Dec. 20, 1927. 1,653,440

W. L. SLAYTON

REMINDER FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS

Filed Dec. 1, 1926

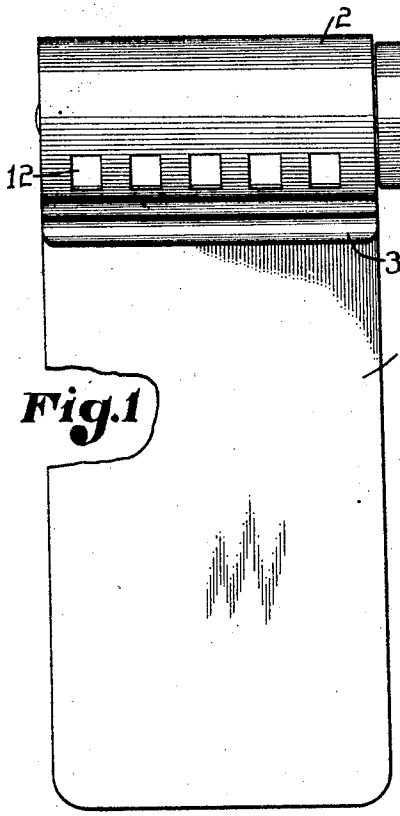


Fig. 1

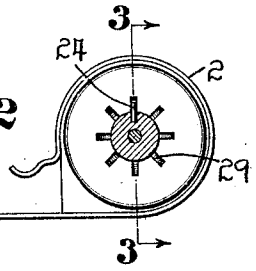


Fig. 2

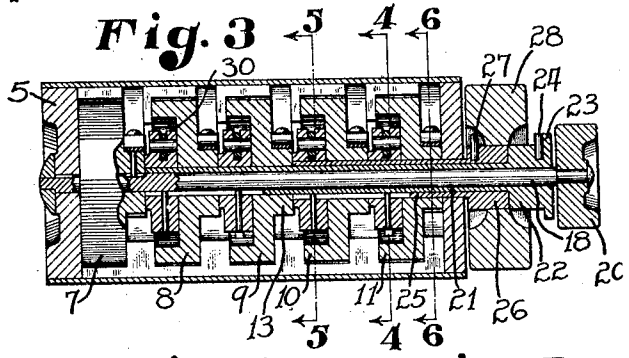


Fig. 3

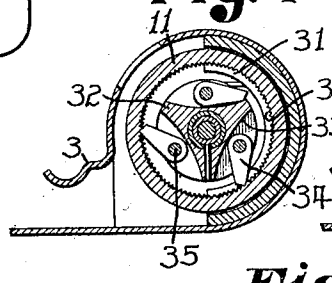


Fig. 4

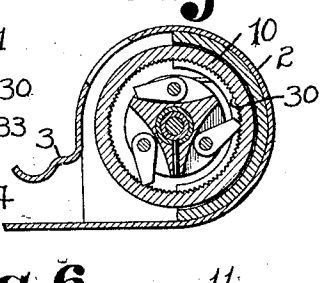


Fig. 5

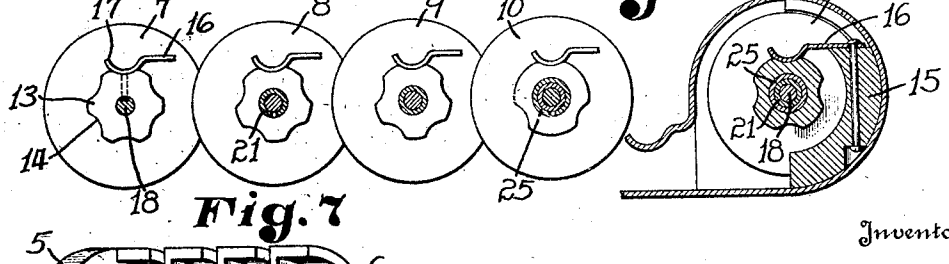


Fig. 6

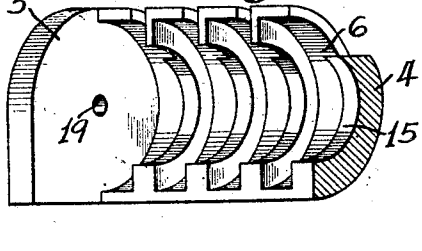


Fig. 7

Inventor

Walter Lee Slayton

By Owen & Owen

Attorneys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER LEE SLAYTON, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

REMINDER FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS.

Application filed December 1, 1926. Serial No. 151,887.

