May 17, 1949. H. HEYMAN 2,470,310

INDICATOR CARD FOR BINGO OR LOTTO GAMES

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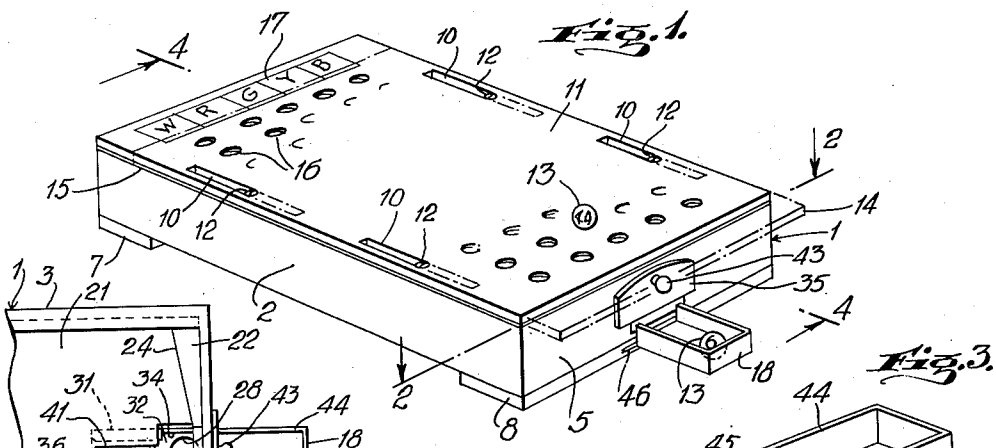


Fig. 1.

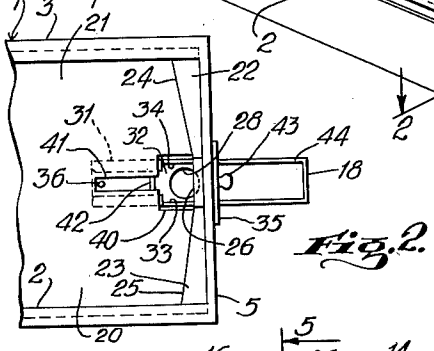


Fig. 2.

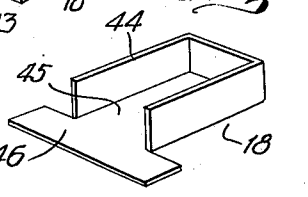


Fig. 3.

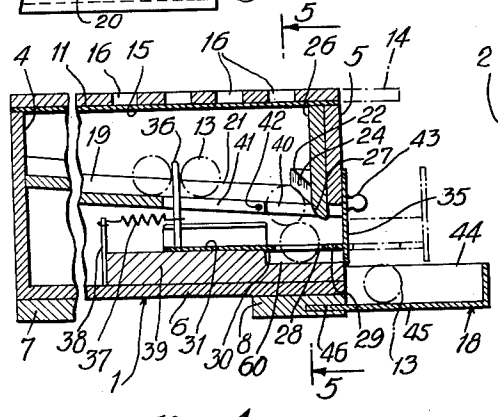


Fig. 4.

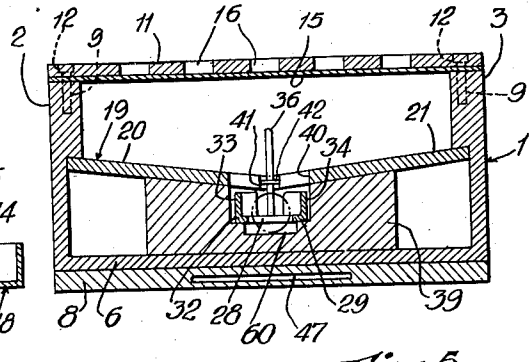


Fig. 5.

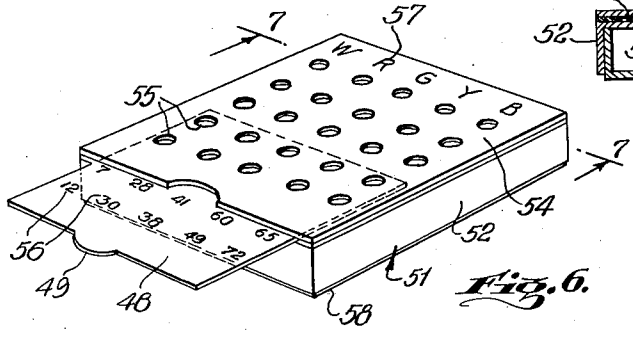


Fig. 6.

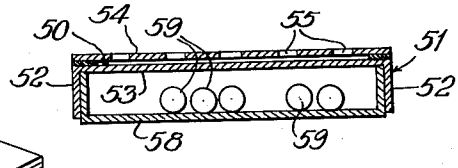


Fig. 7.

