

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME-COUNTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 582,771, dated May 18, 1897.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AMASA H. WILSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Counters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the obverse side of the game-counter embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion thereof, looking at the reverse side. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of a game-counter embodying the invention and differing slightly from the counter shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The device which forms the subject-matter of the present invention is designed more particularly for keeping account of the number of games of cards won in contests, but it is not limited to this use and may be used for keeping account of other games. Since, however, it is designed, primarily, for cards, the following description will be confined to its use for this purpose.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and cheap and at the same time an attractive looking counter of such construction that when used according to directions accompanying it it will prevent the perpetration of fraud in keeping the score. In accomplishing this object I have invented and produced a counter which has, in combination, a number of consecutively-numbered coupons, one for each of the games of the series, and a pocket into which one of the coupons of the series is put for each game won. In order to prevent fraud in keeping the score, the coupons of the opposing sides are differentiated by some suitable means—as, for example, by printing them upon paper of different colors—and the instructions accompanying the counters require that at the finish of each game the losers shall surrender their coupons for that game to the winners and the winners put the coupons thus surrendered and their own coupons for the corresponding game into the pockets aforesaid. I prefer to construct the pocket of a strip of paper folded

twice in opposite directions, resulting in three overlapping plies, which are perforated near their edges for the passage of a string by which they are held together, said string being preferably so arranged that it constitutes means whereby the counter may be secured to a part of the apparel of the player, and I prefer to continue this strip of paper of which the pocket is made and to print upon it the consecutively-numbered coupons.

The invention consists in the features of novelty that are particularly pointed out in the claims, and in order that it may be fully understood I will describe it with reference to the drawings, in which—

A represents a strip of paper folded upon itself at a and a' in opposite directions, resulting in three plies $A^1 A^2 A^3$. Preferably the ply A^3 extends above the fold a , and the strip is again folded at a^2 , resulting in a fourth ply A^4 . Preferably the plies A^1 and A^4 are continued downward below the fold a' and are provided with transverse rows of perforations b , which divide them up into a number of coupons B . There is one of these coupons for each game of the series to be played, and they are preferably numbered consecutively, beginning at "1" with the bottom coupon on the front ply A^1 , so that as they are detached in succession their numbers will indicate the number of games that have been played. If desired, a second strip C may be placed against the back ply A^4 , and this second strip may be either a single ply, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or it may be doubled upon itself, as shown at c in Fig. 3, resulting in two plies, the one or the other being used, according to the number of coupons with which the counter is to be provided. It will be understood that this second strip, like the one first aforesaid, is provided with transverse rows of perforations by which it is divided up into detachable coupons, and these coupons are numbered consecutively, the numbers of lowest denomination being placed at the bottom of the strips.

The plies A^2 and A^3 , which extend only a short distance down from the top of the front ply A^1 , as well as ply A^4 , are provided near their edges with perforations D , and above the top of the front ply A^1 the upward exten-

sions of the other plies are provided with perforations D', through all of which perforations the looped end *e* of a double cord E is threaded, after which the cord is passed through its own loop, so as to bind the several plies together. The space *x* between the plies A² and A³ forms, in conjunction with the cord E, a pocket in which the detached coupons may be placed, as shown in Fig. 1, and there kept until the entire series of games has been played. Each of the counters is provided, as at F, with a number indicating the number of the table at which the player begins the game, and at F' with a number indicating his position at that and the other tables.

As before stated, opposite sides are provided with counters that are differentiated, preferably by being on paper of different colors. At the expiration of each game of the series one of the coupons is detached from the counter of each of the players, the losers surrendering their coupons to the winners, who put them, together with the corresponding coupons detached from their own counters, in the pockets *x*, and the number of duplicate coupons turned in by each player at the expiration of the series of games will indicate the number of games won.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture a game-counter composed of a strip or strips of detachable game-coupons and a separate strip folded upon itself and having both edges adjacent to the fold secured together to form a pocket to receive and hold the game-coupons when detached, substantially as described.

2. In a game-counter the combination with a strip or strips of detachable game-coupons of a pocket formed of a folded strip of paper having both edges adjacent to the fold se-

cured together by a cord laced through the same and serving to suspend the same, substantially as described.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a game-counter consisting of a strip of paper folded upon itself twice in opposite directions thereby forming three plies, one ply being extended below the other plies and comprising a number of coupons, and means for securing said plies together at their edges, thereby forming a pocket for receiving the coupons when detached, substantially as set forth.

4. As a new article of manufacture, a game-counter consisting of a strip of paper folded upon itself twice in opposite directions thereby forming three plies, perforations formed through said plies, a cord laced through said perforations and holding the plies together, whereby a pocket is formed between them, and a series of coupons on an extension of one of said plies, substantially as set forth.

5. As a new article of manufacture, a game-counter consisting of a strip of paper folded upon itself twice in opposite directions thereby forming three plies, the front ply being extended below the other plies and provided with a number of coupons, and the rear ply being extended above the front ply, the strip being again doubled upon itself at the upper end of said rear ply resulting in a fourth ply extending downward to the bottom of the front ply, this latter extension being also provided with a number of coupons, perforations formed through all of said plies near their edges, perforations formed through the upward extensions of the third and fourth plies, and a cord laced through said perforations, substantially as set forth.

AMASA H. WILSON.

Witnesses:

L. M. HOPKINS,
S. E. SHARON.