BALL GAME INCLUDING CHANCE BALL PATH DISRUPTER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A game wherein a pitched ball is hit toward a target to score. Disposed between the pitcher and the batter is at least one inclined chute supported above the playing surface through which a pitched ball must pass to reach the batter. The chute includes interrupting members to change the path of the ball as it gravitates through the chute so that the batter does not know where the exit point of the ball from the chute will be.

A principal object of the invention is to provide active and enthralling entertainment, and to encourage good sportsmanship in view of fitting rules to assure lively content such as inclines to build admirable character, while also the operation may be safely pursued indulgently within narrow limits of congested areas, such as in a home basement or within the bounds of a relatively short drive-way between a city street and a residential garage.

Furthermore, the invention affords means for consistently fair and reasonable matching in contest between young and old, or between male and female, and to allow that danger of over-exertion be held to a minimum.

Moreover, another object of the invention is to provide for quick dismantling and rapid reassembly of the device as may be required for transportation in a compact bundle.

And yet of added importance are unique elements involved to multiply thrills in the game, and to develop particularly alertness and judgment toward better physical and mental ability.

In general, the device consists of a ball and an unusual gun with a unique barrel or a plurality of barrels in juxtaposition designed for reception of the ball as a result of active skill of a contestant, and whereas after the ball in the gun is baffled, the gun employs the earth's gravitational pull to discharge the ball toward an opponent. Also included is a standard upon which the gun is mounted; a paddle or equivalent for bunting the ball after it is discharged from the gun; and a target toward which the bunted ball is directed to gain credit to be counted for victory in a game; plus obvious incidentals and a list of rules with various options for wide and especially good use of my device.

The annexed drawings and the following description set forth in detail certain mechanics embodying the invention, such disclosed means constituting, however, but few of the various mechanical forms (and related rules) in and through which the principle of my conception can be used.

In said annexed drawings: FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view showing one embodiment in which detailed essentials will also make obvious certain modifications or equivalents common in ordinary practice for optional construction means in construction to support broadly all claims hereto attached. FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary (nearly full) front view of FIG. 1. FIGURE 3 is a rear view of FIG. 1. FIGURE 4 represents a paddle for bunting a ball directly after it is discharged from the gun. FIG. 5 is a top plan view of a rack designed to receive a ball brought from the gun. FIG. 6 is an end view of FIG. 5. FIGURE 7 is the likeness of a limiting tape or marker. FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken on line V—V of FIG. 1. FIGURE 9 is a sectional view of alternate means for securing together a pair of legs of the standard which supports the gun. FIGURE 10 is a side view of FIG. 9. FIGURE 11 illustrates an optional construction by which a unit pair of legs is fastened in the standard to a central support, whereas a couple of legs are combined in one integral whole, FIG. 12 is a side view of alternate means for adjustably mounting the gun on the standard, FIG. 13 is a view taken on the line W—W of FIG. 12. FIG. 14 is a fragmentary view of the panel 1, and presents a portion of the panel which contains a score-keeping instrument, of which a plurality resides in connection with the panel 1. FIG. 15 is a diagrammatical auxiliary view having broad suggestions to impress further the wide range of modification I may resort to in making different models of my device, as very clearly FIGURE 15 implies abundant use of my principle with choice of just a single barrel employing fins and mits in a trough or tube of irregular course to assure the bounding of a ball so as to exit from the gun in a variety of different ways through an inning of successive shooting.

However, referring to the drawings for more elaboration, I show in particular a gun having a pair of barrels 2 and 3 in juxtaposition and mounted on a backboard or panel 1 in which a relatively large rectangular hole 1A is formed to coincide with the combined rear-end openings of barrels 2 and 3. The barrels 2 and 3 may be rectangular (or square) in cross section as shown in FIG. 8, or they might be circular or oval, and composed of any suitable material, preferably break-resistant fiber composition or polyethylene, or metal (such as aluminum). Obviously I may employ any known equivalent in any and all angles even though I mention herein a particular material or specific type of construction, while for the purpose I need not describe more of the many similar connecting structures which could be substituted in workable fashion in my novel assembly and arrangement.

Flanges 2A and 3A of and integral with the barrels 2 and 3 respectively, have suitable small holes that match with holes in the panel 1, whereas rivets 4A which pass through the said aligned holes are securely clinched to effect the fastening together of the panel 1 and the barrels 2 and 3.

