Nov. 25, 1947. E. F. GOSNELL 2,431,552

MECHANICAL BASKETBALL GAME

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Fig. 1.

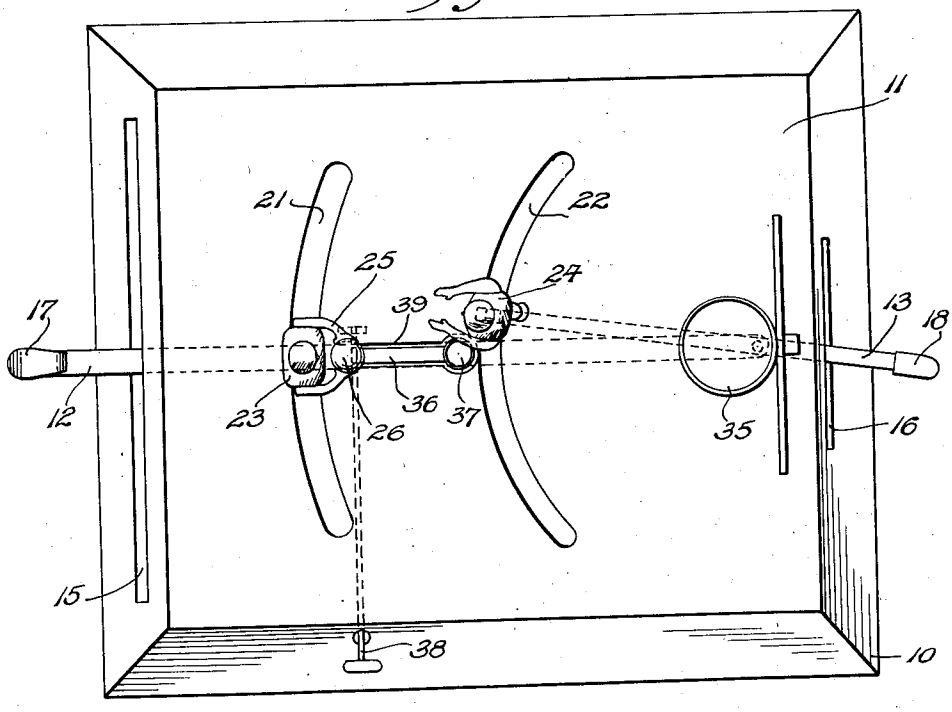
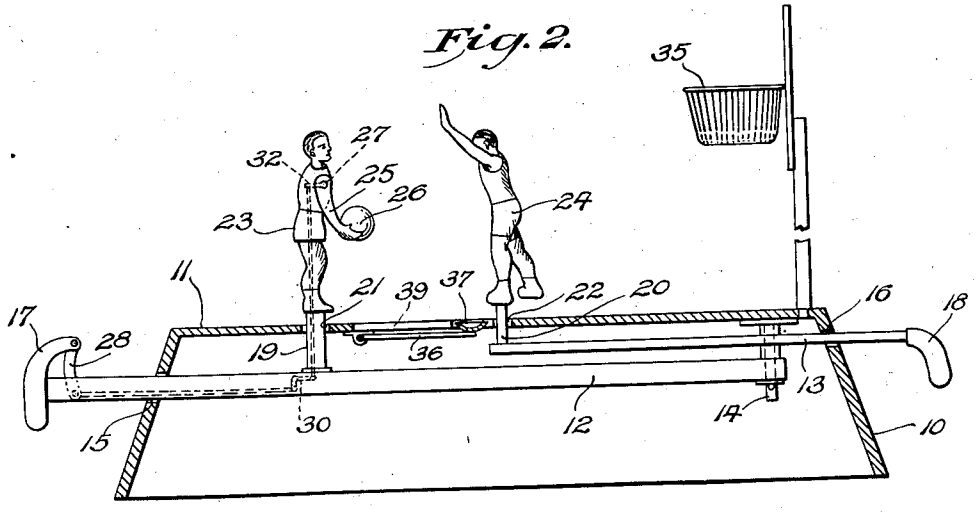


