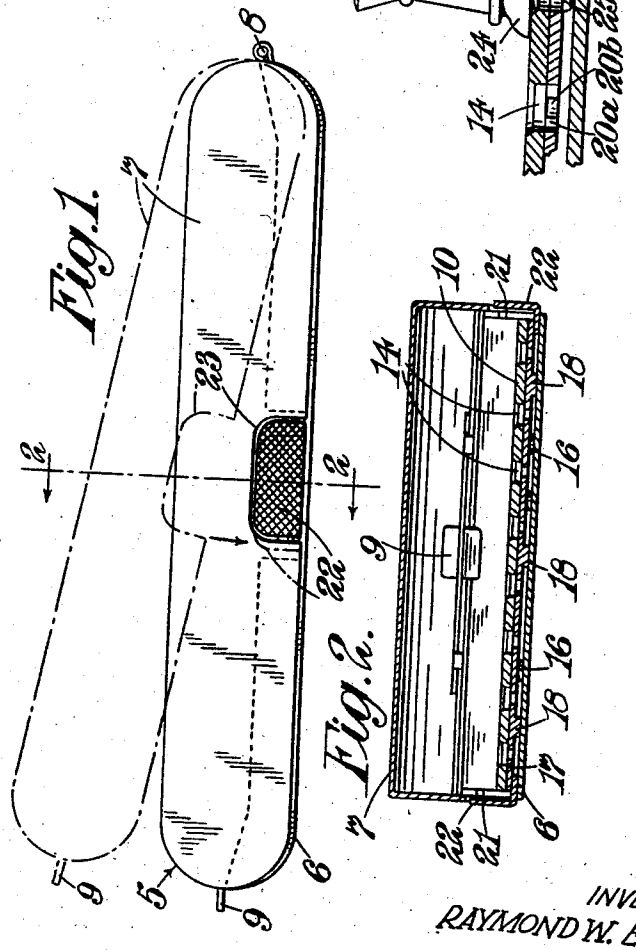
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PORTABLE CHESS OR CHECKER BOARD WITH GAME PIECE RETAINING MEANS

Filed April 2, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 3.

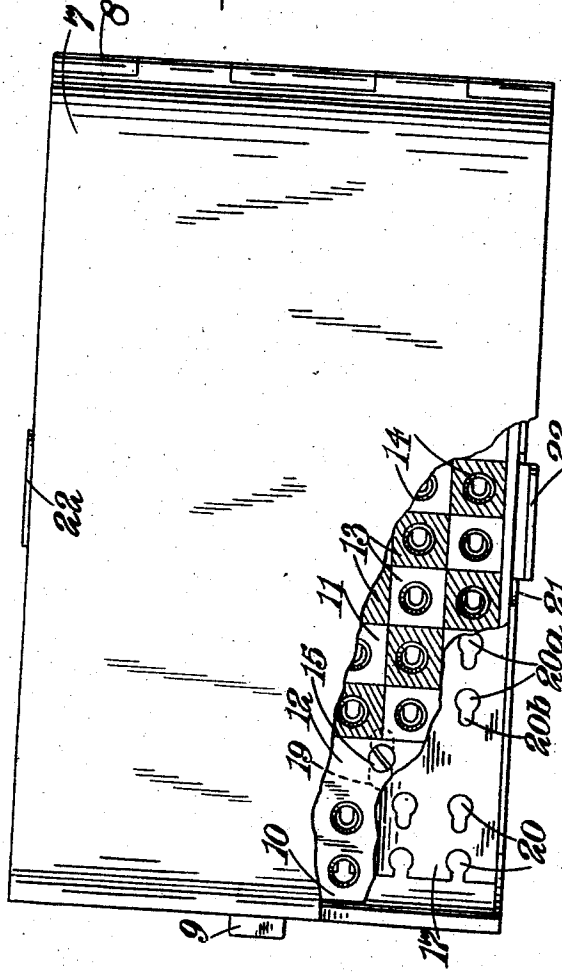


Fig. 6.

