

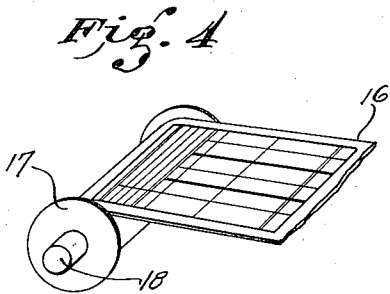
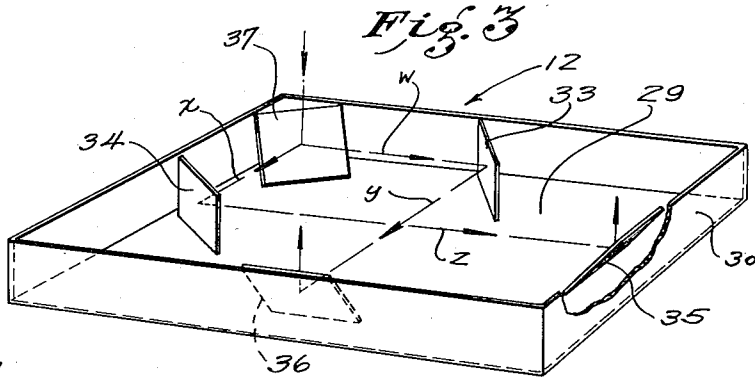
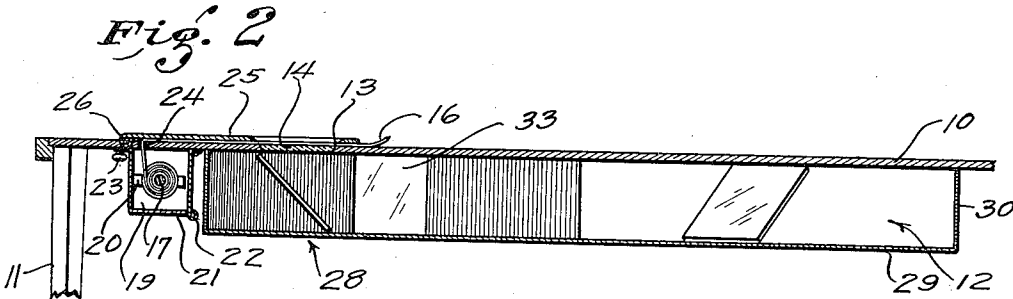
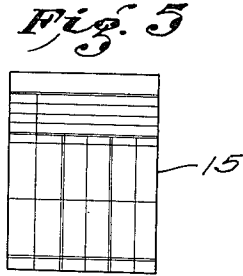
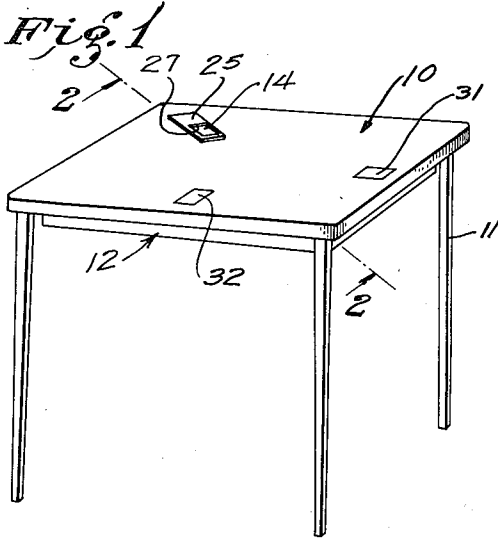
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GAME APPARATUS

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GAME APPARATUS

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8 Claims. (Cl. 273-136)

This invention relates to game apparatus, and particularly pertains to a card table or the like.

In the playing of various games, and especially card games, it is desirable that all of the players be constantly apprised of the score of the game, and the individual tally of the various players. This adds to the pleasure of playing since there need not be uncertainty in the minds of the various players as to the scores of the individuals, and for the further reason that playing is facilitated without making bothersome inquiries of the score keeper or the other players as to the score. This is particularly true in connection with the playing of bridge, for example where the rules forbid unnecessary conversation or remarks by which a partner might indicate the condition of his hand, and from which bidding might be determined, since significant questions regarding the score can be made which would tend to influence the bidding. It is also evident that in the event the score keeper is careless in making a proper credit of points to the individual players it is desirable that all of the players may observe the score at all times so that corrections can be made or notations made more legible, and may be maintained in the constant view of the players for observation and reference. It is the object of the present invention therefore to provide means whereby the score of a game may be kept and individual tallies marked upon it as made, said device being equipped with means whereby the score marked by the score keeper at one playing position of the table may be directly visible to each of the other players at their individual playing positions during and after the act of inscription without interference or obstruction of view, and with the same legibility as that prevailing at the playing position of the score keeper.

