Sept. 8, 1925. 1,552,530

G. A. WOODS

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 11, 1921

Fig. 2.

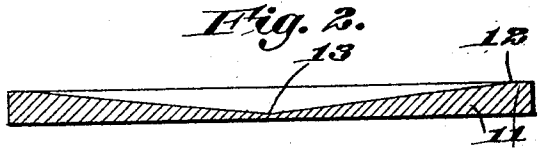
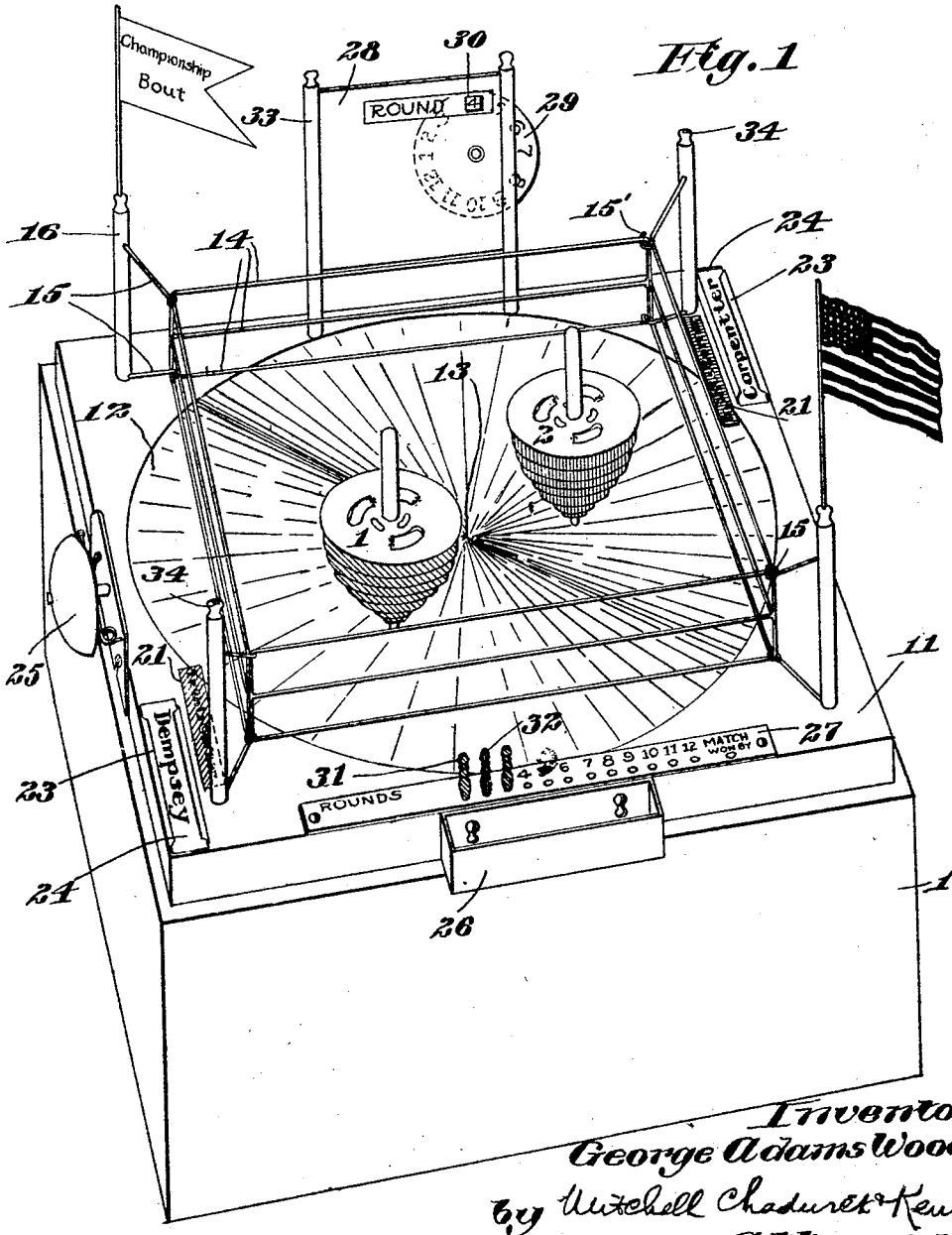


