Feb. 2, 1926. 1,571,726

J. B. KRUG

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Nov. 19, 1921 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

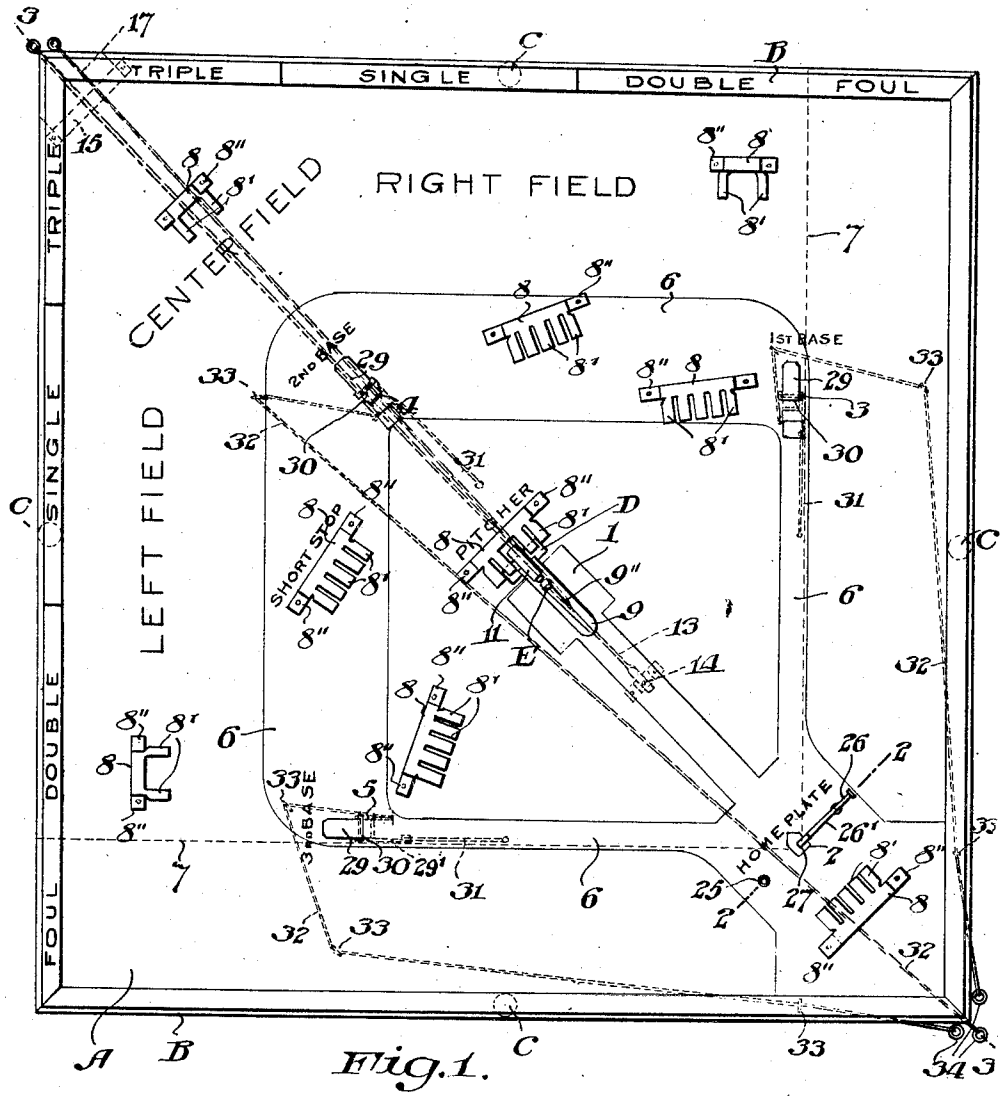


Fig. 1.

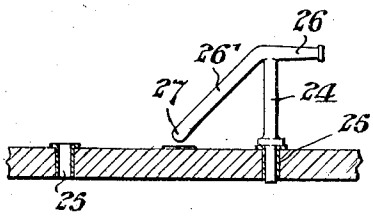


Fig. 2.

