Jan. 19, 1954 C. A. PHILLIPS 2,666,645

PREARRANGED CARD DEALING DEVICE

Filed July 14, 1949 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

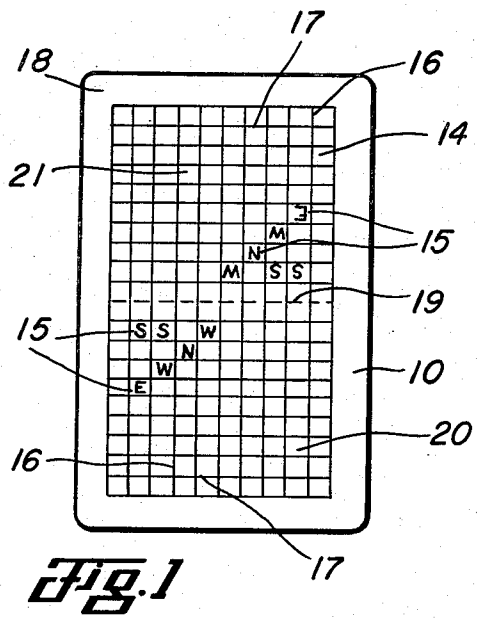

Fig. 1

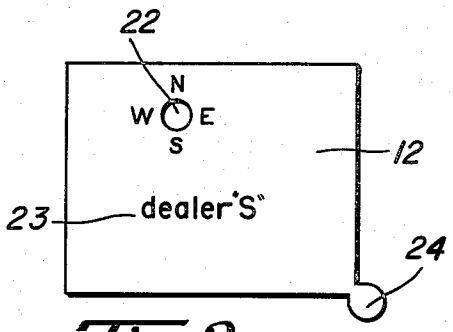

Fig. 2

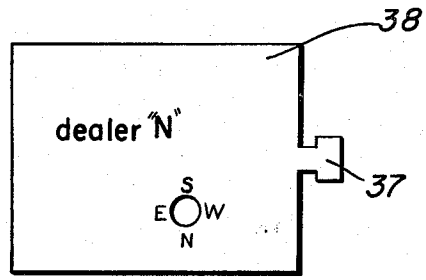

Fig. 5

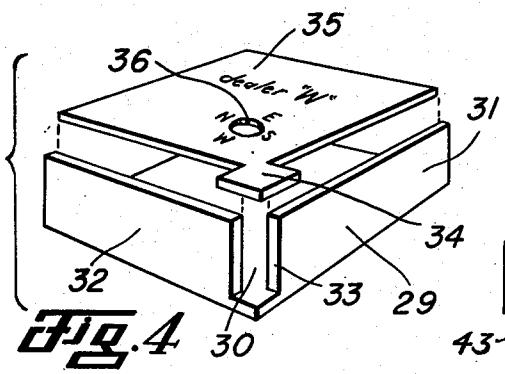

Fig. 4

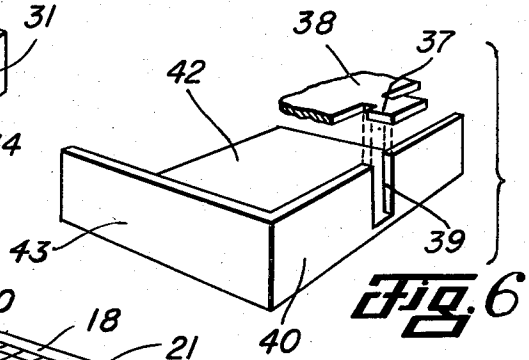

Fig. 6

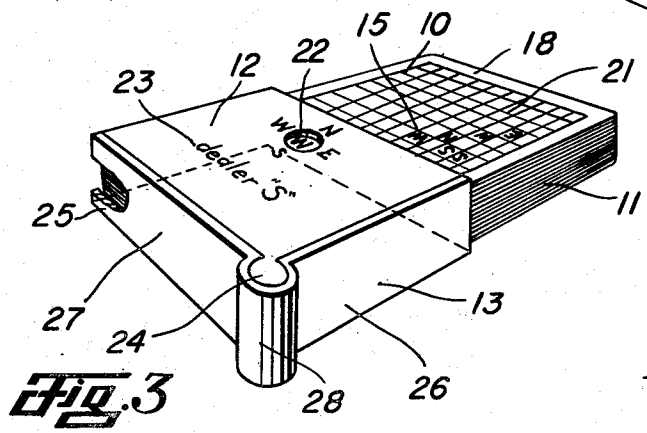

Fig. 3

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PREARRANGED CARD DEALING DEVICE

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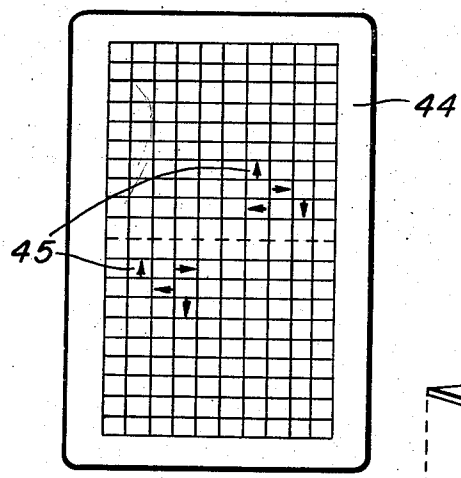

Fig. 7

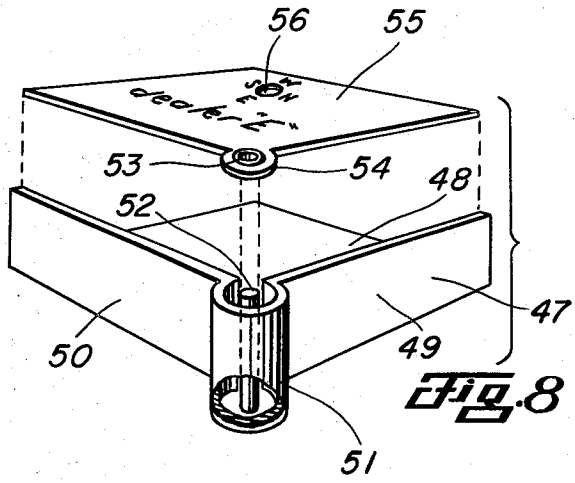

Fig. 8

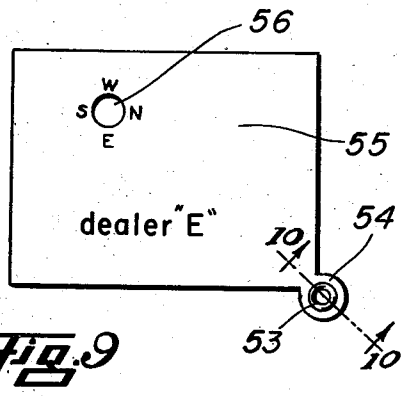

Fig. 9

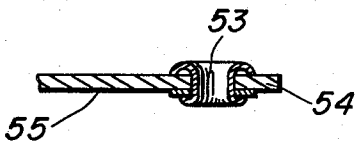

Fig. 10

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PREARRANGED CARD DEALING DEVICE

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Application July 14, 1949, Serial No. 104,631

7 Claims. (Cl. 273—149)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in playing cards and more particularly to cards used in playing bridge, either contract or auction.

One object of the invention is to provide improved playing cards which are arranged to be dealt in a predetermined manner by means of an index member so as to eliminate lucky distribution of the cards and thereby test the skill of the players.

Another object of the invention is to provide improved playing cards which have their backs so marked that a multiplicity of pre-selected bridge hands may be obtained by changing the index member employed; additional different distributions of the hands being obtained by substituting a deck of cards having their markings dissimilarly arranged.

A particular object of the invention is to provide improved playing cards having indicia displayed upon their backs in predetermined arrangements so as to coact with any of a plurality of templates in determining the distribution of the cards to a given number of players.

