Dec. 18, 1962 B. CAHN 3,069,167

GAME BOARDS

Filed June 12, 1961

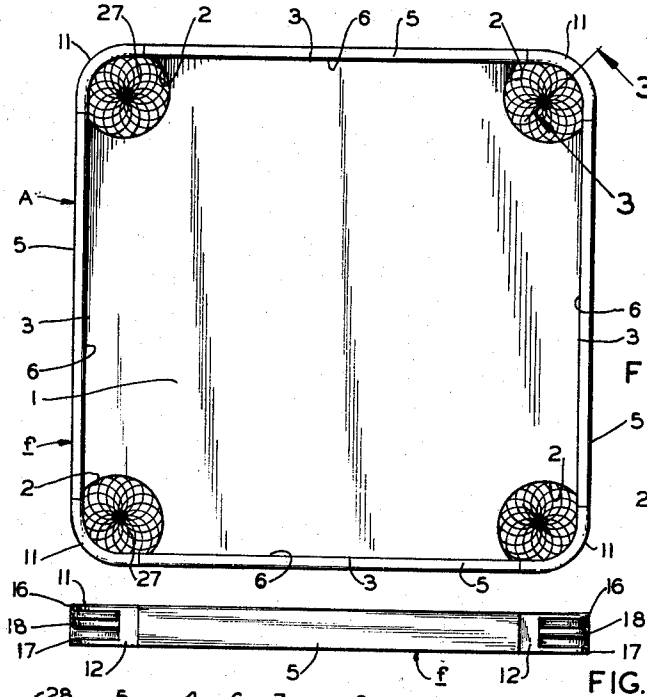


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

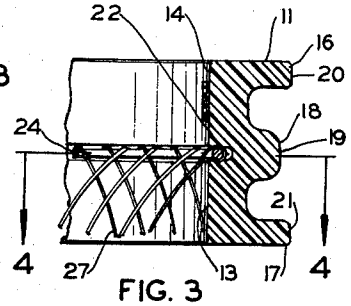


FIG. 3

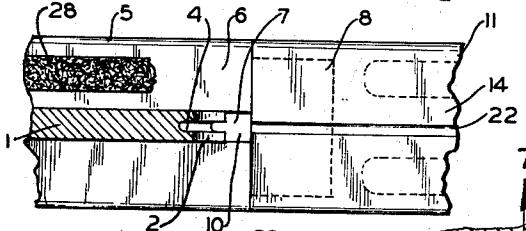


FIG. 8

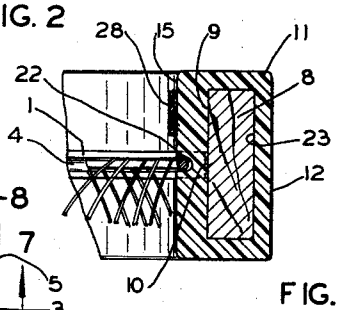


FIG. 7

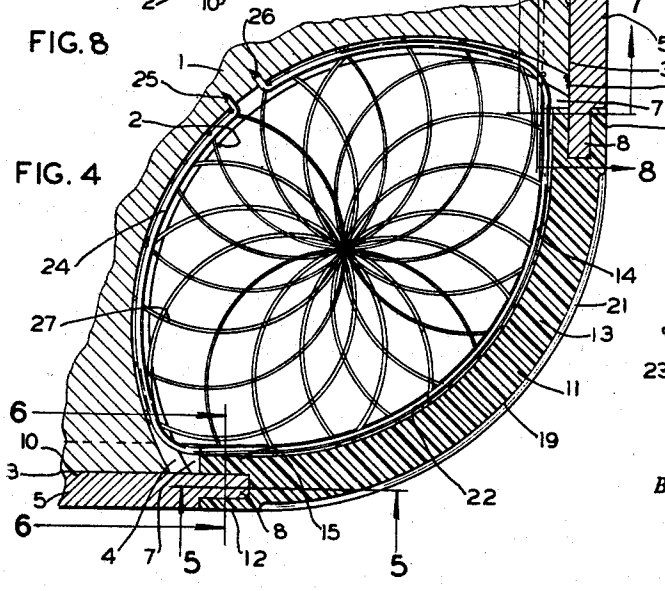


FIG. 4

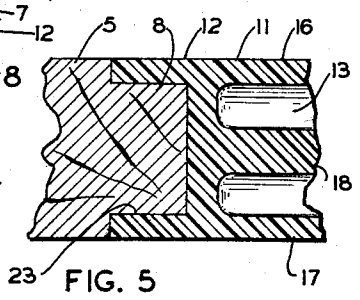


FIG. 5

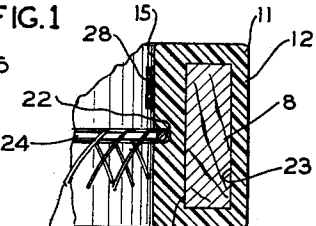


FIG. 6

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GAME BOARDS

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4 Claims. (Cl. 273—126)

