J. F. SMILEY.

BALL GAME.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 5, 1920.

1,409,033.

Patented Mar. 7, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

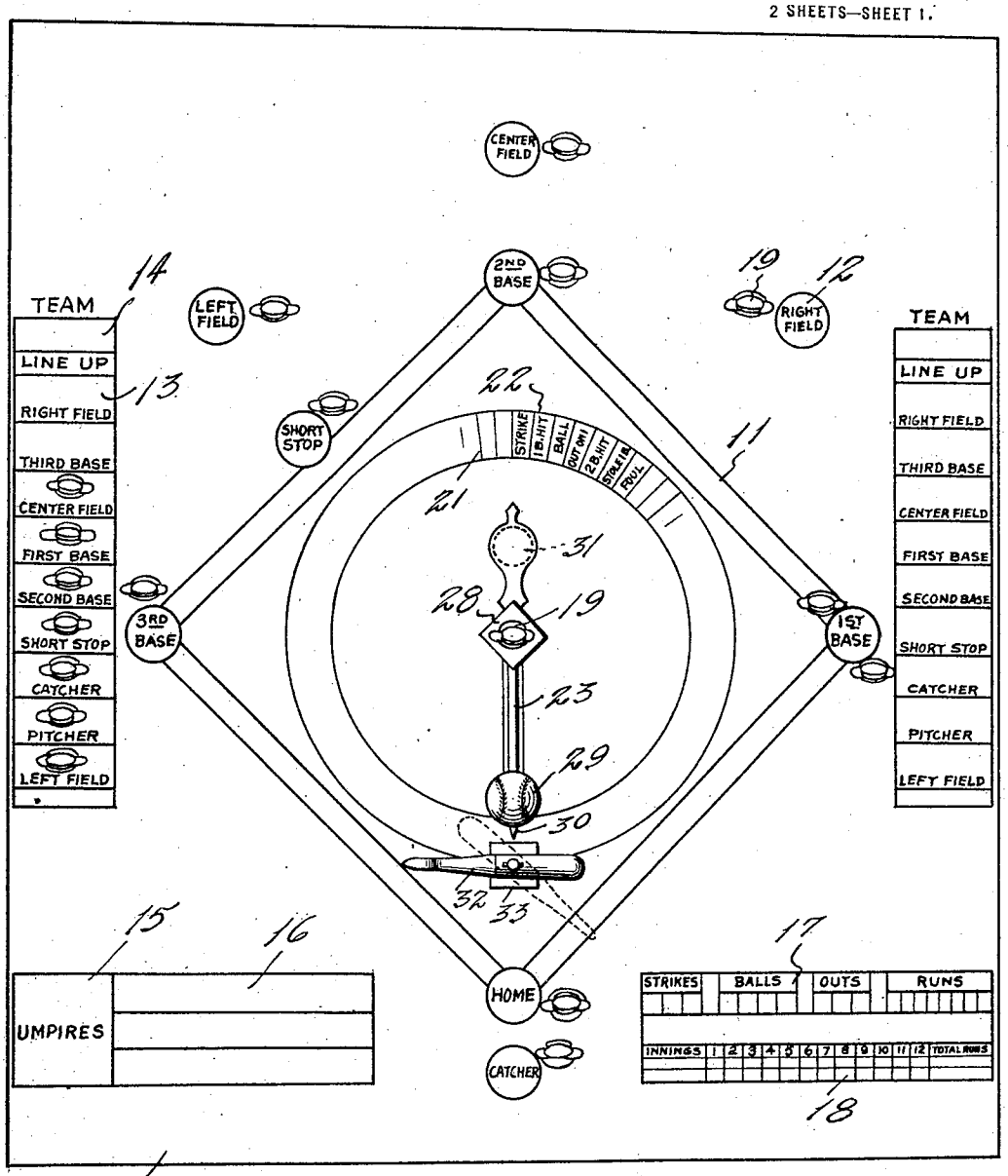


Fig. 1.