Attached to the assembled barrels 2 and 3 is a suitably shaped bracket 5 fastened thereto by means of screws 6 which pass through fitting holes in the lower walls or floor of the barrels 2 and 3. Particularly shown in FIG. 1 of the drawings, a ball 7A is formed integral with the lower end of a screw 7, to have a fixed connection with the bracket 5. A vertical post 8, made from appropriate metal pipe or tubing, has a bifurcated upper end 8A formed so that the ball 7A will fit snugly therein, and be disposed to permit ready adjustment of the gun, including barrels 2 and 3, to provide for proper tilt and level of the gun relative to the support or standard which includes the center post 8. An annular clamp 9, having a tightening thumb-screw 10, is fastened by weld or rivet or by other ordinary means to one side of the bifurcated upper end of the post 8, whereas a simple turn of the screw 10 serves to fix the post 8 securely to the ball 7A to hold any selected adjustment between the gun and the standard. Obviously the post 8 may be constructed of telescoping pipes or tubing, and also be adapted to make any required adjustment to change the vertical height or elevation of the gun, whereas such means is shown at 8B of FIG. 1.

For an alternate means of adjustably connecting the gun to the standard, I may employ a simple construction as shown in FIGURES 12 and 13 of the drawings, wherein a larger diameter than the pipe or central post 8 is modified and shaped to have ears 47A through which
screws 48 serve with holes in the ears 47A whereby to fasten the pipe 47 to the bracket 5A which is an obvious equivalent of the bracket 5. Three screws 49 are spaced and disposed at 120 degree intervals around the periphery of the pipe 47, near the lower extremity of the pipe 47, and are arranged threaded through holes H of the pipe 47 for contact with the post 8 to provide adjustment function equal to other means already described, when a suitable, conical centering recess 5B in the bracket 5A is provided at the upper end of the posts 8 to be as a leg 22 projecting laterally from the post 8 and to terminate outwardly as a footing for contact with a floor or the ground at a point considerably to the rear of the panel 1 of the gun, to provide approximately one-third of the footing support in the standard for the gun. Other footing supports are supplied as common with the two additional legs 26 and 27 which are disposed transversely relative to the leg 22, and are fastened to a lower portion of the post 8 by means of a bar 25 which telescopes into end portions of the legs 26 and 27, while the bar 25 is secured to the post 8 by means of an appropriate clamp 23 which is fitted with a set-screw 24 to make fixed any selected adjustment as required. An alternate design of the clamp 23 is offered in FIGURES 9 and 10, whereas the bar 25 is loosely adjustable in the obvious holes in the legs 26 and 27 until essential tightening of the thumb-screw 43 into the nut 44 fixes the bar 25 to the post 8.

Or the legs 26 and 27 may be formed as one integral length as shown at 45 of FIG. 11, and whereas a spring 46 is disposed to the pair of integral legs 45 by means of a connecting link formed between holes 45A and 45B of the tubing 45, and hence affords a simple, practical provision for securing the unit pair of legs 45 to the post 8 inasmuch as the spring 46 is providing tension around the post 8 while the spring 46 is hooked into holes 45C of the tube 45. The tube 45 is sufficiently flattened at the area of contact with the post 8, so as to assure adequately substantial connection of associated elements in the standard.

In observation of FIGURE 14 there is to be recognized a practical means for keeping a running record of scores as they accumulate in the contest, whereas a pair of pointers 52 are disposed hinged on ribs 53 adjacent to opposite lower corners of the panel 1 and upon the rear or open face of the panel 1, and whereas further a corresponding circular dial including equally spaced symbols of the 13 points to ten inclusive associated with each pointer 52 and disposed in concentric relation with respective pivotal ribs 53 so that circular movement of the free end of the pointer 52 (in either case), when manually operated in a clockwise direction in synchronization with accumulation of scores will record the tally, as when each of the pair of recording instruments is used alternately in accordance with rules of the game. A second pair of such recording instruments may be connected with the panel 1 (maybe indirectly, as for either pair) to keep tally of the number of tens (and more). In each pair of instruments the dial will be of different colors, orange relating to the one; purple relating to the other; red and white for the blue. In further reference to FIG. 14 there will come the understanding that holes 54 through the panel 1 and in radial alignment with the pivotal rib 53 and the figures on the dial (in either case) provide that on both sides of the position of the pointer 52. A dent 52B in the form of a fitting bulge in the pointer 52, and disposed convex toward the panel 1, is effective as required since the dent 52B is under tension of the spring-steel pointer 52 pressing against the panel 1 and the hole 54 selected as the case may be. Another bulge 52A is convex away from the panel 1 to be as a knob by which the thumb or finger of a human hand may move the respective pointer 52 as required.