An important object of the invention is to provide a plurality of improved templates for use with playing cards of the character described, wherein each template has a single window or opening adapted to be alined with one of the indicia of each card whereby the remaining indicia are obscured and distribution of each of the cards may be readily ascertained.

A further object of the invention is to provide improved playing cards and templates, of the character described, together with a holder for receiving the cards and one of the templates and having means to prevent relative movement of the template, the holder and template being of less size than said cards so as to facilitate dealing of the latter.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein examples of the invention are shown, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a playing card, marked in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a template constructed in accordance with the invention,

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the template and a deck of playing cards mounted in a holder,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a slightly modified template and holder,

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Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of template,

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a portion of the modified template, shown in Fig. 5, in association with a modified holder,

Fig. 7 is a plan view of a modified playing card,

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of modified template and holder,

Fig. 9 is a plan view of the template shown in Fig. 8, and

Fig. 10 is a transverse, sectional view, taken on the line 10—10 of Fig. 9.

In the drawings, the numeral 10 designates one card of a conventional deck of playing cards 11. A plurality of index or templates 12 and a holder 13 are provided for dealing members the deck 11 in a predetermined manner, whereby preselected bridge hands may be obtained. As shown in Fig. 3 and as will be hereinafter more fully explained, the holder 13 is adapted to receive the deck of cards and one of the templates 12. Instead of the usual designs, the back 14 of each card 10 has a plurality of indicia 15 printed or otherwise displayed thereupon and these indicia are shown in the form of the letters "N," "E," "S" and "W" for purposes of illustration, but any suitable symbol may be used. In printing the indicia, the same are laid out in longitudinal and transverse, parallel rows 16 and 17, respectively, and are closely spaced so as to cover the entire area of the back 14, except for its margin 18. Thus, a large number of indicia may be displayed upon the back of each card and, as shown, sufficient space is provided for one hundred indicia on each half of the card. It is noted that the back of the card is divided by an imaginary transverse, medial line 19 into two halves or sections 20 and 21, and that each section has the same indicia 15 arranged in longitudinal and transverse rows 16 and 17. Due to the identical arrangement of the indicia in each section, either end of the card may be used in determining its destination in a given hand.

As has been explained, one of the index members or templates 12 is adapted to be used in dealing a deck of cards marked in accordance with the invention. It is noted that a separate template is used for each deal and that the number of templates which might be employed is dependent upon the number of indicia displayed on each section of the card. Each template is preferably rectangular, being of a width substantially equal to one-half the length of one of the cards and of a length substantially equal to the width of said card, so as to cover ap-

proximately one-half of the back of the uppermost card of the deck 11 when in overlying relation thereto (Fig. 3). Any suitable opaque or non-transparent material may be used to form the template. It has been found that paper board or plastic is suitable for this purpose. A window or opening 22 is formed in the template for registration or alinement with one of the indicia so as to expose or render the same visible while concealing the other indicia. Although it is preferable to employ a circular opening, it is pointed out that the shape of the opening is subject to variation and that a transparent window could be employed. Satisfactory results are obtained when only one of the indicia 15 of the uppermost card is visible or is more visible than the remaining indicia. The position of the illustrated window or opening 22 is such that it registers with the indicium or letter at the point of intersection of the fourth longitudinal row from the left with the third transverse row from the center or top of the card. Manifestly, other templates would have their windows or openings at different locations. Indicia 23 are displayed upon the template to designate the dealer, while the letters "S," "W," "N" and "E" are arranged around the opening in conformity with the position of the players which are usually designated "South," "West," "North" and "East." Since "South" is the dealer and the opening is alined with the letter "N" on the back of the uppermost card, it is readily apparent that said card would be dealt to "North" who is the player opposite the dealer. As will be explained, a substantially circular projection or enlargement 24 is formed on the right-hand, lower corner of the template for coacting with the holder 13 and maintaining said template in a fixed position.

