

E. H. HEATH.
 GAME APPARATUS.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 10, 1909.

954,627.

Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

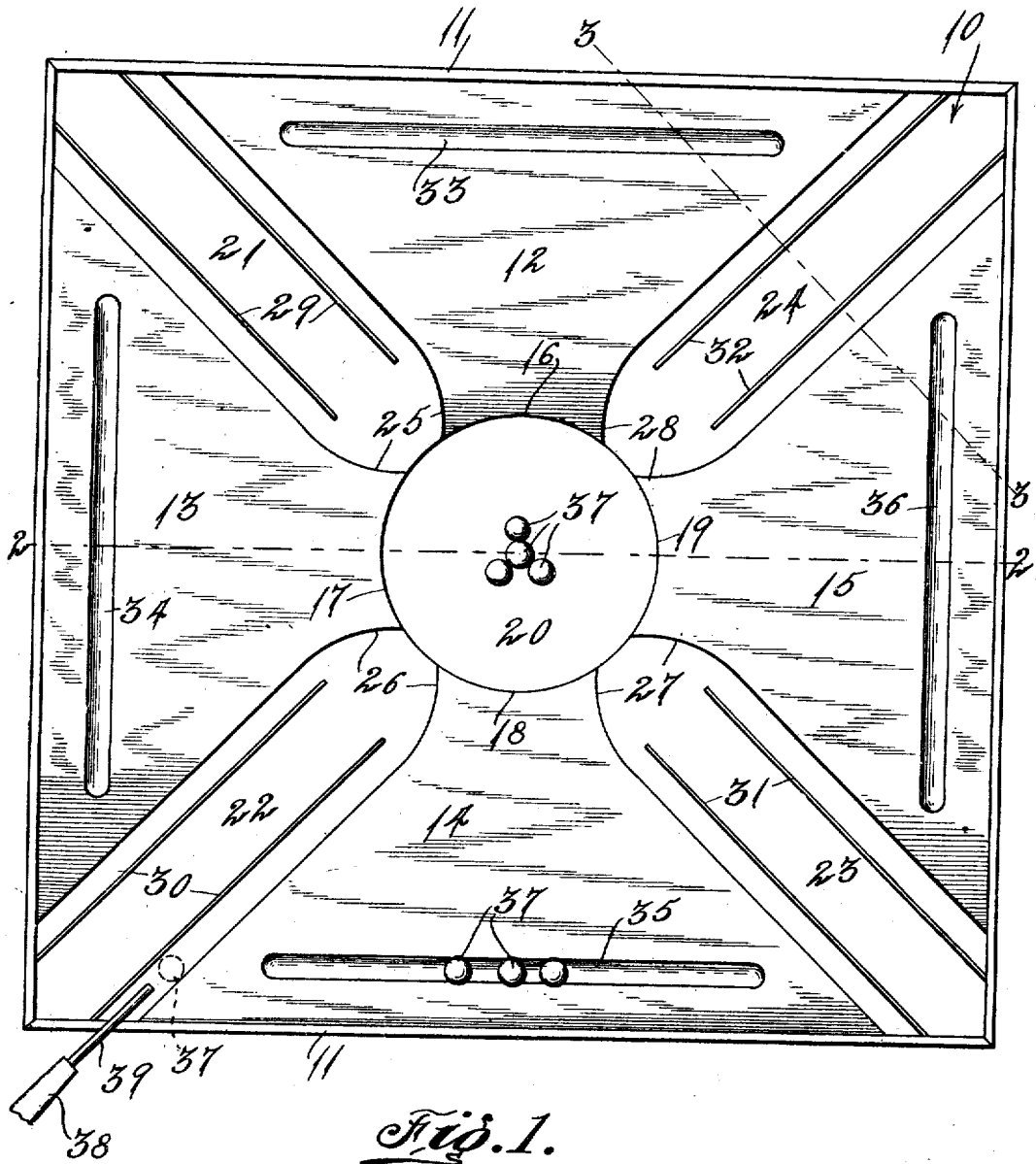


Fig. 1.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

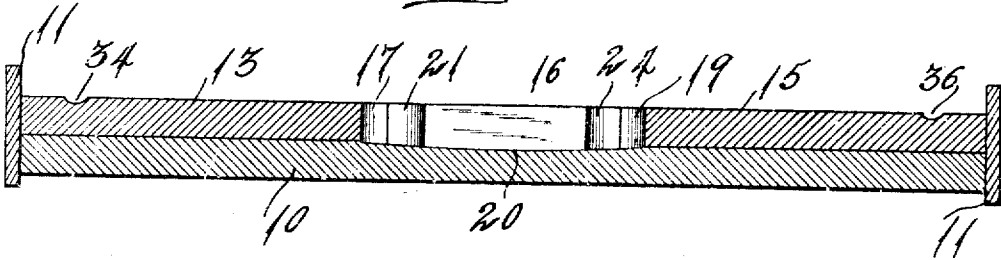


Fig. 3.

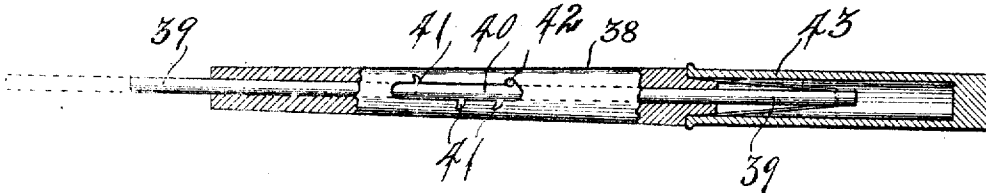
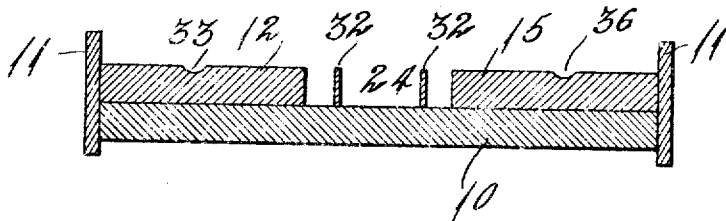


Fig. 4.