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INDICATOR CARD FOR BINGO OR LOTTO GAMES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—135)

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This invention relates to games in general and more especially to apparatus to facilitate playing the game conventionally known as lotto or the like.

In games such as lotto, a number of identifying characters or indices, such as numbers, are predetermined. If the game is limited to seventy-five different characters, the numerals 1 to 75 conveniently may be used, which characters are written or otherwise formed on separate selectors, such as paper or cardboard tickets, or even spherical bodies, one character for each selector. The dealer or conductor of the game deals out to the several players one or more cards bearing a number of these characters, each card however preferably having a different group of characters corresponding to some only of the total number of characters so that no two of the cards are alike, and then at a given signal the dealer or conductor blindly selects one of the selectors and continues to select one after another from the supply of selectors and informs the players of the character on the selector as it is selected. The players then by markers, such as the tickets or spherical bodies aforesaid, indicate on their cards the characters so selected which correspond to characters on their cards. The dealer continues to select selectors until all of the characters on at least one of the cards dealt have been selected. The holder of the card or holders of the cards, all of whose characters are the first to have been selected, is declared or determined to be the winner.

In these games, considerable difficulty has been encountered to provide inexpensive means not only for obtaining a fair selection, but also for recording the characters as they are selected. Various expensive and cumbersome mechanisms have been devised to overcome this difficulty.

Among the objects of the present invention it is aimed to provide an improved apparatus, simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture by means of which the selectors can be quickly and fairly selected, and in turn whereby the character selected can be quickly recorded not only by the dealer, but also by the individual players.

These and other features, capabilities and advantages of the present invention will appear from the subjoined detail description of one specific embodiment thereof illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a container useable by the dealer for selecting the selectors and recording the characters on the selectors selected.

Fig. 2 is a fragmental section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective of a removable receiver for the selectors selected.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmental section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

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Fig. 5 is a transverse section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a perspective of a container useable by a player for holding a group of markers, and in turn for holding a replaceable card and for receiving the markers in alinement with or in juxtaposition to the characters on the card corresponding to the characters of the selectors selected.

Fig. 7 is a section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

In Figs. 1 to 5 there is shown the container or box 1 to be used by the dealer or conductor of the game. This box 1 preferably has two side walls 2 and 3, two end walls 4 and 5, and a base 6, all fixed to one another. At the adjacent ends of the box 1, the base 6 in the present instance is provided with two cross pieces 7 and 8 serving as supports for the box 1 which may have a cover of felt or the like on the lower face thereof to protect the table top or the like on which the box 1 may be placed in the course of playing the game.

The side walls 2 and 3 preferably are wide enough to receive the screws or pins 9 extending through the slots 10 formed in the cover plate 11. The slots 10 extend parallel to the side walls 2 and 3 and the pins 9 are provided with heads 12 to anchor the top plate 11 to the box 1. By means of the pins 9 and slots 10, the cover plate 11 is anchored to the upper edges of the side walls 2 and 3, but slidably along the same into the dot and dash position 14 shown in Figs. 1 and 2 where the rear end of the cover plate 11 clears the wall 4 and also clears sufficient space between the wall 4 and the rear edge of the cover plate 11 so that markers, such as the spherical bodies 13, may be supplied to the interior of the box 1 from time to time. The pins 9 cooperate with the slots 10 to determine either the nearest position, shown in full lines in Fig. 1, or the open position determined by the dot and dash line position 14 aforesaid.

The cover plate 11 preferably has a base sheet 15 which forms the bottom or closure for the recesses or openings 16 in the cover plate 11. The number of openings 16 will be determined by the number of characters to be selected. If there are seventy-five characters in number, then as an instance, as shown, there may be five rows of recesses or openings 16.

Each of the openings 16 is marked with a character. If the characters selected are numerals, then the characters will consist of the numerals 1 to 75, and the numerals will be formed on the base sheet 15 on the bottom of the recesses 16 legible to the dealer when looking down on the cover plate 11.

In order to aid the dealer in selecting the pocket or opening 16 for the particular marker 13, preferably the pockets 16 are arranged in five rows

of fifteen each, the first row at the left reading from 1 to 15, the second row reading from 16 to 30, the third row reading from 31 to 45, the fourth row reading from 46 to 60, and the fifth row reading from 61 to 75. Preferably also, the markers 13 corresponding to the integers or numerals in the five rows are distinguished from one another by color. Thus the markers 13 bearing the numerals 1 to 15 in the present instance are white in color, the markers 13 bearing the numerals 16 to 30 are red in color, the markers 13 bearing the numerals 31 to 45 are green in color, the markers 13 bearing the numerals 46 to 60 are yellow in color, and the markers 13 bearing the numerals 61 to 75 are blue in color. Furthermore, the space 17 at the head of the five rows of pockets 16 has the notations "W," "R," "G," "Y" and "B," for the colors white, red, green, yellow and blue, respectively, corresponding to the colors of the markers bearing numerals corresponding to numerals in the several rows of pockets.

