Sept. 15, 1970 S. A. WARNER 3,528,661

BASEBALL GAME

Filed Aug. 9, 1968 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

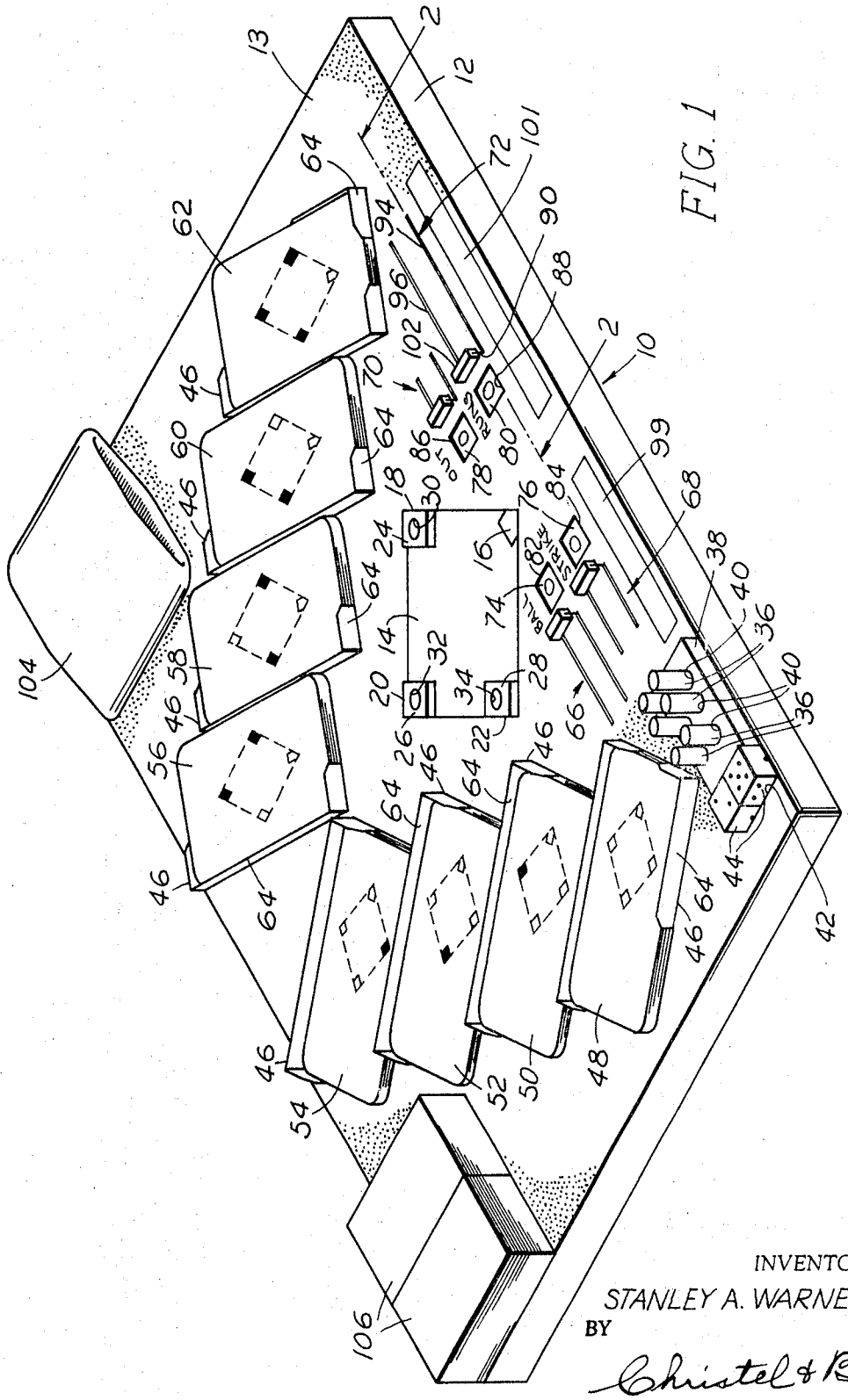


FIG. 1

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BASEBALL GAME

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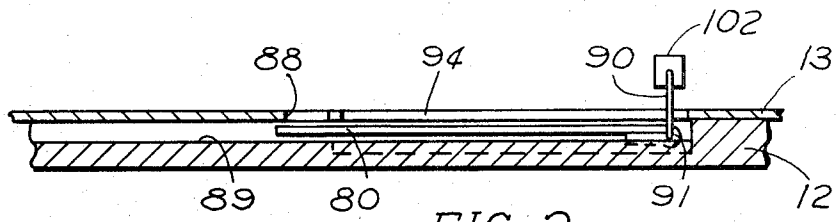


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

