Feb. 10, 1931. J. C. F. HORSTMANN 1,792,166

GAME INDICATOR

Filed Oct. 13, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

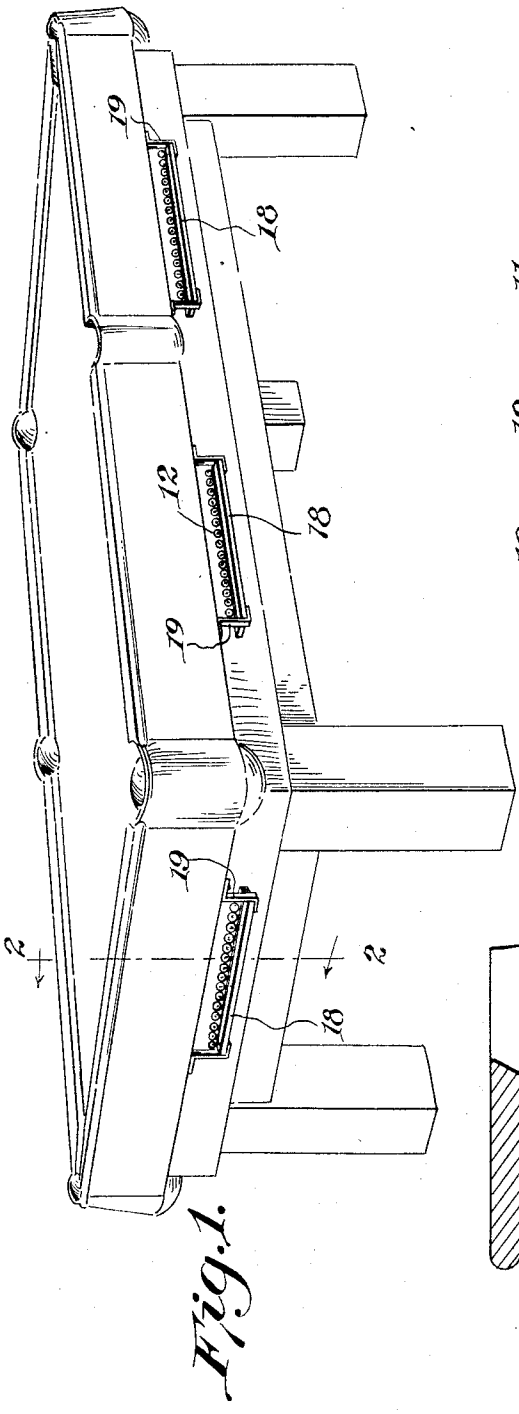


Fig. 1.

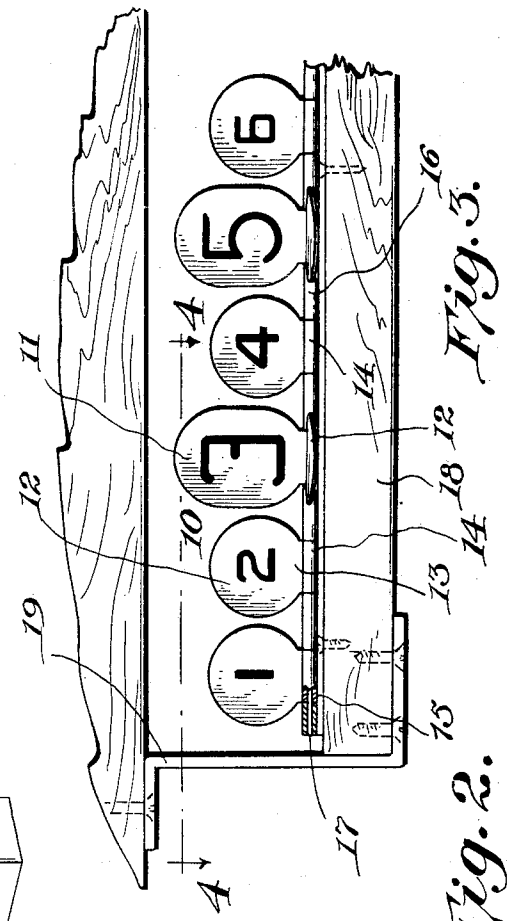


Fig. 2.

