No. 739,254. PATENTED SEPT. 15, 1903.

A. E. BORLAND.

GAME.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 7, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

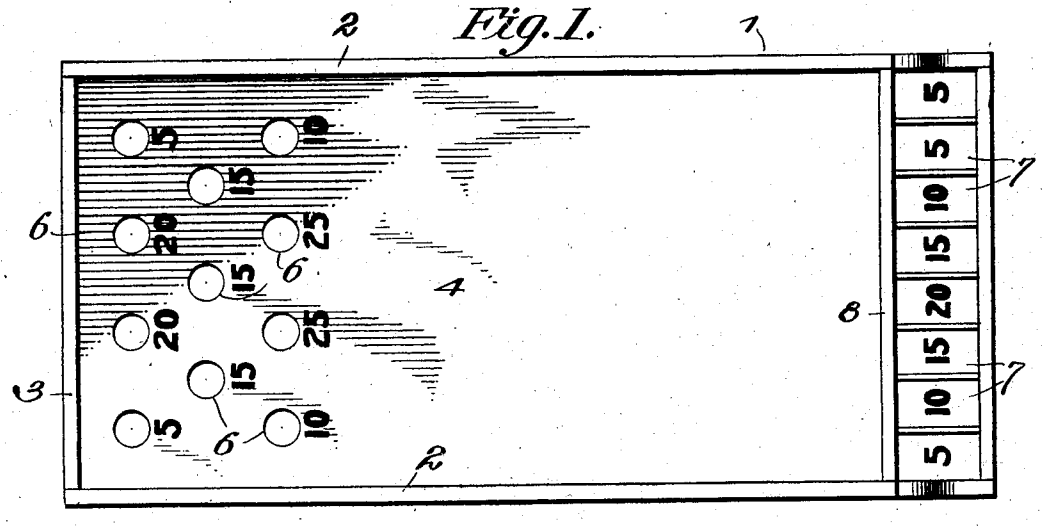


Fig. 2.

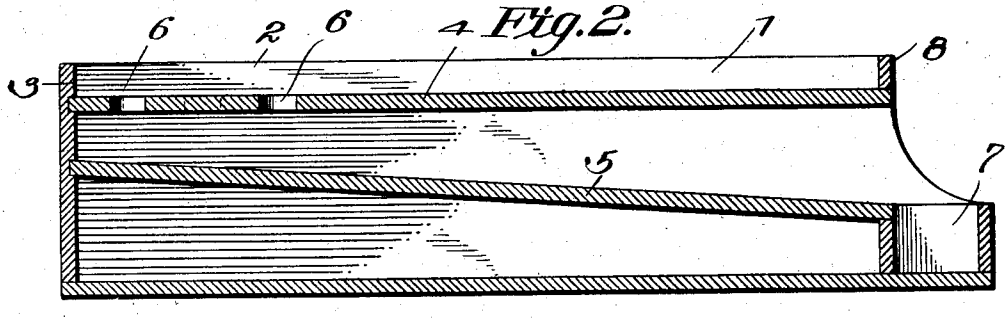


Fig. 3.

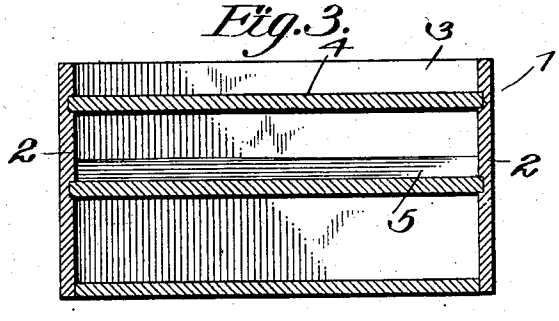


Fig. 4.



Witnesses
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 739,254. Patented September 15, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR E. BORLAND, OF DANVILLE, VERMONT, ASSIGNOR TO ASA WESSON, OF DANVILLE, VERMONT.

GAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 739,254, dated September 15, 1903.