The present invention contemplates the provision of a scoring device, one embodiment of which may include a game board, such as a card table, which is equipped with a scoring field at one playing position, other playing positions being equipped with observation fields within which an image of the scoring field and indicia appearing thereon may be observed by the individual players as accomplished by optical reflection.

The invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective showing a card table fitted with one form of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a view in transverse section taken

diagonally of the top of the card table as seen on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1, and showing in detail the scoring field and certain of the reflecting members associated therewith.

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective showing the table top removed so that the inversion and reversion mirrors may be seen.

Fig. 4 is a view in perspective showing the form of score pad roll which may be used in the device.

Fig. 5 is a view in plan indicating the field of the score pad and the possible utilization of a ground glass upon which the field is permanently placed.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 10 indicates a table top here shown as having a substantially square plane surface, and as being supported by legs 11. Beneath the table top is a reflecting compartment 12 which will be described more fully hereinafter. Adjacent to one corner of the table top and formed therethrough is an opening 13 here shown as rectangular in shape and as being closed by a glass panel 14. In one form of this invention the glass is clear and transparent. In another form of the invention a ground glass member, such as indicated at 15 in Fig. 5, is used. The glass 14 provides a smooth surface over which a score pad ribbon or strip 16 may lie and upon which ribbon a game score may be written or otherwise marked.

The score pad ribbon 16 is preferably led around a spool 17, the opposite ends of which carry trunnion 18 mounted within suitable sockets in the opposite end walls of a spool housing 19. A yieldable spring element 20 acts against one end of the spool or one end of its trunnions to establish a desired amount of frictional resistance, opposing rotation of the spool except when a predetermined longitudinal tension has been applied to the score pad ribbon. The spool compartment is provided with a removable side wall or door 21 by which access may be had to the compartment so that the spools may be removed and interchanged. The member 21 may be hinged as indicated at 22, and may be provided with a suitable fastener such as the fastening knob 23.

The portion of the score pad ribbon 16 upon which a score is to be immediately marked is drawn upwardly through an opening 24 in the table, and then horizontally across the flat top of the table and the glass panel 14. This ribbon portion is held in position by a cover plate 25 which is hinged to the table at its outer end as

indicated at 26, and which lies flat upon the upper face of the table and extends across the glass panel 14. Adjacent to the outer end of the cover plate 25 is formed a window 27 which registers with the panel 14 and exposes a complete scoring frame occurring on the ribbon 16. Through this window any desired scoring marks may be affixed upon the score pad, and since it is desirable that the score pad ribbon 16 be formed preferably of translucent paper, or other similar material, it is evident that light falling upon the paper will be projected through the paper and the transparent panel 14 and into the reflecting compartment 28.

The reflecting compartment is formed with a floor 29 around the perimeter of which are side walls 30. Within the compartment are mirrors by which the image of the score pad and the indicia printed or otherwise, inscribed thereon, may be projected to points of observation. This is due to the provision of observation windows, such as those indicated at 31 and 32 which occur in the face of the table top 10. These windows are of the same configuration and substantially the same size as the transparent panel 14 previously described. It is preferable that these windows shall be disposed midway the length of the sides of the table, and while only two such windows are shown in the present device, it is understood that for various purposes and as might be required by various games, a table may be provided with any number of observation windows.

The reflected image of the scoring field, and the score indicia appearing thereon, is projected to the observation windows through a set of reflecting surfaces or mirrors. Reversing mirrors 33 and 34 are required and inverting mirrors 35 and 36. The inverting mirrors are disposed in proper angular relation between the observation windows 31 and 32. The reversing mirrors 33 and 34 are disposed at intermediate points to establish angles of incidence and reflection of beams of light emanating from the major reflecting mirror 37, which is disposed at an appropriate angle beneath the transparent panel 14.

