Feb. 18, 1969 H. MOTZ 3,428,322

BALL GAME APPARATUS

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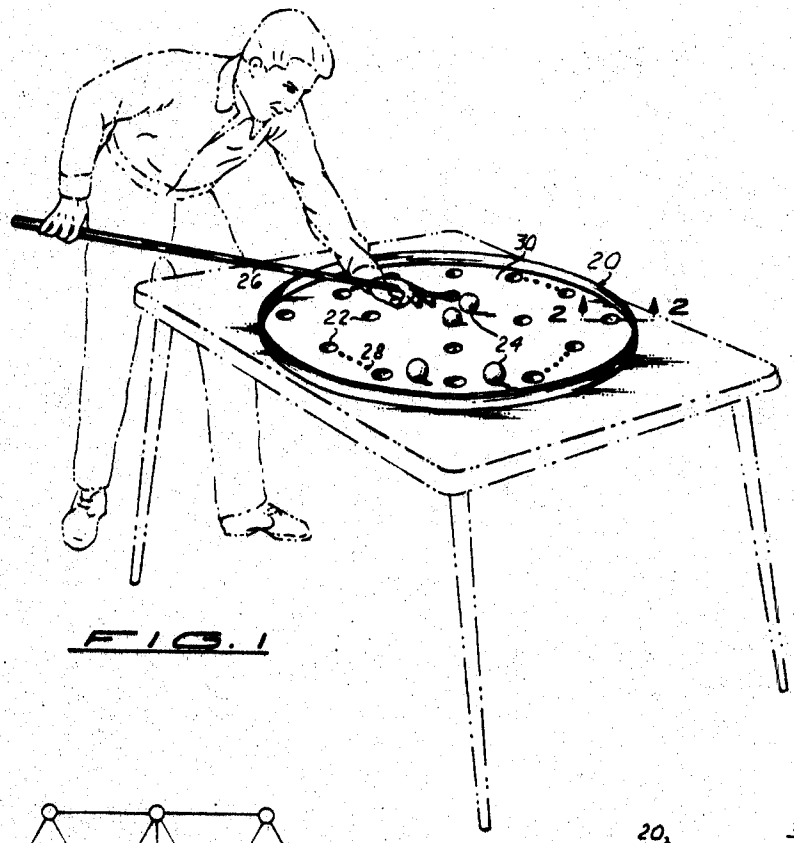


FIG. 1

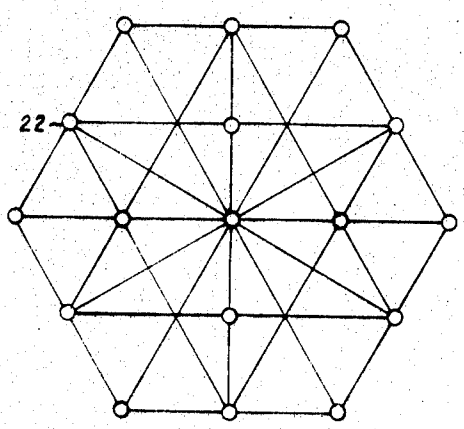


FIG. 3

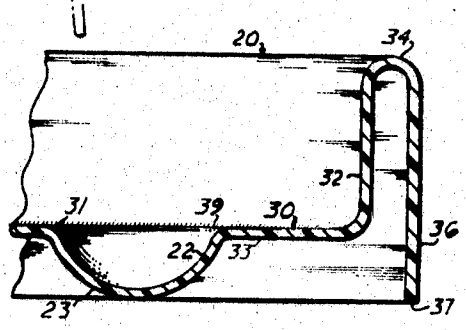


FIG. 2

INVENTOR.
HERBERT MOTZ

BY Carl R. Brown

ATTORNEY

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BALL GAME APPARATUS

Herbert Motz, Parkhill Lane, Escondido, Calif. 92025

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A ball game apparatus that uses cues to move balls on a circular flat platform with uniformly dispersed ball receiving, ball shaped, depressions therein, and which platform is supported around its circular outer edge by an inverted "U" shaped support and throughout its surface area by the lower surface of the depressions to provide a completely supported flat surface.

There are several ball games known in the art that require moving the ball by cue sticks and the like. However, most of such games either fail to provide a stable flat surface on which to move the balls or use heavy and expensive construction. The ball game of this invention uses a simple and inexpensive construction to provide a pool table type surface for moving the balls from stationary to stationary positions with a degree of controlled movement of the balls. The depressions in the flat surface are arranged to provide a contest in first moving the balls in a manner to align them three in a row.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a new and improved ball game apparatus.

It is another object of this invention to provide a new and improved ball game apparatus that uses inexpensive and light weight construction to provide a relatively flat surface.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel and improved ball game apparatus that uses pool cues or the like to move balls over a flat surface and into alignment in depressions uniformly distributed over the surface.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel and improved ball game that uses inexpensive and light weight construction to provide a flat and level surface for long periods of use.