In Fig. 1, as an instance, the marker 13 bearing the numeral 44 is in the second pocket from the bottom of the third row, and the marker bearing the numeral 6 is in the receiver 18.

The selection of a marker is made by the mechanism now to be described. The box 1 preferably has a funnel forming base plate 19 consisting of two sections 20 and 21 forming a dihedral angle with one another and inclining downwardly as they approach the middle of the box, see Fig. 5, and which together incline downwardly as they approach the front end of the box 1.

Along the inner face of the front wall 5 there are formed the blocks 22 and 23 having rear converging faces 24 and 25 merging into the block 26 having a downwardly and forwardly inclined face 27, all cooperating with the sections 20 and 21 to guide the spherical markers 13 forwardly into the recess 28 in the slide 29. The slide 29 has a base plate 30 including a rear extension 31 and an enlarged front portion 32 provided with side walls 33 and 34 and a front wall 35, the front wall 35 engaging the front face of the front wall 3 and constituting a stop for the rearward movement of the slide 29. The extension 31 of the plate 30 has a pin 36 extending upwardly therefrom to which is connected the spring 37 at its front end, the rear end of the spring 37 being connected to the pin 38 extending upwardly from the block 39 on which the slide 29 is slidably mounted the spring 37 resiliently urging the slide rearwardly so that its front wall 35 engages the front face of the front wall 5. The enlarged portion 32 of the plate 30 is slidable into the enlarged opening 40 formed at the front adjacent ends of the sections 20 and 21. This opening 40 in turn has a narrow rear slot 41 formed in the sections 20 and 21 to clear the pin 36. Preferably to limit the pin 36 in its forward position, there is provided the pin 42 extending from the section 20 to the section 21 at the front end of the slot 41.

Preferably the wall 35 has a handle or finger piece 43 formed on the front end thereof to be grasped by the dealer or conductor of the game.

After a spherical marker is received in the recess 28 in the slide 29, and the slide 29 is moved outwardly into the dash and dot line position shown in Fig. 4, it draws with it a spherical body which may then drop from the slide 29 either into the hand of the operator or into the receiver 18. The receiver 18 in the present instance, see Fig. 3, has the three sided wall 44

extending upwardly from the plate 45, which in turn has a wide rear portion 46 to be moved into the recess 47 formed in the cross piece 8. This receiver 18 is removable and when the game is not in use may be removed from the cross piece 8. Preferably the extension 46 has a snug or friction fit in the recess 47 of the cross piece 8, although obviously other temporary anchoring means may be provided for temporarily securing the receiver 18 to the cross piece 8.

As aforesaid, with the game of lotto, the dealer or conductor of the game deals out to the players a card or cards bearing a group of numbers, the several cards being different from one another. These cards may have any number of integers or numbers less than seventy-five if the total number of selectors bear the numbers 1 to 75. In the present instance, see the card 48, the cards are provided with twenty-five integers or numbers arranged in five rows, five integers or numbers to a row. Preferably the card 48 has a finger tab 49 to facilitate moving a card 48 into and out of a recess 50 formed in a casing or container 51. This container preferably has four side walls 52 secured to the imperforate top sheet 53, which top sheet 53 forms the lower support for the card 48, the card being disposed between the support or sheet 53 and the support or sheet 54 which is provided with a series of openings 55 positioned to register with the numerals 56 on the card 48, there being five rows of openings 55 with five openings to each row. Preferably, see Fig. 6, the upper area 57 of the sheet 54 is provided with indicia such as the letters "W," "R," "G," "Y" and "B" illustrated in Fig. 6, corresponding to the indicia in the area 17 of the box 1, the letter "W" being disposed above the first row of openings 55, and the letters "R," "G," "Y" and "B" being disposed above the second, third, fourth and fifth rows of openings 55, respectively. On the card 48 the first row of numerals 56 to the left will then only bear the numerals 1 to 15, inclusive, the second row, 16 to 30, inclusive, the third row 30 to 45, inclusive, the fourth row, 46 to 60, inclusive, and the fifth row, 61 to 75, inclusive.

