

W. C. TILMES & F. G. KALLMEYER.

BASE BALL GAME BOARD.

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Patented Sept. 6, 1910.

969,424.

Fig. 1

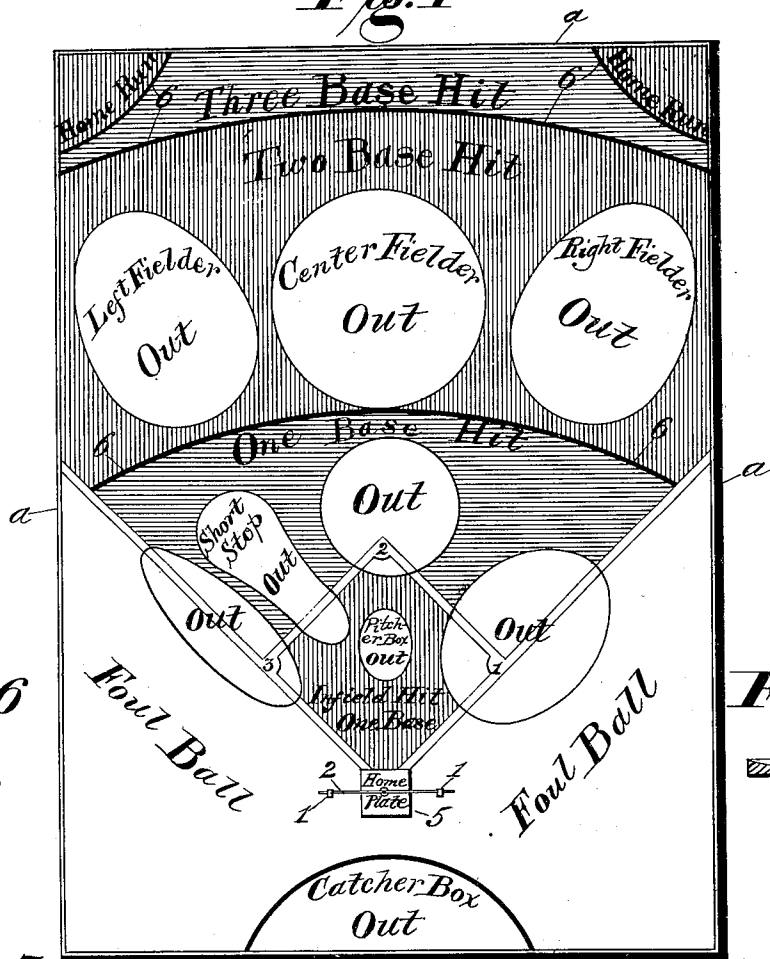


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

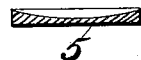


Fig. 3



Fig. 2

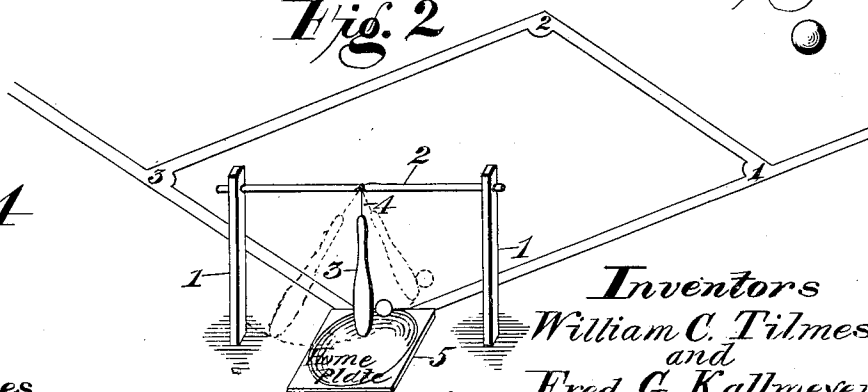


Fig. 4



Witnesses
E. E. Overholt
C. C. Dobie.

