F. WAGNER.

GAME BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1913.

1,135,229.

Patented Apr. 13, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

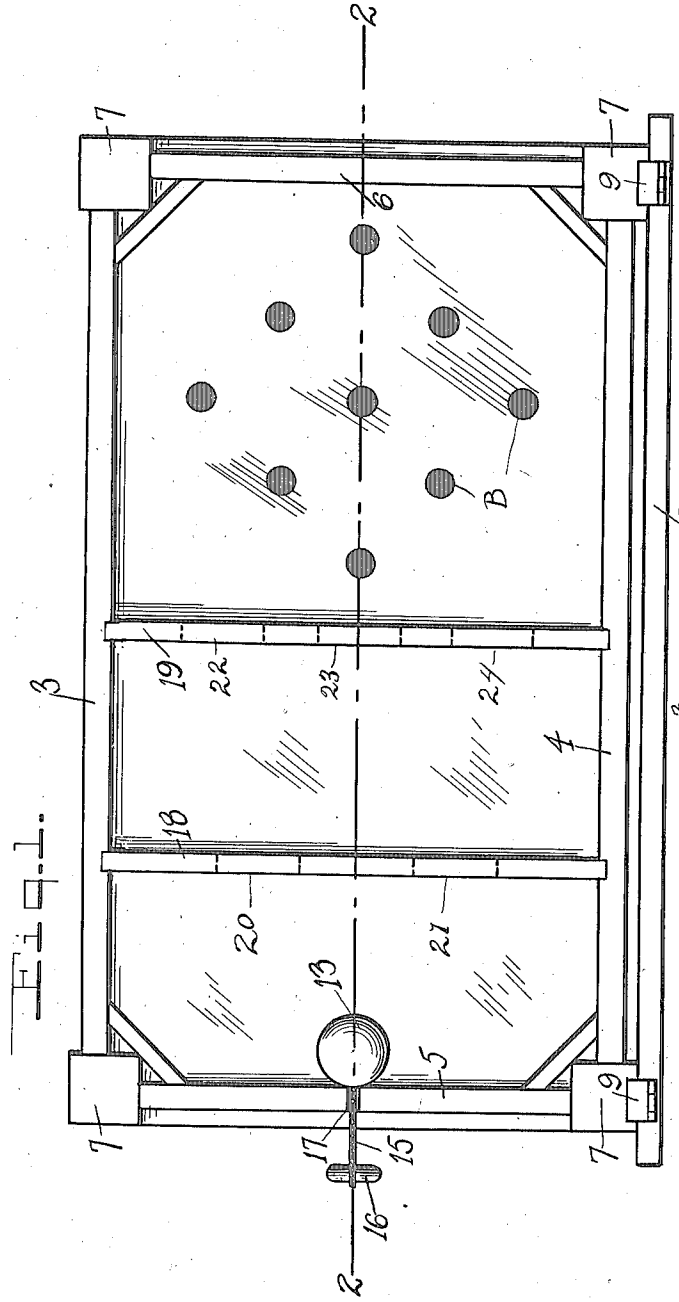


Fig. 1.

