Sept. 24, 1946. E. F. REBHOLZ 2,408,270

GAME

Filed Jan. 13, 1943

Fig. 1

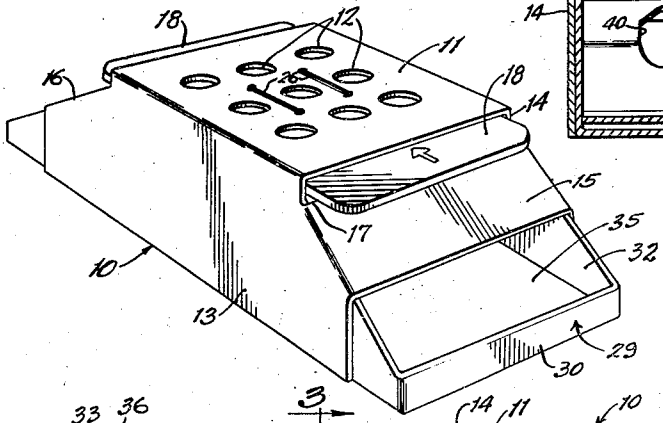


Fig. 3

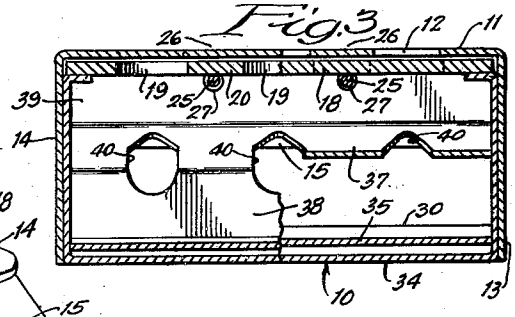


Fig. 2

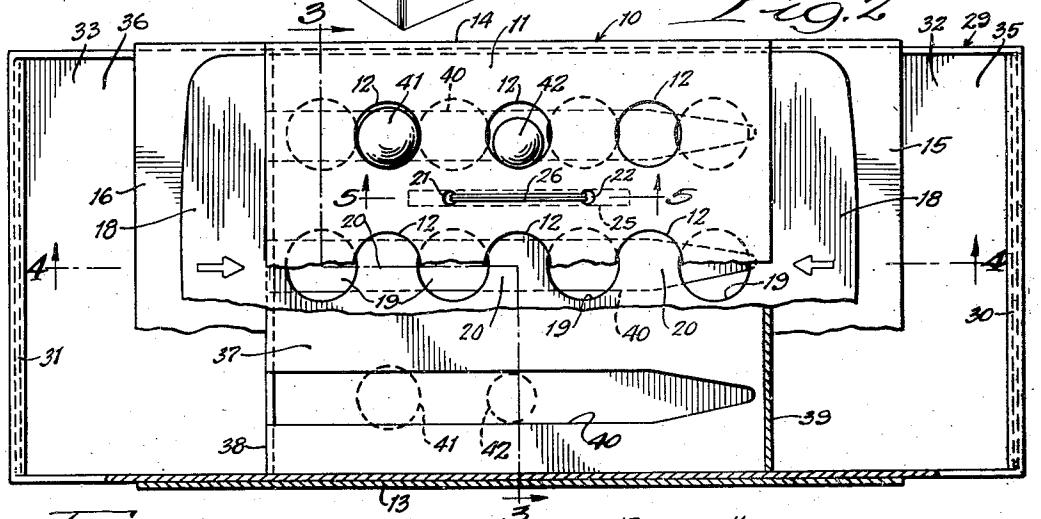


Fig. 4

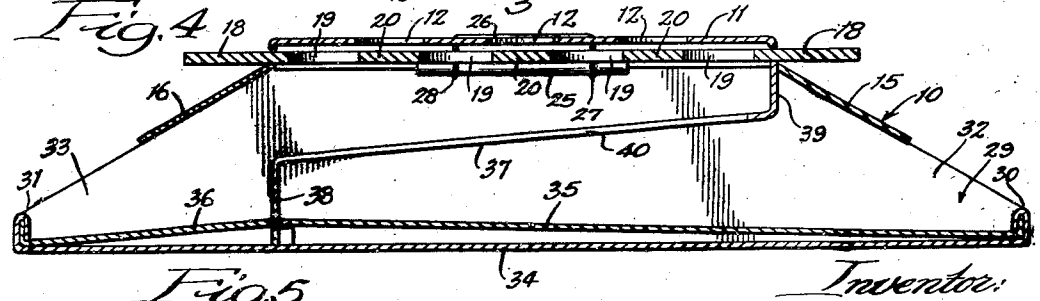
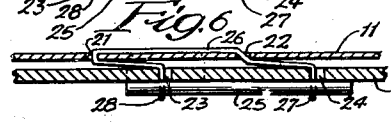


Fig. 5



Fig. 6



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GAME

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—130)

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This invention relates to a game, and more particularly to a device for receiving members of different sizes and recovering separately the different sized members.

An object of the invention is to provide a mechanical structure for a game which is simple in construction and novel in operation. Another object is to provide a device for receiving members of different sizes, supporting the members, and, upon the release of the members, recovering separately the members of different sizes. Yet another object is to provide a device for supporting balls, such as marbles, so that the balls may be placed in position in the device in the playing of a game, and when the game is completed, the balls may be simultaneously released from such position. A further object is to provide a device for a game wherein, when the game is completed, the members which are received in the device are removed and the device is ready for further operation.

Other features and advantages will appear from the following specification and drawing, in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device of the invention; Fig. 2 is a plan view, partly broken away, showing the same device; Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detail sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 6 is a fragmentary detail sectional view corresponding to the view of Fig. 5 and showing the plates in position wherein the apertures thereof are brought into alignment.

The present invention contemplates a mechanical device or structure for a game corresponding to the well-known game of ticktack-toe. In the game of ticktack-toe, a sheet of paper may be ruled to form nine squares. In the playing of the game, each of two players alternately places a mark in one of the squares, one of the players normally using an × mark and the other a 0 mark. The game is won by the player who first places his mark