Oct. 11, 1955 F. J. ANDREWS ET AL 2,720,398

MINIATURE SHUFFLEBOARD

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Fig. 1

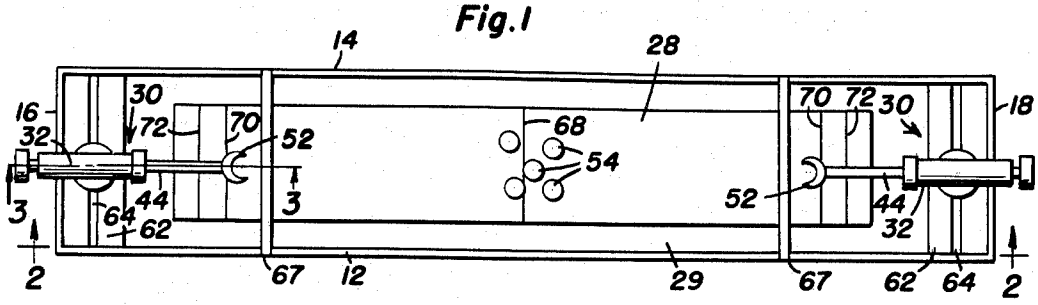


Fig. 2

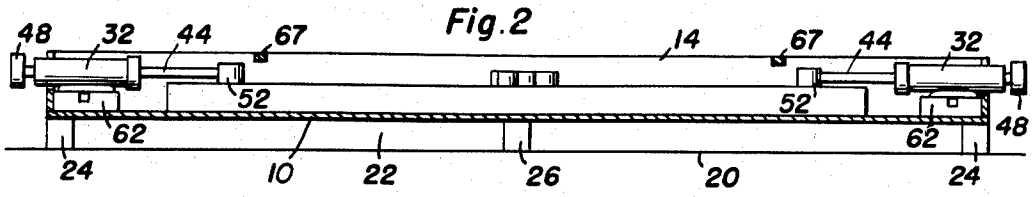
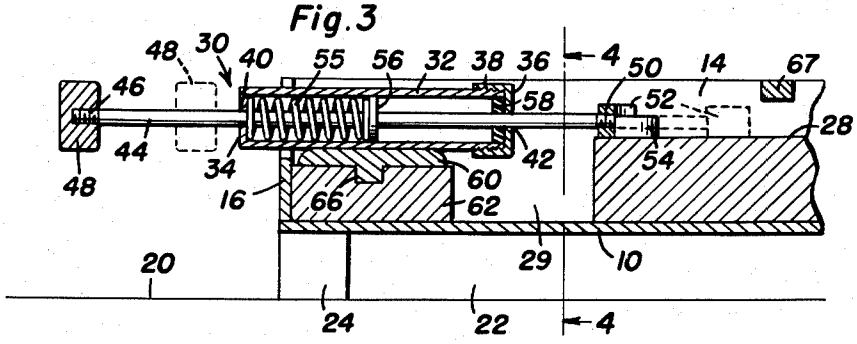


Fig. 3



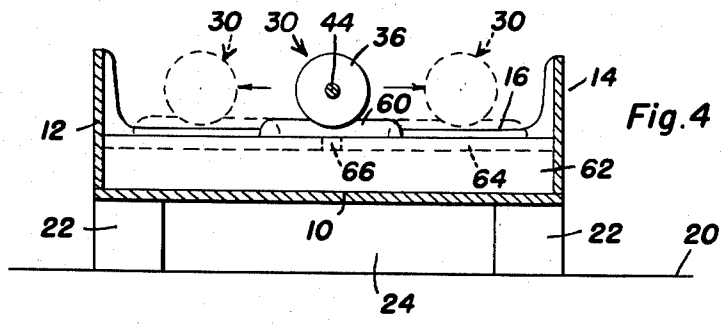
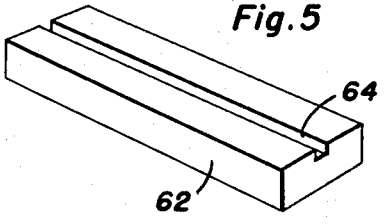


Fig. 4

Fig. 5



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MINIATURE SHUFFLEBOARD

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—126)

This invention relates in general to a game apparatus for playing shuffleboard, and more particularly to a miniature shuffleboard game having projection means for sliding the game pieces along the playing surface of a gameboard.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an improved miniature shuffleboard game including a playing surface having mounted at each end thereof a projector for sliding game pieces along the playing surface of the board.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved miniature shuffleboard game which includes a box having vertical side walls, the box having seated therein a shuffleboard playing surface which is spaced from the walls of the box whereby game pieces may fall into a gutter surrounding the playing surface and thereby preventing their accidental loss.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved miniature shuffleboard game which includes a shuffleboard playing surface which is mounted within a box whereby excess wax deposited upon the playing surface may be deposited into the box surrounding the shuffleboard playing surface and prevent the spreading of the loose excess wax to the surrounding area.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved projector for use with a miniature shuffleboard, said projector being mounted for movement transverse to the longitudinal axis of the shuffleboard and also being pivotal whereby game pieces may be slid along the shuffleboard playing surface at any desired angle.

