# C. H. Fowler,

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## Game Board.

No. 65,739. Patented June 11, 1867.

Fig: 1.

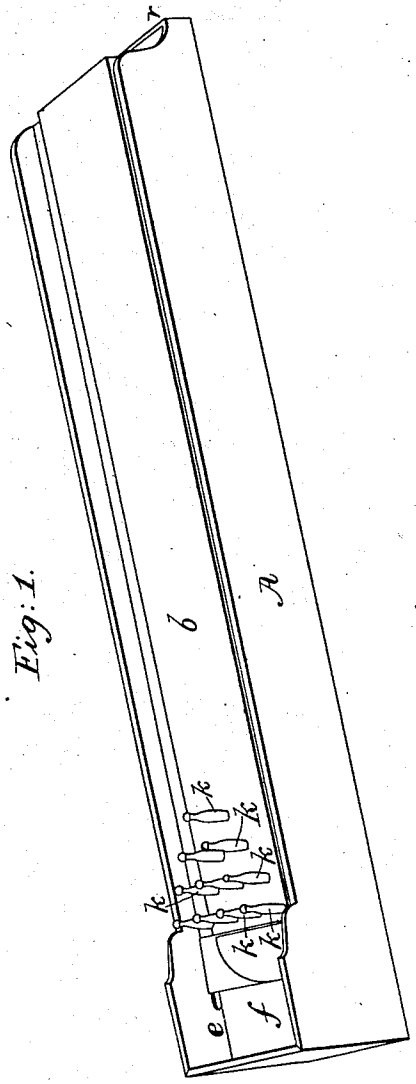


Fig: 2.

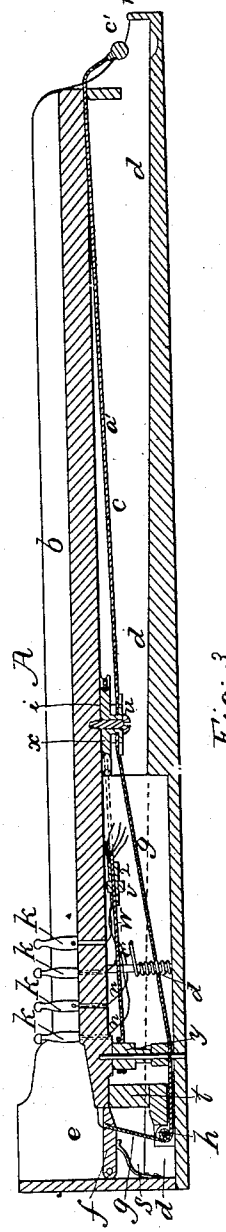
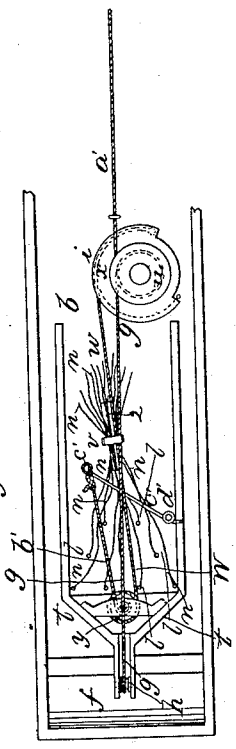


Fig: 3.



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# United States Patent Office

CHARLES H. FOWLER, OF WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

*Letters Patent No.* 65,739, *dated June* 11, 1867.

## PARLOR TEN-PIN ALLEY.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. FOWLER, of West Roxbury, in the county of Norfolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and desirable improvements in Parlor Ten-Pin Alleys; and do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, due reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view.

Figure 2, a vertical and longitudinal section of such invention.

Figure 3 is an under side view of the alley-bed and its operative mechanism.

The object of the invention is to enable the "pins" to be "set up" expeditiously, without touching them, and without the necessity of the players' moving from the position which they occupy in playing; another object of the invention being to return the balls automatically to the players, or to the end of the alley at which they are standing.

The first part of the invention consists in attaching a series of cords or chains to the bottom of each pin, these cords extending through holes in the bed of the alley and into a chamber below such bed, and being joined and carried forward to the front end of the alley in such manner as to be readily seized by the players for the purpose of pulling the pins into an upright position. The second part of this invention consists in applying a movable or hinged floor in rear of the pins, or in the ball-receiving chamber of the alley, in such manner that the pulling of the cords in the act of raising the pins shall depress the front end of the flooring, and allow the balls to roll off it and into the chamber below the alley, down the inclined surface of which the balls will roll to the front end of the alley, or immediately contiguous to the joining of the cords before mentioned.

