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1,524,378

R. F. ANTES

GAME APPARATUS

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Fig. 1.

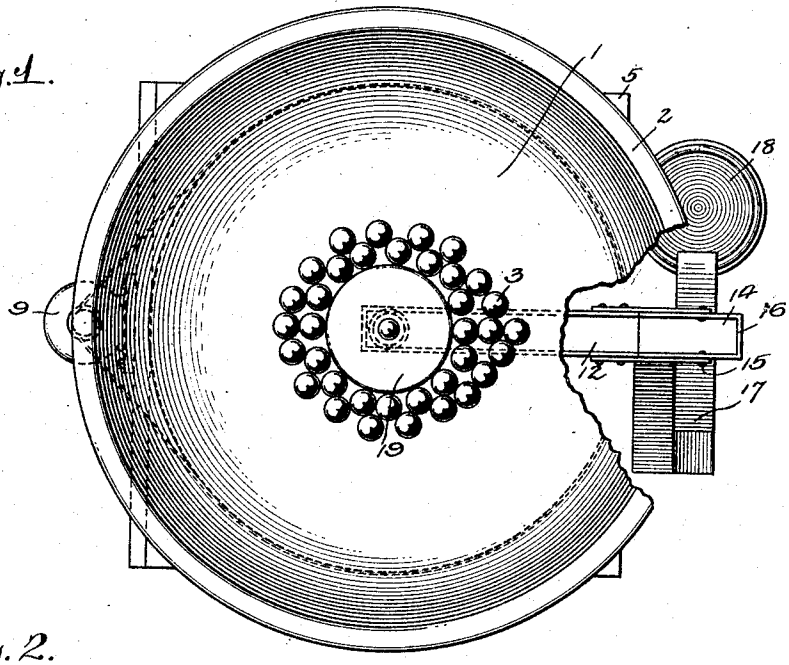
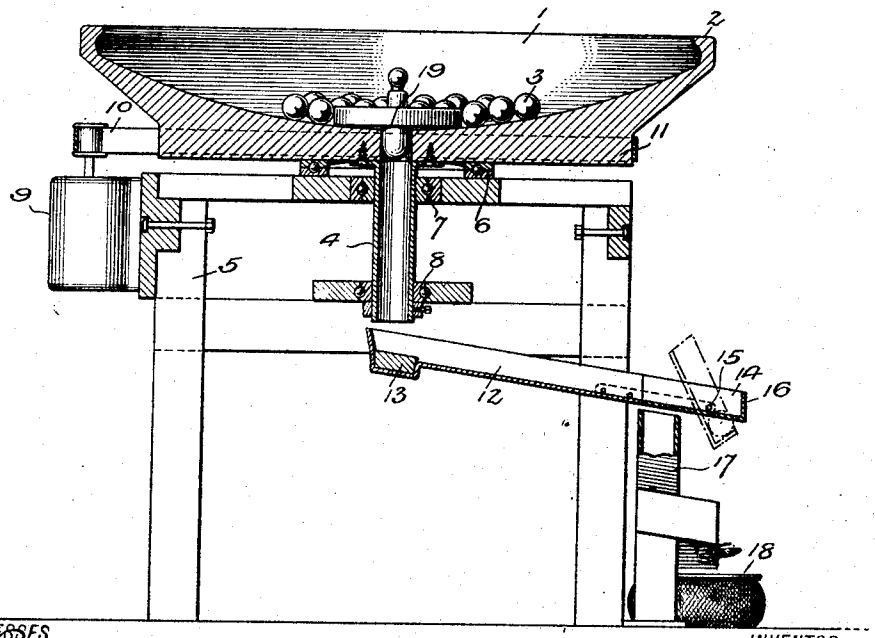


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME APPARATUS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUDOLPH F. ANTES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Bronx, in the county of Bronx and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to a game apparatus. An object of the invention is to provide a new and improved game apparatus which is highly entertaining, the operation of which possesses a considerable degree of uncertainty as to the outcome of the game, and in which the various parts can be very simply and easily manipulated, and an apparatus which is strong and durable.

