United States Patent

Lutz

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[54] **BASKETBALL APPARATUS INCLUDING A POST STABILIZING SLOT**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/85 R**

[51] **Int. Cl** A63f/9/00

[58] **Field of Search** .....273/1.5, 105 R, 102 R, 85, 273/94; 248/158; 46/32, 87

[56] **References Cited**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A miniature basketball game apparatus includes a flat base centrally slotted at one edge to receive a post supported on a thin foot for insertion beneath the slotted base and in turn supporting a backboard and basket. A narrow extension of the slot receives an edge of the backboard when the device is disassembled for storage in a close-fitting box. Several sequentially numbered circles on the flat base are provided to induce competitive play.

3 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

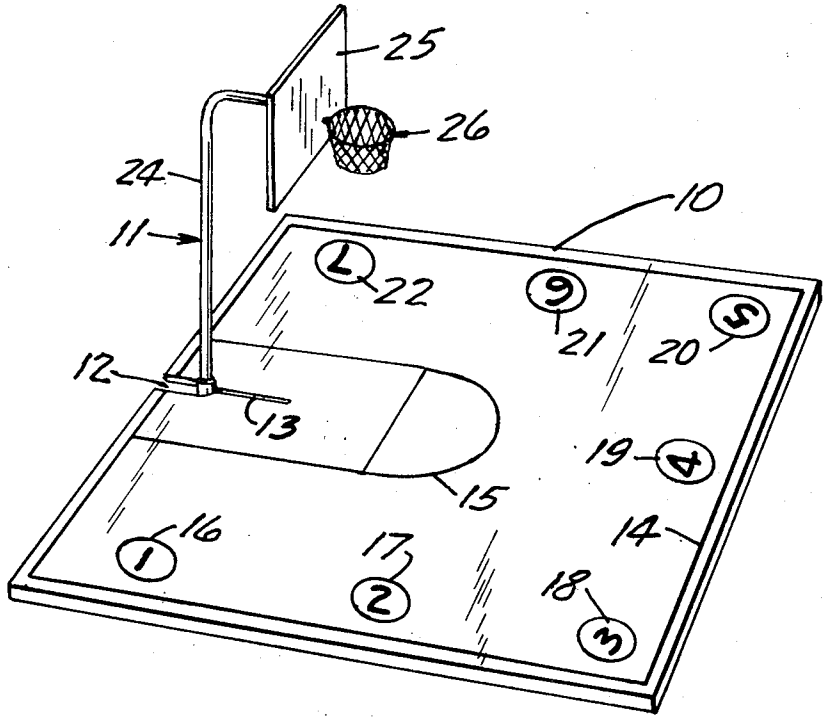


FIG. 1

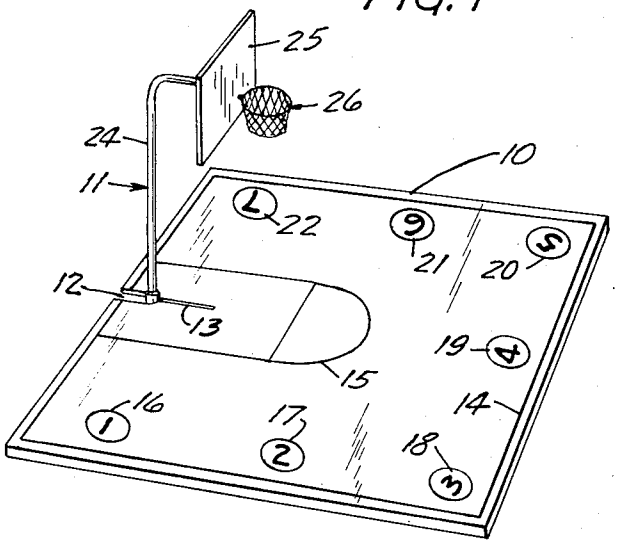


FIG. 2

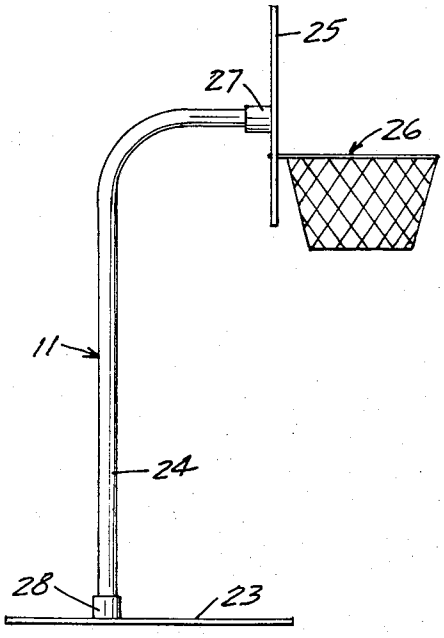
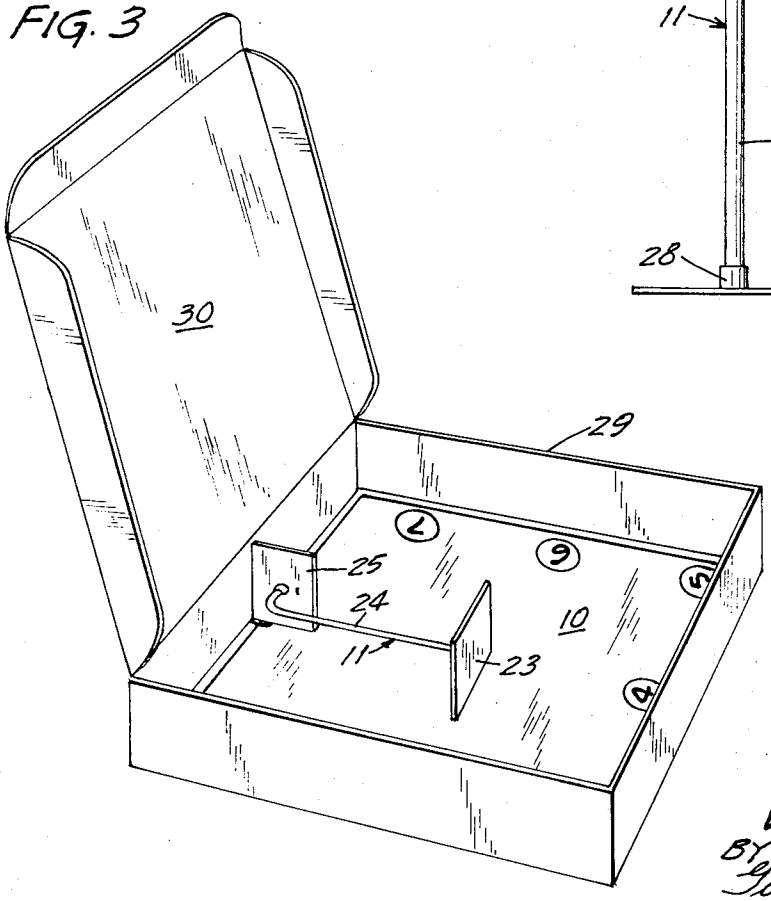