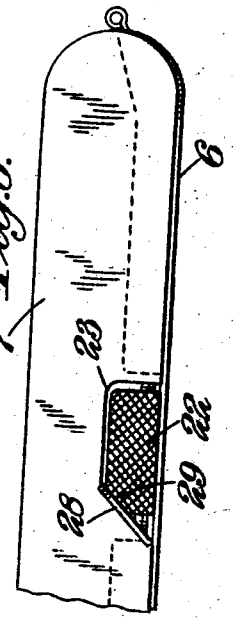
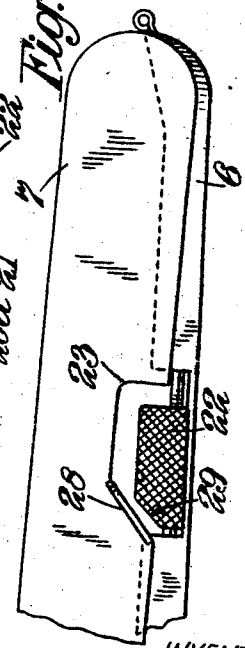


Fig. 5.



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PORTABLE CHESS OR CHECKERBOARD WITH GAME PIECE RETAINING MEANS

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Mangotsfield, England

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273—136)

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This invention concerns improvements in or relating to board or the like games which are played with pieces movable to predetermined positions upon the board.

This invention has for its object to provide a board and pieces in combination therewith which is compact and therefore capable of being carried by the player without inconvenience and without the pieces on the board being disturbed.

Another object is to provide a board and pieces whereby the latter may be locked to the former in a simple and effective manner.

Another object is to provide means for locking the pieces to the board which will enable all the pieces standing thereon to be simultaneously locked thereto and released therefrom. Such locking means is particularly advantageous in so-called pocket sets of chess or draughts since in this way the game may be stopped and the pieces fixed in position on the board until the game is subsequently resumed.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a case which encloses a chess board and pieces in accordance with the invention,

Figure 2 is a section on the line II—II of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a plan view of the case which encloses the board, the case being partly broken away to expose the board and the locking means for retaining the pieces thereon,

Figure 4 is a part sectional detail of the board to an enlarged scale and showing the construction of two of the pieces, and

Figures 5 and 6 are side views of a modified construction of case which is adapted to ensure that the pieces are automatically locked to the board when the case is closed.

Referring to Figure 1, the case 5 comprises a base portion 6 and a lid 7 hinged together as at 8. A catch 9 is provided to lock the lid in its closed position. When the case 5 is opened a plate 10 is exposed to view and ready access to it is obtained since the lid is pivotally movable from its closed position through 180°.

The plate 10 is divided into three sections: a central portion 11 which constitutes the chess board and two lateral portions 12 which are adapted to receive the pieces which are not in play. For convenience only one such lateral portion 12 is shown in Figure 3 but it will be appreciated that a similar portion is provided at the other end of the plate 10. The board 11 is divided

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into squares 13 each of which is formed with a hole 14 the purpose of which will be hereinafter described. The plate 10 extends from end to end of the base 6 and is secured thereto by screws 15 so that it is incapable of movement relatively to the base. The screws are received by collars 16 which are attached to the base 6 as by soldering, brazing or the like. As is clear from Figure 2 the plate 10 is supported on collars 16 in spaced relationship to the bottom of the base 6.

A plate 17 is supported by guide rails 18 so as to maintain it in engagement with the under face of plate 10. The rails 18 are soldered or brazed to plate 17 which is provided with slots 19 to accommodate the collars 16 whereby the latter pass through the plate 17 to engage the plate 10. As shown in Figure 3 the plate 17 is shorter than the plate 10 so that its ends are spaced from the upswept edge of base 6.

The plate 17 is provided with a plurality of key-hole openings 20 each of which is associated with one of the holes 14 of plate 10. A slot 21 in each side of the base 6 permits a lug 22 of the plate 17 to pass through the case 5. The lugs 22 are turned upwardly towards lid 7 and are adapted when the case is closed to lie within recesses 23 formed one on each side of the lid.

The plate 17 is movable in the direction of the long axis of rails 18 by lugs 22 so that it assumes either of two position in one of which the hole 20*a* of the key-hole openings lies immediately below the holes 14 in plate 10. In the other position the slot 20*b* lies below the holes 14.

