March 18, 1941. J. E. HUFFAKER 2,235,615

GAME BOARD

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Fig. 1.

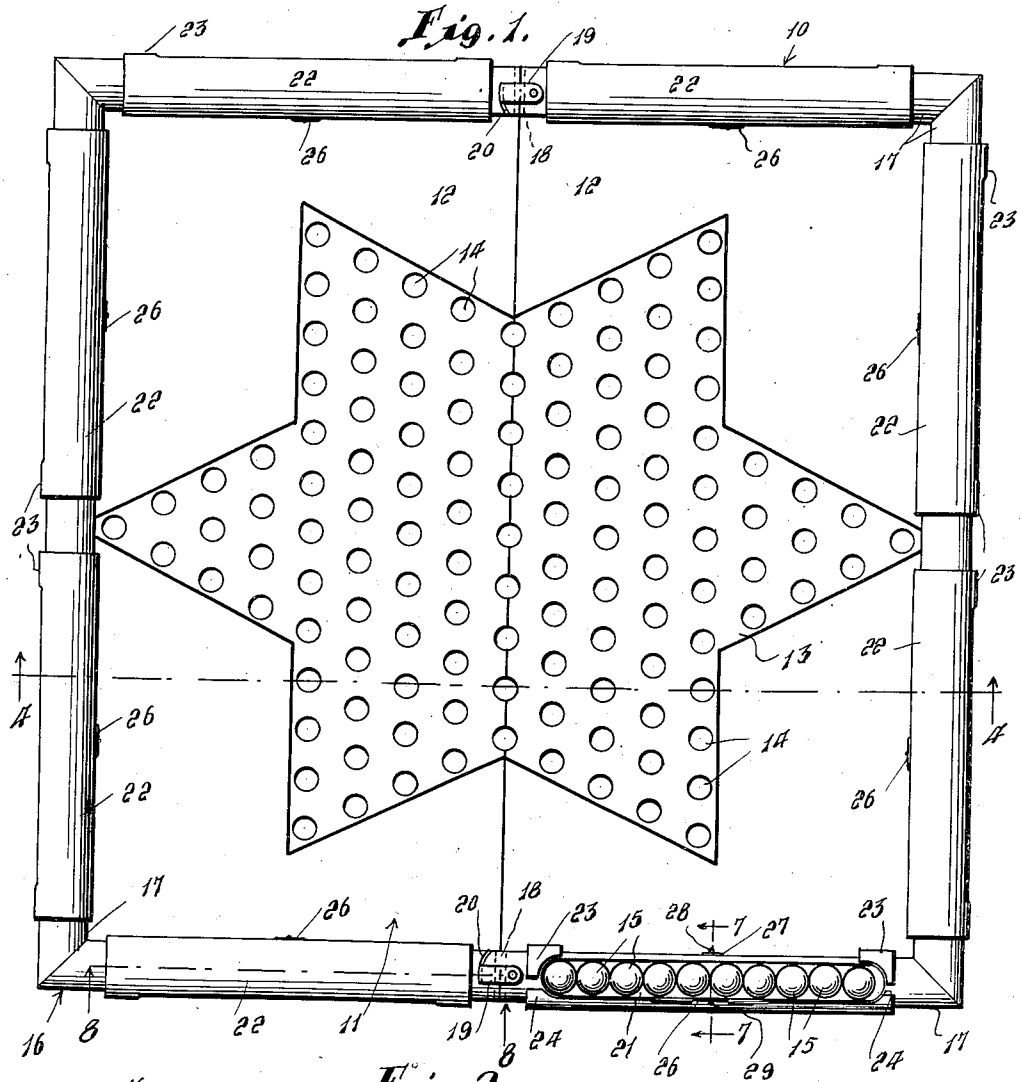


Fig. 2.