Inventors
William C. Tilmes
and
Fred. G. Kallmeyer
by Lucas P. Loving
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. TILMES AND FREDERICK G. KALLMEYER, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

BASE-BALL-GAME BOARD.

969,424.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 6, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM C. TILMES and FREDERICK G. KALLMEYER, citizens of the United States, residing at Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Base-Ball-Game Boards, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to base-ball game boards, and our object is to provide a game board representing, in miniature, a base-ball field, upon which may be played a parlor game having the essential features of base-ball.

The invention consists in the peculiar construction and arrangements of the various subdivisions of the board, and in the relative shapes and sizes of said subdivisions; also in the peculiar forms of balls or missiles used, and in the means and manner of projecting the same in connection with the board, all of which will be more particularly described and claimed in the appended specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the board complete; Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the batting arrangement; Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 are different forms of balls or missiles that may be used in our invention; and, Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the home plate.

The game is to be played by two persons, each of which represents a base ball "nine."

The portions of the field supposed to be occupied or guarded by the men not at the bat, are all bounded by lines more or less curved. The batter representing the opposing "nine" is supposed to occupy the "home plate," which is bounded by straight lines, and is preferably made square, and may be slightly hollowed out or concaved on top, to correspond to the curve described by the swinging end of the bat.

The portion of the board representing the field proper, is divided into six parts, certain of which include the parts just referred to as supposed to be occupied by the "nine" not at the bat. The six divisions referred to, are as follows:—At the upper right and left hand corners, two similar divisions each marked "Home run;" at the upper end of the board between these two divisions and extending underneath them to the sides of the board, a narrow division marked "Three base hit;" immediately underneath this, a

large division marked "Two base hit;" between this latter and the center square or diamond, a space marked "One base hit;" and the space within the ring, marked "In-field hit one base." These spaces just described, are each bounded in whole or in part, by one or more straight and by one or more curved lines, and they all extend from one side to the other of the part of the field which they occupy, except the "home run" sections. Hence it will be seen that the portion of the field to one side of the vertical center of the board is designed to be substantially equal to the other side, in desirability as a landing place for the ball.

To compensate for the space on the left side of the field occupied by the "short stop," the third baseman is given less space, and the circular space occupied by the second baseman is shifted to the right.

The six main divisions of the field just referred to and marked "One base hit," "Two base hit," etc., may be more clearly designated from each other by being differently colored.

The different subdivided spaces, supposed to be occupied by the men in the field, may be clearly separated by very thin boundary elevations 6, or they may be slightly raised or sunken in the different portions of the board which they occupy. Instead of or in addition to varied coloring, the main divisions of the board may be clearly separated from each other by being alternately slightly raised and slightly depressed, as for instance, those portions provided with horizontal shading may be slightly elevated above the portions provided with vertical shading, or vice versa.

Each board is usually provided with at least four balls or missiles—two polyhedral (Figs. 3, and 6), one cylindrical, and one round. The polyhedral missiles will have the least tendency to roll from the "home plate" or from the board; the cylindrical more; and the round ball will have the greatest tendency of all to leave the board. The balls are preferably of rubber, but may be of any other desired shapes or material, but we prefer to usually play with the elongated balls, and this constitutes a special feature of our invention as will presently be explained.

The "home plate" 5 is at the point to be occupied by the batter. Immediately above

the home plate we provide means for suspending a bat, the same being so hung as to swing near to but clear of the plate. For this purpose we employ the two vertical posts 1—1 suitably secured to the board and supporting the cross bar 2, from which the bat 3 is suspended by a flexible cord or chain 4.

