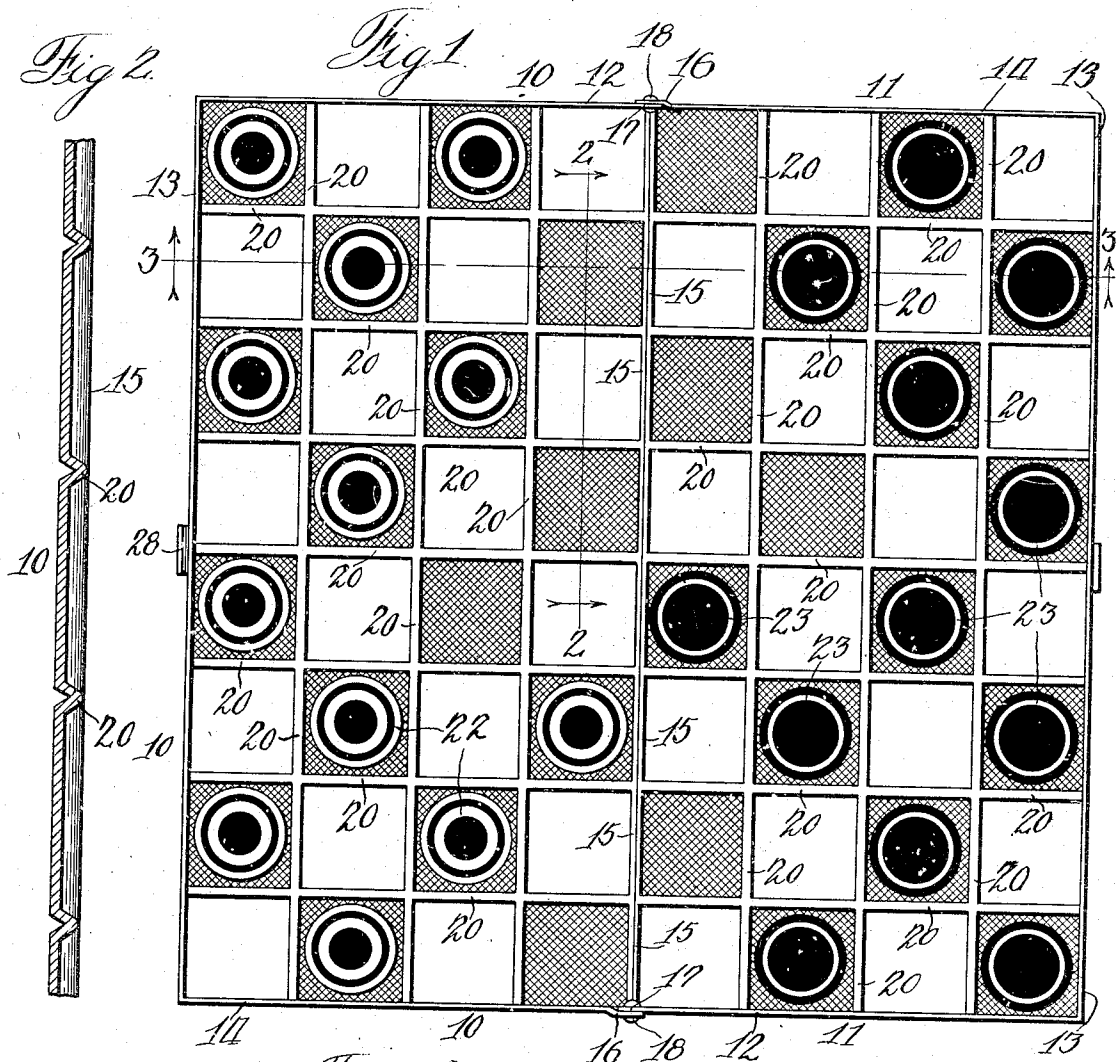
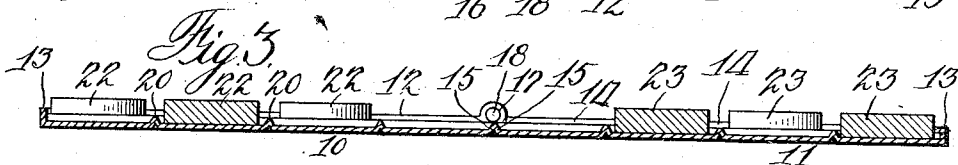
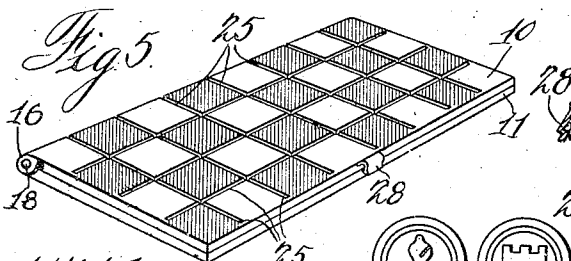
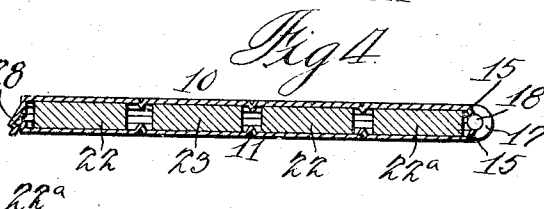


