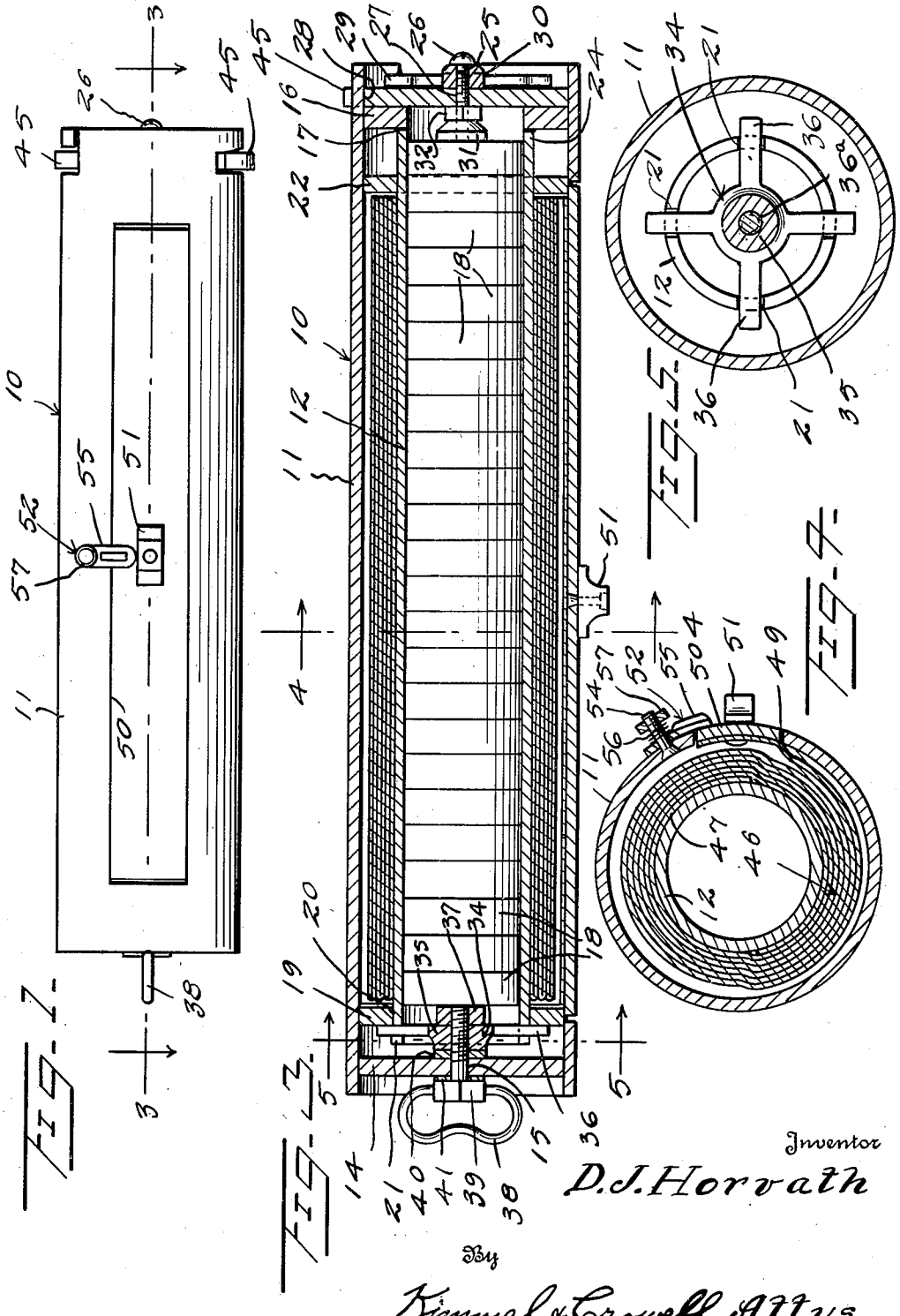
March 14, 1950 D. J. HORVATH 2,500,824

CONTAINER FOR A CHECKERBOARD AND PIECES

Filed Dec. 22, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



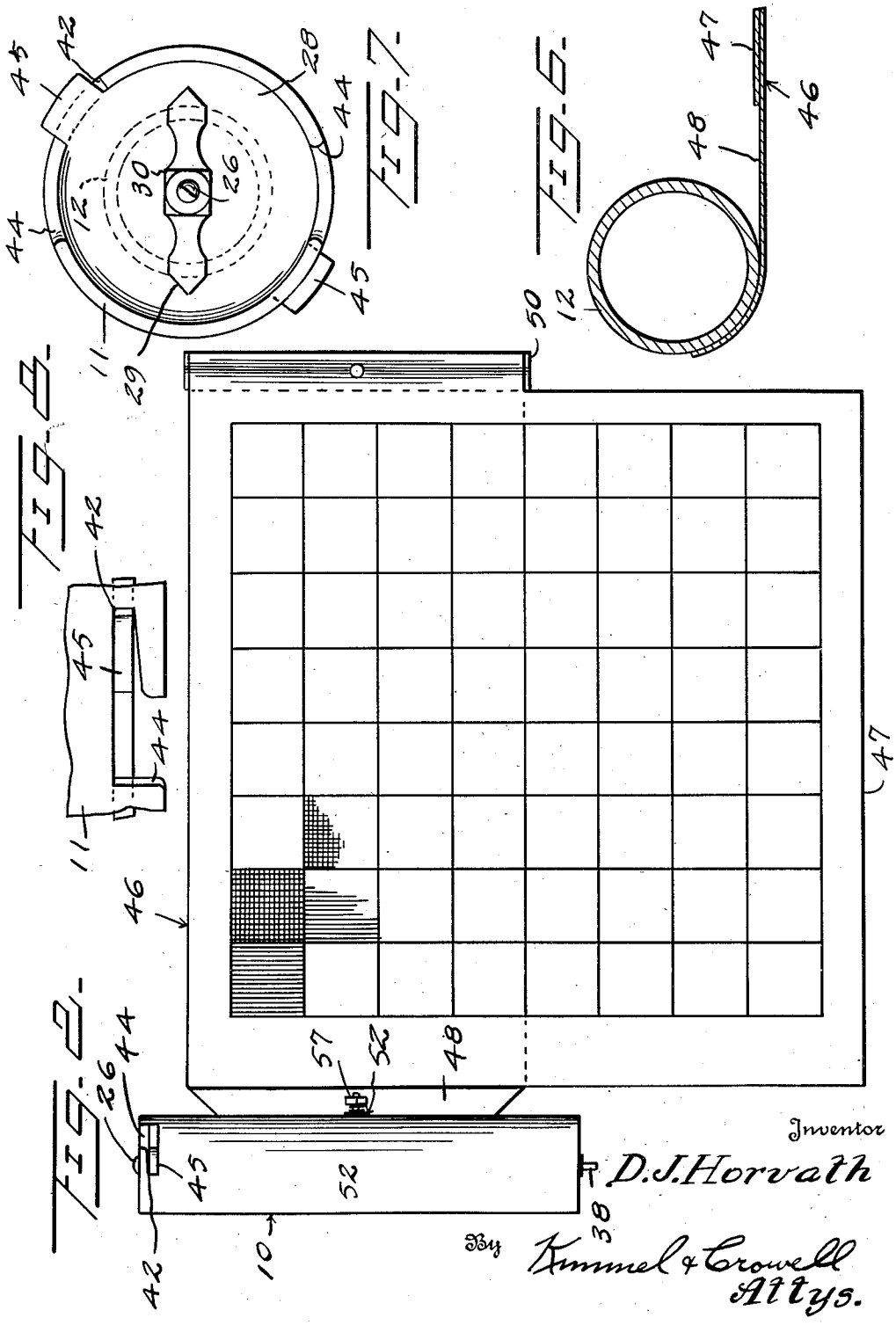
Inventor
D. J. Horvath

By
Kimmel & Crowell Attys.

March 14, 1950 D. J. HORVATH 2,500,824

CONTAINER FOR A CHECKERBOARD AND PIECES

Filed Dec. 22, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Patented Mar. 14, 1950 2,500,824

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,500,824

CONTAINER FOR A CHECKERBOARD AND PIECES

Daniel J. Horvath, Detroit, Mich.

