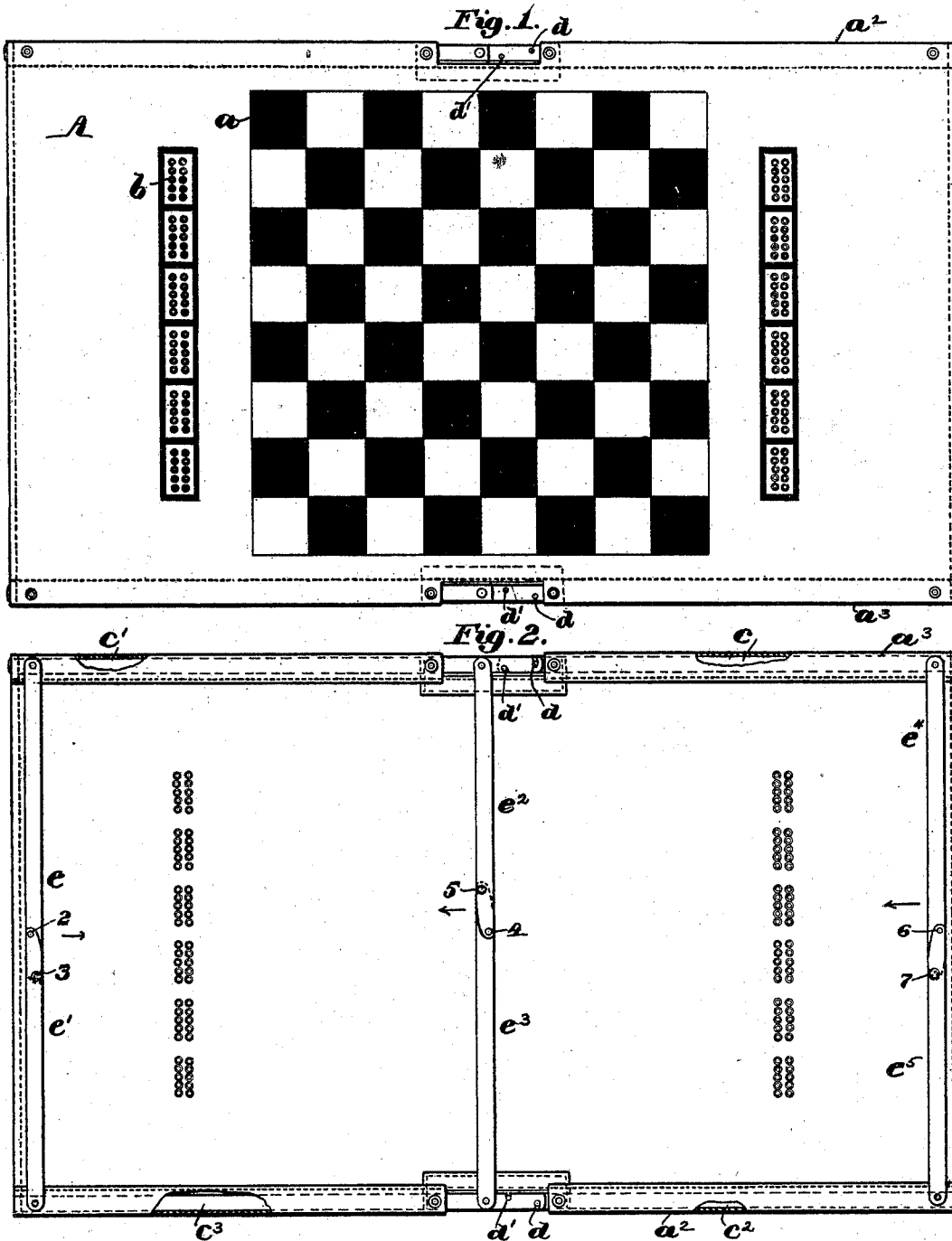


(No Model.)

W. WHITE.  
LAP OR GAME BOARD.

No. 581,897.

Patented May 4, 1897.



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## LAP OR GAME BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 581,897, dated May 4, 1897.

Application filed December 2, 1896. Serial No. 614,168. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLARD WHITE, of Malden, county of Middlesex, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Lap or Game Boards, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters and figures on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel lap or game board.

My improved board is composed of a flexible top, preferably of textile material, connected to a jointed metallic frame capable of holding the top stretched for use, the said frame being also capable of being readily disconnected at certain joints therein to enable the frame to be both shortened and to be rolled up with the top into a compact mass shorter than the length of the board.

In my invention the top will preferably be provided with pockets at its edge to receive parts of the jointed frame, and the said frame is of such construction, as will be hereinafter described, that when opened or put together to use the board it will be thoroughly braced and made stiff.