Jan. 9, 1923.

1,441,386.

J. F. TRUSKOSKI.
CHECKER AND CHESS BOARD.
FILED OCT. 19, 1921.



Witness:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. TRUSKOSKI, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CHECKER AND CHESS BOARD.

Application filed October 19, 1921. Serial No. 508,822.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. TRUSKOSKI, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements Relating to Checker and Chess Boards, of which the following is a specification.

One important object of these improvements is to provide a two-part board of the character described which may be folded and occupy a relatively small amount of space while protectively housing the playing pieces, which may be of a sufficient number for either checkers or chess and appropriately marked for either game. Another important object is to provide a checker-and-chess board having the advantages next hereinabove pointed out and which may be conveniently used on a moving carrier such as a ship or railway train without material danger that the pieces will become displaced through jarring or tilting movements. Another object is to provide a game device having the foregoing advantages and also the provision of a flat surface free from projections having spaces defined according to the requirements of the game, from one to the other of which spaces the playing pieces may be moved slidably in the ordinary way. A still further object is to provide an improved mechanical construction for such game boards whereby lightness, compactness and strength are attained by simple and convenient methods of manufacture.

Other objects and advantages will appear hereinafter.

It has heretofore been suggested to provide relatively small foldable boards for checkers and chess which are adapted to contain the playing pieces, but I am not aware that it has heretofore been suggested to produce a board, as in the present instance, which will have a thickness when folded which is substantially no greater than the thickness of a relatively thin disc used as a player plus the thickness of the sheet material of the side walls of the folded device, the present construction providing that such thickness may well be even less than three-sixteenths of an inch. The present invention is important in connection with boards adapted to be carried in a vest or coat pocket, in small handbags, etc.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a face view of the inner surface of my im-

proved board in open position with playing pieces arranged thereon for combat in the game of checkers; Fig. 2 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary section of a portion of the board as on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a sectional view across the board when in playing position as on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a section through the two parts of the board when folded together with the playing men retainingly held by the board parts; Fig. 5 is a perspective of the board in its closed position; and Fig. 6 is a face view of several playing pieces marked for the game of chess.

In this specification the word "board" is used in its ordinary meaning as applied to such devices, they being usually called checker or chess boards regardless of shape or construction.

According to my preferred construction the board is stamped from relatively thin sheet metal, which may well be aluminum and of say twenty to twenty-four gauge or less. It comprises two body parts 10 and 11 each of which is shown as being identical with the other, whereby a single stamping die or set of dies will suffice for both. Each of these parts 10 or 11 has a relatively narrow marginal flange 12, 13 and 14 turned up substantially at right angles with the main body of the plate and a fourth marginal flange 15, not as deep as the other three, whereby these two parts 10 and 11 may be positioned one upon the other with the corresponding flanges of the other part, thus producing a flat casing which is closed except for a long and narrow opening at the flanges 15.

A hinge is provided for holding the parts together whereby they may face each other in the casing-forming position or laid apart so as to lie in a common plane for playing purposes. The hinge suggested comprises two small ears 16 each of which is an integral extension of the flange 14 of each of the body parts, each of these ears 16 being bent away slightly and then again forward, as well seen in Fig. 1. The arrangement of the playing spaces for the checker and chess game is such that two identical parts 10 and 11 can be brought together as shown in Fig. 1 with the hinge extension 16 of each located at opposite edges of the board. At the hinge the marginal flange 12 is also somewhat extended, but in a straight line, and is

also increased in depth at 17 and rounded the same as the extension 16 to provide for the proper location of the hinge pins 18, each of these pins being a small headed piece of wire riveted over.

