

(No Model.)

E. SEEDHOUSE.

PLAYING CARD.

No. 326,678.

Patented Sept. 22, 1885.



Witnesses,
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PLAYING-CARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 326,673, dated September 22, 1885.

Application filed August 14, 1884. (No model.) Patented in England September 22, 1883, No. 4,535; in Belgium March 20, 1884, No. 64,573; in France March 20, 1884, No. 161,069; in Germany March 21, 1884, No. 22,841; in Italy March 31, 1884, XXXIII, 103, and in Austria October 19, 1884, No. 11,415.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD SEEDHOUSE, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, residing at Netherton, near Dudley, in the county of Worcester, Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Playing-Cards, (for which I have received Letters Patent in England, No. 4,535, dated September 22, 1883;) and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My said invention has for its object the improvement of what are commonly known as "playing-cards"—that is to say, cards having devices on them and used in games—the improvement rendering such playing-cards capable of being shuffled or intermixed in an easier and more expeditious manner than is possible with playing-cards as at present ordinarily manufactured.

There are various methods—all more or less imperfect—of shuffling or intermixing adopted by persons when playing with cards. One plan sometimes employed is as follows: The pack or set of cards is divided into two smaller packages or portions, and by bringing these two portions of the divided pack edge to edge and working and manipulating them the cards of one package or portion are pushed between and intermingled with those of the other package or portion. With playing-cards as heretofore usually made this plan has various objections—such as, for instance, the aptitude of the cards to become locked or turned, and especially the difficulty of the operation in consequence of the cards being of uniform thickness. My invention is designed to obviate such objections to the said plan of shuffling, and with cards made according to my invention shuffling, whether by the above method or by other methods, is materially facilitated, as is also the operation of dealing.

According to my invention playing-cards are made with some part or parts of them thicker than the edge, in the case of circular

cards, or than the edges or parts of them in other cards.

Referring to the annexed drawing, which represents a playing-card in central longitudinal section to an enlarged scale, it will be seen the central portion, *ab*, is thicker than the end portions, *ca* and *bd*, which gradually taper toward the edges *c* and *d*. The edge or edges of the cards is or are made, by preference, as thin as is consistent with their being of the requisite strength and stiffness. The thickened part or parts is or are hardly perceptible in a single card; but in the aggregate, when all the cards are packed or placed together, the thickened parts prevent the thin parts of the cards from coming into close contact when at rest; but the holding tightly of the pack or of a portion of the pack at a point where the thin parts are juxtaposed causes the edges at other parts to open or diverge from one another. Consequently when a pack of cards is separated into two portions for the purpose of shuffling, and each of the two portions is held as above described, and the opened or divergent edges of each portion of the pack are brought together, the cards of one portion of the pack are easily pushed between and intermixed with the cards of the other portion of the pack, and by repeating the operation effectual shuffling and intermixing of the cards, which has hitherto been a somewhat difficult and tedious operation, and has also required some little skill and practice, is speedily, easily, and conveniently accomplished. When other methods of shuffling are adopted, cards made according to my invention will interleave more readily than those made of uniform thickness. Furthermore, with cards made according to my invention, and shuffled in the manner hereinbefore described, the cards of a pack cannot readily be improperly manipulated by the shuffler so as to favor cheating or dishonest practices.

Any suitable method of manufacturing may be adopted in the production of cards with a part or parts thicker than the remainder, according to my invention as above set forth. Thus the thickening may be produced by in-

producing, during the process of manufacture, strips or other pieces of paper between the layers of material intended to form the respective surfaces of a sheet of card to be subsequently divided into playing-cards, or it may be produced by passing the length or portion of card intended to form a number of playing-cards between rolls arranged in pairs, one or both of the rolls of each pair being arranged with suitable very slight depressions corresponding to the thicker parts of the cards to be cut from each length or portion of card, so that where these depressions occur the card will not be so much compressed, and consequently at these parts the card will be thicker than at other parts.

I am aware that cards have been made with beveled edges, as shown in the patent to Levy September 15, 1868; but

What I claim is—

As a new article of manufacture, a playing-card having a thickened central portion from which the remainder gradually tapers toward the edges, the reduction in thickness commencing at or near the center of the card, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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