sheet 10.

As shown in all of the drawings my invention is particularly adapted for use in teaching both the bidding and playing of contract bridge, thus each token group, comprises a dealt hand of bridge as would be normally dealt in play and the individual player instruction indicia 20a, including specifically scoring, bidding, playing, and review indicia, are so arranged on each individual player instruction sheet as to provide the very best type of individual instruction for each individual player. As stated hitherto, the dealt hands may consist of replicas of hands actually dealt in international or other tournaments and the instruction including the thoughts of the individual players while playing said actual hands in said tournament, or of course, each individual deal may represent certain hypothetical deals or certain stacked deals definitely made up to illustrate any particular point in teaching. It is apparent therefore that each individual player is given individual instruction in the best known method of how to bid and play his individual hand and if desired with a general review of the reasons for said instruction. In the preferred embodiment shown, the individual groups 12a, 12b, 12c and 12d each comprise thirteen cards 12 of a player's whist hand, each having distinguishable playing card indicia thereon arranged as dealt for play. Fig. 1 illustrates a particular desirable feature of my invention, where advertising or other matter is also printed on my invention when said invention is used in a game of bridge whist and in which the west instruction sheet 18d is for the dummy and includes printed matter such as for advertising thereon with the invented type 44 running in the opposite direction from that of said instruction indicia 20d, thus being more readily observable by all the players when said dummy hand 12d and play sheet 20d is laid on the table for play as dummy with the card group 12b thereof conveniently adjacent to dummy's partner for the ready playing thereof.

In actually playing a contract bridge hand in accordance with my invention the individual units of my invention 10 may be sold either flat or may be folded as shown in Fig. 4 along the detachable linear hinge means 32. While said sheets 10 are folded as shown in Fig. 4 for shipping purposes, it is obvious that for play they are then opened up and laid flat on the table as shown in Fig. 3. The individual sheet 10 may then be spun around until any adjacent edge thereof comes adjacent to any player, thus forming a slightly further element of chance in deciding which groups of cards will go to which individual person. An individual then detaches each individual hinge means 32, in my preferred embodiment as shown by tearing along each individual hinge means 32 to divide the initial player instruction sheet 10 into four parts with said individual sheets 18a, 18b, 18c, 18d face down on the table. Each partner then may pick up his individual sheet 18a, 18b, 18c and 18d with its proper group of tokens 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d attached thereto and hold them in his hand without the other players seeing what is in his individual hand. He simultaneously receives definite instructions stating what the score is, a definite instruction telling him how to bid according to the best known practice of any desirable system or following the actual bidding by experts, such as in a tournament. He then is also given if desired play instruction according to the best teachings of experts and when the hand is all over if desired a general review of the situation stating a "why" or "wherefore" for each individual bid or play. The hands are first bid as is usual in contract and then each individual card is played in accordance with the individual order of play indicia 22a. If it is desired to employ my improved invention in duplicate bridge, it is obvious that either previously detached and played tokens 12 or other tokens 12 may be assorted into individual groups according to the token indicia 26a, 26b, 26c, and 26d on each individual stub 24a, 24b, 24c, and 24d for playing the same hand over again either with the same tokens, or with other tokens and it is

obvious that my invention may be employed omitting entirely the tokens 12 but employing the token stubs 24 for use with other sorted tokens. The token stubs 24 also permit a timely discussion of the hand by all the players, particularly in line with the review 42 as they form indication of what each player held in each hand and how he might have played it. If for instance, any of the players think that they could improve on their instructions by bidding or playing the hand according to their own ways they are at liberty to reconstruct their hands according to the player's stubs and play over again according to their own ideas, or otherwise any number of times desired the same hand. In this manner an amateur is enabled to discover the practicability of a rule, such as the well known rule of eight which might otherwise seem foolish to him by illustrating how in practice it is oftentimes a better play than his own common horse sense. It is obvious that any suitable type of detachable hinge means may be provided, such as by constructing the entire sheet out of a readily frangible material and providing an indication line as to where said material may be fractured. In my preferred embodiment, however, both my improved detachable linear hinge means 30^a, 30^b, 30^c and 30^d and detachable linear hinge means 32 comprise either completely perforated lines or partially scored lines to render the sheet mechanically weak so as to tear readily on a straight line along said detachable hinge means. It is thus obvious that I have provided a novel type of combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor with the advantages claimed above.

In the claims I employ the words "play instruction" to include where the game played includes the same either bidding or actual playing instruction or both.