FIG. 3



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BASKETBALL APPARATUS INCLUDING A POST STABILIZING SLOT

This invention relates to a table-top game apparatus adapted for use by one or more players in a miniature modification of the game of basketball.

In one aspect, the invention relates to rugged game apparatus consisting of but two major parts, which may be easily assembled on a table-top or floor for play and may thereafter be as easily disassembled and fitted for packing and storage. In another aspect the invention relates to a method of competitive play involving the use of markings supplied for the purpose on one of said major parts.

In the drawing,

FIG. **1** is a view in perspective of the apparatus assembled and in position for play,

FIG. **2** is a side elevation showing further details of the basket and support, and

FIG. **3** is a view in perspective showing the position of the disassembled apparatus in its packing case.

The apparatus comprises a flat base **10** and a basket assembly **11**. The base is square in shape and is slotted centrally of one edge to provide an open short wide slot **12** extended as a long narrow slot **13** toward the center. The hard upper surface of the base is marked with an outer marginal band **14**, a conventional pattern of lines **15** beneath the basket area, and a series of numbered circles **16–22** arranged uniformly around the front and sides of the base as shown.

The basket assembly **11** comprises a foot **23** carrying a post **24** having a right angle bend, the post in turn carrying a backboard **25** fitted with a basket **26**. Ferrules **27** and **28** provide additional holding power at the junctions of the post with the backboard and foot respectively. The rim of the basket **26** is formed of a section of stiff wire the ends of which pass through the backboard **25** and are secured against the reverse surface, e.g., by soldering.

The apparatus is quickly assembled by simply sliding the foot of the basket assembly beneath the base with the ferrule **28** inserted within the open slot **12**, the rear edge of the foot then lying parallel with the rear edge of the base **10**.

Ordinary ping-pong balls are used and in one form of contest the player or players attempt to bounce the ball into the basket from any desired spot on the base, taking care that the player's hand is not allowed to advance beyond the outer line **14** in delivering the ball. A more sophisticated form of play involves attempting to bounce the ball into the basket from an initial contact point within each of the numbered circles **16–22** in turn. Other variations may be desired.

After play is completed, the apparatus is easily disassembled and stored as illustrated in FIG. **3**. An edge of the backboard **25** of the basket assembly **11** fits snugly within the narrow slot **13** in the base **10** and both parts fit within the open-topped box **29**, the cover **30** in closed position being in contact with the upraised opposite edge of the backboard. A small tubular or box-like container may be provided for the one or more balls included with the apparatus but is not necessary. Directions for play, score pads and pencil, and other additional appurtenances may be included as desired.

In a specific example, the base **10** consists of a square section of one-fourth inch hardboard 16 inches on a side. The foot **23** and backboard **25** each measure 3 × 4 inches and are of heavy gage galvanized iron. The support **24** consists of a 9 inch segment of copper tubing one-fourth inch in diameter and appropriately bent, and the ferrules **27**, **28** are sections of brass tubing three-eighths inch in diameter and three-eighths inch in length. The ferrules are soldered to the support and to the iron plates, the final assembly being painted or otherwise finished in attractive color. The rim of the basket is supported approximately 6½ inches above the surface of the base when the apparatus is assembled for play.

What is claimed is as follows:

1. Game apparatus comprising:

a. a game board having a flat base slotted centrally of one side to provide a short, wide, open slot extending further as a longer, narrow slot toward the center of said base;

b. a basket assembly comprising

1. a basket;
2. a backboard;
3. a post;
4. a thin, flat, foot plate, said basket being attached to said backboard, one end of said post attached to said backboard and the other end of the post attached to the thin flat plate in such a manner that when the post is positioned vertically upright, it will snugly fit in the short wide slot with the thin flat plate fitting beneath the base, and said backboard being of a thickness and a width permitting an edge thereof to fit snugly within said longer narrow slot for ease in storage.

2. Game apparatus of claim **1** wherein said base carries a visible pattern defining a plurality of consecutively numbered playing areas.

3. Game apparatus of claim **1** including a covered open top storage box of a depth just equal to the width of said backboard.

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