It is to be noted that the hinge pins 18 are coaxial on a line which is close to the edges of the contiguous body parts 10 and 11, and that this line is on the plane of the free edges of the marginal flanges 12, 13 and 14. This location of the hinge pin permits the two parts 10 and 11 to fold upon each other freely with the corresponding flanges 12, 13 and 14 abutting each other edge to edge and with the plate-like body of the parts respectively in parallel planes in their spaced-apart relative position when the board is folded.

The checker or chess game calls for sixty-four playing surfaces in eight parallel lines in each of two directions which are at right angles to each other, as illustrated in Fig. 1, and the playing surfaces are alternately marked in these parallel lines, usually in red and black colors. In checkers the game is usually played on alternate black squares which define a "double corner" at the player's right. In both Figs. 1 and 5 the shaded squares indicate the surfaces used for checkers. In chess all of the squares are used. Both of these games are so well known that a detailed description of them is not essential here.

According to the present improvements all of the playing surfaces on the board, whether for checkers or chess, are defined by a plurality of projections upstanding on what is the inner surface of the board when folded. These projections include the marginal flanges 12, 13, 14 and 15 in the form of device shown. The other projections are ridges 20 equally spaced apart and defining, with the marginal flanges mentioned, four lines of squares in one direction across each body part and eight lines of squares in the other direction on each part. These projections 20 are preferably in the form of intersecting ridges whereby each of the playing surfaces on the board has around it an upstanding rim adapted to hold the playing pieces such as 22 and 23 (Fig. 1) and 22^a (Fig. 6) upon the playing surfaces respectively in such a manner that jarring or tilting of a train or ship on which the game board may be used will not dislodge the pieces from their desired positions of play. The ridges 20 are preferably of less depth than are the marginal flanges 12, 13 and 14 so as to give the player plenty of finger room for picking up the playing pieces to transfer them from one position to another.

The playing pieces themselves are shown as cylindrical discs having a diameter enabling them to enter quite loosely between opposite projections defining the playing

surfaces, and being of a thickness which is preferably just twice the depth of the flanges 12, 13 and 14 whereby when the two sides of the board are folded together as in Fig. 4 the playing pieces will fit snugly between the side walls of the device when the flanges 12, 13 and 14 come together. The provision of such thickness of the playing pieces prevents some rattling when the board is folded and insures the maximum finger grip upon the pieces during play.

In this connection it is pointed out that the marginal flanges 15 are of the same height as the ridges 20, which provision is made so that when the board is open for play, as in Fig. 3 the two abutting flanges 15 will define a ridge of substantially the shape and height of the ridges 20 whereby no material inequality in the ridges from one side of the board to the other will exist.

In the game of chess sixteen playing pieces are used on each side, or a total of thirty-two for both players. Since each body part 10 and 11 has thirty-two of these ridge-defined playing surfaces that number of playing pieces may be housed in the device. By the simple provision of suitable markings on the reverse side of thirty-two pieces the device becomes adapted both for checkers and chess. In Fig. 6 I have shown the reverse faces of four of the pieces 22, for convenience indicating them as 22^a, these showing conventional indications for chess. Such chessmen illustrations would, of course, run through the series of pawns and pieces, sixteen in number for each side.

When the game of checkers is being played and a "king" is called for the actual playing piece may be "crowned" by one of the extra pieces provided for use in the game of chess; but when the board is being used on ship-board or on a train the piece to be crowned is preferably reversed, exposing one of the chess figures, for distinguishing a king from a common piece.

The stamping up of the ridges 20 on the inner surface of the board naturally causes depressions or grooves as 25 in the outer surface, well seen in Fig. 5, thus defining playing spaces corresponding to those on the inner surfaces of the board. Either game may therefore be played also on the outer surface of the board, in which case the pieces may be slid from one surface to the other. This marking on the outer surface of the board gives to it also an attractive appearance and indicates the character of the device.

The various small playing surfaces may be painted with different colors such as black and red in the usual way, both outside and inside; but I prefer to omit the use of such markings and to score the appropriate surfaces by means of the forming die to indicate the squares used in the checker game,

leaving the other squares plain. The shaded squares in Figs. 1 and 5 may be considered as having been marked with fine depressions or lines stamped in the face of the metal. According to this construction a single stamping operation will make one of the parts 10 or 11 complete.