Although my preferred model employs a double-barreled gun, my invention is deemed very workable under practically the same principle of operation when I use a gun having a barrel 55 provided and extended in FIGURE 16, and when the barrel 55 may be of a suitable, intricate or involved design and with shallow fins 56 and other elements as elsewhere shown to make variable exit of the ball 19 from the gun, and to include other hazards as incline to add thrills into the game.

From the tubular post 8 of various examples I have shown to indicate obvious alternate means for substitution in any angle of the device my privilege is made clear that I may employ a wide modification within the scope of my invention. Hence as I explain the apparatus and its working more in detail I may further emphasize the understanding that any known or obvious equitable way be used where I merely name or simply describe a specific structure or material.

Again referring to FIGURE 1 of the drawings, I show a ball 19, preferably a lightweight sphere made of unbreakable polyethylene, or perhaps manufactured from soft rubber. In the illustration afforded by FIG. 1 the ball 19 is viewed as in motion rolling down the barrel 2 in which a swingable resistance means in the form of a weight 17 (a buckshot or equivalent) is movably placed and disposed to retard the motion of the ball 19 which has been tossed into the barrel 2 by one of the players in the game (the specially). The weight 17 is arranged to be as the lower end of a pendant which includes a metal chain or flexible cord 16 that passes through a hole 2B in the upper wall or ceiling of the barrel 2 to provide for the upper end of the cord 16 to be securely fastened to the barrel 2 by means of a rivet 18. A portion of the frontal upper wall or ceiling of the barrel 2 is cut away at 21 so that the weight 17 may be free to rise to full clearance position as required for the ball 19 to complete its course of travel in the barrel 2 and to be duly discharged from the gun. A further object of having a portion 21 of the barrel 2 cut away is to permit the player at the front of the gun to see the oncoming ball 19 reasonably momentarily before its exit from the barrel 2, whereas quite the opposite condition is to prevail at the exit of the barrel 3, in accordance with extended explanation to follow in this exposition and specification.

With additional reference to FIGURE 1 there is noted an ear 13 in connection with the barrel 3 at its upper outside front corner and disposed parallel to the side walls of the barrels 2 and 3 so that a portion of the ear 13 projects above the upper wall or ceiling of the barrel 3, whereas a pin 14 of suitable diameter and length extends through a fitting hole in the ear 13 and above the top wall or ceiling of the barrel 3 and disposed parallel to the frontal opening or exit of the barrel 3 to allow that one end of the pin 14 shall be securely supported in a suitable hole in the joined or adjacent side walls of the barrels 2 and 3, when a lid or blind 15 of opaque plastic material (as ordinarily used in upholstering) of appropriate rectangular shape of proper size is glued or stapled to the pin 14 where the lid or blind 15 is hinged to be as a relatively vertical pendant, free-swinging door at the exit end of the barrel 3 so that when the lid or blind 15 shall prevent the player at the front of the barrel 3 from seeing unduly the course of the ball 19 (when the ball is inside the barrel) before the instant of exit.

A deflecting guide 11 designed to be a hazard in the course of play is bifurcated as particularly shown at 11A of FIG. 2 of the drawings, whereas the upper end of each prong of the bifurcated portion of the guide 11 is shaped in the form of a nub for the purpose of bouncing or deflecting the ball 19 in its course of travel toward the exit of the barrel 3, to be designed so that the guide 11 projects effectively as a narrow track forward and outward on the longitudinal centerline of the bottom wall or floor of the barrel 3 to end in contact with the pendant door or lid or
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5 blind 15, whereas the screw 12 (in FIG. 1) in a hole of the barrel 3 is aligned with a matching hole in an outside, reversed guide 11 to the barrel 3; or the fastening may be ade-
quate secured when the guide 11 is designed properly as a spring clip pinching from top and bottom upon the floor of the barrel 3 while projecting outwardly from the exit end of the barrel 3 as required.