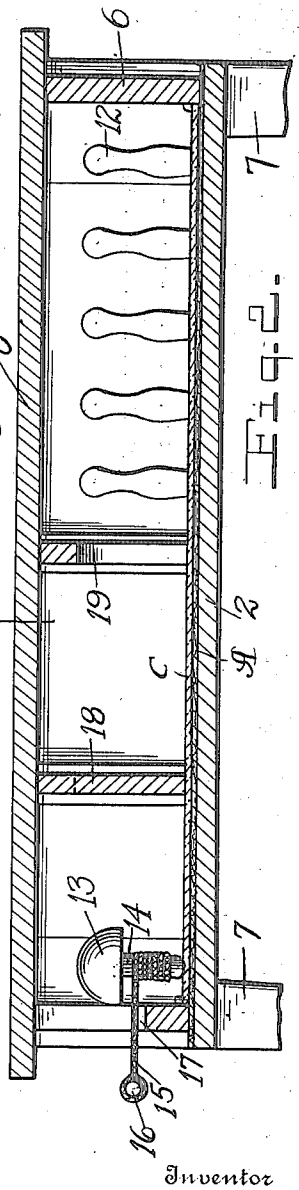


Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

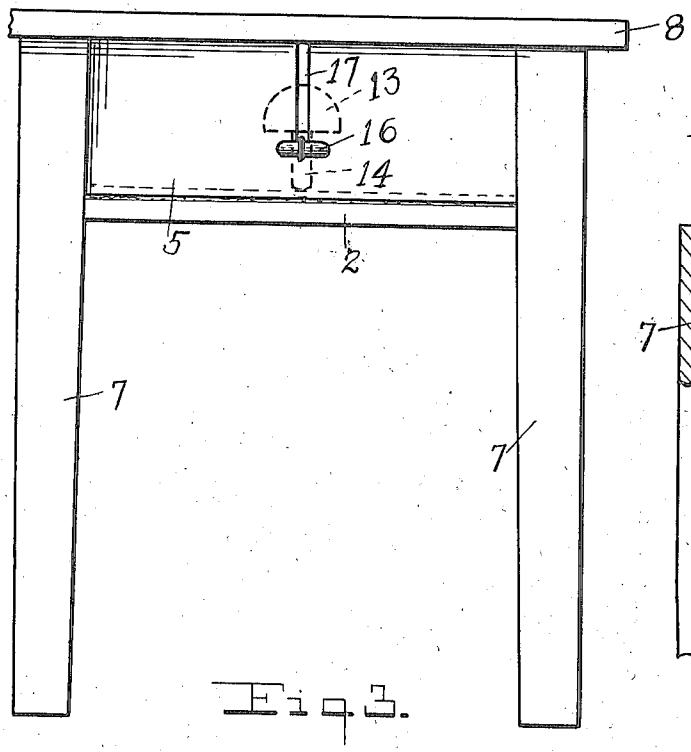
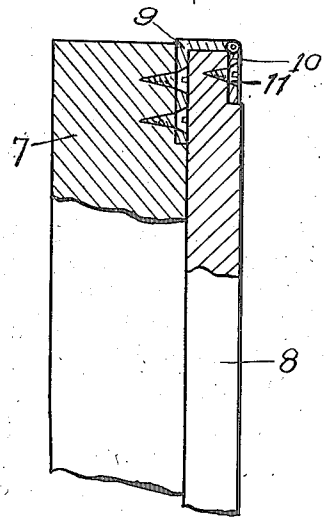


Fig. 3.

Fig. 6.



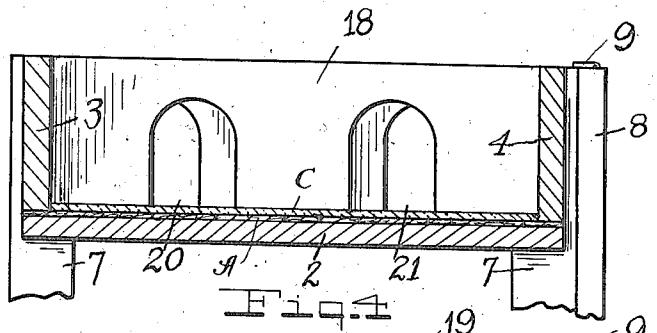


Fig. 4.

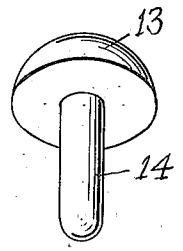


Fig. 7.

