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ILLUMINATED SCOREBOARD FOR SHUFFLEBOARDS AND THE LIKE

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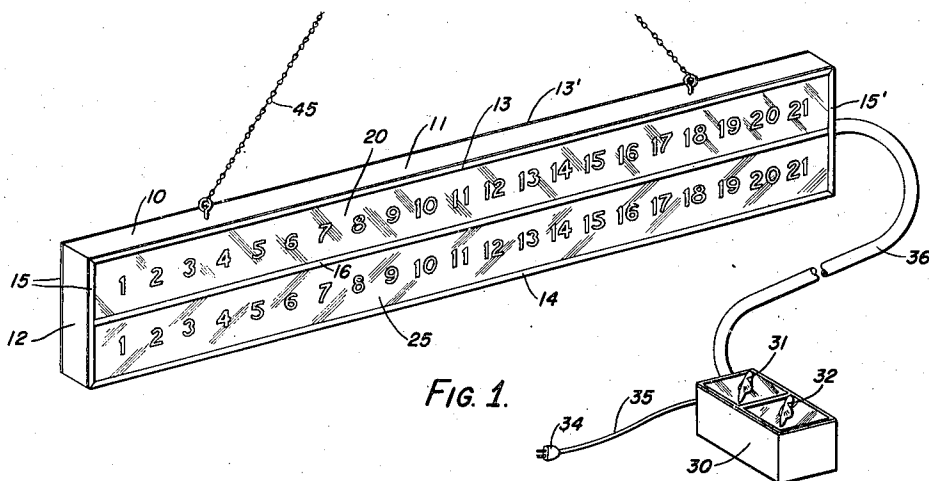


FIG. 1.

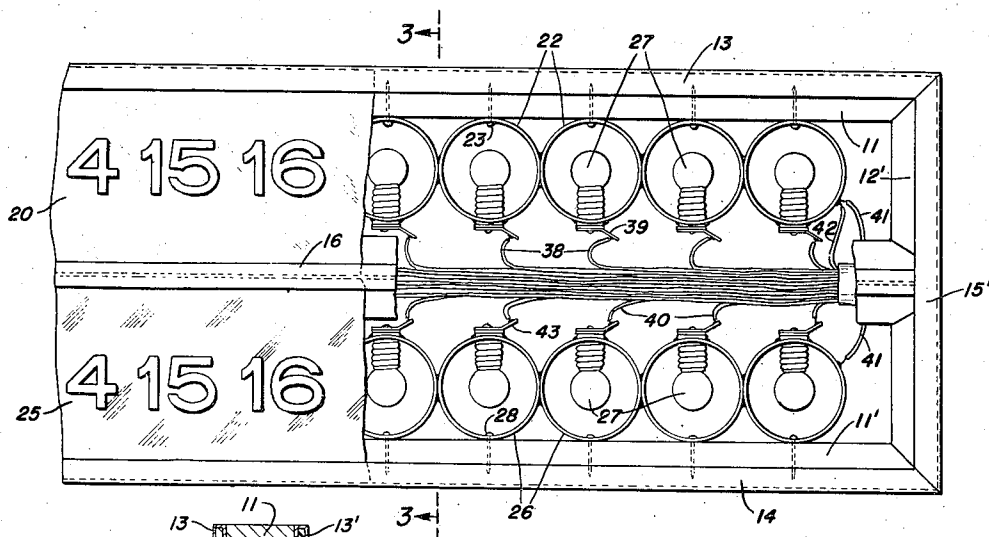


FIG. 2.

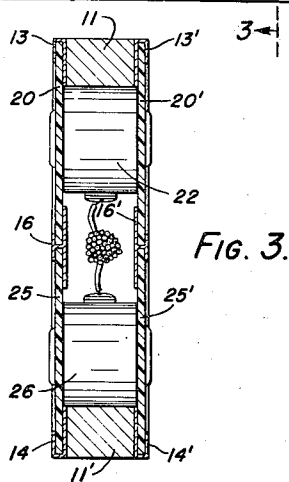


FIG. 3.

