Feb. 24, 1970 R. P. DU PONT 3,496,887

GAME TABLE

Filed April 11, 1968 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

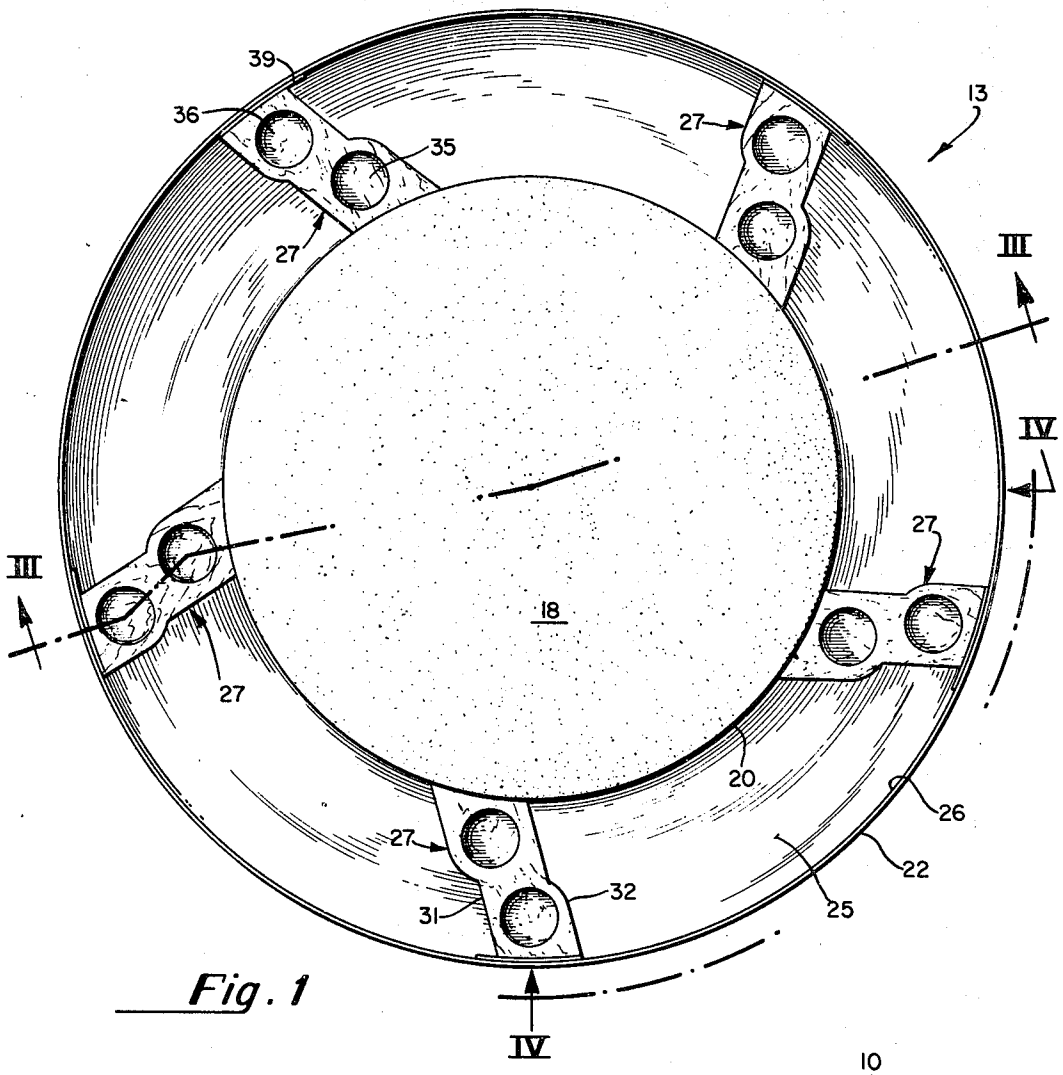


Fig. 1

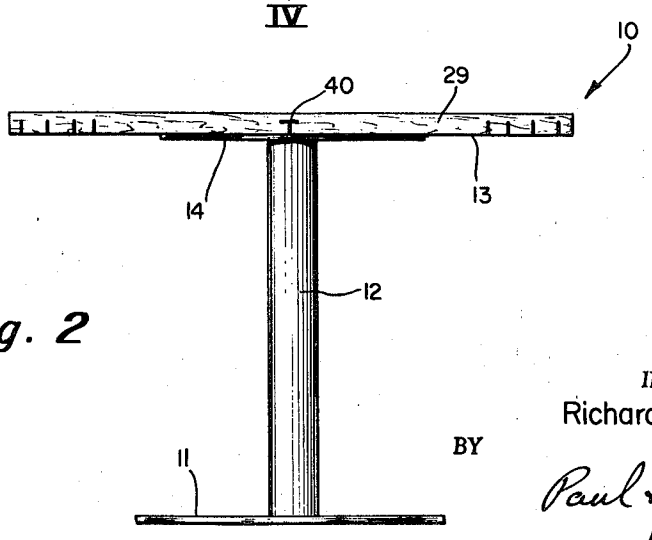


Fig. 2

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GAME TABLE

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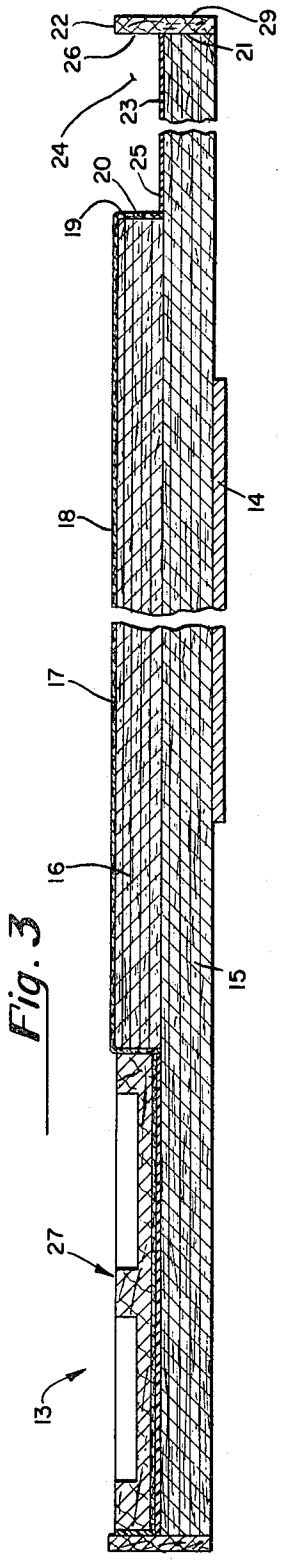