in three squares which are aligned or in a straight row. In the device of the present invention, nine apertures are provided for receiving balls or marbles. The marbles are of two different sizes and the marbles of each size may be of a different color. One of the players uses marbles of one size and the other player uses marbles of the other size. The marbles may be supported in position in the apertures until the game is completed, at which time the marbles are released and the marbles of the different sizes are separately recovered.

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In the embodiment of the invention described herein, a casing 10 is provided with a top wall or plate 11 which is equipped with a plurality of spaced apertures 12 extending therethrough. Preferably, the apertures are spaced apart by a distance at least as great as the width of the apertures. The apertures also are preferably substantially uniform in size.

As shown, the plate 11 may contain nine apertures of substantially uniform size, equidistantly spaced from each other in three rows of three apertures each. However, if desired, any suitable number of apertures may be used and the arrangement of the apertures in the plate may be varied.

The casing 10 is equipped with side walls 13 and 14, and with inclined end walls 15 and 16 which extend over a portion of the end of the casing. The upper edges 17 of the end walls 15 and 16 are spaced from the plate 11 on the upper surface of the casing 10 by a distance sufficiently great to receive therebetween a second plate 18. As seen particularly in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, the plate 18 which is supported by the end walls 15 and 16 of the casing 10 is disposed beneath the plate 11 and spaced slightly therefrom. The plate 18 may be equipped with a plurality of spaced apertures 19 which correspond to the apertures in the plate 11. Thus, as illustrated, the apertures 19 may be substantially uniform in size and may be of the same size as the apertures in the plate 11. The apertures 19 may also be spaced apart in exactly the same manner and by the same distances as the apertures in the plate 11. Thus, when one of the apertures 19 is brought into alignment or register with one of the apertures 12, all of the apertures 19 in the plate 18 are brought into alignment with the corresponding apertures 12 in the plate 11.