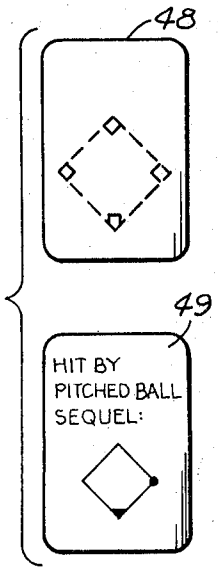


FIG. 4

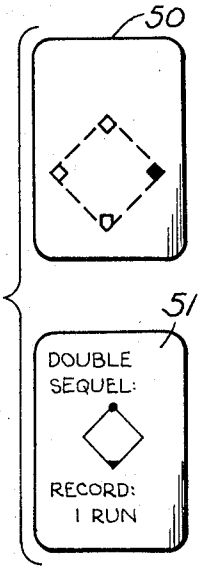


FIG. 5

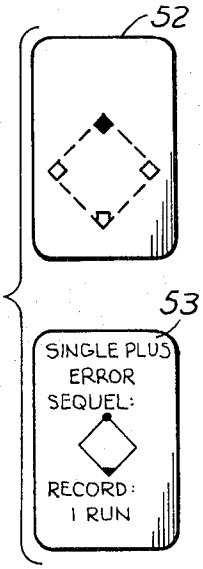


FIG. 6

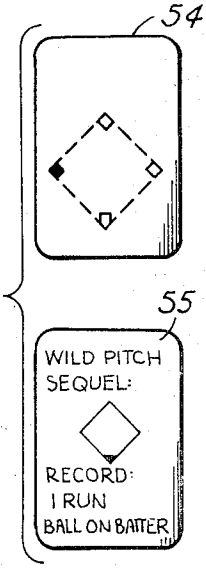


FIG. 7

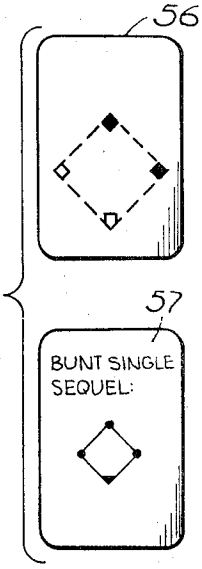


FIG. 8

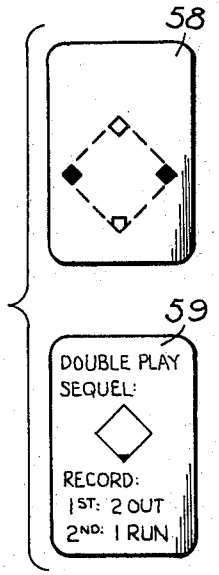


FIG. 9

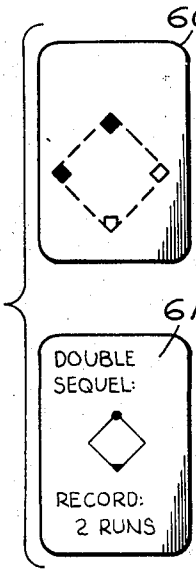
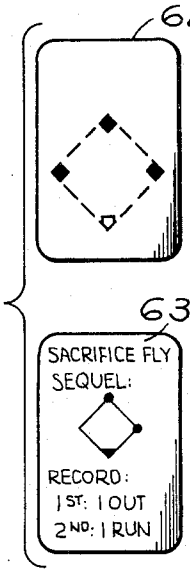


