Feb. 11, 1941. C. BERGMANN 2,231,406

GAME APPARATUS

Filed July 15, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

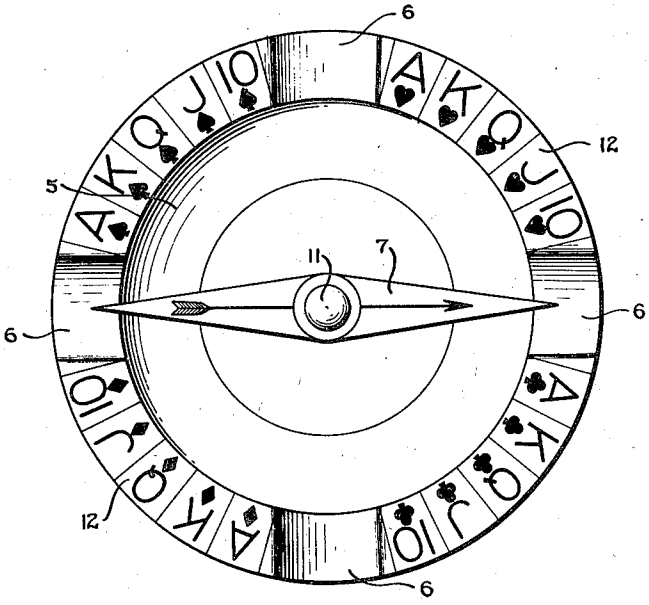
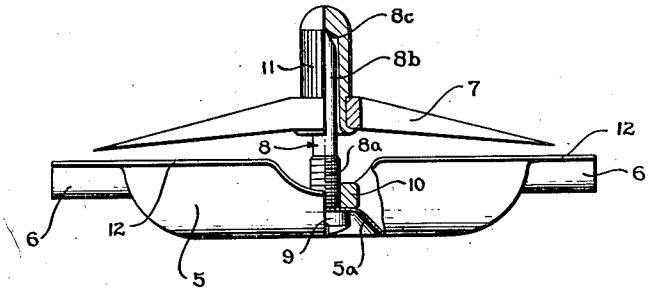


Fig 1

Fig 2



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GAME APPARATUS

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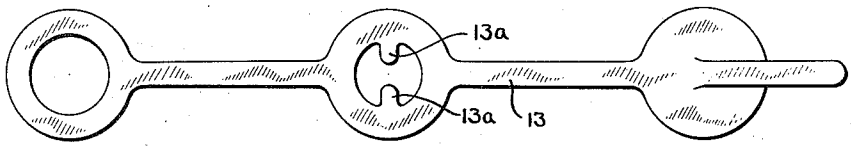


Fig 3

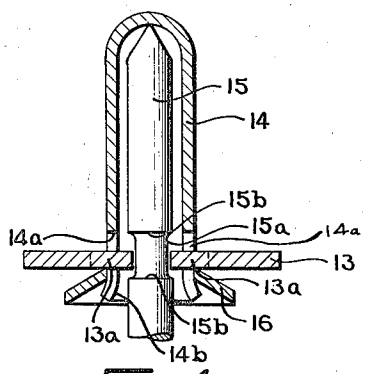


Fig 4

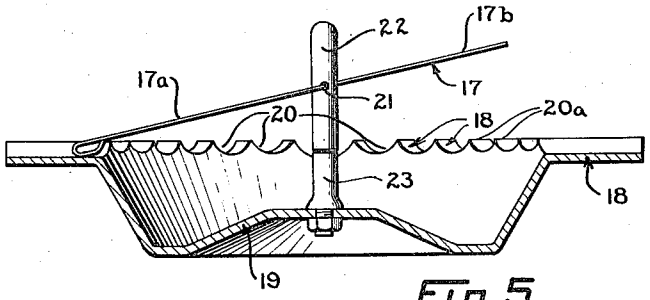


Fig 5

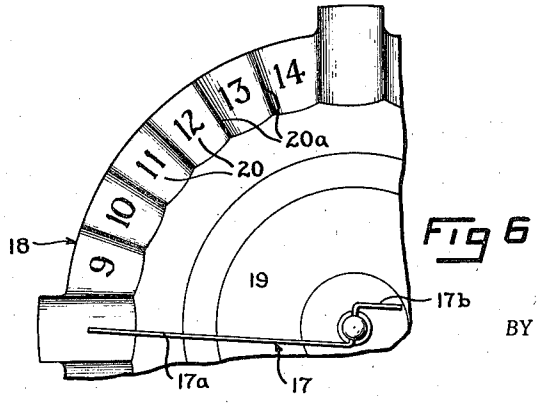


Fig 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,231,406

GAME APPARATUS

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Application July 15, 1939, Serial No. 284,630

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—141)

This invention relates to a combined ash receiver and game apparatus. Ashtrays heretofore provided have been entirely utilitarian or have combined this characteristic with a pleasing appearance. So far as I am aware, however, no ashtray has heretofore been provided which is useful, has a pleasing appearance and at the same time affords entertainment.

