April 18, 1961 T. W. CRAGG 2,980,427

BASEBALL GAME

Filed Jan. 15, 1958

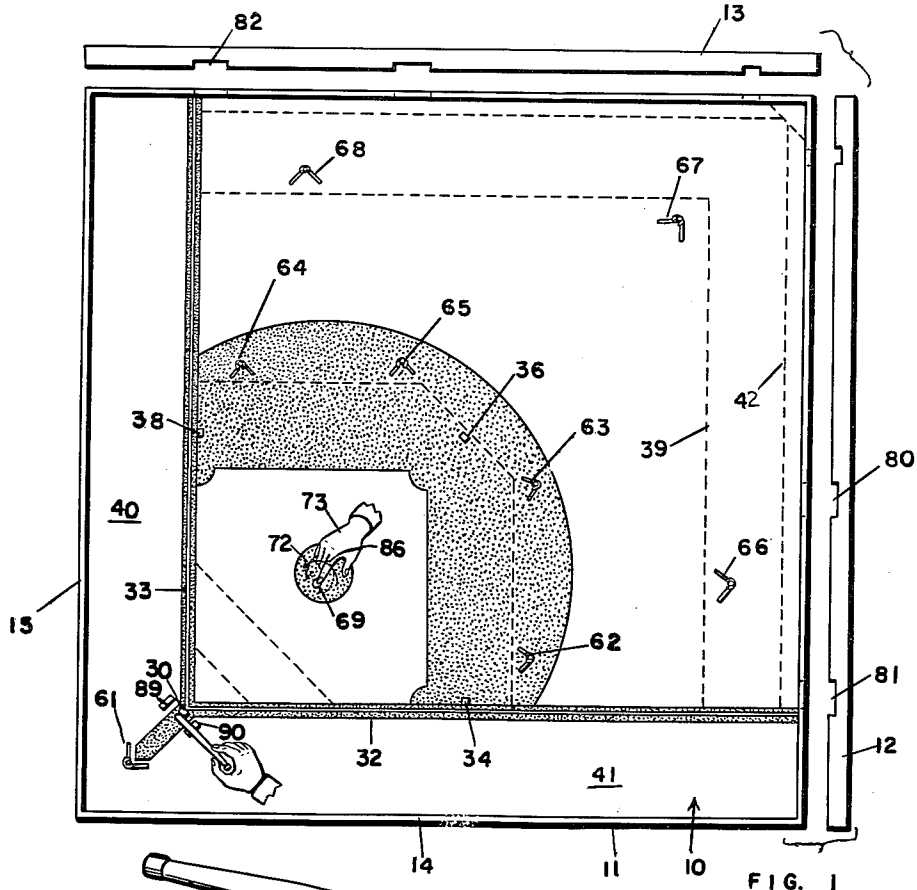


FIG. 1

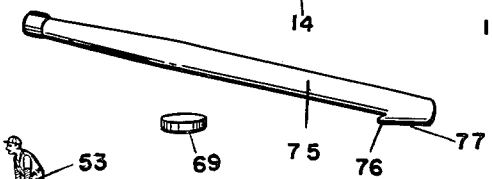


FIG. 7 FIG. 2

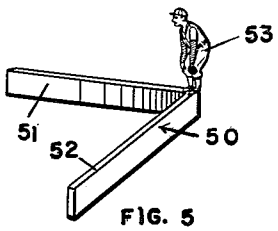


FIG. 5

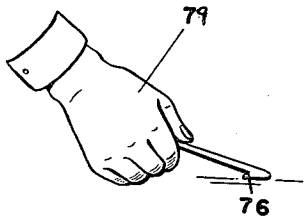


FIG. 4

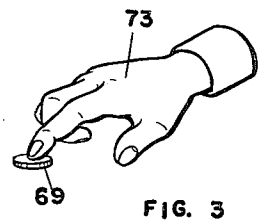


FIG. 3

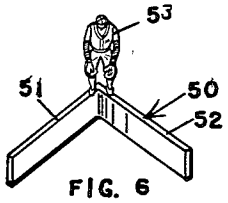


FIG. 6

INVENTOR.

