J. D. BOURNE.

BASEBALL GAME APPARATUS.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 31, 1919.

1,341,628. Patented June 1, 1920.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

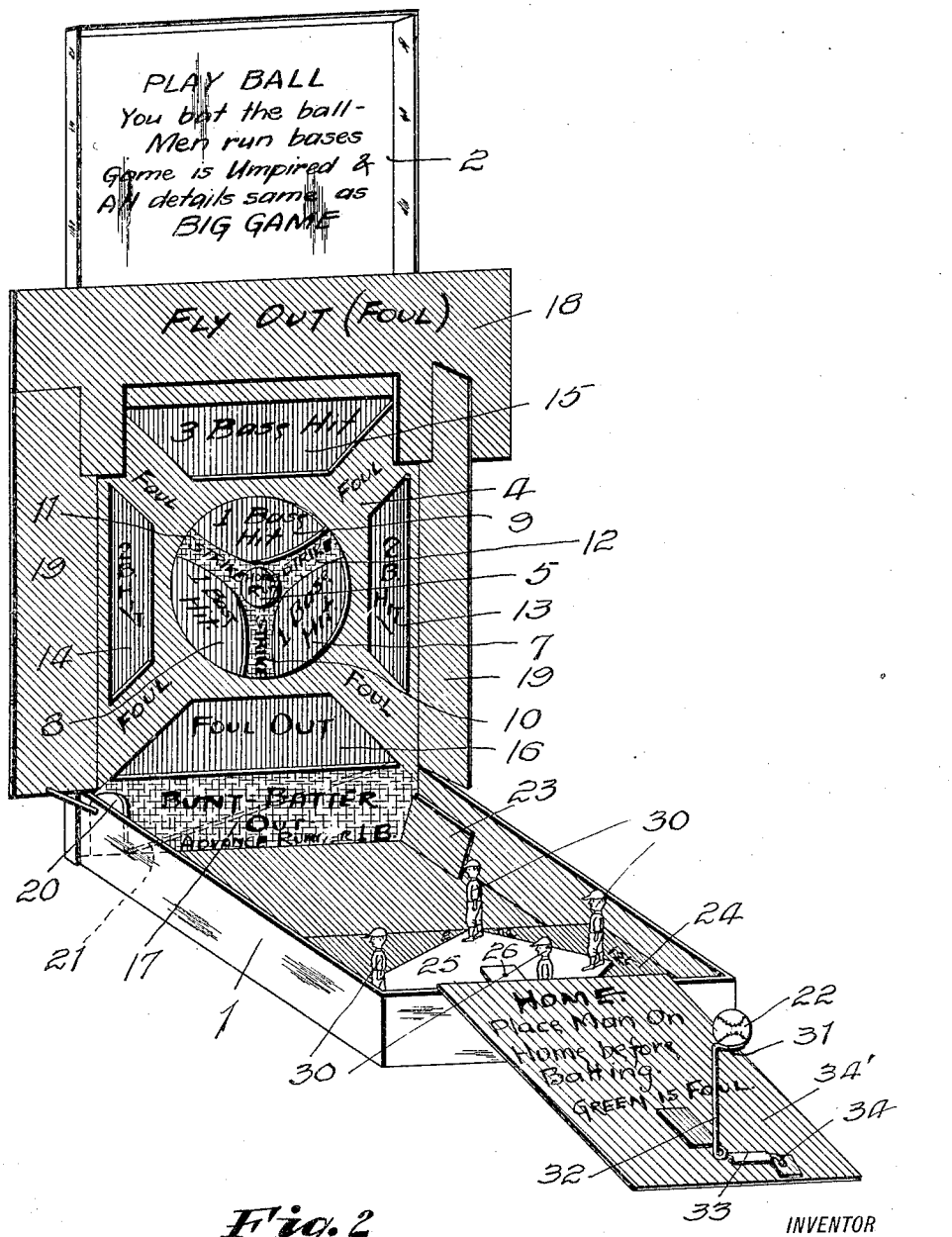
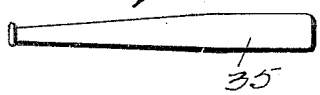


Fig. 2



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Fig. 4

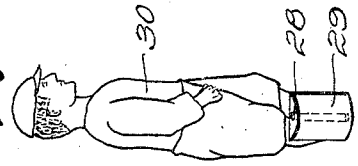


Fig. 3

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BASEBALL-GAME APPARATUS.

