J. M. WEST.

GAME TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 10, 1919.

1,314,843.

Patented Sept. 2, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

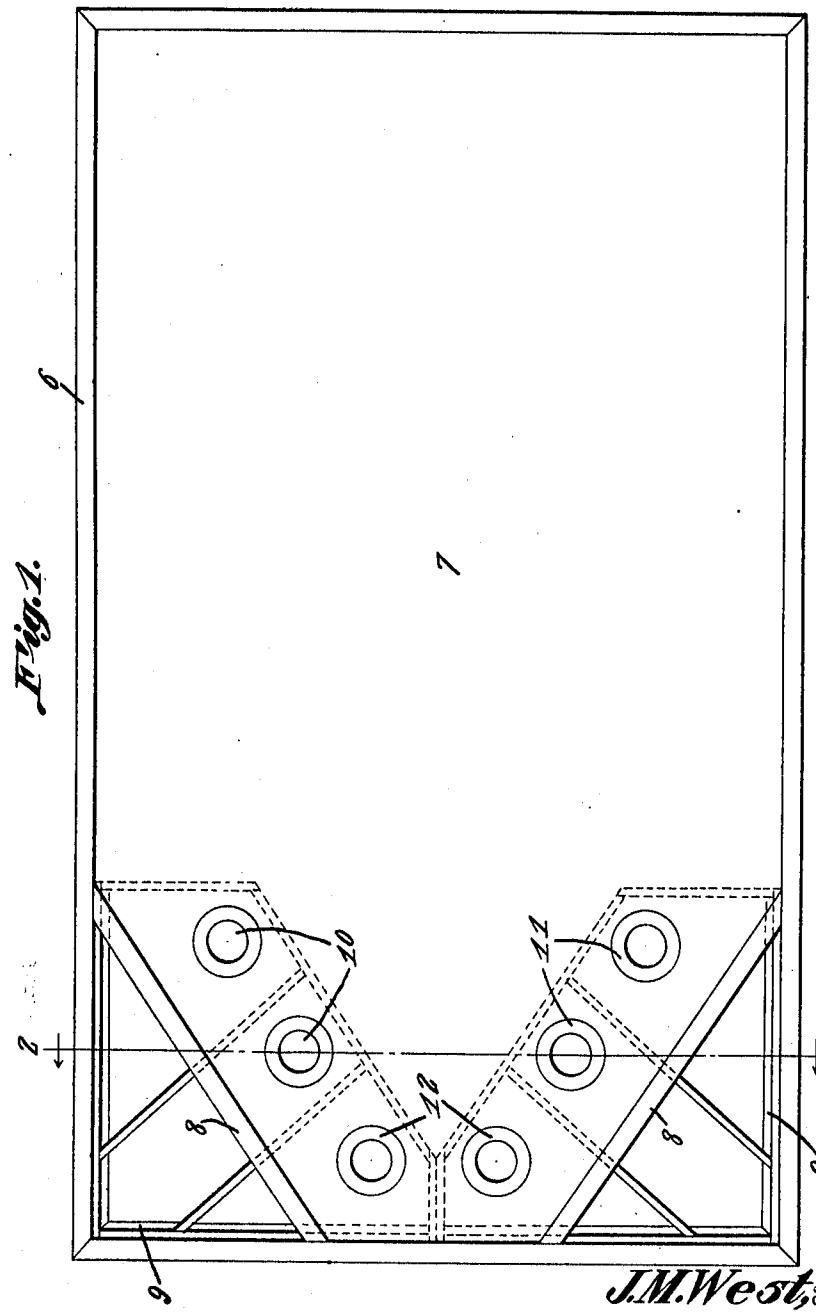


Fig. 1.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

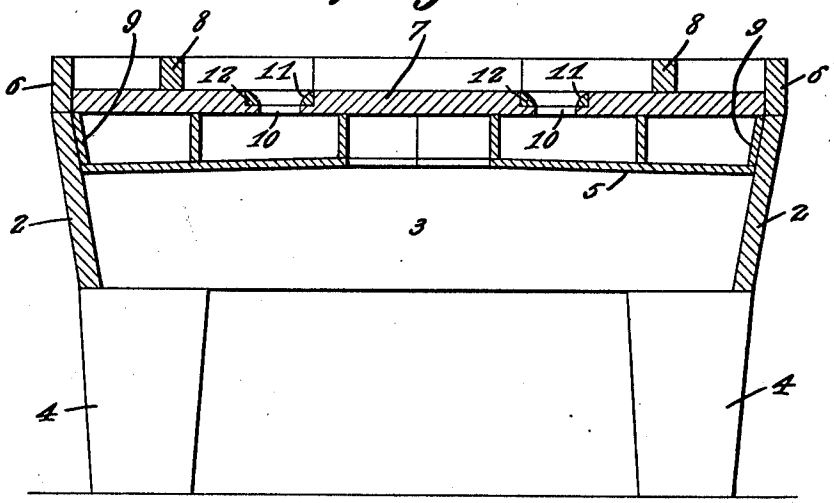


Fig. 3.

