Dec. 25, 1928. 1,696,408

W. S. McMAHON

GAME

Filed March 28, 1928

Fig. 1.

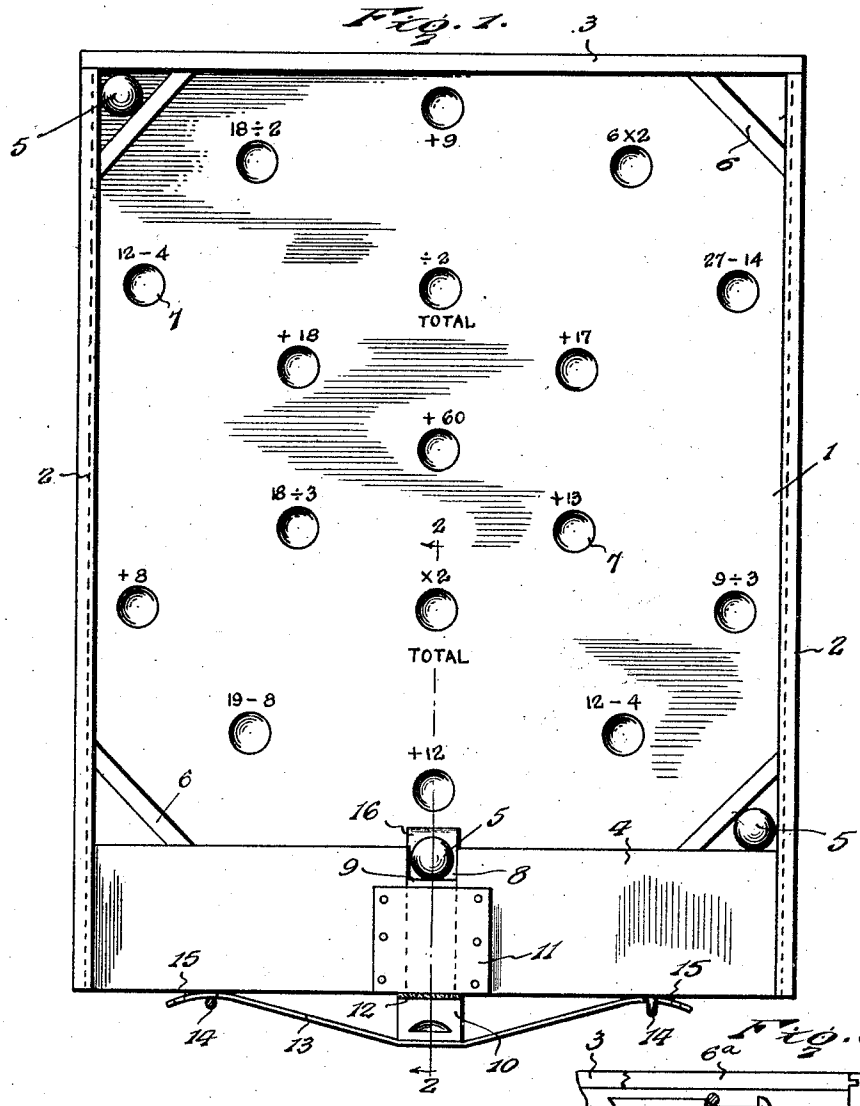


Fig. 2.

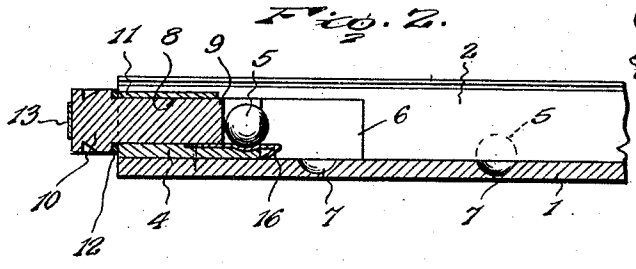
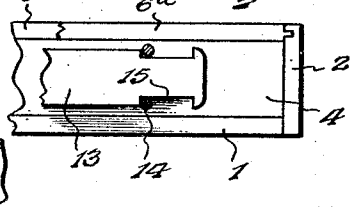


Fig. 3.



Inventor

W. S. McMahon.

By Lacey & Lacey, Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM SIDNEY McMAHON, OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

GAME.

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This invention relates to a game of the nature embodying a board provided in its playing surface with pockets, balls movable on the surface of the board and a projector for flipping the balls.

The invention aims to amuse, instruct and train the mind. This is effected by the association of numbers and arithmetical signs with the pockets indicating whether the numbers are to be added, subtracted, multiplied or divided.

While the drawing illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that in adapting the means to meet specific needs and requirements, the design may be varied and such other changes in the minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the invention as claimed, without departing from the spirit thereof.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof, reference is to be had to the following description and the drawing hereto attached, in which,—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a game embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a detail sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a detail view of a portion of the board, the propelling spring and means for securing the spring to the board, said means being in section.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and designated in the several views of the drawing by like reference characters.

