Aug. 17, 1943. G. G. MEVI 2,327,314

GAME BOARD

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Fig. 1

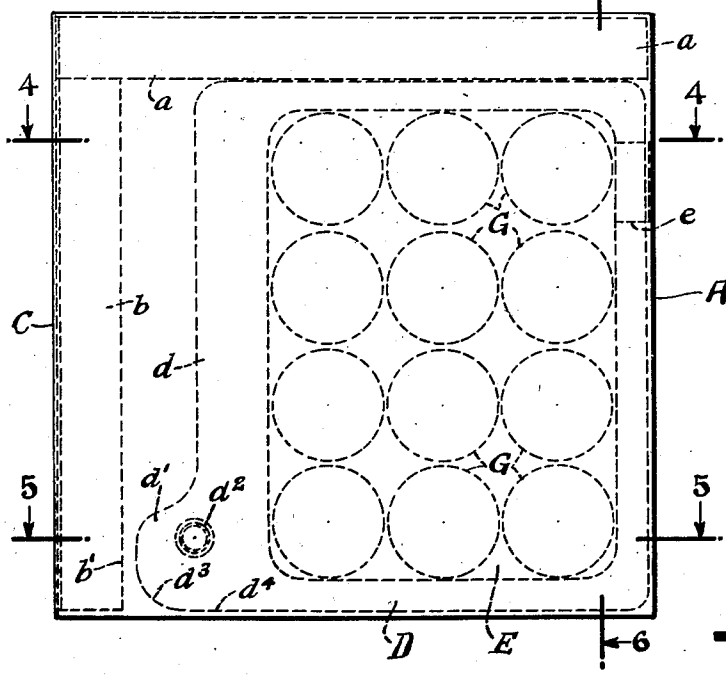


Fig. 2

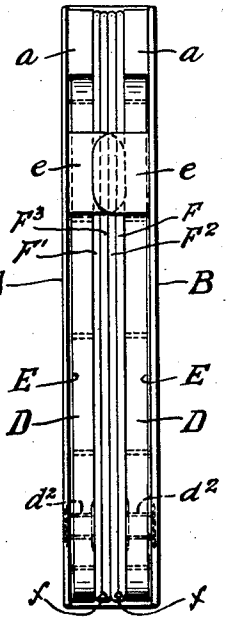


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

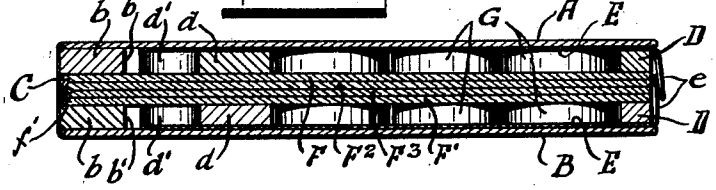


Fig. 5

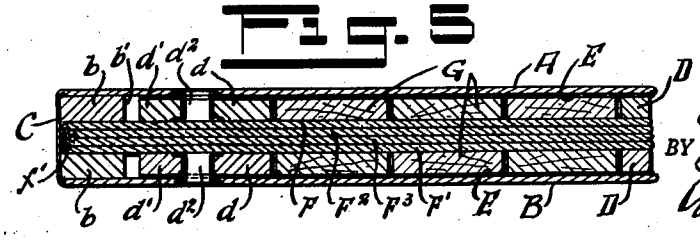
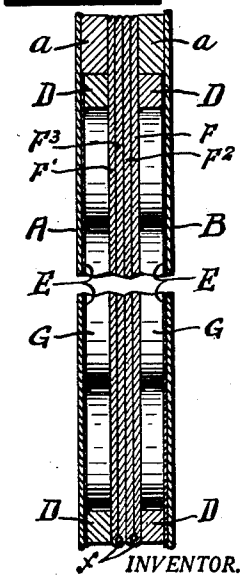


