

March 31, 1936.

C. ECKARD ET AL

2,035,694

MARKER

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Fig. 1.

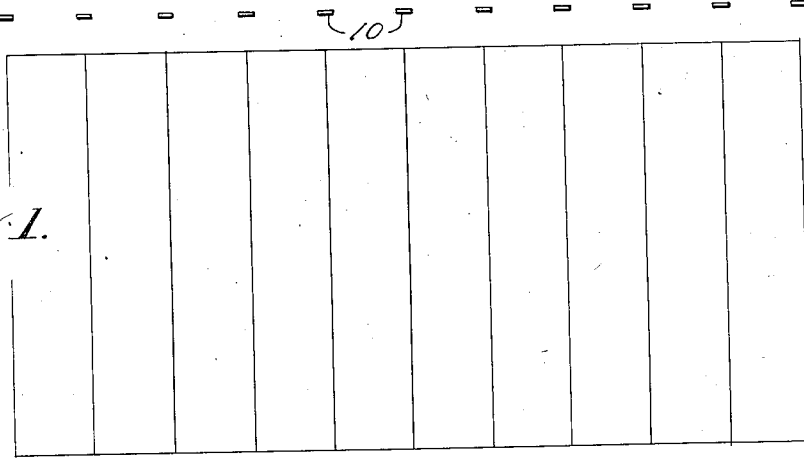
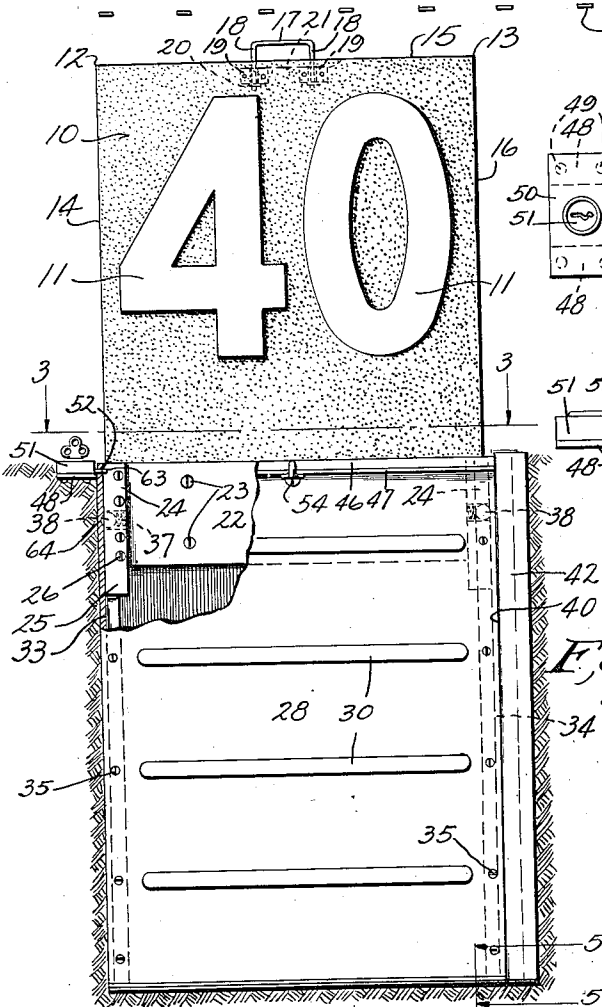


Fig. 3.

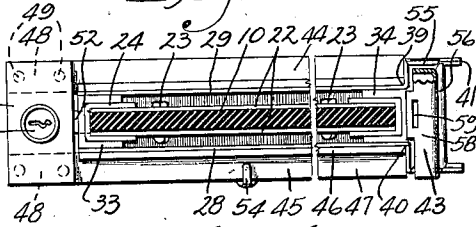


Fig. 4.

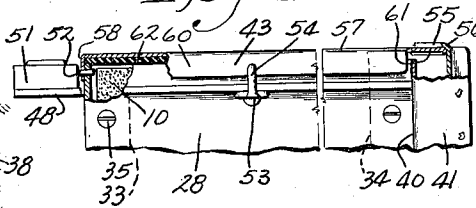
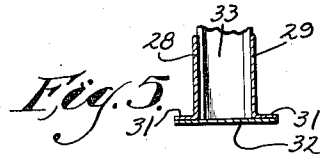


Fig. 5.