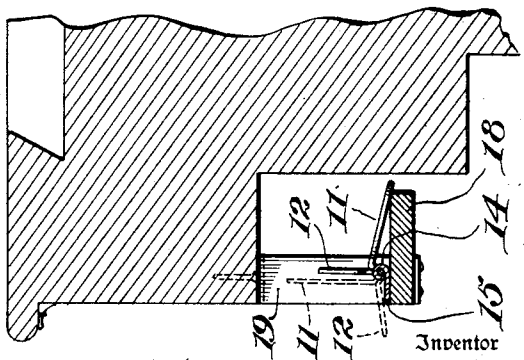


Fig. 3.

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GAME INDICATOR

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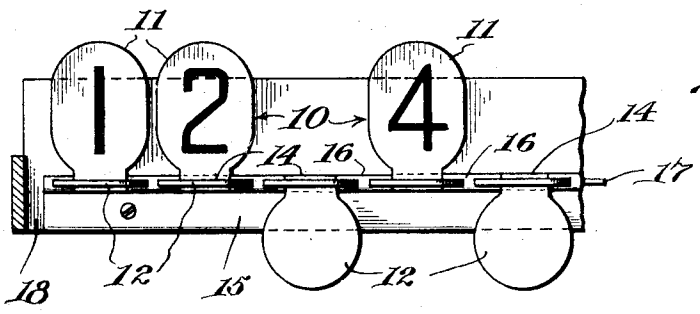


Fig. 4.

Fig. 6.

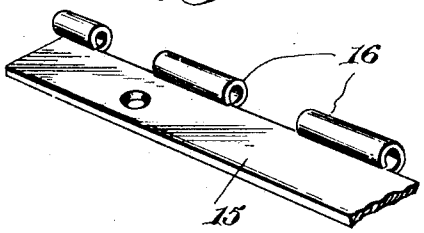
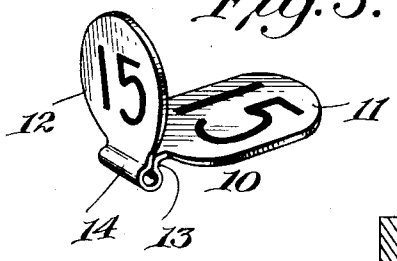


Fig. 5.



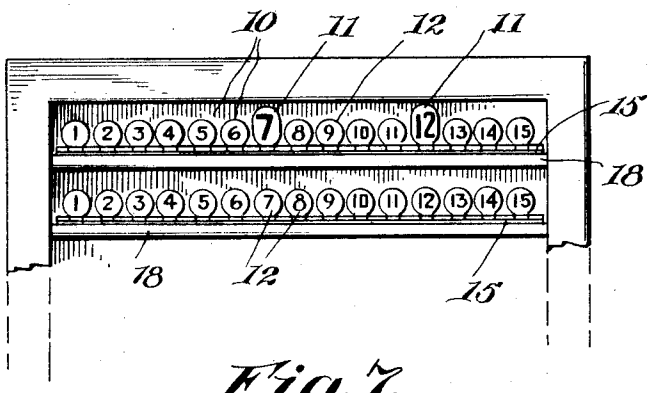


Fig. 7.

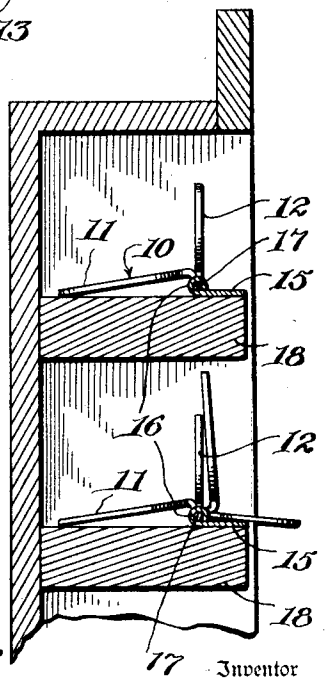


Fig. 8.

