

March 4, 1930.

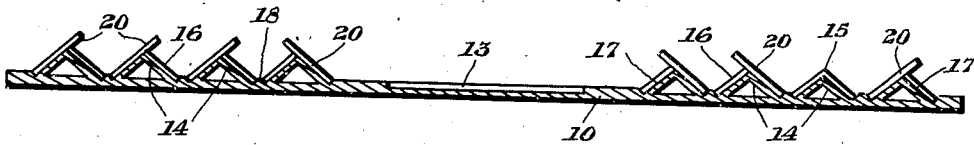
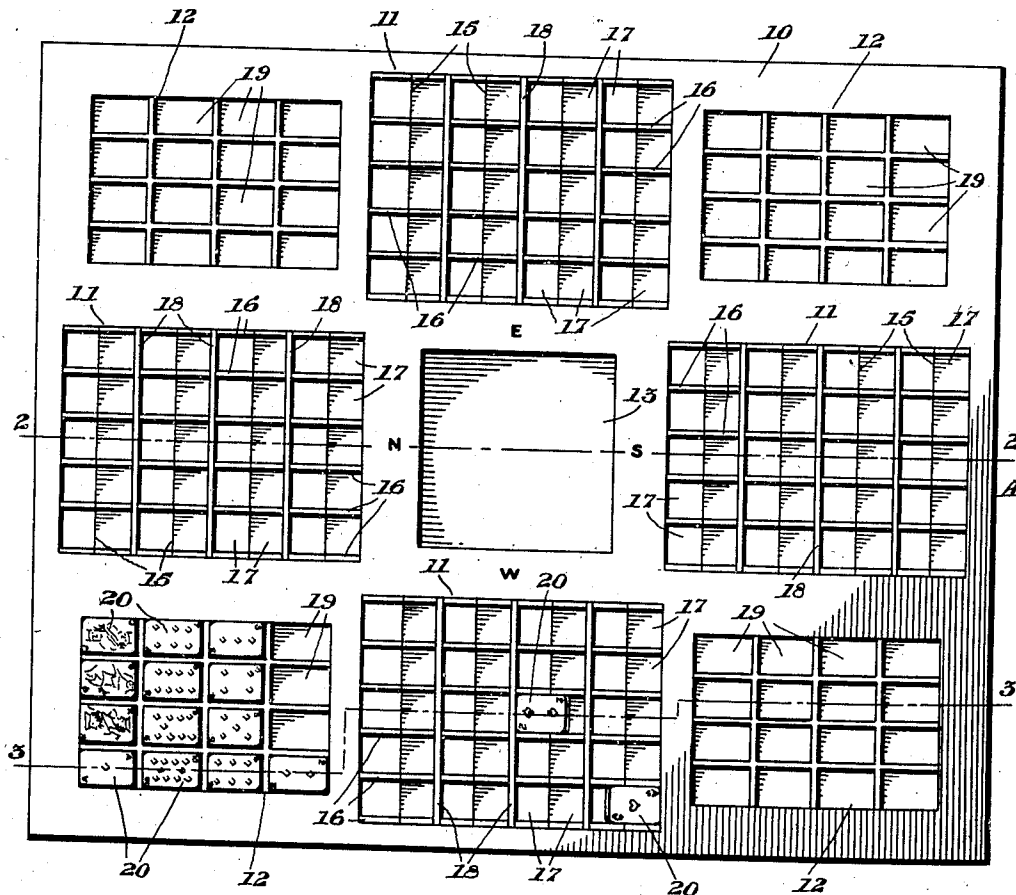
H. A. WINTER

1,749,653

GAME APPARATUS

Filed May 13, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR
HARRY A. WINTER.

By *Fetherstonhaugh & Co.*
ATT'YS.

