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(54) Title: A GAMING DICE

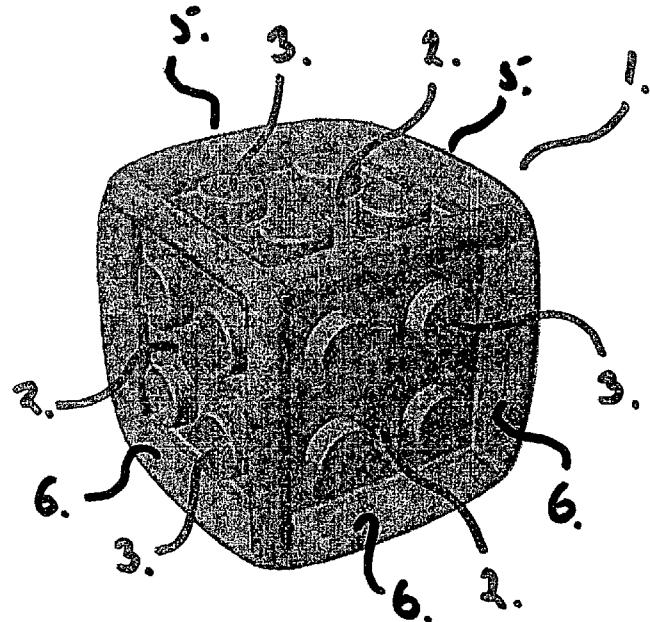


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A gaming dice for a game, such as a board game or a card game, said gaming dice comprising a body part comprising a number of sides, wherein at least one or more of those sides is/are provided with coupling studs. Hereby it is possible to mount indicia-carrying elements that have a bottom side on which complementary coupling means are provided and a top side which is opposite relative to the bottom side and is provided with indicia.

A gaming dice

Field of use of the invention

The present invention relates to a gaming dice for a game and a game,
5 wherein the gaming dice comprises a number of sides, and wherein at least one or more of such sides is/are provided with means for mounting of an indicia-carrying element; and wherein the means for mounting of an indicia-carrying element comprises one or more coupling studs that extend at a given height from at least one side of the dice.

10

State of the art

Gaming dice are used in the context of games of many different types, such as board games, card games and so on. For such games, cubic game dice with six sides of equal size and being essentially square are generally used,
15 but gaming dice are known that have both more and fewer sides than six depending on the number of outcomes desired by use of the gaming dice.

The most known embodiment of a six-sided gaming dice is configured such that each of the sides of the dice is provided with a number of dots or pips to
20 the effect that a throw of dice may result in equal probabilities for the side facing upwards showing a number of pips from one to six.

Over the years, games have been developed that have entailed the need for gaming dice that may provide other outcomes than the above one through six pips, and thus gaming dice have been developed wherein some or all sides
25 of the gaming dice is/are provided with other indicia than the known pips.

Besides, CH patent No. 450254 and 686288 and DE utility model No. 202005001584, US patent No. 1100549 and PCT application No. 95/13849
30 teach gaming dice of the kind set forth in the introductory part, wherein the dice sides are configured with means for mounting indicia-carrying elements

that can thereby be varied with a view to configuring a gaming dice with precisely the desired outcomes that match a given game. These latter gaming dice thus enable the option of exchanging and adapting the indicia-carrying elements on the gaming dice to the effect that it is possible, by 5 means of one single dice, to create far more possible outcomes when the dice is thrown. On the whole, the development of gaming dice has focused precisely on providing new options for games by enabling more different outcomes when the gaming dice is thrown.

10 However, it is a problem in the context of configuring that type of dice that the configuration of the dice may, on the one hand, be such that the mounting as such of indicia-carrying elements can, to a certain extent, change the probability of the dice coming to sit on a given side upon being thrown, and, on the other hand, that it is to be ensured that both the dice and the indicia-carrying elements are sufficiently robust for withstanding being assembled 15 and disassembled innumerable times.

Object of the invention

Based on this, it is the object of the present invention to provide a gaming 20 dice and a game that enable further options for new kinds of games or more options for different outcomes when the gaming dice is thrown; and wherein the elements of the dice are extremely durable, while simultaneously the probability distribution of the dice is altered minimally upon mounting of the indicia-carrying elements to the dice.