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MARKER

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10 Claims. (Cl. 40—125)

This invention relates to a marking panel and container therefor suitable for marking the boundary or guide lines of an athletic field or the yard lines of a football gridiron.

5 An object of the invention is to provide a disappearing line marker.

Another object is to provide a disappearing marking panel having a container permanently established and secure against unauthorized removal.

10 Other and further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

15 Fig. 1 is a plan view in elevation of a football field showing one form of installation of marking panels and containers therefor.

Fig. 2 is a side view partly in section and partly in elevation of a marking panel and container embodying our invention.

20 Fig. 3 is a plan view partly in elevation and partly in section on lines 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary side view in elevation of the top portion of the container partially broken away.

25 Fig. 5 is a view in section on lines 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the numeral 10 refers to a panel on which indices 11, are shown. In the preferred form, the panel 10 is constructed of rubber or other resilient material, as are the letters, 11, which are attached thereto and present a raised surface. The panel is preferably tapered in cross section, with the widest portion thereof at its lower edge. The upper corners 12 and 13 and the edges 14, 15 and 16, are preferably beveled or rounded for safety. At the upper edge, 15, of panel 10, is a pull handle 17, having legs, 18, slidable in the angle means or plates 19, and provided with detents, 20, for preventing complete removal of the handle from plates 19. A recess at 21 is provided in order that handle 17 will drop into the upper edge, 15, of plate 10, when not in use.

30 The lower end of panel, 10, has a metal skirt, 22, which is fastened thereon by threaded means 23. End panels 24 provide the legs 25 in the portions thereof that extend below the panel 10 and are secured to the skirt 22 by threaded means 26.

35 The container 27 is formed of two plates 28 and 29, provided with a plurality of embossments 30, as a strengthening means, and with 55 the lower edges 31, outwardly bent at right

angles to form horizontally aligned flanges, to which is secured the base plate 32, which latter may be of any necessary width as a means of securing the container in the ground against unauthorized removal.

Plates 28 and 29 are connected at the vertical side edges thereof by the channels 33 and 34, and fastened thereto by threaded or other means, 35. Channels are vertically disposed, having the closed sides thereof on the outside. Channels 24, together with the adjacent portions of panel 10 are cut away at 36 thereof to house the coil expansion springs 37 and the detent balls 38.

The side plates 28 and 29, are bent outwardly at 39 and 40 to form with the channel 41, the relatively wider compartment 42 for housing the cover member 43 when the panel 10 is extended upwardly. A pair of angle members 44 and 45 extend horizontally along the top edges of plates 28 and 29, disposed so as to have the vertical portions 46 thereof fixed against the parallel with said plates, and the horizontal portions 47 extending outwardly from the bottom edges of said vertical portions. The horizontal portions have extensions 48 on which is fixed by 25 threaded or other means, 49, the plate 50, containing any suitable locking means, 51, having a bolt 52. The horizontal portion 47 of angle member 44 has fixed thereon by threaded or other means, 53, the guide string hook or pin 54. 30 The side top edges of plates 28 and 29, where they form the compartment 42, are turned inwardly to form the detents 55 as also is the top edge of channel 41 to form the detent 56. The cover member 43 has the top portion 57, the downwardly extending frontal portion 58, slotted at 59 thereof to receive the bolt 52, the downwardly extending side portions 60, and the rearwardly extending end portion 61, which is enlarged to prevent the removal thereof from 40 compartment 42 and is kept therein by means of the detents 55 and 56. The cover member 43 has a water-proof lining 62 for sealing the same against the upper edges of the container. One of the end channels 24 is slotted at 63 thereof 45 to form a keeper for the bolt 52, thus locking the panel in its upper extended position. The side channels 33 and 34 of the container are provided adjacent the upper ends with recesses 64 for the reception of the detent balls 38 when 50 said panel is in its upper and locking position.

