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C. E. ALBERT

PLAYING CARDS

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Fig. 1.

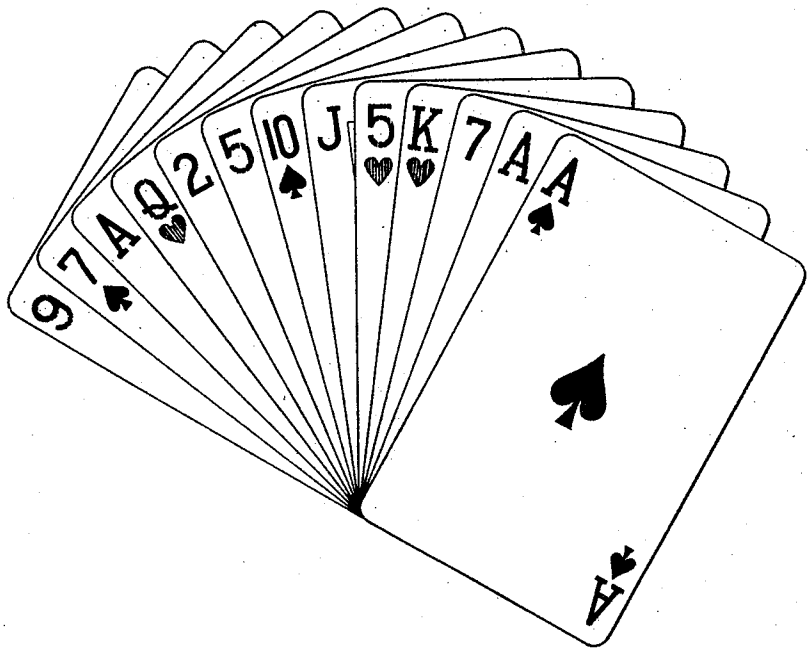
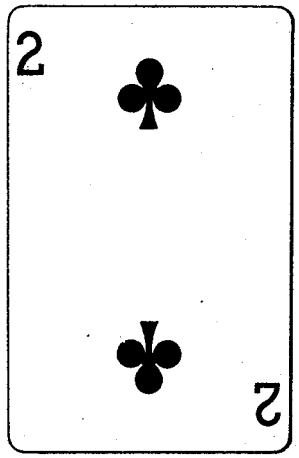


Fig. 2.



WITNESS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLIFFORD EDMUND ALBERT, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE UNITED STATES PLAYING CARD COMPANY, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

PLAYING CARDS.

Application filed January 6, 1926. Serial No. 79,642.

My invention relates to playing cards of the customary type, including conventional suit and value designations, and has for its object to provide them with indexes of such a nature that the numbers and values of the cards in a given hand may readily be perceived even though such hand is not arranged by suits in the customary manner.

In the accompanying drawing, Fig. 1 is a face view of a hand of cards, for instance in a game of bridge whist, fanned in the usual manner, and Fig. 2 is a face view of one of the cards of Fig. 1.

As clearly shown in the drawing, the indexes of the cards of two of the suits, one black and one red, consist of the usual pip and value designation and occupy the usual position or positions in the upper left-hand corner or upper left-hand and lower right-hand corner of each card, while the indexes of the cards of the other two suits consist of value designations only, the pips being omitted; the color of the value designation of the cards of such latter suits is the same as that of the pips of the card itself, that is to say, the index numbers of the clubs and diamonds of the hand shown in Fig. 1 are respectively black and red. The value indicators of all the cards are placed in corresponding corners and substantially the same distance from the top and from the side margins of the cards so that when a hand of these cards is fanned, the centers thereof lie substantially in a line defining the arc of a circle. As one of the red suits is thus provided with index pips and the other is provided with value indicators only and the color of such value indicator is red, the two suits although of the same color can readily be distinguished when the hand is fanned even when none of the major pips of the cards are visible. The same is true with respect to the two black suits. I therefore preserve all the advantages of the usual pack of playing cards provided with indexes while supplying the additional advantage that two cards of the same color but different suits are much less readily mistaken for one another. It is well known that inexperienced players will frequently mistake a club for a spade or a heart for a diamond because of the similarity of color. By providing blank spaces white or light-colored, for two of my suits beneath the value indicators, I effect such a great contrast with the black and red colors respectively of the index pips of the cards of the other two suits, that the inexperienced player is much less liable to such confusion. The experienced player, on the other hand, may, when fanning the cards, place the side edges more closely together, as in most cases an inspection of the extreme left-hand portion of the value indicator will be sufficient to tell him the value of an otherwise hidden card, while the presence of a portion of a black or red pip below will immediately indicate one black or red suit and the absence of any color will indicate the other suit whose color corresponds to that of the value indicator. Otherwise the similarity between the extreme left-hand portions of the pips, particularly of a club and a spade, would force him to spread his cards farther apart.

I claim:—

A deck of conventional playing cards, the individual cards of two contrasting color suits of which are each provided, in at least one corner thereof, with an index consisting of a value indicator and of a pip, and the individual cards of the other two suits of which are each provided with an index near at least one corresponding corner thereof, the indexes of the cards of the latter two suits consisting of value indicators only, the value indicators of all the cards being spaced from the top margin of their respective cards at approximately equal distances and being of the same color as the pips on their respective cards.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

CLIFFORD EDMUND ALBERT.