FIG. 10



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3,528,661

BASEBALL GAME

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Int. Cl. A63f 7/06, 7/08
U.S. Cl. 273—93 11 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An amusement game in the form of a tabletop baseball game having a board with a baseball diamond displayed thereon. The bases are provided with apertured blocks for receiving player pieces representing runners on base. A plurality of decks of cards are provided in trays, each deck having numerous cards. The rear face of each card of the various decks indicates a particular base situation and the front face indicates a baseball play with the attendant results imprinted thereon. Dice are rolled to indicate "strikes," "balls," "foul balls" and whether a card may be selected from one of the decks, the deck from which the card is withdrawn dependent on the position of a runner or runners on base. Slide means having indicia thereon displayed through windows on the board record the play-by-play status of the game as it progresses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to games played for amusement and, more particularly, to a new and improved tabletop baseball game.

Amusement games, played with cards and based upon the nationally recognized methods and rules of the playing of baseball, are known. Generally, these games require a thorough familiarity with the rules of baseball and include risks and strategy which may be optionally exercised by the players whereby more than mere chance is involved in playing the game. The success of the players depends upon their knowledge of the science and strategy of baseball.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an amusement game in the form of a tabletop baseball game which is highly entertaining and instructive and which requires only a fundamental knowledge of a few basic rules of baseball in which the success of the players is dependent strictly on the element of chance.

Generally speaking, the game is played on a playing field which includes a diamond with playing yieces representing runners on base. A plurality of decks of cards are provided, each deck pertinent to a particular situation on the bases. Each deck contains numerous cards outlining various plays and the results of the play. Dice are rolled to determine "strikes," "balls," "foul balls" and whether a card may be selected from one of the decks, the deck utilized being dependent on the position of the runners on base. Indicating means are provided on the playing field to record the play-by-play status of the game as it progresses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of an amusement game board constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the plane of line 2—2 of FIG. 1; and

FIGS. 3–10, respectively, illustrate the front and rear faces of a typical card appearing in each of the eight decks of cards.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, it will be seen that a board, comprehensively designated **10**, comprises a rectangular lower base **12** and a rectangular upper panel **13** (FIG. 2) suitably secured to each other with the upper panel **13** having a baseball diamond **14** disposed on the upper surface thereof centrally of the sides of the board **10** and towards the bottom thereof. The baseball diamond **14** comprises home plate **16**, first base **18**, second base **20**, and third base **22**, the three bases **18**, **20** and **22** comprising substantially square shaped blocks **24**, **26** and **28** mounted on the upper panel **13** and having apertures **30**, **32** and **34** therein, respectively, for receiving dowel pins **36** which represent the player pieces. Six such pins or player pieces **36** are utilized, each set of three representing runners of each team on base and being colored differently from the other set. If desired, a block having an aperture therein may also be provided for home plate and a set of four player pieces for each team may be provided to include the batter at home plate.

A rack **38** is provided adjacent the left end bottom corner of board **10** and has a plurality of openings **40** for receiving the player pieces **36** when not in use. Also, a substantially rectangular cavity **42** is provided at the left end bottom corner of board **10** for accommodating a pair of dice **44** which are used in the course of the game as will be hereinafter fully explained. The terms top, bottom, upper, lower, right and left and similar terms of position or direction as used herein refer to the illustration of FIG. 1 and are used only for convenience of description and should not be construed as limiting the scope of this invention or as implying a necessary positioning of the structure or of portions thereof.

