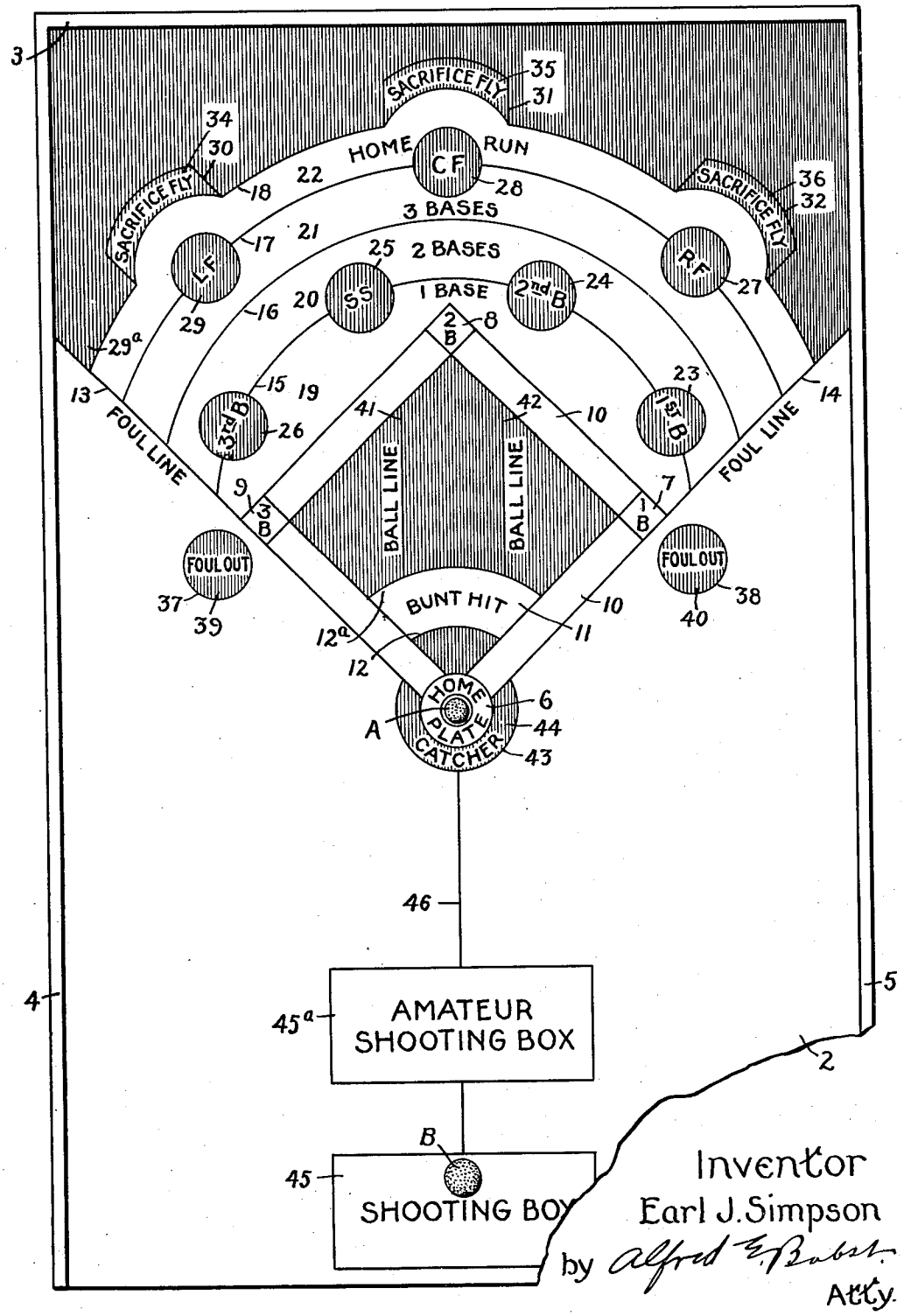
E. J. SIMPSON.