Application December 22, 1947, Serial No. 793,141

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—136)

1

This invention relates to a checkerboard and container therefor.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved checkerboard and container of the kind to be more particularly described hereinafter, whereby the checkerboard and associated checkers therefor may be contained in a compact container which will occupy a minimum space as when travelling and provide a suitably large board for the actual use of the game as such.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device of this kind having a cylindrical container for the checkers in which device the flexible checkerboard may be wound about the container when not in use to provide an attractive compact container for the various game pieces and the game board.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved game container within which the game board and associated game pieces may be contained in a minimum space in such a manner that the game board and the game pieces may be separately removed from within the container. The game board is made of suitable flexible material whereby it may be coiled or wound about a suitable reel within the container and may be readily unwound when it is desired to use the game.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a device of this kind which may be manufactured with a minimum amount of labor, materials and tools, while providing an attractive, serviceable compact unit for conventional home and travelling use.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specification, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the checkerboard container in a closed position constructed according to an embodiment of this invention,

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the container with the checkerboard in an extended position,

Figure 3 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3,

Figure 5 is a vertical section taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3,

Figure 6 is a fragmentary detailed section showing the reel member with the checkerboard attached thereto,

Figure 7 is an end view of the container,

2

Figure 8 is a fragmentary detailed elevation of an end of the container showing the attachment of the closure therefor.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally an improved container for enclosing a flexible checkerboard or the like and the associated checkers or game pieces therein. The checkers or game pieces are contained within the body of the container 10 in such a manner that the flexible game board may be wrapped or wound around the checkers for enclosing both the checkerboard and the checkers in the body, whereby the entire device will take up a minimum amount of room, providing a novel and useful container for travelling.

The container 10 is formed with an outer body 11, and an inner body 12, rotatably mounted therein. The outer body 11 is formed of an elongated cylindrical tube which is made of plastic or metal or other suitable material. An end wall as 14 is fixed at one end of the body 11, spaced slightly inwardly from the extreme edge thereof.

The wall 14 is provided with a central opening 15 therein concentric to the body 11, for purposes to be described hereinafter. A ring as 16 carried by the body 11 forms a second end wall which is fixed in the tube 11 at the opposite end from the wall 14 and is formed with an enlarged central opening 17. The opening 17 is of substantially the same diameter as the inside diameter of the inner tube or reel member 12.

The wall 16 is spaced inwardly from the extreme end of the body 11. The body 11 and reel member 12 are open at this end of the container 10 for the insertion of the game pieces 18 within the container. A central cylindrical member 12 is formed of an elongated tubular body open at both ends thereof. The body 12 is formed of plastic or other suitable material in the same manner as the outer body 11. The length of the reel member 12 is considerably shorter than the length of the outer body 11 so that the reel member may be contained wholly within the outer body.

The reel member 12 is formed with a ring or bearing 19 at one end thereof, engaging the outer surface of the reel 12, and the inner surface of the body 11, for spacing the inner surface of the outer body from the outer surface of the reel member. The bearing or ring 19 is provided with an enlarged central opening 20 for engagement with the outer surface of the reel 12 at this end where it is secured by gluing or other suitable fastening means. The ring or bearing 19 is

spaced inwardly a slight distance from the extreme end of the reel 12.

A plurality of notches 21 are provided about the periphery of the reel member 12, each being radially disposed relative thereto.

A second bearing member as 22 is fixed on the opposite end of the reel member 12, engaging about the outer surface of the body 12 to which it is fixed, and slidably engaging the inner surface of the outer body 11. The bearing 22 spaces this end of the reel member from the body 11 in the same manner as the bearing 19, for supporting the reel member concentric to the body in inwardly spaced relation relative thereto.

The extreme end as 24 of this end of the reel member abuts the inner surface of the apertured end wall 16 of the body 11 for holding the reel member against sliding movement from this end of the container 10. As the inner surface of the reel member 12 is in substantial alignment with the inner peripheral edge of the wall 16, the opening of the reel member is in alignment and registers with the opening 17 whereby checkers 18 may be inserted into the reel member 12 from without the body 11.