This invention relates to indicating devices, but particularly to an indicating device for bridge players for indicating or reminding the players of the player who last dealt, the number of the bid, the suit bid, and other facts of interest to players.

Objects of this invention are to provide a simple and unique device of the above character which may be conveniently operated for registering the desired facts, and which is pleasing and ornamental in appearance; to provide novel and efficient means for driving a plurality of wheels or discs from a single operating member so as to simplify the operating means to a great extent, to provide a device of the above class having new and improved features of construction, arrangement and operation hereinafter described.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention is shown in the drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the indicator device; Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, showing the manner of operating or rotating the telescoping tubular members; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional elevation on the lines 3—3 of Fig. 2; Figs. 4 and 5 are transverse sectional views on the lines 4—4 and 5—5 respectively, of Fig. 3 showing the clutch mechanism for driving the wheels from the tubular members; Fig. 6 is a developed view from the line 6—6 of Fig. 3; and Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a portion of the casing.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention consists of an indicating device for bridge players and will be understood as being useful for keeping a record of the player who last dealt, the number of bid, and other facts which are so easily forgotten during the game. This device visibly indicates the desired facts and eliminates waste of time during the game, and reduces the liability of arguments to a minimum. While the invention has been illustrated and will be described in connection with an indicating device for bridge players, it will be understood that the invention is of much broader scope and the mechanical features of construction and operation are recognized as being admirably adapted to other uses; therefore, this description will be considered by way of illustration and not of limitation.

The indicating device comprising a plate 1 on which may rest the score pad. One end of the plate is curved to form a housing 2, which terminates in a portion 3 which extends over the plate 1, and serves yieldingly to hold the score pad in place. Positioned within the housing 2 is a retaining member 4 which extends transversely the width of the housing 2, and fixed to opposite ends of the member 4 are heads 5. The housing 2 may be secured to the heads 5 in any suitable manner.

As indicated in Fig. 7, the retaining member 4 is divided into five recesses 6, and disposed in each recess 6 and rotatable relatively thereto are wheels 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, respectively. The wheels are of a diameter less than the diameter of the housing 2, and a portion of these wheels is visible through rectangular openings 12 in the housing 2, one opening being provided for each wheel. The periphery of the wheel 7 is numbered from 1 to 6, inclusive, and serves to indicate the number of tricks taken by the bidder, the wheel 8 is numbered from 1 to 4, and designates the suit of the successful bidder; the wheel 9 is numbered from 1 to 5, to indicate the honors; the wheel 10 may have the words "Bid", "Double", "Redouble"; and the wheel 11 is numbered 1 to 4 to indicate the person who last dealt. It will be seen that by rotating the several wheels or discs, the proper legends will be displayed through the openings 12 in the housing 2, and in this manner an accurate account of the game may be kept during the playing of the hand.

Each wheel is provided with a hub 13 having notches 14 in the outer surface thereof. The hub of wheel 7 has six notches; the hub of the wheel 8 has five notches; the hub of the wheel 9 has five notches; the hub of the wheel 10 has three notches; and the hub of the wheel 11 has four notches. As shown in Fig. 7, the partitions 15 dividing the recesses 6 from each other, extend but a portion of the arc and fixed to the upper end of each partition 15 is one end of a leaf spring 16. The outer

end of the leaf spring is provided with a curved portion 17, which is engageable in one of the notches 14. In this manner the leaf springs 16 yieldingly hold the wheels against movement, and serve to keep the wheels in their set position.

Extending longitudinally through the housing 2 is a stem 18, the inner end of which has bearing in an opening 19 in the inner head 5. Fixed to and rotatable with the stem 18 is the wheel 7, a knob 20 being fixed to the outer end of the stem 18 and serving as the operating member. On the stem 18 is a tubular sleeve 21 on which the wheels 8 and 9 are free to rotate. The outer end of the sleeve 21 is provided with a head 22 having a flange 23 provided with a pin 24.

Telescoping over the sleeve 21 is a sleeve 25 which is shorter than the sleeve 21, and on which the wheels 9 and 10 are free to rotate, the outer end of the sleeve 25 having a head 26 provided with a pin 27. It will be noted that the heads 22 and 26 abut and provide an unbroken exterior surface. Slidable on this surface is an operating knob 28 having a plurality of radially disposed grooves 29 on opposite faces thereof for engagement with the pin 24 on the head 22 or the pin 27 on the head 26. By sliding the operating knob 28 in one direction or the other for engagement with the pin 24 or 27, one or the other of the telescoping tubes 21 and 25 may be rotated.