In playing the game, the person representing the "outs" (the "nine" not at the bat) is allowed to place the elongated missile on the "home plate," 5 counterfeiting the skill of the live pitcher by placing the ball on any part of the plate he may desire, and at any angle, or on end, using his judgment as to the best position in which to place the ball in order to "fool" the batter or to baffle his skill. The player at the bat swings the same not less than a designated distance out 20 form the "home plate," and releases it in such manner and position as to cause it to swing back and hit the ball if possible to send the same afield. Bunts are attempted by hitting the ball at such fine angles in 25 spite of its different positions on the plate, or the different angles at which it is placed, as to send it to desirable parts of the field, i. e. to parts not occupied by the supposed "nine" opposing players. The parts of the 30 field supposed to be covered by these players are marked "Out" on the drawings, and have already been referred to. They are all more or less oblong except the space for the center fielder and second baseman, which 35 spaces are circular. If the ball when sent afield by the bat, stops in one of these last named spaces, the batter is out. If it stops in any of the other parts of the board he is credited with a hit or "single," "two 40 bagger," "three bagger," "home run," or "foul," according to what is indicated on that part of the board by the phrase "One base," "Two base," etc., as the case happens to be. If desired counters may be used for 45 men on the bases.

The game is to be played according to regular base ball rules regarding "fouls," "strikes," "foul strikes," "innings," etc.

As thus far described there is nothing in 50 the game corresponding to "balls," or "bases on balls;" and when it is desired to introduce this feature into the game, the pitcher, instead of deliberately placing the ball on the "home plate" is required to 55 throw or drop it onto the plate from some designated point, as for instance, from just under the short cord or chain 4, which supports the bat, the bat having at the time to be held back in a horizontal position out of 60 the way. If the ball stops on the plate the batter swings the bat to cause it to strike the ball, as described above, but if it does not stop on the plate it is called a "ball," and the batter is not required to strike at it. 65 The hollowing out or concaving of the

top side of the "home plate" keeps the balls from bouncing off so easily when dropped onto it.

A point to be noticed in our construction is that when the bat is drawn back and released, it will be allowed to swing backward 70 once over the home plate, so that if it does not knock the ball afield on the forward stroke, it may strike it on the rearward stroke and knock it "foul," or into the 75 "catcher box."

Thus a game of real base ball is very really simulated in a simple and enjoyable manner.

The board is provided around its margin with a raised boundary *a*, to prevent the 80 balls or missiles from rolling entirely off the board, at any time, when projected thereupon by the bat.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure 85 by Letters Patent is:—

1. A game appliance comprising a board laid off to represent a base-ball field; a missile adapted to be projected upon the board; and a bat supported upon the board and ar- 90 ranged to sweep back and forth over the same to strike the missile to project the same upon the board, said bat being adapted to describe a downward curve in said backward and forward movements, the portion 95 of the board underneath the bat and upon which the missile is placed being concaved to correspond to the curved sweep of the bat.

2. In a base ball game board the combination with the board and missile of a 100 "home plate" upon which the missile is to be placed; a bat; a flexible support for the bat; and means engaged by said flexible support for holding the bat suspended in a vertical position above the center of the 105 "home plate" to swing back and forth across the same, to project the missile therefrom, the top side of the home plate being concaved to correspond to the sweep of the lower end of the bat. 110

3. In a base ball game board, the combination with the board, of a "home plate;" a bat suspended above the center of the same, the home plate being concaved on its top side to conform to the sweep of the 115 lower end of the bat; and a missile, adapted to be laid on the "home plate" to be driven therefrom by the swinging of the bat, the missile being provided with a plurality of flat faces to cause it to easily lie in any po- 120 sition upon said concaved surface, without rolling toward the center thereof.

4. The combination of a base ball game board having its surface laid off to represent a base ball field; and a missile bounded 125 by flat faces and adapted to be used on said board, the board being subdivided into parts having different values as landing places for the missile, and said subdivisions being separated from each other by a thin bound- 130

ary of very slight elevation, whereby a spent
missile coming to rest partly on one side
and partly on the other side of one of said
boundary elevations will be invariably tilted
5 to one side or the other, thereby easily de-
termining which portion of the field the
missile shall be credited to.

In testimony whereof we have signed our

names to this specification in the presence
of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM C. TILMES.
FRED G. KALLMEYER.

Witnesses:

EDW. H. BRINK,
J. C. BURNS.