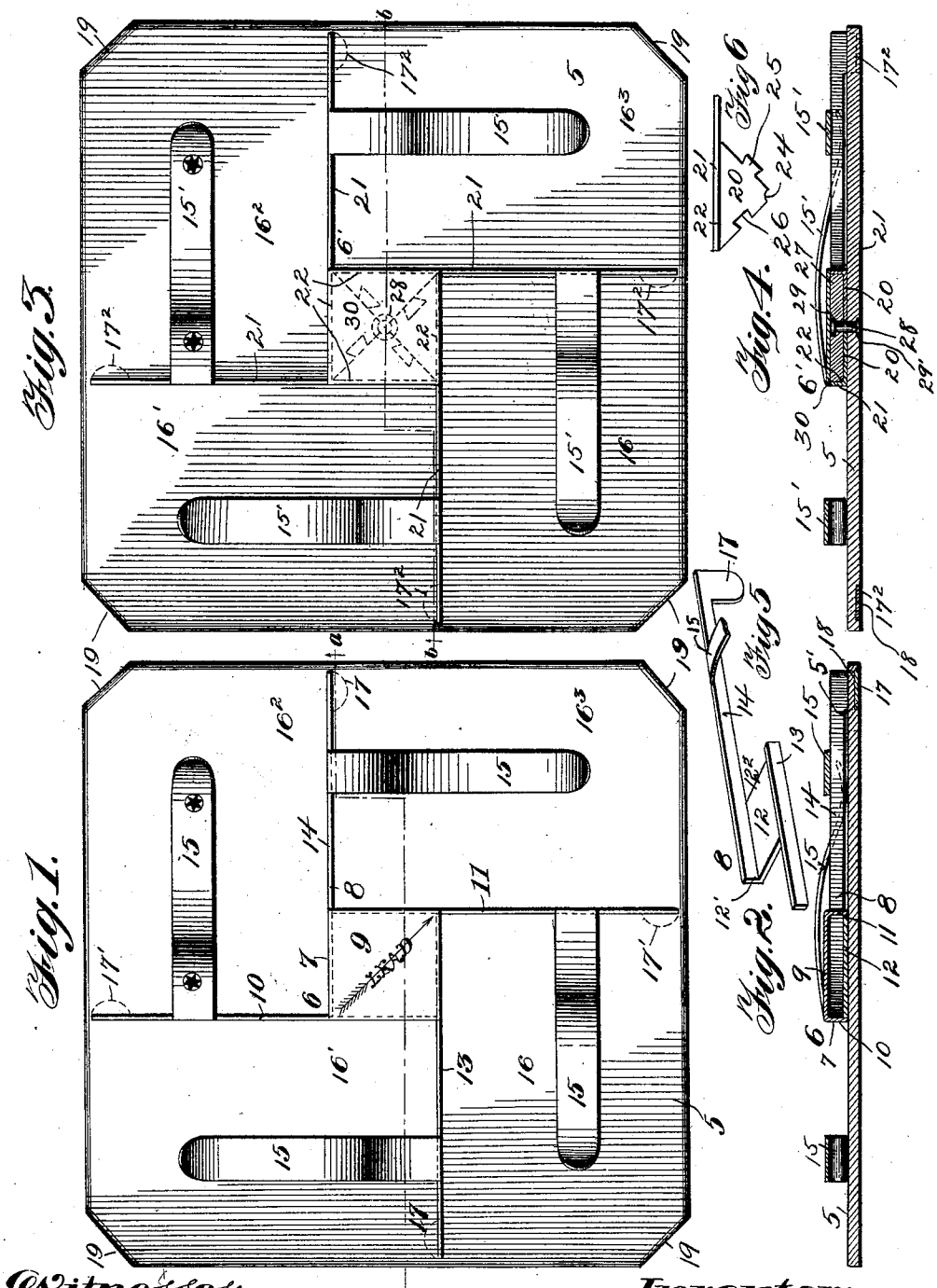
No. 705,469. Patented July 22, 1902.

R. B. STARKWEATHER.

DUPLICATE WHIST TRAY.

(Application filed Jan. 2, 1902.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:
W. F. Campbell.
F. E. Blodgett.