GAME BOARD.

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1,269,560.

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Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME-BOARD.

1,269,560. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 11, 1918.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EARL J. SIMPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Schenectady, county of Schenectady, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to game boards of the type simulating base ball, and has for its primary object to provide an improved game board upon which a game governed closely by the rules of base ball may be played.

A further object of my invention is to provide a game board adapted for playing a game which requires skill on the part of the players and in which the element of chance enters but little if at all.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a game board in which the game to be played thereon so closely resembles base ball and requires such skill on the part of the players that it will appeal to and afford great amusement for all players, and particularly those familiar with and interested in the actual game of base ball.

For a consideration of what I believe to be novel and my invention, attention is directed to the accompanying specification and the claims appended thereto.

The accompanying drawing is a plan view of a game board showing one arrangement embodying my invention.

Referring to the drawing, 2 indicates a board having a flat surface upon which are lines which mark off areas, as will be explained hereinafter. The board may be of wood, card board, or the like, and has a vertical end wall 3 and vertical side walls 4 and 5 which extend entirely along the side as shown, or only part way as found desirable.

The end of the board toward the wall 3 is laid off as a base ball diamond, 6, 7, 8 and 9 indicating home plate, first base, second base, and third base, respectively, and 10 the paths connecting them. The paths are preferably of some characteristic color, and extending across from the path connecting home plate to first base to the path connecting home plate to third base is an area 11 marked off by lines 12, 12^a. The area 11 is preferably of the same color as the paths 10, and is marked "Bunt hit". The remaining area within the diamond is preferably of some other color. The first and third base lines are extended to form foul lines 13 and 14, and extending from one of these to the other are lines 15, 16, 17 and 18 which mark off areas 19, 20, 21, 22. Lines 15, 16, 17 and 18 are preferably arcs of concentric circles having their common center located at the center of the diamond. The areas 19, 20, 21 and 22 are marked "1 base", "2 base", "3 base", and "Home run" respectively, and represent a one base hit, a two base hit, a three base hit, and a home run hit. In the area outside the diamond and between the foul lines are areas 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, which represent the respective players of the in-field and out-field, and occupy positions such as are usually assumed by such players. The areas 23 to 29 are preferably colored the same as that of the diamond outside the area 11 and they may be round as shown, or of other contour. The area 29^a between the line 18 and the vertical end wall 3 and side walls 4 and 5 is also preferably colored the same as the diamond outside area 11, and within it are lines 30, 31 and 32 marking off areas 34, 35 and 36 which are marked "Sacrifice fly". Adjacent the foul lines 13 and 14 just outside the diamond are lines 37 and 38 marking off areas 39 and 40 which are marked "Foul out". Extending across the diamond from line 12^a to the path connecting the bases are lines 41 and 42 marked "Ball line". The home plate 6 is shown as being round and surrounding it outside the diamond is a line 43 defining an area 44 which is preferably colored the same as the diamond outside the area 11. The area 44 is marked "Catcher".

The diamond is preferably so located on the board that the home plate 6 is at about the center and located at the end of the board away from the diamond is an area 45 marked "Shooting box". The area 45 is located at a suitable distance from the home plate, and preferably there is a straight line 46 connecting them to assist the players in shooting, as explained hereinafter. If desired, a second area 45^a similar to area 45 may be provided and marked "Amateur shooting box", the object being to provide a shooting bax for players not skilled in the game, or for giving one player a handicap over another.

The game is played with disks which are propelled or shot over the board by the players. Two or more persons may play the game, the players each playing one in-

ning one after another. In playing the game after the manner now contemplated by me, the first player places a disk, as indicated at A, on the home plate 6, and then places a second disk B, which is the shooter, in the shooting box 45 or 45ª, the disk B being preferably somewhat larger than the disk A.