It is understood that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiment shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor, comprising, in combination, an instruction sheet for each player having play instruction indicia thereon and token stubs arranged into individual player groups as in play along each outside edge thereof having individual token indicia and token order of play indicia on the same side thereof, said sheets having the inner sides thereof detachably secured to the adjacent inner sides of adjacent instruction sheets to form a single sheet made up of said instruction sheets having play instruction indicia and token chance indicia on the same side thereof and a complete set of flat play tokens arranged into individual player groups as in play in accordance with the token stubs of each instruction sheet, each detachably secured to its respective token stub with the indicia sides of said tokens and instruction sheets coincident.

2. A combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor, comprising, in combination, an instruction sheet for each player having play instruction indicia thereon and token stubs arranged into individual player groups as in play along each outside edge thereof having individual token order of play indicia on the same side thereof, said sheets having the inner sides thereof detachably secured to the adjacent inner sides of adjacent instruction sheets to form a single sheet made up of said instruction sheets having play instruction indicia and token chance indicia on the same side thereof and a complete set of flat play tokens arranged into individual player groups as in play in accordance with the token stubs of each instruction sheet, each detachably secured to its respective token stub with the indicia side of said token and instruction sheet coincident.

3. A combination game and individual player instruction sheet therefor, comprising, in combination, an instruction sheet for each player having play instruction indicia thereon and card stubs arranged into individual player groups as in play along each outside edge thereof having individual card indicia for certain of 52 playing cards and card order of play indicia on the same side thereof, and said sheets having the inner sides thereof detachably secured to the adjacent inner sides of adjacent instruction sheets to form a single sheet made up of said instruction sheets having play instruction indicia and card indicia on the same side thereof and a complete set of cards arranged into individual player groups as in play in accordance with the card stubs of each instruction sheet, each detachably secured to its respective card stub with the indicia sides of said cards and instruction sheets coincident.

4. A combination bridge whist game and individual player instruction sheet therefor, comprising in combination, an instruction sheet for each player having play instruction indicia thereon and card stubs arranged into individual player groups of 13 as in play along each outside edge thereof having individual card indicia for certain of 52 playing cards and card order of play indicia on the same side thereof and having the inner sides thereof detachably secured to the adjacent inner sides of adjacent instruction sheets to form a single sheet made up of four of said instruction sheets having play instruction indicia and card indicia on the same side thereof and a complete set of flat cards arranged into individual player groups of 13 as in play in accordance with the card stubs of each instruction sheet, one of said instruction sheets being for the dummy and having printed matter thereon with type running in the opposite direction from that of said instruction indicia more readily observable by all the players when said dummy hand and play sheet is laid on the table for play as the dummy hand with the cards thereof adjacent the dummy's partner.

5. An instruction sheet for a card game, such as whist, contract or auction bridge or the like, comprising a unitary sheet scored on quadrant forming lines and readily separable by the players along the scored lines into a plurality of individual instruction sheets, one for each player, each of the individual instruction sheets having playing instructions for that player thereon, and also detachably secured thereto a plurality of playing cards, the group of cards attached to each individual instruction sheet constituting a hand for the game to be played, the cards being detached and played by the several players in the same manner as ordinary cards are played.

6. An instruction sheet for a card game, such for example, as whist, contract or auction bridge, comprising a unitary sheet scored on quadrant forming intersecting lines so that it can readily be separated along the scored lines into four individual instruction sheets. one for each player, each of the individual instruction sheets having playing instructions for that player thereon, and

also having detachably secured thereto a plurality of miniature playing cards, the group of miniature cards attached to each individual sheet constituting a hand for that player, the miniature cards being detached and played by the several players in the same manner as ordinary full-sized cards are played.

7. In an instructor for card games, such as whist, contract or auction bridge, or the like the combination of a plurality of instruction units, one for each player, each instruction unit having playing instructions thereon and also having a plurality of playing cards detachably secured thereto, the cards attached to each instruction unit constituting a hand to which the playing instructions on that unit apply.

8. An instructor for card games, such as whist or contract or auction bridge, comprising a sheet member containing playing instructions for a particular deal of the cards, and a plurality of card-indicating members, for delineating particular hands, detachably secured to the sheet member, the playing instructions on the sheet member being specific to particular hands as delineated by the card-indicating members, the card-indicating members being adapted for separation from the instruction sheet before or during the play of the cards.

RAYMOND G. WILLIAMS.