Jan. 5, 1932. J. A. KIMBALL 1,840,203

GAME TABLE

Filed Nov. 25, 1930 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

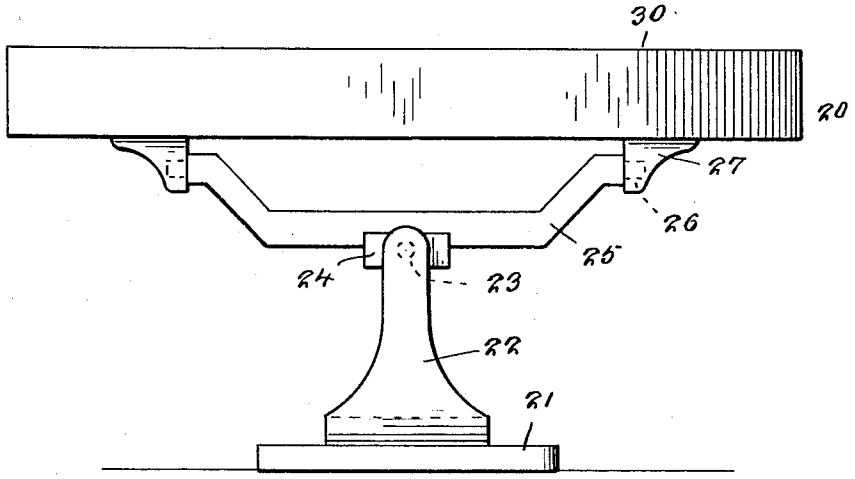


Fig. 4.

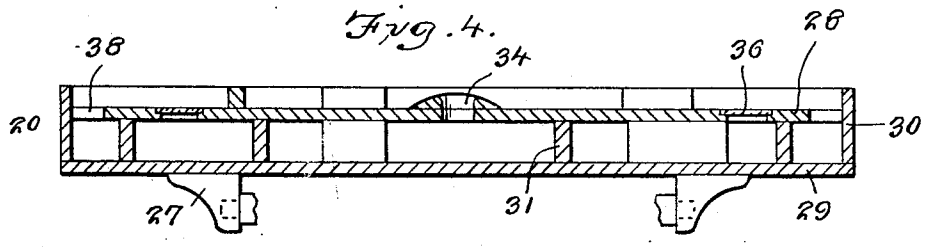


Fig. 5.

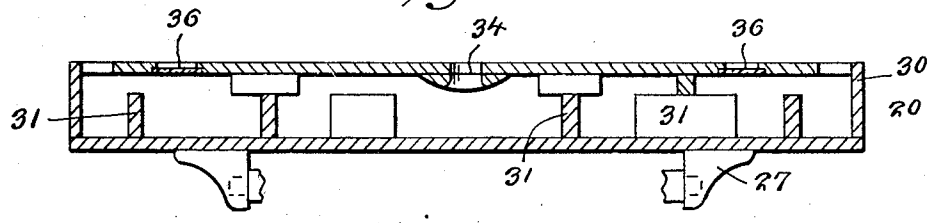
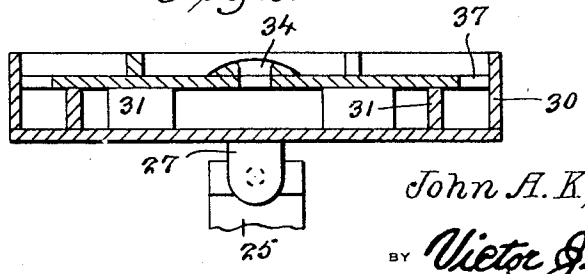


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 2.

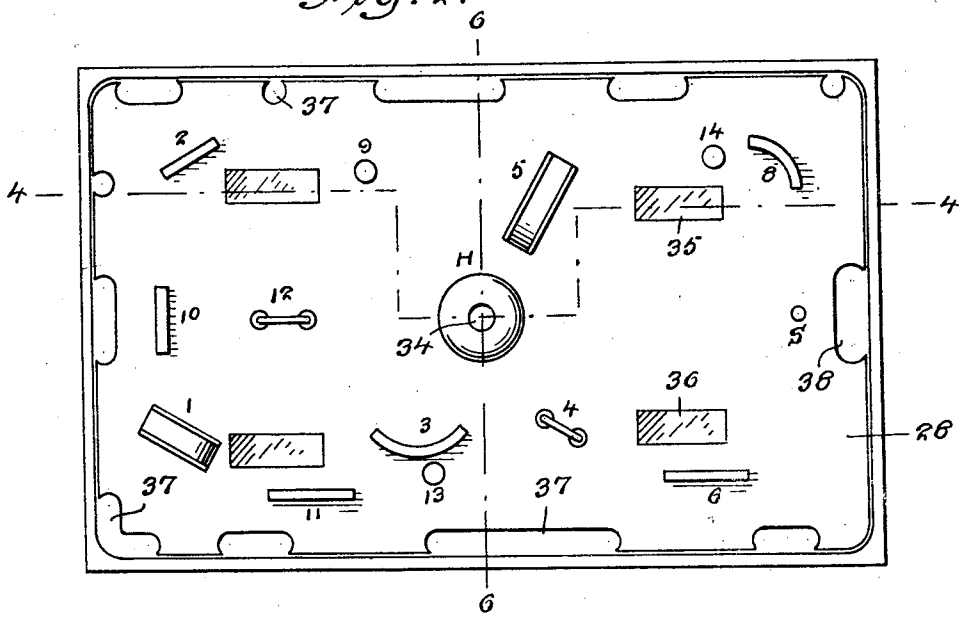


Fig. 3.

