Oct. 11, 1932. L. W. MULVEY 1,882,294

GAME

Filed July 9, 1930

Fig. 1

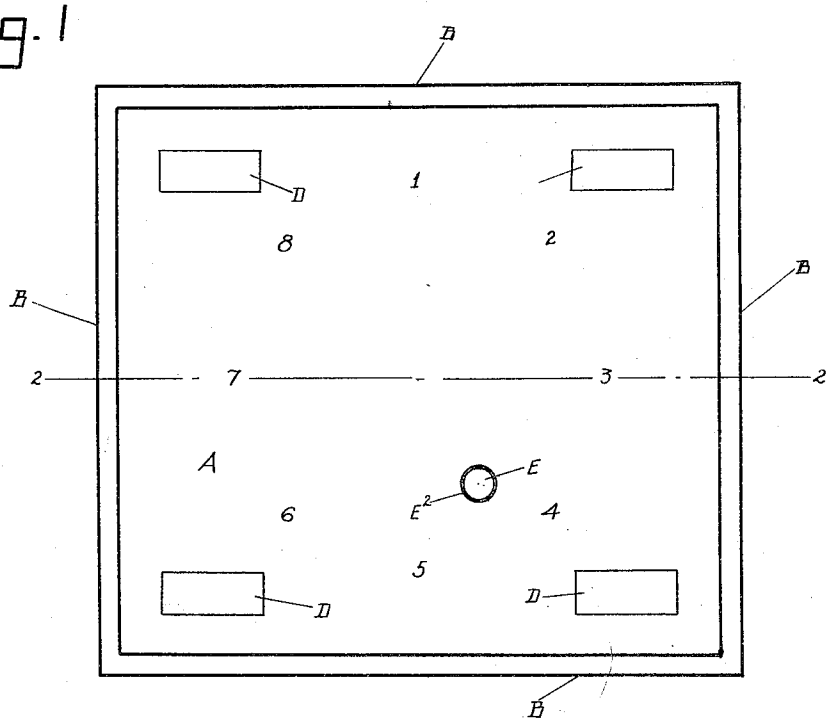


Fig. 2

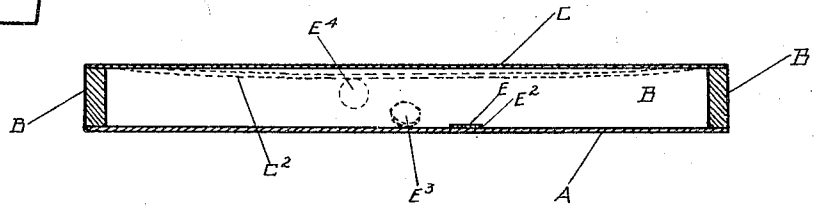
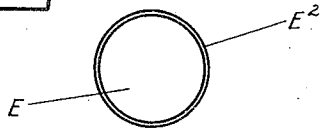


Fig 3



Lester W. Mulvey Inventor

By Charles W. Crecelius

Attorney

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

LESTER WALLACE MULVEY, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

GAME

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This invention relates to amusement devices and more particularly to a type of the same in which a box shaped container embodying a nonmetallic bottom and sides, and having a relatively stationary transparent cover of electrostatically chargeable substance, (such for instance, as sheet celluloid), is combined with a movable unit or units, preferably disk shaped, having electrically attractive and repulsive characteristics, (preferably composed of polished copper foil or other suitable material), normally at rest upon the bottom of said container and within inductive proximity to said electrostatically chargeable top, together with readings, legends, directions, designs, or numbers, printed, or otherwise formed on the interior bottom of the box over which the said disk after a period of jumping, rolling, revolving and gyrating caused by the charge created by frictional contact against the surface of the said transparent top, comes to rest, the arrangement being such that in case of readings or legends on said bottom of the container the game may be used as a fortune teller, or stunt director, and in event of numbers being so used the player obtaining the greater total score, or whose disk comes to rest over the highest number, or any predetermined number, may be designated and declared as the winner.

The objects of the invention are to utilize for game and amusement purposes the attractive and repulsive characteristics of a suitably prepared disk, or disks, (hereinafter inclusively, single or plural, referred to as disk), to and from an electrostatically chargeable substance, in combination with a container with a transparent top of said electrostatically chargeable substance and a bottom with a charted inner surface on which may appear readings, legends, numbers or other material calculated to advise, direct action, score, and center and hold human interest; to provide a disk of major rolling, spinning, revolving and gyrating quality and vigorous movement when influenced by electrical energy generated by frictional contact against the exterior surface of the said transparent top; to provide a disk the edges of which are attracted to the transparent top, and adhere thereto, which disk rolls, revolves and spins along the inner surface of said top when influenced by said charge until released by the dissipation of energy, or by a slight tap as by the finger upon the exterior side of said top; to provide a disk of such form and substance as to be affected by both repulsion and attraction; to provide a means and novel combination by and in which a disk normally lying at the bottom of a box shaped container is affected, attracted, repelled, rolled, spun, revolved and gyrated about within said container until finally coming to rest upon or over one of a series of numbers, readings, legends, or designs, adaptable for fortune telling, or otherwise, printed or otherwise placed upon the inner bottom of the container, the fortune or other designation to be read being the one over or upon which the disk finally comes to rest; and to provide the various other advantages and results made evident from the following specification.