The board **10** is provided with eight card receptacle trays **46** located in the outfield or outwardly of the baseball diamond **14** for receiving eight decks of cards **48**, **50**, **52**, **54**, **56**, **58**, **60** and **62**, each pertinent to a particular situation on the bases as hereinafter explained. It will be seen that the trays **46** have walls **64** which extend only partially about the peripheral edge of the cards, thus leaving at least one corner open to facilitate the removal of only the top card from its stack. If desired, the walls **64** may be of an inverted V-shape in cross section to further expedite the removal of the cards from the trays **46**. The panels of the board **10** may be formed of any suitable lightweight material, such as plastic by way of example, and secured together by a suitable adhesive. The projections and depressions constituting the blocks, the rack, the trays, the cavity, the windows, and the slots for each indicating means may be formed by a conventional molding operation.

Also mounted on the board **10** inwardly of the sides and toward the bottom thereof are a plurality of recording or indicating means, generally designated **66**, **68**, **70** and **72**, having slides **74**, **76**, **78** and **80**, located between the panels **12** and **13** and on which are printed appropriate numerals, which may be successively displayed through windows **82**, **84**, **86** and **88** cut through upper panel **13** below the printed designations BALLS, STRIKES, OUTS, and RUNS per inning. Since the slides are of an identical construction and all function in the same manner, it is believed that a detailed description of only one, such as slide **80**, for example, will suffice, it being understood that the same reference characters will be applied to identical elements, the only difference being in the length of the slides and their associated slots.

With reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, slide **80** is shown in a fully extended position and is disposed in a recess **89** provided in base member **12**. Slide **80** has a pair of ver-

tically extending wires **90** extending from a hook **91** at one end of the slide upwardly through slots **94** and **96** in the upper panel **13** and which are bent inwardly at their upper ends into the opposite ends of a handle **102** for actuating the slide linearly. Slide **74** carries the following indicia on its upper surface: "0 1 2 3 WALK"; slide **76** carries the indicia "0 1 2 OUT"; slide **78** carries the indicia "0 1 2 SIDE RETIRED"; and slide **80** carries numerals from 0 through 10.

A label **99** is located below the ball and strike indicating means **66** and **68** and carries the following instructions: "Zero both boxes after each time at bat." Instructions are also displayed on a label **101** below the out and runs indicating means **70** and **72** which read, "Zero both boxes after each half inning."

The inner surface of the top cover (not shown) for the board **10** can be employed as the surface on which the dice **44** are rolled and is preferably lined with a thin layer of simulated felt to facilitate an even roll of the dice. Also disposed on the panel **13** within the confines of the walls of a rectangular bottom cover (not shown) in any available space is a collapsible dice cup **104** and scoring pads **106**. The scoring pads may be of two types: (1) a simple pad consisting of a plurality of sheets, each having two horizontal columns for recording runs per inning in separate boxes with the total score entered at the end of each column; and (2) a comprehensive box scoring pad consisting of a plurality of vertical columns with either real or arbitrary names of the players listed in batting order in the first column and the result of their "times at bat" in inning-by-inning boxes in adjacent vertical columns.

FIGS. 3–10 illustrate the rear and front faces of a typical card appearing in each of the eight stacks of cards. There are eighteen cards in each of the eight decks and each deck has a similar baseball diamond design on the rear face of its respective cards, but is distinguished from the other decks diagrammatically in representing the situation on the bases, or in other words an offensive play situation. All of the base situations possible are included and are illustarted on the rear faces of the cards as follows:

FIG. 3—no runner on base;
FIG. 4—runner on first base;
FIG. 5—runner on second base;
FIG. 6—runner on third base;
FIG. 7—runners on first and second bases, respectively;
FIG. 8—runners on first and third bases, respectively;
FIG. 9—runners on second and third bases, respectively;
FIG. 10—runners on first, second, and third bases, respectively.