Application filed March 7, 1903. Serial No. 146,786. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR E. BORLAND, a citizen of the United States, residing at Danville, in the county of Caledonia and State of Vermont, have invented a new and useful Game, which I have named "Biladette," of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to games of the general type in which a ball or series of balls are played upon a table having an upper board provided with a series of openings through which the balls pass to an underlying inclined board, down which the balls travel by gravity and enter pockets at the lower terminal of the latter board, and has for its objects to produce a device of this character of simple construction which will be highly amusing and interesting and one in which the result of the game will depend largely upon the skill of the players.

To these ends the invention comprises the novel details of construction and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of a game board or table embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical central longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is a transverse section. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the ball-expelling device.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates my improved board or table, which in practice may be placed upon an ordinary table or stand or provided with sustaining-legs, as fancy may direct. This table consists, essentially, of a box-like frame or casing, preferably of rectangular form, as shown, and consisting of side boards 2 and an end board 3, which sustain an upper horizontal main board 4 and an underlying forwardly and downwardly inclined supplemental board 5. The main board 4 is provided at its rear end with a series of openings 6, preferably arranged as shown in Fig. 1 and numbered as therein indicated to impart to them a certain valuation in the game. The lower inclined board 5, which is entirely free from partitions or other guides or obstructions, has formed at its forward lower end a series of pockets or receptacles 7, preferably of the number and arrangement illustrated in Fig. 1. These pockets or receptacles each have an open side disposed toward the rear end of the table and are each provided with a designating number which imparts to them a specific valuation in the game. The side and end boards of the frame project slightly above the upper surface of board 4 to produce a flange or abutment around the same, which is completed by means of a bar or rail 8 extending transversely across the board at its forward end, which latter terminates short of the forward end of the underlying board 5, whereby the pockets 7 are exposed to view.

In practice preferably a series of balls or marbles will be employed and played over the surface of board 4 from points along the front rail 8, the object being to so expel the balls that they will pass through the openings 6, it being, of course, an advantage to direct them through the holes bearing the highest numbers, inasmuch as said numbers count in the game to make up a certain predetermined number which must be attained by the players, the player first attaining said number being, of course, the winner of the game. The balls after passing through the openings 6 travel by gravity down the underlying board 5 and enter any one of the pockets 7, which are, as before stated, numbered and the numbers of which enter into the sum-total of the game, whereby a single ball in passing through one of the openings 6 counts for the player the number borne by said opening and also counts for the player the number borne by the pocket which it enters after passing down the inclined board 5. In this connection it is to be particularly noted that the underlying board 5 being entirely free from guides or the like a ball may after passing through any one of the openings 6 roll to and enter any one of the pockets 7, whereby the counting of the respective holes and pockets is entirely independent, thus increasing the chances of the game and materially enhancing its interesting and amusing qualities. It is further to be noted that the flange or abutment which surrounds the main board 4 is unprovided with cushions, whereby the balls upon striking the same will not rebound, thus increasing the skill required in directing them through the openings 6 and largely eliminating from this part of the game the element of

chance, whereas, upon the other hand, the passage of the balls into the pockets at the lower terminal of board 5 depends solely upon chance, for the reasons above explained.

For expelling or shooting the balls over the board 4 I employ a device consisting of a handle 9 and a blade 10, of any suitable spring metal, preferably of the form illustrated in Fig. 4. In shooting the balls they will be placed at any suitable point along the rail 8 as the skill or fancy of the player may direct and the handle 9 of the shooting device grasped by the player with one hand, while with the other hand the blade 10 will be bent backward and snapped against the ball, as will be readily understood, the force of the blow upon the ball and the speed of travel of the same over the board 4 being determined and regulated by the amount of bend imparted to blade 10.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I produce a simple and inexpensive game which will afford considerable amusement and interest, and in attaining these ends I do not wish to limit myself to the precise details herein set forth, as minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

In a game, the combination with a frame, of a main board sustained thereby and provided adjacent to its rear end with a series of numbered openings, and a downwardly and forwardly inclined board underlying the main board and provided adjacent to its front end with a series of numbered receptacles, the active face of the underlying board being free from guides or the like.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ARTHUR E. BORLAND.

Witnesses:
FRED J. PRESTON,
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