I accomplish the objects of my invention by the combination of parts shown in the accompanying drawing which forms a part of this specification and in which similar letters of reference refer to similar parts throughout the various views. When a frictional contact of a finger or fingers is had over and against the outer side of the cover, the electrical charge generated by the friction is sufficient in its action on the disk to normally cause the disk in the container to assume a verticle position, hop, and jump, from the bottom to the inner side of the cover, roll, spin, revolve, and gyrate along the inner surface of the cover, and vigorously move, until finally it assumes a position of rest on or over some reading, legend, or figure, hereinbefore referred to. When the cover is charged as stated, the disk is normally attracted at its edge to the inner side of said transparent cover. It is the edge contact which creates and makes possible the revolving, gyrating, spinning, hopping, rolling, and vigorous moving, all of which would be and is impossible with side or flat contact. The full action as described adds much in

creating and holding intense human interest. The transparent cover is flexible and is slightly bent inwardly toward the interior of the container by the pressure of the fingers during the charging stroke. This bending of the cover shortens the distance from the charged surface to the disks in their position of rest, and this shortening of distance increases and strengthens the attractive properties of the charge in their action upon the disk. The substance of the disk must be sufficiently hard so that the impacts at its edge upon the top and bottom of the container do not flatten said edge, as such flattening tends to diminish its gyrating, rolling, spinning, revolving, and vigorous movement, although not affecting its attraction and repulsion qualities. The disk is of predetermined size depending on the area of chargeable top and the inductive proximity between the cover and the disk when at rest upon the bottom of the container. The disk as stated is preferably of metal and must be sufficiently heavy to avoid being attracted flat against the under side of the cover. The edges only of the disk may be of metal, the center being optionally of other substance.

It will be understood that the drawing discloses but one preferred construction for carrying the invention into effect, and that the same is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is not desired to limit myself to the exact details of construction set forth, but to avail myself of such variations, modifications, and equivalents as may be construed to fall within the scope of the appended claim.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a top plan view of my device. Figure 2 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line 2—2 in Figure 1. Figure 3 is an enlarged plan view of the disk hereinbefore referred to.

Referring again with more detail to the drawing, Figures 1 and 2 show a container or box comprising the bottom A preferably of card board or other suitable material, the sides B, preferably of wood, and the cover C, preferably of transparent celluloid or other transparent electro chargeable substance. Printed or otherwise formed on the interior of the bottom A, may be a series of numerals increasing from 1 to 8 as shown in Figure 1, or otherwise. Or readings, legends, penalties, forfeits, directions, and designs may appear on said bottom interior as designated by the letters D in Figure 1.

Within the box is a disk E, of which there may be optionally a plurality, as for instance a disk of different color for each player, under which arrangement several players may progress with each charge of energy. The edges E^2 of the disk are of metal or treated with a metallic substance. The disk may be relatively thin, and is preferably round but this shape may be varied at will.

In use the players, one at a time and in turn when playing with one disk, or one at a time acting for all players, with a disk for each player, passes the finger or fingers with relatively rapid and light stroke against the exterior surface of the transparent cover C, which stroke or strokes results in bending the cover inwardly approximately as shown by C^2 in Figure 2 and in charging said cover with static electricity thereby attracting the disk, to the underside of the transparent cover C. Under influence of said charge the disk first assumes a vertical or near vertical position as shown by E^3 in Figure 2 and is then attracted edgewise to and against the underside of the cover C as shown by E^4 in Figure 2 and in this position is made to revolve, roll, spin, gyrate and vigorously move by force of the charge until it finally comes to rest over or on that portion of the bottom A which is then to be read or scored.

In using the device for fortune telling, should the disk come to rest over or on a certain legend, the character of the legend will be such as to state a certain fact purporting to have reference to the player's life, character, or event which may take place in the future, or such other reading as generally forms a part of fortune telling games. In using the device where hilarity is desired the legend will be directive such as for instance "Pull noses with the person on your right," "Sing a song," "Crow like a rooster," "Do as person on left wishes" and similar inscriptions.

Having thus described my invention I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States of America:

In a device of the character described, the combination with a substantially square container comprising a bottom and sides rising therefrom of electrically non-conductible material, a cover secured to said sides of transparent celluloid material, and a plurality of disks within said container, a portion of the edges of which are treated with a metallic substance to properly weight said disks so that they will depend from said cover when said cover is electro statically charged.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

LESTER WALLACE MULVEY.