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ILLUMINATED SCOREBOARD FOR SHUFFLE-
BOARDS AND THE LIKE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 177-327)

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The present invention relates to game scoreboards and particularly to an electrically-illuminable type of scoreboard for use in registering the scores in games of shuffleboard and the like.

In a game of shuffleboard, the players usually play as partners or teams and one player plays from one end of the playing board or table against one member of the opposing team while the partner of the first player plays from the other end of the playing board against the other member of the opposing team.

Such scoreboards as have heretofore been used for this game have usually been visible from only one end of the playing board or table with the result that the players at the opposite end of the playing board or table must keep track of the score in their heads or by calling to their partners.

One object of the present invention is to provide a scoreboard for a game of this nature which will be visible to the players at both ends of the playing board or table.

Another object of the invention is to provide a scoreboard which has two sides visible, respectively, to the players at opposite ends of the playing board and which is constructed so that the correct score will be registered simultaneously on both sides of the scoreboard.

A further object of the invention is to provide an electrically-illuminable scoreboard of the character described which is of simple construction and which will permit through a relatively simple and inexpensive arrangement simultaneous illumination of both sides of the board to indicate on both sides the score of the game.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent hereinafter from the specification and from the recital of the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a scoreboard constructed according to one embodiment of this invention showing also in perspective the control therefor;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary elevational view of this scoreboard on an enlarged scale, parts being broken away to show the internal structure of the board; and

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3-3 of Fig. 2.

The scoreboard comprises a rectangular framework 10 which may be made of wood or plastic or metal, and which comprises parallel upper and lower pieces 11 and 11' and parallel righthand and left-hand side pieces 12 and 12'. These pieces are mitered to fit together and may be fastened together in any suitable manner.

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Secured to the front faces of the pieces 11 and 11', respectively, are metal strips 13 and 14. These are both of U-shape in cross-section, but one faces downwardly and the other upwardly. Secured to the rear faces of the pieces 11 and 11', respectively, are metal strips 13' and 14', respectively. These are like the strips 13 and 14, respectively, being also of U-shape in cross-section and one faces upwardly and the other downwardly. Secured to the front faces of the right hand and left hand strips 12 and 12', respectively, are metal strips 15 and 15', respectively, which are of U-shape in cross-section and face one another. Secured to the rear faces of strips 12 and 12', respectively, are similar metal strips of which only one is shown at 15 in Fig. 1.

Mounted parallel to strips 13 and 14 and between them is a metal strip 16; and mounted parallel to strips 13' and 14' is a similar metal strip 16'. The strips 16 and 16' are of general H-shape in cross-section; and each has therefore upper and lower pockets or channels. The outside leg of each H is, however, narrower than the inside leg thereof as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The strips 16 and 16' may be secured at right and left hand ends to strips 12 and 12'.

Mounted within the framework formed by channel strip 13, the upper pocket of strip 16 and the upper portions of front side strips 15 and 15' is a panel 20 which may be made of glass or translucent plastic of one color, for instance, red. Mounted within the framework formed by strip 14, the lower pocket of strip 16 and the lower portions of front side strips 15 and 15' is a panel 25 which is also made of glass or translucent plastic of a different color, for instance, green. Mounted within the framework formed by channel strip 13', the upper pocket of strip 16' and the upper portions of rear side strips 15 and 15' is a glass or translucent panel 20' of the same color as panel 20. Mounted within the framework formed by channel strip 14', the lower pocket of strip 16' and the lower portions of rear side strips 15 and 15' is a glass or translucent panel 25' of the same color as panel 25.

A game of shuffleboard is completed when one player or team makes a total score of 21. The panels 20, 25, 20', 25' are, therefore, all numbered from 1 to 21. The numerals may be painted on the panels or may be made of plastic and adhered thereto. The panels 20 and 25 have their numerals or other indicia arranged from left to right as a player looks at them, but the panels 20' and 25' have their numerals arranged in the reverse relation, that is, from right to left

as a player looks at them. In this way, the numerals "1" on both of the rear panels 20' and 25' will be directly behind the numerals "1" on each of the front panels 20 and 25.