These and other objects will be seen from the following specification and claims in conjunction with the appended drawing in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the game of this invention with a supporting table and the player shown in phantom.

FIGURE 2 is a section taken along lines 2—2 of FIGURE 1 to illustrate the construction of the platform and rim.

FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic showing of the layout of the depressions in the platform.

Referring now to the drawing, the ball game apparatus includes a circular platform **30** having a flat upper surface **31** and a lower surface **33**. The platform is integrally secured to a rim portion **20** that has a general inverted U shape with an inner wall **32** and an outer wall **36** and a curved top **34**. The outer wall **36** has a greater length than the inner wall **32** and extends a given distance below the lower surface **33** of the platform **30**.

The platform **30** has a plurality of concave depressions **22** therein that are systematically positioned and arranged across the surface of the platform **30**, as illustrated in FIGURE 3. The depressions have a round shape and are capable of receiving and retaining balls **24** therein in the play of the game in a manner that will be more particularly described hereinafter. The depressions **22** have a lower convex surface **23** that projects a given

distance below surface **33** which distance is equal to the given distance of the extension of outer wall **36** below the surface **33**. Thus it may be seen that when the platform **30** is placed on a substantially flat surface, the lower depressions **23** provide a uniform supporting surface for the platform **30** across the entire area of the platform **30**; and the lower portion of the outer wall **36** provides an outer circular support for the platform **30** around its circumference. While platform **30** will normally be constructed of light weight sheet material, such as plastic, thin gauge sheet metal or the like, the upper surface **31** will have a flat level surface because of the uniformity of support by surfaces **23** and **37**.

The game uses balls **24** that are to be moved over the flat surface **31** by a short pool cue **26** or the like. To give a controlled roll to the balls **24** and to insure that the balls retain a given position, the surface **31** is covered by flock or the like **39**, that may be made of any type of suitable material. The flock **39** is secured to the upper surface **30** by cementing, gluing or the like.

The balls at the start of each game are positioned on recesses **28**. The recesses are sufficiently recessed in the flock **39** to restrict movement of the balls therefrom. The cups **22** have a shape sufficient to retain the balls in the expected manner and yet have sufficient depth to provide the support **23** as previously described.

The game may be played by 2, 3, or 4 players, with each player having their four balls originally positioned in starting recesses **28**. The object of the game is for one player to place three (3) of his balls of one color in a row of three apertures, such as are outlined in FIGURE 3. The opponent tries to block the effort of the other players to align their balls in the three apertures while at the same time trying to plan his shots so as to place three of his balls in a row. Each player gets one shot per turn. The center hole of a prospective alignment of three must be filled before any of the other two holes in a line may be filled by the given player's balls. The balls, of course, are played from wherever they lie and it may be understood that the level surface of the table is essential to the playing of the game and holding the balls in their last position.

Thus I have provided a simple, inexpensive and easy to construct game that employs some of the aspects of playing pool to make a very interesting game. The game is so constructed that it will be able to stand up over long periods of interesting play.

It should be understood that I have merely illustrated a preferred embodiment of my invention and that, of course, other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the claims hereinafter set forth.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A pool game having a flat upper surface that is capable of being supported over its entire area on a base, comprising in combination,

a platform having a flat upper surface and a circular outer edge,

a circular rim having an inverted U shape with concentrically arranged inner and outer walls and a curved upper surface integrally connecting said walls in spaced relationship,

said upper surface of said rim being spaced above said upper surface of said platform with said inner wall being integrally connected to the entire outer edge of said platform and the lower edge of said outer wall extending below said lower platform surface a given distance to support said platform on a base at a spaced distance above the base,

said curved upper surface providing resilient biasing between said inner and outer walls and between said platform and the lower surface of said outer wall,

said platform having a plurality of ball shaped receiv-

ing depressions uniformly dispersed over the entire flat upper surface of said platform,

the lower surface of said ball receiving depressions being in the same plane as the lower surface of said outer wall and contacting the base to provide a uniform support for said platform over its entire surface and thereby maintain the upper surface of said platform level with the base and in a single plane,

and said curved upper surface of said rim having a radial width that is substantially greater than the thickness of said walls.

2. A pool game as claimed in claim 1 in which,

said platform and said rim having a thickness that is substantially less than said given distance between the lower edge of said outer wall and said lower platform surface.

3. A pool game as in claim 2 in which,

said upper surface of said platform being covered with flock material to control the roll of balls on said surface.

4. A pool game as claimed in claim 3 including,

a plurality of balls and pool cues,

and said depressions being symmetrically arranged to provide a plurality of depressions that are aligned by threes.

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RICHARD C. PINKHAM, *Primary Examiner.*

THOMAS ZACK, *Assistant Examiner.*

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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