Inventor:
Robert B. Starkweather,
By his Attorneys.
Blodgett & Peck

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT B. STARKWEATHER, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

DUPLICATE-WHIST TRAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 705,469, dated July 22, 1902.

Application filed January 2, 1902. Serial No. 88,041. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT B. STARKWEATHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Duplicate-Whist Trays, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to duplicate-whist trays, and has for its object the provision of a simple and inexpensive device of this character.

A further object of the invention is the provision, in a duplicate-whist tray, of a peculiar frame formed from blanks of suitable material.

A further object of the invention is the provision, in a duplicate-whist tray, of means for holding in position in a convenient manner the sets of cards or "hands" employed.

A further object of the invention is the provision, in a duplicate-whist tray, of a frame carrying spring-arms, these arms being designed to press upon and hold in position the hands of cards.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a duplicate-whist tray having the corners of its base removed to permit the cards to be readily grasped and removed from the tray.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a duplicate-whist tray in which the blanks composing the framing thereof are stamped from sheet material and are so constructed that when the parts are assembled they will form in the center of the tray an ornamental surface, upon which may be stamped or otherwise placed any appropriate design.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of one form of my improved duplicate-whist tray. Fig. 2 is a section upon line *a a* of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 of another form of my improved device. Fig. 4 is a section upon line *b b* of Fig. 3 looking in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a portion of one of the blanks shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 6 is a plan view of a portion of one of the blanks shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

Like numerals designate similar parts throughout the several views.

Mounted upon a base 5, which may be formed of any desired material, is a frame, (designated in a general way by the numeral 6,) and this frame in the form shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5 is composed of a pair of blanks 7 and 8, stamped or cut from sheet material, a portion of the blank 8 being shown in perspective in Fig. 5.

The blank 7 is composed of a flat or plane portion 9 and a pair of arms 10 and 11, bent downward at right angles to the plane thereof and extending in opposite directions from each side of the portion 9 of the blank.

The blank 8 is formed in substantially the same manner as the blank 7, excepting that the arms, (designated by the numerals 13 and 14,) are bent upward at an angle to the flat or plane portion shown at 12 in Figs. 2 and 5 instead of downward, as in the blank 7.

Each of the arms 10, 11, 13, and 14 has a spring 15 projecting at an angle to the arm and extending over surfaces 16, 16′, 16^2, and 16^3, respectively, partially inclosed by the arms 10, 11, 13, and 14, thereby forming compartments which serve to hold the different hands or sets of cards placed on the tray. The arms 10, 11, 13, and 14 are also provided at their outer ends with lugs or projections 17, which are secured to the base 5 and are bent at angles upon the under side of the base for the purpose of attaching the frame firmly in position, the base 5 being recessed, as shown at 18 in Figs. 2 and 4, for the reception of the bent-over portion of the lugs 17, thus avoiding projections of any kind upon the under side of said base, which would prevent the tray from being moved freely upon a table or other support.

By removing the corners of the base 5, as shown at 19, the cards comprising the hands may be readily grasped and withdrawn from beneath the spring-arms 15, one of said arms being stamped with some suitable design to indicate the position of the dealer. In the present instance this design is shown as a plurality of stars, although any other insignia may be used in the place of the stars.

In assembling the parts of my whist-tray in the form shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 5 the blank

8 is first placed in position upon the base 5, the lugs or projections 17 of the blank being passed through slots 5′ in the base, as shown by dotted lines in Figs. 2 and 4, after which said lugs are bent at angles to fit in the recesses 18, thereby securing the blank firmly in place with the flat portion 12 of said blank resting upon the surface of the base. The blank 7 is then placed in position with its flat portion 9 over said blank 8, the side walls formed by the arms 10 and 11 being placed in such position as to close the open ends 12′ and 12^2, formed between the side walls 13 and 14 of the blank 8, said walls or arms 13 and 14 closing in like manner the open ends formed between the walls or arms 10 and 11 of the blank 7, the flat or plane portion 9 of said blank being formed so that it overlaps the walls or arms of the blank 8, thereby providing a smooth and ornamental surface, upon which may be stamped or otherwise formed any suitable design to indicate the position of the leader. This design in the present instance is shown as an arrow, although any other suitable character may be employed as a substitute therefor.

