

No. 840,934.

J. T. GRANT.
GAME.

PATENTED JAN. 8, 1907.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 26, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

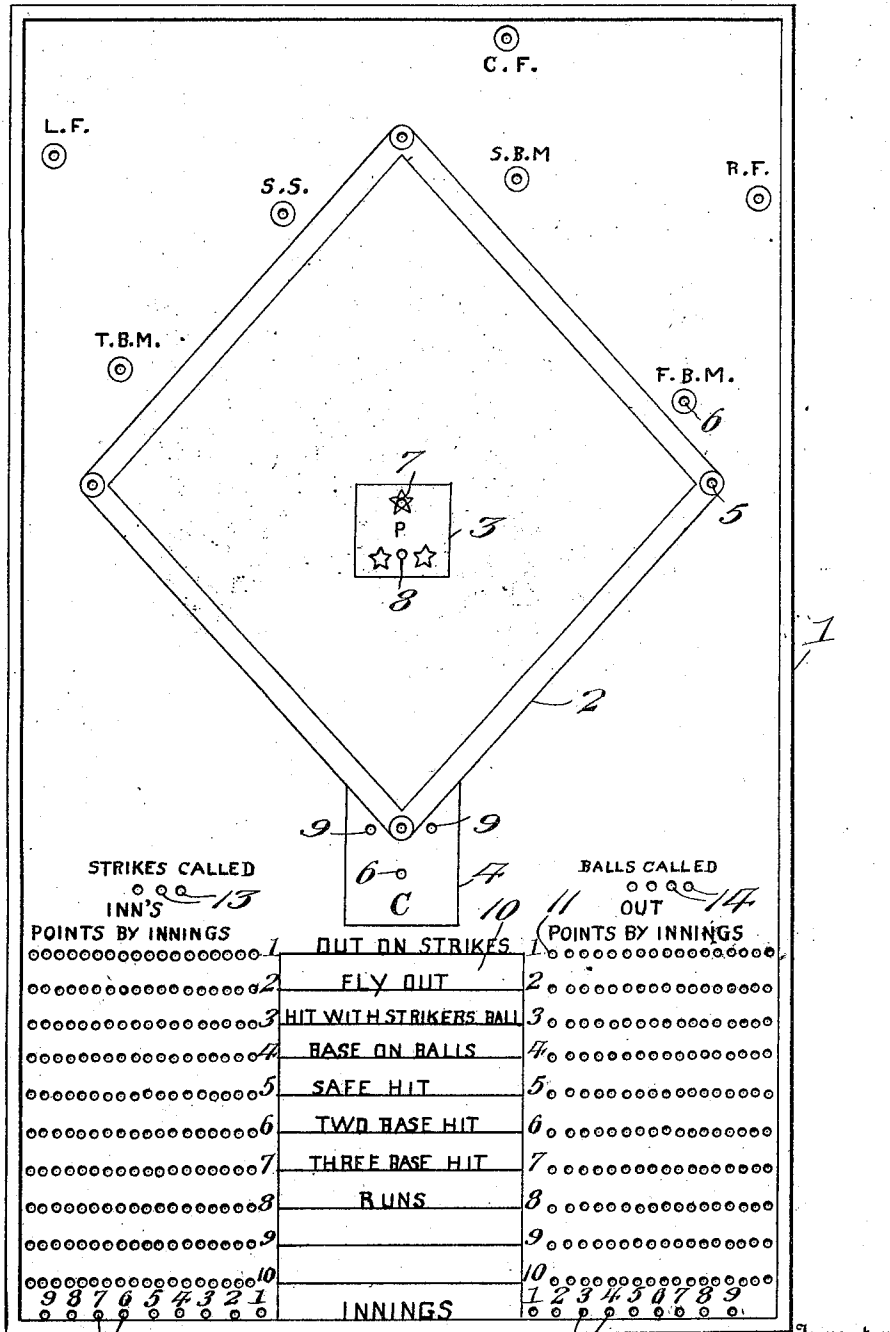


Fig. 1.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

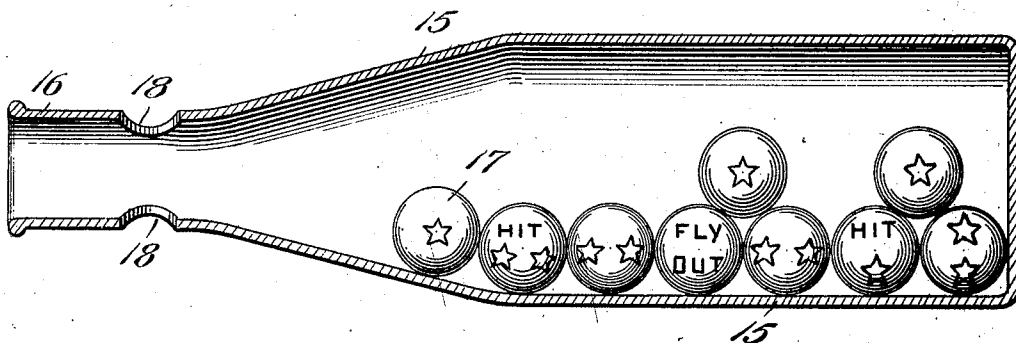


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH T. GRANT, OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

GAME.

No. 840,934.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 8, 1907.

Application filed September 26, 1906. Serial No. 336,306.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH T. GRANT, a citizen of the United States, residing at El Paso, in the county of El Paso and State of Texas, have invented new and useful improvements in Games, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to an improved game and game apparatus therefor, the construction providing for simulating the well-known game of base-ball.

The main object of the present invention is the provision of a game apparatus in the use of which a game similar to the game of base-ball may be played, the construction providing for such variation in the playing of the game as to render the same instructive and amusing.

The invention will be described in the following specification, reference being had particularly to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of the game-board forming part of the apparatus of my improved game. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of a ball-holder forming part of the apparatus, the balls being shown therein in operation. Fig. 3 is a view in elevation of a figure used in playing the game, and Fig. 4 is an elevation of a counting-peg used with the game.

Referring particularly to the drawings, my improved game apparatus comprises a game-board 1, on which is outlined a diamond 2, a pitcher's box 3, and the batter's box 4. The corners of the diamond represent the home plate and respective bases of the base-ball field, each formed with openings 5 for the reception of the figures used in playing the game, the board beyond the diamond being formed in appropriate places with similar openings 6 to receive the figures representing the field-diamond.

The pitcher's box 3 is formed with two openings 7 and 8, arranged in alinement longitudinally of the field, the former being marked with a single star as a designating-signal and the latter with a double star.

The batter's box is also formed with openings 9 on opposite sides of the plate in which to position the batter.

In rear of the ball-field proper the game-board is provided with a central column 10, transversely divided into a series of spaces, marked, respectively "Out on strikes," "Fly out," "Hit with striker's ball," "Base

