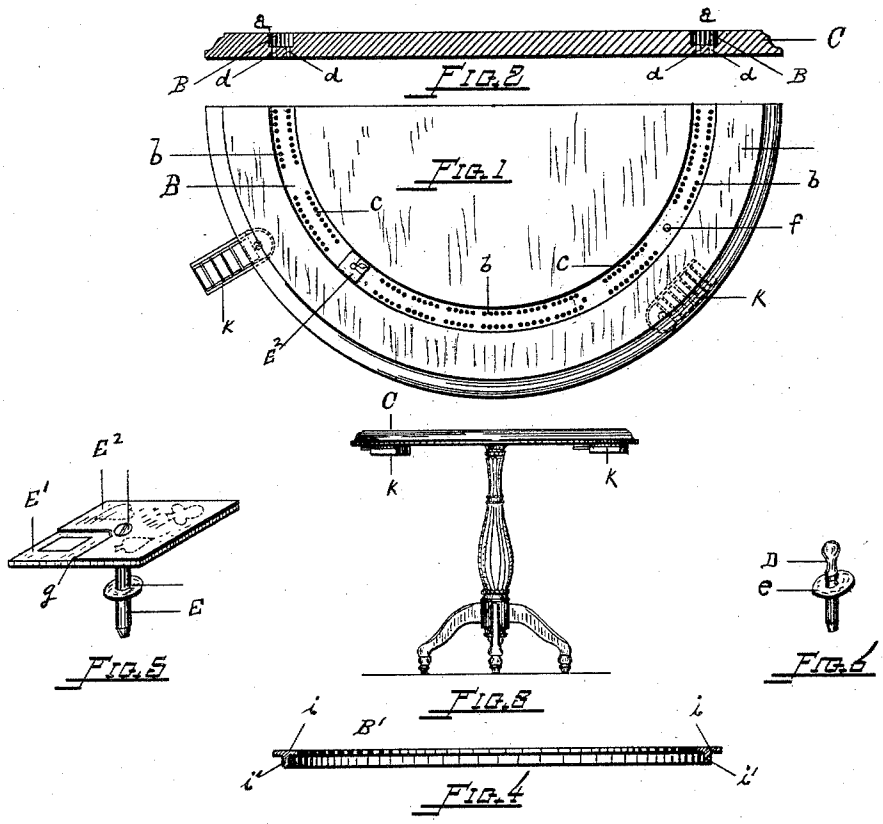
(No Model.)

F. B. FAY.

CARD TABLE.

No. 456,698. Patented July 28, 1891.



WITNESSES:

Henry Hess

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FORBES B. FAY, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO NATHAN TAYLOR, OF SAME PLACE.

CARD-TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 456,698, dated July 28, 1891.

Application filed June 4, 1886. Serial No. 204,159. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FORBES B. FAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Card-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

The objects of my invention are to provide means for counting upon the surface of the table without interfering with its employment for card-playing and of indicating the trump suit and location of the dealer.

The construction and arrangement of my improved card-table by which I attain these objects are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of one-half of the table-top. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is an elevation of the entire table. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the ring for closing the groove in the table-top. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the movable plate for indicating the trump suit, and Fig. 6 is a view of one of the counting-pins.

Similar letters refer to similar parts in the several views.

