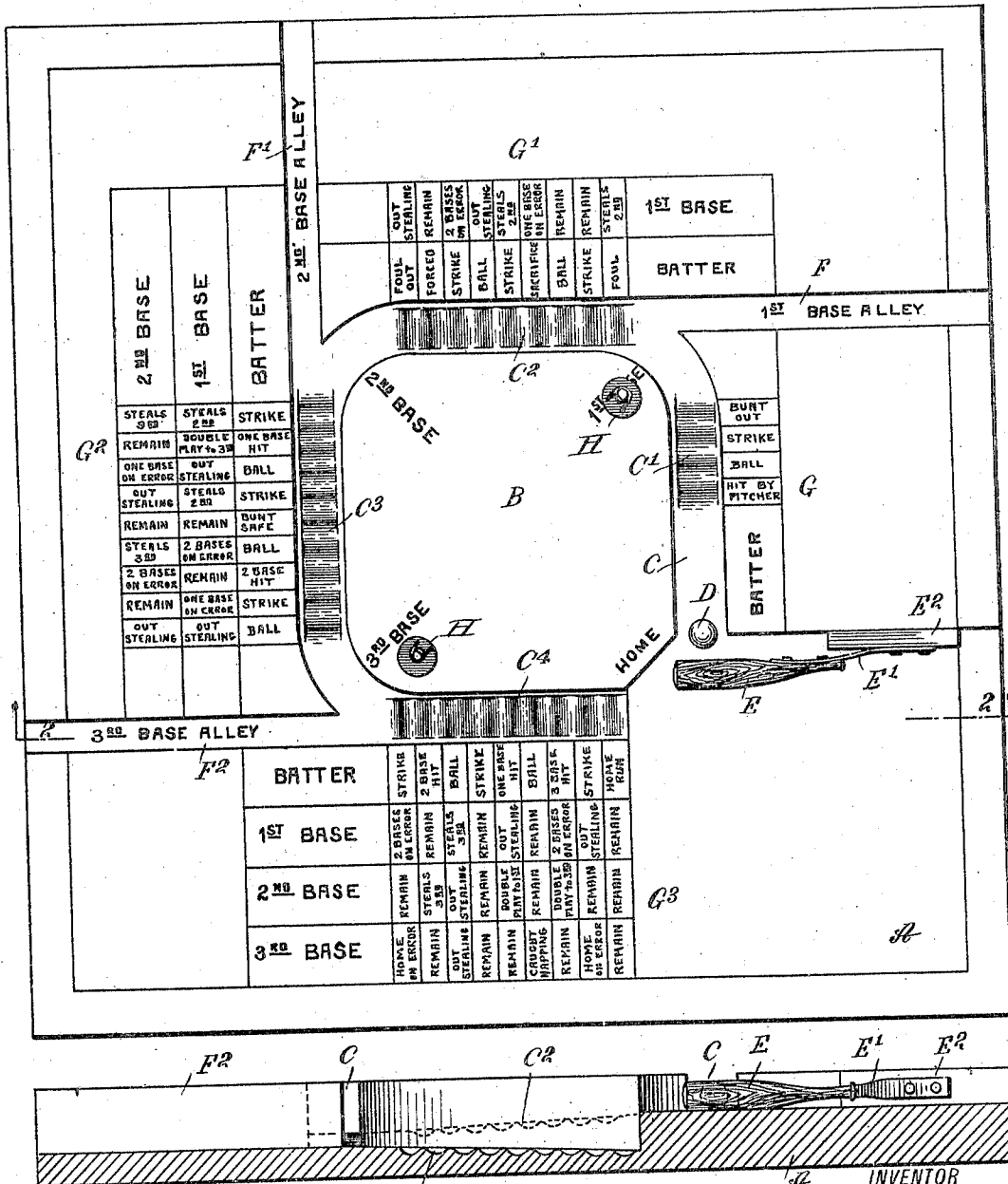


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 GAME APPARATUS.
 APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 14, 1909.

948,209.