In use, the container is permanently placed in the ground with its upper or cover edge adjacent the surface thereof, and in the case of a football gridiron, this would be at the end of a yard line. 55

It is intended that a marker shall be placed at each end of each yard line, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing, and so positioned that a line, when attached at each end to hooks 54 of oppositely disposed markers, would be an exact guide for the use of a yard line lime-depositing device. When the marker is not in use, it may be removed from the container shown and stored elsewhere, or, it may be kept lowered in the container with the cover member 43 closed and locked. When it is decided to use the marker, as when a game is being played, the lock 51 is opened, withdrawing the bolt 52 and freeing the locking end of cover member 43 so that it may be raised and the entire cover member slid into the auxiliary compartment 39. Protruding edges of the frontal portion 58 are disposed at the sides thereof, adapted to be manually returned to closed position when necessary. When the cover 43 has been placed within the compartment 42, the handle 17 may be pulled up and by this means the panel may be brought up to the point where the detent balls 38, under pressure of springs 37, will lodge within the recesses 64, thus maintaining it in proper position. At this point also the locking means 51 may be used to prevent interference with the marker. The rounded edges and corners of the panel 10 will prevent injury to any players who might come into contact with it, and this factor of safety will be augmented by the resilient character of the material used in the panel and the raised letters thereof.

It will be understood that the device is capable of various modifications in structure and design without departing from the spirit of the invention, all within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a base plate attached to the bottom thereof to prevent removal thereof from the ground, a panel freely slidable in said container and releasable means on said panel engageable with means in the container to maintain it in withdrawn relationship to the latter.

2. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a flexible panel freely slidable therein, a metal skirt covering the lower portion of said panel and means on said skirt engageable with means in the container for holding said panel at a predetermined height.

3. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a flexible panel freely slidable therein, a metal skirt covering the lower portion of said panel, means on said skirt engageable with means in the container for holding said panel at a predetermined height, and releasable locking means for the panel in said position.

4. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a flexible panel slidable therein, handle means on the top of said panel, a metal skirt covering the bottom of said panel and releasable means in said skirt for engaging with means in

the container to hold the panel at a predetermined height.

5. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a panel slidable therein, a cover for said container and an auxiliary compartment on said container for holding the cover member when the panel is withdrawn.

6. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a panel slidable therein, indicia on said panel, a handle for withdrawing said panel, an auxiliary compartment vertically disposed on the side of said container, and a cover for said container slidable into said auxiliary compartment.

7. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, horizontal embossments on the side walls of said container for strengthening the same, a base plate attached to the bottom thereof to prevent removal thereof from the ground, a cover for said container, a vertical auxiliary compartment on one end of said container adapted to receive said cover, a panel slidable in said container, a metal skirt for said panel, end channels secured to said skirt protruding below the panel to provide legs therefor, releasable spring means in said end channels and means in said container adapted to engage therewith to maintain the panel in a predetermined position.

8. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, horizontal embossments on the side walls of said container for strengthening the same, a base plate attached to the bottom thereof to prevent removal thereof from the ground, a cover for said container, a vertical auxiliary compartment on one end of said container adapted to receive said cover, a panel slidable in said container, a metal skirt for said panel, end channels secured to said skirt protruding below the panel to provide legs therefor, releasable spring means in said end channels, means in said container adapted to engage therewith to maintain the panel in a predetermined position, and releasable locking means for the panel in its withdrawn position.

9. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a cover for said container, a panel slidable in said container for withdrawal to a predetermined height, a vertical auxiliary compartment on an end of said container adapted to receive said cover when the panel is withdrawn and locking means on said container for securing the cover in closed position and for maintaining said panel in withdrawn relation.

10. In a device of the class described, a container adapted for positioning in the ground with its upper open end level with the surface thereof, a cover for said container, a panel slidable in said container for withdrawal to a predetermined height, a vertical auxiliary compartment on an end of said container adapted to receive said cover when the panel is withdrawn and releasable locking means on said container for securing the cover in closed position and for maintaining said panel in withdrawn relation.

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