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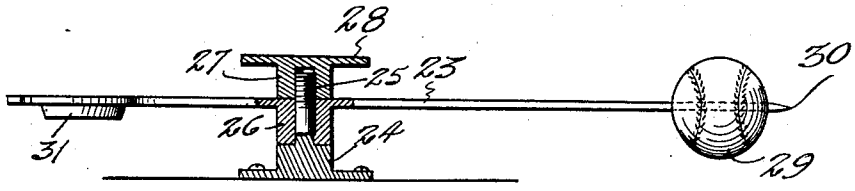


Fig. 2.

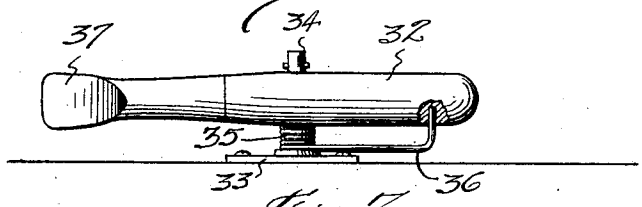


Fig. 3.

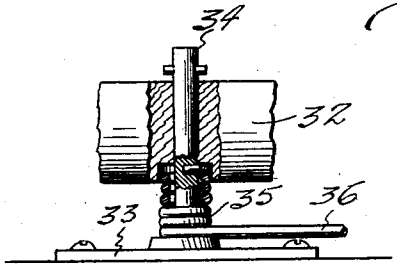


Fig. 4.

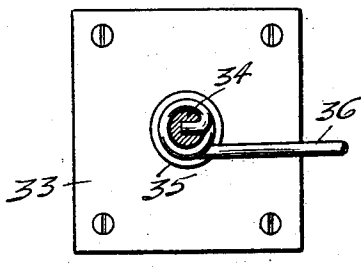


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. SMILEY, OF DALLAS, TEXAS.

BALL GAME.

1,409,033. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 7, 1922.

Application filed April 5, 1920. Serial No. 371,533.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. SMILEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dallas, in the county of Dallas and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ball Games, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in baseball games.

The aim of the invention is to provide a game which will be realistic and simulates to a large extent the game of baseball as it is actually played; making possible in playing the game the actual plays as they come up in a regular game of baseball.

In carrying out the invention a game board is provided with a baseball diamond and outfield positions. Panels are provided in which the batting order of the teams is individually lifted and players are also provided in the form of movable manikins which may be placed in the line-up panel when the team is batting or adjacent the field positions when the team is in the field.

The principal feature of the invention is a batting and playing device which includes a revoluble arm carrying a minature baseball and a resilient batting device which may be placed under tension and released so as to strike the ball in a realistic manner and revolve the arm. A playing circle is provided and subdivided with designations each indicating a certain play in the game of baseball, the point of the arm fleeing over these designations and the play being indicated by the designation at which the point stops. A particular feature is the arrangement of the batting device which is automatically carried out of the path of the ball and arm after batting said ball. Another feature which may be provided are erasable panels provided on the board so that the score may be kept and other data may be written down during the game and then erased after the game is played. This, however, is not an essential feature.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which an example of the invention is shown, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a baseball game constructed in accordance with this invention,

Fig. 2 is a sectional detail of the swinging arm and its mounting,

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the batting device,

Fig. 4 is a detail of the spring actuating means for the batting device, partly in section,

Fig. 5 is a detail in plan of the same, and

Fig. 6 is an elevation of one of the player manikins.

In the drawings the numeral 10 designates a game board in the central portion of which a baseball diamond 11 is printed or otherwise depicted. The game board is provided with medallions 12 of a distinguishing color, and located at the positions occupied by the different players and each bearing a legend designating the position or base. On each side of the game board a panel 13 is provided, at the top of each panel a writing plate 14 of celluloid or other suitable material is arranged. Each panel is divided into a number of spaces in sequence each bearing a legend designating the position of the player. The sequence of the designation is the batting order of the team. Near the bottom of the board a panel 15 is provided and may include subdivisions 16 of celluloid or other material on which matter may be written and erased. On the opposite side of the board panels 17 and 18 respectively are provided and these may be made of celluloid or like material and subdivided to form a score board. It will be seen that the names of the teams may be written on the writing plate 14, the names of the umpires in the spaces 16 and a complete score kept in the panels 17 and 18. After the game is complete and before starting another game the figures and data may be erased as will be obvious.