In the drawings, A denotes a rectangular trough, open at one end, and having a horizontal partition or alley-bed, *b*, disposed within it in such manner as to leave a shallow chamber or enclosure, *c*, below the alley-bed, the flooring *d* of the trough being inclined downwards towards its front end. In rear of the end of the alley-bed *b*, and enclosed by the end of the trough A, is the temporary ball-receiving space *e*, the movable bottom *f* of this space being sunken below the surface of the alley-bed, and hinged to the rear end of the trough A, and so as to be capable of being depressed into an inclined position, and allow the balls to descend by their gravity into the chamber *c*. A rope, *g*, is fixed to the under side of the flooring or trap *f*, passes around a pulley, *h*, suitably applied to the bottom of the chamber *c*, and thence is carried and fixed to the periphery of the lower part *u* of a cone-pulley, *i*, applied to the under side of the alley-bed *b*, as represented. A second rope, *a'*, is also applied to the periphery of the said pulley *u*, and is carried to the front end of the alley-bed, where it is furnished with a button or knob, *e'*. The "pins" are shown at *k k k*, etc., as situated over a series of holes, *l l l*, etc., made through the alley-bed, and arranged in manner similar to the disposition of the "pins" in an ordinary ten-pin alley. A series of cords, *n n n*, etc., is secured, respectively, to the lower ends of the pins *k k k*, and passes down, through the holes *l l l*, into the chamber *c*, and is run through a ring or block, *v*, supported upon a rope, *w*, one end of which is fixed to the periphery of the upper or larger part *x* of the pulley *i*, the opposite end of the cord being fixed to, and carried once or twice around, the periphery of a pulley or roller, *y*, applied to the under side of the bed *b*, and in rear of the series of holes *l l l*, as shown in figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings. A wedge or plug, *z*, is inserted within the eye of the block *v*, and serves to confine the cords *n n n* together and to the rope *w*, at the same time allowing any one of the cords to be tightened if occasion requires. An additional rope or chain, *b'*, is fixed to, and wound about, the lower part of the roller *y* in an opposite direction to the rope *w*, its opposite end being secured to the eye of an arm or lever, *c''*, making part of a coiled spring, *d*, applied to the bottom of the chamber *c*. The front end of the chamber or enclosure *c* should have a ledge, *r*, to prevent the escape of the balls therefrom. The floor or trap *f* is to have a spring, *s*, suitably applied to its under side to keep it in a horizontal position. A pointed shield or guard, *b*, is to be disposed within the chamber *c*, and immediately surrounding the holes *l l l*, for the purpose of guiding the balls, and preventing them from coming into contact with the mechanism for operating the pins.

The operation of the above-described mechanism will readily recommend itself to intelligent persons. In playing the game of ten-pins upon the alley provided with it, after the three balls have been played, the button *e* is to be seized, and the rope *w* pulled towards the players. This action will partially rotate the pulley *i*, and

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cause a corresponding movement of the rope *w*, which will create a draught upon the cords *n n n*, and pull the pins into an upright position over the holes *l l l*. The revolution of the pulley *i* also causes a draught upon the rope *b'*, which inclines the floor or trap *f*, and allows the balls to fall upon the inclined flooring of the trough A, down which they will roll to its front end. On releasing the hold of the button *c'* the spring *d'* will rotate the pulley *i* in an opposite direction, and slacken the cords *n n n*, and allow the pins to be knocked down by the blow of the balls, the rope *b'* at the same time being slackened, which will allow the floor *f* to be returned to place by the action of its spring *s*.

By means of my invention the game may be played by one person, if desirable, without removing from the position at the head of the alley. The pins are replaced in a standing position, and the balls returned instantaneously and with very little trouble, thus adding greatly to the pleasure and convenience of the game.

I claim the application and arrangement of the trap floor *f* in such manner that it shall be lowered simultaneously with the act of raising the pins, and returned to place when such act has been accomplished, essentially in manner and for the purpose as before set forth.

I also claim the mechanism for operating the pins and trap floor, consisting of the cords *n n n*, etc., block and wedge *v* and *c*, ropes *w*, *g*, *a'* and *b'*, pulley *i*, and spring *d'*, combined and operating together to produce the effects substantially as before described.

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Witnesses:
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