Concerning the gun, and with reference to FIG. 1, of the drawings, the partition formed by the inner, vertical walls of the barrels 2 and 3 is adequately cut away inwardly (in common with both barrels) for a reasonable expanse from the rear end, as shown at the recess 20 (FIG. 1), to allow for proper functioning of the ball 19 through one of the pair of barrels 2 and 3, as skill or
chance may dictate.

A paddle, with a flat, broad face 50 and a handle 51, as illustrated through FIGURES 5 and 6, is made of suit-
able materials (as in general practice) and is of a size and shape to be held conveniently in hand as a tool with which to butt the ball 19 into a rack such as is illustrat-
ed externally. From the description and specifications of assembled elements of my device I have made it clear that the apparatus may be transported as separate parts arranged in a compact bundle (fastened together) and further to be quickly as-
sembled for full use as intended.

In the employment and operation of my invention (the game, Rack-A-Ball) there are ingenious rules for consideration in order to have utmost benefit as intended. However, herein I shall give only basic suggestions while apparenly from these fundamentals a wide range of beneficial modification or extension of rules will readily come to mind for use as the particular case may require.

Moreover I may report some well-fabricated examples that are fitting for illustration because of having been built from the witnessing of actual play with a carefully developed model, and hence to allow that the basic rules will be plainly implied. We may assume to begin with only two players—opponents in contest. The game goes by innings, much as in baseball. A flip of the coin decides who is first to pitch, or by the drawing of straws or the like. For convenience to lead clearly through our examples of use we may designate the two contestants as Redhead and Bluebeard. The weighted marker 39 is placed at a distance of six feet directly back away from the open (free) face of the panel 1 of the gun which includes barrels 2 and 3. Redhead (who is first to pitch) stands erect behind the marker 39, while Bluebeard with paddle the pincers extend through appropriate holes provided by the screw-eyes. From the description and specifications of assembled elements of my device I have made it clear that the apparatus may be transported as separate parts arranged in a compact bundle (fastened together) and further to be quickly assembled for full use as intended.

Redhead aims, and according to rule tosses the ball 19 by a flip of the wrist together with just a slight for-
ward movement of the upper forearm. (A left-handed player would do the reverse.) The pitch of Redhead is thoroughly successful because his aim was to have the ball 19 enter the barrel 3 (to make the greatest difficulty for his opponent, Bluebeard), whereas the ball 19 would most likely exit so surprisingly under the blind 15 as to cause Bluebeard to be over thrown in the use of the paddles 30 and hence fail to butt the ball into one of the compartments of the rack (FIG. 6). Bluebeard failed, and no score is recorded. Each contestant (or team) pitches the ball 19 a total of six times in each inning. So in further play, Bluebeard gives the ball back to Redhead for the second try. Again Redhead tosses the ball 19 according to rule, and this time to effect breathtaking thrills for both players. The pitcher failed to aim the ball into the more dangerous barrel 3 of the gun, but still he succeeded in having the ball 19 enter the barrel 2, wherein the ball bunged against the weight 17 of the pendant 16 and thereby the movement of the ball 19 was a bit retarded so the sphere could be seen clearly
at the front end of the gun before making of the exit of the ball from the less-hazardous barrel 2, and hence Bluebeard (with the paddle 50) bunted the ball with thrusting confidence toward the smallest compartment of the rack, inasmuch as the ball, by being hit into the largest compartment allows a score of only one point, the middle compartment two points, while the ball placed (bunted) into the smallest compartment brings a credit of three. Hence the thrill from an "almost yet not quite." Thus the bunted ball 19 struck against a spot only a fraction of an inch too low on the front wall 28, but so it turned the ball toward him, and must do this without touching ground outside of his restricted area, whereas penalty for the violation would mean the giving of TWO points credit to the opponent, and of course nothing earned by the side committing the foul. Two (or more) restricted areas (as described) may be set up for the fielding partner, one restricted area placed at a considerably greater distance from the gun than the other restricted area, whereas the catching of the bunted ball from within the area nearer the gun allows a credit of ONE point while the catching of the ball from the more distant area gives a credit of THREE points; but the fielder must choose his position before the pitcher tosses the ball and must maintain that position until after the play, and then may choose a different area for the next operation.

It will be evident how six (three on a team) may contend for honors by using the relay principle in bunting, and for the rack or a final end-man to receive the ball 19 for credit on the tally.