Accordingly, one of the objects of the present invention is to provide a novel combination game mechanism with ash receiving and cigarette retaining means.

Another object is to provide a game apparatus attractively combined in a novel manner with an ash receiver, the combination being so made as to retain all the utility of an ash receiver and cigarette retaining means.

A further object is to provide a novel combination of the above character which may be economically manufactured in large quantities and which will be entertaining as well as utilitarian.

The above and further objects and novel features will more fully appear from the detailed description when the same is read in connection with the accompanying drawings. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for purposes of illustration only and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention, reference for this latter purpose being had to the appended claims.

In the drawings, wherein like reference character refer to like parts throughout the several views,

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation, partly in section and with parts broken away, of said embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a pointer employed in the embodiment of Fig. 4;

Fig. 4 is a detail view, partly in section, of a portion of a second embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a third embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 6 is a plan view with parts broken away of the embodiment of Fig. 5.

The form of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings, by way of example, comprises an ash receiving tray having a peripheral flange integral or otherwise located therewith upon which suitable indicia are marked. A rotatable pointer is pivotally mounted at the center of said tray to cooperate with said indicia, said pointer being manually rotatable by means of a knob operatively associated therewith.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, a suitable receptacle for receiving ashes is provided comprising a shallow tray 5, preferably of sheet material as metal, around the upper periphery of which there is provided a plurality of troughs 6, preferably integral with the tray, in which, for example, cigars or cigarettes may be placed. In order to provide a member against which ashes from a cigar or cigarette may be easily scraped and removed, and also to provide a member which in combination with suitable indicia, to appear later, is adapted for game purposes, a pointer 7 is mounted in the center of tray 5.

Means are provided for rotatably mounting the pointer 7 which means are inexpensive and easily adapted for the present purpose comprising a spinning pointer bolt or supporting pin 8 which preferably is constituted by a bolt having a head 9 which engages the surface of an indentation 5a centrally disposed in the bottom of the tray, said indentation being provided to prevent said bolt head from projecting beneath the plane seating surface of the tray bottom. The bolt extends through a perforation in the indentation and preferably comprises a threaded portion 8a and an unthreaded portion 8b having for a purpose, to appear later, a pointed extremity 8c. A suitable nut 10 engages the threaded portion 8a and holds the bolt rigidly in place.

In order that the pointer 7 may be spun rapidly by hand, a spinning knob 11 is provided which comprises a sleeve or cup 11. The latter surrounds the bolt 8 and is supported upon the pointed extremity 8c. The pointer 7 is secured to the sleeve preferably adjacent the lower edge thereof thus presenting the upper portion of the sleeve to the grasp of one who wishes to spin it.

For game purposes, suitable indicia are provided upon the tray which are located preferably beneath a circle which is described by the pointer when it rotates. The indicia, in the form shown, are upon a peripheral flange 12 in which the above mentioned troughs 6 are formed, the indicia being located between the troughs. Each indicum comprises, for example, a representation of a conventional playing card, there being any desired combination of said representations which indicate cards of various denominations.

Another embodiment of the pointer mechanism is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 wherein means are provided for securing a pointer 13 to a rotatable or spinnable knob 14 and for retaining the knob and pointer upon a supporting pin 15 substan-

tially similar to pin 8. The means are constituted by retaining fingers 13a upon the pointer which engage longitudinal slots 14a in the lower portion of knob 14, thus operatively associating the pointer with the knob. The fingers 13a are preferably diametrically opposed (Fig. 3) their extremities being in spaced relation and spaced apart a distance which is less than the normal diameter of pin 15 and which move within an annular groove or neck 15a upon the pin 15. The groove is provided with suitable shoulders 15b at either extremity thereof, the uppermost of which is engageable by the fingers 13a when the knob is axially moved upwardly, said pointer being axially movable therewith because it is engageable by a preferably conical washer 16 which surrounds the spinnable knob beneath said pointer, the washer being held in position upon the knob by a flared lower skirt portion 14b. The remainder of the supporting pin 15 is preferably similar to an analogous portion of the above-described pin 8.

The pointer 13 can be rigidly held in place upon the knob 14 by means of the washer 16 which, for example, can be thrust into a position whereby the fingers 13a are urged against the upper edges of the slots 14a in the knob through which the fingers extend. However, for a purpose to appear later, it is desirable for the pointer to be pivotable, as shown in Fig. 4, about the axis of said fingers, and that it be in a state of static unbalance whereby the arm thereof, carrying or comprising the indicating pointer proper, overbalances the diametrically opposed arm. The novel characteristics of an unbalanced pointer are below set forth in connection with a pointer 17 which is analogous to pointer 13 with the exception that member 17 is not provided with retaining fingers similar to fingers 13a.

