N. T. WHITAKER.

COMBINATION GAME BOARD AND PIECES.

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1,221,493. Patented Apr. 3, 1917.

Fig. 1.

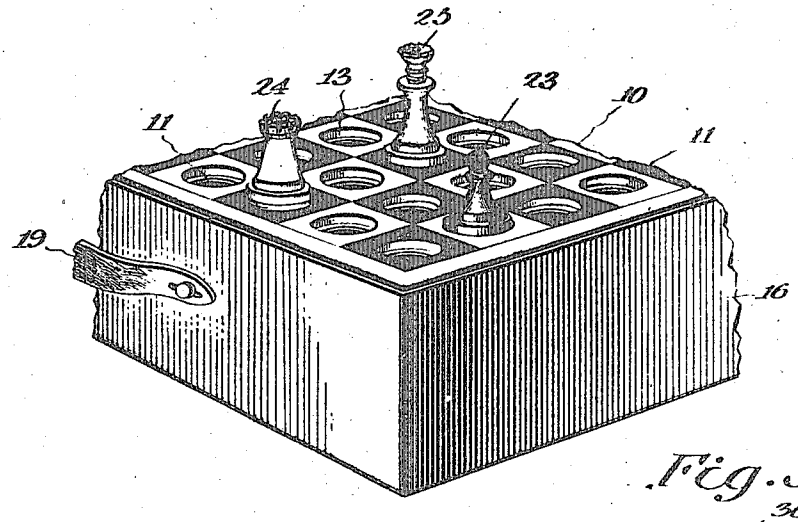


Fig. 3.

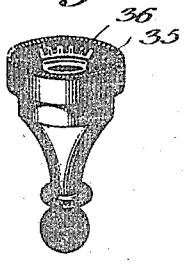


Fig. 2.

Inventor:

Norman T. Whitaker

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NORMAN T. WHITAKER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COMBINATION GAME BOARD AND PIECES.

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Application filed April 4, 1916. Serial No. 88,631.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NORMAN T. WHITAKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, N. Y., have invented a new and useful Combination Game Board and Pieces, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new game board with the pieces for playing the game. More particularly it relates to a common chess or checker board having sixty-four squares but in each square a hole is cut for the admission of pieces to be placed in the hole. By this means the pieces are securely held in place which is particularly applicable in playing the game upon this board in a moving vehicle, such as a railway train or a steamship. The pieces are, in fact, locked in the proper position and cannot become disarranged or disturbed.

The games played on this board and with the pieces are chess and checkers. The invention resides in a new form of the pieces and the board itself. When the game is not being played, the pieces may be compactly formed in the board so as to make the whole structure easily and conveniently portable.

Further advantages and uses of my invention will appear later. I attain these objects by the structure illustrated in the accompanying drawing which shows one practical embodiment of my invention but the construction shown therein is to be understood as illustrative only and not as defining the limits of my invention.

In the drawings, wherein similar parts are denoted by the same reference numerals,

Figure 1 shows my game board with the pieces in position for playing chess;

Fig. 2 is a view in section showing the board with pieces in checker playing position but the board has a lid upon it, said construction being the one used in carrying the device; and

Fig. 3 shows a modified form of a piece used in playing checkers.

Numeral 10 is the usual sixty-four square chess or checker board and each square has a hole or aperture 11 therein. This board may be made of sheet metal properly stamped and punched and is easily and cheaply made. Surrounding the hole is an annular flange 12, the flange being slightly below the top surface of the board. Thus each square has a recess 13. The board is made in a hollow box like form and the bottom of the structure is designated at 14, said bottom being connected to the sides by bolts 15 or any other securing means. A lift-off lid 16, preferably of the same material, is then made and buttons 17 and 18 firmly secure the lid in closed position and keep the pieces in place or else secure the lid in open position, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The handle 19 is fastened to the side of the box for carrying purposes.