25 This is accomplished in accordance with the invention in that at least a portion of the edges of the gaming dice is provided with flanges that extend from the sides of the dice at a distance that corresponds to or is bigger than the height of the coupling studs measured at right angles to the sides of the 30 dice. As it is, hereby it is accomplished on the one hand that the gaming dice is well suited for mounting of indicia-carrying elements that have a coupling

means which is configured to be complementary to the coupling studs, while simultaneously it influences the properties of the gaming dice minimally.

It is possible to configure the couplings studs in concordance with the
5 couplings studs of a known toy building set, but according to the invention the
gaming dice may advantageously further comprise at least one indicia-
carrying element, which indicia-carrying element has a bottom side having a
coupling means which is complementarily configured relative to one of the
coupling studs to the effect that they allow mounting of the indicia-carrying
10 elements onto the dice by the complementary coupling parts being
interconnected frictionally or by geometrical locking to the coupling studs on
the sides of the dice.

According to an expedient embodiment, each of the indicia-carrying elements
15 has a top face which is arranged opposite and at a given distance from the
bottom side featuring the complementary coupling parts, and wherein the top
side is provided with different indicia, such as different shapes,
ornamentations, colours or graphic prints.

20 To further ensure that the probability properties of the gaming dice
corresponds to those of an ordinary gaming dice, any of the edges of the
gaming dice may advantageously be provided with flanges that extend from
the sides of the dice at a distance that corresponds to or exceeds the height
of the coupling studs measured at right angles to the sides of the dice.

25 In this context the edges of the gaming dice would further advantageously be
provided with flanges that extend from the sides of the dice at a distance that
corresponds to or exceeds the distance from the sides of the gaming dice
and to the surface of at least one indicia-carrying element mounted to one of
30 the sides of the gaming dice, measured at right angles to the sides of the
dice. Hereby it is accomplished that the influence of the indicia-carrying

elements on the probability properties of the gaming dice is further minimised.

Advantageously the gaming dice is configured from two different plastics 5 materials to the effect that the flanges are configured from a material which is more elastic than the material constituting the coupling studs on the sides of the gaming dice.

In this context, the two plastics materials may advantageously have colours 10 that differ from each other.

The indicia-carrying elements and the flanges on the gaming dice may be configured such that there is a distance there between when the indicia-carrying element is mounted on the gaming dice, which distance is so great 15 that a user of the dice is able to release the indicia-carrying element from the gaming dice by introducing a flat object, such as a nail, between the indicia-carrying element and an adjacent flange on the gaming dice. Hereby it is made easy for the user to exchange the indicia-carrying elements on the gaming dice.

20 The accessibility for exchange of the indicia-carrying elements is further enhanced if the flanges have two opposing side faces that each extends at an angle relative to the side faces that are adjacent relative to the flange, and which angle exceeds 90° and preferably exceeds 120°.

25 The rolling properties of the gaming dice are further enhanced if each flange has a surface which is convex relative to the body part of the gaming dice.

List of figures

30 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a gaming dice according to the present invention, seen in an inclined view from above;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the gaming dice according to the invention shown in figure 1, seen in an inclined view from above, and wherein a number of indicia-carrying elements are mounted thereto;

5

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a core for a gaming device according to the present invention, seen in an inclined view from above;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the core shown in figure 3, but in finished

10 form, seen in an inclined view from above.

Embodiment of the invention

Thus, figure 1 shows a gaming dice 1 according to the present invention, wherein the gaming dice 1 is of the most common type, wherein the gaming

15 dice 1 has six identical sides 2, and wherein each of these sides 2 is configured to be essentially square to the effect that the probability of the gaming dice 2 coming to rest on a given side following throw of the gaming dice 1 is equally high for all the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1.

20 As shown in figure 1, the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1 are essentially identical and thus a throw of such gaming dice 1 will not in itself be meaningful, it not being possible for the user to distinguish between the outcomes of such throw of the dice. According to this preferred embodiment of the invention, four coupling studs 3 are therefore provided on each of the

25 sides 2 and are arranged in a square pattern to the effect that the coupling studs 3 form corners in a square, and the coupling studs 3 are configured such that it is possible to mount building elements from a toy building system known *per se* on the coupling studs 3 to the effect that the sides 2 of the gaming dice are able to change nature upon mounting of different such

30 building elements on the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1.

