Sept. 10, 1968 E. W. CONRAD 3,400,932

LAWN DICE HAVING FINGER HOLES

Filed June 10, 1965

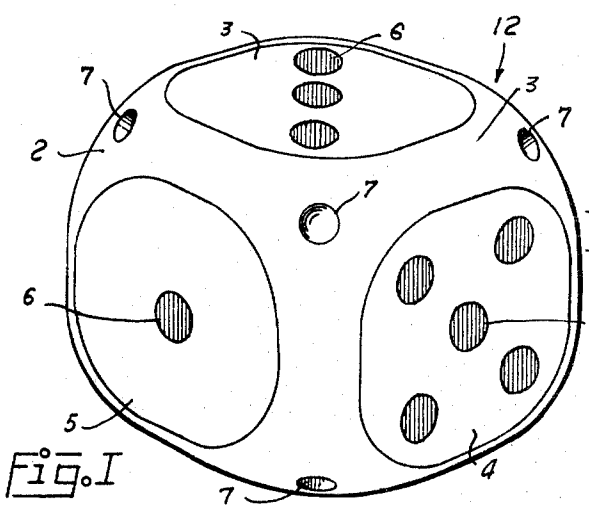


Fig. I

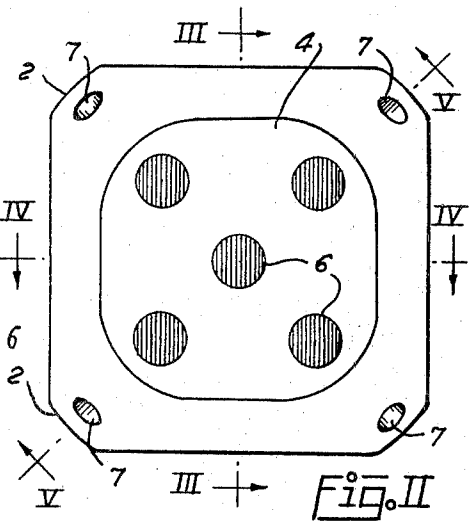


Fig. II

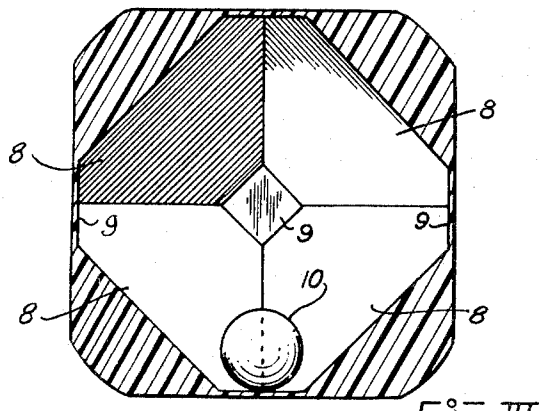


Fig. III

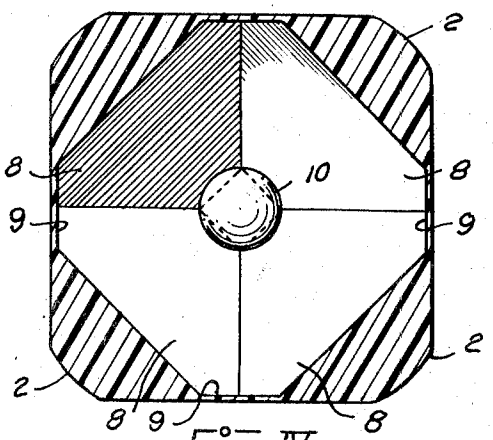


Fig. IV

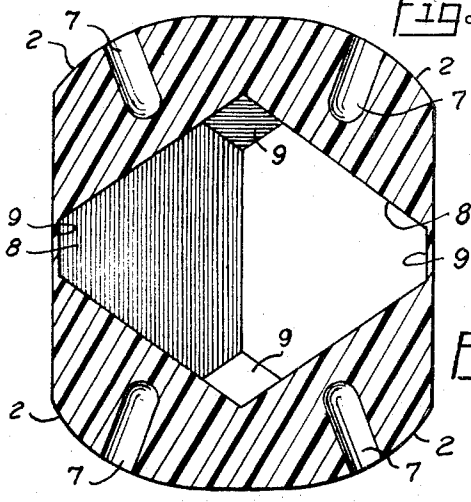


Fig. V

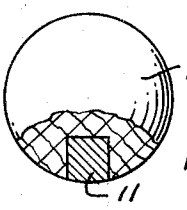


Fig. VI

INVENTOR

Ernest W. Conrad

BY Howard E. Moore

ATTORNEY

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LAWN DICE HAVING FINGER HOLES

Ernest W. Conrad, 6475 Glendora,
Dallas, Tex. 75230

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lawn die with finger holes to facilitate rolling and a hollow interior having the shape of a truncated octahedron containing a ball having an eccentric center of gravity.

This invention is concerned with a game die construction and is particularly concerned with a die intended to be made in large overall dimension so that it can be rolled upon a lawn or other surface by hand in the manner of a bowling ball, or which may be used as a play article in a swimming pool, and wherein there is provided means for causing same to automatically erect itself upon one of the flat surfaces on the outer side thereof.

It is, therefore, a primary object of the invention to provide a lawn die which may be rolled by hand in the manner of a bowling ball, and which will automatically right itself on one of the flat outer surfaces.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a lawn die having rounded corners thereon to permit same to roll more easily.