Fig. 6



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Fig. 7

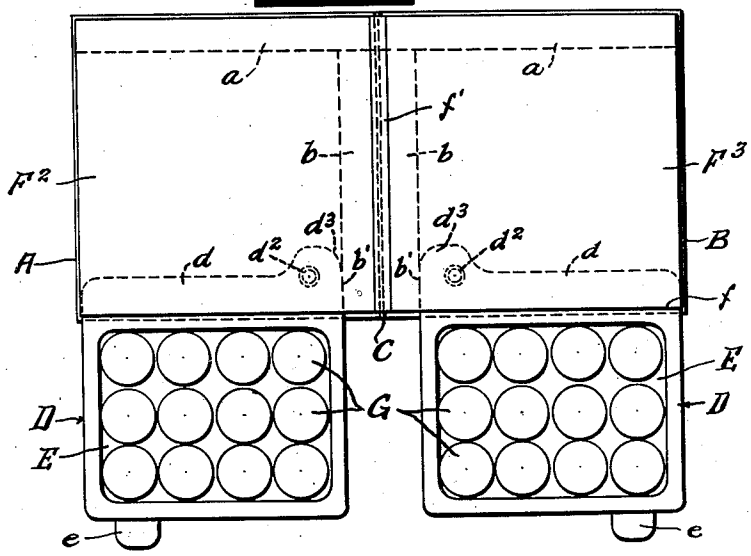
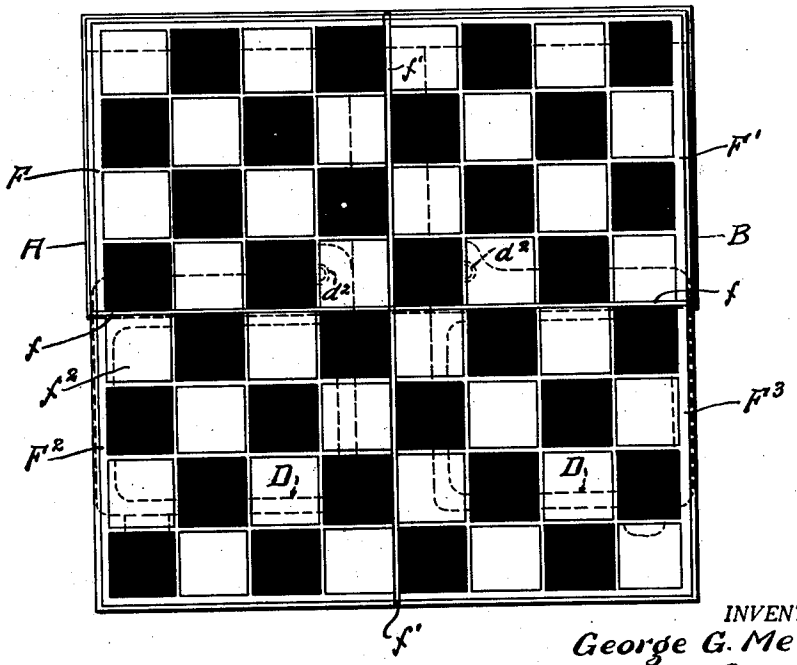


Fig. 8



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2,327,314

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GAME BOARD

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—136)

This invention relates to game boards on which pieces are moved, such for instance as the games of checkers and chess, and the main object of the invention is to provide a board of suitable size capable of being folded into pocket size or small compass convenient for carrying in traveling bags, and a further object is to provide such a folding board having compartments for storing the game pieces.

In carrying the invention into effect I provide a board in book form comprising outer covers to the inner sides of which are secured spacing strips upon which the foldable game board is secured. These spacing strips provide space between the covers and game board for movable trays adapted to store the game pieces, and which trays when drawn out to give access thereto serve as supports for the unfolded playing board.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the game board folded into its book form.

Figures 2 and 3 are end views looking from the right and top sides, respectively, of Figure 1.

Figures 4 and 5 are horizontal cross-sectional views taken, respectively, on the lines 4—4 and 5—5 of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a vertical cross-sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a plan view showing the book opened and the storage trays extended in position for removal of the game pieces stored therein before unfolding the game board, and

Figure 8 is a plan view of the game board unfolded resting on the trays and ready for use.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Figures 1 to 6, A and B indicate a pair of covers of the book-like board holder made of any suitable material, such as card-board, and preferably covered with buckram, cloth, leatherette or leather. This covering forms the back or hinge C of the book as shown and may have, if desired, an extra backing strip for the hinge. To the inseide of the covers, parallel to and near the upper edges and parallel and adjacent the hinge are secured, either by gluing or otherwise, strips *a* and *b* which serve the triple purpose of reinforcing the covers, as spacing blocks for the storage trays, and as base blocks to which the foldable game board is secured. These strips will be equal in thickness or slightly thicker than the depth of the storage trays and may be of any suitable material of single thickness, but preferably of laminated card-board, and covered with a material to match the covering of the inside of the book.

