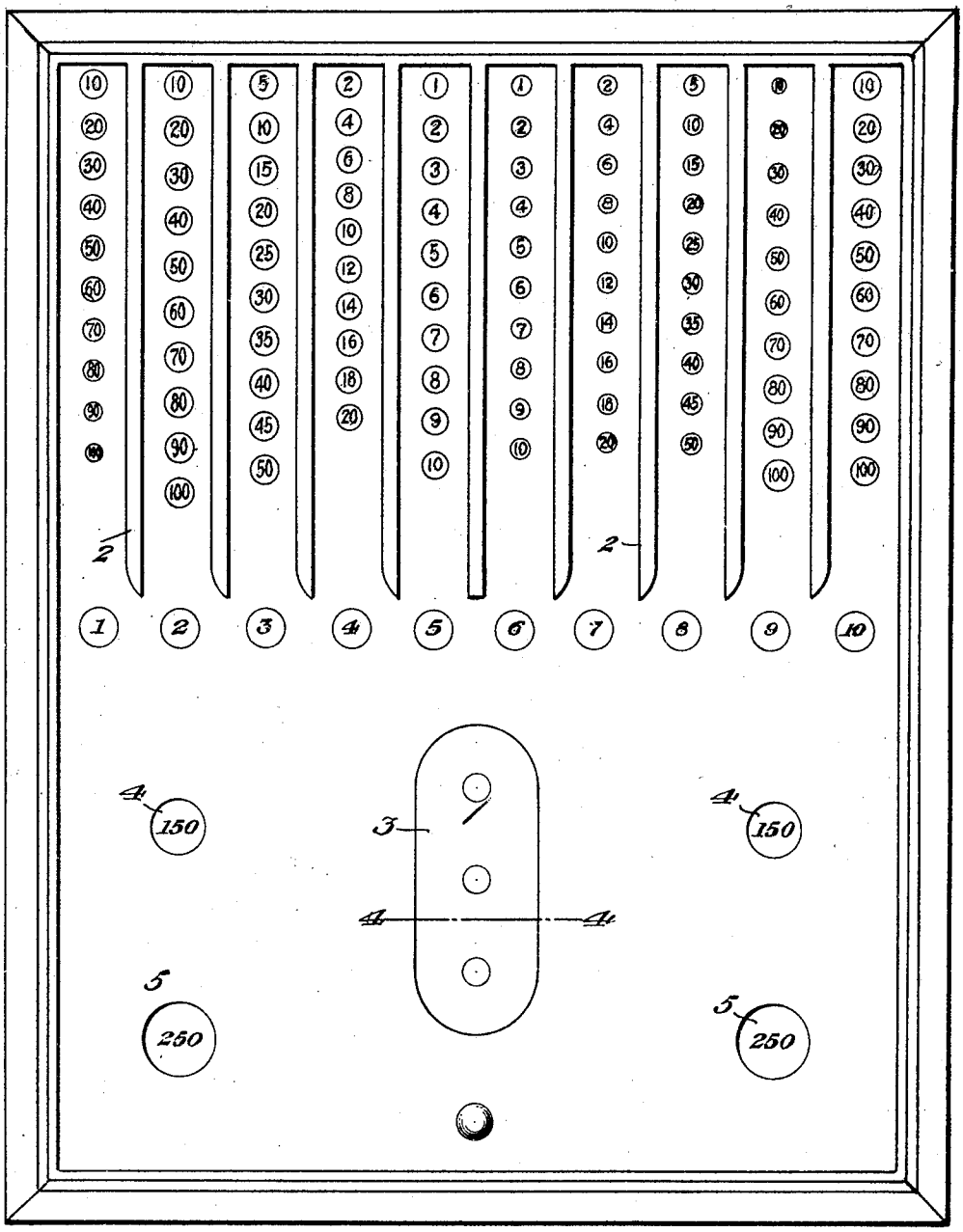
April 14, 1931. A. B. CROSTHWAIT 1,801,142

MAT FOR BILLIARD OR POOL TABLES

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Fig. 1.



