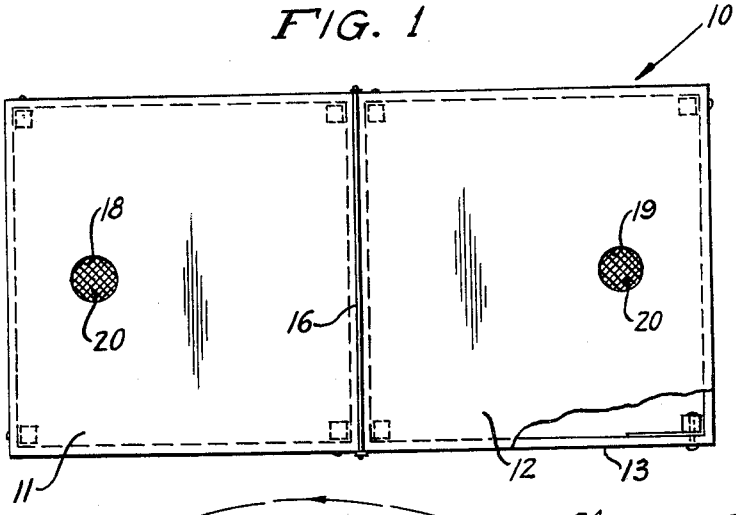
Sept. 26, 1961 G. K. ATWOOD 3,001,791

TABLE GAME

Filed Jan. 4, 1960

FIG. 1



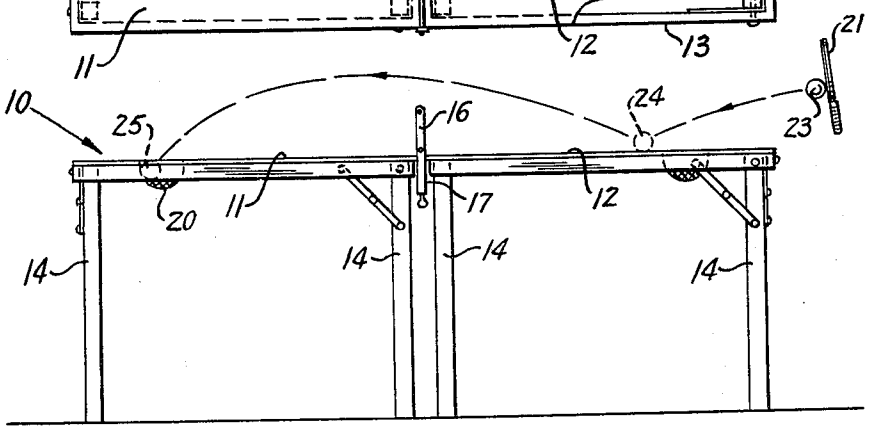


FIG. 2

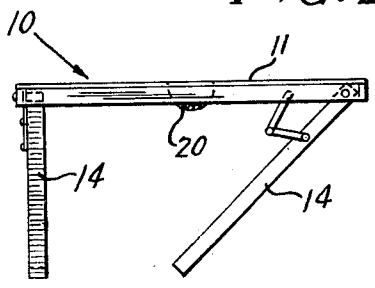


FIG. 3

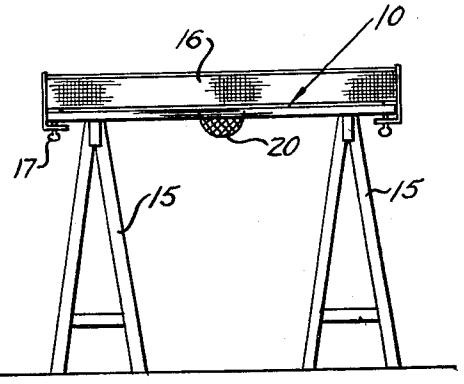


FIG. 4

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TABLE GAME

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1 Claim. (Cl. 273—30)

This invention is a continuation-in-part of my earlier application 734,149 filed May 9, 1958, now abandoned and relates to improvements in table games and more particularly to the popular game known as table tennis.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide an auxiliary factor in the playing of table tennis wherein an opponent attempts in his delivery or return of the usual table tennis sphere to enter a recess or pocket on the receiver's end of the table, thus precluding the receiver from returning the ball and affording the deliverer some score.

Another important object of the invention is to provide an improvement on the game of table tennis, to the extent that the table is provided with pockets, one at each end, or several at each end if desired, so that the player returning a ball during a game or upon delivery will have an opportunity to score and prevent redelivery by his opponent.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved table tennis apparatus, for playing a game improved to the above extent, without materially increasing the cost of conventional apparatus.

These and various other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to the reader of the following description.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a top plan view of the improved table with a portion, at one corner broken away.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the improved table.

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary end elevational view showing a section of the table about to be collapsed for storage.

FIGURE 4 is an end elevational view of the improved table supported by saw horses.