Still another object of the invention is to provide such a lawn die in which finger engaging holes are provided at the corners thereof so that it may be engaged by the finger or thumb at one of the corners for lifting and throwing.

A still further object of the invention is to provide such a lawn die which has a hollow interior in the shape of a octahedron, with a spherical weighted member, such as a ball therein, which will settle toward one of the apices of the octahedron surface at the lower side thereof, to cause the flat surface to engage the ground or other surface when the momentum of the roll is spent.

A still further object of the invention is to provide such a die wherein the ball therein has a weight on one side thereof to thereby cause a wobbly or eccentric motion of the die as it rolls, to prevent the participant from controlling the roll to such an extent as to determine which side of the die will come up when it stops.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent upon reading the detailed specification hereinafter following and by referring to the drawing annexed hereto.

A suitable embodiment of the invention is shown in the attached drawing wherein,

FIGURE I is a perspective view of the dice;

FIGURE II is a side elevational view thereof;

FIGURE III is a cross-sectional elevational view taken along the line III–III of FIGURE II;

FIGURE IV is a transverse sectional view taken along the line IV—IV of FIGURE II;

FIGURE V is a diagonal sectional view taken along the line V–V of FIGURE II; and

FIGURE VI is a partially sectionalized elevational view of a ball used with the device, having a weight on one side thereof.

Numeral references are employed to indicate the various parts shown in the drawing and like numerals indicate like parts throughout the various figures of the drawing.

The numeral **12** generally indicates the die, which preferably has rounded corners **2** and flat surfaces **3**, **4**, and **5**,

there being a like surface on the back side thereof which is not visible in FIGURE I.

Appropriate spots **6** are provided on the flat surfaces, in order to indicate the numbers on said surfaces, in the usual and customary manner.

A finger or thumb hole **7** is provided at each of the corners **2** which extends inwardly and is of such size to permit the insertion of the finger or thumb, usually the middle finger, to permit the die to be picked up and rolled. Preferably, the die is made oversize in the order of 18 inches in diameter, and is made of lightweight plastic material, such as styrofoam, finished with a smooth surface. Preferably, it is finished with a bright color and the spots thereon are of contrasting color.

The interior of the die has a truncated octahedron shape, which is formed by the converging plane sides **8** which terminate by flat apex surfaces **9** or at the center of each inner side. To describe it another way, the truncated octahedron shaped interior is formed by frusto-pyramids having imaginary bases at the center line of the hollow interior and terminated at the inner surface thereof.

A weighted spherical member, such as a ball **10**, is disposed in the hollow interior and is free to roll about therein.

The weighted spherical member **10** may have a weight **11** recessed in the outer surface thereof in order to provide an eccentric motion thereto as it rolls about in the hollow interior. However, such weight **11** is optional, it being understood that the weighted ball could be used without the eccentric weight.

The operation and function of the device hereinbefore described is as follows:

The die **12** is picked up by inserting the finger, usually the middle finger, or the thumb, in one of the holes **7**. It is then rolled on the lawn or other surface, in the manner of a bowling ball. As it rolls along the spherical member **10** will roll about in the hollow octahedron shaped interior. When the rolling die slows up the ball **10** will have a tendency to settle and come to rest on the lowermost apex surface **9**, and by rolling toward the apex along the plane surfaces **8**, will cause the flat surface adjacent the lowermost apex to engage the surface over which the die is rolled to thereby provide automatic erection of the die on one of the flat surfaces. Of course, the uppermost spots **6** will indicate the number that has been rolled.

If the spherical member **10** has the eccentric weight **11** embedded in the surface thereof, the ball **10** rolling around within the hollow interior, will impart a wobbly or eccentric motion to the die, which will not only provide entertainment for the users thereof, but will render it impossible for the player to predict by expertness of rolling same which of the surfaces will come up.

The rounded corners **2** will permit the die to roll evenly in the manner of a bowling ball. The holes **7** disposed at each corner permit the ball to be easily grasped and picked up. With the center finger in a hole **7** the first, third and fourth fingers will extend downwardly therebelow and the thumb will extend thereabove, to permit grasping and balancing of the die. If picked up by inserting the thumb in hole **7** the fingers may be extended along one of the flat surfaces **3**, **4**, or **5** to balance the die for throwing.

It will thus be seen that I have provided a game consisting of a lawn die, which is not only entertaining, but is self-erecting to assure that one of the flat surfaces will be disposed in upright position, which is easy to grasp and roll, and which may be provided with means to impart a wobbly or eccentric motion thereto.

It will be understood that other and further forms of

my invention may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A die comprising, a body, six flat surfaces on the outer sides of the body, spots on the surfaces, rounded corners on the body; a finger or thumb receiving hole in each rounded corner, a hollow interior having the shape of a regular truncated octahedron, and a spherical member freely movable in the hollow interior.

2. The combination called for in claim 1 wherein the spherical member has a weight embedded in the outer surface thereof.

3. A die comprising, a body, six flat surfaces on the outer sides of the body; spots on the surfaces, rounded corners on the body, a finger or thumb receiving hole in each rounded corner.

4. The combination called for in claim 3 with the addition of a hollow interior; a plurality of plane surfaces forming the hollow interior, said surfaces forming frusto-pyramidal shaped areas at each side thereof with the apex of each area positioned at the center of each inner side, and a spherical member in said hollow interior.

5. The combination called for in claim 4 wherein the spherical member is freely movable and has a weight embedded in the outer surface thereof.

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RICHARD C. PINKHAM, *Primary Examiner.*

A. W. KRAMER, *Assistant Examiner.*