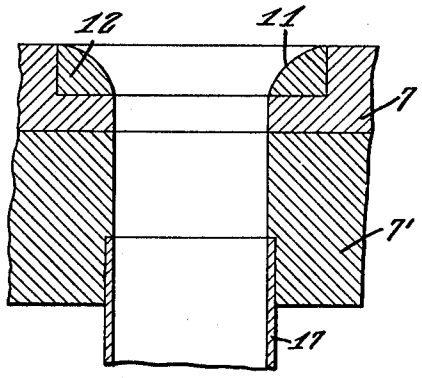
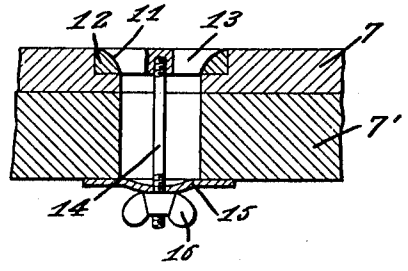


Fig. 4.



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JOSEPH M. WEST, OF ROCKPORT, MISSOURI.

GAME-TABLE.

1,314,843. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 2, 1919.

Application filed June 10, 1919. Serial No. 303,100.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH M. WEST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rockport, in the county of Atchison and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Game-Table, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in game tables, the object of the invention, generally stated, being to provide an improved table on which a number of different games may be played with balls adapted to be rolled or struck over the surface of the table.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table having a plurality of passageways provided with entrance mouths of novel formation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a table of the character set forth having an individual compartment in communication with each passageway, whereby a ball entering any particular passageway is conducted to its own compartment, so that the possibility of dispute as to which passageway the ball entered is eliminated.

A further object of the invention is to provide, in combination with a table of the character set forth, of a special form of plug adapted to close the openings or passageways in the table, whereby the table may be used for the playing of games in which openings or pockets are not used.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists in the novel features of construction and combination of parts which will be more fully described hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification,

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved table;

Fig. 2 is a cross section thereof, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view, on an enlarged scale, showing a modified form of passageway by which the balls are led to their individual compartments; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view through one of the passageways in the table, showing my improved plug or stopper applied thereto.

The same characters of reference designate the same parts in the different figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the table is formed of side and end walls 2 and 3 respectively, which are supported on legs 4. A bottom 5 is secured between the side and end walls, and a carom edge or rail 6 is supported above such side and end walls. Spaced above the bottom 5 is a top member 7 forming a playing surface, which may be covered in the usual manner with a suitable fabric. The top 7 has the two corners at one end thereof cut away and an upstanding rail 8 supported along such cut away edge, thereby forming a triangular opening between such rail and the side and end rails 6. A pair of trays 9 are adapted to be placed on the bottom 5 at the corners of the table below the cut away corners of the playing surface or top, and each provided with a plurality of compartments or chambers, each of which is in communication with a passageway 10 passing through the top 7, whereby a ball falling into any particular passageway cannot pass into any other compartment than the one below such passageway. By this construction the chambers or compartments are all carried within the table itself, and the end of the table is not disfigured by any projecting structure. It will be understood, of course, that the trays may, if desired be adapted to be removed from the table for the purposes of cleaning, etc., by making them in the form of drawers.

In the present instance the mouth or entrance of each passageway 10 is flared so as to form a convex surface, as shown at 11, over which the ball must pass before entering the passageway, while the passageway itself is just large enough to permit the ball to pass therethrough. The formation of the passageways only large enough to permit the passage of the ball therethrough, together with the peculiar form of the surface of the mouth of such passageway over which the ball must roll in order to enter the passageway, is a very essential feature, since it increases the difficulty of causing the ball to enter the passageway, for while at first sight the opposite result would seem to be true, experience has shown that quite frequently the ball will seemingly drop half way into a passageway and in a very surprising manner will jump out again and remain on the table. Again, sometimes a ball aimed directly at a passageway will strike just a fraction to one side of the center and glance off in another direction and before going off at an angle