By mounting different building elements on the gaming dice 1 according to figure 1, it is thus possible to impart to each side 2 of the gaming dice its own nature if the elements that are mounted on the gaming dice 1 vary in number, shape or appearance as such. The coupling studs 3 projecting from the sides 5 2 of the gaming dice 1, a coupling system is hereby accomplished on which it is possible to mount robust, indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c, such as building plates of an already known toy building system, that are retained by friction onto the coupling studs 3, and thereby they cannot unintentionally fall off by themselves, while yet permitting easy disassembly. At the same time it 10 is thereby accomplished that a major part of the weight of the coupling system is located as an integral part of the gaming dice 1 as such, whereby, all other things being equal, a gaming dice is accomplished whose probability properties are influenced comparatively little when indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c are mounted on the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1.

15

It will further appear from figure 1 that the gaming dice 1 according to the invention is provided with flanges 5 at those edges of the gaming dice 1 that separate the individual sides or side faces 2. The flanges 5 thus project from the edges of the gaming dice 1 at a distance measured from the sides 2 of 20 the gaming dice 1 and thus form a frame around each side 2 which thereby increases the base area of the gaming dice 1 whereby it can rest on at least a part of the surface of the flanges 5. In this way it is further ensured that the probability properties of the gaming dice 1 are not significantly altered when indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c are mounted on the sides 2 of the 25 gaming dice.

Here, the flanges 5 are configured such that the surface of each of the flanges 1 has a curved shape which is convex longitudinally of the edges of the gaming dice 1, seen from the interior of the gaming dice 1, to the effect 30 that each flange 5 is higher at the middle than at the corners of the gaming

dice 1, whereby the rolling properties of the gaming dice are further enhanced.

Now, figure 2 shows the same gaming dice 1 as is shown in figures 1 and 5, 5 and wherein, on at least the three visible sides 2 of the gaming dice, building plates 4, 4b, 4c from a toy building system known *per se* are mounted. On the one side that faces upwards, a square building plate 4a is thus mounted that covers all four coupling studs on the side 2 to the effect that the building plate does not leave space for mounting of further building elements on that 10 side 2. On the two other visible sides 2 of the gaming dice 1, a single square building plate 4b is mounted that covers precisely one single one of the coupling studs 3 on the one side 2, and, on the other side 2, two rectangular building plates 4c are mounted that each covers precisely two coupling studs 3 on that side 2, respectively, to the effect that the two rectangular building 15 plates 4c do not leave space for further mounting of building plates on that side 2.

The indicia-carrying elements in the form of building plates 4a, 4b, 4c are configured such that they have a bottom side on which one or more 20 complementary coupling means are provided that can be interconnected by friction on the coupling studs 3 on the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1. Obviously, the person skilled in the art is able to configure the complementary coupling means in many ways without departing from the principle underlying the present invention, and therefore they are not shown 25 in the figures. The indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c are configured such that, upon mounting to the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1, they are located at a distance from the flanges 5 to the effect that easy dismounting of the indicia-carrying elements is enabled by allowing introduction of eg a nail or other suitable tool between the indicia-carrying element 4a, 4b, 4c and the most 30 proximate flange 5, whereby the indicia-carrying element 4a, 4b, 4c can easily be flipped off by use of the leverage effect. As shown, flanges 5 are

configured such that they have side faces 6 that project from the sides 2 of the dice 1 at a blunt angle to the effect that it further provides space for the introduction of a tool between a flange 5 and an indicia-carrying element 4a, 4b, 4c.

5

In this way it is seen that, upon mounting of building plates, it can be achieved that all the sides of the gaming dice can be configured individually, to the effect that the invention provides a large number of different options for building a gaming dice that is configured specifically for a particular game.

10

As set forth above, sides 2 on the gaming dice 1 can thereby be varied exclusively by mounting a different number of building plates on the gaming dice or by mounting building plates of different sizes. However, according to the present invention, it is also an option to vary the configuration of the sides

15 2 by varying the shapes, colours, ornamentations and/or printed motifs of the building elements.

According to the invention, the gaming dice 1 may thus comprise a number of different indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c that may very well be configured

20 in the same way as the above-mentioned building elements 4a, 4b, 4c, but are dedicated for use in varying the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1 by them being provided with indicia having different shapes, sizes, ornamentations, colours or motifs on the side that faces outwards when the indicia-carrying element 4a, 4b, 4c is mounted on one of the sides 2 of the gaming dice 1.

25

Thereby it is possible to accomplish that, by one single gaming dice, a very large number of different options is provided for designing the gaming dice 1 to the game it is desired to play or optionally to change the configuration and nature of the gaming dice 1 as a part of the game. This is accomplished by 30 use of comparatively few individual components.