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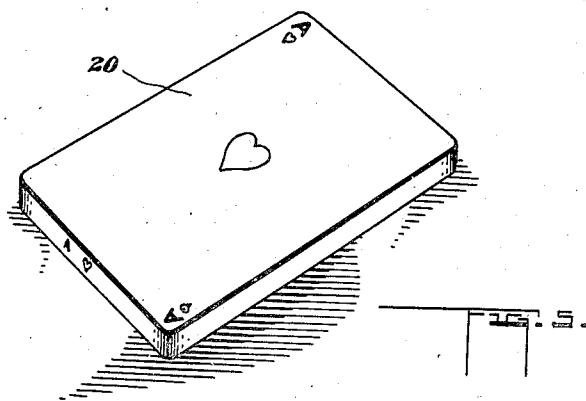
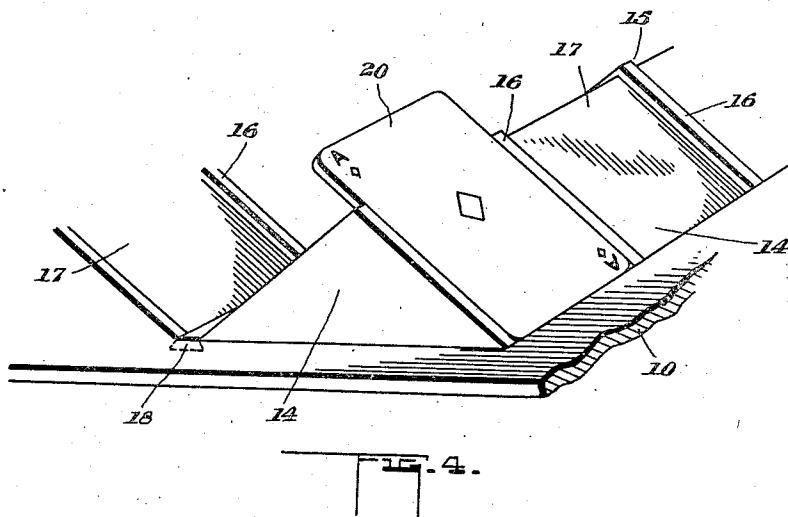
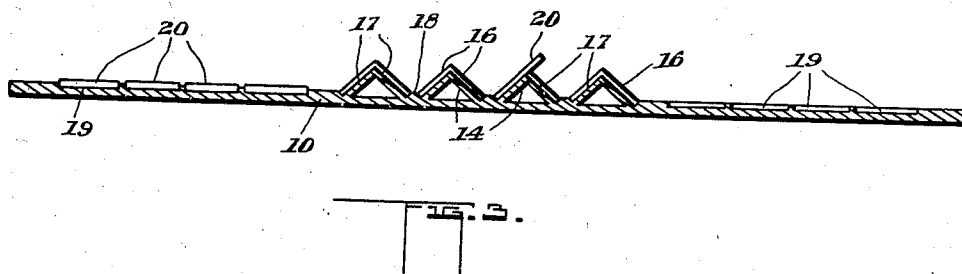
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GAME APPARATUS

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INVENTOR.
HARRY A. WINTER.

By *Fetherstonhaugh & Co.*
ATT'YS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HARRY ANDERSON WINTER, OF ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND

GAME APPARATUS

Application filed May 13, 1929. Serial No. 362,761.

This invention relates to improvements in game apparatus with more particular reference to a device for facilitating the setting up and playing of solitaire bridge hands and the object is to provide an improved apparatus of this type the use of which will obviate the time and trouble involved in working out such hands in the usual way with an ordinary pack of cards.

A further object is to provide such a device of simple and inexpensive construction which will facilitate the convenient and rapid assembly, play, and replay of hands of bridge of every description and which will prove useful both for the study of the game, when full hands are treated, and for the working out of problems.

The device consists essentially of a novel form of game board and a set of playing pieces for use therewith, all as hereinafter more particularly described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the game board.

Figure 2 is a central transverse section through the board showing certain of the playing pieces in position thereon, the section being taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a transverse section on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary elevational view of a portion of the apparatus showing the manner in which the playing pieces are supported upon racks on the board.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of one of the playing pieces.

In the drawings like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

The apparatus comprises a board 10 which may be conveniently of rectangular form and upon which are arranged four piece-supporting sections 11 arranged respectively at the four points of the compass thereon.

Arranged at either side of each piece-supporting section 11 and at the four corners of the board is a piece-holding section 12 and in the centre of the board is an empty space 13 at the respective sides of which the compass points are marked.

Each of the piece-supporting sections 11 is formed with a plurality of rows of upstanding inverted V-shaped racks 14, the apices 15 of all the racks 14 being parallel. The inclined faces of the racks 14 are formed with a plurality of spaced apart parallel aligned raised strips 16 which strips divide both faces of each rack into a plurality of separated aligned piece-receiving recesses 17.

At the base of each rack 14 is a raised strip 18 parallel to the apex of the rack and these strips separate the bases of adjacent racks and form rests at the bottoms of the racks for supporting the edges of playing pieces.

The piece holding sections 12 are each formed with a plurality of rows of piece-receiving recesses 19 which will be later referred to.

For use with the board is provided a set of playing pieces 20 which would consist of a complete deck of playing cards and the pieces would preferably be made of wood and of about the size of an ordinary domino. The actual size of the playing pieces would depend, of course, upon the dimensions of the piece-receiving recesses in the board as the playing pieces would be made to suit the size of these recesses but it is found that pieces about the size of the ordinary domino are quite suitable and keep the overall size of the board down.

The length of the playing pieces 20 is greater than the length of the inclined supporting surface of the racks 14 so that, when in supported position upon the racks 14, the ends of the playing pieces project above the apex of the rack, as shown clearly in Figure 4.

The number of rows of racks in each playing section 11 and the number of recesses 17 in each rack might, of course, be arranged as desired but for all ordinary purposes it is found that four rows of racks with five recesses in each rack work out very satisfactorily.

Before starting to play all the playing pieces would be arranged within the piece-holding sections 12 and would preferably be in their respective suits. When it is desired to use the apparatus either to play a

solitaire hand or to work out a problem, the desired pieces for the four hands are selected from the pieces in these sections 12 and are supported in the racks 14 and the various hands arranged in their proper suits and sequences.

