The invention relates to a dispenser for markers to be placed in various positions upon game boards or cards, such as are used in playing Keno, Lotto and similar games in which disc or other shaped markers are used.

It is an object of the invention to provide a tubular dispenser adapted to contain a plurality of the markers and to automatically dispense a marker at any desired position upon the board or card.

Another object is to provide such a dispenser in which the markers are dispensed, one at a time, by merely pressing the dispenser down upon the desired location on the board or card.

A further object is to provide a dispenser of the character referred to in which the dispenser includes a tubular container the lower end of which comprises a split, spring collet, a spring loaded sleeve being slidable mounted upon the tubular container for normally holding the collet in closed or clamping position to retain the markers therein, downward movement of the sleeve permitting the collet to open to dispense a marker therefrom.

A still further object of the invention is to provide such a dispenser in which the lower end of the collet has a relieved or enlarged recess to receive a marker when the sleeve is pressed down to open the collet.

The above objects, together with others which will be apparent from the drawings and following description, or which may be later referred to, may be attained by constructing and operating the improved marker dispenser in the manner hereinafter described in detail, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a detached elevation of the tubular container and collet, forming a part of the dispenser;

Figure 2 an elevation of the complete dispenser in the normal position;

Figure 3 a longitudinal, sectional view through the dispenser, taken as on the line 3—3, Fig. 2;

Figure 4 a view similar to Fig. 3, showing the dispenser in the operated position;

Figure 5 a transverse section taken on the line 5—5, Fig. 3; and

Figure 6 a similar section taken on the line 6—6, Fig. 4.

Now referring more particularly to the structure shown in the drawing, in which similar reference numerals refer to similar parts throughout, a preferred embodiment of the invention includes the tubular container preferably formed of plastic material, which may be of cylindrical cross section as shown, where the markers are of disc shape.

This tubular container is provided with a shoulder or rib 11, at a point spaced from its lower end, and the lower end portion of the tube comprises a split spring collet, having the enlarged, downwardly tapered exterior 12, the upper end 13 of which is of substantially the same diameter as the rib 11, for a purpose to be later explained in detail.

Three or more longitudinal slots 14 are located through the lower or collet portion of the tube, extending from the lower end thereof to a point above the enlarged, tapered portion 12, and the tube is formed of material having sufficient spring therein to operate as a collet, as later explained.

The interior of the tube 10 may have a straight, cylindrical bore 15 extending from the top of the tube to a point slightly spaced from the lower end thereof, where it is circumferentially enlarged, as indicated at 16, forming a recess of greater diameter than the disc shaped markers 17, and of a height substantially the thickness of a single marker.

A sleeve 18, having an inside diameter of proper size to slidably move over the rib 11, is mounted upon the lower portion of the tube 10, and provided with the tapered lower end 19 conforming to the taper of the collet 12.

An externally threaded ring 20 is screwed into the internal threads 21 at the upper end of the sleeve 18, and has an inside perimeter of suitable size to slidably fit upon the exterior of the tube 10.

A coil spring 22 is interposed between this ring and the annular rib 11 upon the tube so as to normally hold the sleeve in the upward position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, whereby the tapered lower end 19 of the sleeve has a wedging action upon the tapered, split spring collet portion 12 of the tube, holding the same tightly together so as to grip the lowestmost marker 17 in the position shown in Fig. 3. A cap 23 may be placed upon the top of the tube 10, if desired.

When it is desired to place a marker at any desired position upon a game board or card, the dispenser is placed upon the card and the sleeve 18 pushed downward, as shown in Fig. 4, permitting the spring collet portion 12 of the tube to open sufficiently to drop the lowestmost marker upon the surface of the board or card, as indicated at 17a, this lowestmost marker being received in the enlarged portion 15 of the collet.

As downward pressure upon the sleeve is released the spring 22 will raise the same to the upper or normal position shown in Figs. 2 and 3.
gripping the lowermost marker 17 remaining in the tube and leaving the marker 17a in position upon the board as the dispenser is raised.

If desired, the lower edge of the collet portion may be scalloped, as shown at 24, providing only a few spaced points of contact between the end of the collet and the game board or card, so as to reduce friction and permit the collet to readily open when the sleeve 18 is depressed.

We claim:

1. A device of the character described comprising a tubular container for markers, said tubular container having an internal diameter such that markers received therein will be retained in stacked relation, an externally downwardly tapered, split spring collet formed upon the lower end portion of the tube, the lower end of the collet having an internal recess of greater diameter than the marker and of a height substantially the thickness of one marker, a sleeve longitudinally slidably mounted upon the tube and having an internal downwardly tapered lower end portion receiving the tapered collet portion of the tube, and means normally holding the sleeve in raised position to clamp the lowermost marker in the collet portion.

2. A device of the character described comprising a tubular container for markers, said tubular container having an internal diameter such that markers received therein will be retained in stacked relation, an externally downwardly tapered, split spring collet formed upon the lower end portion of the tube, the lower end of the collet having an internal recess of greater diameter than the marker and of a height substantially the thickness of one marker, a sleeve longitudinally slidably mounted upon the tube and having an internal downwardly tapered lower end portion receiving the tapered collet portion of the tube, and means normally holding the sleeve in raised position to clamp the lowermost marker in the collet portion.

3. A device of the character described comprising a tubular container for markers, said tubular container having an internal diameter such that markers received therein will be retained in stacked relation, an externally downwardly tapered, split spring collet formed upon the lower end portion of the tube, the lower end of the collet having an internal recess of greater diameter than the marker and of a height substantially the thickness of one marker, a sleeve longitudinally slidably mounted upon the tube and having an internal downwardly tapered lower end portion receiving the tapered collet portion of the tube, and spring means normally holding the sleeve in raised position to clamp the lowermost marker in the collet portion.

4. A device of the character described comprising a tubular container for markers, said tubular container having an internal diameter such that markers received therein will be retained in stacked relation, an externally downwardly tapered, split spring collet formed upon the lower end portion of the tube, the lower end of the collet having an internal recess of greater diameter than the marker and of a height substantially the thickness of one marker, an annular rib upon the exterior of the tubular container above said collet, a sleeve longitudinally slidably mounted upon the tube and having an internal downwardly tapered lower end portion receiving the tapered collet portion of the tube, an internal shoulder at the upper end of the sleeve, a spring around the tubular container between the annular rib and the internal shoulder normally holding the sleeve in raised position to clamp the lowermost marker in the collet portion.

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No references cited.