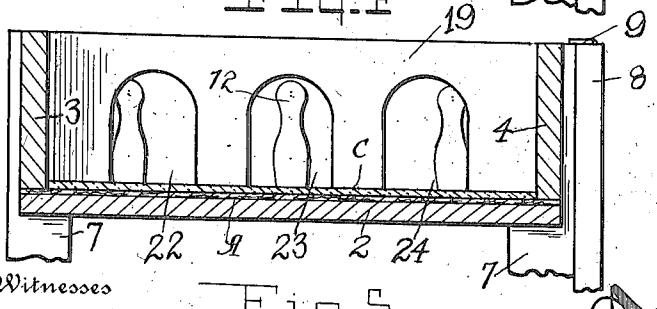


Fig. 5.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME-BOARD.

1,135,229. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 13, 1915.

Application filed April 12, 1913. Serial No. 760,775.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK WAGNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Boards; 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 improvements in game boards, and has particular reference to that type of such devices in which a number of nine pins are placed at one end of the board in position to be overturned by a top, put into spinning motion at the other end of the table, and adapted to strike the pins after passing through a number of obstructions interposed between the pins and the starting point of the top.

As its principal object, this invention aims to provide a novel and convenient form of game board, in which the game apparatus and playing board therefor may be quickly and effectively hidden from sight by the closing of a top leaf; the top leaf being also arranged to serve as a top of an ordinary dining or library table.

A further object of this invention resides in the provision of peculiar and novel forms and arrangements of obstructions placed between the ten pins and the top.

The above and additional objects are accomplished by such means as are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, described in the following specification and then more particularly pointed out in the claims which are appended hereto and form a part of this application.

With reference to the drawings, wherein I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention as it is reduced to practice, and throughout the several views of which similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts. Figure 1 is a top plan view of the game table showing the game apparatus in its assembled position; Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the game table; Fig. 4 is a front elevation of one of the obstruction partitions; Fig. 5 is a front elevation of another obstruction partition; Fig. 6 is a detail view illustrating in sections the manner in which the top of the table is hinged to the apparatus box; and Fig. 7 is a detail view illustrating the novel form of top employed in the playing of the game.

Proceeding now to the description of the drawings, this invention includes three main elements, the game box, the hingedly mounted leaf top therefor, and the game playing apparatus.

Taking up the various elements in the order named, the game box consists primarily in a wooden or metallic box member designated as an entirety in Fig. 1 by the numeral 1, preferably formed of glass, tin or sheet metal, although any other desired and suitable material may be employed. This box member 1 is provided with the customary bottom wall 2, longitudinal side walls 3 and 4, and end walls 5 and 6, the entire structure being supported in spaced relation from the floor or ground by suitable table legs 7, preferably secured to the box on the long sides thereof and adjacent the terminal of the sides. In the preferred embodiment of this invention, the bottom wall 2 is covered with a fabric or paper carpet A, upon which are fashioned characters indicated at B. The plate glass cover C is mounted over the carpet B to insure a smooth surface to the game board, to be hereinafter described. The characters B are provided for the obvious purpose of indicating the point at which the pins are to be set. The fabric or paper carpet A is secured between the walls of the box, that is the end and side walls of the box rest upon the edges of the carpet and secured in position. Within this box member 1 is arranged the game playing apparatus to be hereinafter described and as a means for quickly converting the structure from a game board into an ordinary table, there is provided a leaf top 8, similar in construction to the top of any ordinary table, and hinged to one end of the box as illustrated in detail in Fig. 6. The hinged connection for the member 8 includes a pair of L-shaped hinge plates 9, bolted, screwed, or otherwise secured to the upper edges of the side members 3 and 4 of the box, and disposed with the vertical leg of the plate in vertical extension from the box. To the free end of the vertical leg of the plate 9 is pivotally connected a secondary hinge plate 10 secured by screws or other suitable means, as at 11, to the adjacent end

of the leaf top 8. It will be readily observed that this type of hinged connection between the box and the member 8 permits the leaf to be swung upwardly and subsequently downwardly upon the hinge, bringing the leaf top into a vertical position and in downward extension from the box. This method of mounting the leaf provides effective means for permitting access to the game box and for disposing the top out of the way of the players.

