Dec. 7, 1937. A. SZABO 2,101,657

TWIN MARBLE SKILL GAME

Filed July 23, 1937

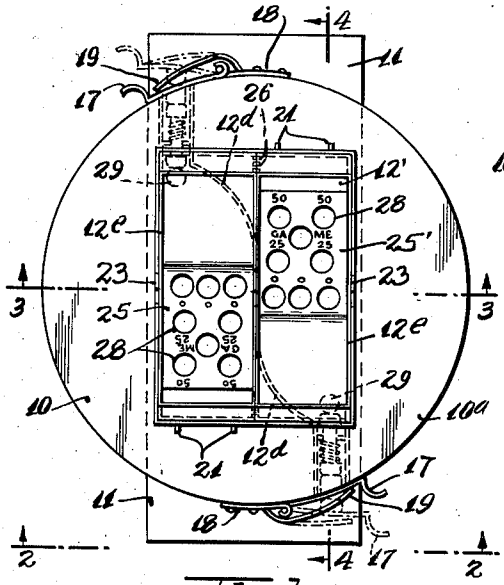

Fig. 1.

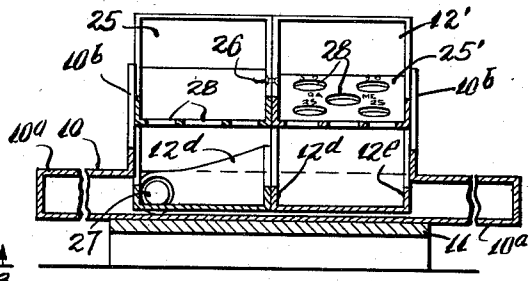

Fig. 3.

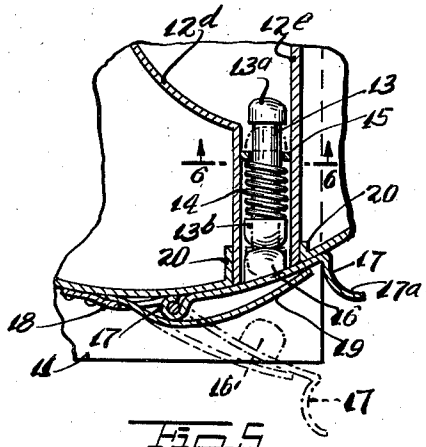

Fig. 5.

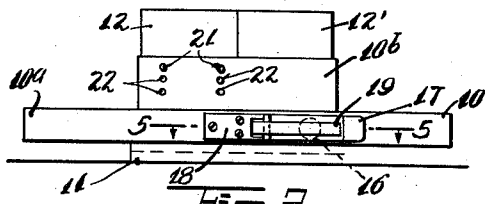

Fig. 2.

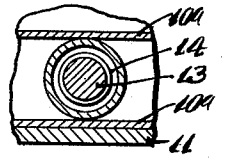

Fig. 6.

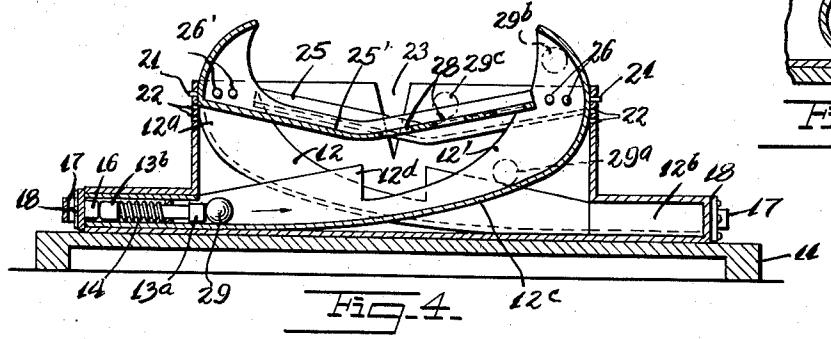

Fig. 4.

INVENTOR
Alexander Szabo
BY Zoltan F. Holachek
ATTORNEY

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TWIN MARBLE SKILL GAME

Alexander Szabo, Linden, N. J.

Application July 23, 1937, Serial No. 155,194

6 Claims. (Cl. 273—95)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a twin marble skill game.

The invention has for an object the construction of a game as mentioned which is characterized by the fact that it has a body comprising a base portion and a top portion, the top portion being formed of several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, and a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion rested against certain of said vertical walls.

Furthermore, the invention proposes the provision of shooters on the inner portion of each chute operable from the outside of the base portion.

Another one of the objects of this invention resides in the provision of a means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to the vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chute and, thus the skill required in operating the device.

Still further the invention proposes the provision of a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and adapted to receive balls shot through the chute and formed with a plurality of openings representing different score values through which the expelled balls may pass.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawing, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing forming a material part of this disclosure:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a game constructed according to this invention.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view looking in the direction of the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary enlarged detailed horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

The twin marble skill game, according to this invention, includes a body 10 having a base portion 10ª and a top portion 10ᵇ. The top portion 10ᵇ is formed from several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top. The base portion 10ª is of hollow disc formation. It is supported on a pedestal 11 which may be rested on a suitable table or other article for supporting the game.

A pair of identical chutes 12 and 12′ are arranged longitudinally of the space between the walls of the top portion 10ᵇ and are adjacent each other and extend in opposite directions. Each of these chutes has an outer portion 12ª bearing against one of the vertical walls of the top portion 10ᵇ. Each of these chutes has inner ends 12ᵇ extending through the hollow base 10ª to the perimeter thereof.