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Patented Feb. 10, 1931 1,792,166

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME INDICATOR

Application filed October 13, 1930. Serial No. 488,489.

This invention relates generally to game indicators, for use in recording or registering the scores in various games of table pool.

In pool tables of that kind where the balls as they drop into the pockets pass through passages to a racking compartment beneath the table, sometimes called "sub-way" tables, and as shown for example in United States Letters Patent No. 1,703,448, granted to me on February 26, 1929, no convenient or acceptable way has yet been devised for recording the scores of the several players using such tables. It is the purpose of the present invention to provide a complete, simple, inexpensive and highly efficient scoring or tabulating device for use particularly, though not exclusively, in connection with tables of the character mentioned, whereby the several players may properly and accurately record their scores as the game progresses, without resorting to removing the balls from the racking compartment in ascertainment of the numbers thereon.

With these objects in view, together with others as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, all as will be described more fully hereinafter, illustrated in the drawings and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a conventional form of pocket pool table of the "subway" type equipped with indicators embodying the invention,

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view through one edge of the table and indicating the manner in which the scoring device may be attached to or associated with the table,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary front elevation of the scoring or indicating device,

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken substantially upon line 4—4 of Fig. 3,

Fig. 5 is a detailed perspective view of one of the indicator members removed from its supporting element,

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the strip support for the indicator members,

Fig. 7 shows a portion of the front face of a conventional form of pool ball rack, having applied thereto indicator members embodying the invention, and

Fig. 8 is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken through the frame disclosed in Fig. 7.

The indicating or scoring device in accordance with the invention is of simple nature and is constructed primarily as an attachment for pool tables or an adjunct to a pool room. The scoring device may be applied either to the table itself or to the rack heretofore used to contain the balls of the several players, or it may be applied to a wall or any other support as desired. The inventive idea resides in the arrangement of a series of indicating members mounted independently of each other and of which there will be a number corresponding to the number of balls used in the game. Each one of these indicating members has inscribed thereon the number of a ball so that for each ball there will be an indicating member corresponding to the number thereon. There will be one of these indicating devices for each player engaged in the game, and as the several players score by driving the various balls into the pockets, they will operate their indicator corresponding to the number upon the balls so scored. As the game progresses and the various players score until all of the balls are removed from the table, it will be an easy matter for each player to sum up the total number of points he has scored by the simple process of addition of the various numbers appearing upon his particular indicator.

In carrying out this inventive idea, and assuming that there are fifteen balls employed in the game, numbered consecutively from one to fifteen, each indicator will include therefor tabs or members totaling fifteen and which will be numbered in regular order from one to fifteen. The indicator in the present instance comprises movable members indicated generally at 10, and these members may be formed of metal or any other desired material. Each member comprises a pair of angularly disposed indicia bearing faces 11 and 12, the former of which is preferably substantially larger than the

latter. The invention in its preferred embodiment contemplates the use of members formed of single piece of metal of generally rectangular shape, the end edges of which may be rounded as shown, and a reduced intermediate portion 13 disposed closer to one end than the other. This reduced portion when bent in the manner shown in the drawings forms a hinge barrel 14, and preferably the elements 11—12 are bent so as to be disposed at right angles to each other.

Associated with the elements thus described, and for the purpose of properly supporting the same is a base member 15, formed of an elongated strip of metal having spaced barrel portions 16 at one edge to receive between them the barrel members 14 of the various indicator members. A pin or rod 17 extends through the aligned barrels 16—14, to hold the same properly together and to permit of the members swinging independently of each other between the said strip barrels. The strip 15 may be secured to a support or base in any preferred manner, screws or small bolts being usually employed for this purpose.