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

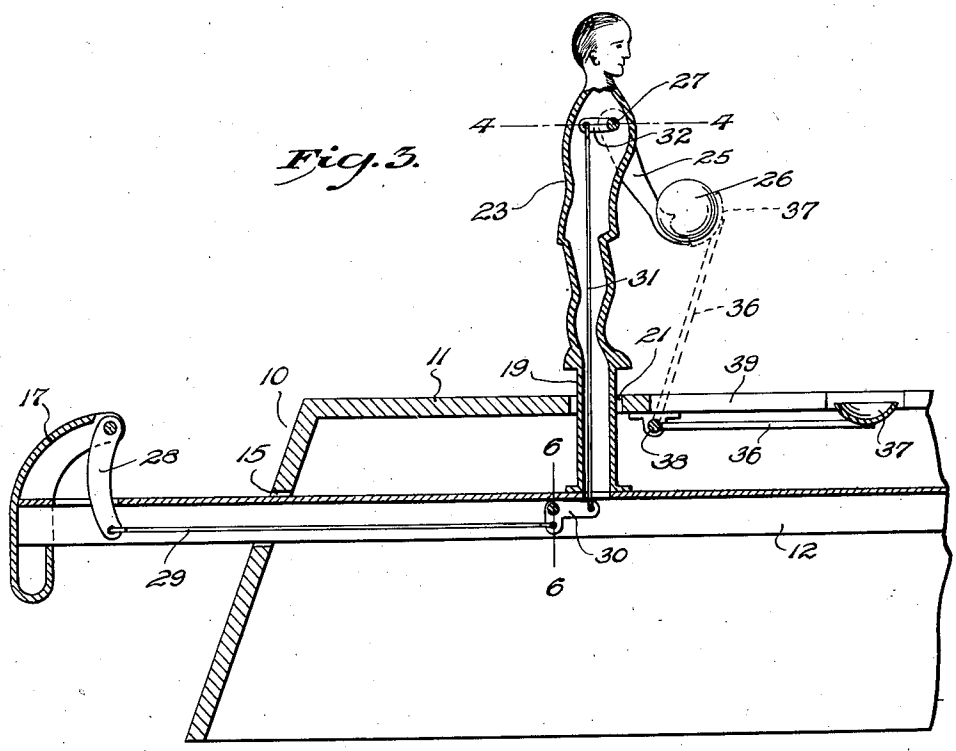


Fig. 4.

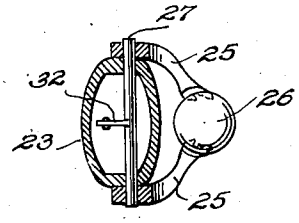


Fig. 5.

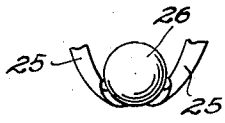
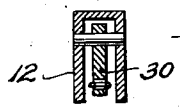


Fig. 6.



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MECHANICAL BASKETBALL GAME

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Application December 11, 1945, Serial No. 634,195

9 Claims. (Cl. 273—85)

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My invention relates to a mechanical amusement machine or toy and more specifically to an amusement machine of the type adapted for the playing of a basket ball game.

It is an object of my invention to provide a mechanical basket ball game adapted for operation by two persons, thereby providing a game inducing competitive spirit and at the same time teaching certain fundamentals of the game of basket ball.

It is another object of my invention to provide a game that may be enjoyed by adults as well as children.

For a further and more complete understanding of my improved mechanical basket ball game, reference is made to the following description and attached drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of my improved basket ball game apparatus;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view on an increased scale disclosing the trigger actuated means for employing motion to the ball element of the apparatus;

Fig. 4 is a detail horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a detail front elevational view disclosing the movable arms of the ball-throwing figure;

Fig. 6 is a detailed sectional view along the line 6—6 of Fig. 3.