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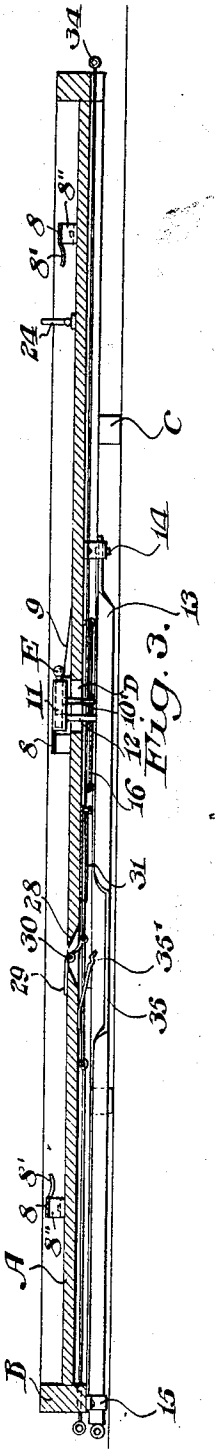


Fig. 3.

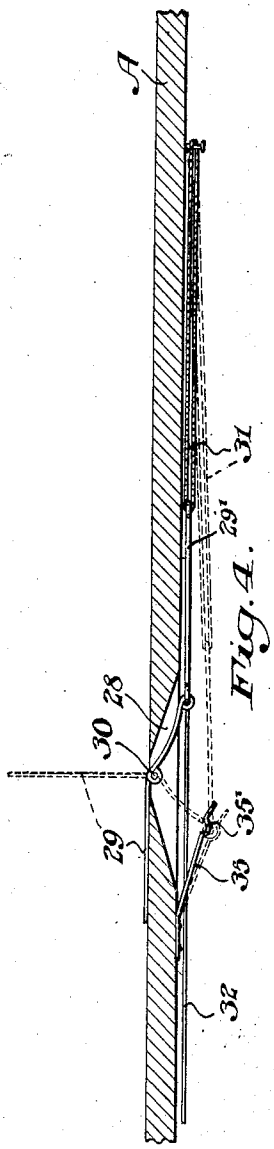


Fig. 4.

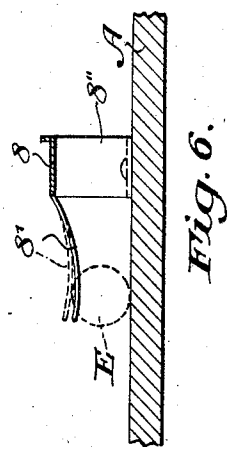


Fig. 6.

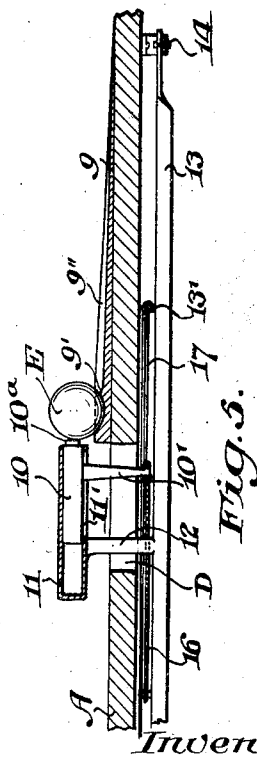


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. KRUG, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed November 19, 1921. Serial No. 516,309.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. KRUG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improved game apparatus designed to provide for the playing of indoor baseball by two or more persons, and the objects of my invention are, primarily, to simulate as nearly as may be conduct of an actual game of baseball; to provide improved means for delivering the ball to the bat under varying conditions of rotation, speed and direction; and to provide figures representing players on the various bases which may be brought to erect position to indicate a player on base without reaching over the board.

The characteristic features of my invention will more fully appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings in illustration thereof.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a plan view of a game board embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view of the board on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 illustrating the form and mounting of the batting device; Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view through the board on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of a section of the board illustrating the mounting of the basemen; Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of a section of the board and pitching apparatus; and Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional view illustrating a clip for catching a pitched or batted ball.

As illustrated in the drawings, a board A, provided with the peripheral rim B and the legs C, is laid out in the form of a usual baseball diamond comprising a pitcher's box 1, home plate 2, bases 3, 4 and 5 connected by suitable runways 6, and the outfields.

The ball field is divided by dotted lines 7 into "fair" territory, within the dotted foul lines, and "foul" territory between such lines and the edges of the board. The "fair" territory is divided by marginal notations into "single," "double" and "triple" play regions.

A number of spring clips 8 having prongs 8′ for the engagement of the ball are secured by legs 8″ to the board in such positions as would be covered by players of a usual baseball team, the lodgment of the ball in a clip being deemed equivalent to a catch of the ball by a player.

A ball guide 9 is fixed to the board adjacent to the pitcher's box and contains a seat 9′ for holding the ball and a downwardly inclined groove 9″ extending from such seat to the plane of the board so as to direct the ball when discharged from the seat toward the home plate regardless of the angle of the blow by which the ball is struck.