In Fig. 3 I have shown in elevation one form of a table embodying the features of my invention. I do not confine myself to any special form of table, for while I deem a round table preferable for ordinary purposes, the top may be made in any form, as square, oblong, hexagonal, or octagonal. In case a round table is to be used I form a shallow groove B in the upper surface of the top C, ordinarily from one and one-quarter to two inches in width and about one-half inch deep. The bottom *a*, Fig. 2, of the groove forms a surface upon which the counting operations incident to the game being played are carried on.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 shows one-half of the top A in plan view with a concentric groove B, in which a series of holes *b* are arranged adapted for keeping the count of the game of cribbage. Four of these series of holes are arranged at equal distances around the table for the use of four players sitting at opposite sides of the table. Between the separate sets of holes for counting cribbage are holes *c* for keeping the tally of the separate games. The holes in the groove extend entirely through the top, as shown at *d* in Fig. 2, for the purpose of preventing their becoming filled with dirt. Pins D are used, (shown on a larger scale in Fig. 6,) each pin having a flange or shoulder *e*, which is adapted to rest on the bottom of the groove and prevent the pins from falling through. The length of the pins above the shoulder *e* should not be greater than the depth of the groove, so as to allow cards to be drawn off the table over the groove without coming in contact with the pin-heads.

Instead of the holes *c*, a dial with a rotating index-finger may be employed, placed on the bottom of the groove; or any known devices may be used, either to keep the tally of the games or to keep the count of other games than cribbage.

In a convenient position at the side of each player I place a hole *f* to receive a pin E, Fig. 5, having a rectangular plate-shaped head E′, filling the groove B, so as to keep the pin from turning.

In each of the four corners of the head E′, I place a figure of one of the four suits of the ordinary playing cards, and to the head E′, I pivot a plate E^2, with one-quarter removed, as at *g*, to disclose one of the suit-indicating figures, and thus indicate the trump suit of the game then being played. At the next deal the pin E is passed to the next player in turn and placed in the hole *f* at his side, with the pivoted plate E^2 turned to exhibit the suit as determined. The pin E, with its suits, characters, and pivoted plate, by being changed from one of the holes *f* to the other to correspond with the successive deals will not only indicate the trump suit, but also determine the dealer.

When not in use as a card-table, I place a ring B′, Fig. 4, in the groove B, which is made of wood or metal, and is T-shaped in its cross-section, as shown in Fig. 4, the top *i* filling the groove and the rib *i′* resting upon the bottom of the groove and supporting the top *i* flush with the upper surface of the table.

In card-tables to be used upon railway-trains, and which are usually rectangular in form, I make a straight groove on each side of the table and extending either entirely or partially across, and instead of a groove a

step may be formed at the edge of the table, the essential feature of this part of my invention consisting not in the form or position of the groove, but in arranging a surface upon which the desired operations of counting are carried on, which shall not only be below the surface of the table proper, but so arranged in an annular groove or in a groove parallel with the periphery of the table as to allow the cards to be readily drawn over the groove from the center of the table to the edge as the tricks are taken, and at the same time leave substantially the entire surface of the table available for the purpose of carrying on the game. The inner surface of the table-top or that within the groove is in the same plane as the surface without the groove and the width of the groove is made considerably less than the width of a playing-card, so that the groove will offer no obstacle to sliding the cards upon the surface of the table from the center to the edge of the table.

It will be observed that my improved table is also equally adapted to other games than card-playing and to all uses in which the operations of counting are required.

I am aware that game-tables have been made in which the larger portion of the surface of the table-top has been lower than the surface of an annular surrounding rim; also that boards arranged for keeping the tally of games have been inserted as slides in the table-top, with their upper surfaces flush with the top of the table. I do not herein claim such as of my invention; but

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A table as described, having a groove of less width than the width of a playing-card and substantially parallel with the periphery of the table, the bottom of said groove being slightly below the surface of the table and provided with appliances for counting, the central surface of the table-top within said groove and the annular surface without said groove being in the same plane, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with a table-top having a narrow annular groove of less width than the width of a playing-card and provided with holes, as described, of a counting-pin having a flange to limit its entrance into said holes, a fixed head provided with suit-indicating characters, a pivoted cover having a section removed to disclose one of said characters, said fixed head and pivoted cover being non-circular in form and having its edge resting against the side of said annular groove in order to prevent the rotation of said pivoted cover, as and for the purpose set forth.

FORBES B. FAY.

Witnesses:
RUFUS B. FOWLER,
NATHAN TAYLOR.