The numeral 1 denotes the board which is of rectangular outline and of any determinate length and width. Guard rails 2 are provided at the sides of the board. A guard rail 3 is located at one end of the board and a cross piece 4 is disposed at the opposite end thereof. The elements 2, 3 and 4 project a distance above the surface of the board to prevent the balls 5 from displacement. Braces 6 are located in the angles formed between the side rails 2 and the end rail 3 and cross piece 4. The angular spaces thus enclosed provide receptacles for receiving spare balls of those not in play. The braces 6 besides forming the receptacles and reinforcing the board are adapted to act as rests to support a cover 6^a slidable in grooves formed in the upper portions of the rails 2, it being observed that the braces 6 do not extend to the top of the guard rails. A plurality of pockets 7 are formed in the playing surface of the board 1 and are adapted to receive the ball or balls in play. Numbers and arithmetical signs are associated with the pockets, and indicate the counts. When a ball lodges in a pocket the count is determined by the number and arithmetical sign associated with the pocket.

If the number is single and the sign associated therewith is plus it indicates that the number is to be added to the sum total agreed upon as the winning number. If the sign is minus the amount is to be subtracted. When two numbers are associated with a pocket and the sign indicates division the larger number is divided by the smaller number and the quotient added to the count. If the two numbers are separated by a multiplication sign said numbers are multiplied and the product added to the count. It will be understood that the players are not only amused, but at the same time are instructed and the mind trained in manipulating numbers.

The cross piece 4 at the playing end of the board 1 is wide and formed centrally with an opening 8 in which is loosely fitted a plunger 9 which is formed at its outer end with a head 10, which limits the inward or forward movement of the plunger and provides a convenient grip for the hand. A plate 11 extends over the top side of the opening 8 and closes the same to prevent displacement of the plunger 9.

A packing 12 is slipped upon the plunger 9 against the head 10 and serves to relieve the impact incident to the forward movement of the plunger. A flat spring 13 engages the head 10 of the plunger and is retained in place by means of staples 14 which are driven into the cross piece 4 over the ends of the spring. Portions of the spring 13 adjacent its extremities are reduced and pass between the legs of the staples 14.

The shoulders thus provided at the ends of the reduced portions 15 constitute stops to limit the longitudinal movement of the terminal portions of the spring. The spring 13 is normally under tension and presses the plunger forwardly. When the plunger 9 is drawn outwardly the tension of the spring 13 proportionately increases, and upon releasing the plunger the spring 13 reacts to throw the same forwardly to propel the ball placed in position to be flipped.

A metal plate 16 is applied to the bottom side of the opening 8 and projects forwardly a short distance from the cross piece 4. The forward portion of the opening 8 is exposed to receive the ball 5 placed in position to be projected. The forward end portion of the plate 16 is slightly depressed to receive the ball 5 and prevent displacement thereof.

The players follow one another in order and at the outset agree upon a number as determining the winner. The player in action places a ball 5 in the forward end of the opening 8 upon the depressed portion of the plate 16, and draws the plunger 9 outwardly against the tension of the spring 18 and at a determinate point in the movement of the plunger the latter is released when it is shot forward by the action of the spring 13 and striking the ball 5 projects the same over the board, and should it fail to lodge in any one of the pockets 7 no count is made. However, should the ball lodge in one of the pockets the amount scored by the player is determined by the number and arithmetical sign associated with the pocket.

The balls not in play and spares are placed in the corner receptacles formed by the braces 6. The spring 13 is maintained in predetermined position by means of the staples 14 and the reduced end portions 15 thereof, as hereinbefore set forth.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. A game board having its upper playing surface provided with pockets, and enclosed by guard members, and having an end guard member provided with a transverse opening which is exposed at its top inner end to receive a ball, a plunger slidable within the opening and headed at its outer end to provide stop means and a grip for the hand, a flat spring having opposite end portions reduced to provide stop shoulders, and engaging the outer end of the plunger midway of its ends, and retaining means engaging the reduced end portions of the spring between the stop shoulders and secured to the end member in which the plunger is mounted.

2. A game board having its playing surface provided with pockets and having members and arithmetical signs associated with the pockets, guard rails at opposite sides and one end of the board, a cross piece at the opposite end of the board formed centrally with a transverse opening, braces extending across the angles formed between the rails and cross piece to provide receptacles and rests, a headed plunger mounted in the opening of the cross piece, a flat spring having its middle portion in engagement with the head of the plunger and having reduced portions adjacent its extremities, and staples engaging the reduced portions of the spring and driven into the cross piece to retain the spring in given position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLIAM SIDNEY McMAHON. [L. S.]