Jan. 31, 1956 B. J. ELANDER 2,733,068

CHANGEABLE CHECKER PIECES

Filed Feb. 27, 1953

Fig. 1.

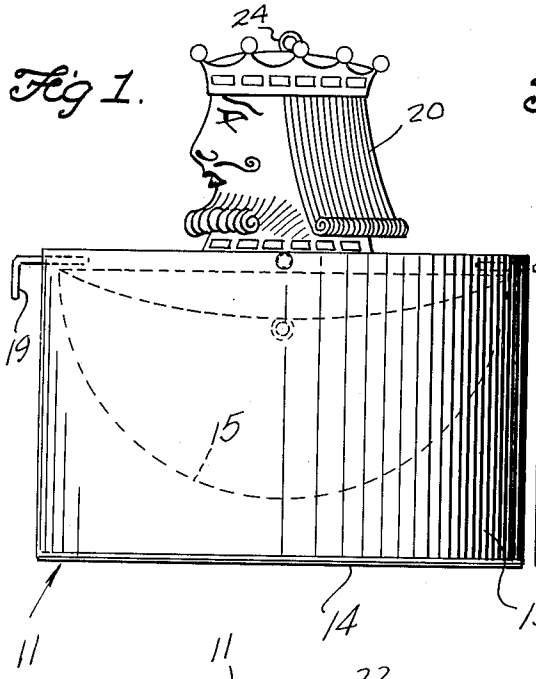
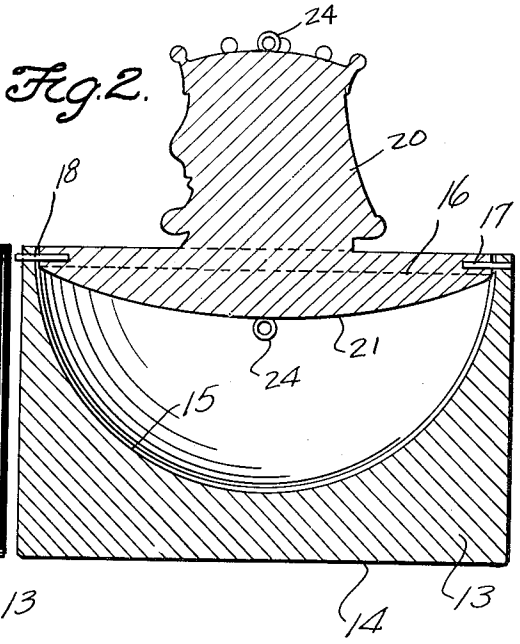


Fig. 2.



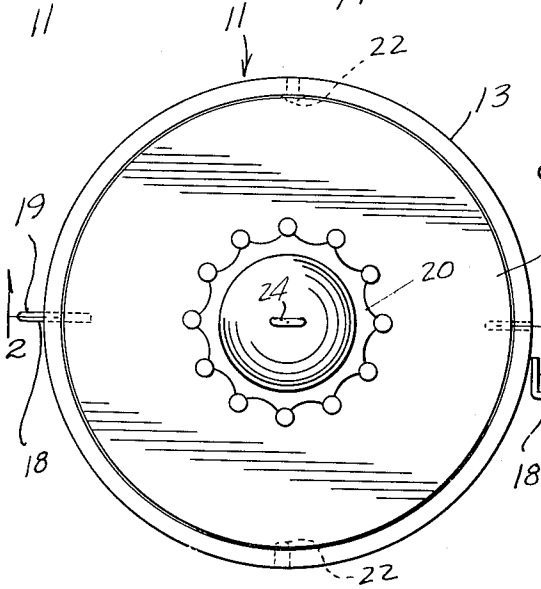


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

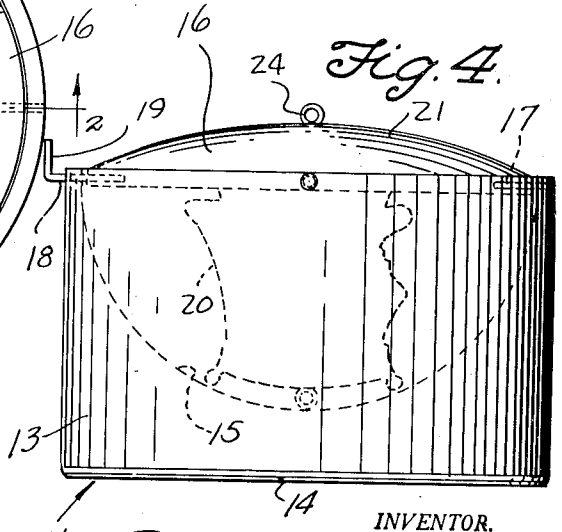
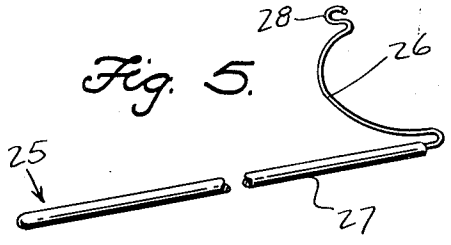


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.
Burman J. Elander,
BY

McMorrow, Berman & Davidson
ATTORNEYS

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CHANGEABLE CHECKER PIECES

Burman J. Elander, San Diego, Calif.; Bernice Clark Elander, executrix of said Burman J. Elander, deceased

Application February 27, 1953, Serial No. 339,315

2 Claims. (Cl. 273—137)

This invention relates to game pieces, and more particularly to an improvement in checkers.