In a sizable group, as at a picnic, playing elimination is of interest to all when proving the champions of different classes. In an open area, as in a park, extended relay bunting may be done with the palm of the hand against the lightweight, soft ball, and only the player at the exit of the gun finds the paddle essential.

Instead of employing a rack with compartments of variable sizes, I may have all compartments designed to be practically the same in size and yet to provide for variable credits by virtue of the hazards of the greater distances from the exit of the gun, as regards placement of the compartments which serve as targets for the bunted ball 19.

Perhaps I should here mention that I may use a detachable funnel-shaped accessory fashioned to fit around the rectangular hole 1A of the panel 1 whereas the design may be such as to increase the chances for the tossed ball 19 entering into the barrel 2 of the gun, over and above the chances favoring entrance into barrel 3. Along a similar line of thought 1 may provide a funnel with a suitable channel leading into the sizable hole 1A to allow that one individual alone (for practice, or more) could play solo under provision to pitch or toss the ball 19 properly into the gun while the single player who tosses the ball may simultaneously hold his essential position very close to the exit of the gun, in readiness to bunt the ball into the rack—as the gun will discharge the ball which has been pitched into the funnel leading into the gun.

One or more of the marker tapes 39 may have printed thereon some handy units of measure for convenience to effect a proper setting of markers at the rack and the gun.

And especially I should stress the fact that I may most practically promote a single-barreled model of my device since the idea radiating from the diagrammatic illustration at FIGURE 15 upon considerations of other views in my set of drawings altogether substantiates my anticipation for very satisfactory use of the involved principle in a gun with a single barrel properly designed and fitted with deflectors, baffle fins, pendants and guides, etc. as I have illustrated and described sufficiently to warrant a belief that the related obvious mold is understood without need for the larger separations (when I have covered the fundamentals).

While I have illustrated and described fair working examples of my invention and improvements I have also
indicated that the range of my pertinent ideas beyond words may leave much to be implied; so I never want to be understood as limiting myself to the specific details of the appended claims. Under the spirit of my invention I believe that I am entitled to employ a wide variation of detail such as may fall within the scope of the appended claims, such departure from the specific statements of construction may include all obvious simplification where I have purposely elaborated at length in anticipations shown, as conditions which may or may not require my wholehearted exploitation of presently unheralded patterns.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and secure to be Letters Patent, is:

1. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, a ball-receiving chute open at elevated pitcher-end thereof and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, a pendulum mounted for both longitudinal and lateral movement for interrupting variably the path of the gravitating ball between sidewalks of said chute according as successive impacts of the pitched ball with said pendulum are especially broad in effect whereby delivery of the ball to discharge-end will be delayed and the course of the ball altered to vary widely the relative moment of exit from time to time, and scoring means for the batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

2. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, a plurality of inclined approximately parallel ball-receiving chutes open at elevated pitcher-ends thereof and having ball-discharge batter-ends, standard means for supporting said chutes above a playing surface, means for interrupting the path of the gravitating ball in at least one of said chutes whereby delivery of the ball to a discharge-end will be delayed, and blind means disposed at a discharge-end of at least one of said chutes for hiding the ball from the view of a player.

3. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, a plurality of inclined approximately parallel ball-receiving chutes open at elevated pitcher-ends thereof and having ball-discharge batter-ends, standard means for supporting said chutes above a playing surface, pendulum means mounted for both longitudinal and lateral movement for interrupting the path of the gravitating ball in at least one of the chutes whereby delivery of the ball to a discharge-end will be delayed, blind means disposed at a discharge-end of at least one of said chutes for hiding the ball from view of a player, and scoring means for a batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

4. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, a plurality of inclined approximately parallel ball-receiving chutes open at elevated pitcher-ends thereof and having ball-discharge batter-ends, standard means for supporting said chutes above a playing surface, pendulum means mounted for both longitudinal and lateral movement for interrupting the path of the gravitating ball in at least one of the chutes whereby delivery of the ball to a discharge-end will be delayed variably from time to time to foil the batter, zone marker means for defining a player's legitimate position for fetching the ball into the entrance-exit of the ball to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

5. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, a plurality of inclined approximately parallel ball-receiving chutes open at elevated pitcher-ends thereof and having ball-discharge batter-ends, standard means for supporting said chutes above a playing surface, pendulum means mounted in one of the chutes for both longitudinal and lateral movement for interrupting variably the path of the gravitating ball whereby delivery of the ball to a discharge-end will be delayed variably from time to time, in a second chute between walls or posts thereof a special fixed means to vary more widely the different paths of the ball and its different points of exit for further proof of skill upon discharge of the ball, and scoring means for a batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

6. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, an inclined ball-receiving chute open at elevated pitcher-end thereof and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, a plurality of channels leading from pitcher-end to batter-end, blind means disposed at a discharge-end of one of said channels for hiding the gravitating ball from view of the batter, multiple-function means including fixed bumps plus track-extension means ending especially close to an unfettered portion of the batter, and scoring means for a batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

7. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, an inclined ball-receiving chute open at elevated pitcher-end thereof and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, within said chute a pendulum means for interrupting the path of the gravitating ball from time to time to foil the batter while exercising best of skill, and yet also to provide that the pitcher may quite as well demonstrate special skill by judicial and controlled placement of the pitched ball to have a choice impact against the interrupting pendulum for action of the ball to be most unfavorable for success of the batter, zone marker means disposed directly behind the pitcher-end of the chute and within three feet of said chute when obviously the entire device is designed for free action in contest of two larger-than-average men, said zone marker defining a player's legitimate position for fetching the ball into said chute, scoring means including a paddle or equivalent for the batter, and a rack-type target disposed conveniently close to the batter and yet enough to one side of the discharge-end of the chute so that the gravitating ball will not fall onto the target without a guiding physical action from the batter, and altogether having elements arranged so that two adult humans can conveniently use the device as claimed.

8. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, an inclined ball-receiving chute open at elevated pitcher-end thereof and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, in the chute, a plurality of channels leading from pitcher-end to batter-end, a bordering panel substantially framing around the opening at the pitcher-end to insure against trouble from pitched balls that fail to enter the entrance opening, upon said panel a conveniently disposed mechanical counter for keeping tally as required in use of the device, multiple-function means including fixed bumps or posts and track extension means narrowed for the ball to roll easily sideways off the track at different points along the extension from time to time plus pendulum means for interrupting variably the path of the gravitating ball to provide for an especially wide choice of points and relative moments of exit of the ball for bafflement to the batter, zone marker means for defining a player's legitimate position for fetching the ball into the chute, and scoring means for a batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

9. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, an inclined ball-receiving chute open at elevated pitcher-end there-
of and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, in the chute a plurality of channels leading from pitcher-end to batter-end, a bordering panel substantially framing around the opening at the pitcher-end to insure against trouble from pitched balls that fail to enter the entrance opening, upon said panel a conveniently disposed mechanical counter for keeping tally as required in use of the game device, multiple-function means including fixed bumps or posts and track extension means narrowed for the ball to roll easily sideways off the track at different points along the extension from time to time plus pendant means for interrupting variability the path of the gravitating ball to provide for an especially wide choice of points and relative moments of exit of the ball for baflement to the batter, said track extension means being connected protrusively at the exit end of one of the channels, blind means for hiding the track extension from view of the batter, zone marker means for defining a player's legitimate position for pitching the ball into said chute, and scoring means for the batter to prove skill upon discharge of the ball.

10. A game device comprising a ball to be pitched and batted in mechanically supplemented contest, an inclined ball-receiving chute open at an elevated pitcher-end thereof and having a ball-discharge batter-end, standard means for supporting said chute above a playing surface, within said chute a pendant means for interrupting the path of the gravitating ball to vary the nature of the exit of the ball from the chute from time to time to foil the batter in a reciprocal test of skill so that the pitcher may judge and move for controlled placement of the pitched ball to give it a preferred impact against the interrupting pendant for tendency of the ball to move in a first choice of various ways to be least favorable for success of the batter, zone marker means set clearly disposed to balance all elements well within a chosen section of floor area, said zone marker means being disposed directly behind the pitcher-end of the chute for defining a player's legitimate position for pitching the ball into the chute, scoring means including a paddle or equivalent for the batter plus obvious ample floor space and operating room in front of the ball-discharge end of said chute, and a rack to be a target having a plurality of open compartments of different sizes on which the batted ball may register a variety of scoring values in succeeding efforts of the batter to bunt the ball into a designating section, said rack having a back wall considerably higher than the front wall to insure the careful batter against loss of credit under the rule that the batter is penalized whenever the ball is bunted over or beyond the rack, said device being altogether designed and arranged so that two larger-than-average men can conveniently use the invention as claimed.

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