Sept. 13, 1932. G. S. GRINER 1,877,660

GAME

Filed June 19, 1931

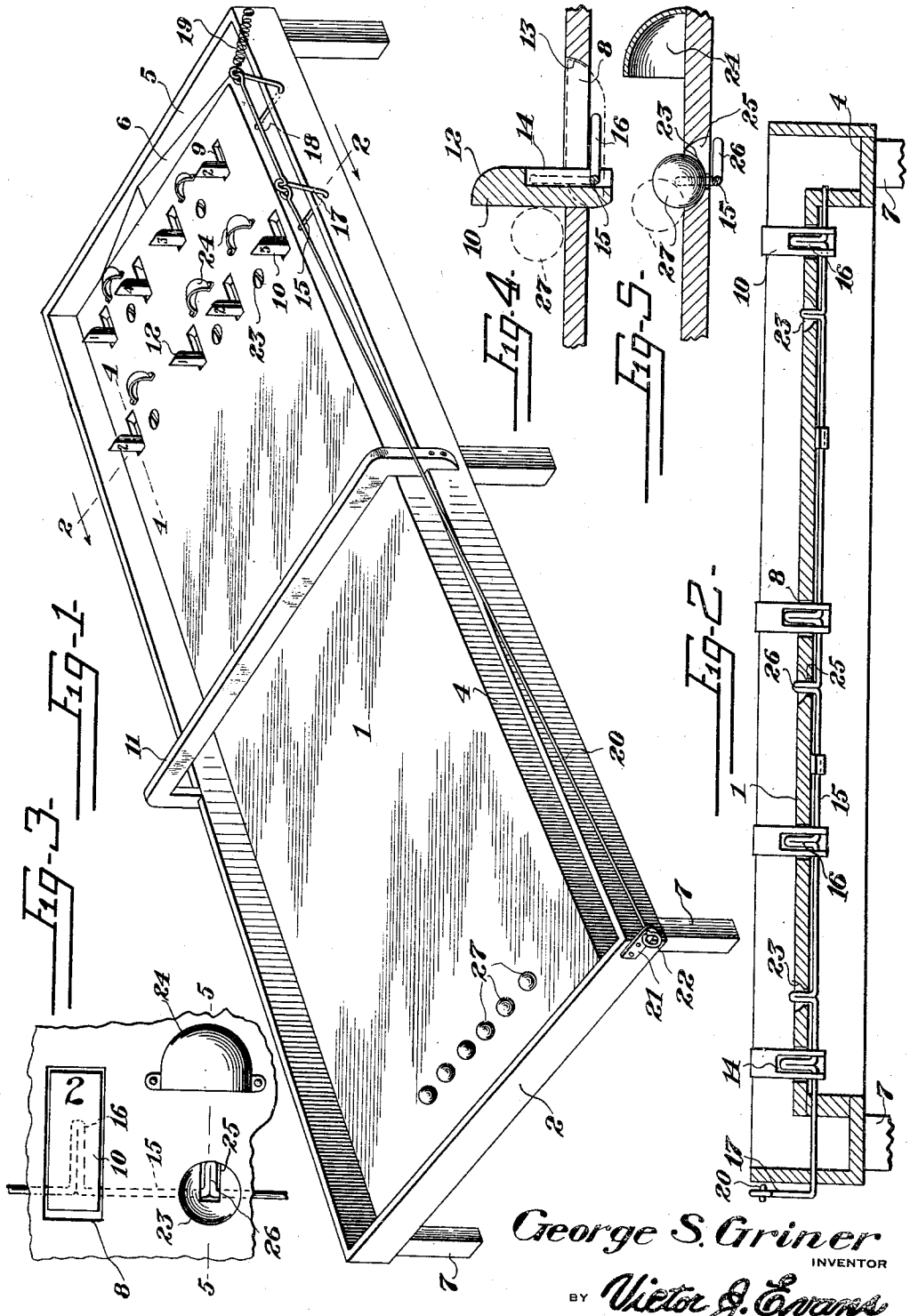


Fig-1

Fig-2

Fig-3

Fig-4

Fig-5

George S. Griner
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans and Co.
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GEORGE S. GRINER, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

GAME

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My present invention has reference to a game apparatus, in which a number of balls are projected toward normally upstanding targets which, when contacted will swing to horizontal position or wherein the said balls may be directed into cups, the balls missing the targets or cups being received in runways and being returned to a position whereby the same are readily accessible to the players, together with means for returning the contacted targets to upright position and for projecting balls out of the cups so that such balls will be returned to playing position.

To the attainment of the foregoing the invention consists in the improvement hereinafter described and definitely claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a game apparatus in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view approximately on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a detail plan view of one of the cup deflectors and target, the latter being in horizontal position or flush with the playing surface of the apparatus.