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GAME APPARATUS.

954,627.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. HEATH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Herington, in the county of Dickinson, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to game apparatus of the class wherein a game board is employed in connection with a plurality of balls and an instrument for shooting the balls to cause them to traverse the game board, and has for one of its objects to improve the construction and amuse and instruct the players and stimulate their skill and interest.

With this and other objects in view, the invention consists in certain novel features of construction as hereafter shown and described and then specifically pointed out in the claims, and in the drawings illustrative of the preferred embodiment of the invention. Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved device. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a diagonal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a view of the ball "shooting" implement partly in section.

The improved device comprises a board or base 10, preferably square and provided with a margin 11 entirely surrounding the board and projecting above the general surface of the same, as shown. The surface of the board is provided with raised portions 12—13—14—15 generally resembling in form a Maltese cross, the inner portions of the members 12—13—14—15 converging toward the center of the board and formed with segmental inner terminals 16—17—18—19 defining a central circular portion 20, the latter preferably sunken or depressed slightly toward the center, as shown in Fig. 2. The members 12—13—14—15 are separated by diagonally arranged spaces 21—22—23—24 communicating at their inner ends with the depressed circular space 20, and with their inner terminals curving inwardly as indicated at 25—26—27 and 28. The diagonal spaces are thus formed with converging inner ends, to increase the difficulty of playing the game as hereafter explained. Located respectively within the

diagonal spaces are guide ribs 29—30—31—32, spaced from the sides of the spaces.

Formed within the members 12—13—14—15 are ball holding depressions 33—34—35 and 36, the latter designed to hold the supply of balls in convenient position for use of each of the players. A plurality of balls are provided, and represented at 37, and a shooting implement or "cue" device likewise provided and constructed as illustrated in Fig. 4. This shooting implement comprises a tubular stock 38 having a longitudinal bore extending therethrough to slidably receive a rod 39 which forms the shooting member of the device. The stock 38 is also provided with a longitudinal slot 40 having a lateral recess 41, and the rod 39 is provided with a pin 42 adapted to enter one of these recesses and support the rod in any required position within the stock. Secured to the inner end of the stock is a tubular handle member 43 into which the inner end of the rod 39 projects. The rod 39 is arranged to be spring-operated, so that it can be forcibly thrust forward to the extent equal to the range of the slot 40 and thus produces the "shooting" effect upon the balls. The spring element is preferably formed from an ordinary rubber band connected between the inner member of the stock 38 and the inner member of the rod 39, as shown. The handle member 43 is detachable from the stock 38, so that the rubber band spring may be readily renewed when worn or impaired. By providing a plurality of the notches 41 the pin 42 may be set in any one of the notches, and thus control the force of the "drive" imparted to the ball. Thus if the ball is to be driven with considerable force the rod 39 is moved inwardly and the pin 42 connected into the innermost notch, so as to set the rod at its inner point, and thus enable it to exert its greatest force upon the ball.

Any number of persons may play the game, but generally two or four persons will play, and when the game is to be played all of the balls except the "cue" balls are deposited in the central depressed portion 20, the depression of the central portion causing the balls to remain bunched at the center of the board as will be obvious. Each player is provided with a "cue" ball, and the first player deposits his cue ball in one of the guideways between the guide rib and the adjacent angular raised member and applies

the point of the "cue" or rod 39 to the ball by releasing the pin from its notch, thus causing the spring to project the cue against the ball and drive it into the central space 5 20, the curved inner terminals of the diagonal spaces causing the ball to be deflected and strike one of the bunched balls and drive it out of the central depressed portion into one of the diagonal portions. The object of 10 the game is to strike the cue ball with just sufficient force to pick off one of the bunched balls at the center of the board and direct it into one of the diagonal spaces, and the force with which the ball is struck by the 15 cue controls this operation. The requisite force with which the cue ball is struck is thus under the control of the operator and the skill with which the force of the impact of the cue is controlled is acquired only by 20 practice and skill, thus materially increasing the interest of the game.

Many rules may be adapted for controlling the game but generally the result desired is to place the predetermined number 25 of the bunched balls in the circle and then shooting them out as above described. Each player shoots from an assigned corner of the board until he misses a shot when the next player shoots. The player may shoot from 30 the center of the diagonal space, or at any point along the side thereof as he may elect, and when he knocks a ball from the central space he is permitted to shoot again until he misses. If the cue ball does not stay in 35 the central circular space the player loses his turn. The player getting the majority, or making the highest score wins the game.

The board may be of any required size or of any required material, but will preferably be of wood except the ribs 29—30—31—32 40 which may be of metal or the whole board may be of papier-mâché or similar compound, and it is not desired therefore to limit the board to any specific material.

The border 11 will preferably be extended 45 to project at equal distances from each side of the base or body portion of the board, as shown, and the reverse side of the board is employed to support another game if preferred, but this second game does not form 50 a portion of the present invention.

What is claimed is:—

1. A game apparatus comprising a rectangular board having a central depressed 55 portion, a plurality of recesses radiating from the central portion and communicating at their inner ends therewith, and guide ribs spaced apart and located within said recesses.

2. A game apparatus comprising a rectangular board having an elevated margin 60 and with a central depressed portion, a plurality of recesses extending radially between the central portion and the elevated margin and communicating at their inner ends with 65 the central portion, and guide ribs spaced apart and located within said recesses.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD H. HEATH.

Witnesses:

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