on balls," "Safe hit," "Two-base hit," "Three-base hit," "Runs." In alinement with each of the transversely-arranged spaces and on opposite sides of the central column the game-board is provided with a series of openings 11, designed to receive the counting-pegs, hereinafter utilized as indicating a particular counting of moves or plays indicated by the designation of the particular central space. At the relatively rear edge of the board, in longitudinal alinement with each of the columns bearing the series of openings 11, said board is provided with a series of openings 12, numbered, respectively, from "1" to "9" and in transverse alinement with these openings the central column is provided with the word "Innings," indicating that the openings 12 are used to designate the innings played. In advance of the column on one side of the board is a series of three openings 13, bearing the designation "Strikes called," and in transverse alinement therewith in advance of the other column the board is provided with a series of four openings 14, marked to indicate "Balls called."

In conjunction with the game-board is used a ball-holder 15, constructed of any desired material and in hollow form, the mouth 16 being reduced to permit the passage of but one of the balls 17 contained in the holder at a time. For the purposes of the particular game the holder is preferably made to resemble a bat and is formed near the mouth with diametrically-ained openings 18 to permit the partial insertion of the finger and thumb of the player to provide a retarding medium, and thereby insure the passage of but a single ball through the mouth of the holder. The holder is designed to normally contain a series of balls 17, suitably marked to indicate a particular place in connection with the game—that is, four of the balls will be marked with a double-star, four with a single-star, and one without the star-symbol. In addition to this marking two of the balls will contain the words "Hit"—that is, one single-star and one double-star ball will be so designated. The ball without a symbol is marked with the words "Fly out," all as clearly shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 3 represents the figure used in playing the game, being preferably shaped to represent a human figure 19 in ball-playing costume and provided with a pin 20 to enter any of the series of openings 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 in the

game-board. It is to be understood that each of the two opposing players will control nine figures, it being preferred that the figures be differently colored to afford a distinct meaning. A counting-peg 21, having a depending pin 22 to fit in any of the counting-openings in the game-board, is also utilized as a part of the apparatus.