Another object, in general, is to provide an apparatus involving a rotating cup or receptacle in which a plurality of game devices move and from which these devices are discharged at intervals. The outcome of the game depends upon which one of the game devices is first to leave the rotating receptacle.

A further object is to provide a simple and efficient means for clearly indicating the winning game element or device at the end of each operation of the receptacle.

The invention is illustrated in the drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the device with a portion cut away.

Figure 2 is a vertical section taken through the apparatus.

In general, the device involves the rotation of a plurality of balls, such as pool balls, suitably numbered or colored, within a cuplike receptacle or chamber so that during the rotation of the receptacle the balls are distributed by centrifugal force along the peripheral edge of the chamber, and which, when the chamber is stopped or slowed down will move to the bottom or center of the receptacle which is provided with a discharge opening. A discharge passage is connected with said opening and leads to a chute down which the balls travel as they leave the receptacle. The end of the chute is provided with a pivoted or tiltable portion adapted to trap the first ball and then tilt and hold the first ball and permit the other balls or game elements to pass off to a suitable container. The operation of the chamber and then its slowing down or stopping is to permit the balls to be discharged, the winner of each operation of the rotating receptacle being the person who is playing with the first ball to be discharged, the number of which may be credited to the score of the person playing with that particular game element. The device is to a great extent automatic in its operation. The receptacle is rotated by any suitable means, such as a motor.

More in detail, the invention comprises a rotatable receptacle 1, cuplike in shape, and having on its outer edge an upturned flange portion or wall 2, to prevent the balls 3, which may be a plurality of pool balls suitably colored or marked, from spilling over the edge of the receptacle when it is rotated at a fair rate of speed. The bottom of the receptacle is provided with a discharge passage to which a pipe or tube 4 is connected. The receptacle is supported on a frame or table 5 and is provided with ball-bearing units 6 on which it rests, and the top 4 is provided with a ball-bearing unit 7 and a ball-bearing unit 8 throughout its length so that the rotation of the device is made extremely simple and easy. The table is operated by means of a motor 9 and belt 10 passing around the lower wall 11 of the table. The bottom of the discharge tube 4 lies adjacent an inclined chute 12. That portion of the chute lying beneath the end of the discharge tube 4 is provided with a flexible or resilient cushion or pad 13 to cushion the impact of the balls 3 on the chute. The chute at this lower end is provided with an under portion 14 tiltably pivoted at 15 and having an end wall 16. As the balls move down the chute 12, the first ball will engage the end wall and its weight will tilt the end portion around the pivot point 15, whereupon the remaining balls coming down the chute will drop into the discharge 17 leading to a container 18.

In playing the game, the receptacle 1 is rotated by closing any suitable switch to the motor 9, and as soon as it starts to rotate the pool balls 3 will be centrifugally forced to assume a position near the outer peripheral edge of the receptacle and be prevented from spilling over the edge by reason of the vertical flange or wall 2. As soon as the balls have assumed

this position, a plug or stopper 19 is lifted from the discharge opening in the bottom of the receptacle. This stopper is normally in place, as shown in Fig. 2, to prevent the balls 3 from dropping out of the discharge tube 4. At the end of any suitable period of time, the motor is stopped and the receptacle slows down. As it slows down, the balls approach nearer to the bottom and center. When the receptacle stops, the balls will pass out through the discharge tube 4 and will move down the inclined chute 12; the first one resting in the end of the tiltable portion 14 will tip it, thus indicating the winner of that operation of the rotatable receptacle, the other balls passing down into the container 18. This operation may be repeated by any number of players and as often as desired.

What I claim is:—

In a game apparatus, an inclined chute to receive a plurality of balls, a tiltable end portion for said chute to receive the first ball and to be tiltable thereby, and a second chute disposed adjacent the end of the remaining portion of the chute to receive the remaining balls after the tiltable portion has been operated.

RUDOLPH F. ANTES.