With these objects definitely in view, this invention resides in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions as will be hereinafter described in detail in the specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claim, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a material part of this specification, and in which:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the improved miniature shuffleboard, which is the subject of this invention, and shows the general relationship of the box, the shuffleboard playing surface, and the projectors mounted within the box adjacent the ends of the shuffleboard playing surface;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 2—2 of Figure 1 and showing the general relationship of the shuffleboard playing surface to the walls of the box and the manner in which the box is mounted with respect to a conventional supporting surface, the projector being illustrated in its forward spring urged position with the game piece end thereof resting upon the upper surface of the playing surface;

Figure 3 is an enlarged partial longitudinal vertical sectional view, taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 3—3 of Figure 1 and showing the general construction of the projector and its relationship to the shuffleboard playing surface, the projector being illustrated in its position prior to the release of same for sliding a game piece along the surface of the shuffleboard,

the normal position of the plunger of the projector being illustrated in dotted lines;

Figure 4 is an enlarged transverse vertical sectional view, taken substantially upon the plane indicated by the section line 4—4 of Figure 3 and showing the projector in its central position, alternative position of the projector being illustrated by dotted lines; and

Figure 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the mounting block for the projector, said mounting block having a longitudinal extended gutter in the upper surface thereof and being intended to be mounted between the two side walls of the box adjacent one end thereof.

Similar characters of reference designate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the different views of the drawings.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 the miniature shuffleboard, which is the subject of this invention. The miniature shuffleboard includes an open box having a bottom **10**, side walls **12** and **14**, and end walls **16** and **18**. The box is supported upon any conventional flat surface such as a table, the flat surface being referred to by the reference numeral **20**. In order that the box may be suitably mounted on the surface **20**, it is provided with longitudinally extending supporting frame rails **22** which are secured to the lower surface of the bottom **10** and extend along the longitudinal edge thereof. Also secured to the lower surface of the bottom **10** is a plurality of transverse supporting frame members **24** which are mounted at the ends of the box and intermediate transverse supporting frame member **26** which is mounted at the central portion of the box.

Mounted within the box and supported directly by the bottom **10** is a shuffleboard **28** which has conventional scoring indicia marked thereon. It will be noted that the shuffleboard **28** is spaced from the side and end walls of the box and extends above the bottom **10** thereof in order to form a continuous gutter around the edges thereof. The continuous gutter surrounding the shuffleboard **28** is referred to in general by the reference numeral **29** and the purpose thereof will be set forth in detail hereinafter.

In the playing of the game of shuffleboard, a plurality of game pieces are provided for each of the opponents and it is the purpose of the game to slide the game pieces along the shuffleboard surface in an effort to position them in designated areas whereby points are scored. In the average game of shuffleboard, the game pieces are propelled by an elongated cue held by the operator. However, due to the size of the miniature shuffleboard **28**, it is obvious that large cues cannot be utilized for pushing the game pieces along the surface of the shuffleboard. In order that game pieces may be easily slid along the surface of the shuffleboard **28**, there has been provided at each end of the box adjacent the end of the shuffleboard **28** projection means which is referred to in general by the reference numeral **30**.

Referring now to Figure 3 in particular, it will be seen that there is shown in detail one of the projection means **30**. The projection means **30** includes a tubular barrel **32** having a closed rear end **34**. The forward end of the barrel **32** is also closed by a closure cap **36** which is internally threaded and threadedly engaged on the threaded end **38** of the barrel **32**. Slidably extending through the barrel **32** and projecting through openings **40** and **42** in the closed end **34** and cap **42**, respectively, is an elongated plunger **44**.

The elongated plunger **44** has its rear end **46** threaded and a circular handle **48** is threadedly engaged thereon. The forward end of the elongated plunger **44** is also threaded as at **50** and has threadedly mounted thereon a game piece end **52** which is generally of half-moon

shape and provides a recess in which is received a game piece **54**.