The player then shoots the disk B at the disk A with the finger, or otherwise, the object being to have the disk B hit the disk A and drive disk A out into the area 11 marked "Bunt hit," or into one of the areas 19, 20, 21 or 22. If the disk A lands in the area 11 or 19, then the player is entitled to a base hit and the disk A is placed on first base. If the disk A lands in area 20, 21, or 22, then the player is entitled to a two base hit, or a three base hit, or a home run, as the case may be. If the disk A stops partly in one area and partly in another, then it may be considered as being in one or the other according to the rules previously decided upon. If the disk A when driven lands in or touches the area within the diamond outside area 11 or any one of the areas 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 29ª, 39, 40, or 44, then one out is counted against the player. If the player shoots at the disk A and misses it, then one strike is counted against him, and, as in a ball game, three strikes count an out. I preferably provide the ball lines 41 and 42 and if the player, in shooting, misses the disk A and the shooter B lands on one of the ball lines, then it counts a ball instead of a strike, the player being entitled to a base upon getting four balls. If the disk A lands in one of the areas 34, 35, or 36, then a sacrifice fly is indicated. One out is then counted against the player, but any man or men on bases are advanced one base unless there are already two out, in which case the inning is completed. Assuming a one base hit is scored, then the disk A is placed on first base, and a second disk A is placed on the home plate, and the game continued as already explained. Or, if desired, the same disk A may be used continuously for shooting and separate disks of suitable size used to represent men on the bases. Assuming the rules of base ball are closely followed, then each player plays until three outs are scored against him, the runs made during each inning being recorded as in base ball. It will be seen that when one or more disks A are on bases greater skill is required in shooting, and I preferably provide a rule that should the disk A, which is shot, strike a disk A already on a base, an out is recorded.

The board may be one solid color with the various areas marked off by lines, but I preferably make it of two or more colors, marking all the "out" areas of the same color. This gives ease and simplicity to the understanding and playing of the game, as whenever a disk A touches the "out" color, an out is scored against the player. In the drawing the "out" area is indicated by the shaded areas.

I have found in playing the game that considerable skill is required, and I, therefore, have shown two shooting boxes 45 and 45ª placed at different distances from the home plate, either of which may be used according to the skill and desire of the players. The straight line 46 which may be provided connecting the shooting box or boxes to home plate is used to assist the players in shooting as they may aim a shot along this line.

It will be understood, of course, that the board may be varied as to color and the manner in which it is laid out, and the rules of the game varied to suit any set of circumstances met with, so long as the game board resulting embodies the characteristic features of my invention.

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, I have described the principle of operation of my invention, together with the apparatus which I now consider to represent the best embodiment thereof; but I desire to have it understood that the apparatus shown is only illustrative, and that the invention can be carried out by other means.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:—

1. In a game apparatus, a board having at one end a vertical end wall and adjacent vertical side walls, indicia on the board adjacent the end of the board having the end wall which define a base ball field, the "home plate" of the diamond being toward the center of the board, lines defining areas on the ball field which represent plays in a ball game, all the areas which represent an "out" being of a distinctive color, lines adjacent the other end of the board defining an area which represents a shooting box, a disk to be placed on the "home plate," and a second disk adapted to be placed in the shooting box and propelled toward the first named disk.

2. In a game apparatus, a board having at one end a vertical end wall and adjacent vertical side walls, indicia on the board adjacent the end of the board having the end wall which define a base ball field, the "home plate" of the diamond being toward the center of the board, concentric lines defining areas on the ball field which represent plays in a ball game, there being an area adjacent the home plate which represents a "bunt hit," and areas beyond the diamond which represent a "one base hit," a "two base hit," a "three base hit," and a "home run," circles in the areas beyond the diamond to represent the positions of each

player, said circles having a distinctive color and representing an "out," the area between the outermost concentric circle and the end and side walls of the board being also of such distinctive color to represent an "out," lines adjacent the other end of the board defining an area which represents a shooting box, a disk adapted to be placed on the "home plate," and a second disk adapted to be placed in the shooting box and propelled toward the first named disk.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 5th day of January, 1917.

EARL J. SIMPSON.