Since the distance by which the apertures 19 and the apertures 12 are spaced apart is preferably at least as great as the width of the apertures, the plate 18 may be moved to a position as seen in Fig. 4 where the apertures 19 are out of alignment with the apertures 12, and the portions 20 of the plate 18 which are between the apertures 19 serve to close the openings of the apertures 12. The plate 18 is slidably supported within the casing so that it may be shifted from a position in which the apertures 19 are in alignment with the apertures 12 to a position as seen in Fig. 4 where the apertures 19 are not in alignment with the apertures 12 and the apertures 12 are closed by the plate 18 therebeneath.

As seen in Figs. 5 and 6, the top plate 11 may be equipped with a pair of small openings 21 and

22 extending therethrough, and the plate 18 may be equipped with a pair of openings 23 and 24 which are adapted to be brought into register with the openings 21 and 22 of the plate 11.

A pin 25 may be placed beneath the plate 18, with the ends of the pin 25 being beneath the openings 23 and 24 in the plate 18. A suitable elastic member, such as a conventional endless rubber band 26, may be placed in position with the loop 27 at one end of the rubber band receiving one end of the pin 25 and the loop 28 of the other end of the rubber band receiving the other end of the pin 25. The body of the rubber band extends upwardly through the aligned openings 24 and 22 across the upper surface of the plate 11 and downwardly through the aligned openings 21 and 23. As seen in Fig. 6, when the plate 18 is shifted longitudinally with respect to the plate 11, the rubber band 26 is stretched and urges the plate 18 to its original position. The spacing of the plate 18 below the plate 11 permits the stretching of the rubber band extending between the two plates.

Within the casing 10 is an inner casing 29 which is provided with short end walls 30 and 31 forming with the walls 15 and 16 the openings 32 and 33. The bottom wall 34 of the inner casing 29 supports a pair of inclined bases 35 and 36, the bases being inclined downwardly toward the ends of the casing. A wall 37, having a depending flange 38 at one end and an upwardly-extending flange 39 at the other end, extends longitudinally of the casing and is inclined downwardly toward the end 31 thereof. The horizontal wall 37 is supported by the mounting of the flange 38 on the bottom wall 34 of the casing and the attachment of the flange 39 to the end wall 15 of the upper casing 10. The wall 37 is provided with longitudinal openings 40 which are disposed beneath the longitudinal rows of apertures in the plates 18 and 11. Each of the openings is of a width slightly less than the width of the apertures 12 and 19.

The apertures 12 are adapted to receive balls or marbles 41 of dimensions only very slightly less than the dimensions of the apertures and marbles 42 which are of substantially smaller dimensions. The openings 40 are of a width less than the dimensions or width of the marbles 41 and slightly greater than the dimensions of the marbles 42 so that when marbles 42 are received in the openings, such marbles pass therethrough, while marbles 41 when received in the openings do not pass therethrough but roll downwardly along the inclined wall 37.

In operation, one player uses marbles 41 while the other player uses marbles 42. When the game is begun, the plate 18 is in the position shown in Figs. 2 and 4 wherein the apertures 19 are out of alignment with the apertures 12. The players alternately place the marbles 41 and 42 in the apertures 12 of the top plate 11, the marbles being supported by the portions 20 of the plate 18.

When the game has been completed by filling all of the apertures with marbles or by reason of one of the players successfully placing his marbles in a row of three apertures, the plate 18 is moved in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 1 to bring the apertures 19 into alignment with the apertures 12. When the apertures are in alignment, the marbles pass through the aligned apertures to fall on the horizontal wall 37. When the plate 18 is moved to the position in which the apertures 19 are in

alignment with the apertures 12, the rubber band 26 is stretched, as shown in Fig. 6, and when the plate 18 is released, it will be returned to the position shown in Figs. 2 and 4 by the urging of the rubber band 26.