The storage trays comprise a rectangular frame D and bottom E of a length to fit the space between spacing strips *a* and the lower edges of the covers as seen in dotted lines in Figure 1. The inner sides *d* of the tray frames are preferably wider than the three other sides and the trays are spaced from the spacing strips *b* as seen in Figure 1 to provide for the laterally projecting ears *d'* at the lower inner corner of the trays. Ears *d'* project beyond fraime sides *d* to afford ample material for perforations to receive pivot eyelets d^2 which hinge the trays to the book covers as seen in dotted lines in Figures 2 and 3 and in section in Figure 5. The radius of the curve d^3 of each ear, Figure 1, is such as to closely pass the edge *b'* of strips *b* in swinging the trays outward on the pivots, and the distance from the center of the eyelets to the edges d^4 of the tray frames as seen in Figure 1 is such that when the trays are fully extended outward to the position of Figure 7 the edges *b'* and d^4 will abut and hold the trays in alignment with the book covers. To facilitate withdrawing the trays, each tray is provided with a tab *e*, preferably near the upper corner of the tray. These tabs may be formed integral with the tray bottom E or may be separate pieces secured to the tray frames as indicated in dotted lines in Figure 1.

The game board is composed of four square sections F, F', F^2 and F^3, Figure 8, of card-board or other suitable material, and covered on the bottom side with paper, cloth or other suitable material and which covering forms the hinges for the four sections of the board. The hinges *f*, Figure 2, extending horizontally across the board, Figure 8, divide the board into the two playing halves and on which the board is folded upward to the position of Figure 7. The hinges *f'*, Figure 3, extending vertically across the board, Figures 7 and 8, divide the board into the two book halves and permit folding the four sections of the board upon each other in closing the book to the position of Figures 2 and 3. The upper sides of the four board sections are covered with a single large square sheet, or four small square sheets, having the appropriate color design, and for use as a checker board the surface f^2 is divided into the usual sixty-four squares or spaces colored alternately black and white or red. The board sections F and F' are secured to the spacing strips *a* and *b* by by gluing or otherwise and thus board sections F and F' serve as fixed covers for the trays D—E and the board sections

F and F′ being unattached to the covers at the outer and lower edges as viewed in Figure 7 allow the trays to be swung outward on their pivots.

When the game board or book is to be opened for use, the book is first opened, exposing the backs of board sections F^2 and F^3, and then the trays are withdrawn from under the board sections F and F′ to the full exposed position as seen in Figure 7. After removing the checkers G or other pieces from the trays, the board sections F^2 and F^3 are unfolded and rest on the empty trays, thus presenting the game board as seen in Figure 8. In opening the book to the position of Figure 7, the cover hinge C folds inward in a close loop between the inner ends of spacing strips *a* and between the adjacent longitudinal edges of strips *b* as shown in dotted lines in Figure 7, and thus the covers A and B will lie in a horizontal plane and hold the game board sections flat for proper use. To close the board, sections F^2 and F^3 are first folded over to the position of Figure 7, the checkers are then placed in the tray, and then the trays are swung into the housing position to enclose the checkers, and then the book is closed as seen in Figures 2 and 3.

The thickness of the book and depth of the trays, and consequently the thickness of the spacing strips *a* and *b* will be governed by the thickness of the checkers to be used with the board or the size and shape of the pieces G. The foldable board and enclosing book may be of any desired dimensions, the primary object being to provide a board foldable into four sections between retaining covers in book form with trays suitable for storing the game pieces used on the board.

What I claim is:

1. A game board of the class described, comprising a pair of rectangular shaped covers hinged together in book form, a spacing strip secured to the inside of each cover and extending crosswise at the upper edge thereof, a second spacing strip of the same thickness secured to the inside of each cover and extending lengthwise thereof adjacent the hinge, a playing board divided into four square sections each approximately the size of the covers and hinged together at the four adjacent edges and adapted to be folded in two folds into four leaves between said covers, the two leaves forming one-half of the playing board being secured to said spacing strips, said spacing strips providing between the covers and the game board sections secured thereon a space open at the ends opposite the spacing strips, rectangular shaped trays housed in said spaces, said trays being pivoted to the covers adjacent the ends of the lengthwise spacing strips, and both trays being adapted to swing outward into lengthwise alignment with the covers when opened to serve as supports for the unfolded game board leaves projecting beyond the covers.

2. A game board as defined in claim 1, having trays provided with relatively wide frame sections serving as supports between the covers and game board when extended, said wide frame sections having projections for the tray pivots, and the centers of the pivots being so located in said projections to cause the frame section of each tray adjacent the lengthwise spacing strips when the trays are in extended position to abut said strips and align the trays lengthwise of the covers for supporting the unfolded game board leaves projecting beyond the covers.

3. A game board as defined in claim 1, having covers hinged together by a wide section of flexible material to accommodate the thickness of the folded board leaves and foldable inwardly between the adjacent edges of the covers when opened, and game board leaves secured to spacing strips on said covers in such relation as to draw the covers into juxtaposition in opening the board for use and thereby closely folding the cover hinge between the adjacent edges of the covers.

GEORGE G. MEVI.