It may be desirable to employ other scoring media or fields than the translucent paper ribbon 16, and in fact it may be desirable to permanently score and affix lines indicating a field upon a glass panel, such for example as the ground or frosted glass panel 15 as shown in Fig. 5, in which event a score may be marked on the surface of the glass panel 15 and erased or washed off after the game has been finished.

In operation of the present invention the table may be constructed as shown in the drawing with the scoring panel in one corner of the table and the two observation windows in diagonally opposite sides of the table. Attention is directed to the fact that since the scoring panel is positioned in one corner of the table, it might be used by persons keeping score whether they are right handed or left handed. A beam of light falling upon the translucent scoring ribbon 16, or the ground glass field 15, and emanating from a natural or artificial source, will cause the scoring field image to be projected on to the major reflecting panel 37 where it will appear in an inverted position. Beams w and x will then pass from the major reflecting panel 37 to the reversion panels 33 and 34 respectively, where they will be reflected as indicated at y and z to the inversion panels 35 and 36 and may be observed through the observation windows 31 and 32. It is evident that in some instances it might be de-

sirable to produce artificial illumination and to use projecting lenses which would cause images to be erected on the panels 31 and 32, and which had been prepared to serve the purpose of ground glasses. In any event the score may be readily observed by all of the players at their respective playing positions without requiring any particular manipulation by the score keeper to display the score form other than to apply the tallies thereon as the game progresses.

While the invention has been shown and described as being embodied within the construction of a table it will be understood that the same inventive principle might well be embodied in other structures characterized as having a scoring field upon which indicia might be inscribed and which field and indicia might be simultaneously displayed to the view of other players.

It will thus be seen that the table here disclosed is simple in construction, does not require the use of any elaborate mechanism or adjustment, leaves the playing board free from obstruction or the inconvenience of obstacles which might be placed thereon, and makes it possible to play card games without requiring unnecessary conversation, while simultaneously providing each of the players with a properly posted score card.

While I have shown the preferred form of my invention, as now known to me, it will be understood that various changes might be made in the combination, construction, and arrangement of parts, by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A card table having an upper plane face, a scoring member disposed adjacent one corner thereof, a score field observable at another playing position at the table, and reflecting means for simultaneously indicating the score tally at the scoring member and the score field.

2. A card table comprising a top, a scoring field adjacent one playing position, scoring observation fields adjacent other playing positions, and reflecting means whereby a tally mark in the first named scoring field will appear for observation in the various scoring observation fields.

3. A card table comprising a top, a scoring field adjacent one playing position, a scoring observation field adjacent another playing position, and reflecting means whereby the reflection of a tally mark inscribed in the first named scoring field may be observed in the scoring observation field during and after its inscription.

4. A card table comprising a top, a transparent panel formed in the top at one playing position and over which a translucent score sheet may be disposed, transparent panels at other playing positions at the table, and means for projecting the image of the score sheet and indicia previously appearing and being inscribed thereon to be observed through the other transparent panels.

5. A card table comprising a top, a transparent panel formed in the top at one playing position and over which a translucent score sheet may be disposed, transparent panels at other playing positions at the table, and means for projecting the image of the score sheet and indicia previously appearing and being inscribed thereon to be observed through the other transparent panels, said means including light reflecting members.

6. A card table comprising a table top having

an opening formed throughout at one playing position, a translucent panel covering said opening and upon which a score sheet may be disposed, openings through the table at other playing positions, and means for projecting an image of the score sheet by reflection from the score sheet opening to points of observation at each of the second named openings.

7. A device of the character described comprising a table top, an opening formed therethrough adjacent one playing position and covered by a transparent panel, means for disposing a translucent score sheet over said panel and through which light may pass downwardly through the panel, score observation openings formed at other playing positions through the table top, transparent panels covering the same, reflecting means beneath the table top whereby the image projected by the light rays passing through the score sheet will be erected in a substantially normal position to be observed at each of the panels at the various playing positions.

8. A device of the character described comprising a table top, an opening formed therethrough adjacent one playing position and covered by a transparent panel, means for disposing a translucent score sheet over said panel and through which light may pass downwardly through the panel, score observation openings formed at other playing positions through the table top, transparent panels covering the same, reflecting means beneath the table top whereby the image projected by the light rays passing through the score sheet will be erected in a substantially normal position to be observed at each of the panels at the various playing positions, and means providing a continuous strip of playing sheets whereby they may be successively drawn over the panel through which they are projected.

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