Fig. 3

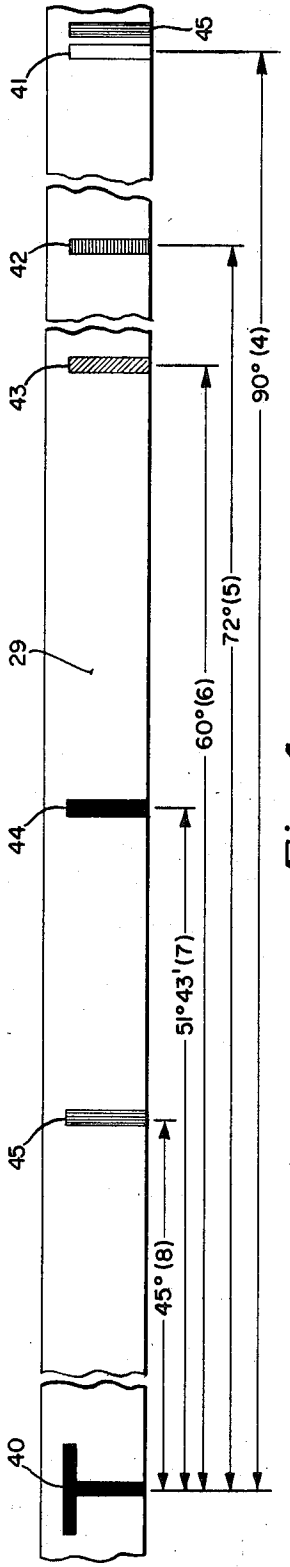


Fig. 4

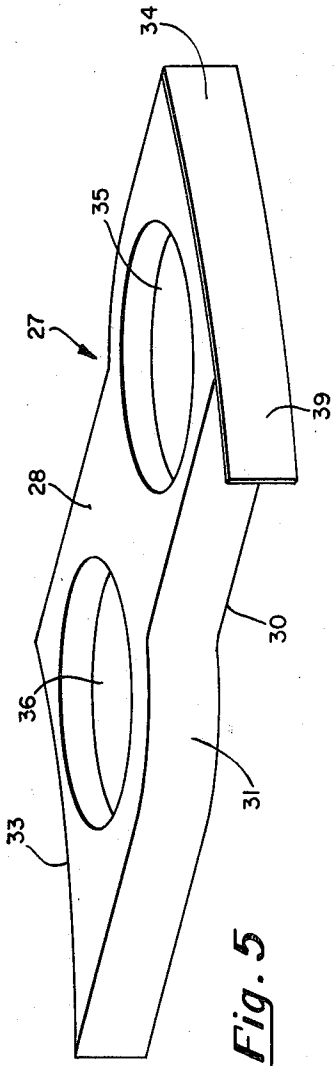


Fig. 5