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Fig. 2.

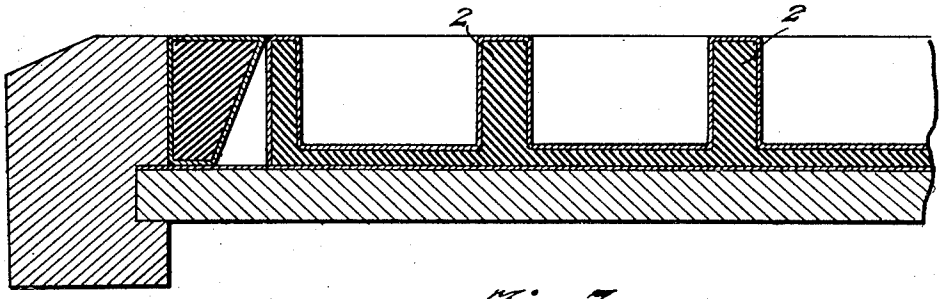


Fig. 3.

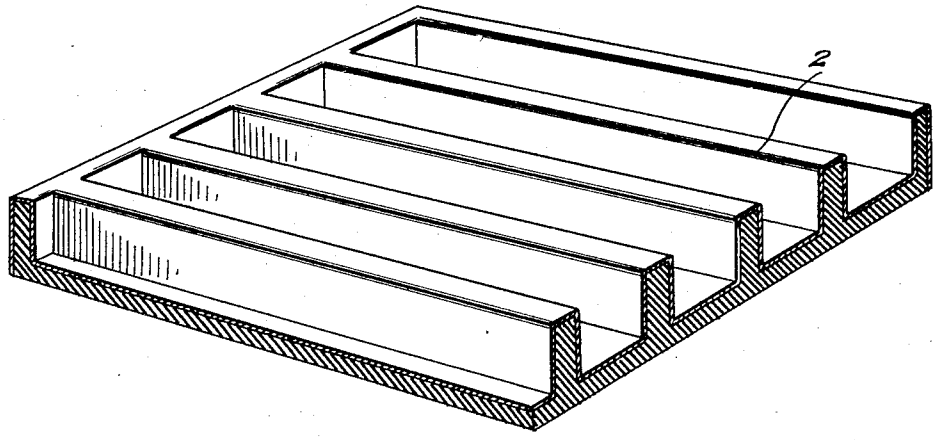
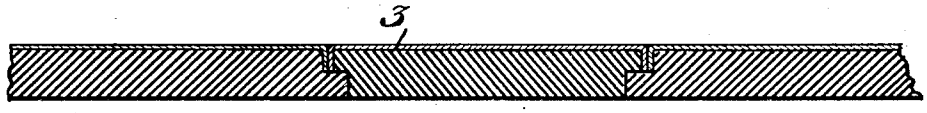


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MAT FOR BILLIARD OR POOL TABLES

Application filed July 14, 1928. Serial No. 292,798.

This invention is designed to provide an interesting game by which billiard players may engage in a trial of skill combined with a considerable element of chance, and may be followed by any number of contestants. In carrying out the invention I provide a rectangular mat of vulcanized rubber adapted to fit the top surface of a billiard or pool table snugly. The body of the mat is formed throughout of an elastic, soft vulcanized rubber composition having the forward part provided with a series of longitudinal ribs an inch or more high forming chutes in which a carom or cue ball may be directed. A billiard ball is placed in the middle front near the cushion and may be directed into any one of marked spaces in the front of the table. I preferably provide chutes defined by nine ribs occupying the rear part of the table and extending forward about half its length and in the several chutes are marker indicating numbers of progressively increasing value forward and of still greater value toward the lateral chutes. I provide also countersunk spaces at different positions in the front part of the table of varying value according to the difficulty necessary to bring a ball to rest at that point.