I desire it to be understood that my improved board will most commonly be held in the lap, and while adapted for game purposes it may be otherwise used without departing from my invention.

Figure 1 is a top or plan view of my improved board with the top stretched in condition for use. Fig. 2 shows the under side of the board, the pockets in the top being partially broken out.

The top A will preferably be composed of textile material, such as canvas, upon which may be printed, if desired, a series of squares a for checkers, chess, &c., and so also this top may be provided with a series of eyelets, as b, to thus leave holes in which may be inserted pegs when it is desired to play, for instance, cribbage. The opposite edges of the top are herein shown as folded in upon themselves to constitute pockets  $a^2$  and  $a^3$ .

The frame consists, essentially, of four side pieces or bars  $c\ c'\ c^2\ c^3$ , the bars  $c'$  and  $c^3$  having two notches at their inner ends, as shown in Fig. 2, the notches being at opposite sides

of the bar, said notches engaging pins  $d\ d'$ , connected with the bars  $c$  and  $c^2$ . The bars  $c'$  and  $c^3$  are connected together by bars  $e\ e'$ , the latter bars being united by a pin 2 and by a headed stud 3 in the bar  $e$  entering a notch in the edge of the bar  $e'$ . The inner ends of the bars  $c'\ c^3$  have pivoted to them in like manner two bars  $e^2\ e^3$ , said bars being pivoted together by a pivot 4, the bar  $e^3$  having a headed stud 5, which enters a notch in the edge of the bar  $e^2$ . The bars  $c$  and  $c^2$  are connected together by bars  $e^4\ e^5$ , said bars being united loosely by a pin 6, the bar  $e^4$  having a headed stud 7, which enters a notch in the edge of the bar  $e^5$ . In Fig. 2 these bars are shown as braced stiffly together to stretch the top and hold it in place for playing any game upon it.

To roll up the board, so that it will occupy but little space, I first engage the bars  $e\ e'\ e^2\ e^3\ e^4\ e^5$  and move them at their centers in the direction of the arrows in Fig. 2. The movement of the bars  $e^2\ e^3$  in the direction of the arrows, Fig. 2, results in carrying in toward the center of the board the bars  $c\ c'$  on one side and  $c^2\ c^3$  on the other side, so that the outer ends of the bars  $c'$  and  $c^3$  may be swung apart and thereby cause the slots in their inner ends to leave the pins  $d$  and  $d'$ , thereby disconnecting the bars  $c$  and  $c^2$  from the bars  $c'$  and  $c^3$ . The board may then be folded in the middle of its length, putting  $c$  and  $c'$  over each other, and the bars  $e, e', e^2, e^3, e^4$ , and  $e^5$  may be turned and brought into position substantially parallel with the bars  $c\ c'\ c^2\ c^3$ , and thereafter the top may be rolled upon itself, making a compact bundle of substantially half the length of the board.

The bars  $c\ c'\ c^2\ c^3$  are contained in the pockets made in the edge of the top, but the inner ends of said bars, where the pins  $d\ d'$  appear, are left uncovered. The slots and pins  $d\ d'$  for uniting the ends of the side bars  $c'$  and  $c^3$  form a detachable locking connection for said side bars, so that each side of the frame is composed of a plurality of pieces.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a game-board, a frame composed of

opposite side bars removably jointed together at their overlapping ends by means of notches formed respectively in the opposite edges of one of the overlapping ends, and pins  $d, d'$ ,  
5 projecting from the other overlapping ends to engage said notches, and a jointed brace made in two parts as  $e^2, e^3$ , and connected to said side bars, combined with a flexible top  
10 connected with said side bars and adapted to be stretched from one to the other side bar when the brace is straightened.

2. A lap or game board, composed of a flexible top, having four pockets in opposite pairs, side bars in said pockets, said bars overlap-  
15 ping in pairs between said pockets, one overlapping portion thereof having two opposite notches and the other overlapping portion thereof having two coöperating pins, a jointed connecting-bar  $e^2, e^3$ , pivoted to said side  
20 bars between said pockets adjacent said over-

lapping portions, and end connecting-bars, substantially as described.

3. A lap or game board, composed of a flexible top, having four pockets in opposite pairs, side bars in said pockets, said bars overlap- 25 ping in pairs between said pockets, one overlapping portion thereof having two opposite notches and the other overlapping portion thereof having two coöperating pins, and a jointed connecting-bar  $e^2, e^3$ , pivotally con- 30 nected to said side bars between said pockets adjacent said overlapping portions, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of 35 two subscribing witnesses.

WILLARD WHITE.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. GREGORY,  
LAURA MANIX.