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GAME TABLE

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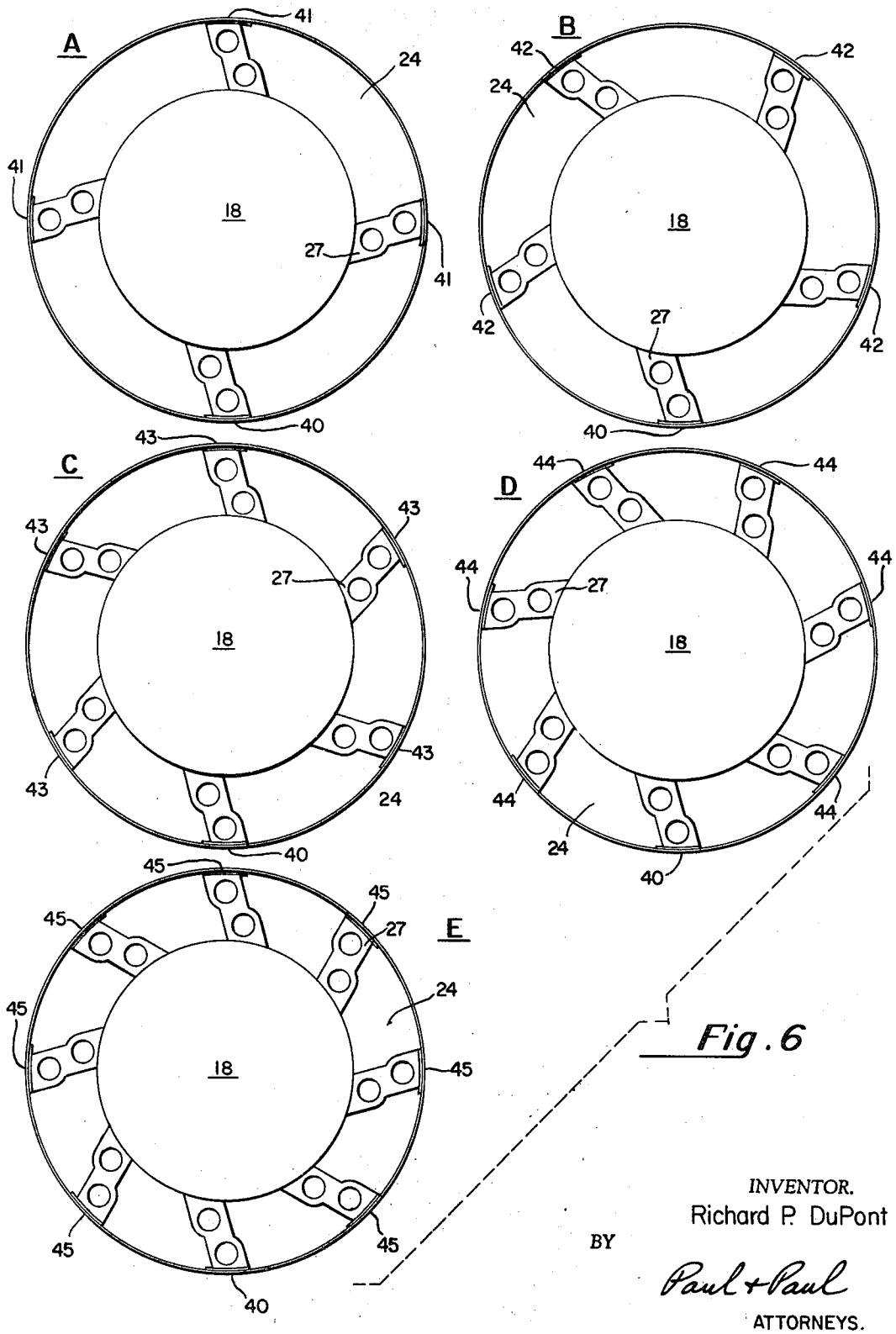