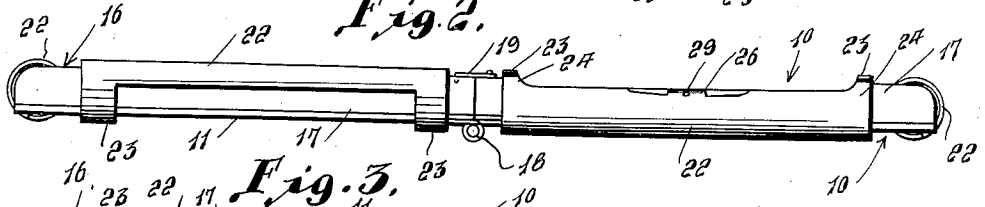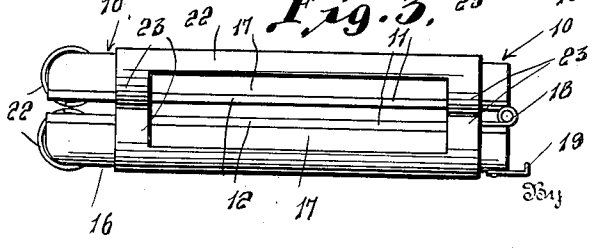


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

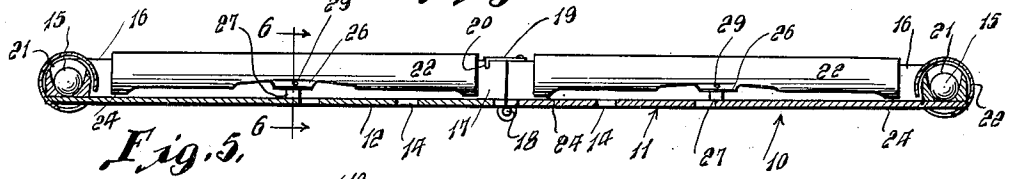


Fig. 5.

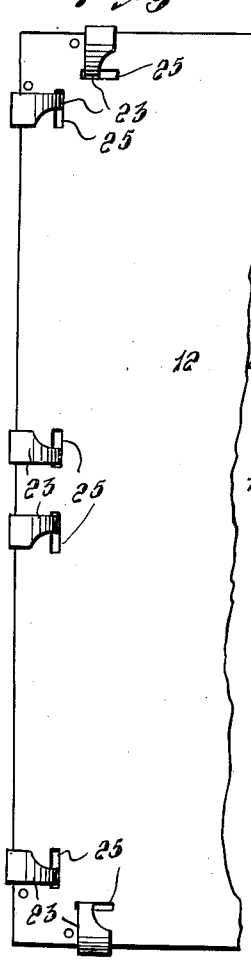


Fig. 6.

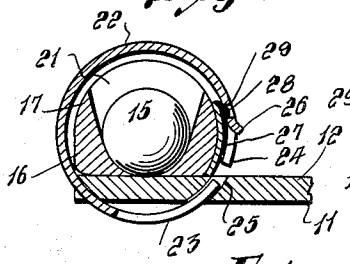


Fig. 7.

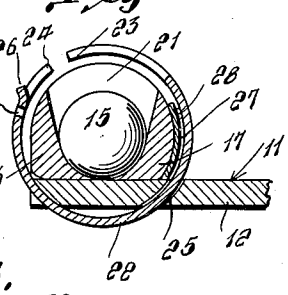


Fig. 8.

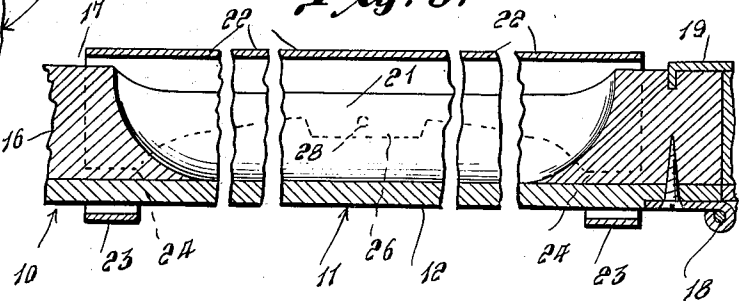


Fig. 9.

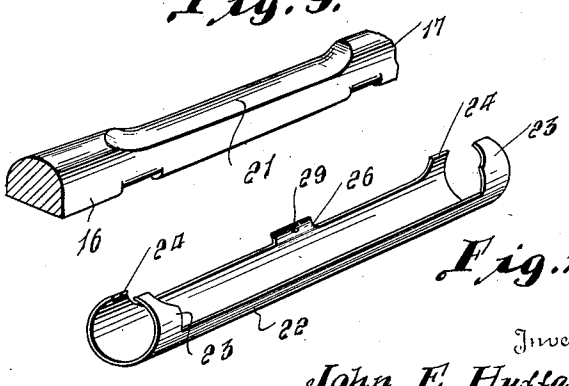


Fig. 10.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,235,615

GAME BOARD

John Evans Huffaker, Bloomington, Ill.