The front face of each card shown in FIGS. 3–10 is exemplary of a typical play, the sequel thereof, and a record as the result of a "time at bat." For example, in FIG. 3, the front face **49** of the card **48** bears the inscription, "Hit by pitched ball" and diagrammatically shows the sequel of a runner on first base as a result of the play. Since there are eighteen cards in deck **48**, it will be appreciated that eighteen various plays can be conducted and, if the front face of the card bears the inscription "Home run," the record will also be indicated as follows: "Record: 1 Run."

Again, by way of example, the rear face of card **50** (FIG. 4) indicates the existing situation of a runner on first base and the front face **51** of the card **50** is labeled a "Double." The sequel diagrammatically illustrates that the batter is positioned on seocnd base while the runner who was stationed on first base has scored and the "Record" indicates "1 Run." The instructions located on the lower portion of some of the cards may indicate a sequence to be followed such as "1st" and "2nd." See the front face **63** of card **62** (FIG. 10), by way of example, wherein a sacrifice fly generally scores a runner from third base to score a run as indicated on the front face **63**, but if two outs had been previously recorded, the runner does not score and the team is retired. Sample front face plays together with the "Sequel" and "Record" are shown for each of the base situations appearing on the rear face of the cards **52**, **54**, **56**, **58**, **60** and **62** in FIGS. 5–10, it being understood that there is a comprehensive variety of eighteen plays for each base situation.

The upper surface of the panel may be colored green to simulate a baseball field with the bases being white. Each deck of cards may be colored various shades of green, as desired, or any other color which would present an attractive appearance.

The game can be played by two players whereby each represents one of the teams or the game can be played by a number of persons up to eighteen which would constitute nine per team. In the latter instance, one person from each team is designated captain. The two opposing captains roll the dice to determine, by the higher total roll, which team bats first and becomes the "visiting" team. A name for each team is selected and entered on the score pad with the "visiting team" being first. In using the more comprehensive box scoring pad, the batting order of real or arbitrary names are entered in appropriate spaces on the pad. The various indicating means **66**, **68**, **70** and **72** are set at zero.

Before the contest begins, the decks of cards are shuffled and placed face down in their respective trays **46** on the panel **13**. It desired, two or more decks can be shuffled simultaneously and, with the rear faces of the cards exposed, the decks can be readily separated and collated. After a home run card is drawn during the course of play and the play completed on the field, the card is returned to the deck and the cards are reshuffled. Any stack or deck of cards can be shuffled by the lead-off batter at the beginning of any half inning. A used card can be either returned to the bottom of its respective deck or discarded in a separate pile until the end of the half inning.

In playing the game, the "visiting" team starts by "batting" with a roll of the dice. A roll of any combination, except doubles, totaling less than seven, i.e. three, four, five or six constitutes a "ball." Any roll, excepting doubles, totaling more than seven, i.e. eight, nine, ten or eleven constitutes a "strike." Any doubles rolled, such as two sixes, two fives, etc. constitutes a "foul ball." Any combination rolled totaling seven permits the player to draw the top card from one of the stacks, depending on the base situation, and requires him to comply with the directions appearing on the front face of the card. If a player rolls a seven at the start of a half inning for example, he will draw a card from the "none on" deck **48** and comply with the directions found on the front fact **49** of the card. If a seven is rolled with a runner stationed on first base, the player will draw a card from the top of the deck **50**, which indicates the situation that a runner is located on first base, and comply with the directions located on the front face **51** of the card. The game progresses in this manner to its conclusion.

"Balls," "strikes," "outs," and "runs" per inning are recorded on the indicating means **66**, **68**, **70** and **72**, respectively, by manipulating their respective slides to expose the numerals thereon through their associated windows to maintain a play-by-play status of the grame as it progresses. Also, a record is maintained on the scoring pad in inning-by-inning boxes.

A significant feature of this invention is that, with the execption of a few basic points, familiarity with the detailed rules of baseball is not necessary since the cards completely explain each play.