While my invention is adapted to be used with any type or shape of game equipment following the principles of the well-known game of table tennis, it is most conveniently adapted to the conventional form of equipment sold widely for use in table tennis, which provides a rectangular table divided along the small axis by a vertical barrier, such as a net.

Referring to the drawings wherein like numerals designate like parts, it can be seen that numeral **10** generally refers to the playing table top, which is divided into sections **11**, **12**, the top proper preferably being of plyboard and suitably secured to frames **13**. As is indicated by the drawings, the table tennis table used in this invention may be of conventional design, except for the improvement of this invention, in that the playing surface provided by sections **11** and **12** is a continuously flat planar table free from barriers at the outer edges so that there is no obstacle forming part of the table to prevent a table tennis ball rolling or bouncing near an outer edge from rolling or bouncing off the table.

The sections **11**, **12** can be of conventional construction and supported by the usual card table folding type legs **14**, such as are shown in FIGURE 2 and also in FIGURE 3, or the table top can be supported by saw horses **15**, a pair of which can be placed under each section, if desired. The sections **11**, **12** can be connected together, if desired by any means, and a net **16** of conventional design and provided with the usual clamps **17** can be employed across the total table top **10** at the medial thereof as suggested in FIGURE 2. As is clearly shown in FIGURES 2 and 4, the net **16** is a vertical

barrier whose lower edge is spaced from the playing surface provided by sections **11** and **12** by a distance at most less than the diameter of a table tennis ball. This is conventional in table tennis equipment to prevent the ball from passing freely under the barrier. The barrier net may actually touch the playing surface but this is not necessary to accomplish its purpose so long as the space between the barrier and the playing surface is small enough to prevent easy passage of the ball.

The principal factor in this invention is the formation of openings **18**, **19**, these openings being located near the opponent's edges of the sections **11**, **12**. As shown in FIGURE 1, the openings are substantially larger than the table tennis ball to permit the ball to pass easily through the opening when approaching it in a non-vertical line of flight. Subject to this requirement the exact relation of the size of the opening to the size of the table tennis ball is not critical, it being understood that the hole should not be made so large as to change essentially the nature of the table tennis game for which the improved equipment is intended by making it too easy to drive the ball into the opening. The exact location of the openings **18** and **19** is not critical although it is preferred that they be located symmetrically in sections **11** and **12** so as to present the same conditions to each player. When using only one opening in each of sections **11** and **12** it is preferred to locate them on the long axis of the playing surface. The number of openings in each of sections **11** and **12** is not critical although the openings should not be multiplied to the extent that they alter the essential character of the table tennis game. Preferably no more than two openings in each of sections **11** and **12** should be employed. As shown in FIGURE 1, openings **18** and **19** are spaced apart from the outer edges of the playing surface so as to provide on all sides a substantial playing area whereby there is ample opportunity for a ball driven to the playing surface near the opening to bounce in a position to be played by the receiver. The opening is located preferably in that part of the playing surface in which most balls are normally driven, that is, the area near the player's edge, as clearly shown in FIGURE 1. A satisfactory location is one-fourth the distance from the player's edge to the net, as provided in FIGURE 1. While it is not necessary to the invention, it is convenient to have means for catching any ball passing through the opening and holding it for easy retrieval. Attached to the sections **11**, **12** and underlying these openings **18**, **19** are mesh pockets **20** for catching table tennis balls accurately delivered by the players.

FIGURE 2 shows a table tennis paddle **21** with a ball **23** in the act of being stroked onto the table top **10**. In the game of table tennis, it is required that the ball bounce on the deliverer's side of the net **16** and then before the ball can be returned by the opponent, it must bounce on the far side of the net and these points are designated respectively as **24** and **25**.

Should the ball **23** pass into for instance the opening **18**, fall within the pocket **20**, then the opponent would not be able to return the ball.

The deliverer would score on this target placement of the ball into the opponent's pocket **20**.

While the foregoing description sets forth the invention in specific terms, it is to be understood that numerous changes in the shape, size and materials may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed hereinafter.

Having described the invention what is claimed as new is:

A table for a table tennis game including the use of a table tennis ball and paddles comprising a continuously flat planar rectangular playing surface having barrier-free edges, a demarcated transverse area extending along the

small axis of said playing surface and dividing said surface into two playing areas and adapted to locate a vertical barrier member extending substantially across said playing surface and dividing it into two substantially equal playing areas, said vertical barrier member having a lower boundary edge separated from said playing surface by a distance at most less than the diameter of said table tennis ball, and each of said playing areas being provided with an opening substantially larger than the cross-sectional area of said table tennis ball and located on the long axis of said rectangular playing surface at a point closer to the respective ends of said rectangular playing surface than to said vertical barrier and in symmetrical relationship to the opening in the other playing area so as to present the same conditions to each player of said game.

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