Fig. 6

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3,496,887

GAME TABLE

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Int. Cl. A47b *85/06;* A63f *1/06, 9/00*

U.S. Cl. 108—25 13 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A game table is provided, particularly adapted for card games, such as poker and the like, wherein the table top is generally of circular construction comprising a flat circular center portion surrounded by an annular channel which is divisible into a number of segments corresponding to the number of players, the channel being adapted for holding poker chips and the like, with divider members being disposed in the channel, adjacent divider members defining seating positions for players therebetween, and wherein each divider member has one or more seating means in an upper surface thereof, for receiving a glass, ash tray or the like therein. A particularly novel means is provided for indicating the seating positions of players to space players around the table equidistantly, irrespective of the number of players.

Background of the invention

While game tables, such as circular card tables are well known in the art, most such tables do not make provisions for retaining necessary game components, such as chips for poker and the like, unless the same is to be carried on the generally planar playing portion of the table top. Furthermore, other articles such as drinking glasses, ash trays and the like are conventionally used by players, but most game tables do not make provisions for the same, requiring that the players place such articles on the playing surface where they may be readily accidentally upset. Still further, prior art types of game tables are deficient in that they fail to provide means for readily equidistantly circumferentially dividing the spacing around the table into as many parts as there are persons who will be playing thereon, at the same time leaving the playing portion of the table free and accessible for game purposes.

Summary of the invention

The present invention seeks to fulfill the deficiencies of prior art types of game tables, in providing a game table top of circular configuration having an annular recess for receiving poker chips and the like, the recess being readily divisible by movable dividers which function also as coasters for glasses and the like, and wherein the table carries indicia or markings for readily determining seating positions equidistantly about the table, such seating positions being dependent upon the number of players.

Accordingly, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a game table top of circular configuration which utilizes a plurality of sets of indicia means disposed about the table, for designating a plurality of table divisions for equidistantly arcuately positioning players about the table, regardless of the number of players.

It is a further object of this invention to accomplish the above object, wherein each set of table divisions corresponds to a different number of players, with the indicia means in each set being spaced about the table top.

It is another object of this invention to accomplish the above object, wherein one marking or indicia means in each set coincides geometrically with one marking in each other set, such that a single marking is common to each set of indicia means or markings.

It is a further object of this invention to accomplish any of the above objects, wherein readily discernible characteristics are provided for indicia means in each set, such as color coding and the like.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a novel game table having a table top with a generally circular innermost playing portion, surrounded by an annular channel, the channel being adapted to receive articles therein, and having movable dividers disposed therein, for separating the annular channels into as many portions as there are players, the dividers being also adapted to receive other articles disposed thereon.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become readily apparent to one skilled in the art upon reading the following brief description of the drawing figures, the detailed descriptions of the drawings, and the appended claims.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of a game table top of this invention, having dividers disposed in a channel about the playing surface of the table, wherein the number of dividers indicates a seating capacity for five players, as arranged.