The pieces 27 are all formed with a base 24 (see Figure 4) a pin 25 projecting therefrom and a flange 26. The diameter of the latter is such that when the piece is placed on a square 13 it will pass through holes 14 and 20*a*. The diameter of the pin 25 enables it to lie within slot 20*b*.

It will be appreciated that when plate 17 is set to bring holes 20*a* into alignment with holes 14 the pieces may be placed on and removed from the board 11 or portions 12 at will since the flange 26 freely passes through the aligned holes.

When the plate 17 is set to bring slots 20*b* below the holes 14, the slots will engage pins 25 of the pieces 27 which rest on the board when the plate 17 is so set. The flanges 26 lie below plate 17 and being of greater diameter than slots 20*b* prevent the pieces being removed from the board 11 or portions 12. The pieces are then locked to the plate 10.

A particular advantage of the locking means described is that all the pieces standing on the

plate 10 are simultaneously locked thereto or released therefrom by a single operation—that of sliding the locking plate 17 relative to the plate 10. Moreover whilst the plate 17 remains in the unlocked position the pieces 27 standing on plate 10 are easily and readily movable on the board.

The movement of the plate 17 is such that the lugs 22 are out of alignment with recesses 23 when the plate 17 is in its unlocked position thereby preventing the lid 7 from being closed. This feature is clearly shown in Figure 1 in which the lug 22 is indicated in chain dotted lines in the position which it assumes when plate 17 is in its unlocked position and it will be noted that one edge of the recess 23 will engage with the upper end of lug 22 to prevent closure of the lid. It is therefore ensured that the case may only be closed when the plate 17 is moved to the locked position to bring the lugs 22 into alignment with recesses 23.

In an alternative arrangement shown in Figures 5 and 6 the recess 23 is formed at one edge with an outwardly projecting ear 28 which is inclined with reference to the lengthwise extension of the case. The lug 22 is formed with a correspondingly inclined portion 29, the arrangement being that upon the lid 7 being closed whilst the plate 17 is in its unlocked position the ear 28 engages the face 29 and during the final closing stages of the lid the plate 17 is automatically moved to its locking position. With this arrangement opening of the lid does not actuate the plate 17, this being manually performed by lugs 22 after the case has been opened.

In yet another arrangement the lid 7 is connected with the movable plate 17 by means which ensures that when the former is opened the plate is automatically moved to its unlocking position and when it is closed the plate is automatically moved to its locking position. The means referred to may comprise a simple lever system connected on the one hand to the lid 7 and on the other hand to the plate 17.

I claim:

1. A device for playing a checker or the like game comprising a base, a game board having positions of play with openings therethrough, a slide plate having a plurality of key-hole slots consisting of larger and smaller width openings therethrough, a plurality of narrow horizontally spaced apart runners carried by the base of said slide plate and spaced between the key-hole slots in said slide plate, said runners raising said slide support above said base and providing a space between said slide plate and base and between adjacent runners, support means rigid with said base and said game board for securing said game board against movement, a plurality of checker or chess game pieces, pins extending downwardly from the base of said game pieces the diameter of said pins being slightly less than the smaller width openings of said key-hole slots and said pins having flanges at their free ends the diameter of which is materially in excess of the smaller width openings of said key-hole slots, said game pieces adapted to be placed on said board with said pins and flanges receivable through said openings in said game board and through the larger diameter openings of said slide plate, and a hand hold for shifting said slide plate for placing the larger diameter openings of the key-hole slots in said slide plate in registry with the openings in said board to permit passage of the pins and flanges of said game pieces therethrough upon movement in one direction and for locking said game pieces to said board and retaining the flanges beneath the smaller width openings of said slide plate in said space upon movement in an opposite direction, said base being in the form of a receptacle having a bottom and upstanding side walls with a hinged cover having downwardly depending side walls, one complemental pair of side walls being partially cut away to receive, when the cover is in the operative position, the hand hold and that said hand hold forms a lug, one end of which is attached to said slide plate and the other end of which is free for hand operation.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein mutually co-acting means is carried by the cover of said receptacle and said lug whereby upon closure of the cover of said receptacle said lug is slid in a direction locking the game pieces to the board.

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