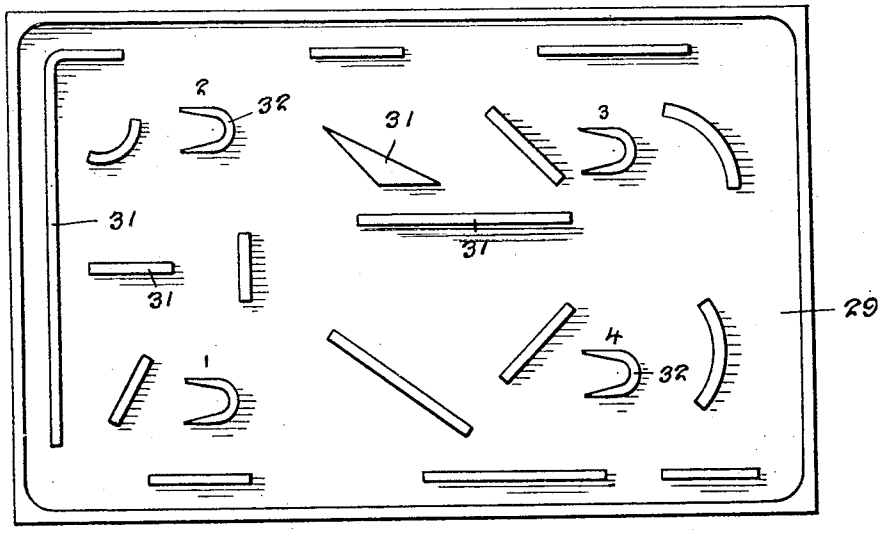


Fig. 7. 33

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME TABLE

Application filed November 25, 1930. Serial No. 498,178.

This invention relates to game apparatus somewhat resembling the apparatus disclosed in my copending applications filed of even date, in that use is made of a universally tilt-table table having obstructions or hazards thereon and a movable game piece or ball.

In the present invention however the table includes upper and lower decks, in contradistinction to the single decks disclosed in the applications referred to, and each of these decks is provided with stationary hazards or obstructions, while the movable game piece travels from the upper to the lower deck during the progress of the game. The lower deck is provided with a number of concealed hazards or obstructions which materially increase the difficulty of scoring and add to the interest and skill required in playing the game.

The invention further includes means for spacing the upper deck from the lower deck and supporting the former to permit of its being inverted for storage or shipment.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention further includes the following novel features and details of construction, to be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the invention.

Figure 2 is a top plan view.

Figure 3 is a plan view with the upper deck removed.

Figure 4 is an irregular sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a like view showing the upper deck in inverted position.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Figure 2.

Figure 7 is a detail view of the moveable game piece.

Referring to the drawings in detail wherein like characters of reference denote corresponding parts, the reference character 20 indicates the table top which is mounted for universal pivotal movement after the manner of one of the copending applications referred to. For this purpose there is provided a base 21 upon which is mounted a pedestal 22 and mounted for rocking movement in this pedestal are the trunnions 23 of a bar 24. A second bar 25 is arranged transversely of and is rigid with the bar 24, and the opposite ends of the bar 25 carry trunnions 26 which are mounted in bearing blocks 27 carried by the table top 20. The top may thus be tilted in one direction.

The top 20 which is of novel construction includes spaced upper and lower decks 28 and 29 respectively, the former having rigidly and permanently secured thereto a frame 30 which extends around the edges of the deck 29. The upper deck 28 is removably positioned within this frame and rests upon obstruction hazards 31 so that these hazards also provide spacing elements for the decks.

As shown in Figure 3 of the drawings these obstruction hazards may be of various shapes and designs and in addition to these hazards, the lower deck is provided with a number of scoring elements or pockets 32. These scoring elements or pockets have different score values, for example, one to four. Obviously, any value may be given these pockets, the purpose being later explained. The height of the obstruction hazards 31 is less than the depth of the frame 30, so that when the upper deck 28 is positioned upon the hazards it will be spaced below the upper edge of the frame as shown in Figures 4 and 6 of the drawings.