1,341,628. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 1, 1920.

Application filed March 31, 1919. Serial No. 286,257.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES D. BOURNE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Stuttgart, in the county of Arkansas and State of Arkansas, have invented a new and novel Baseball-Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a base ball-game apparatus which can be made in several sizes from a toy-game device for parlors up to a large size out-of-door game device with a target and other parts in proportion to use the regulation sized base-ball bat and ball, for parks, carnivals or other places.

One object of the invention is to provide a target having openings through which a base-ball can pass and strike upon the surface of a back stop arranged at the rear of the target and which back-stop is divided into sections to register with the openings in the target, and so marked as to indicate to the umpire, player or observer points and score of the game.

A further object of the invention is to provide the face of the target with data to indicate a strike, a foul, a bunt or a fly. The face of the target is also in different colors to indicate foul, strike, fly and bunt.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a rotatable diamond with means for removably supporting figures of the base-runners.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a base-ball trap or support from which the ball can be batted toward the target.

The game can be umpired and is played exactly as the regular base-ball game. The batter requires the same skill and hazards are the same as the regulation base-ball game.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel features of construction, arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and finally pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification wherein like characters of reference denote similar parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the base-ball game apparatus.

Fig. 2, illustrates the base-ball bat.

Fig. 3, is a longitudinal sectional view of the apparatus.

Fig. 4, is a detail of one of the figures of the ball base-runners.

In carrying out the aim of my present invention, I employ a suitable base 1, which is shown in the drawing as one section of a heavy card-board box and 2 is the cover therefor. This style of base or foundation 1 is only used for toy or parlor games, while the large indoor game, such as will be made for carnivals, fairs, stores, etc., may be the floor of a building or any special form of foundation for the support of the several parts constituting the apparatus. For a large game there would be no necessity for a cover 2, as is manifest.

A suitable back-stop 3 is supported at one end of the foundation base 1.

A suitable target 4 is supported by the foundation base 1 a suitable distance in advance of the back-stop 3. The target 4 is provided with a central home-run opening 5 which is preferably backed by a suitable hinged flap 6. 7, 8 and 9 indicate one-base hit openings and separating these openings are the strike bars 10, 11 and 12. 13 and 14 indicate two-base hit openings, while 15 indicates a three-base hit opening and 16 a foul-out opening. The lower end of the target designated 17, is a bunt board, and the upper end of the target designated 18, which is removable, is a fly-out board. The target is also provided with the wing boards 19 which are hinged to the side edges of the target 4. The solid parts of the target 4 surrounding the one-base hit openings 7, 8 and 9 is marked to indicate a foul. The bunt-board 17 of the target is provided with an opening 20 and an inclined plane 21 is arranged behind bunt-board 17 of the target 4 to return the base-ball 22 to the front end of the apparatus after it has passed through any of the score openings in the target, as is manifest.

The face of the back-stop 3 is provided with score data which may be read through the several openings in the target 4 as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

In the toy or parlor game the target 4 is hinged to the foundation base 1, as at 22′, so that it may be folded into the base 1 after the game is over. A suitable hinged stop member 23, in the form of a flap is employed to prevent the target from falling forward while playing a game.

A suitable stationary base-ball diamond 24 is supported by the base 1 and is marked to

indicate home, first base, second base, and third base.

A suitable diamond plate 25 is rotatably supported upon the diamond by means of a pin 26. Each corner of the diamond plate 25 is provided with a base plate pin 27 to pass through an opening 28 in the base 29 of the figure of the players 30 and support same at their bases.