The marbles are received on the horizontal wall 37 at the openings 40 therein. Since the grooves 40 are in longitudinal alignment with the apertures 12 and 19, the marbles pass directly to the openings 40.

The marbles 42, being of dimensions smaller than the width of the opening, pass through the opening and are received on the inclined base 35 and roll toward the end 30 of the casing 29. The mables 41, being of dimensions greater than the width of the opening 40, do not pass through the opening, but roll along the wall 37 to the end thereof, fall on the inclined base 36, and roll to the end 31 of the casing 29.

The mables 42 are removed through the opening 32, and the marbles 41 are removed through the opening 33. The plate 18 is in its original position so that the device is ready to be placed in operation again.

The device is so constructed that, if desired, the entire structure including the various plates, walls and casings, may be made of paper-board or chip-board.

Although the invention has been described in connection with a specific embodiment, it will be apparent that many modifications and changes may be readily made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A game comprising a casing, a plate supported by said casing and having therein a plurality of apertures spaced apart from each other by a distance at least as great as the width of the apertures, a second plate slidably supported by said casing beneath said first plate and having a plurality of apertures therein, the apertures of said second plate being of substantially the same size and being spaced apart by substantially the same distance as the apertures in the first plate, said second plate being movable between a position wherein the apertures in the plates are out of alignment and the portions of the second plate between the apertures serve to close the apertures in the first plate and a position wherein the apertures in said plates are in alignment and are adapted to permit the passage therethrough of members of dimensions smaller than said apertures, and a wall carried by said casing beneath said plates adapted to receive on the upper surface thereof members passing through said aligned apertures, said wall being equipped with longitudinally extending openings of a width sufficient to permit the passage therethrough of members of dimensions smaller than a predetermined size and preventing the passage therethrough of members of dimensions smaller than said apertures and larger than said predetermined size whereby members of dimensions smaller than said apertures and larger than said predetermined size are separated from members of dimensions smaller than said predetermined size.

2. A game comprising a casing, a plate supported by said casing and having therein a plurality of apertures of substantially uniform size, said apertures being substantially uniformly spaced from each other by a distance at least as great as the width of the apertures, a second plate slidably supported by said casing beneath said first plate, said second plate being pro-

vided with a plurality of apertures of substantially the same size and spaced apart by the same distance as the apertures in the first plate, said second plate being manually slidable from a position wherein the apertures in the plates are out of alignment and the portions of the second plate between the apertures therein serve to close the apertures of the first plate to a position wherein the apertures in the plates are in alignment and are adapted to permit the passage therethrough of members of dimensions smaller than said apertures, elastic means for urging said second plate to said first-mentioned position, and an inclined horizontal wall extending longitudinally within said casing beneath said plates, said wall being equipped with a plurality of longitudinally extending openings, each of said openings being disposed beneath at least one aperture in each of said plates when the plates are in aligned position and being of a width less than the width of said apertures and at least as great as a predetermined size whereby members of dimensions smaller than said apertures and larger than said predetermined size are prevented from passing through said openings and pass

to the lower end of said inclined wall while members of dimensions smaller than said predetermined size pass through said openings.

3. A game device of the character described comprising a casing having a pair of superposed, relatively movable plates spaced a slight distance apart, each of said plates being provided with a plurality of rows of spaced-apart aligned apertures through which game members of two different sizes may be passed, elastic means for normally maintaining one of said plates in such a position with respect to the other plate that the apertures in said plates are out of alignment with respect to each other so that game members received by the apertures in the upper plate are supported by the lower plate, said one plate being movable to a position where the apertures in said plates are in alignment and the game members drop through said apertures, and means within the casing for separating the game members of different sizes and delivering the members of one size at one side of the casing and delivering the members of the other size at the other side of the casing.

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