A cue ball may be placed in a midway position between the sides of the table at the front and when caused to fall into any chute the number serial with the consecutive numbers placed along said chute will register the value of the shot. Interlined with the longitudinal center of the table I place a removable section for a carom ball which may be positioned at different spaced spots from the front of the table or to form a definite position for the cue ball or for a carom ball to be directed in any particular chute which may be called and if on emerging from the chute a ball comes to rest at marked places a count of definte value ensues at a countersunk space in the forward part of the table. A mat of this kind may be placed on any standard billiard or pool table and will afford an interesting game for a billiard player.

The several features and novelty of the invention will be more fully hereinafter described and will be definitely indicated in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the mat embodying my improvement.

Figure 2 is a transverse section of the forward part of the mat.

Figure 3 is a perspective section showing the several longitudinal ribs defining the ball chutes.

Figure 4 is a sectional view showing the detail of a removable countersunk part of the mat.

Referring now in detail to the drawings the mat is composed of a soft vulcanized rubber of sufficient thickness to provide an elastic track for a billiard ball and which is of a size to fit snugly in standard sizes of billiard or pool tables. The rear part of the mat carries a plurality, preferably nine, longitudinal ribs integral with the body of the mat as indicated at 2 which may be an inch or more in height and uniformly distributed across the face of the billiard or pool table, defining several chutes which are ten as indicated and are numbered of increasing value from the rear to the front, the two central chutes being numbered from one to ten, the adjacent chutes from two to twenty, the two outer chutes from ten to a hundred and the other chutes from the sides, five to fifty. These numbers may be marked on the face of the cloth forming the cover on the rubber mat and will enable the player to call his count in endeavoring to place the ball on any particular spot. 3 indicates a removable section of the mat flush with the surface with marked stations for a cue or carom ball and may have spaced spots to place a ball in different positions forward of the front cushions. This section may be marked for positions of a cue ball to be diverted into one of the chutes and take a count according to the place on which either or both comes to rest.

If the cue ball rebounds or comes to rest on any of the indicated numbered spots in the chutes or designated positions in front of the mat it may give the player a definite count value. At 4 I have shown a countersunk space

into which a ball may come to rest, which carries a higher count value than the numerical spots in the chutes. At 5 is formed a relatively large depression in the cushion, the larger space renders it easier for the ball to fall into a depression.

As thus described when a cue ball is placed as in Figure 1 near the front cushion and shot directly forward or angularly to one of the side chutes and in striking the side or end cushions may come to a rest at a marked point in one of the chutes and the shot indicated by the number printed on the face of the outside cover of the mat; or by a harder blow of the cue, the cue ball may rebound and possibly find a resting place on one of the spots at one end of the mat beyond the chutes; or if a shot is called for the cue ball when placed in one of the spots on the section 3, the count is taken according to where the ball or balls come to rest either in some one of the chutes or in the center of the table. The difficulty of the shot may be increased with increased count value by placing the cue ball upon one of the spots in the section 3 or by making a carom shot or another ball placed on section 3 and placing upon some one of the spots with a progressively increasing value of the count.

The removable section permits the part which receives the cue stroke to be readily withdrawn for covering with new cloth when damaged by being struck by a misapplied shot of the cue.

The value of the count to win the game may be 1000 or more, and the player first attaining such total wins the game.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is—

A mat for a billiard table adapted to fit snugly thereon having a series of longitudinally disposed chutes extending half way the length of the table and numbered progressively from the rear, a member carrying a spot for a cue ball midway the forward part of the mat, said member having a finished surface like that of said mat and being set into said mat and having a rabbeted joint connection therewith disposing the upper finished surface thereof flush with the upper surface of the mat, and a plurality of countersunk spots arranged at different forward parts of the table about the removably secured spot carrying member for lodgment of the cue ball and balls.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ASA BROCKMAN CROSTHWAIT.