The means for supporting the base-ball 22 to be batted by a player comprises a horse-shoe shaped holder 31 open toward the target 4. The holder 31 is formed at the upper end of a rod 32 which is bent at a right angle at its lower end and carried in a suitable bearing 33. A stop 34 is formed at one end of the ball-holding device to engage the floor 34′ and support it in an upright position, as shown in Fig. 1. A suitable coiled spring may be used, if desired to return the holder to its upright position after the player has batted the ball 22 with the bat 35, which operation throws the ball holder forward. A spring is hardly necessary though for a toy or parlor game-device.

The game is played as follows:

Set one of the base runners, or players, 29 on one of the pins 26 and position him at the home-plate. The base-ball 22 is then placed in the trap holder 31 and with the bat 35 the player bats the ball 22 at the target 4.

Any number of people may play the game, on each side, batting in their turn, as is manifest. Three men out constitute an inning, then the other side goes to bat. The game must be carefully umpired, and the base runners rotated around the diamond, in accord with the "hits" made by the batsmen. The game is played identically the same as the regulation game of base-ball.

When the ball is batted at the target, it either passes through one of the several openings therein, as shown and scores a home-run, one base hit, two base hit, three base hit or foul out or it strikes the face of the target and scores either a strike, fly out, foul, or bunt, batter out.

Should the ball not pass through one of the score openings, of the target when batted, but instead strike the face of the target, the ball registers a strike, a foul, a bunt or a fly out, as represented on target. The front face of the target is preferably designed in different colors as shown in the drawings to represent a foul, a strike, fly-out and bunt.

The many advantages of the hereindescribed invention, due to the construction shown and method of playing the game, will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which it appertains.

While I have described the principles of the game, together with the structures of the device, I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it clearly understood that the device shown is merely illustrative, and that I reserve the right to make any such changes, or modifications as may fairly fall within the principle of the invention and within the scope of the appended claims when fairly construed.

What I claim is:

1. An apparatus for playing base-ball, comprising a target having a series of openings therein through which a projectile is adapted to pass, said target being inscribed with score points of the game, a back stop being inscribed with score points of the game registering with the openings of the target, and a movable diamond plate adapted to support figures of ball players and be moved in accordance with the batsman's hits to indicate their base positions.

2. An apparatus for playing base-ball, comprising a target having a series of openings therein through which a projectile is adapted to pass, said target being inscribed with score points of the game, a back stop being inscribed with score points of the game registering with the openings of the target, a movable diamond plate adapted to support figures of ball players and be moved in accordance with the batsman's hits to indicate their base positions, and means to support the ball to be batted at the target.

3. A base-ball game of the class described, comprising a target having score openings therein, score points of the game inscribed upon the face of said target, a back-stop having score points of the game inscribed thereon and registering with the score openings in the target, means for supporting figures of the players at the bases of the diamond, said diamond being rotatable so that the figures of the players may be advanced in accordance with the hits made by the batsman, and means for supporting a base-ball from which it can be batted by the players of the game toward the target with a bat.

4. In a game device of the class described, a back-stop inscribed with score data, a target inscribed with score data and having a series of score openings arranged in advance of said back-stop, a rotatable base plate, four pins carried by the base plate to support miniature figures of the ball players, and a base ball support upon which a base ball may be placed to be struck with a bat to drive the ball toward the target and through one of the score openings thereof if possible.

5. In a game device of the class described, a target having a central home run opening, a plurality of first base openings, a plurality of second base openings, a third base opening and a foul-out opening through which a batted ball may pass, said target being inscribed with score points of

the game, a back-stop arranged a suitable distance behind the target and inscribed with score points registering with the aforesaid openings in the target, a base ball diamond having base plates inscribed thereon, a rotatable batsman supporting plate, and movable means arranged adjacent the home plate to hold a base ball to be batted toward the target by the batsman.

6. A base ball supporting means comprising a horizontally disposed arm journaled in a bearing, an upright arm integral with said horizontally disposed arm and arranged at a right angle thereto, said upright arm terminating at its upper extremity in a horizontally disposed hooked member to act as a seat to receive a base ball to be batted therefrom and a stop to engage a floor and support the device in a substantially upright position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to the specification.

JAMES D. BOURNE.