This invention relates in general to certain new and useful improvements in game boards and, more particularly, to a game board having facilities for playing a large number of different games, including various games in which movable playing pieces can be caused to slide directly into pockets or to impact against one of the peripheral margins of the board in an angular direction and then strike another playing piece or slide into a pocket.

There are many games in which playing pieces of various types and shapes may be caused to slide rapidly over the surface of a board. Depending upon the rules of the game, the playing pieces may have to strike some other playing piece directly, or may have to strike against a marginal rim around the game board and bounce off in what is commonly referred to as a "bank shot." Frequently, the rules of the game require that a series of playing pieces must be caused to slide or roll into one or more pockets. Usually the pockets are located at the corners of the game board and it is the object of the game to propel various playing pieces into these pockets in some prescribed order or sequence.

The conventional type of game board which has heretofore been assembled for use in playing such games ordinarily consists of a flat rectangular plywood member which is framed around its marginal edges with a relatively large wooden frame. These wooden frames are comparatively fragile and tend to break, split, or crack when accidentally thrown about. The wooden frame is ordinarily weakest at its corners and this weakness is accentuated by the presence of pockets, since some area of the plywood member must be cut away thereby reducing the support and reinforcement which would otherwise be provided. In addition, the corner-forming elements are costly to make and assemble with the other frame-forming elements inasmuch as doweling, gluing and clamping are normally required.

It is, therefore, one of the primary objects of the present invention to provide a rectilinear corner-pocketed game board having a frame in which the corner-forming elements are fabricated from a synthetic resin or so-called "plastic" material, which is extremely attractive in appearance, comparatively light in weight, and yet structurally strong.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a game board of the type stated having a frame which has an extremely strong corner-construction and will not be adversely affected by moisture or weather conditions.

It is an additional object of the present invention to provide a game board of the type stated having a frame which may be very quickly and conveniently assembled with the game board, thereby reducing manufacturing costs while achieving improved quality and strength in the finished structure.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention resides in the novel features of form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts presently described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing—

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of a game board constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the game board;

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIG. 3; and

FIGS. 5, 6, 7, and 8 are fragmentary sectional views taken along lines 5—5, 6—6, 7—7, and 8—8, respectively, of FIG. 4.

Referring now in more detail and by reference characters to the drawing, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, A designates a game board comprising a rectangular panel 1 which is provided at its four corners with equally sized quarter-circle recesses 2 connected by four straight margins 3 preferably of equal length. The side faces or edges of the quarter-circle recesses 2 are kerfed to provide a relatively narrow shallow slot 4.

Provided for frame-forming disposition around the peripheral margin of the game board A are four straight rails 5 of identical length and shape. Each of the rails 5 is routed out centrally of one of its vertical faces 6 in the provision of a rectilinear longitudinal channel 7 which fit snugly over one of the four straight margins 3 of the panel 1 between two corner recesses 2. At the opposite ends, each rail is cut away along its four faces to form a longitudinally projecting rectilinear tenon 8, the inside face 9 of which is spaced inwardly from the bottom face 10 of the channel 7.

Molded by a suitable process from a high-impact strength synthetic resin, such as polystyrene, are four identical corner-members 11 which have a quarter-circle shape. Each corner-member 11 integrally includes two block-shaped rectilinear terminal elements 12 connected by a vertical arcuate wall 13, the interior face 14 of which is substantially flush with inner faces 15 of the terminal elements 12. On its outer face, the wall 13 is provided with horizontally extending top and bottom flanges 16, 17, and a central rib 18. As will be seen in FIG. 3, the outer arcuate face 19 of the rib 18 is located inwardly a slight distance from the plane of the outer faces 20, 21, of the flanges 16, 17, respectively, so as to be protected thereby in case of accidental impact. On its interior face 14, each of the corner-members 11 is provided with an outwardly opening groove 22, which is somewhat smaller in cross-sectional size than the channels 7 but is adapted for endwise alignment therewith and also for more or less co-planar alignment with the slots 4 in the edges of the recesses 2. Each of the terminal elements 12 is provided with a rectilinear socket or mortise 23 into which the tenons 8 will fit snugly and precisely, so that the outer and inner vertical faces of the rails 5 and the terminal elements 12 are substantially flush, all as best seen in FIG. 4.