With reference to the drawings, it will be seen that my proposed basket ball game includes a platform base 10 having a rectangular top wall 11, a pair of side walls, and a pair of end walls. A pair of horizontal manipulating levers 12 and 13, pivotally supported by a vertical pin 14 rigidly mounted on the under side of the top wall 11, extend through a pair of open rectangular slots 15 and 16 in the end walls of the base 10 and terminate in a pair of operator's handles 17 and 18. The levers 12 and 13 are provided with vertical supporting extensions 19 and 20 which pass through a pair of concentric slots 21 and 22 in the top wall 11 and carry a pair of automatons 23 and 24 at their upper ends.

The describing center of the concentric slots 21 and 22 is coincident with the location of the lever supporting pin 14, thereby insuring free movement of the supporting extensions 19 and 20 within the slots 21 and 22 when the levers 12 and 13 are pivotally moved.

The automatons 23 and 24 are so supported on the extensions 19 and 20 as to face or oppose one another. The automaton 23 is provided with

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a pair of movable arms 25, the hands of which are adapted to hold a basket ball 26, said arms 25 being rigidly connected at its shoulders to a bar 27 which is rotatably mounted within the body of the automaton 23.

A trigger 28, pivotally mounted to the operator's handle 17, is connected at its movable end to a horizontal shaft 29 which, in turn, connects with a pivotally mounted L-shaped arm 30, the latter supporting a vertical shaft 31 located within the automaton 23 and connected to the bar 27 by an extended lever 32 rigidly fastened thereto. This mechanism is located internally of the manipulating lever 12 and extends upwardly through the supporting extension 19 of the automaton 23, and serves, when operated, to swing the arms 25 in an upward manner.

The automaton 24, stationed on the supporting extension 20, is provided with a pair of fixed upwardly extended arms. Located behind the automaton 24, and rigidly mounted at an end of the top wall 11, is a round basket-goal 35, providing a circular opening through which the basket ball 26 may easily pass.

A supply lever 36, having a cup-shaped receptacle 37 at one end adapted to receive the basket ball 26, is rigidly attached at right angles to a shaft 38 rotatably mounted upon the lower surface of the top wall 11. Said supply lever 36 is located adjacent to an open slot 39 in the top wall 11, said slot 39 being substantially of the same configuration as the supply lever but relatively larger so as to permit the upward swing of the supply lever therethrough. The shaft 38 is extended through a side wall of the base 10 and serves upon limited rotation to swing the attached supply lever in an upward direction through the slot 39.

In playing the game, two people stationed at the opposite ends of the base 10 operate the levers 12 and 13 so as to cause a semicircular displacement of the automatons 23 and 24. The basket ball 26 is introduced into the movable arms 25 of the automaton 23 by the limited counterclockwise rotation of the shaft 38. The object of the offensive player is to so position his automaton 23 as to allow a clear throw of the basket ball 26 into the basket-goal 35. When the offensive player has so outmaneuvered the defensive player, the basket ball is thrown toward the basket-goal by the upward swinging motion of the arms 25. This upward motion, in turn, is caused by the actuation of the trigger 28 on the offensive player's handle 17. The object of the game for the defensive player is to so position

his automaton 24 by activation of the manipulating lever 13 so as to block the basket ball 26 thrown by the opposite or offensive player.

In view of the foregoing disclosures, it will be seen that I have provided a mechanical basket ball game adapted to be played by two persons and offering competition. The playing of the game may be readily performed and skill of operation acquired; the game providing the players with an interesting insight to the fundamentals of the actual game of basket ball.

My invention is characterized by simplicity of construction and ease of operation. It will be understood that while I have disclosed the preferred details of my invention, certain modifications of the same may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A mechanical basket ball game comprising a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal supported at an end of said base, a plurality of opposed player-figures, one of said figures having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball towards said basket-goal, supporting means for each of the figures pivotally mounted within said base, said supporting means terminating in externally located operating handles, a trigger mechanism movably mounted on one of said supporting means in operating connection with said movable arms of one of the figures, and an externally operated lever pivotally mounted at one end to said base and serving upon operation to introduce a basket ball into said movable arms of one of the figures.