The upper deck 28 is removably positioned within the frame and carries a number of hazards indicated from one to fourteen, certain of these hazards being in the form of openings so that the game piece or ball 33 may pass through these openings to the lower deck. A guide member H is positioned centrally upon the upper deck and this member and the deck 28 is provided with an opening 34 of sufficient size to permit of the passage of the game piece or ball 33. In addition the upper deck is provided with openings 35 which are closed by flush transparent panels 36 and these openings are positioned over the pockets 32 so that the latter will be visible through the

upper deck. Other openings 37 and 38 are arranged around the edge of the upper deck, the openings 37 being arranged for the passage of the ball or game piece from the upper to the lower deck, while the opening 38 which is relatively wide is designed for the purpose of removing the ball from the lower deck. Instead of providing the openings 35 with transparent panels, which may be of glass or any other suitable material, these openings may be closed by a woven wire panel, or by any other means which will prevent the passage of the ball yet permit a view of the pockets 32. If desired these openings 35 may be uncovered and relatively narrow so as to prevent the passage of the ball 33 therethrough. The openings 37 may be of any desired length and any number of these openings may be spaced around the edge of the deck. These openings 37 and the opening 38 provide convenient hand grips for removing and replacing the upper deck.

When the game is not in use, the upper deck may be inverted as shown in Figure 5 of the drawings. In this position, the hazards of the upper deck rest upon the obstruction hazards of the lower deck so that the upper face of the upper deck is flush with the upper edge of the frame 30 and a closed box-like structure is thus provided. This is convenient for storage or shipment and acts as a protection to the hazards.

Any number of persons may play the game, the ball being started from the starting point indicated at S. After the first play, the ball is moved over the table by tilting the latter and must pass the guide member H and be manipulated so as to pass through number one hazard without first passing through any of the openings to the lower deck. After passing through number one hazard the ball is returned to the starting point. This play when successful is counted one stroke. In the event that the ball passes through any of the openings to the deck 29, before passing through or around an objective hazard, it must be returned to a position beneath the opening 38 for removal and again played until the player is successful. If more than one attempt is required to successfully play the hazard, this number of attempts is counted as strokes against the player. For example, should five attempts be made to successfully play number one hazard, five strokes are counted against the player. However, the player has the privilege of attempting to manipulate the table so as to place his ball in one of the pockets upon the lower deck and should he succeed in placing his ball in pocket number two, this number is subtracted from his score, so that instead of counting five strokes against him for this particular hazard, he has only three strokes. As the obstruction hazards 31 upon the lower deck are concealed, the player must depend upon his memory for the position of these hazards and must manipulate his ball in accordance therewith in his attempt to enter one of the pockets. If desired, a chart or layout may be made of the obstruction hazards to render the game less difficult.

By reference to Figure 2 of the drawings it will be seen that certain of the hazards of the upper deck are upon the side of the guide member H remote from the starting point S and therefore the player's ball must pass this guide member. In playing the hazards upon the same side of the guide member H as the starting point S, the player must manipulate his ball so as to pass around the guide member before playing the hazard. He must not play directly from the starting point S to a hazard on the near side of the guide member H.

Should a player successfully play one of the hazards in a single stroke and then manipulate his ball so as to enter one of the pockets on the deck 29, for example the pocket 4, he will have three strokes in reserve and these strokes may be counted to reduce the number of strokes in either a former or a future play.

After the last hazard has been played, the ball must be played through the opening 34 onto the deck 29, and the player may then play for one of the pockets to reduce the number of strokes of his score.

The invention is susceptible of various changes in its form, proportions and minor details of construction and the right is herein reserved to make such changes as properly fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having described the invention what is claimed is:—

1. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper deck having openings therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, means to support the decks for unitary universal tilting movement, stationary hazards upon each of the decks, and a movable game piece adapted to pass through the openings in the upper deck to the lower deck.

2. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper deck having openings therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, means to removably secure the upper deck in position, means to support the decks for unitary universal tilting movement, stationary hazards upon each of the decks, and a movable game piece adapted to pass through the openings in the upper deck to the lower deck.

3. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper deck having openings therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, means to support the decks for unitary universal tilting movement, stationary hazards

upon the upper deck, concealed hazards upon the lower deck, a movable game piece adapted to pass through the openings in the upper deck to the main deck, and scoring elements carried by the lower deck and visible through certain of the openings of the upper deck.

4. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper deck having openings therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, a frame extending around the decks, means to support the decks for unitary universal tilting movement, a movable game piece, stationary hazards upon the upper deck, and combined hazards and spacing elements carried by the lower deck, said hazards being of less height than the height of the frame to support the upper deck spaced below the upper edge of the frame.

5. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper removable deck having an opening therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, a frame extending around the decks, means to support the decks for unitary universal tilting movement, a movable game piece, stationary hazards upon the upper deck, and combined hazards and spacing elements carried by the lower deck, said hazards being of less height than the height of the frame to support the upper deck spaced below the upper edge of the frame and cooperating with the hazards of the upper deck to provide spacing means for the decks when the upper deck is inverted.

6. In a game apparatus, a table including an upper deck having openings therein and a lower deck disposed below the upper deck, a frame extending around the decks, a movable game piece, means upon the upper deck defining a starting point, stationary hazards spaced over the upper deck, a stationary guide member upon the upper deck, scoring elements carried by the lower deck and visible through certain of the openings in the upper deck, and concealed obstruction hazards carried by the lower deck.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN A. KIMBALL.