For illustrative purposes, six chess pieces are shown, 20 a king, 21 a knight, 22 a bishop, 23 a pawn, 24 a rook or castle and 25 a queen, with the king and bishop and pawn being shown black but as is well known these pieces are of both colors. On the base 26 of all the chess pieces I have formed a checker piece 27. For easily grasping the checker piece a recess finger hold 28 is made. Between the checker piece 27 and its respective chess piece is a cylinder 29 which holds the pieces in either position in the recess 13. When playing checkers, to easily distinguish a king or crowned man from the small men, I have made the king deeper or of greater distance from the board as will be clearly seen on the base of bishop 22 in Fig. 2. Castle 24 is also made deeper or with the king base on the checker end of the piece. When using the piece as chess men the base of the piece or checker end snugly fits upon the flange 12 and no part of the piece extends below the aperture 11.

In Fig. 3 I have shown a modified form of king piece for playing checkers. This piece is of the same height as other checkers but the king or crowning effect is provided by marking "Crown" 36 upon the base of this piece.

In playing chess only sixteen pieces are used for each player and in playing checkers only twelve pieces are used for each player. In checkers, however, a number of kings are necessary. Therefore, on four of my chess men, for example the two bishops 22 and the two castles 24, I make a king base, the other twelve chess men, therefore, have the same height and configuration. It will be seen by this arrangement that when the chess pieces are in playing position, that the bases of these pieces are substantially invisible as they are not in the recess 13. When it is desired to play checkers then, the pieces are taken out of the recesses 13 in which they were last left and the pieces, only twelve in number for each side however, are inserted in the board like pieces 20

and 21, see Fig. 2. This will leave four chess pieces for each side which will not be used when the game of checkers is being played. These four pieces are not used in playing checkers I have shown for example as the two bishops 22 and the two castles 24. So in playing checkers when the checker man reaches the king row, the piece will be crowned and to do this the original piece is removed from the board and inverted bishop 22 or inverted castle 24 is inserted in its place or, if desired, modified piece 35, shown in Fig. 3, may be used for a king. By this arrangement four kings for each side may be used and that is all that is ordinarily needed.

To recapitulate—the operation of this device is substantially as follows: The lid is first taken off of the board and the board, as shown in Fig. 1, will then be played upon. If one wishes to play chess, the pieces are first placed in their usual position on the chess board by inserting each piece in its proper aperture. The game is then played as usual. However, if one desires to play checkers then all the chess pieces except the two bishops and the two castles are used. This will make twelve checker pieces. The chess pieces are then inverted as shown in Fig. 2 in full lines, and the checker end of the piece will project above the top surface of the board thus making twelve checker pieces for each side. The game is played in the usual manner and when the checker piece reaches the king row either the inverted bishop or castle is used as a king piece.

When one is finished playing the game, the pieces are all turned downward, that is, the chess pieces are inserted in the hollow box like structure shown in Fig. 2. The lid is then placed on, as shown in Fig. 2, and is securely held by the buttons 17 and 18 and is carried by the strap 19.

Having thus described my invention what I believe to be new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A game board comprising a casing having countersunk depressions in its upper face, the depressions being provided with openings, in combination with a game piece adapted to be arranged in each of the depressions to extend either within the casing or above the same.

2. A game board comprising a casing having countersunk depressions in its upper face, the depressions being provided with openings at the bottoms thereof, in combination with a game piece for each depression having an annular shoulder thereon to engage the bottom of a depression to support the game piece in playing position.

3. A game piece including a body, the body constituting a game piece for playing one game, and an annular member carried on the base of the body and constituting a second game piece for playing another game.

4. A checker piece having a chess man of the usual height and size connected to one end thereof, whereby said checker piece may be reversed to be used as a chess man.

5. A combined chess and checker piece having a common base, each piece having the usual height and shape, whereby said combined pieces may be used either as a checker piece or a chess man.

6. An integral game piece having reversible chess and checker ends either of said ends constituting a complete game piece and each having the usual height and shape, whereby said integral piece may be used for playing either chess or checkers, the checker end of the piece serving as a base to support the chess end of the piece in playing position.

7. A checker board having its surface depressed to provide countersunk seats annular flanges extending from the walls of the seats to support a game piece in each of the seats.

8. A game piece including a chess man and a checker secured together, both the chess man and checker having the usual height and shape, the checker serving as a base to support the chess man in playing position.

NORMAN T. WHITAKER.