FIGURE 2 is a front elevational view of a table having the table top of FIGURE 1, and wherein seating markings, or indicia means are illustrated disposed about the outer peripheral edge of the table.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view, fragmentally illustrated, of a table top of this invention, taken generally along the line III—III of FIGURE 1, and wherein the annular channel with a seating divider disposed therein is clearly illustrated.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, developed end view of a table top of this invention, wherein the angular spacing of one marking or indicia means in each set, relative to a single reference position is clearly illustrated.

FIGURE 5 is a top perspective view, of approximately full size, of a divider of this invention, wherein its arcuately configured opposite ends and article-receiving recesses are clearly illustrated.

FIGURE 6 is an aggregate plan view of a plurality of game table tops of this invention, wherein the view portions A, B, C, D, and E, correspond respectively, to table top divisions having capacity for seating 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 players.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, reference is first made to FIGURE 2, wherein there is illustrated a game table generally designated by the numeral **10**, comprising a generally circularly configured disk-like base **11**, a cylindrical vertically disposed post **12**, and a table top **13**.

The table top **13**, as illustrated particularly in FIGURES 1 and 3, comprises a central lower support **14** which may be of metal plate construction or the like, and which is secured to the upstanding post **12**, a lower disk-like member **15**, of wooden construction or the like, secured to the plate **14** by any suitable means, and an upper disk-like member **16**, of wooden construction or the

like, and of substantially less diameter than the member **15**, the member **16** being disposed above and secured to the member **15**, concentrically thereon.

The disk-like member **16** is covered with a felt or other suitable material **17**, leaving an uppermost planar playing surface **18**, with the felt **17** extending downwardly to cover the peripheral surface **19** of the member **16**.

The outermost peripheral surface **21** of the disk-like member **15** has secured thereto a wooden strip **22**, extending circumferentially around the surface **21**, the strip **22** being of a sufficient width to protrude above the upper surface **23** of the disk **15**, substantially to the height of the playing surface **18**, to define an annular channel **24** between the strip **22** and outer peripheral surface **20** of the felt-covered disk **16**, above the surface **23** of the larger disk **15**.

An annular plastic strip **25** is disposed on the radial outermost portion of surface **23** of the disk **15**, between the downwardly bent felt portion **20** and the inner arcuate surface **26** of the strip **22**.

A plurality of dividers, generally designated by the numeral **27** are disposed in the annular channel **24**, equidistantly arcuately thereabout, between the radially spaced opposing surfaces **20** and **26** thereof.

With particular reference to FIGURE 5, each divider is generally of wooden construction, and has upper and lower surfaces **28** and **30** respectively, with desirably configured side surfaces **31** and **32**, respectively. Radial innermost and outermost end surfaces **33** and **34**, respectively, are concentrically arcuately configured, for mating engagement against respective opposite channel surfaces **20** and **26**, and are slidable with such surfaces in engagement, around the annular channel **24** of the table top **13**, for selective positioning of players about the table **13**, and for defining between adjacent dividers **27** a seating position for an individual player.

An uppermost surface of each divider **27** is provided with a pair of seating recesses **35** and **36**, substantially of short depth blind bore construction, for receiving therein the bottom of a glass, an ash tray or the like.

The various player seating positions are marked on the outermost peripheral surface **29** of the table top **13**, although other placement of such marking means or indicia may be desired. A reference position comprising a marking of T-shaped configuration **40** is provided, as illustrated in FIGURE 4, the T being preferably of black coloring and comprising a base point or position, from which all other seating positions are measured.

With reference to FIGURES 4 and 6A, it is seen that four dividers **27** would be utilized, one such divider being positioned in the annular channel **24**, just inside the placement of the base T-shaped indicia **40**, the other three such dividers being equidistantly arcuately spaced therefrom, just inside that portion of the annular channel **24**, wherein the white markings or indicia are disposed on the outer surface **29** of the strip **22**, such white markings or indicia being disposed 90° apart from one another, as measured from the T **40**.