THOMAS W. CRAGG

BY Charles L. Lovercheck

ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 2,980,427 Patented Apr. 18, 1961

2,980,427

BASEBALL GAME

Thomas W. Cragg, 403 E. Columbus Ave., Corry, Pa.

Filed Jan. 15, 1958, Ser. No. 709,018

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—90)

This invention relates to games and, more particularly, to a game having a playing field over which a projectile may be propelled to simulate a baseball game and in which a bordering fence is provided therearound with openings therethrough and whereon means is provided to intercept the projectile at scoring positions.

In previous games of this nature, the device representing the ball or projectile has been projected by some mechanical device not controlled by the operator and the fielding of the ball has not been completely representative of the game of baseball which it is supposed to depict.

It is, accordingly, an object of this invention to provide an improved game which is simple in construction, economical to manufacture, and simple and easy to play.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved game having a playing surface over which a flat disk shaped member may be propelled and a plurality of disk interceptors in a field in which either or both of the disk members and the interceptors may be directed to different portions of the field.

A further object of the invention is to provide a new and improved game which may be made to simulate quite closely a regular baseball game in layout and in the manner of playing and which requires and develops strategy and skill in the playing thereof.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved game in which the field is laid out to simulate a baseball field and in which the intercepting means are catching members to simulate players made up of connected diverging arms having, preferably, the model of a player supported thereon which may be located at positions in the field corresponding generally with regions of the playing field in which players are likely to position themselves during a ball game and wherein the simulated players can be moved about at the discretion and judgment of the persons playing the game.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists of the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, size, proportions, and minor details of construction without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a top view of a playing field according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a view of the bat used in the game;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a disk which simulates a baseball showing the hand of the person or player holding the disk in position for making a "pitch" over the "plate";

Fig. 4 shows an illustration of the player's hand holding the bat;

Figs. 5 and 6 are views of the simulated baseball players; and

Fig. 7 is a view of the device representing the ball.

Now with more specific reference to the drawing, the table on which the game is played is made up of a bottom structure **10** which simulates a baseball field having a fense **11** disposed therearound. Side walls **12** are shown laid down to better illustrate them and end walls **13** are also shown laid down. The side walls **12** and the end walls **13** have counterparts in end walls **14** and side walls **15** and the walls **12, 13, 14,** and **15** form a fence around the ball field.

The field itself is laid out with indicia thereon in the manner of a regular baseball field and generally follows a scale conforming to the scale to which a baseball field is laid out. A home plate **30** is disposed as the apex of base lines **32** and **33** which continue from their apexes at the home plate **30** on to the walls **12** and **13**, respectively, and define between the base lines **32** and **33** and the walls **14** and **15** foul zones **41** and **40**.

A first base **34**, a second base **36**, and a third base **38** are arranged around the field in the manner of a conventional baseball field and lines **39** and **42** are provided on the ball field which may arbitrarily be drawn to indicate or define areas in which the ball may come to rest to indicate a double play or one out; however, the ball must be propelled by a defensive player using a hand to the base for a force out. The other defensive man is moved over to cover the base. The ball must hit the arms of the man covering the base to complete the out.

The game may be played by two or more persons who will be opponents on two teams. The simulated ball players are, for example, shown in Figs. 5 and 6 and are made up of flat material arm portions **50** which have arms **51** and **52** which may be disposed at a right angle to each other and may be formed of a continuous flat sheet rectangular in cross section as shown and bent at a right angle to each other and having the image of a player **53** supported at the apex thereof. The player members **53** will be movable around on the playing field at the option of one of the persons participating in the game and the simulated ball players will constitute a catcher **61**, a first baseman **62**, a second baseman **63**, a shortstop **65**, a right fielder **66**, a center fielder **67**, a left fielder **68**, and a third baseman **64**. Any of the simulated player members **61** to **68** may be moved about on the field in a general area usually covered by the corresponding player in the real game at the discretion of the opponents.