Figure 4 is a sectional view approximately on the line 4—4 of Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a sectional view approximately on the line 5—5 of Figure 3.

As disclosed by the drawing the apparatus comprises a substantially rectangular bed or table 1. The table 1 is provided with a continuous flange 2 and between the side flanges and the table proper there are gutters 4. Also between the rear flange and the end of the table there is another gutter 5. The lower wall of the gutter proper is inclined in opposite directions from the center thereof, as indicated by the numeral 6 and the gutter 5 communicates with the gutters 4.

The game apparatus is supported on legs 7, the legs at the front of the table or apparatus being of a greater length than the intermediate legs and the rear end legs being of a greater length than the intermediate legs whereby the rear end of the table is sustained at an elevation. The table or field 1, adjacent its said rear end is provided with inner and outer series of substantially rectangular openings. The front openings 8 are arranged intermediate with respect to the rear openings 9 and in each of these openings there is pivotally supported a target 10. The targets when swung to upright positions are designed to contact with the front walls provided by the openings and the said targets are numbered.

In the playing of the game six balls are allowed each player, and the numbers on the targets correspond to certain numbers on playing cards. Each player is allotted an equal number of balls, and his object is to project the balls along the table toward the target, to cause such balls to contact with and cause the targets 10 to gravitate into the openings provided therefor. By causing the balls to contact with the targets bearing the numerals from one to five consecutively the player will obtain a score equal to what is known as a "straight" in the game of poker. By knocking down other targets the player can obtain what is known as a "four-of-a-kind", "a full house", "three-of-a-kind", "two pair" or only a single pair, but should the balls miss the targets they will be directed into the gutter 5 and from thence into the side gutters 4 and returned to playing end of the table. To add to the skill required by the players I arrange a bridge element 11 transversely on and approximately at the center of the table.

It is to be noted that the non-pivoted ends of the targets have their inner corners rounded, as at 12, and that the inner walls provided by the slots or notches 8 are likewise rounded, as at 13. This will prevent the targets falling through the slots or notches. It will be further noted from the drawing that the inner face of each of the targets, from the pivoted ends thereof, is formed

with a groove 14 and that the pivots for the targets are in the nature of rods 15, each provided with an offset finger 16 to be arranged directly below the slots 8 in horizontal position when the targets are raised. The outer ends 17 of the pivot rods 15 are bent at upward angles and have eye ends which are engaged by a link 18. The rear link has also connected to its eye a coil spring 19 whose outer end is fixed on one side of the apparatus, and a pull or operating rod 20 is secured to the eye on the offset end of the front rod 15 and passes through an opening in the plate 21 that is fixed on the front of the table. The rod 21 has its end formed with a finger piece 22 that is forced against the plate 21 by the tension of the spring 19.

The playing table, at points between the targets 10, is formed with depressions in the nature of cups 23, and to the rear of each of the cups there is fixed on the table a hollow semi-spherical member 24 in the nature of a deflector. The bottom of each of the cups 23 is provided with a slot 25, and the rods 15 are provided with fingers 26 in addition to the fingers 16 that are movable through the slots 25. The cup-shaped depressions permit of the spheres or balls 27 being rolled by the players in an endeavor to place the said balls in the said cups, and in this manner the game apparatus may be employed as a miniature golf device. Balls forcibly entering the semi-spherical members 24 will be deflected therefrom to cause such balls to travel into the cups 23. A pull upon the rod 21 will turn the rods 13 to cause the fingers 26 to travel through the slots 25 and thereby eject from the pockets the balls 27 which have been delivered thereinto so that the said balls will roll down the inclined table to the front thereof where the same may be readily obtained by the players.

It is thought the construction, operation and advantages of my improvement will be understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art to which such invention relates so that further detailed description will not be required. However, I do not wish to be limited to the precise details herein shown and described and, therefore, hold myself entitled to make such changes therefrom as fairly fall within the scope of what I claim.

Having described the invention, I claim:

A game apparatus including a table, mounted on legs and sustained at an angle, and said table having a continuous flange, side and rear communicating gutters between the flanges and the rear gutter having its bottom wall inclined in opposite directions from the center thereof, the elevated end of the table having spaced series of longitudinal slots therein whose rear walls are rounded, a number bearing target in each slot designed to contact with the front walls of the slots when in elevated positions, rods journaled through the table at one of the side flanges thereof and on which the targets are pivoted, fingers on the rods, said rods having outer offset ends, links connecting said rods, a spring influencing the rods to hold their fingers beneath the slots and in normal horizontal position, and an operating rod for the finger carrying rods.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GEORGE S. GRINER.