No. 695,431. Patented Mar. 18, 1902.

W. H. ATWOOD.

GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Oct. 22, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

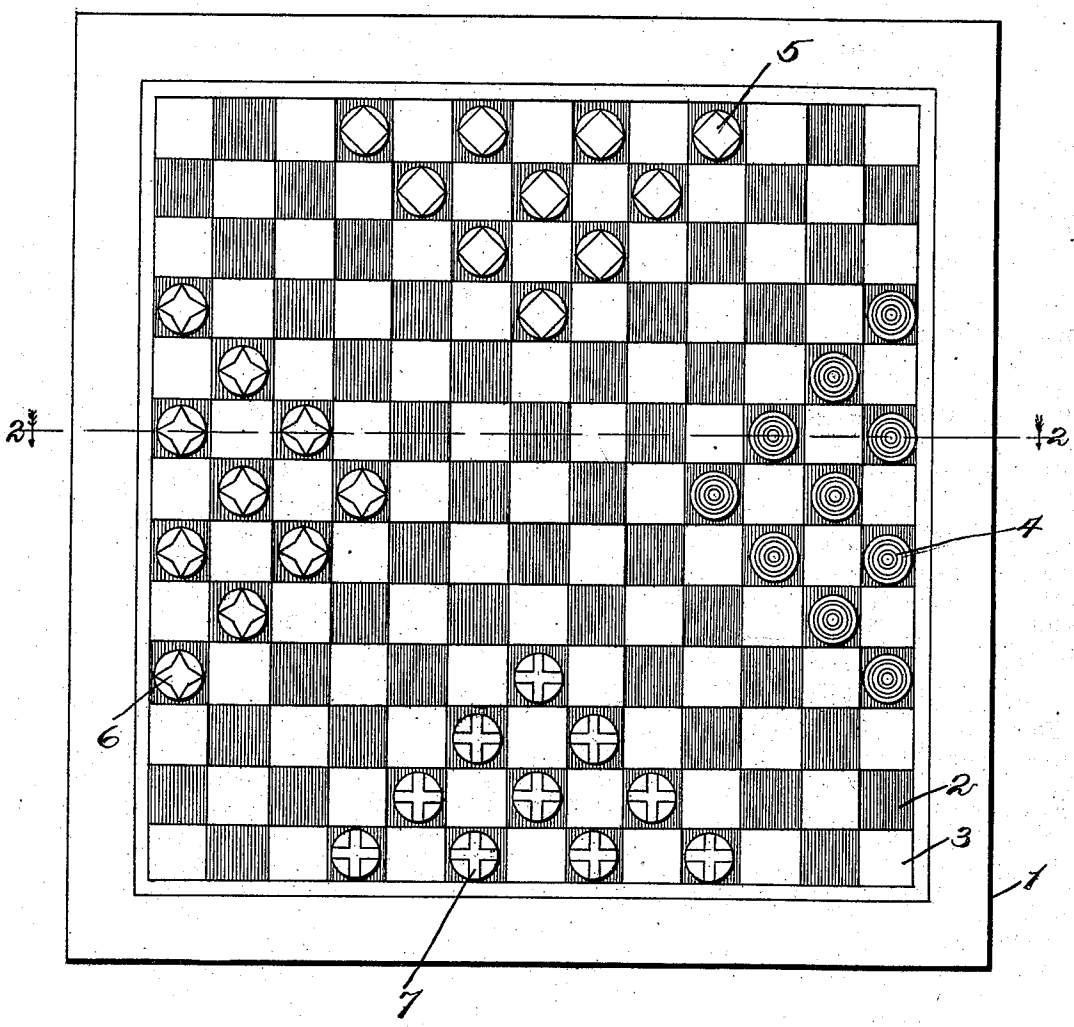


Fig. 2.



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GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 695,431, dated March 18, 1902.

Application filed October 22, 1900. Serial No. 33,813. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. ATWOOD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lincoln, in the county of Lancaster and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification.

My invention relates more particularly to a game apparatus similar in character to the game known as "checkers;" and it has for its primary object to provide a game of this nature which may be played by more than two persons, preferably by four.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of novelty in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts by which the said objects and certain other objects hereinafter appearing are attained, all as fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved game apparatus, showing the men in position for commencing to play the game; and Fig. 2 is a cross-section thereof.

In carrying out my invention I employ a board 1 or other suitable surface or medium, upon which the men and blank spaces, square checks, or spots 2 3 may be delineated, and the board is preferably square, like an ordinary checker-board, and the spaces 2 3 also square and of different colors, as usual; but instead of having rows of such spaces of an even number I provide rows each containing an odd number of spaces, preferably thirteen spaces, having, collectively, an even number of men-spaces and an odd number of blank spaces, or vice versa, alternately, and upon the men-spaces 2 of this board I arrange four sets or groups of men or checkers 4 5 6 7, which also preferably differ in color from each other or are otherwise differently designated. The number of spaces 2 3 employed and the number of men placed thereon should bear such a relative proportion that when the men are grouped on diametrically opposite sides of the board a forward man of each group may be moved or advanced from one man-space 2 to another without immediately becoming *en prise*, or, in other words, approaching an opponent's man sufficiently close to permit the latter to take it. It is also desirable that each set of men may be grouped in the form of a triangle, with at least two men-spaces between all of the men in the forward lines of one group and those in the forward lines of the diagonally opposite groups, whereby any man in either front line of either group may be advanced onto another man-space without immediately becoming *en prise*.

It is desirable, furthermore, that the relative number of spaces and men be such that the men may be grouped at the mid-length of the edges of the board, or, in other words, with an equal number of spaces, preferably men-spaces, at each end of each base-line of the various triangular groups, thus in the example of the invention shown in the drawings leaving a single blank spot or spots 3 in each corner of the board. In the particular example of my invention shown in the drawings there are ten men in each group and the board is thirteen spaces square—that is to say, there are thirteen of the spaces or squares 2 3 along each edge of the board—and the portion of the board inclosed by these outer lines of squares 2 3 is divided into similar squares of the same size, like an ordinary checker-board.

In playing the game the men are grouped in four groups on diametrically opposite sides of the board and in triangular form in the manner shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, and diametrically opposite players may play as partners or the four players may be opponents of each other. The player having the first move then advances his men toward the diametrically opposite side of the board after the manner of playing ordinary checkers, and when playing as partners he may take his partner's man or not, accordingly as the object he has in view may require. In short, the ordinary rules of playing checkers may be followed with any variations that suit the differences between my improved game apparatus and ordinary checkers.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A game apparatus comprising a square board divided into an odd number of rows of spaces starting from each side of the board,

each alternate row of spaces containing an odd number of blank spaces and an even number of men-spaces and the remaining rows of spaces each containing an odd number of men-spaces and an even number of blank spaces, and four sets of men, each set of men containing such a number of men as to form triangular figures centrally of the sides of the board with their bases located at the sides; thus leaving two men-spaces between the sides of the triangular figures and also between the spaces of the triangular figures for starting the game.

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