Obviously, the shown dice is of a preferred embodiment, and it is possible for the person skilled in the art to configure dice having other basic shapes without departing from the fundamental principle of the present invention. Thus, it is possible to provide gaming dice with more or fewer sides and the 5 shapes and sizes of the sides may also be varied.

Now, figures 3 and 4 show an embodiment of a gaming dice 1 according to the present invention, wherein the gaming dice is configured from two different materials comprising a comparatively hard component constituting 10 at least the coupling studs 3 of the gaming dice 1, and a comparatively soft component comprising at least the flanges 5 of the gaming dice 1. In this context, figure 3 shows a core piece 7 that constitutes a core and the coupling studs 3 on the gaming dice 1. The core piece 7 is configured from a comparatively hard plastics material and is configured such that it may be 15 provided in an injection moulding process in a tool suitable therefore (not shown). The core piece may subsequently, upon arrangement in another injection moulding cavity in a two-component injection moulding process, be provided with the comparatively soft component that constitutes at least the flanges 5 on the gaming dice. Thereby a gaming dice 1 is accomplished 20 which is robust and which is able to efficiently retain the indicia-carrying elements 4a, 4b, 4c on the relatively hard coupling studs 3, but has good rolling properties and does not make much noise when the dice is thrown.

In this context, it is obvious that the two plastics materials may have different 25 colours to the effect that at least the couplings studs 3 or the flanges 5 have a colour that deviates relative to the remainder of the gaming dice.

Claims

1. A gaming dice for a game, such as a board game or a card game, said gaming dice comprising a body part comprising a number of essentially plane sides that are separated from each other via a number of edges, wherein at least one or more of such sides is/are provided with means for mounting of an indicia-carrying element; and wherein the means for mounting of an indicia-carrying element comprises one or more coupling studs that project at a given height from at least one side of the dice, **characterised in** that at least a portion of the edges on the gaming dice is provided with flanges that project from the sides of the dice at a distance corresponding to or exceeding the height of the coupling studs measured at right angles to the sides of the dice.
- 15 2. A gaming dice according to claim 1, **characterised in** that it further comprises at least one indicia-carrying element, which indicia-carrying element has a bottom side having a coupling means which is configured to be complementary relative to one of the coupling studs to the effect that they allow mounting of the indicia-carrying elements on the dice by the complementary coupling parts being interconnected by frictional or geometrical locking to the coupling studs on the sides of the dice.
- 25 3. A gaming dice according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the indicia-carrying elements each has a surface which is arranged opposite and at a given distance from the bottom side with the complementary coupling parts, and on whose surface different indicia are located, such as different shapes, 20 ornamentations, colours or graphic prints.
- 30 4. A gaming dice according to claims 1, 2 or 3, **characterised in** that each of the edges of the gaming dice is provided with a flange that extends from the

side of the dice at a distance that corresponds to or exceeds the height of the coupling studs measured at right angles to the sides of the dice.

5. A gaming dice according to claim 2, **characterised in** that at least a portion of the edges on the gaming dice is provided with flanges that extend from the sides of the dice at a distance that corresponds to or exceeds the distance from the sides of the gaming dice and to the surface of at least one of the indicia-carrying elements mounted to one of the sides of the gaming dice, measured at right angles to the sides of the dice.

10

6. A gaming dice according to claim 4 or 5, **characterised in** that it is configured from two different plastics materials, the flanges being configured from a material that is more elastic than the material that constitutes the coupling studs on the sides of the gaming dice.

15

7. A gaming dice according to the preceding claims, **characterised in** that the two plastics materials have colours that differ from each other.

20

8. A gaming dice according to claims 2 and 4, **characterised in** that each of the indicia-carrying elements and flanges on the gaming dice is configured such that there is a distance there between when the indicia-carrying element is mounted on the gaming dice, which distance is so great that a user of the dice is able to release the indicia-carrying element from the gaming dice by introducing a flat object, such as a nail, between the indicia-carrying element and an adjacent flange on the gaming dice.

25

9. A gaming dice according to claim 6, **characterised in** that any of the flanges has two opposing side faces that each extends at a blunt angle relative to the two side faces that are adjacent relative to the flange, and which angle exceeds 90° and preferably exceeds 120°.

30

10. A gaming dice according to claim 7, **characterised in** that every flange has a surface which is convex compared to the body part of the gaming dice.
11. A gaming dice according to claim 1 and 2, **characterised in** that the coupling studs and the complementary coupling parts are configured ins such a manner that they can be interconnected with building elements of a toy building set.