Patented Feb. 1, 1910.
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1



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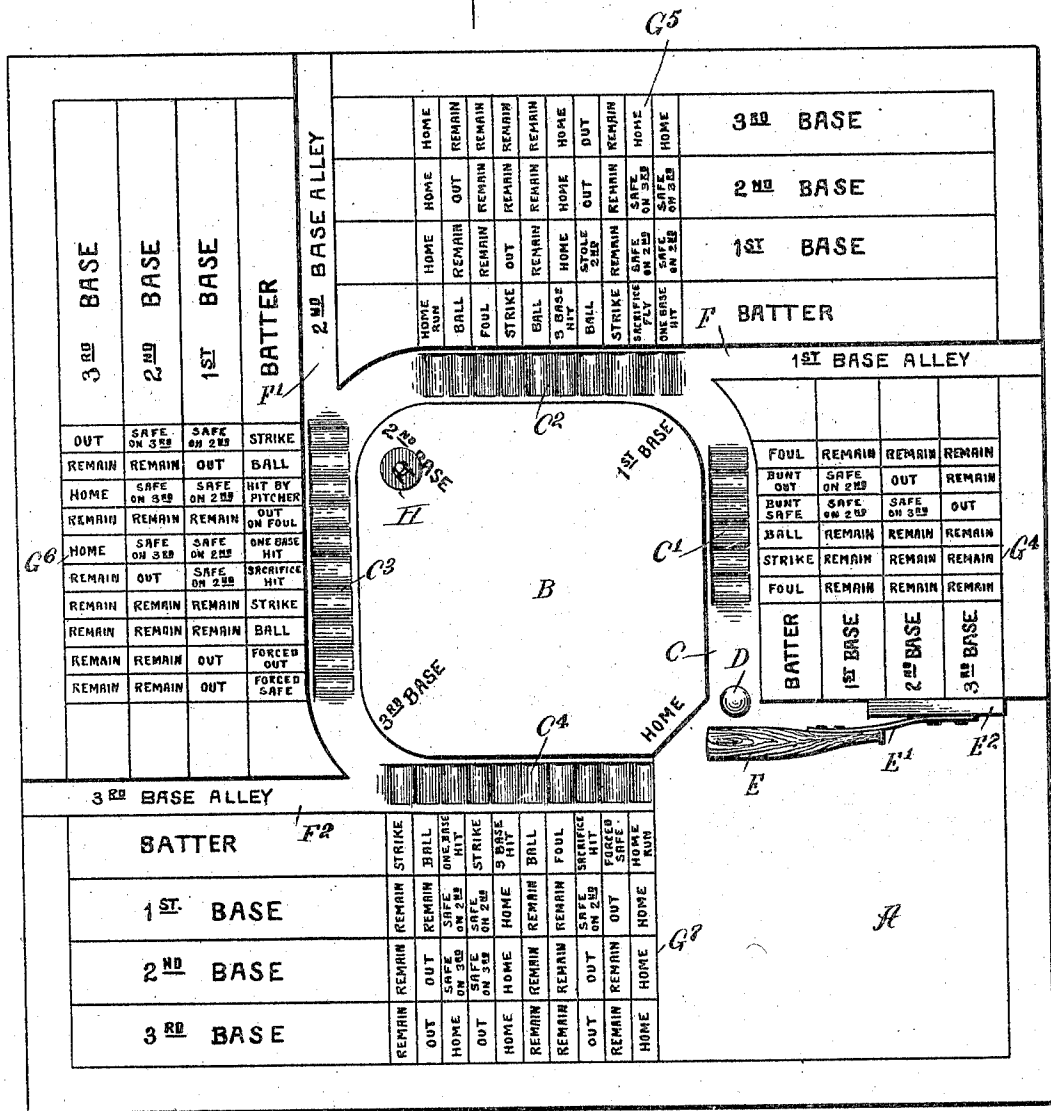
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Fig. 2.



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CARL F. DOERR, OF YONKERS, NEW YORK.

GAME APPARATUS.

948,209.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 1, 1910.

Application filed September 14, 1909. Serial No. 517,590.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL F. DOERR, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Yonkers, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Game Apparatus, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention relates to parlor games, and its object is to provide a new and improved game apparatus, more especially designed for playing baseball, and arranged to afford amusement to the players and onlookers and to require considerable skill on the part of the players to successfully play the game.

For the purpose mentioned use is made of a diamond shaped field surrounded by a ball runway, on which a ball is pitched by a player, the runway beginning and ending at the home plate.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the game apparatus as arranged for playing baseball with nine or less persons on each side; Fig. 2 is a sectional side elevation of the same on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the game apparatus as arranged for two players.

On a suitable board or table A is arranged a diamond-shaped field B, having marked thereon the first, second and third bases and the home plate. The field B is surrounded by a ball runway C, beginning and ending at the home plate, and preferably inclined in a downward direction from the beginning of the runway to the end thereof, as indicated in Fig. 2. The bottom of the runway C is provided with ball-retarding means C', C², C³ and C⁴, preferably in the form of undulations or corrugations, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, so that the ball D, propelled along the runway C is liable to stop at any one of the corrugations C', C², C³ and C⁴. The ball D is adapted to be propelled from the beginning of the runway C by the use of a bat E, extending horizontally and mounted on the free end of a spring E' attached to a standard E², held