Application March 28, 1940, Serial No. 326,479

5 Claims. (Cl. 273—136)

This invention relates to an improved game board and aims to provide a game board which may be folded when not in use, and which is provided with means for holding the game pieces for use in conjunction with the board.

More particularly, it is an aim of this invention to provide an improved construction of game board especially designed for playing the game of Chinese checkers which may be folded when not in use, and which is provided with a marginal rail for reinforcing the edges of the board and for hingedly connecting the sections thereof to enable them to be readily folded.

Still another aim of the invention is to provide improved means associated with the marginal rail of the board for holding the playing pieces or marbles used in conjunction with the board.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawings, which illustrate a preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the improved game board,

Figure 2 is an edge view in elevation of the same,

Figure 3 is an edge view in elevation showing the board folded,

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken substantially along the plane of the line 4—4 of Figure 1,

Figure 5 is a fragmentary bottom plan view of the board,

Figure 6 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken substantially along the plane of the line 6—6 of Figure 4,

Figure 7 is a similar view taken substantially along the plane of the line 7—7 of Figure 1,

Figure 8 is a longitudinal sectional view taken substantially along the plane of the line 8—8 of Figure 1,

Figure 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of the marginal rail, and

Figure 10 is a perspective view of one of the covers.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, wherein like characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the different views, 10 designates generally an improved game board particularly adapted to be used in playing the game of Chinese checkers including the board portion, designated generally 11, composed of corresponding sections 12. The board portion 11 may be made of any suitable material, such as cardboard, wood, metal and the like, and is provided with a conventional six pointed star shaped playing area 13, containing a plurality of spaced apertures 14, to receive marbles or similar playing pieces, such as those shown at 15. It will be noted that the board sections 12 are each provided with a corresponding half of the playing area 13.

The game board portion 11 is provided with a marginal railing 16 comprising the U-shaped sections 17, each of which is connected to one of the board sections 12, along one of its longitudinal edges and along its ends. The complementary ends of the rail sections 17 are hingedly connected by means of the hinges 18, to pivotally connect the game board sections 12, so that when the game board 10 is in an extended position, as seen at Figure 1, the other longitudinal edges of the board section 12 will be in abutting engagement.

As best seen in Figures 1 and 4, the ends of one of the rail sections 17 are provided with swingably mounted latched elements 19 for engaging arcuately shaped grooves 20 in the ends of the other rail section 17 for latching the game board 10 in an extended or open position.

As best seen in Figure 9, the rail 16 is semicircular in cross section with the flat side thereof disposed on and secured to the upper side of the board portion 11 along its marginal edge, as best seen in Figures 6 and 7. The upper, rounded portion of each side of the rail 16 is provided with two longitudinal grooves 21, which are disposed in spaced apart relationship relatively to each other for receiving a set of ten correspondingly colored or otherwise distinctly designated marbles or playing pieces 15.

A cover 22, which is arcuately shaped in cross section, is turnably mounted on the rail 16, contiguous with each of its grooves 21. The covers 22 are each provided with lateral arcuately shaped extensions 23 and 24, at their ends, which engage around the rail 16 and portions of the board sections 12 which are secured to the rail 16 and which are adapted to extend through slots 25 in the board section 12 to position the complementary extensions 23 and 24 with their free ends substantially in contacting engagement, to effectively retain the covers 22 in position on the rail 16.

A resilient latch element 26 projects outwardly of one of the longitudinal edges of each of the covers 22 and is curved in the opposite direction to said cover. A stationary keeper 27, is secured to the inner side of the rail 16 contiguous with each of the grooves 21 and is provided with a projection 28 for engaging an opening 29 in a