The lugs or projections 17′, carried by the arms 10 and 11, are passed through openings in the base and bent at right angles into the recesses 18, formed upon the under side of said base in the same manner that the projections 17, carried by the arms 13 and 14, are secured.

In the form of my invention shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 6 the framing 6′ is composed of four blanks instead of two. A portion of one of these blanks is shown in Fig. 6, each of said blanks being composed of a flat or plane part 20 and a wall or arm 21, each of these arms 21 carrying a spring-arm 15′, similar to the arms 15 in Figs. 1, 2, and 5, and lugs or projections 17^2, similar to the projections 17 in said figures. The flat or plane portion of each of these blanks is triangular in form, the wall or arm 21 being bent upward therefrom, as indicated at 22, and the point of the triangle being cut away at 24 for a purpose hereinafter stated. Carried by one side of the triangle is a dovetail lug 25, and formed in the other side of said triangle is a dovetail recess 26.

In assembling the parts of my improved whist-tray in the form shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 6 the blanks comprising the frame thereof are placed in position, with the lug 25 of each triangular projection dovetailed in the corresponding recess 26 of the triangular projection next to the right thereof, and the lugs 17^2 are then secured to the under side of the base in the same way that the lugs 17 in Figs. 1, 2, and 5 are secured. This will leave a cup-like recess formed by the four arms or walls 21, the four triangular portions of the blanks forming the bottom of the cup. A block 27, composed of any suitable material, is then secured in this recess by a fastening device, shown in the present instance as a rivet 28, passing through both the block and the base, said block and base being recessed at 29 and 29′, respectively, to receive the heads of the rivet. By recessing the triangular projections 20 at 26 when the parts are dovetailed together an opening is formed through which the rivet 28 may pass, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3. After the portions comprising the frame are thus secured in position a plate 30, which may be made of celluloid, metal, or any other suitable material, is secured to the top of the block 27 in any desired manner, such as by tacking or gluing, forming thereby an ornamental cap for the reception of a design similar to the arrow shown in Fig. 1. Compartments similar to those shown at 16, 16′, 16^2, and 16^3 in Fig. 1 are thus formed between the arms 21 of the blanks, which have the spring-arms 15′ projecting therefrom.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that my construction in both forms may be cheaply manufactured and will be efficient for the work it is designed to accomplish, as well as ornamental in appearance, thereby providing a duplicate-whist tray of light, durable, and strong construction, requiring but little room when packed for transportation.

Changes in the form, proportion, and minor details may be made, and blanks of other forms may be cut from sheet material without departure from the invention.

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

1. A whist-tray comprising a base, and a frame secured to the base, and composed of plates, which, when assembled, form a central portion; arms projecting from said central portion and dividing the base into compartments; and card-clamping devices carried by said arms.

2. A whist-tray comprising a base, and a frame composed of interlocking sheet-metal sections, said frame having a central portion and arms dividing the base into compartments projecting from the central portion, and springs projecting from the arms, said springs serving to clamp the cards upon the base.

3. A whist-tray consisting of a base; a frame composed of sheet-metal plates, which, when assembled, constitute a central portion; arms projecting from said central portion, and serving to divide the base into compartments; means for securing the arms to the base; and springs projecting from the arms.

4. The combination, with a base, of a frame composed of interlocking sheet-metal sections; arms projecting from said sections, each arm having a lug inserted in an opening of the base; and springs projecting from the arms.

5. In a whist-tray, the combination, with a base, of a plate having projecting arms; a plate covering the first-named plate and also

having projecting arms, the arms of said plates dividing the base into compartments; and springs carried by the arms and serving to secure the cards upon the base.

6. In a whist-tray, the combination, with a base, of a plate having arms projecting from its diagonally opposite corners; means for securing said arms to the base; springs projecting from said arms; a cover-plate fitted over the first-named plate; arms projecting from two of the corners of said cover-plate; springs carried by said arms; and means for securing the arms of the cover-plate to the base.

7. In a whist-tray, the combination, with a base, of a plate having flanged sides and open ends; arms projecting from the plate; springs projecting from the arms; a cover-plate having flanges adapted to inclose the open ends of the other plate; arms projecting from the cover-plate; and springs carried by said arms.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT B. STARKWEATHER.

Witnesses:
WM. P. LARAWAY,
FRANCES E. BLODGETT.