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Helfgott

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[54] **CHESS PIECE WITH REMOVABLE INSTRUCTIONAL BASE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **273/137 R**

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63f 3/02**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 273/137 R, 137 A, 137 AE, 273/137 AB, 137 AC, 137 F, 137 W

[56] **References Cited**

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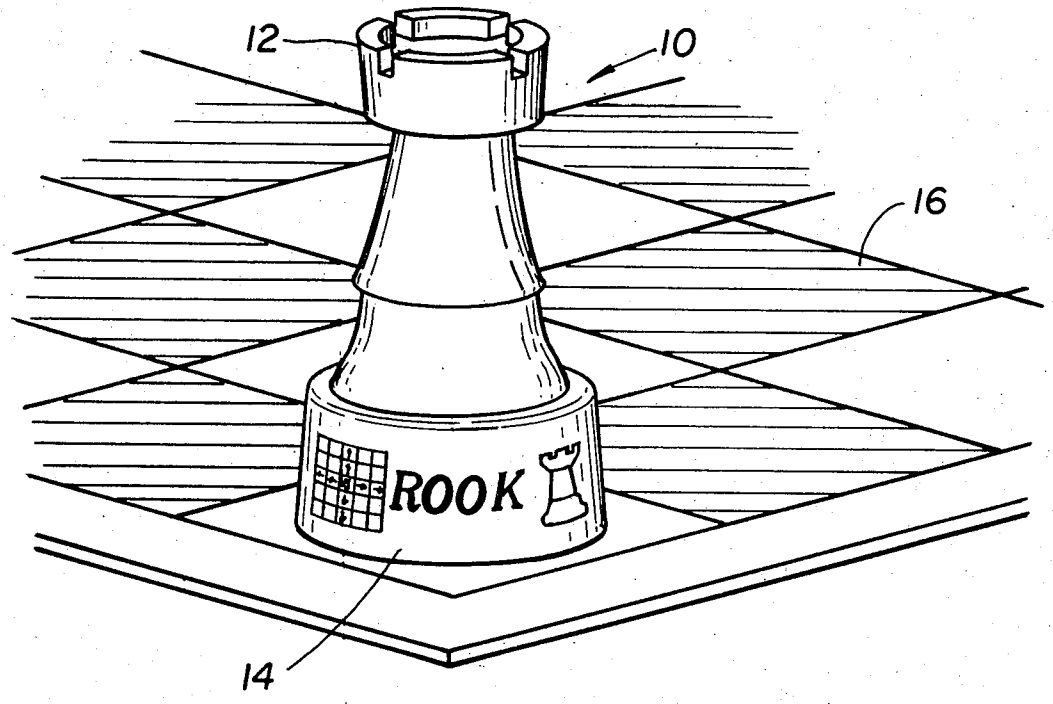
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A selectively removable base for a chess playing piece having movement instructions displayed thereon for the chess playing piece. The attached base is useful for the beginnger, and is merely disconnected, because not needed, by the more experienced player, or is disconnected by the beginner when he advances to the stage of play where he no longer needs rudimentary instructions.

6 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



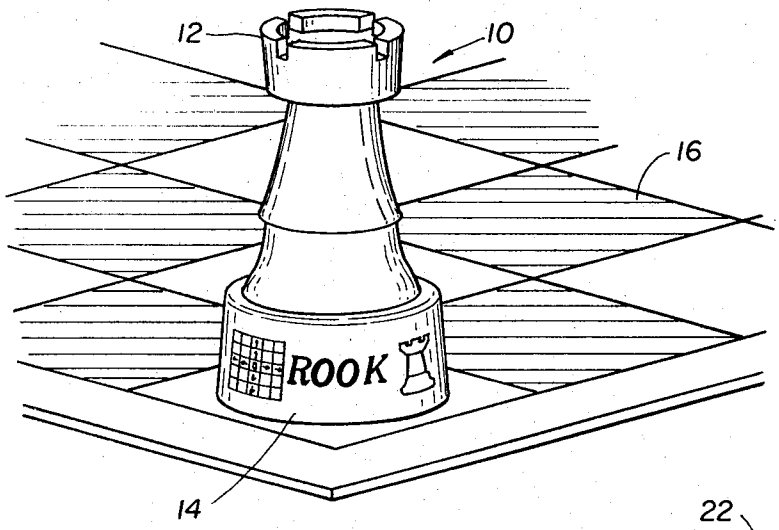


FIG. 1

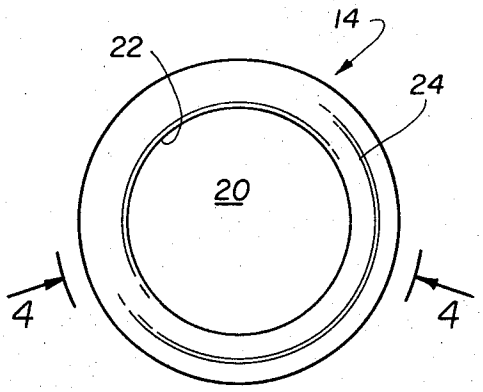


FIG. 2

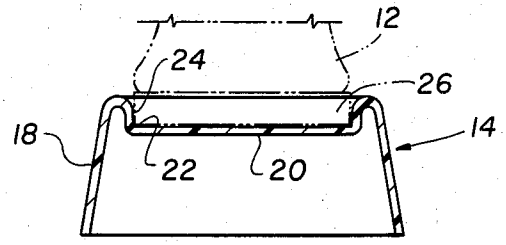


FIG. 3

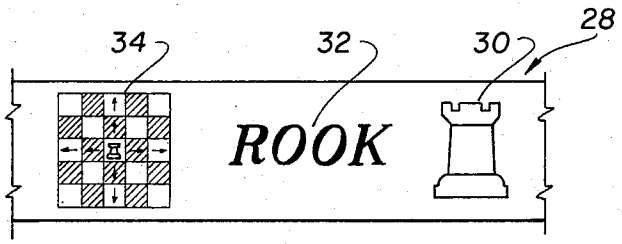


FIG. 4

CHESS PIECE WITH REMOVABLE INSTRUCTIONAL BASE

The present invention relates generally to an improved beginners' chess set, and more particularly to an attachment member displaying instructions concerning movements of the chess playing piece selectively usable as a base for the playing piece.