Preferably inside of the box 51 there is telescopically received a second box 58 in which, for convenience, may be housed the spherical bodies 59. These spherical bodies 59 may either be all of the same color or arranged in the five colors, white, red, green, yellow and blue, that is, five spherical bodies 59 colored white, five colored red and so on. When the game is not in use, the spherical bodies 13 may all for convenience be disposed in the box 1 with the cover 11 formed in the closed position shown in Fig. 1, the receiver 18 removed, the cards 48 removed from the boxes 51, and the spherical bodies 59 of each set of boxes 51 and 58 disposed in its box 58 with the box 51 serving as a cover as shown in Fig. 7. The diameters of the openings 55 are preferably, as shown, less in diameter than the diameters of the great circles of the spherical bodies 59, see Fig. 5, so that the spherical bodies 59 may rest on the edges of the plate or sheet 54 surrounding the openings 55, forming seats for the spherical bodies 59, and thus clear the face of the card 48 positioned in the pocket or recess 50 of the box 51. In this way a spherical body 59 when seated in a recess 55 will effectively and completely conceal and cover up the integer on the card 48 registering with the particular recess 55.

When the game is to be used, however, the receiver 18 will first be moved into cooperation

with the recess **47** in the position shown in Fig. 1, the cards **48** distributed to the several players, and each player will insert the card received by him in the recess **50** of his box cover **51**. Then he can remove the lower box portion **58** with the spherical bodies **59** and is ready for play. The dealer will then preferably shake the box **1** so as properly to shuffle the spherical bodies **13** in the box **1**, and then upon a given signal he will engage the handle **43** and draw out the slide **29** above the receiver **18** until the recess clears the front wall **5** of the box **1**, and is in position to allow a spherical body **13** to drop through the recess **28** into the receiver **18**. Upon releasing the handle **43**, the spring **37** will retract the slide **28** into the closed position shown in Fig. 2, and while moving into closed position the pin **36** will agitate the spherical bodies **13** adjacent to the same and allow a second spherical body to drop into the cup formed by the walls **33**, **34** and **35** and drop onto the recessed face **60** of the block **39**, when such spherical body **13** will be ready to be moved out of the box **1**, the lower end of the block **26** being spaced from the face **60** just sufficient to clear a single spherical body **13**, the distance from the lower end of the block **26** to the face **60** being just slightly in excess of the diameter of a spherical body **13**. In this way the block **26** cooperates with the face **60**, the slide **29** and the size of the opening **40**, to isolate the spherical body **13** which has dropped into the recess **28**.

If the number on the spherical body **13** thus selected by the slide **29** is six, the dealer will call out the number six and then the player who has number six on his card **48** will place a spherical body **59** in the opening **55** registering with the numeral six on the card **48**. The dealer in turn will take the spherical body **13** and place it in the opening **16** in the cover **11** registering with the numeral 6 on the base sheet **15**. The dealer will then continue to draw spherical bodies **13** from the box **1** until all of the numerals on one of the cards **48** of a player have been filled. Of course, the game can also be played similar to bingo in which case the winner will be determined by the player who first can cover a straight row of openings **55**. Either a complete row of five openings **55** in the range between 1 and 15 in alinement with the "W" indicia, or any one of the rows parallel to this one, or any complete transverse row, or one of the two diagonal rows might be selected as determining the winner, should he be first to complete such selected row of openings.

By the means here disclosed, in the first place the dealer can not see the selector **13** selected before it has been selected, and dropped into the receiver **18**. In the next place, since all of the spherical bodies **13** that are drawn by the dealer will be placed on the cover **11**, the dealer or conductor of the game can quickly determine whether or not the player has marked his card correctly. In other words, the winning group of recesses **16** covered with spherical bodies **13** must correspond to the winning group of openings **55** covered by the player on his box **51**.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made to the details of construction without departing from the general spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A game such as bingo where there are provided a plurality of cards each having a different group or arrangement of integers thereon selected from a larger predetermined number of integers, wherein each player receives one of said cards, wherein a dealer calls a succession of integers from said larger predetermined number of integers, wherein the players cover the integers called which integers happen to appear on their respective cards, and where the winner is determined by the player who is first to cover a predetermined number or arrangement of integers which have been called, characterized by the combination of a casing having a first support including a plate having a plurality of circular recesses, a second support in said casing below said plate and spaced therefrom to form a pocket, a dealt imperforate card having a predetermined group of integers impressed thereon in position to aline with the recesses in said plate when the card is positioned in said pocket, the recesses and integers being arranged in a plurality of rows, a plurality of groups of spherical bodies, one group for each row of recesses, the groups being optically distinguishable from one another, the edges of the plate surrounding the recesses being less in diameter than the diameters of the great circles of said spherical bodies to form seats for said spherical bodies in turn to receive and support said spherical bodies effectively and completely to cover the integers appearing on the dealt card which integers have been called by the dealer, and notations impressed on said plate, one notation at the top of each row of recesses to indicate the group of spherical bodies to be received in such row.

2. The combination as set forth in claim 1 in which the recesses are arranged in five rows with five recesses in each row, in which the spherical bodies are twenty-five in number and arranged in five groups, each group having a different color to be optically distinguishable from one another, and the color notations at the top of the rows of recesses on said plate are five in number and correspond to and indicate the group of spherical bodies according to color to be received in the particular rows.

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