Coming now to the game apparatus, this feature of the invention includes the nine pins 12 arranged in any desired formation within the box 1 and at one end portion thereof. A top plate 13, which is preferably a planoconvex bulb, from the plane face of which projects a downwardly extending spindle 14, is arranged at the start of each game in the opposite end of the box from the nine pins 12, and is adapted to be set into spinning motion by the operation of a spinning cord 15, one end of which is equipped with a suitable ring grip 16. The cord member 15 plays through a suitable opening 17 formed in the adjacent end arm 5 of the box. As a means for adding perplexity to the game and for making the overturning of the nine pins a more difficult and interesting procedure, I have provided a pair of removable obstruction walls 18 and 19, mounted laterally within the box as regards the longitudinal axis thereof, and disposed in vertical position, both partition members being spaced from the end walls 5 and 6 and from each, for a purpose to be hereinafter described. The partition wall 18 is arranged adjacent the starting point of the top and is provided with two arched openings 20 and 21 formed at spaced intervals and communicant at their lower terminals with the bottom wall 2 of the box. The partition 19 is similar in construction to the member 18, with the exception that it is provided with three arched shape openings 22, 23 and 24, respectively, these openings being formed in the partition 19 in spaced relation to each other, and in staggered relation to the axis of the openings 20 and 21 taken in longitudinal alinement with the longitudinal axis of the box.

The actual structure of the invention being thus disclosed, it now remains to describe the operation of the various parts of the game apparatus and to enumerate the many advantages resulting from its peculiar and novel features of construction. In playing the game the top leaf 8 is first swung into uncovered position, as above described, and the nine pins 12 are arranged in one end of the box. The top cord 15 is then wound around the shank 14 of the top 13, being subsequently drawn through the opening 17 with a resultant spinning of the top. It will, of course, be apparent that immediately upon receiving impetus from the cord 15 the top will commence a series of gyrations within the box. During the course of its maneuvers the top may pass through either opening 20 or 21 of the partition 18 into the compartment formed between the two partitions, after which, in all probability, it will pass through oue of the three openings in the partition 19, subsequently striking the pins 12. The object of the game is, of course, to overturn as many pins as possible. The advantages of the peculiar form of partition walls employed in this invention now become apparent, for it will be readily discerned that the partition wall 18, which has only two openings, is placed in proximity to the starting point of the top, thus enabling a skilful operator to direct the top through one of the two openings. It is apparent that, since the partition wall 19 is farther removed from the top 13, than is the member 18, it is desirable that some means be provided for increasing the chances of the top to pass through the second obstruction. This member 19 has, therefore, been provided with an increased number of openings, but, in order to prevent the passage of the top through the second obstruction, with so much ease as to make the game uninteresting, the openings have been formed in staggered relation to the openings of the first obstruction 18. It will also be noted that another element of uncertainty has been added to the playing of the game by the shape of the head portion of the top in the nature of a planoconvex head, thus making it necessary for the top to strike in one of the several openings at its exact center in order to pass through a partition. It will of course be apparent that if the players desire, the two partitions 18 and 19 may be changed, as regards their relation to the pins and top, or may be entirely removed from the box.

In reduction to practice, I have found that the form of my invention, illustrated in the drawings and referred to in the above description, as the preferred embodiment, is the most efficient and practical; yet, realizing that the conditions concurrent with the adoption of my device will necessarily vary, I desire to emphasize the fact that various minor changes in details of construction, proportion and arrangement of parts may be resorted to, when required, without sacrificing any of the advantages of my invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

A game apparatus including a box member consisting of a bottom, side and end walls, the side and end walls being mounted upon the bottom, a fabric carpet mounted upon the bottom wall of the box member

and having its edges disposed between the bottom wall and lower edges of the side and end walls of the box member and in engagement with said walls, a transparent plate having a smooth surface mounted upon said carpet, characters mounted upon the carpet and to have game members placed thereover upon said transparent plate, and partition walls mounted in said box member and engaging said transparent plate.

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

FRANK WAGNER.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH BECKMANN,

JOHANN ZIMMERMANN.