The only basic points to be remembered are as follows:

(1) After a fourth ball, the batter advances or "walks" to first base, which is indicated on slide **74**;

(2) Three strikes constitute an out as indicated on slide **76**;

(3) A foul ball is a strike, but is of no consequence if the batter previously has two strikes against him;

(4) Three outs constitute a half inning and the team batting is retired as indicated on slide **78**;

(5) Nine full innings constitute a complete game unless the "home" team is leading after the "visiting" team retires after the top half of the final inning; and

(6) additional innings are played to break ties.

The amusement game of the present invention could be slightly modified and would be particularly applicable for institutional use, such as a hospital by way of example, wherein some of the patients may be bedridden. The baseball diamond could be printed on a vertically extending canvas suspended on a tripod apparatus. The runners are represented by discs, each having a hole located adjacent the periphery of the disc adapted to be received on hooks projecting perpendicularly outwardly from the bases of the diamond printed on the canvas. Six such discs would be utilized, a set of three representing runners of each team and colored differently from the other set. A score board may be set up in view of all the player participants illustrating "balls," "strikes," "outs," and "runs."

In playing the game, a nurse's aide could carry the game carton containing the cards, dice, cup and a board having a simulated felt surface for rolling the dice thereon to each player. Another aide, or a volunteer patient, could position the discs on the hooks of the appropriate bases and manipulate the scoreboard to record pertinent information thereon as the game progresses.

The present invention thus provides an amusement game in the form of a tabletop baseball game which is highy entertaining and requires only a fundamental knowledge of a few basic rules of baseball since the information inscribed on the cards fully explains each play. The rules are simple and can be readily understood by players of substantially all age groups.

A preferred embodiment of this invention having been hereinabove described and illustrated, it is to be understood that modifications thereof can be made without departing from the broad spirit and scope of this invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An amusement game simulating a baseball game comprising: means having a surface; means on said surface arranged in the pattern of bases of a conventional baseball diamond; means selectively representing offensive players at selected ones of said bases to establish a visual pattern of any one of a plurality of possible offensive play situations; a plurality of decks of cards; each of said decks containing a plurality of cards having front and rear faces; the rear faces of the cards of each deck carrying a first illustration similar in shape to said pattern of bases; the rear face of at least some of said decks also carrying a situation illustration visually indicating the location of offensive players in each of said plurality of possible offensive play situations; said situation illustrations on certain of said decks being different from the situation illustration on certain others of said decks; the front face of each card having information displayed thereon pertaining to a single play with the result of the play diagrammatically illustrated thereon; and a pair of dice, the drawing of a card being determined by the outcome of a roll of dice.

2. An amusement game according to claim **1** wherein said first mentioned means is a board formed of plastic.

3. An amusement game according to claim **1** including a plurality of indicating means located on said surface for recording appropriate information as the game progresses.

4. An amusement game according to claim **3** wherein each of said indicating means comprises a slide movable beneath said surface, said slide having an upper surface with recording indicia imprinted thereon, and a window in said surface for each indicating means for exposing said indicia.

5. An amusement game according to claim **1** wherein said means arranged in said pattern of bases comprises blocks having apertures therein, respectively; and said means selectively representing said offensive players comprises pins insertable in said apertures.

6. An amusement game according to claim **5** including a receptacle mounted on said surface and having apertures therein for receiving said pins when not in use.

7. An amusement game according to claim **1** including a plurality of trays mounted on said surface for containing said decks of cards, respectively, and disposed outwardly beyond the periphery of said baseball diamond.

8. An amusement game according to claim **6** including a cavity in said surface for containing a pair of dice.

9. An amusement game according to claim **2** wherein said board comprises a base member and a panel secured to and overlying said base member.

10. An amusement game according to claim **7** wherein said base member has a plurality of recesses for receiving a plurality of slides having upper surfaces with recording indicia imprinted thereon; and a plurality of windows in said panel associated with said slides, respectively, for exposing said indicia of said slides, respectively.

11. An amusement game according to claim **8** including means connected to said slides and extending through said panel for manually moving said slides.

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