Fig. 1



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE ADAMS WOODS, OF WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed August 11, 1921. Serial No. 491,386.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE ADAMS WOODS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Winchester, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in games. More particularly it provides a game appealing to those who are interested in the manly art of self defense. For the purpose of the game two dummy contestants are employed; and the mechanical features involved are such that these contestants are automatically brought into repeated contacts with each other from which they react and make contacts with other parts of the apparatus from which in turn they react, the round being considered to be won by that one which survives the other in state of activity. As herein illustrated the contestants are spinning tops; and these preferably are set spinning by any suitable mechanical means, by two persons playing the game, each of whom manipulates one of the tops. Further features of the game are that a mounting device is provided simulating the stand under the prize-ring, on which is erected a barrier of metallic wires arranged in form of a square and substantially enclosing a circular area whose surface is dished, dipping slightly toward the center on the lines of a cone. One of the contestants having a distinctive color, as red, is assigned to one corner of the ring which is indicated by a tablet of corresponding color bearing the words used by the referee in introducing the contestants, "In this corner" and the name assumed for the mechanical contestant, which may be the name of some well-known champion. A similar corner and color scheme for the other contestant being arranged, the game is played by each person winding the mechanical top which is the actual contestant sponsored by himself and putting it into action from his proper corner at the sound of a gong which is provided as a part of the apparatus and which may be operated by a third person or otherwise. The use of a mechanical device for setting the top spinning produces an equality of opportunity in that respect which permits persons who actually have little skill in spinning a top to play this game on equal terms with those who may be more skilled in that respect; while there is nevertheless some margin for the practice of other niceties in the manner, specific place and time of releasing; although to be perfectly fair it is desirable that both tops start at the same instant and with the same amount of driving force in order that one of them shall not, by starting later, have a likelihood of continuing in action longer. During the round the tops will automatically be drawn by gravity into contact with each other and will react to a distance from each other upon occurrence of a collision between them on which action oppositely moving surfaces come into contact; may then strike the side or go into a corner of the enclosing barrier and react more or less against that and return to react against each other until one of them ceases to spin. The round is considered to be won by the one which continues spinning; and the apparatus includes a score board with two sets of score pins, one of the color of each contestant; and the first stage of the score is marked by inserting therein a pin of the color of the winner of the round. The game also comprises the provision of a bulletin board whereon is the word "Round" followed by a space for showing the number of the current round, and apparatus which in the form illustrated consists of a rotary disk bearing numbers for displaying the desired number within said space. The apparatus may in other respects be decorated and dressed to give an operative semblance of an ordinary prize ring. To this end one feature consists in providing a pedestal which raises the dished surface on which the contestants operate to a considerable height say, 3 or 4 inches above the table or the floor on which the game is played and this pedestal, the outside of which may be colored the conventional green of a prize ring may be hollow and may serve also as a box for containing the game. Various changes may be made from the specific apparatus herein shown for illustration; and it is intended that the patent shall cover by suitable expression in the appended claims whatever features of patentable novelty exist in the invention disclosed.

In the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 is a perspective showing the apparatus with the game being played; and

Figure 2 is an elevation in medial cross-section through a detail.

