

Oct. 15, 1935.

E. T. HOWARD

2,017,501

GAME

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FIG. 1

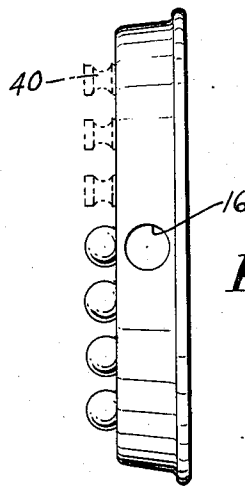
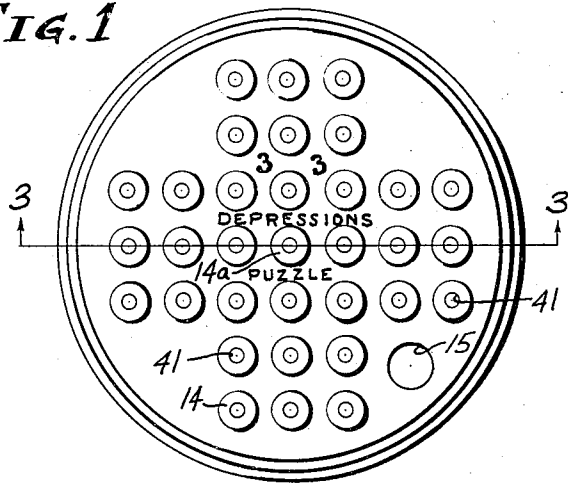


FIG. 2

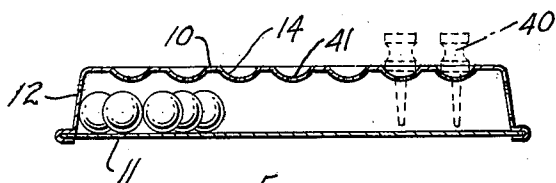


FIG. 3

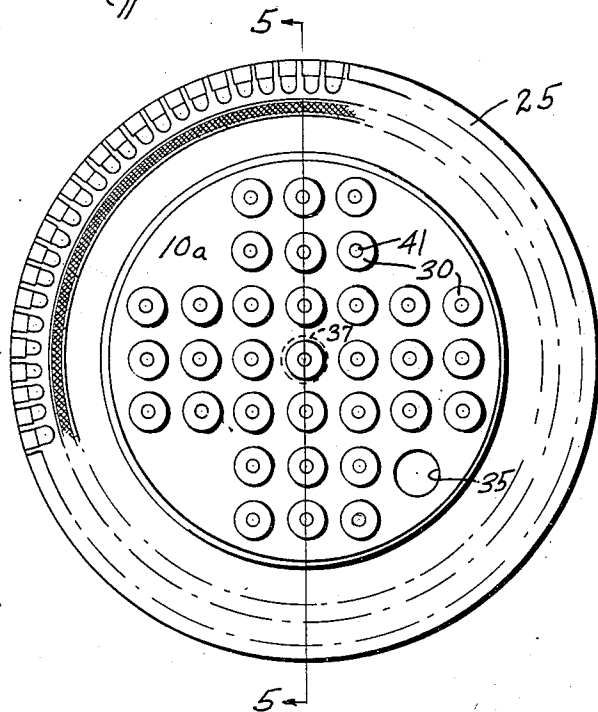


FIG. 4

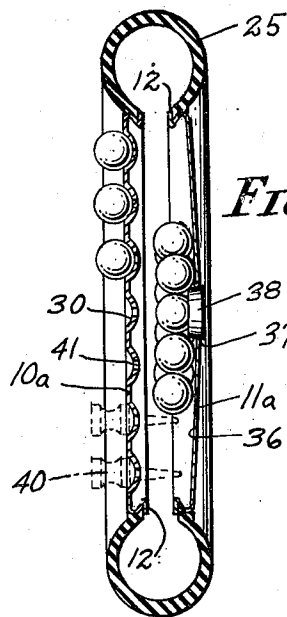


FIG. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,017,501

GAME

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273-133)

This invention relates to game apparatus and has for one of its objects the provision of a game which includes a relatively large number of playing pieces that require progressive removal from the playing surface in the course of a game and that are apt, when removed, to be easily lost.

An additional object is to so construct the game board that it may occupy a relatively small space, and yet may have sufficient size for convenience in playing.

Referring to the drawing, Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a game board embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof; Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3-3 in Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a top plan view of a modified form of a board construction, and Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5-5 in Fig. 4.

The game apparatus that I have devised is in the form of a container having a top surface 10, a bottom 11, and a side wall 12. In the form illustrated in Fig. 1, the container is in the form of a truncated cone although, if desired, other forms may be utilized. The playing surface 10 has depressions 14 arranged in predetermined form, such as in rows in the form of a cross, and the depressions are substantially hemispherical, and of sufficient size to receive an ordinary marble. There are thirty-three depressions illustrated and at the start of the game, a marble is placed in each depression with the exception of the center one 14a. The game then proceeds by jumping any marble over an adjacent one and removing the jumped marble from the playing surface, the object of the game being to finish with one playing piece occupying the depression 14a.

As the marbles are moved, it is desirable to provide a convenient storing place for them. To this end, I utilize the interior portion of the container as a receptacle and I provide an opening 15 in the surface 10, and on one side of the playing field, through which the marbles may be dropped, as they are progressively removed. Thus, at the end of the game, the playing pieces are conveniently stored away where they are immediately accessible for reuse. To permit removal of them quickly from the container, I have shown an opening 16 on the side wall from which the balls will progressively drop when the container is held on its side.

A modification of my invention is shown in

Figs. 4 and 5 wherein the container has top and bottom surfaces 10a and 11a that are held in spaced relationship by a hollow annular rubber article 25 that resembles a tire, and that provides a supporting surface for holding the bottom 11a out of contact with a table or other support on which the apparatus may be placed.

The playing surface 10a is provided with depressions 30 which correspond in form and arrangement with those indicated at 14 in Fig. 1, and is also provided with an opening 35 through which the playing pieces may be dropped into the receptacle. To facilitate removal of the balls from the receptacle, the bottom is sloped, as at 36, toward an opening 37 that is normally closed by a removable cork 38.

While I have explained the fact that balls are used as playing pieces I may, if desired, use wooden pegs, such as golf tees 40. To this end, a small opening 41 is shown at the bottom of each depression. The tees shown have tapered shanks, which provide a snug fit with the wall of each opening and thereby serve to hold them in upright position.

I claim:—

1. A game board, comprising a container having a playing surface, and having a downwardly extending flange adjacent the marginal edge thereof, the flange providing a support to hold the playing surface above any surface on which the board may be rested, and the board having depressions thereon for receiving playing pieces, the depressions being smaller in size than the playing pieces, and the surface having an opening larger than the playing pieces, whereby they may be dropped through the playing surface when not in use, and whereby the entire space beneath the playing surface and within said flange provides a receptacle for the playing pieces.

2. A game board, comprising a sheet metal container having a playing surface thereon, the surface having depressions therein, a downwardly extending flange adjacent the marginal edge of the playing surface and terminating in a bead, a bottom for the container lying in a plane parallel to the playing surface and having its marginal edge secured to the bead, and openings in the playing surface and the flange for inserting and removing respectively, the playing pieces.

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