Jan. 10, 1928. 1,655,401

P. ARCHER

SPIRAL RUNWAY GAME BOARD

Filed March 9, 1927

Fig. 1.

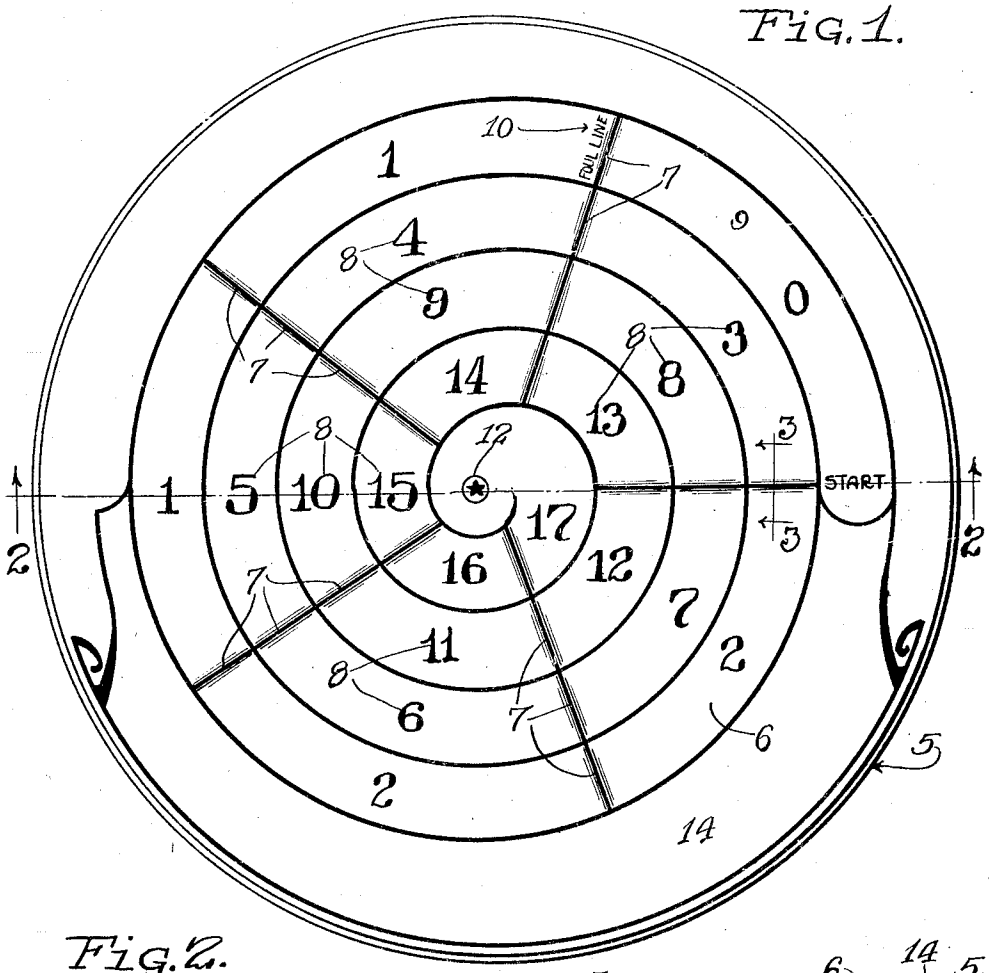


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

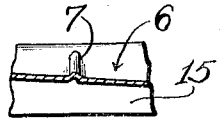
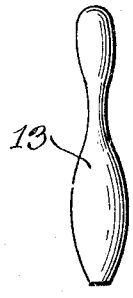


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
Plato Archer
BY Bryant & Lowry
ATTORNEYS.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PLATO ARCHER, OF JEANNETTE, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO McDOWELL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF MILLVALE, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SPIRAL-RUNWAY GAME BOARD.

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This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in games, and the primary object of the invention is to provide a simple form of game embracing some of the characteristics of the well known game of "bowling", and the playing of which will afford interesting amusement for both old and young.

A more specific object of the invention is to provide an improved game apparatus including a game board having a spiral runway or groove formed therein in which a ball or marble is adapted to be caused to travel by projecting the ball or marble into the outer end portion of the runway, the convolutions of the runway being divided radially into a plurality of sections having scoring indicia therein, whereby the number of points scored by each player will be determined by the indicia of the runway sections within which the ball projected by the player comes to rest. A more specific object is to provide a game of the above kind in which the spiral runway gradually inclines from the outer to the inner end thereof, whereby the travel of the ball or marble is influenced not only by the force of projection but also by its tendency to roll in the runway under the action of gravity.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide the divisions of the runway in the nature of impediments adapted to retard the movement of the ball so that considerable skill and accuracy is required on the part of the player to effect travel of the ball a considerable distance in the runway without passing out of the latter, the scoring indicia increasing in value from the outer to the inner end of the runway so that an object of the game will be to cause travel of the ball as far as possible in the runway.

Another object is to provide an improved form of game board formed with a spiral runway inclined from its outer to its inner end.

A still further object is to provide an improved form of game board having a spiral runway as mentioned above, and wherein simple and effective provision is made for dividing the convolutions of the runway into sections and forming radial or transverse impediments to the travel of the ball.

Other objects will become apparent as the nature of the invention is better understood, and the same consists in the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawing and claimed.