The ball is projected from its seat by a pitching device comprising a plunger 10 reciprocable in a housing 11 carried on a strut 12 which passes through the slot D in the board and is fixed to a laterally movable bar 13, the latter being pivoted by the pin 14 to the under side of the board and extending to the corner thereof opposite the pitcher's box, where its free end is supported by a cross piece 15. The housing 11 contains a longitudinal slot 11′ through which projects an arm 10′ of the plunger 10, the arm having connected therewith an elastic 16 anchored to the bar 13, whereby the plunger is normally retracted in the housing. A cord 17 is also fixed to the arm 10′ and passes through an eyelet 13′ on the arm 13 and thence along the latter to the corner opposite the home plate. By pulling upon the cord 17, the plunger 10 may be projected from its housing and its frictional head 10^a caused to strike the ball E to give it a blow of such force and from such angle as may be deemed expedient by the player to get the ball over the home plate without being struck by the batsman.

The batting device comprises a rotary post or bearing 24 journalled in one of the sockets 25 in the game board, the post having integrally formed therewith a handle 26 and an inclined rod 26′ having on the end thereof a striking head 27 adapted to be oscillated across the home plate to strike a pitched ball passing thereover and drive it out into the field.

Adjacent to each of the bases there is formed in the game board a flaring slot 28 through which projects a device 29 pivotally mounted on the pintle 30 journalled in the board. The portion of the device 29 extending above the surface of the board is made to represent a player and is so formed as to lie flat against the board in one position and to stand erect in the other position.

The lower end of the device 29 has journalled therein a yoke or link 29′, one leg of which has connected thereto an elastic band 31 anchored to the bottom of the board and exerting a pull on the device 29 causing its upper portion to normally lie flat against the upper surface of the game board. The other leg of the link 30 has connected therewith a flexible cord 32 passing through eyelets 33 to the corner of the board adjacent to the home plate and preferably provided at its end with the pull button or ring 34. By pulling upon a cord 32 the corresponding baseman 29 is drawn, against the resistance of the elastic 31, from a recumbent into an erect position, in which position it is held by the engagement of its lower end in the recess 35′ of the leaf spring 35 fixed to the underside of the board. A touch with the finger of the erect baseman will effect the disengagement of the spring 35 and lower end of the device 29 and permit the spring 31 to draw the baseman to its normal position flat on the board.

In playing the game, the players sit at opposite corners of the board. A ball or marble is placed in the seat 9′ and the player operating the pitching device adjusts the rod 13 laterally in accordance with the "English" or angular twist he desires to give to the ball and when the rod is in the desired position pulls the cord 17 to operate the plunger 10 with such force as he deems advisable to eject the ball from its seat and deliver it to the batter. The player at the opposite corner of the table oscillates the bat 26 over the home plate to meet the oncoming ball and if he strikes the same the ball is driven over the table in accordance with the skill of the players. If a batted ball becomes engaged in any of the clips, the batter is out, but if he escapes these hazards the batter scores in accordance with the region of the board to which the ball is knocked, as a single, double or triple play. To register his success, the player operating the bat pulls the appropriate cord 32 to cause the proper baseman to assume the erect position on the appropriate base. Should the batter fail to strike a ball passing over the plate, or knock it into foul territory, a strike is counted against him as in usual outdoor playing.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In a game apparatus of the character described, a board representing a ball field, ball delivering and batting mechanism connected with said board, a device representing a player pivotally connected to said board and extending through a slot therein, a member connected with said device for moving it to an upright position, and tripping mechanism for engaging and holding said device in an upright position.

2. In a game apparatus of the character described, a board representing a ball field, batting mechanism carried upon said field, a ball seat, and means for delivering said ball from said seat to said batting mechanism and comprising a housing, a plunger reciprocable in said housing, elastic means for normally retracting said plunger in said housing, manually operable means for actuating said plunger to strike said ball.

3. In a game apparatus of the character described, a board representing a ball fiekd, batting mechanism journalled in said board, and ball delivering mechanism comprising a housing, a plunger reciprocable in said housing, elastic means normally retracting said plunger in said housing, means for manually advancing said plunger to actuate a ball, and a mounting for said housing connected with said board and movable laterally relatively to the surface thereof.

4. In a game apparatus of the character described, a board representing a ball field, batting mechanism carried by said board, a ball seat on said board, a rod pivotally connected with the under side of said board, a housing carried by said rod above the upper surface of said board, a plunger in said housing, elastic means normally retracting said plunger, and a member by which said plunger may be manually advanced under the control of a player.

Signed at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, this 15th day of November, 1921.

JOHN B. KRUG.