In playing the game the respective players will initially select or arrange their playing positions—that is, whether batters or fielders—alternating thereafter as in the ordinary game of base-ball. The player representing the fielders will position his men in the respective openings 6, as in the ordinary game of base-ball, selecting for the initial play one of the openings 7 or 8 for the figure representing the pitcher. The player representing the batter will then position a man in either one of the openings 9, and the game is ready to proceed. The player representing the batter will deliver one of the balls 17 from the holder 15, and the designation of this ball determines the play. If the player representing the fielders has placed the pitcher in the opening 7, then all balls marked with a single star are called "pitcher's" balls and all balls marked with a double star are known as "striker's" balls. The player representing the fielders is at liberty to change his pitcher if he so desires, thus varying the value of the balls delivered from the holder and providing that element of chance which is desirable in a game of this character. If the first ball delivered from the holder is a pitcher's ball, it is called a ball on the batter, while if the ball is a striker's ball it is called a strike. The respective strikes and balls are mounted in the openings 13 and 14, and the rules of base-ball pertain—that is, if three strikes are called on the batter he is out, while if four balls are called he is entitled to move to the opening 5, designating first base on the diamond. If the pitcher's ball is delivered from the holder bearing the word "Hit," it will be called "A safe hit," and the figure occupying the batting position will be advanced to the first-base opening, and all other batsmen on the positions will be similarly advanced one base. If the balls delivered indicate two "strikes" on the batsman and no "balls" called and the next ball delivered from the holder indicates a hit with the pitcher's ball, it will be a two-base hit, and when there have been two balls called on the batsman and no strikes and the next ball delivered is the pitcher's ball, indicating a hit, it will be a three-base hit. When three balls have been called on the batsman and no strikes and the next ball delivered from the holder indicates a hit with the pitcher's ball, it will be counted as a home run for the batsman. Whenever striker's ball marked is delivered from the holder, except under those circumstances wherein a

delivery from the holder of the pitcher's ball marked "Hit" would mean a two-base, three-base, or home run, the batsman will take first base; but no base-runner or man already occupying the base will be advanced by such a hit. If under these conditions a base-runner is on first, second, and third, so as to be forced by the hit, such base runner or runners will be forced out. Whenever the striker's ball marked "Hit" is delivered from the holder under those conditions where the delivery of a pitcher's ball would be a two-base hit, three-base hit, or home run, the batsman will be declared out; but if in this event the bases are occupied by base-runners the hit will be termed a "sacrifice," and each base-runner will be advanced one base.

The points or runs and all detailed information respecting the game is to be indicated in the openings 11 and 12 by the use of the pegs 21.

It will be, therefore, obvious that from the apparatus provided and the method of playing the game above utilized all of the variations common to the ordinary game of base-ball are arranged for, thereby affording an instructive amusing game in which the element of chance enters to a degree sufficient to materially vary the play of one inning from another.

The game apparatus described may be made of any material and in any size desired, and I desire it to be understood that I consider all changes and variations within the scope of the appended claims as contemplated in the present invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A game comprising a game-board outlined to represent a base-ball diamond, the pitcher's box of the diamond having a plurality of positions for the pitcher each indicated by a particular symbol, and a series of play-controlling elements respectively bearing one or the other of the symbols of the pitcher's box.

2. A game apparatus comprising a game-board marked to indicate a pitcher's diamond, in combination with a ball-holder to receive and conceal a series of play-indicating balls, said holder being formed with diametrically-opposed openings adjacent the mouth to permit introduction of the fingers of the operator to retard the delivery of the balls.

3. A game apparatus comprising a game-board marked to indicate a base-ball diamond and formed with a series of openings to receive the players of each side in accordance with the game, the pitcher's box of the diamond being formed with two openings designated by different symbols, in combination with nine play-indicating elements divided into three groups, one group bearing one symbol of the pitcher's box, the second group

bearing a second symbol of the pitcher's box and the third group being without either symbol.

5 4. A game apparatus comprising a game-board marked to indicate a base-ball diamond and formed with a series of openings to receive the players of each side in accordance with the game, the pitcher's box of the diamond being formed with two openings designated by different symbols, in combination
10 with nine play-indicating elements divided into three groups, one group bearing one symbol of the pitcher's box, the second group

bearing a second symbol of the pitcher's box and the third group being without either 15 symbol, one ball of each of the symbol-bearing groups being marked with the word "Hit" and the ball without symbol being marked with the word "Fly out."

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 20 in presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH T. GRANT.

Witnesses:

H. B. STEVENS,
MAHLON W. WILKERSON.