Similarly, with reference to FIGURE 6B, five such dividers **27** are utilized, and are equidistantly arcuately spaced inside the channel **24**, just opposite corresponding blue markings or indicia **42**, disposed 72° apart from one another as measured from the T **40**.

In FIGURE 6C, six dividers **27** are utilized, one of which is positioned in the channel **24** just inside the T **40**, the other five of which are positioned just inside the channel **24** from a blue marking **43**, the markings **43** being disposed about the surface **29** at 60° from one another.

FIGURE 6D discloses seven such seating positions separated by dividers **27**, with one such divider **27** being disposed inside the T-shaped mark **40**, with the remaining dividers **27** being equidistantly arcuately spaced about the channel **24**, as indicated by a set of black markings **44**, disposed at 51° 43′ from one another.

In FIGURE 6E, eight such dividers are illustrated, with one positioned inside the channel **24** opposite the T-shaped mark **40**, and with the others positioned inside red markings or indicia **45**, disposed about the strip surface **29**, at 45° from one another.

It is thus seen that the several sets of color markings or indicia accurately designate divider positions and therefore accurately designate seating positions between dividers.

It is to be noted that the extension **39** of each of the divider outermost end portions **34** facilitates the maintaining of each of the dividers **27** in a fixed position, but enables the sliding of the dividers **27** to various selected positions about the annular channel **24**, yet preventing unwanted turning of the dividers **27** within the channel **24**, to positions in which the arcuate surfaces **33** and **34** of the dividers **27** would not be in engagement against opposite channel surfaces **20** and **26**, respectively.

While only a particular disclosed embodiment of the game table top of this invention has been selected for illustration and description, and with only a single indicia arrangement, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made in the structural details, and in the indicia or marking arrangement, for providing seating positions.

What is claimed is:

1. A game table top of substantially circular configuration having a plurality of sets of indicia means disposed thereabout for designating a plurality of table divisions, each set of table divisions corresponding to a different number of players, and the indicia means in each set being equidistantly arcuately spaced about said table top.

2. The game table top defined in claim **1**, wherein said indicia means are disposed about the periphery of said table top.

3. The game table top defined in claim **1**, wherein one said indicia means in each set coincides geometrically with one said indicia means in each other set to comprise a single marking common to each set of indicia means.

4. The game table top defined in claim **1**, wherein indicia means in each set have a common readily observable characteristic, distinct from common readily observable characteristics of indicia means in other sets.

5. The game table top defined in claim **4**, wherein said characteristics comprise color coding.

6. The game table top defined in claim **1**, wherein said table top has an upper surface comprising a flat planar circularly configured central portion surrounded by an annular recessed portion.

7. The game table top defined in claim **6**, including a plurality of dividers disposed in said recessed portion, said dividers being equidistantly arcuately spaced from one another an amount determined by the arcuate spacing of indicia means in one of said sets of indicia means.

8. The game table top defined in claim **7**, wherein said recessed portion of said table top has opposite circumferential concentric surfaces, said dividers being disposed between said surfaces and having opposite arcuate concentric surface portions in conforming relation to adjacent portions of said recessed portion surfaces.

9. The game table top defined in claim **7**, wherein said dividers have seating means in upper surfaces thereof for receiving and seating articles therein.

10. The game table top defined in claim **3**, wherein indicia means in each set have a common readily observable charcteristic, distinct from common readily observable characteristics of indicia means in other sets, and wherein five said sets of indicia means are provided.

11. A game table having a table top of substantially circular configuration, said table top comprising a central portion of flat circular configuration having an annular channel disposed thereabout, including a selected number of divider means disposed in said channel for arcuate movement within said channel for dividing the

table into a number of portions corresponding to a desired number of players.

12. The game table top defined in claim **11**, wherein each said channel has opposite circumferential concentric surfaces, said divider means being disposed between said surfaces and having opposite arcuate concentric surface portions in conforming and sliding relation to adjacent concentric surfaces.

13. The game table top defined in claim **11**, wherein said divider means have article-receiving seating means in upper surfaces thereof.

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