A disk **69**, shown particularly in Fig. 7, is preferably made of a flat, relatively heavy material which is relatively thin and is preferably supported on a pitcher's mound **72** by one of the opponents' hands **73** while pitching.

A bat **75** is made of a round piece of material having a boss portion **76** thereon adjacent its distal end. The boss portion **76** has a flat side **77** which slides over the surface of the table. The batter on the batting team comprising one of the opponents will grasp the bat **75** with his hand **79** as shown in Fig. 4 and he may hold the bat **75** in any position he desires adjacent to the plate **30** so that when the opponent pitcher pitches the ball, the other opponent will be in a position to swing the bat **75**, sliding the side **77** preferably along the surface of the bottom **10** to hit the ball and to knock it into a position which he feels will escape one of the simulated players **61** to **68** and either try to knock it into an area between the line **39** and the base lines which might correspond to a two base hit or some other hit. If he is extremely skilled, the batter will attempt to knock the ball through one of the openings **80** whereby it would correspond to a home run. It will be noted that openings **81** and **82** are disposed just inside the line of the foul line so that if the ball goes through the openings **81** and **82**, it will be con-

sidered a home run and if it hits on the outer sides of the openings **81** and **82**, it will be considered a foul ball, thus eliminating any arguments or discussions about this problem.

To play the game, the opponent pitcher with the hand **73** will move his forefinger with the disk **69** thereunder around in a circular motion indicated by an arrow **86** and release the disk **69** so that the ball will slide on the table in the general direction of the plate between limiting markers **89** and **90**. If the disk **69** stays on either side of the markers **89** and **90** without being hit by the bat **75**, it would be considered a strike. Outside this area, it is a ball. If the batter hits the disk or ball **69** with the bat **75**, it will either be a fair ball or a foul ball. If the ball **69** falls between the arms **51** and **52** of the players **53**, it will be an out. The ball will stay between the arms or in front of the players because the friction of the disk **69** on the table will not allow it to slide over the arms. If the disk **69** goes between the players, it would either be a one, two, or three base hit or a home run, depending upon the position on the board in which it landed.

Because of the manner in which the structure of the board is made, the bat **75** which cooperates therewith and the disk shape of the simulated ball **69**, the game can be played very similar to the rules carried on in a regular baseball game and great interest, education, and sportsmanship will be developed in the players thereof. This game is adapted to be played by young players or by older players and lends extreme interest in either case.

The foregoing specification sets forth the invention in its preferred practical forms but the structure shown is capable of modification within a range of equivalents without departing from the invention which is to be understood is broadly novel as is commensurate with the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A simulated baseball game comprising a flat, generally rectangular table top, walls attached to the marginal edges of said table top and extending upwardly therefrom forming a fence, said table top being laid out with indicia in the manner of a regular baseball field with a first, second, and third base and a home plate, simulated players, said simulated players comprising two arms connected together and diverging at an angle from each other and resting on said table top in positions corresponding to positions generally occupied by players in a baseball game, a flat disk shaped member simulating a baseball, and a bat, said bat having an elongated handle portion terminating in a boss portion having a side adapted to be slid along said table top adjacent its distal end and to engage said table top along a substantial portion parallel to said bat, said bat adapted to extend away from said table top when said boss portion engages said table top to allow a player to grasp said bat with his fingers spaced from said table top.

2. The game recited in claim 1 wherein said simulated players are made of a piece of flat material bent at the center thereof to form said two arms disposed generally at right angles to each other and a simulated baseball player attached to and standing on said arms.

3. The game recited in claim 1 wherein said indicia comprise two lines comprising extensions of first and third base lines projected to intersect said fence, and openings through said fence adjacent said lines through which said disk shaped member may pass to indicate a home run.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

819,212	Filer	May 1, 1906
1,543,700	Davies	June 30, 1925
2,251,724	Vogel	Aug. 5, 1941
2,645,489	Burgess	July 14, 1953