It will be noted that there is a pair of wheels (7 and 8) freely rotatable on the tube 21, and also a pair of wheels (9 and 10) on the tube 25. In accordance with this invention, the operating knob 28 may be moved so that a notch 24 engages a pin 27 or 24, and by rotating the knob in one direction, one wheel is rotated, and by rotating the knob in the opposite direction, the other wheel of the pair is rotated. In this manner a single operating member is provided for rotating four wheels.

In order operatively to connect the tubes with the wheels, each wheel is provided with an annular recess 30 which is bounded by an annular row of teeth 31. Disposed in each recess 30 (with the exception of the wheel 6, which is independently operated as above described) is a collar 32, which is fixedly secured to one of the tubes, and each collar is formed with recesses 33 to receive dogs 34, which are pivoted at 35. The dogs in the collars 32, for example, the wheels 9 and 10, are arranged in opposite directions so when the tube 25 is rotated in one direction, one set of dogs engage the teeth on the wheel 9, and when the tube is rotated in the opposite direction, the wheel 10 is engaged for rotation, the dogs in the wheel 9 sliding over the teeth. It will be understood that the leaf springs 16 hold the wheel, which is not engaged by the dogs, against rotation.

It will be understood that the wheels 7 and 8 are similarly operated so that when the operating knob 28 is moved into engagement with the pin 24 and rotated in one direction, one of the wheels is rotated and the other maintained stationary, and when the knob is rotated in the opposite direction, the other wheel is rotated.

While I have shown and described one form of clutch for effecting this result, it is to be understood that other forms of clutches may be used to advantage, but the form hereinbefore described is one that is practical for the purpose. Although this construction is the best form known to me at the present time, it is to be understood that numerous changes in details of construction and arrangement may be effected without departing from the spirit of the invention, especially as defined in the appended claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A device of the class described comprising a plurality of telescoping tubular members, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each of said members, clutch means for said members, said clutch means being arranged to drive one member of each pair when the respective tubular member is rotated in one direction and drive the other member of the pair when the respective tubular member is rotated in the opposite direction, and a single operating member engageable with one tube or another for rotating the desired tubular member.

2. A device of the class described comprising a pair of telescoping tubular members, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each member, clutch means for connecting the wheels with said tubular members, said clutch means being arranged to drive one wheel of each pair when the respective tubular member is rotated in one direction and drive the other wheel when the tubular member is rotated in the opposite direction, and an operating member longitudinally slidable on the end portions of said tubular members for operatively engaging one or the other of said members.

3. A device of the class described comprising a housing, heads closing opposite ends of said housing, a pair of telescoping tubular members extending longitudinally into said housing, one tubular member being shorter than the other, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each tubular member, clutch means for operatively connecting said wheels to said tubular members, said clutch means being constructed and arranged to connect one wheel of each pair with the respective tubular member when said member is rotated in one direction and connect the other wheel with said member when the latter is rotated in the opposite direction, yieldable means to hold said wheels against rotation,

and a single operating member on the end portions of said tubular members for engaging one or the other of said members.

4. A device of the class described comprising a tubular housing, heads closing the opposite ends of said housing, a pair of telescoping tubular members in said housing, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each tubular member, clutch means for forming a driving connection between each wheel and the respective tubular member, said clutch means comprising pivoted dogs rotatable with the tubular members and an annular toothed portion on each wheel, said parts being arranged so that rotation of a tubular member in one direction rotates one wheel, and in the opposite direction rotates the other wheel, and means for rotating each tubular member independently of the other.

5. A device of the class described comprising a pair of telescoping tubular members, one member being shorter than the other, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each tubular member, clutch means for operatively connecting a wheel of each pair to the respective tubular member when said tubular member is rotated in one direction and for connecting the other wheel to said tubular member when the latter is rotated in the opposite direction, a single operating member for said tubular members and slidable longitudinally on the end portions thereof, a stem in the inner tubular member, a wheel fixed to the inner end of said stem, and an operating member on the outer end of said stem.

6. A device of the class described comprising a housing, a pair of tubular members in said housing, one of said tubular members being shorter than the others, a pair of wheels free to rotate on each tubular member, clutch means for connecting each wheel to the respective tubular member, said clutch means being constructed and arranged to connect a wheel of each pair to the respective tubular member when the latter is rotated in one direction and connect the other wheel of said pair to said tubular member when the latter is rotated in the opposite direction, ledges on said housing, leaf springs on said ledges engageable with said wheels for yieldingly holding said wheels against rotation, and a single operating member engageable with one tube or another for rotating the desired tubular member.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name to this specification.

WALTER LEE SLAYTON.