Referring to the drawing the pedestal or

stage, which may be considered as comprising a part of the apparatus in semblance to the built up platform for a prize ring is marked 10 and may, if desired, be colored green for further simulation, and may be say 4 inches high and say, 9 inches square. It will be understood that specific dimensions are given only for illustrative purposes and that in practice the dimensions and proportions may be varied greatly. Indeed, so far as the operation of the contestants is concerned there is no need for the pedestal 10. Resting on this pedestal is the game board 11 which in the typical specimen may be a piece of wooden board say ½ inch thick and 8½ inches square whose upper surface is dished, having a sinkage from the edge down to the middle preferably a conical surface. If the middle of this surface is ⅜th of an inch below the edges of it the apparatus illustrated will operate nicely. This sinkange is indicated by the shade lines running from the circle 12 down to the center 13. The square ring for confining the contestants is a barrier of wires 14 suitably supported, as by other wires 15, from corner posts 16 set in socket holes which may be provided for them in the game board 11. For dis-mounting and mounting the apparatus, hooks 15′ may be arranged on wires 15 for engaging the apparatus at the end of the barrier wires 14 at one of the corners, the engagement at corresponding places at the other corners being permanent loops 15″. There is in consequence no annoyance and no complexity because of the apparatus falling apart into small pieces when not set up and yet as the joints at 15″ are all loose the whole can be folded into flat condition when the pieces 16 have been withdrawn vertically from their sockets in the board 11. The contestants illustrated are the spinning members of a certain type of mechanical top which is well known in the market and for which any other suitable type of top may be substituted, the same being marked 1 and 2 and being distinguished from each other by their coloring, green or red. The respective corners of the contestants are designated by tablets 21 and 22 correspondingly colored; and the score pins of the contestants are marked 31 and 32 correspondingly colored. Provision is made as at 23 for holding the card 24 on which may be printed or written the name assigned to the contestant belonging in the corner where the particular card is held. And these cards may be removable, for which purpose the holder consists of a piece of flat metal plate fastened down on the top of the game board 11 and having its long edges bent over and down upon its middle as illustrated. For denoting the beginning of each round a gong 25 is provided in the middle of one edge of the game board. A container 26 in the form of an open metallic box is provided in the middle of another side adjacent to a score plate 27 having holes as seen in the drawing, with associated numbers signifying the number of rounds which make the match, with one hole for each round adapted to receive a peg of either color according to the winner of that round and with a hole at the end for a peg indicating the end of the match. It may be considered that the contestant which has won a majority of the rounds wins the match; and this affords opportunity for a tie to occur which may be settled by contesting another round. At the opposite edge of the game board is a bulletin board 28 showing which round is in progress, the number being conveniently indicated by a disk 29 pivoted within the bulletin board and having a series of figures on each side visible one at a time through an opening 30 in the bulletin board. Said board may conveniently be constituted by providing posts 33 between which extend two thin metallic plates, together making the two faces of the bulletin board 28 with the wheel 29 between them. On the corner posts of the ring may be the insignia of the respective contestants set in holes 34 provided for that purpose and the other posts may be otherwise decorated, giving the whole a festive appearance.

Although a conical sinkage 12—13 is here illustrated, the apparatus does not require that for its operation; nor is it necessary that the game board be made of wood, for papier-mâché or metal stamping may be used and variations may be made in many other particulars. And although in the specific form of the invention here illustrated the tops are drawn about by gravity, when not under influence of superior force derived from their energy of rotation, the invention is not limited to that species and may include means by which the persons playing move them about, putting the skill of one against the other in this respect.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game apparatus comprising two spinning tops having distinctive markings and adapted to react on contact; a board whereon both simultaneously may spin and move about; a square inclosure for the tops while so spinning, having corners distinctively marked each in conformity with one of the tops and means adapted to cause them to contact together while so spinning; and a scoring apparatus having markers for the score of each top, each marker being distinctively marked in accordance with one of the tops.

2. A game apparatus comprising two spinning tops adapted to react on contact; a board whereon both simultaneously may spin and move about; and means adapted for causing them to contact to gether while so spinning; a collapsible square barrier en-

closing the spinning tops; and posts set in the said board sustaining said barrier at its corners.

3. A game apparatus comprising two spinning tops adapted to react on contact; a board whereon both simultaneously may spin and move about; and means adapted for causing them to contact together while so spinning; a collapsible square barrier enclosing the spinning tops; and posts set in the said board sustaining said barrier at its corners with loose joints, the joint at one of the corners being a hook joint whereby the square can be opened.

Signed at Boston, Massachusetts, this fifth day of August, 1921.

GEORGE ADAMS WOODS.