The holder may be formed of metal, plastic, wood or other suitable material, and includes a flat bottom 25 of substantially the same size as the template. A pair of upright side walls 26 and 27 are made integral with or are otherwise connected to the right-hand and lower or outer margins, respectively, of the bottom 25. Thus, the inner ends of the side walls 26 and 27 are contiguous. If desired, the contiguous ends of the side walls may be connected by a substantially cylindrical keeper or retaining element 28 which is complementary to and adapted to receive the projection 24 of the template. It is noted that the height of the side walls is sufficient to receive the entire deck 11 as well as the overlying template. The right-hand and lower edge portions of the deck and template are adapted to engage the side walls 26 and 27, respectively, whereby displacement of the deck is prevented when the holder is firmly held in the left hand of the dealer. Due to the coaction of the projection 24 and the retaining element 28, the template is held in a fixed position with its opening 22 in alinement or registration with a predetermined indicium 15 of the uppermost card. Since the arrangement of the indicia 15 is differenct on each card, it is manifest that different indicia or letters register with the opening so as to assure equal distribution of the cards among the players. Due to the relatively small size of the holder and templates, whereby substantially one-half of each card is exposed, dealing of the cards is facilitated.

As shown in Fig. 4, the retaining element of the holder may be omitted. A modified type of holder 29 is shown and includes a flat bottom 30 and upright side walls 31 and 32 similar to

the bottom 25 and side walls 26 and 27 of the holder 13. The inner ends of the side walls 31 and 32 are spaced from each other to provide a recess 33 for receiving the projection or enlargement 24 of the template. Obviously, the projection or enlargement may be of any desired shape and may take the form of a substantially square tongue 34 provided on the right-hand, inner or lower corner of a modified template 35. A window or opening 36, similar to the opening 22, is formed in the template 35 and is located at a different position, being adjacent the tongue 34. The modified forms of holder and templates are used in the same manner as the template 12 and holder 13, the tongue 34 engaging in the recess 33 in overlying relation to a deck of cards for maintaining said modified template in a fixed position. It is noted that the position of the projection or enlargement of the template is subject to variation. As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, a T-shaped tongue 37 may be formed on one of the margins of a template 38, such as the right-hand margin. A recess or slot 39 is provided in the right-hand side wall 40 of a holder 42 for receiving the neck or reduced portion of the tongue 37. The inner end of the right-hand side wall merges with or is connected to a side wall 43, similar to the side walls 27 and 32.

As stated hereinbefore, the form of the indicia displayed on the back of the playing card is subject to variation. A modified playing card 44 having indicia in the form of arrows 45 on its back is shown in Fig. 7. With the exception of the indicia, the card 44 is identical to the card 10 and is adapted to be dealt in the same manner by means of a template and holder. Although it would be difficult for a person to memorize the arrangement of a plurality of letters or numbers upon a multiplicity of cards, it would be much more difficult, if not impossible, to memorize the arrangement of the arrows 45, or other symbols of a similar nature.

Instead of the projections or tongues 24, 34 and 37 and the coacting retaining element 28 or recesses 33 and 39, other means of maintaining the template in a fixed position relative to the holder may be employed. In Fig. 8, a holder 47, substantially identical to the holder 13, is shown and includes a similar flat bottom 48 and upright side walls 49 and 50. The inner ends of the walls 49 and 50 may be connected by a substantially cylindrical retaining element 51 similar to the retaining element 28. An upright pin 52 is axially-disposed within the element 51 and is adapted to be engaged by a complementary eye 53 carried by the substantially circular projection or tongue 54 of a template 55. As is most clearly shown in Fig. 9, the template 55 has a window or opening 56, similar to the opening 15, for registration with one of the indicia 15 or 45. The eye 53 may be in the form of a grommet as shown in Fig. 10. Due to the coaction of the pin and eye, it is manifest that the retaining element 51 and tongue 54 are unnecessary for the purpose of maintaining the template 55 in a fixed position relative to the holder 47.