The playing pieces may be made of wood, fibre, hard rubber or any other suitable material and will ordinarily consist of black and red discs which may be impressed with designs of ornamentation and with representations of chess figures on one side.

A simple form of spring-leaf-and-catch clasp 28 is provided at the free edge of the two parts for holding them together when in the folded position of Figs. 4 and 5. Such clasp elements may be stamped directly from the metal, as well shown in Fig. 4.

My improved game board may be formed of various kinds of material and according to other details of construction and which would be mere matters of mechanical skill to adopt in view of the disclosure hereof. Reference should therefore be had to the appended claims to determine the scope of the invention herein set forth.

I claim:

1. A checker-and-chess board comprising two flat plate-like parts of thin metal hinged to lie in the same plane when open and to lie in substantially parallel spaced-apart planes when folded, means, including stamped up projections on the inner surface of each of the parts when folded, for holding playing pieces in the relative positions called for by the game of checkers or chess, each plate-like part having marginal projections constituting flange-like edges for the device, the flange-like edges of one part abutting the corresponding flange-like edges of the other part when the device is folded, the projections defining playing spaces, the corresponding spaces registering with each other when the board is folded.

2. A checker-and-chess board comprising two flat plate-like parts of thin material and of substantially corresponding size and shape, the parts being hinged to lie in the same plane when open and to lie in substantially parallel spaced-apart planes when folded, each of said parts having thirty-two playing spaces arranged as in checkers and chess on the inner surface thereof when the board is folded, said spaces being defined by relatively low ridges upstanding from the surface of the parts respectively, the corresponding playing spaces registering with each other when the board is folded, and a plurality of playing pieces adapted to occupy respectively any of said spaces when the board is folded, the thickness of the pieces respectively and the distance between the facing inner surfaces of the parts being such that when the board is folded with

such pieces in the corresponding spaces the thickness of the folded board is but slightly greater than the thickness of the pieces respectively plus the thickness of the material of the parts covering the pieces on both sides thereof.

3. A checker-and-chess board comprising two flat plate-like parts of thin metal hinged to lie in the same plane when open and to lie in substantially parallel spaced-apart planes when folded together, means, including stamped up projections on the inner surface of each of the parts when folded, for holding playing pieces on the board in the relative positions called for by the game of checkers or chess, the projections defining playing spaces, the corresponding spaces of each part registering with each other when the board is folded, each plate-like part having marginal projections constituting flange-like edges for the device, the flange-like edges of one part abutting the corresponding flange-like edges of the other part when the device is folded, the outer surface of each part also having playing spaces arranged as in checkers and chess, said spaces being defined by the recesses formed by stamping the projections on the inner surfaces of the two parts.

4. A checker-and-chess board comprising two substantially rectangular parts each having a marginal flange of substantially uniform and relatively narrow width upstanding therefrom, the two parts being substantially of the same shape whereby they may be brought together with the flanges of one close to the flanges of the other to form a relatively thin and flat casing having side and edge walls, hinge means between the two parts for holding them together as a casing in one position and with the main body of the parts lying in the same plane in another position, a plurality of series of spaced-apart parallel ridges on the inner surface of each of said parts, the ridges of one series being at an angle to the adjacent ridges respectively of another series and said ridges defining thirty-two playing spaces on each part, corresponding spaces on each part registering with each other when the parts are folded together as a casing.

5. A checker-and-chess board comprising two substantially rectangular parts of thin metal, each having a marginal flange of substantially uniform and relatively narrow width turned upward therefrom, the two parts being substantially of the same shape whereby they may be brought together with the flanges of one close to the flanges of the other to form a relatively thin and flat casing having side and edge walls, hinge means between the two parts for holding them together as a casing in one position and with the main body of the parts lying in the

same plane in another position, a plurality of spaced-apart ridges parallel with one of said marginal flanges and a plurality of spaced-apart parallel ridges at right angles 5 to said other parallel ridges on the inner surface of each of said parts, said ridges defining thirty-two playing spaces on each part, the corresponding spaces on each part registering with each other when the parts are folded together as a casing, said ridges 10 being stamped in the metal of the parts and leaving corresponding recesses which substantially define corresponding playing surfaces on the outer surfaces respectively of said parts.

JOHN F. TRUSKOSKI.