latch member 26 to releasably retain a cover 22, in the position, as seen in Figure 6, for closing the groove 21 around which it is mounted.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that when the covers 22 are closed the playing pieces or marbles 15 will be retained in the grooves 21 and by swinging the latch elements 19 inwardly to disengage them from the grooves 20, the board sections 12 can be folded on the hinges 18 to assume the position, as seen in Figure 3, to provide a compact article that may be stored in a relatively small space or readily packed in a small suitcase or the like. To arrange the game board 10 for use, it is only necessary to swing the board sections 12, on hinges 18, to an extended position, as seen in Figure 1, after which the latch elements are swung outwardly to engage the grooves 20 to latch the rail section 17 in an extended position to hold the game board 10 in an open position ready for use. The free ends of the latch members 26 are then pulled outwardly to release them from the projections 28 to permit the cover 22 to be turned substantially a half revolution, in a counterclockwise direction, as seen in Figures 6 and 7 to move the covers 22 from their closed positions on the upper side of the rail 16, over the grooves 21, to their open positions on the under side of the rail 16 and beneath the grooves 21, to thereby expose the grooves to permit the marbles 15 to be removed for use in playing the game. At the bottom, left hand side of Figure 1 a cover 22 is shown in closed position while the cover 22 to the right thereof, is shown in an open position. To again prepare the game board 10 for storage, the marbles 15, are returned to the grooves 21 after which the covers 22 are turned in a clockwise direction from their positions as seen in Figure 7, to their positions, as seen in Figure 6, to thereby latch the cover in a closed position and to close the grooves 21 for retaining the marbles 15 therein after which the game board 10 may be folded as heretofore explained.

While the game of Chinese checkers is ordinarily played with six or fewer players, each of whom use ten corresponding playing pieces or marbles 15 the game board 10 is provided with recesses 21 for receiving 8 sets of ten marbles each thereby providing two additional sets to give the players a greater selections of colors. However, two or more of the grooves 21 and covers 22 could be omitted if desired.

While the game board is especially intended for use in playing Chinese checkers the playing area could be changed to adapt the board for use in playing other games and the grooves 21 could be used for the storage of other types of playing pieces than the spherical members 15 without affecting the construction of the board.

Various modifications and changes in the construction and arrangement of the parts forming the invention are contemplated and obviously may be resorted to, as only a preferred embodiment thereof has been disclosed.

I claim as my invention:

1. An article of the class described comprising a board having an upstanding rail secured along an edge thereof, said rail being provided with a groove in its upper side, a cover turnably mounted on the rail for closing the groove, when in one position, said cover being provided with a recess portion for exposing the groove when the cover is turned to another position, said rail being substantially semi-circular in cross section, said cover being arcuately shaped in cross section, said board having spaced slots, adjacent the ends of the grooved portion of the rail, and said cover being provided with lateral, arcuately shaped extensions at its ends for slidably engaging the slots for retaining the cover in position on the grooved portion of the rail.

2. A game board having a marginal rail extending therearound, said rail being provided with a plurality of spaced grooves in its upper side for receiving game pieces for use with said board, and cover members turnably mounted on said rail for covering said grooves when in one position, for retaining the game pieces therein, and for exposing the grooves, when in another position, to permit said game pieces being applied to or removed from the grooves, said rail being substantially semi-circular in cross section, said cover members being arcuately shaped in cross section and being provided with end portions extending through the board for retaining the cover members on the rail.

3. A game board as in claim 2, said game board and rail being divided into corresponding sections and the complementary ends of said rail sections being pivotally connected to provide a folding game board.

4. A game board formed of corresponding sections, a rail formed of corresponding U-shaped sections, each of said rail sections being secured to a board section along one of its longitudinal edges and along its ends, and the complementary ends of said rail sections being hingedly connected to hingedly connect the game board sections and to provide a folding game board having a marginal railing, and latch means associated with the ends of the rail sections for retaining the board in an extended position, said rail being semi-circular in cross section, and being provided with a groove in its upper, rounded portion, an arcuately shaped cover member rotatably mounted on the grooved portion of the rail for covering the groove, in one position, said cover being provided with a recess portion for exposing the groove when the cover is in another position, and said cover member having a lateral, arcuately shaped extension projecting through the board for retaining the cover in engagement with the grooved portion of the rail.

5. A game board provided with an upstanding rail, said rail being substantially semi-circular in cross section and having an upwardly opening groove for receiving playing pieces, a cover, arcuately shaped in cross section, turnably mounted on the rail for closing or exposing the groove, said game board being provided with openings, and said cover having substantially ring shaped portions for engaging the openings for retaining the cover in position on the grooved portion of the rail.

JOHN EVANS HUFFAKER.