The main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved checker which may be employed either as an ordinary piece or as a "king" piece, the improved checker being simple in construction, being compact in size, and being easy to manipulate to change it from an ordinary checker to a "king" checker.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved combination checker which may be employed either as an ordinary checker or as a "king" checker, the improved piece being inexpensive to construct, being rugged and durable, and being self-locking in either one of its two different positions.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of an improved game piece constructed in accordance with the present invention, said game piece being shown arranged as a "king" checker.

Figure 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken through the game piece on the line 2—2 of Figure 3.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the game piece of Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the game piece of Figures 1, 2 and 3 arranged as an ordinary checker.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of the pusher implement employed for manipulating the game pieces.

Referring to the drawings, the improved checker is designated generally at **11** and comprises a substantially cylindrical main body **13** having a flat bottom surface **14**, the body being formed with a substantially hemispherical cavity **15** at its upper portion. Designated at **16** is a cover disc which is rotatably mounted in the upper portion of the body **13**, said disc being pivoted at diametrically opposite edge portions thereof to the rim of the body **13**, as by the respective radial pivot pins **17** and **18**. The pivot pin **18** is secured rigidly in the edge portion of the disc **16** and extends rotatably through the rim of the body **13**, the end of the pin **18** being formed with a right-angled handle arm **19** for manually rotating the disc **16**. The opposite pivot pin **17** is rigidly secured in the edge portion of disc **16** and is rotatably mounted in a suitable bore provided in the rim of the body **13**, whereby the disc **16** may be readily rotated from the position thereof shown in Figure 1 to the position thereof shown in Figure 4, and vice versa.

The cover disc **16** is provided on one surface thereof with a raised figure **20** simulating the head of a king, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 1, the opposite major surface of the cover disc being smooth and being preferably slightly convex, as shown in Figures 2 and 4. The convex opposite face of the cover disc **16** is designated by the reference numeral **21** in Figures 2 and 4.

The rim of the cavity **15** is provided at diametrically

opposite points thereon, preferably on a diameter at right angles to the diameter of the pivot pins **17** and **18**, with the spring locking detents **22**, **22** which are receivable in suitable recesses formed in the peripheral edge of the disc member **16** to releasably secure said disc member in a horizontal position overlying the cavity **15**. The disc member **16** may, however, be readily rotated from one position thereof, such as the position shown in Figure 1 to an opposite position thereof, such as the position thereof shown in Figure 4, by exerting manual torque on the handle **19**, the torque being sufficient to overcome the resistance of the spring detents **22**, **22**.

The smooth disc surface **21** is provided at the center thereof with an eye member **24** whereby the game piece may be lifted, as by the implement shown generally at **25** in Figure 5, when desired. It will be understood that the game pieces may be of substantial size, as where the game is to be played on a floor, and to facilitate the movement of the game pieces the implement **25** is provided, said implement being formed with a semicircular rod portion **26** secured to the end of a handle **27**, the rod portion **26** being adapted to engage around the cylindrical body **13** of a game piece whereby the piece may be pushed along the floor. The rod member **26** is formed at its end with a hook **28** which may be engaged with the eye element **24** of a game piece, whereby the game piece may be lifted, if so desired.

In a typical arrangement, the game board was painted on the floor and comprises checker squares having sides of approximately six inches, the game pieces being approximately four inches in diameter. Obviously, the combination game piece of the present invention is less bulky and would be more suitable for use in a game arrangement having the above dimensions than the conventional checker arrangement wherein the "kings" are formed by placing one checker on top of another.

As illustrated, an eye member **24** may be provided on the top central portion of the raised figure **20** as well as on the central portion of the convex surface **21**, whereby the game piece may be lifted by means of implement **25** when the disc **16** is in either one of its selected horizontal positions.

While a specific embodiment of an improved game piece for use in the game of checkers has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A movable game piece for the game of checkers comprising a substantially hollow cylindrical member having opposed open and closed ends of which said closed end serves as a base for sliding engagement with the playing surface of said game, a closure member for said open end of said cylindrical member comprising a generally circular body, means for rotatably mounting said body on said cylindrical member adjacent the upper end thereof, said means comprising a pair of diametrically disposed pivot pins of which one of said pins includes a manually manipulated lever arm, detent means carried by said cylindrical member adjacent the upper end thereof and positioned on a diameter at right angles to the axes of said pins, said detent means co-acting with said body to prevent inadvertent rotation thereof, and said body having indicia of different playing significance on the obverse and reverse sides thereof.

2. A movable game piece for the game of checkers comprising a substantially hollow cylindrical member having opposed open and closed ends of which said closed end serves as a base for sliding engagement with the playing surface of said game, a closure member for

said open end of said cylindrical member comprising a generally circular body, means for rotatably mounting said body on said cylindrical member adjacent the upper end thereof, said means comprising a pair of diametrically disposed pivot pins of which one of said pins includes a manually manipulated lever arm, detent means carried by said cylindrical member adjacent the upper end thereof and positioned on a diameter at right angles to the axes of said pins, said detent means co-acting with said body to prevent inadvertent rotation thereof, said body having indicia of different playing significance on the obverse and reverse sides thereof, and means substantially centrally positioned on said obverse and reverse sides of said body adapted for cooperation with a

manually operated lever to shift said piece from one position to another.

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