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GAME DEVICE

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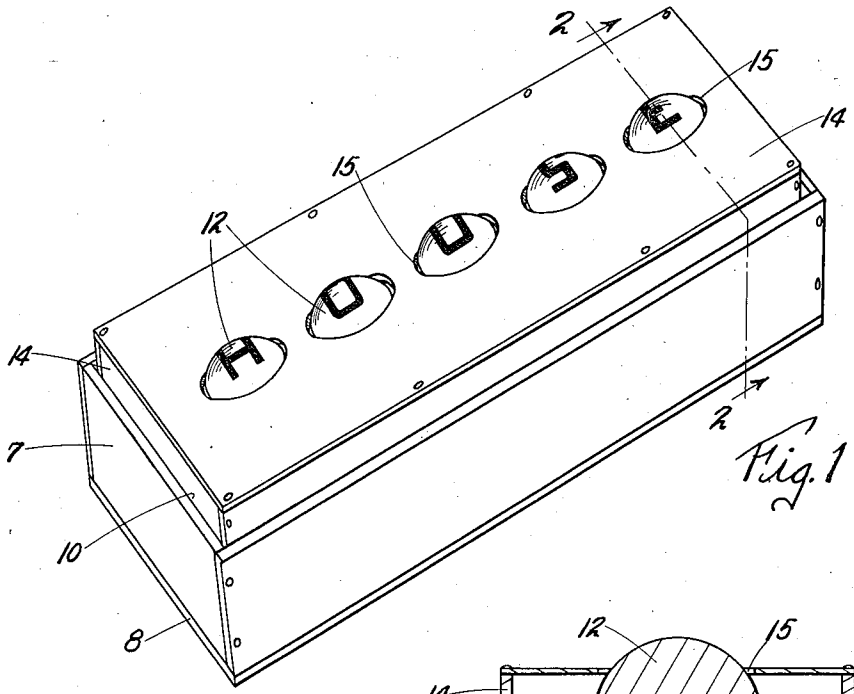


Fig. 1



Fig. 4

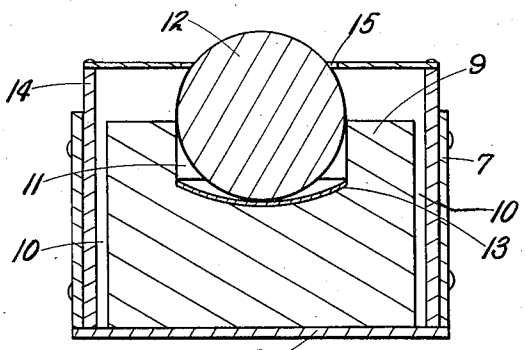


Fig. 2

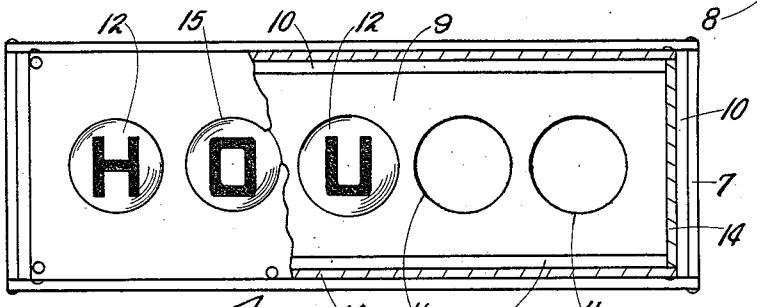


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GAME DEVICE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 35—69)

The present invention relates to an educational game which can be employed in facilitating the teaching of spelling to children in an amusing and enjoyable manner.

An object of the invention is to provide a means whereby a great variety of words may be readily formed by the selective combination of letters.

Another object of the invention is to provide a means whereby the selective feature of the device may be increased to afford a greater combination of letters, thus increasing the number of words which may be spelled out on the device.

Referring to the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the invention, part of the casing being broken away to disclose the ball-supporting block.

Fig. 4 is a view of one of the lettered balls that form a feature of the device.

The embodiment of my invention consists of an uncovered rectangular box 7, resting upon a base 8. A ball-supporting block 9, conforming substantially with the dimensions of the box, but upon a smaller scale, is glued or otherwise centrally fastened upon the base 8, thus allowing a uniform clearance between the vertical sides of the box and the vertical sides of the block, as indicated by the numeral 10. A number of circular pockets 11 is formed in the upper face of the block 9 which are adapted to receive lettered balls 12. Each pocket has a concave bottom 13 upon which may be imposed a narrow strip of any non-frictional material, such as celluloid, to facilitate the rotation of the lettered ball in each pocket. The center of the ball is also above the plane of the top surface of the block thus insuring greater rotatability of the ball whilst allowing it to be removed from the pocket when desired.

An inverted box-like casing 14 substantially conforming with the dimensions of the box 7 has circular openings 15 through its upper surface to register with the balls. The circumference of the openings is smaller than the circumference of the balls thus precluding the unseating of the balls in their respective pockets when the device is in an angular or inverted position. The vertical longitudinal walls of the casing engage the inner surfaces of the corresponding walls of the box whilst the inner surface of the transverse vertical walls of the casing engage the corresponding sides of the block. This construction precludes either transverse or longitudinal movement of the casing. Casing 14 is made of thin material, and the sides thereof may buckle from exposure to heat and moisture. Clearance 10 in such event will permit the insertion of the casing into box 7.

As shown in Fig. 4 each ball has six letters inscribed upon its surface. When the device is in operative position only one letter can be selected to appear in each opening.

To operate the device a person manually rotates the lettered balls to select a desired letter for each opening. In this manner a great number of words may be spelled out on the device. By removing the casing, the balls may be interchanged in the sockets thus allowing a greater number of words to be formed. Any number of balls with many combinations of letters inscribed upon them may accompany the device thus, indefinitely increasing the number of words that can be made with the device.

It will be seen that the device is not limited in its use as an instructive method of teaching children to spell. It can be employed by adults in a various number of games and contests. A game which readily presents itself, pertains to geography or history. A player may be asked to spell a geographic name upon the device beginning with a definite letter; in event of his inability to spell the word, the speller may call upon his questioner to complete the name suggested.

What I claim is:

1. A toy spelling device comprising an open-topped box, a ball supporting block positioned within the box and having a plurality of pockets in its upper surface, a lettered ball rotatively seated in each pocket, and a cover for the box having a series of openings registering with the balls.

2. A toy spelling device comprising an open-topped box, a ball supporting block positioned within the box and having a plurality of pockets in its upper surface, a lettered ball rotatively seated in each pocket and an inverted case adapted to engage the inner vertical sides of the box and to enclose the block, said case having a plurality of circular openings in its upper surface to register with the balls.

OSCAR REIMERT.