A beginning or inexperienced chess player might understandably need assistance regarding movements of the chess pieces. There are therefore chess sets that have appropriate instructions printed or otherwise in display position on the chess pieces. However, these instructions are not necessary for an experienced player. Besides being unnecessary, such display might also detract from the appearance of the piece, as well as contribute to other shortcomings.

Broadly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved beginners' chess set overcoming the foregoing and other shortcomings of the prior art. Specifically, it is an object to provide a chess piece construction that is advantageously used in one form by a beginner, and in another form by the experienced player.

A beginners' chess piece demonstrating objects and advantages of the present invention includes a snap-on base having movement instructions displayed thereon for said chess playing piece. When used by an experienced player, the base is merely disconnected.

The above brief description, as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention, will be more fully appreciated by reference to the following detailed description of a presently preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiment in accordance with the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a combination removable base and chess playing piece according to the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the removable base illustrating further structural features thereof;

FIG. **3** is a side elevational view, in section, illustrating the force fit engagement of the base on the chess playing piece; and

FIG. **4** is a layout, in the flat, of playing instructions which are displayed on the removable base.

Illustrated in the drawings is a combination, generally designated **10,** of a typical chess playing piece **12** (i.e. a rook), and a removable plastic attachment or base **14** for the playing piece which demonstrates objects and advantages of the present invention. As generally understood, chess playing pieces are only allowed certain prescribed movements in relation to the squares on a typical chess playing surface **16.** For a beginning or inexperienced chess player, it is obviously advantageous to have appropriately displayed on the chess playing piece instructions as to how it can be moved. These instructions, of course, are not necessary for an experienced player and thus need not appear on the playing piece. Moreover, such display on the chess playing piece may detract from the traditional appearance thereof, as well as may contribute to other shortcomings.

In accordance with the present invention, there is thus provided a base **14** which, among other noteworthy features, has an operative condition in which it is in frictional engagement or attachment with the playing

piece **12,** to thereby satisfy the aforementioned playing requirements for a beginning or inexperienced player; yet, said base **14** is readily detached from the playing piece **12** and thus need not interfere or be needlessly used by more experienced chess players. As is perhaps best shown in FIGS. **2, 3,** the selectively removable base **14** is preferably vacuum molded of plastic in a conical shape having a side wall surface **18** and an upper surface **20.** Appropriately formed in the upper surface **20** is a centrally located depression **22** which is bounded by a peripheral base-engaging lip **24.** It will be understood that the circular base **26** of the chess piece **12** and the diameter of the circular depression **22** is sized so as to provide a friction fit therebetween. In other words, the removable explanatory attachment or base **14** is readily snapped in friction fit engaging relation to the chess piece **26** when it is desired to use the member **14,** and conversely it is readily disengaged therefrom by merely pulling the two apart.

Reference should now be made to FIG. **4** wherein the explanations concerning the movements of the chess piece **12** are illustrated, as if laid out in the flat. Actually, it is contemplated that said explanations will be printed or otherwise reproduced on the curved side surface **18** of the removable base **14.** As shown in FIG. **4,** these explanations, generally designated **28,** preferably consist of an outline **30** of the playing piece which assists in the matching of the proper base **14** to the specific playing piece involved. To further assist in this matching, there is also provided the name **32** of the playing piece. Completing the explanation or instructions for movement of the chess playing piece is a representation **34** of the checker board having thereon an indication, such as arrows or the like, which indicate the movements that may be made of the playing piece in specific relation to the squares of the checker board and the maximum number of squares this piece can travel in one move.

The present invention naturally contemplates the use of the removable base **14** for each of the chess playing pieces that have a complicated direction or mode of movement in relation to the playing surface **16.** This would be all of the playing pieces. In regard to what has been described herein, it will be understood that a latitude of modification, change and substitution is intended and that in some instances some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the invention herein.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination of a chess playing piece having a sized circular base and an attached explanatory base for a beginning player for said playing piece that is removable from said attachment therewith when used by an experienced player, said explanatory base comprising a body having an upper surface and a side surface, said side surface having instructions relating to the movement of said chess playing piece displayed thereon, and said upper surface having a sized circular depression formed therein adapted to engage in a force fit said circular base of said chess playing piece, whereby said explanatory base is only removably attached to said chess playing piece.

2. The combination as claimed in claim **1** wherein said explanatory base is fabricated of plastic, and said

depression formed in said upper surface thereof is bounded by a peripheral chess piece-engaging lip.

3. The combination as claimed in claim **2** wherein the body of said explanatory base is of a circular shape so as to appear to be an extension of said chess playing piece.

4. The combination as claimed in claim **3** wherein said body of said explanatory base is generally conical so as to function as a steady support for said chess playing piece when the same is in mounted position thereon.

5. The combination as claimed in claim **4** wherein said body of said explanatory base is formed as a comparatively thin wall of plastic so as to facilitate being snapped into frictional engagement with said chess playing piece.

6. The combination as claimed in claim **5** wherein on said explanatory base is shown the name and a pictorial representation of the chess piece said explanatory base attaches to, the direction of movement said chess piece is capable of traveling, and the maximum amount of squares said chess piece may travel.

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