From the foregoing, it is readily apparent that an economical, simple means has been provided for obtaining pre-arranged and pre-selected bridge hands without the necessity of sorting the cards. It is desirable that the pre-selected hands be played and analyzed by experts in advance and that the analysis be furnished to the players after completion of the play, whereby said players may determine whether they correctly bid and

played the hands. Although the number of different hands possible is determined by the number of indicia, it is contemplated that the templates and holder may be used with any number of decks marked in accordance with the invention. These other decks would have the same or similar indicia arranged in different orders so as to provide distributions of the cards entirely different from that obtained with the deck 11.

The foregoing description of the invention is explanatory thereof and various changes in the size, shape and materials, as well as in the details of the illustrated construction may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In combination with a template having a single opening therein at a predetermined position, a holder for receiving the template, a deck of playing cards, each card having indicia on its back arranged in a predetermined manner so as to indicate a plurality of possible destinations, the cards being insertable in the holder beneath said template so as to aline one of the indicia of the uppermost card with the template opening and render said indicium visible through said opening for denoting the destination of said card, and a lateral projection on said template, said holder having a recess for receiving the lateral projection to detachably connect said template to said holder and an open top to permit insertion of the cards and template from above, said template being substantially square and one-half the size of said cards so as to overlie one end portion and expose the other end portion of said cards and facilitate dealing thereof.

2. The combination set forth in claim 1 wherein the holder is of substantially the same size as the template to facilitate holding of the cards and holder during dealing.

3. In combination with a deck of playing cards, each card having indicia on its back in a predetermined arrangement for indicating its distribution, indicia on some of the cards being different from indicia on other cards, a plate adapted to overlie the uppermost card and having a single opening so as to conceal all except one of the indicia on the back of the uppermost card, a holder for receiving the deck and plate, the holder having a bottom wall and a pair of upright walls on its adjacent margins for engaging adjacent edge portions of said cards and plate to aline the same, the remaining margins and top of said holder being open to facilitate insertion and dealing of said cards, and means detachably connecting said plate to said holder in overlying relation to said cards and adjacent said open top.

4. In combination, a relatively flat holder rectangular in shape having a pair of adjacent, upright, connected side walls and a pair of adjacent open sides, a deck of cards inserted face downward to lie horizontally in the holder, said holder being of considerably less length than the cards whereby a portion of the back of the uppermost card is exposed beyond the holder and may be grasped for ready removal through the open sides of said holder, each card having indicia on its back side, a template inserted in said holder upon the uppermost card and concealing one end portion of said card, the template having a single opening located to expose a single indicium on the underlying card to indicate its destination, and a single projection on said template engaging a wall of the holder to retain said template when a card is slid from thereunder.

5. The combination set forth in claim 4, wherein the template has indicia disposed around its opening, one of which indicia coincides and coacts with the card indicium exposed through said opening to determine the destination of the card.

6. In combination with a deck of playing cards, each card having indicia on its back in a predetermined arrangement for indicating its destination in accordance with a pre-selected distribution, the indicia being regularly spaced, a template adapted to overlie the cards and having a window for registration with one of the indicia of the uppermost card so as to expose said indicium and indicate the destination of said card, a holder having an open top for receiving the playing cards and template, and an upright pin beyond the margin of the holder supported thereby, the template having an eye beyond its margin for receiving the pin to detachably connect said template to said holder and permit insertion of cards from above.

7. In combination with a template having a single opening therein at a predetermined position, a holder for receiving the template, a deck of playing cards, each card having indicia on its back arranged in a predetermined manner so as to indicate a plurality of possible destinations, indicia on some of the cards being different from indicia on other cards, the cards being insertable in the holder beneath said template so as to aline one of the indicia of the uppermost card with the template opening and render said indicium visible through said opening for denoting the destination of said card, and concealing other indicia on said card, and means for detachably securing said template to said holder in overlying relation to said deck and in a predetermined position relative thereto, said template being substantially square and one-half the size of said cards so as to overlie one end portion and expose the other end portion of said cards and facilitate dealing thereof.

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