In the drawing, wherein like reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a game board forming part of a game constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a central transverse sectional view thereof taken upon line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary tangential sectional view taken substantially upon line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an elevational view of one of the plurality of balls or marbles adapted to be employed in connection with the board of Figures 1, 2 and 3, in playing the present game; and

Figure 5 is an elevational view of the pins adapted to be set upon the center of the game board shown in Figure 1, at the inner end of the runway.

Referring more in detail to the drawing, the present game embodies a game board 5 preferably of disk form in plan as shown in Figure 1, and formed in its upper surface with a spiral runway 6 which extends from a point adjacent the outer edge of the board 5 to the center of the latter, said runway gradually inclining from its outer to its inner end and having closely related convolutions as shown.

The convolutions of the runway 6 are divided radially at a plurality of equally spaced intervals as at 7, by divisions which extend transversely of the runway convolutions, into a plurality of sections containing scoring or point indicating indicia 8. A score indication 8 is provided in each runway section, and these indications perferably progressively increase in value from the outer end portions to the inner end portions of the runway as shown. One of the runway divi-

sions defines an outer end portion 9 for the runway having no scoring value. As shown at 10 this runway division defines a foul line past which the player's hand must not move when gripping the ball to be projected into the runway in causing said ball to travel in said runway. A plurality of balls will be used in connection with the present game board, one for each player, one of the balls being indicated at 11 in Figure 4 and preferably consisting of a spherical ball or marble. A small circle or "spot" 12 is provided upon the upper surface and at the center of the game board at the inner end of the runway 6, and a pin 13 is adapted to be set upon this spot. The pin 13 is similar in form to those used in the well known game of bowling, but of miniature size so as to be adapted for the present use. The object is to set the pin 13 upon the spot 12 so that if a player succeeds in causing travel of the ball to the center of the board with sufficient force to topple the pin 13 over or knock it down, such player will score a given additional amount of points.

As shown, the game board 5 is preferably constructed from a stamped disk of metal including a plate or body portion 14 which is embossed or depressed to form the runway 6 with the latter surrounded by a flat margin from which depends an integral annular or continuous flange 15 adapted to rest at its lower edge upon a horizontal supporting surface such as a table top. The flange is of uniform width and projects slightly below the under surface of the lowermost portion of the depressed runway formed in the plate or body 14, so that the latter is supported at the required elevation and lateral tilting thereof prevented. The lower edge of the flange 15 is provided with an outwardly rolled speed 16 for re-inforcing purposes and to present a smooth surface for contact with the table top so as to avoid marring of the latter when the board is placed thereon. As shown, the plate or body portion 14 of the board is stamped or embossed to provide upwardly directed thin ribs constituting the runway divisions 7. These ribs are raised only a slight distance so as to be well below the top of the sides of the runway convolutions, whereby they will not be likely to cause the ball to run out of the runway although serving as impediments to the travel of the ball in the runway. By this arrangement of impediments, considerable skill is necessary to impart the necessary speed of travel to the ball to cause it to reach the inner end of the runway and strike the pin 13 placed upon the spot 12. When the ball is projected into the runway with more than a given amount of force it will pass out of the runway and off of the board, an occurrence very desirable to avoid as it will constitute a turn for the playing effecting the same and such player will not, at that time, score any points.

In playing the present game, the players will agree upon a predetermined number of times for each player to roll a ball in the runway, and after each player has rolled a ball for this number of times, the player scoring the greatest number of points wins the game.

From the foregoing description it is believed that the construction and manner of use of the present game will be readily understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art. It will be seen that I have provided a very simple form of game which will furnish highly interesting amusement to those playing the same, and which may be cheaply and easily manufactured.

What I claim as new is:—

1. In a game, a game board having a spiral runway formed in its upper surface, radial divisions extending across the convolutions of the runway and dividing them into a plurality of sections, and scoring indicia in said runway sections progressively increasing in value from the outer to the inner end portions of the runway.

2. In a game, a game board having a spiral runway formed in its upper surface, radial divisions extending across the convolutions of the runway and dividing them into a plurality of sections, and scoring indicia in said runway sections progressively increasing in value from the outer to the inner end portions of the runway, said divisions embodying raised elements for retarding the movement of a ball projected into the runway.

3. In a game, a game board having a spiral runway formed in its upper surface, radial divisions extending across the convolutions of the runway and dividing them into a plurality of sections, scoring indicia in said runway sections progressively increasing in value from the outer to the inner end portions of the runway, a spot indication on the board at the inner end of the runway, and a pin adapted to be set on said spot indication.

4. In a game, a game board having a spiral runway formed in its upper surface, radial divisions extending across the convolutions of the runway and dividing them into a plurality of sections, scoring indicia in said runway sections progressively increasing in value from the outer to the inner end portions of the runway, said divisions embodying raised elements for retarding the movement of a ball projected into the runway, one of said divisions defining a non-scoring outer end portion of the runway and constituting a foul line to govern the manual projection of a ball into said outer end portion of the runway.

5. In a game, a game board having a spiral

runway formed in its upper surface, radial divisions extending across the convolutions of the runway and dividing them into a plurality of sections, and scoring indicia in said runway sections progressively increasing in value from the outer to the inner end portions of the runway, said divisions embodying raised elements for retarding the movement of a ball projected into the runway, said board embodying a body plate having the runway and said raised elements embossed therein.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

PLATO ARCHER.