A ball shooter is mounted on the inner portion 12ᵇ on each of the chutes and is operable from the outside on the base portion. Each of these ball shooters comprises a plunger 13 formed with heads 13ª and 13ᵇ at its ends. Intermediate of the plunger 13 there is an expansion spring 14 which acts against the outer head 13ᵇ and stop elements 15 mounted on the inner face of the wall of the inner portion 12ᵇ of the chute. Adjacent each head 13ᵇ there is a striker element 16 which is mounted on a member 17 pivotally supported on the outside of the base portion 10ª.

The member 17 has its outer end bent into a hook portion 17ª by which it may be easily gripped with the fingers. The inner end 17ᵇ is pivotally connected with a hinge element 18 mounted on the base portion 10ª. A leaf spring 19 is fixedly clamped at one of its ends by the hinge element 18 and extends over the member 17 and normally urges it inwards. The arrangement is such that the member 17 may be manually pivoted outwards as indicated by the dot and dash lines in Fig. 5, and when released it will shoot inwards and strike against the plunger 13 forcing the plunger inwards to the full line position shown in Fig. 5. The dot and dash line position of the plunger represents the position it will assume when the member 17 is pivoted outwards.

Each of the chutes has a base wall 12ᶜ and side walls 12ᵈ and 12ᵉ. The side walls 12ᵉ are straight as clearly shown in Fig. 1. But the side walls 12ᵈ are curved at their inner ends to join up with the inner portion 12ᵇ of the chute. The inner portion 12ᵇ is of tubular formation and is adapted to have its free end slidably engage into a receiving tube portion 20 mounted on the inner face of the peripheral wall of the base portion 10ª. The curved wall 12ᵇ serves to guide returning balls to the striking end 13ª of the plunger 13 as hereinafter more fully described.

There is a means for holding the outer end 12ª of each chute vertically adjustably mounted relative to the vertical walls of the top portion

10b for varying the inclination of the chute. This means comprises several pegs 21 projecting from the outer portion 12a and selectively engageable in certain of a plurality of openings 22 formed in the adjacent vertical wall of the top portion 10b. Some of the vertical walls of the top portion 10b are formed with dart shaped cutouts 23 adapted to add to the flexibility of the walls. The arrangement is such that the vertical walls of the top portion 10b may be easily flexed outwards to disengage the pegs 21 from the openings 22 and to re-engage them in adjusted positions of the chute.

A score board 25 is associated with each chute and is spaced from the outer end thereof and is fixedly mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute. For example, the score board 25 of the chute 12 is fixedly mounted by several rivets 26 to the adjacent side wall of the chute 12'. The score board 25' of the chute 12' is fixedly mounted by several rivets 26' to the side wall of the chute 12. Each score board is formed with a low center portion and sloping side portions so that there is a tendency for the balls to roll to the low point. The score boards 25 and 25' are formed with a plurality of openings 28, the edge portions of which are imprinted with different values and representing points when the game is played.

The outer end 12a of each chute is of curved shape so as to have the tendency of directing a ball over the score board. This may be understood by examining Fig. 4 and noting the ball 29 which is adapted to be shot by the ball shooter. As this ball travels along, at one point in its course it will reach the position 29a traveling up along the curved base portion 12c and guided from falling off the sides of the base portion 12c by the side walls 12d and 12e. At another point of travel it will reach the position 29b and at this point it is being directed over the score board 25'. In another position it will be at the point 29c on the score board and will be guided to fall through one of the openings, scoring a certain amount of points.

The operation of the device is as follows:—

Each player plays in turn, and have posts opposite each other, each player playing with one of the ball shooters. The player pulls out the member 17 to a distance which he judges will be proper to shoot the ball to obtain the highest scoring value. Then when the member 17 is released it will be snapped inwards by the spring 19 and the striker 16 will hit the plunger 13, which in turn hits the ball 29 and causes the ball to run along the chute and be discharged on the scoring board. It falls through the openings in the scoring board and rolls back to its original position in front of the shooter 13. The player is now ready for the second shot.

The power requirements for shooting the ball to obtain a high score may be varied by changing the conditions of the chutes. The outer ends of each chute may be adjusted upwards or downwards to several positions by engaging the pegs 21 in different openings 22 in the vertical side walls of the top portion 10b. As one chute is adjusted the score board of the adjacent chute will be correspondingly moved since each score board is rigidly attached by rivets to the side of the adjacent chute.

It is to be understood that my skill game may be in any desired shape and the base 11 may support the game device so that the latter may be rotated thereon.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

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

1. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute.

2. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute, said body being supported on a pedestal.

3. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute, the base portion of said body being of hollow disc formation.

4. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute, the inner portion of each chute being of tubular formation connecting with the main portion of the chute comprising a curved base and side walls, and a curved

outer end adapted to direct shot balls over and on the score board.

5. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute, the inner portion of each chute being of tubular formation connecting with the main portion of the chute comprising a curved base and side walls, and a curved outer end adapted to direct shot balls over and on the score board, said means for holding the outer end of each chute comprising pegs mounted on the chute and engageable with openings in the adjacent vertical wall.

6. In a device of the class described, a body having a base portion and a top portion comprising several vertical walls dividing off a space with an open top, a pair of identical chutes longitudinally of said space and adjacent each other and extending in opposite directions and each having an outer portion and an inner portion, a ball shooter in the inner portion of each chute and operable from the outside of said base portion, means for holding the outer end of each chute vertically adjustable relative to said vertical walls for varying the inclination of the chutes, and a score board for each chute spaced from the outer end thereof and mounted on the outer end of the adjacent chute, said score board being formed with openings imprinted with different point values through which the balls may pass.

ALEXANDER SZABO.