It is desirable in devices of this character that the rotatable pointer cease in its rotation at a point directly over one of the indicium as opposed to coming to rest at a point intermediate the indicia. Novel means are provided in the embodiment of Figs. 5 and 6 for accomplishing this desirable result comprising a rotatable pointer 17 which, when at rest, is statically unbalanced and adapted for frictionally contacting a peripheral rim 18 of a tray 19 which is similar to the tray of the first embodiment. Rim 18 is provided with a plurality of fluted portions or grooves 20 having crests 20a therebetween. The indicia are preferably marked within the grooved portions as shown in Fig. 6.

The pointer 17, in the form shown, comprises a wire portion having an arm 17a which is pivotally mounted within a bore 21 of a rotatable knob 22 which is mounted upon supporting pin 23 which, for example, can be similar to that shown in Fig. 2. The axis of bore 21 is perpendicular to that of member 17. The axis of bore 21 is preferably above the plane of rim 18. Arm 17a is of sufficient length to reach from bore 21 to the rim 18. A diametrically opposed arm 17b is provided which is preferably a continuation of the wire portion which comprises the arm 17a and which extends from the opposite extremity of the bore relative to that from which arm 17a protrudes. Arm 17b is lighter in weight than that of arm 17a, thus producing the above-mentioned statically unbalanced condition of the pointer.

In operation the pointer arrangement is spun in a conventional manner thereby causing arm 17a to seek a horizontal plane because of centrifugal force acting thereupon. The arm 17a consequently rises from and out of contact with the rim 18 during the period that the angular velocity thereof is sufficiently great to produce a centrifugal force to lift the pointer. When the angular velocity of the pointer progressively becomes lower the arm 17a will drag over rim 18 and over the crests 20a and will finally come to rest within one of the fluted or grooved portions 20.

There is thus provided a novel combination of an ashtray and game apparatus which is simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture. The apparatus may carry indicia for any type of game and in reference to certain card games, the plays of which may be accomplished by the pointer indications, the device saves the time ordinarily employed for shuffling the cards. The device can be widely employed, for example, in restaurants and bars, where ashtrays are practically a necessity and where some simple form of entertaining diversion is always desirable.

Although only three embodiments have been illustrated and described in detail it is to be expressly understood that the invention is not limited thereto, for example, instead of employing a pointer as in Fig. 5 wherein the entire arm 17a pivotally moves about a central axis under the action of centrifugal force, it is possible to provide a member responsive to centrifugal force which is pivotally mounted to the extremity of a pointer similar to that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, said responsive member having a pivotal axis, for example, perpendicular to a plane passing through the center of pointer 7 and containing the axis of pin 8. Instead of having a continuous wire portion comprising a pointer 17 having arms 17a, 17b it is possible to have a single arm pivotally mounted upon knob 22 which has no operative connection with a suitable diametrically opposed arm. Where no such operative connection exists between the pointer arms, each can be statically unbalanced, however, it is not necessary to have a diametrically opposed arm. Furthermore, instead of employing playing card indicia upon the tray, as shown, any desired numerals or characters may be used.

It is also possible to employ a rotatable pointer which normally rests in or upon a predetermined plane and which is liftable away from the plane or from a portion of a horizontal member having indicia thereon in response to aerodynamic and centrifugal force. For example, the pointer arm may carry a blade, or a model airplane in association with the spinnable knob. Various changes may be made in the design and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as the same will now be understood by those skilled in the art. For a definition of the limits of the invention reference will be had primarily to the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device of the class described comprising stationary supporting means having an annular series of radial flutes in the upper surface thereof, and rotatable means mounted on said supporting means including an element supported by the latter for relatively free rotation about a vertical axis centrally disposed with respect to said annular series of flutes and an elongated pointer member supported intermediate its ends on said element for rotation therewith and pivotal movement relative thereto about a horizontal axis perpendicular to and intersected by

said vertical axis in a plane above the fluted surface of said supporting means, the weight of said member being so distributed on opposite sides of said horizontal axis that one end of said member normally rests in one of said flutes and, by reason of centrifugal forces acting thereon, rotates freely above said flutes when said rotatable means are rotated at a speed greater than a predetermined angular speed.

2. A device of the class described comprising stationary supporting means having a surface with game indicia arranged thereon about a central point, and rotatable means comprising an element supported by said first-named means for rotation about a vertical axis extending through said central point and a pointer member supported intermediate its ends on said element for rotation therewith and pivotal movement relative thereto about a horizontal axis perpendicular to and intersected by said vertical axis in a plane above said surface, said pointer member being statically unbalanced so that one end thereof rests on and frictionally engages said surface for cooperation with said game indicia when said rotatable means is stationary and is adapted to be moved out of engagement with said surface by the action of centrifugal forces when said element and member are rotated faster than a predetermined angular speed.

CHAS. BERGMANN.