Between the front and rear panels 20 and 20' is mounted a row of copper tubes 22. These are secured to piece 11 by nails 23. Between the front and rear panels 25 and 25' is mounted another row of copper tubes 26. These are secured to piece 11' by nails 28. Each tube registers with two aligned numerals on the front and rear panels. Thus the tube 22 at one end of the upper row registers with the numerals "1" on the front and rear panels 20 and 20', respectively, while the tube 22 at the other end of the upper row registers with numerals "21" on these panels, and intermediate tubes 22 register with intermediate numbers on front and rear panels 20 and 20'. The same is true of the tubes 26 associated with panels 25 and 25'.

In each tube 22 and 26 there is mounted an electric light bulb 27. The tubes are of sufficient length to abut at their ends against registering front and rear panels so as to prevent light-leakage and illuminate only the numerals at front and rear of the tube when the bulb 27 in the tube is lighted.

The tubes 22 of the upper row may be soldered or brazed together while the tubes 26 of the lower row may be soldered or brazed together. The bulbs in each row are adapted to be illuminated progressively as the game progresses. For controlling the lighting of the bulbs in the two rows of tubes, separate multiple contact switches are used. These may be of standard construction. The two multiple contact switches may both be housed in the same box 30 (Fig. 1) which may be attached at any convenient point to the playing table or board. These switches may be controlled by rotatable switch arms 31 and 32. Box 30 may be connected to the electrical circuit of the building by a plug 34 and line 35. It may contain a transformer for stepping down the building voltage or such a transformer may be provided directly at the building outlet.

The control box is connected to the scoreboard by a cable 36 which contains a plurality of lines 38, and 40, and a line 42. There is one line 38 for each of the twenty-one bulbs 27 in the upper row of tubes 22. There is, also, one line 40 for each of the twenty-one bulbs 27 in the lower row of tubes 26. Each line 38 is connected at one end to one terminal of one of the control switches and at its other end to terminal 39 of one of the light bulbs 27 in the upper row of tubes 22. Each line 40 is connected at one end to one terminal 43 of a light bulb 27 in the lower row of tubes 26 and at its other end to one terminal of the other control switch. The line 42 is soldered at one end to one of the tubes, for instance, the tube 22 furthest to the right in its row. At its other end this line is connected to the ground terminal of control box 30. The tubes 22 and 26 furthest to the right, for instance, in their respective rows are connected together electrically by a line 41 which is soldered at its opposite ends to these tubes. Since the bulb sockets are grounded to the tubes 22 and 26 and since the tubes 22 are soldered together as are also the tubes 26, it follows that when one of the switch arms 31 or 32 is rotated, a bulb 27 is illuminated. The lines 38 and 40 are, of course, so connected to their respective switches that the light bulbs of tubes 22 or 26 will be illuminated successively as switch arm 31 or 32, respectively, is rotated.

Thus, the numerals on the upper and lower pairs of panels may be illuminated progressively to indicate the score of the game. The numerals may be white or of contrasting color to the panels so as to be readily legible when illuminated.

The scoreboard of the present invention is intended to be positioned so that the players at both ends of the board or table of play may read it. Thus it may be suspended from the ceiling of the room of play by a chain 45 to hang midway the length of the table and transversely thereof. Players at one end of the table can then read the score from panels 20 and 25, while players at the opposite end of the table will read the score from panels 20' and 25'. The box 30 may be secured to the shuffleboard table or at any other place that will be convenient for use.

The two players at one end of the table will usually be selected to keep the scores of their respective teams. When a player on the "Red" team or his partner makes a point, the scorer for that team will move switch arm 31 one step. Thus, by step-by-step movement of switch arm 31, the lights 27 between panels 20 and 20' will be illuminated successively to indicate at any given time the score of the "Red" team. In similar manner when a player on the "Green" team makes a point, the scorer for that team will move switch arm 32 to register the score for that team. When one team has scored twenty-one points, the game is over, and the switch arms 31 and 32 are moved back to zero settings ready for the next game.