on the table or board A. Thus when a player places a ball D in starting position at the beginning end of the runway C and then draws the bat E rearward and releases the same, then the bat E strikes the ball D and sends the same with more or less force along the runway C until the ball finally comes to a stop on any one of the corrugations C', C², C³ and C⁴. The corrugations C', C², C³ and C⁴ are arranged opposite the sides of the field B, and to the sides of the runway C lead alleys F, F', F², called respectively first, second and third base alleys, as marked in the drawings. The alleys F, F', F² are used for sending a ball along the alleys to a corresponding corrugation C², C³, C⁴. Along the outer sides of the runway C are arranged counting means, preferably in the form of cards, provided with rows of counting or indicating means, each row being opposite the bottom of a corresponding corrugation C', C², C³ or C⁴. Thus when the ball D comes to rest in one of the corrugations, the proper value of the ball at this position is indisputably indicated in the corresponding opposing row. The indicating means G, G', G² and G³, as shown in Fig. 1, are arranged for use when the game is played with nine or less persons on each side, while the indicating means G⁴, G⁵, G⁶, G⁷, shown in Fig. 3, are separate cards, which may be placed on top of the indicating means G, G', G², G³, to cover the same, the said indicating means G⁴, G⁵, G⁶ and G⁷ being arranged for use when the game is played by two players only. In this case, the ball D indicates the chances of the batter and those of the men at bases. Thus when the batter's ball D, for instance, stops on the seventh corrugation of the indicating means G⁵ opposite the words "Strike," "Out," "Remain," "Remain," it means one strike for the batter, the man on first base, if one is there, is "out" and the men on second and third bases remain, if any are on those bases.

In the modified form shown in Fig. 3, the alleys F, F', F² are not used by men on bases, and the advancing, removing or being out of men on bases is solely governed by the next batter up, and hence the indicating means G⁴, G⁵, G⁶ and G⁷ make pro-

visions for all the possible chances for men on bases without the use of the alleys F, F', F².

The rules for playing the game are practically the same as those governing real baseball, and the game can be played by any number of persons up to nine on each side. In case there are less than nine persons on each side the players, if of even number, play even sides, and if of uneven number they arrange two sides.

In connection with the apparatus described, use is made of nine baseball playing figures, preferably of white color, and representing the home team, and nine baseball playing figures, preferably in blue, representing the opposing or visiting team. Two such figures are shown in Fig. 1 at the first and third base, thus indicating that the team playing at the time has a man on first base and a man on third base. In Fig. 3 is shown a baseball playing figure on the second base, thus indicating that the team playing at the time has a man on second base. Nine innings are played. An inning is finished when three men of each side are declared out. Whenever a player gets safe to "home" a run is scored, and the side which at the end of the ninth inning has scored the most runs wins the game. If there should be a tie at the end of the ninth inning, one or more innings are played until at the end of a full played inning one side is ahead and thus will be the winner of the game. Player No. 1 of the blue or visiting team starts in to bat and bats until he places himself on base, or else is called out. Player No. 2 in blue then follows, etc., until three men are called out, at which time the home team starts in in the same manner. After every bat, the players on bases, if there are any, run one after the other from the alleys F, F', F², F³ corresponding with the bases on which they are, except however when the batter makes any kind of a hit. When this takes place, the players on bases advance the same number of bases as the batter's hitting calls for. Any player on base who is advanced by a man on base, does not run after being advanced. A ball from the batter which is batted out of the base run, is a foul strike. A ball from the batter coming back of the bat, is a foul caught by the catcher, and the batter is out.

The general rules above given may, of course, be varied, but it is evident that by playing the game of baseball in the manner and by the use of the apparatus as described considerable amusement is afforded to the players and onlookers, and at the same time considerable skill is required on the part of the players to win the game.

Having thus described my invention, I

claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A game apparatus, comprising a field, a ball runway having ball retarding means and surrounding the said field, and batting means for propelling a ball along the said runway.

2. A game apparatus for playing baseball, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, a ball runway surrounding the said field and beginning and ending at the home plate of the said field, ball retarding means in the said runway, and batting means adjacent the said home plate for propelling a ball along the said runway.

3. A game apparatus for playing baseball, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, a ball runway surrounding the said field, and alleys in alinement with the sides of the said field and leading into the said runway at the bases.

4. A game apparatus for playing baseball, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, and a ball runway surrounding the said field and beginning and ending at the home plate of the said field, the said runway having ball-retarding means.

5. A game apparatus for playing baseball, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, and a ball runway surrounding the said field and beginning and ending at the home plate of the said field, the said runway being inclined and provided with ball-retarding means.

6. A game apparatus for playing baseball, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, and a ball runway surrounding the said field and beginning and ending at the home plate of the said field, the said runway being inclined downward from the beginning to the end thereof and the said runway having undulating ball-retarding portions.

7. A game apparatus, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, a ball runway surrounding the said field, means for propelling a ball along the said runway, and counting means arranged along the outer sides of the said runway opposite the sides of the said field.

8. A game apparatus, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked thereon, a ball runway surrounding the said field, means for propelling a ball along the said runway, alleys leading to the sides of the said runway, and counting cards arranged along the outer sides of the said runway opposite the sides of the said field.

9. A game apparatus, comprising a diamond shaped field having the bases marked

thereon, a ball runway surrounding the said
field and having ball-retarding means along
each side of the field, and counting cards ar-
ranged along the outer sides of the said field
5 and having rows of counting means in
alinement with the said retarding means.

In testimony whereof I have signed my

name to this specification in the presence of
two subscribing witnesses.

CARL F. DOERR.

Witnesses:

THEO. G. HOSTER,
PHILIP D. ROLLHAUS.