A bolt as 25, having an outer head 26 thereon engages through the central opening 27 of the closure member 28 which closes the open end of the reel member 12 and the associated end of the body 11. A plastic pointer 29 is rotatably supported on the bolt 25 which engages through the hub 30. The pointer 29 is provided as an added decoration at this end of the container 10.

An abutment member as 31 is fixed on the inner end of the bolt 25, being spaced inwardly from the inner surface of the closure plate 28 by a washer or spacer 32. The abutment member 31 is annular in shape, having a flat inner surface for engagement with the flat surface of the end checker 18 contained within the reel 12. The engagement of the abutment member 31 with the checkers 18 holds the checkers securely within the reel member 12 to hold them from rattling or being loosely disposed therein.

A spider 34 engages the opposite end of the reel member 12. The spider 34 is provided with a central hub as 35, having radially extending arms 36. The arms 36 are adapted to engage within the slots 21 of this end of the reel member 12. The bolt 15 which engages through the end wall 14 of the body 11 engages through a central opening 36a of the hub 35 where it is secured by a nut 37. A looped handle as 38 is rockably carried by the head 39 of the bolt 15 outwardly of the container 10. Washers as 40 and 41 engage about the bolt 15 on opposite sides of the wall 14 for spacing the hub 35 inwardly thereof and for spacing the head 39 outwardly.

The spider 34 is so secured on the bolt 15 that rotation of the spider by way of the handle 38 will effect the rotation of the reel member 12. The end of the body 11, outwardly from the wall 16 thereof, is formed with segmental arcuate slots 42 therein, extending circumferentially of the body 11 outwardly of the wall 16.

A longitudinally disposed opening as 44 at the extreme end of the body 11 opens into one end of the slot 42, providing a keyway. Radially disposed lugs as 45 are fixed to or formed on opposite sides of the closure plate 28. The lugs 45 are adapted to be engaged within the openings 44 and 42, for removably securing the closure plate 28 on the body 11. The lugs 45 are of substantially the same width as the circumferential opening 44 and are of substantially the same thickness as the width of the opening 42, whereby the cover 28 may be engaged on the body 11 by sliding the lugs 45 axially of the body through the openings 44 and then rotating the closure 28 for disposing the lugs 45 within the narrow end 42 of the composite opening.

An elongated flexible game board as 46 is adapted to be contained within the container 10, between the reel member 12 and the body 11. The game board 46 is formed with an elongated substantially square body 47. The flap as 48 is fixed to or carried by one end of the body 47 and extends substantially one-half the length of one side of the board. The flap 48 is truncated as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, and is adapted to be extended through a longitudinal opening 49 in one wall of the body 11. The inner end of the flap 48 is adapted to be secured to the outer surface of the reel member 12 within the body 11 by being glued thereto or by other suitable fastening means.

A closure member as 50 is fixed on the opposite edge of the flexible game board 46 in substantial alignment with the flap 48. The closure member 50 is formed of an elongated strip of plastic or other metal of which the body 11 is made, and is slightly arcuate in cross section, as shown in Figure 4 of the drawings, having the same arc as the wall of the body 11. The closure member 50 is adapted to be contained within the opening 49 for closing this opening when the game board 46 is wholly contained within the body 11.

A handle as 51 is carried by the outer surface of the closure 50 to facilitate the handling thereof and the extraction of the game board. A spring-pressed hook member as 52 is carried by the body 11 adjacent one edge of the opening 49. The hook member 52 includes a bolt 54 fixed in the body 11, and an arm or hook 55 rotatable about the bolt 54 and partially engageable over one edge of the closure 50.

The flexible game board 46 is adapted to be folded along a central line for disposing the game board in a doubled relation before winding the game board into the container 10. In this manner the game board may be readily enlarged when it is withdrawn from the container to facilitate the use thereof.

In the use and operation of the game board container 10 described above, starting from the closed position thereof, the game board 46 may be unreeled by moving the hook member 52 to the open position out of engagement with the closure 50. By drawing the handle 51 and the closure 50 outwardly from the body 11, the game board is withdrawn from the outer body 11 and the reel member 12 is rotated as the game board slides outwardly through the opening 49.

When the game board is totally disposed outwardly of the body 11, it may be unfolded along its central line to a position as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings.