In order that forward motion may be imparted to the plunger **44** after it has been moved rearwardly through the barrel **32**, a coil spring is mounted within the barrel **32**. The coil spring is referred to by the reference numeral **55** and engages the inner surface of the closed end **34** of the barrel **32**. Carried by the elongated plunger **44** is an annular stop member **56** which engages the other end of the coil spring **55** and compresses same when the plunger **44** is moved rearwardly. When the handle **48** is released and the plunger **44** is in the position illustrated in Figure 3, the plunger **44** and its associated elements move forward until the stop member **56** engages the surface of a resilient pad **58** carried by the barrel adjacent the cap **42**. When the stop member **56** engages the resilient pad **58** the forward motion of the plunger **44** is stopped and the game piece **54** slides along the playing surface of the shuffleboard **28** due to the motion imparted thereto.

In order that the barrel **32** and its associated plunger **44** may be moved to any desired position in order to slide the game pieces **54** along the surface of the shuffleboard **28** at any desired angle, the barrel **32** is secured to a mounting member **60**. The mounting member **60** is in turn swivelly mounted on a mounting block **62** carried by the box. The mounting block **62** is in the form of a generally rectangular block having an elongated groove **64** of rectangular cross section in the upper surface thereof and extending longitudinally between the ends of the block **62**. As is best illustrated in Figure 1, the mounting block **62** is mounted adjacent one end of the box and has its opposite ends being in engagement with the side walls **12** and **14** and one of its sides being engaged with the end walls **16**. A similar mounting block **62** is disposed in engagement with the end wall **18**. In order that the mounting member **60** may be swivelly connected to the mounting block **62**, it has projected from the lower surface thereof a centrally located circular cross sectional pin **66** which is received within the elongated groove **64**.

Referring now to Figure 4 in particular, it will be seen that the barrel **32** and its associated plunger **44** may be moved to any desired position transversely of the box and the shuffleboard **28**.

In order that the rear end of the barrel **32** may be slid transversely of the box and also pivot, the major part of the upper portion of the end walls **16** are removed in order to provide clearance for the barrel **32** as is best illustrated in Figure 4. Also, foul boards **67** extending between the side walls **12** and **14** of the box have their lower surfaces spaced from the upper playing surface of the board **28** a distance sufficient for the passing of the game pieces **54** between them and the board **28**.

When it is desired to play the game, the first of two opponents slides a game piece **54** along the surface of the board **28** by utilizing the projection means **30**. The other opponent then slides one of his game pieces **54** along the playing surface of the board **28**. This continues until all of the game pieces have been slid along the surface of the board **28** by each of the opponents. The object of the game is to slide your game pieces into scoring areas of the board and at the same time, too, either knock your opponent's game pieces off the playing surface of the board **28** into the gutter **29** or to move his game pieces to a non-scoring position on the surface of the board **28**.

Referring to Figure 1 in particular, it will be seen that the board **28** is provided with a centrally located line **68** and other lines **70** and **72** adjacent the ends of the board **28**. The lines **68**, **70** and **72** divide the playing surface of the board **28** into a plurality of scoring areas whereby game pieces **54** disposed therein will earn the player a certain number of points, one of the requirements of the game being that the game pieces **54** must be across the center line **68** in order to score at all. Also, it is obvious that the highest score will be given to game pieces **54** which are in that area marked off by the line **72** and its associated end of the board **28**.

It is intended that the playing surface of the board **28** be coated with wax in order that the game pieces **54** may easily slide thereon. Due to the position of the gutter **29** around the board **28**, all excess wax will be deposited in the gutter and will not be spread on the table or other surface **20** on which the game is mounted.

While the members **54** have been referred to as being game pieces, it will be understood that the members of the different opponents will be marked so as to identify the particular members and may be called weights, pucks etc.

The operation of this device will be understood from the foregoing description of the details thereof, taken in conjunction with the above recited objects and drawings. Further description would appear to be unnecessary.

Minor modifications of the device, varying in minor details from the embodiment of the device illustrated and described here, may be resorted to without departure from the spirit and scope of this invention, as defined in the appended claim.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

A gameboard comprising an open box having upstanding end and side walls, a playing surface within said box and offset vertically from the bottom of the box, said playing surface being spaced from the end and side walls of the box to form a continuous gutter around said box, the playing surface being spaced from the end walls of the box a greater distance than the spacing from the side walls thereof, projector mounting means mounted on the bottom of said box at each end thereof, the projector mounting means including a block extending transversely of the box, said blocks being spaced from respective ends of said playing surface, said block having a groove in the upper surface thereof, said groove extending longitudinally of the block and adapted to receive a projector, foul boards extending transversely between and connecting together said side walls intermediate the ends thereof, said foul boards being spaced above said playing surface a distance to permit the clearance of a game piece, said end walls having large portions thereof removed to provide clearance for projectors.

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