it will run around several times upon the surface of the mouth. Not infrequently it happens that after these performances upon one mouth the ball will pass on to one or two other mouths and reproduce the same or equally amusing phenomena, all at one and the same shot. A ball will sometimes run around upon the surface of the mouth many times before it finally seems to decide what to do. At other times, after rolling around in this manner, it will suddenly jump upon the table and stop right at the edge of the mouth, while at still other times, after passing over the edge of the mouth it will rock back and forth a number of times before either dropping into the passageway or getting out upon the table. This construction, therefore, not only adds considerably to the lively interest in the game, but to the necessity for great skill in order to play it successfully. A further advantage inherent in the particular formation of the surface of the mouth is the fact that the fabric with which the playing surface is covered does not wear out as quickly as when stretched over a straight-edge.

The manner of forming the curved surface at the mouth of the passageway is immaterial, and this may be done in a variety of different ways. For instance, the material of the top 7 itself may be so shaped as to provide the proper convex formation, or straight holes may be formed through the top 7 and a lining tube placed therein having a flaring mouth provided with a curved surface. In the present instance, for the sake of illustration, I have shown a counter bore formed in the top, in which is fitted a washer 12 of wood or any other suitable material and having a convex surface at its inner circumference.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a special form of plug by means of which the mouths of the passageways may be closed so as to adapt the table for the playing of games wherein pockets are not used. The plug 13 has its periphery concaved to fit the convex formation of the mouth. At the center of the plug is secured a stem 14 that extends downward through the table top and carries at its lower end a disk 15 adapted to engage the under surface of the top around the passageway, and a wing nut 16 threaded on the end of the stem outside of the disk, whereby the plug may be drawn into tight engagement with the mouth of the passageway.

In Fig. 3 is shown a somewhat modified form of passageway formed by means of a tube 17, which may lead to a chamber or compartment located at some distance from the point of delivery from the table top. The top may be formed, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of a base member 7′ of wood or other suitable material on which is supported the usual slate top 7.

In the form of the device herein illustrated, the passageways are shown in V-shaped arrangement, but it will be understood that they may be arranged in any desired formation and of any preferred number.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a table on which a number of games may be played. For instance, such games as call for the placing of certain balls in their own particular compartments may be played by having the ball numbered or colored to correspond with the compartment which it must occupy at the end of the play, certain rules being promulgated for penalties, etc., when the ball is caused to roll in a different compartment. Again, games of rotation may be played without the use of specially numbered balls, the first ball being required to be played into the first passageway, the second into the second passageway, etc., until the game is completed. Owing to the individual connection of the passageways and compartments no mistake can possibly be made as to the passageway through which the ball entered the compartment. The balls may be rolled by hand or shot with a cue or a mallet, the preferred manner being to "rack" the balls at the end of the table opposite from the end at which the passageways are formed, and for the player to stand at the passageway end of the table and cause the balls to carom against the rail and rebound into the desired passageway.

While I have described in detail the structure herein illustrated, it is to be understood that I do not thereby limit my invention to the precise features of construction shown, as I am aware that many mechanical changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the claims hereto appended.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A game apparatus, comprising a table provided with a bottom, a top spaced from said bottom and provided with a carom rail therearound, a plurality of passageways in said top, a plurality of compartments located in said table below said top, one compartment in individual communication with one of said passageways, the mouth of each of said passageways being larger than the passageway and having a convex surface over which a ball must pass before entering such passageway.

2. A game apparatus, comprising a table provided with a bottom, a top spaced from said bottom and provided with a carom rail therearound, a plurality of passageways in said top adapted to permit the passage of balls, trays adapted to be located below said top and each having a plurality of compart-

ments in individual communication with the passageways, the mouth of each of said passageways being larger than the passageway and having a convex surface over which a ball must pass before entering such passageway.

3. The combination with a table provided with a top having a plurality of passageways, the mouth of each of said passageways being larger than the passageway and having a convex surface over which a ball must pass before entering such passageway, of means adapted to close the mouths of the passageways whereby the table will present a plane surface.

4. The combination with a table provided with a top having a plurality of passageways, the mouth of each of said passageways being larger than the passageway and having a convex surface over which a ball must pass before entering such passageway, of means for closing the mouths of the passageways whereby the table will present a plane surface, said means comprising a plug for each of said mouths adapted to fit the convex surface thereof, a stem secured to said plug, a disk on the opposite end of the stem adapted to close the lower end of the passageway, and a wing nut threaded on said stem.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH M. WEST.

Witnesses:
DAVID CHEESMAN,
SYLVESTER A. WEST.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."