The game board A is assembled by fitting the channels 7 of the rails 5 upon the edges of the panel 1 and fitting the tenons 8 of the rails 5 into the mortises 23 of the corner-member 11, the latter joints necessarily being held together by a suitable adhesive as is customary practice in mortised joints. In actual practice, this assembly operation can be most readily carried out by inserting the tenons 8 of the four rails 5 part way into the mortises 23 of the four corner-members 11 to form a peripheral frame *f*, the interior size of which is initially somewhat larger than the peripheral size of the panel 1. Thereupon, the panel 1 can be slipped into the frame *f* and the latter squeezed together or "closed-in," so to speak, so that the four margins 3 of the panel 1 are snugly seated in the channels 7. The entire assembly is preferably held in clamps until the adhesive in the mortises 23 has set. If desired, an adhesive may also be used in the channels 7.

Formed for snap-fitting engagement within the combined recess-encircling slots 4 and grooves 22 are loops 24 made of relatively heavy spring-steel wire which are

bent around into an almost complete ring with their opposite ends in slightly spaced opposing relation and bent outwardly in the formation of sharpened prongs 25, 26. The prongs 25, 26, can be pulled together so that they are in substantially touching relation and the annular size of the loop 24 is reduced slightly so that it can be snapped into place within the slot 4 and the endwise registering groove 22. Before the loops 24 are snapped into place, fish-net pockets 27 are threaded upon the loops 24, so that, when the latter are snapped into place, the pocket 27 will extend across the recess 2 and catch playing pieces which may be propelled toward the pocket 27. Finally, the entire interior peripheral face is preferably provided with an adhesively secured cushion-strip 28 formed of felt or other similar material.

It should be understood that changes and modifications in the form, construction, arrangement and combination of the several parts of the game boards may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A game device comprising a flat rectilinear board having peripheral margins and having a plurality of inwardly cut-out pocket-forming recesses around said peripheral margins, and a rebound frame extending outwardly around the entire margin of said board, said rebound frame having four arcuate corner-members formed of a synthetic resin and including integral central portions bridging said recesses, said central portions being integrally provided along their external faces with reinforcing ribs, said reinforcing ribs being located inwardly a slight distance from the plane of the external faces of the central portions.

2. A game device comprising a flat rectilinear board having four straight peripheral margins and having four inwardly extending pocket-forming recesses cut out of and spanning the four corner-areas respectively, each of said recesses having two outer terminal ends located at adjacent peripheral margins and in spaced relation across the corner-area with which such recess is associated, each of said recesses being adjacent to two other recesses and

diagonally opposite to a third recess, and a rebound frame extending outwardly around the entire margin of said board, said rebound frame having four straight wooden rails, each of said rails respectively extending along and being secured upon the straight peripheral margins, each of said rails having end portions which are substantially coincident with proximate terminal ends of two adjacent recesses, each of said rails having straight rectilinear tenons projecting in line with the rail and beyond the end portions thereof so as to project also beyond the terminal ends of said recesses into the corner-areas spanned by such recesses, said rebound frame also having four arcuate corner-members formed of a synthetic resin, said corner-members respectively bridging said recesses and each integrally including quarter-circle central portions which are integrally provided along their external faces with axially spaced indented grooves which define a plurality of spaced parallel arcuate reinforcing ribs, said central portions integrally merging into block-shaped straight terminal elements which project toward the tenons and are provided with rectilinear sockets sized and located to snugly accommodate said tenons, said tenons being adhesively secured within the sockets of said terminal elements so that said wooden rails and arcuate corner-members will form an endless rebound frame.

3. A game device according to claim 2 in which the block-shaped terminal elements of the corner-members and the tenon-accommodating sockets therein are wholly beyond the ends of the reinforcing ribs.

4. A game device according to claim 2 in which the tenon-joints formed by the tenons and sockets are located entirely in the corner-areas spanned by the recesses and are beyond the terminal ends thereof so as to be clear of the peripheral margins of the board.

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Disclaimer and Dedication

3,069,167.—*Bernard Cahn*, New York, N.Y. GAME BOARDS. Patent dated Dec. 18, 1962. Disclaimer and dedication filed June 5, 1968, by the assignee, *Affiliated Hospital Products, Inc.*

Hereby disclaims and dedicates to the Public the entire term of said patent.

[*Official Gazette November 19, 1968.*]