1/2

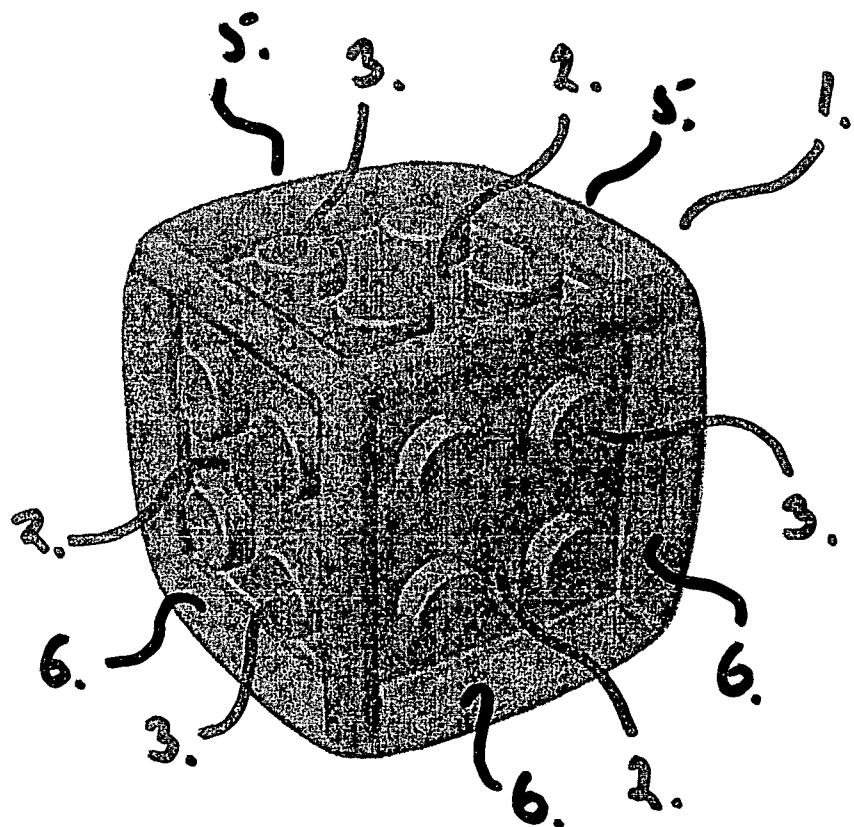


Figure 1

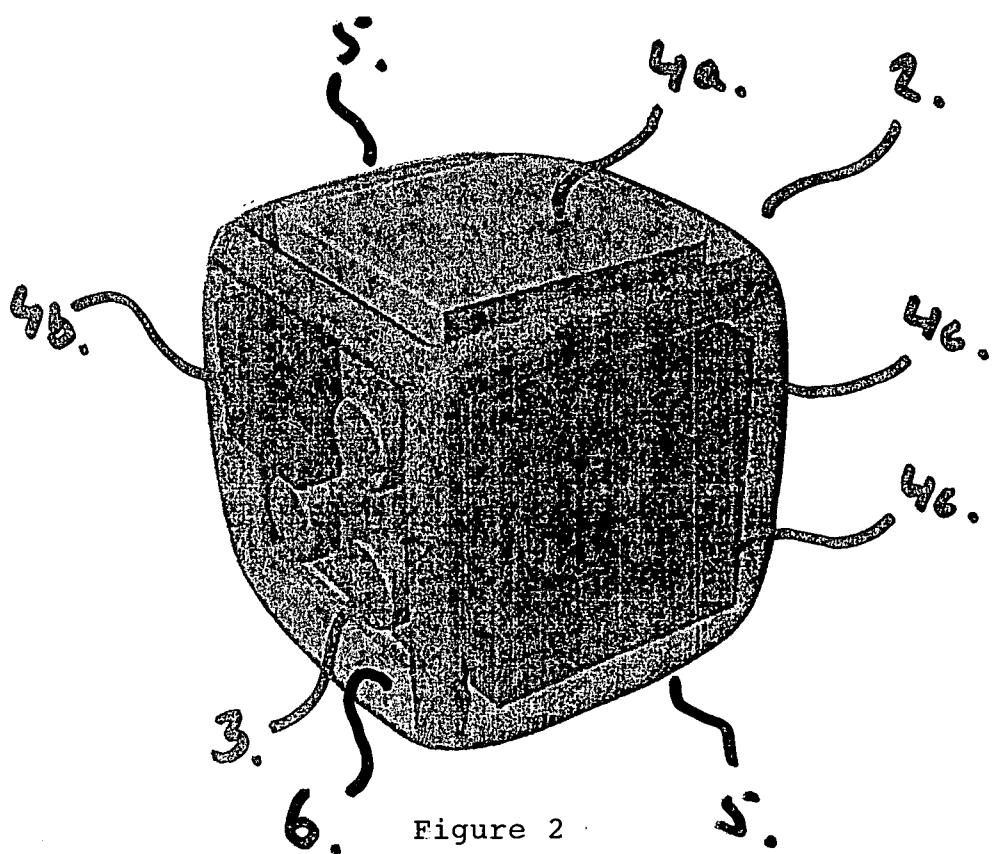


Figure 2

2/2

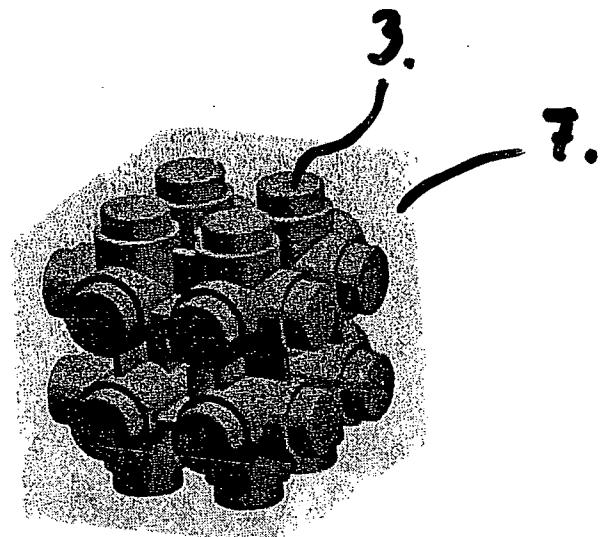


Figure 3

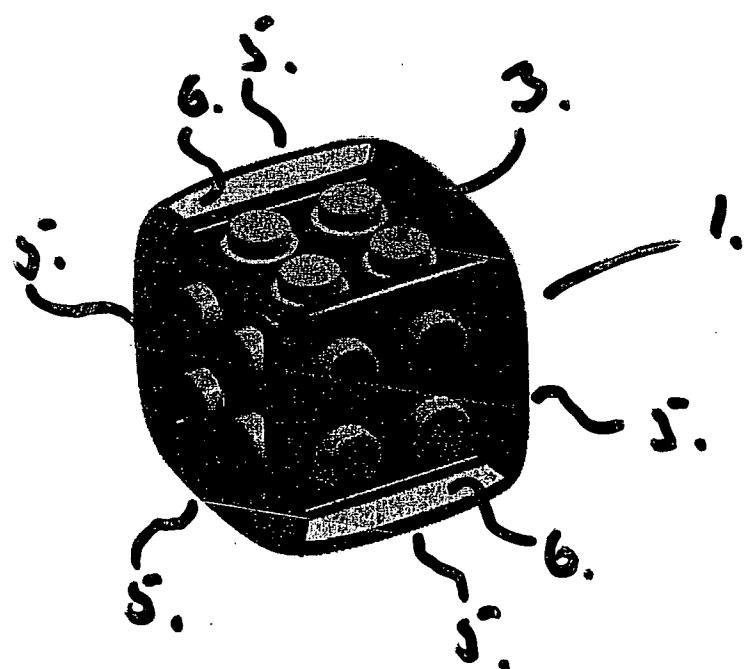


Figure 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/DK2009/000030

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A63F/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 20 2005 001584 U1 (HERZOG MICHAEL [DE]) 21 April 2005 (2005-04-21) cited in the application paragraphs [0014] - [0016]; figures -----	1-11
A	US 2007/200291 A1 (MCEOWEN ROGER L [US]) 30 August 2007 (2007-08-30) paragraphs [0033], [0034]; figure 6 -----	1-11
A	US 1 100 549 A (JAMES E. ELKINS) 16 June 1914 (1914-06-16) page 1, line 27 - line 63; figures -----	1-11
A	DE 22 55 936 A1 (ERWIN LEDWINKA FA) 22 May 1974 (1974-05-22) page 6, line 6 - page 10, line 15; figures 1-6 ----- -/-	1-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/DK2009/000030

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 95/13849 A (LAUREYSSENS DIRK [BE]) 26 May 1995 (1995-05-26) claim 10; figure 13 -----	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/DK2009/000030

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 202005001584 U1	21-04-2005	NONE	
US 2007200291 A1	30-08-2007	NONE	
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