2. A mechanical basket ball game comprising a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal rigidly supported at one end of said base, open concentric slots within said base, a plurality of opposed player-figures located above said concentric slots, one of said figures having movable arms adapted to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, supporting levers for each of the figures pivotally mounted on said base and terminating in operating handles located externally of said base, a trigger mechanism movably mounted on one of said supporting levers in operating relation with said movable arms of one of the figures, and an externally operated return lever pivotally mounted at one end to said base and serving upon operation to introduce a miniature basket ball into said movable arms of one of the figures.

3. A mechanical basket ball game comprising a platform base having a top wall, side walls, and end walls, said top wall representing on its upper surface a basket ball court and containing a pair of concentric open slots extending therethrough, said end walls providing entrance slots therein, a basket-goal vertically mounted at one end of said top wall above said court surface, a plurality of vertically mounted player-figures located above said concentric slots in said top wall for manipulation on the playing surface, one of said figures having upwardly movable arms adapted to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, a pair of figure-manipulating levers for said figures swingably mounted within said base and providing at their ends figure-supporting extensions, said extensions being movable in the concentric slots of said top wall and carrying said figures at their upper ends, said levers adjacent to their outer ends being located in said slots of the end walls, externally accessible manually operated means provided on one of said levers for imparting swinging movement to said movable arms of one of the figures, and an externally operated lever pivotally mounted at one end to said top wall and serving upon operation to introduce a basket ball into the movable arms of said figure.

4. A mechanical basket ball game comprising a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal rigidly supported at one end of said base, open concentric slots within said base, a plurality of opposed player-figures located above said concentric slots, one of said figures having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, supporting levers for each of the figures pivotally mounted on said base at a point relative to the described center of said concentric slots, externally accessible manually operated means provided on one of said levers for imparting rocking movement to said movable arms, and an externally operated lever pivotally mounted at one end to said base and serving upon operation to introduce a miniature basket ball into said movable arms of the figure.

5. A mechanical basket ball game comprising a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal rigidly supported at one end of said base, open concentric slots within said base, a plurality of opposed player-figures located above said concentric slots, one of said figures having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, another figure having fixed upwardly extended arms adapted to block a basket ball thrown by the opposed player, supporting levers for each of the figures pivotally mounted on said base, externally accessible manually operated means provided on one of said levers for imparting rocking movement to said movable arms, and an externally operated lever pivotally mounted at one end to said base and serving upon operation to introduce a miniature basket ball into said movable arms of the figure.

6. In a mechanical basket ball game, a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal supported by said base, an offensive player-figure having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said goal, a defensive player-figure transversely movable over said court area, the arms of said defensive player-figure being so positioned as to deflect a miniature basket ball thrown by said offensive player-figure when said figures are opposite one another, and a trigger mechanism in operating engagement with the movable arms of said offensive player-figure serving when actuated to impart rocking movement thereto.

7. In a mechanical basket ball game, a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal supported by said base, an offensive player-figure having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said goal, a defensive player-figure transversely movable in an arcuate path over said base, the arms of said defensive player-figure being so positioned as to deflect a miniature basket ball thrown by said offensive player-figure when in the path of trajectory thereof, and a trigger mechanism in operating engagement with the movable arms of said offensive player-figure serv-

ing when actuated to impart rocking movement thereto.

8. In a mechanical basket ball game, a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal supported by said base, offensive and defensive player-figures transversely movable over said court area, said offensive figure having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, said defensive player-figure having arms positioned so as to block a basket ball thrown by said offensive figure when in the path of trajectory thereof, and a trigger mechanism in operating engagement with the movable arms of said offensive player-figure serving when actuated to impart rocking movement thereto.

9. In a mechanical basket ball game, a base provided with a playing surface forming a court area, a basket-goal supported by said base, offensive and defensive player-figures transversely movable over said court area, said offensive figure having movable arms adapted upon rocking movement in an upward direction to throw a miniature basket ball toward said basket-goal, said defensive player-figure having arms positioned so as to block a basket ball thrown by said offensive figure when in the path of trajectory thereof, mechanical means for imparting said transverse movement to said player-figures, and a trigger mechanism in operating engagement with the movable arms of said offensive player-figure serving when actuated to impart rocking movement thereto.

EDWARD F. GOSNELL.

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