The player would be at the side of the board marked A in Figure 1 and the pieces would be supported upon the right hand inclined faces of the racks so that they would all face the player so as to be clearly visible to him.

As any piece is played it is simply tilted over onto the reverse face of the rack by striking the projecting portion at the top thereof when the piece will fall into the aligned recess 17 on the reverse side so that the face thereof will not be visible to the player and thus there will be no confusion as to whether a piece has been played or not.

If desired the identification of the piece could also be displayed upon the top and bottom edges thereof so that the player could conveniently ascertain the identity of any played piece when it is in its reversed position.

The raised strips 18 at the bottom of the racks will, it is apparent, form supports for the bottoms of the playing pieces.

The blank space 13 in the centre of the board may be conveniently used for any desired purpose either for counting tricks or it forms a convenient place upon which to place the problem being worked out.

A convenience of the apparatus is that when not in use or between problems or games the playing pieces are conveniently retained face up in their respective suits in the four portions 12 so that the setting up and selecting of hands may be very conveniently carried out. To those who have had occasion to sort out a full hand of bridge and know the time and trouble which is involved the convenience of having the four suits all conveniently displayed will be appreciated.

Another great advantage of the device lies in the manner in which the pieces are played. In working out problems with ordinary playing cards it is usual to turn down the cards as they are played and this is very awkward and inconvenient as it renders the replaying of a piece very inconvenient in case a mistake is made or it is desired to try out a variation of the play. With the improved apparatus, however, this disadvantage does not exist since the pieces are always retained in their original set up arrangement and to replay pieces it is only necessary to tilt them back from the reverse to the front side of the racks and as the pieces are played there is no disarrangement of the original set up.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the invention provides an improved apparatus for the purposes specified which will

greatly facilitate the setting up and playing of solitaire bridge hands and the working out of problems and whereby the objects of the invention are attained.

Various modifications may be made in this invention without departing from the spirit thereof or the scope of the claims, and therefore the exact forms shown are to be taken as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense, and it is desired that only such limitations shall be placed thereon as are disclosed in the prior art or are set forth in the accompanying claims.

What I claim as my invention is:—

1. A solitaire game board comprising, a board, four piece-supporting sections arranged respectively at the four points of the compass thereon, each of said sections formed with a plurality of rows of upstanding inverted V-shaped racks, the apices of all the racks being parallel, and playing pieces adapted to be supported upon the racks, the length of each playing piece being greater than that of the inclined supporting surface of the rack so that when in supported position thereon the piece projects above the apex of the rack.

2. A solitaire game board comprising, a board, four piece-supporting sections arranged respectively at the four points of the compass thereon, each of said sections formed with a plurality of rows of upstanding inverted V-shaped racks, the apices of all the racks being parallel, both inclined faces of each rack formed with a plurality of separated, aligned, piece-receiving recesses, and playing pieces adapted to be supported within said recesses, the length of each playing piece being greater than that of the inclined supporting surface of the rack, so that when in supported position upon the rack the piece projects above the apex of the rack.

3. A solitaire game board comprising, a board, four piece-supporting sections arranged respectively at the four points of the compass thereon, each of said sections formed with a plurality of rows of upstanding inverted V-shaped racks, the apices of all the racks being parallel, both inclined faces of each rack formed with a plurality of spaced apart, parallel, aligned, raised strips dividing the two inclined faces of each rack into a plurality of aligned, rectangular piece-receiving recesses, and rectangular playing pieces adapted to be supported within said recesses, the length of each playing piece being greater than that of the inclined supporting surface of the rack, so that when in supported position upon the rack the piece projects above the apex of the rack.

4. A solitaire game board comprising, a board, four piece-supporting sections arranged respectively at the four points of the compass thereon, each of said sections formed with a plurality of rows of upstanding in-

5 verted V-shaped racks, the apices of all the
racks being parallel, both inclined faces of
each rack formed with a plurality of spaced
apart, parallel, aligned, raised strips divid-
10 ing the two inclined faces of each rack into
a plurality of aligned, rectangular piece-re-
ceiving recesses, and rectangular playing
pieces adapted to be supported within said
recesses, the length of each playing piece
15 being greater than that of the inclined sup-
porting surface of the rack so that when in
supported position upon the rack the piece
projects above the apex of the rack, and
raised strips at the base of each rack parallel
20 to the apex of the rack, said strips separat-
ing the bases of adjacent racks and forming
rests for the bottom edges of the playing
pieces supported upon the racks.

5 5. A device according to claim 3 in which
20 the board is formed at either side of each
piece-supporting section with a piece-hold-
ing section, each of said sections comprising
rows of rectangular recesses adapted to form
receptacles for the playing pieces, the faces
25 of the pieces being exposed when in said re-
ceptacles.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
hand.

HARRY ANDERSON WINTER.

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