The cap 28 may then be removed from the end of the body 11 and the game pieces or checkers 18 removed therefrom. For bringing the game board 46 back into the body 11, it must be first folded along the central line so that one-half of the game board overlies that half of the game board having the flap 48 thereon. By rotating the looped handle 38, the spider 34 having the arms 36 engaging in the slotted end of the reel member 12 will rotate the reel member and the game board 46 will be rolled about the reel member 12 within the body 11. The closure 50 will

then be moved up into the opening 49 for closing this opening, and the latch 55 may be rotated about the bolt 54 for securing the closure 50 in place.

The spring 56 about the bolt 54, between the head 57 thereof and the body 11, constantly presses the latch 55 into engagement with the outer surface of the closure 50. The checkers 18 may be then stored within the opening of the reel member 11 and the closure 28 engaged in the openings 44 and 42 of the outer body 11 for closing this end of the body 11 and reel 12 for confining the checkers therein.

I do not mean to confine myself to the exact details of construction herein disclosed, but claim all variations falling within the purview of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A container for a flexible game board and correlated game pieces comprising a tubular body open at one end and closed at the other end thereof, a tubular open ended reel member rotatably and slidably disposed within said body, said reel member being concentric with and spaced inwardly from said body, the end of said reel member adjacent to the closed end of said body being formed with a plurality of longitudinal slots, a spider member rotatably carried by said closed end, engaging in said slots, means connected to said spider and disposed outwardly of said closed end for rotating said spider and said reel member, a plurality of endwise opening keeper slots formed in said body adjacent the open end thereof, a closure plate engageable in said open end to retain said reel member in said body and having means thereon for resisting endwise movement of game pieces disposed within said reel member, and marginal tabs on said closure plate to removably engage said keeper slots for holding said closure plate in reel member retaining position.

2. A container for a flexible game board and correlated game pieces comprising a tubular body open at one end and closed at the other end thereof and formed with a longitudinally extending game board receiving slot along the length thereof, a tubular reduced diameter open ended reel member, to which the game board is fastened, disposed concentrically within said body and rotatable and slidable relative thereto, endwise opening longitudinal slots formed in the end of said reel member adjacent to the closed end of said body, a spider member rotatably carried by said closed end of said body removably engaging in said slots, means connected to said spider member and disposed outwardly of said closed end for rotating said spider member and said reel

member, a plurality of keeper slots formed in said body adjacent the open end thereof, a closure plate engageable in said open end to retain said reel member in said body, means carried centrally on said plate and extending inwardly of said body for resisting endwise movement of game pieces disposed within said reel member, and marginal tabs on said closure plate slidably engaging within said keeper slots for holding said closure plate in reel member retaining position.

3. A container for a flexible game board and correlated game pieces comprising a tubular body open at one end and closed at the other end thereof and formed with a longitudinally extending game board receiving slot along the length thereof, a tubular reduced diameter open ended reel member to which the game board is attached disposed concentrically within said body and rotatable and slidable relative thereto, cutouts formed in the edge of said reel member adjacent to the closed end of said body, means rotatably carried by said closed end removably engaging in said cutouts for rotation of said reel member, a plurality of keeper slots formed in said body adjacent the open end thereof, a closure plate engageable in said open end to retain said reel member within said body, means mounted centrally on said plate and extending inwardly of said body for resisting endwise movement of game pieces disposable within said reel member, and means carried by said closure plate to slidably engage in said keeper slots for holding said closure plate in reel member retaining position.

DANIEL JOSEPH HORVATH.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
509,316	Lapham	Nov. 21, 1893
571,031	Wilson	Nov. 10, 1896
688,900	Toepfer	Dec. 17, 1901
724,760	Alenta	Apr. 7, 1903
1,127,594	Cooper	Feb. 8, 1915
1,255,772	Miller	Feb. 8, 1918
1,344,927	Otwell	June 29, 1920
1,582,645	Findley	Apr. 27, 1926
1,609,862	Clifford	Dec. 7, 1926
1,919,198	Burnet	July 25, 1933
2,003,044	Galante	May 28, 1935

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
329,321	France	Feb. 12, 1903