In adapting the indicator thus described to a pool table, the strip member is secured to a base 18 which may be formed of wood or any other preferred material, and the member 18 has brackets 19 attached to the ends thereof to enable the same to be firmly secured to an underledge of the table. The brackets 19 will extend up from the ends of the base 18 a sufficient distance beyond the upper ends of the table members 11 to prevent interference of any portion of the table with said members in operation.

In instances where it may be desired to secure the indicators to any other support, as for instance the several shelves of the usual wall supported pool ball rack, the strip 15 may be screwed directly to the top surface of the shelf near the forward edge thereof.

The hinge pintles of the indicator are located a distance sufficiently far removed from the front edge of the support or base to enable the said edge to act as a support for the forwardly projecting table element 12, so that when said element is removed forwardly to its limit, the portion 11 will be disposed in an upright or fully exposed position. The forward face of each of the members 11 has inscribed thereon the several numbers sufficiently large to be at once distinguishable, and the underface of each of the tab elements 12 has a number inscribed thereon corresponding to its respective tab element 11.

The portions 11 of the indicator members are substantially larger than the portions 12 and are disposed slightly forwardly of their respective hinge barrels. In being so constructed, when a tab element 12 is pulled or "flipped" forwardly, the element 11 will rise perpendicular and as soon as it has passed the vertical center through the hinge pin, its weight will tend to maintain the same in true vertical position with the member 12 raising upon the front edge of the base. When the tab element 12 is pulled upwardly from the position just described to a distance sufficiently to dispose the weight of tab element 11 rearwardly of the hinge pin, then the said larger tab element will fall to horizontal or obscured position rearwardly upon the base or support.

In instances where the scoring device is associated with a pool table, there will be six of the indicators employed; one for each player who might participate in a game. The indicator may be arranged along the sides and upon the ends of the table and in such position as obviate the possibility of coming in contact with the clothing or persons of the players. As the players proceed, each scores the numbers of balls he has shot from the table by operating the indicator upon his particular scoring device, and after all of the balls have been played, the sum totals of points scored by the several players may be realized by the simple process of adding the numbers disclosed by the upstanding larger tab members 11 of the several indicators. Before a new game is played, each player will adjust his particular indicator properly by returning the upstanding tabs 11 to their normal obscured positions. This may be done by either flipping the forwardly projecting tabs 12 of such members upwardly with the finger or with the pool cue.

From the foregoing it is obvious that I have provided a game indicator of extremely simple construction, which may be economically manufactured and marketed, which may be applicable to any of the present day pool tables or ball racks, and by the use of which an accurate record of the points scored may be maintained.

While the foregoing is a description of the invention in its preferred embodiments, it is nevertheless to be understood that variations in the construction, combination and arrangement of the several parts may be resorted to if desired without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a game indicator, a support, a plurality of indicating elements carried by said support, each of said elements comprising angularly disposed indicia bearing faces, and hinge members at the juncture of said portions for hingedly mounting said members to said support.

2. In a game indicator, a support, a plurality of indicator members for said support, each member comprising indicia bearing faces disposed angularly to each other, and a hinge

barrel for each member substantially at the juncture of said faces with each other for hingedly mounting the member upon said support.

3. In a game indicator, a support, an indicator element comprising a pair of indicia bearing portions disposed angularly to each other and means for hingedly connecting said element to said support at substantially the juncture of the two portions.

4. In a game indicator, a support, a plurality of spaced hinge barrels on said support, a plurality of indicator members, said members comprising portions disposed angularly to each other, a hinge barrel for each member to interfit with the barrels of said support, and a pin passing through the barrels of said support and said member.

5. In a game indicator, a support, an indicator element including a body having a pair of indicia bearing faces disposed angularly to each other, and a hinge barrel for said member disposed outwardly beyond the plane of one of said faces and to be hingedly connected to said support.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN C. F. HORSTMANN.