Obviously, my invention is not limited to the particular structure shown. Thus, instead of using colored panels 20, 25, 20', 25' of glass or plastic, I may use clear glass panels and back them up with colored plastic strips. The panels might also be made clear, and differently colored bulbs might then be used in tubes 22 and 26, respectively. Again, tubes 22 and 26 might all be connected to the same ground line instead of being soldered together and having the ground line connected to only one of them.

Moreover, the scoreboard of this invention is not limited to use for scoring a shuffleboard game. It might also be used in scoring games such as quoits, horseshoes, ping-pong, and the like. With suitable indicia it might also be employed for indicating the scores in pool or billiards. In fact, various uses will occur to those skilled in the art.

While the invention has been described in connection with a particular embodiment and a particular use therefor, it will be understood, then, that it is capable of further modification, and this application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth and as fall within the scope of the invention or the limits of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of panels in said casing, one panel of each pair being at the front and the other panel of each pair being at the rear of said casing, said panels having indicia thereon for progressively indicating the score of a game, one pair of panels being adapted for use by one player of the game and

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the other pair for use by the opposing player, one panel of each pair having its indicia arranged thereon in one order and the other panel of each pair having its indicia arranged thereon in the reverse order, and separate means for simultaneously illuminating, respectively, corresponding indicia of the two pairs of panels.

2. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of panels in said casing, one panel of each pair being at the front and the other panel of each pair being at the rear of said casing, the two panels of each pair being of the same color but the two pairs of panels being differently colored, said panels having indicia thereon for progressively indicating the score of a game, one panel of each pair having its indicia arranged in one order and the other panel of each pair having its indicia arranged in the reverse order but the two panels having corresponding indicia registering, and means for progressively illuminating indicia on each pair of panels to indicate the score and progress of the game.

3. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of transparent panels, one panel of each pair being at the front of the casing and the other panel of the pair being at the rear thereof, each panel having indicia arranged thereon for progressively indicating the score of a game and the two pairs of panels being adapted for use in indicating the scores, respectively, of opponents in the game, said indicia being arranged in one order at the front of the casing and in the reverse order at the rear thereof, tubes extending between corresponding indicia on front and rear panels, illuminating means in each tube, and means for progressively illuminating the illuminating means in the several tubes.

4. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of transparent panels, one panel of each pair being at the front of the casing and the other panel of each pair being at the rear thereof, the two pairs of panels being differently colored, each panel having indicia arranged thereon for indicating progressively the score of a game, said indicia being arranged in one order at the front of the casing, and in the reverse order at the rear thereof, a plurality of tubes extending from front to rear of the casing, one for each pair of corresponding indicia, and means mounted inside each tube illuminating said tube, said last means being operable to effect said illumination selectively.

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5. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of transparent panels which are of different color, respectively, one panel of each pair being at the front of the casing and the other panel of the pair being at the rear thereof, each panel having indicia thereon for progressively indicating the score of a game, said indicia being arranged in one order at the front of the casing, and in the reverse order at the rear thereof, a row of tubes between one pair of panels, each tube of said row registering with corresponding indicia on the front and rear panels of the pair, a separate row of tubes between the other pair of panels, each tube of the latter row registering with corresponding indicia on the front and rear panels of said latter pair, illuminating means in each tube, and means for progressively rendering the illuminating means of each row of tubes operative.

6. A scoreboard comprising a casing, two pairs of transparent panels which are of different color, respectively, one panel of each pair being at the front of the casing and the other panel of the pair being at the rear thereof, each panel having indicia thereon for progressively indicating the score of a game, said indicia being arranged in one order at the front of the casing and in the reverse order at the rear thereof, a row of tubes between one pair of panels, each tube of said row registering with corresponding indicia on the front and rear panels of the pair, a separate row of tubes between the other pair of panels, each tube of the latter row registering with corresponding indicia on the front and rear panels of the latter pair, illuminating means in each tube, and separate means for connecting the illuminating means in the tubes of each row to a source of electrical power to illuminate the tubes and the indicia, which registers therewith, selectively.

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