As is shown in Figs. 1 and 6 I provide a plurality of figures or manikins 19, and these may be made of any material, but I prefer to cast the same of metal and provide each with a base 20 so that it will stand upright and may be easily moved about the board. In Fig. 1 these figures are shown in the various positions which they would occupy during an actual ball game, the panels 13 simulating the benches on which the players sit while waiting their turn at the bat. There are, of course, 18 of these figures and 9 of them may be painted or otherwise ornamented to distinguish them from the other 9 so as to represent the opposing team as in a ball game. Within the diamond 11 a circular panel or plain circle 21 is provided,

this circle is subdivided into a plurality of radial spaces 22 each of which is printed with a legend indicating some play in the game of baseball. At the center of the circle and likewise the center of the diamond, an arm 23 is pivoted.

A pedestal 24 is mounted at the center of the circle and has a reduced upstanding pintle 25 which has its upper end screw-threaded. The arm 23 is provided with a depending integral collar 26 surrounding the pintle and resting on the pedestal. The screw-threaded portion of the pintle extends through the arm and above the latter and receives a cap nut 27 which has a marginal extension 28 so that the top of the nut forms a platform. The nut is screwed down into close proximity to the arm so as to confine the same on the pintle, but not bind it, thus leaving the said arm free to rotate easily.

A minature baseball 29 is impaled on one end of the arm which projects slightly beyond the ball to form a pointer 30, it being reduced for this purpose. A counter-balancing weight 31 is mounted on the opposite end of said arm. The pointer 30 is positioned to register with the places 22. For swinging the arm a batting device consisting of a striker 32, a base plate 33 and a post 34 is mounted within the diamond at the edge of the circle 21 and adjacent the "home" plate. The striker is illustrated in detail in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, and is pivoted intermediate its end on the post. A coiled spring 35 has one end fastened to the post 34 and is coiled about the same. The other end of the spring is extended to form an angular arm 36 having its outer end upturned and engaging in the striking end of the part 32; the opposite end of the striker being flattened at 37 to provide a finger grip.

The spring and arm 36 are arranged so as to normally hold the striker tangential to the circle and out of the path of the arm 23 so that the latter is free to revolve. In operating the device the arm is positioned as shown in Fig. 1 so as to bring the ball 29 in line between the pitching position and the home plate, the pitcher manikins 19 being set upon the platform 28. Before the arm is swung to this position the striker 32 is swung to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 whereby its swing is placed under tension. The striker is held in this position until the arm is moved to bring the ball in the batting position. The striker is then released and impinges the ball whereby the arm 23 is caused to rotate rapidly. The arm 36 swings the striker back to its normal position and holds it at this position so as to remove it entirely from the path of the swinging arm 23 and the ball 29. The arm 23 will swing freely and finally stop with the pointer 30 over one of the spaces 22. The play indicated in this space is the result and is counted accordingly. It will be seen that all of the various plays may be arranged in spaces in the circle 21 but it is not thought necessary to illustrate all of these and they permit of considerable variance.

In playing the game one team of manikins 19 is placed in the field and the other is arranged in the panel 13 which is chosen for it. The name of the team may be written on the plate 14 on the top of the panel. The names of the umpires may be written in the panel 16. The strike, balls, out and runs may be enumerated in the panel 17 as the game progresses and the score may be set down in the panel 18 in which the names of both teams may also be written as is obvious. The game is played according to the rules of the regular baseball game. The first player in the line up goes to the bat and the manikin 19 is removed from the panel 13 and placed on side of the home plate and the ball 29 then batted. The ball is batted and the arm 23 rotated until the player is either out or gets on base. Fig. 1, the first manikin, is shown on first base and the second one is at the home plate. It is not considered necessary to go into the details of the game as this is generally understood.

What I claim, is:

A game of the character described including a playing board, play indicating means including a spinner, and actuating means for said spinner, said actuating means comprising a pivot pin having a base portion secured upon said board, a bat element rotatably mounted upon said pivot pin, a coiled spring positioned about said pivot pin beneath said bat element and having one end portion anchored to said pin and its second end portion extended to provide an arm connected with one end portion of said bat element, the second end portion of the bat element constituting the handle portion and being tapered to provide a finger engaging portion permitting the bat element to be easily grasped and rotated against the action of said spring and then released.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN F. SMILEY.