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H. E. WILLIAMS

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GAME DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

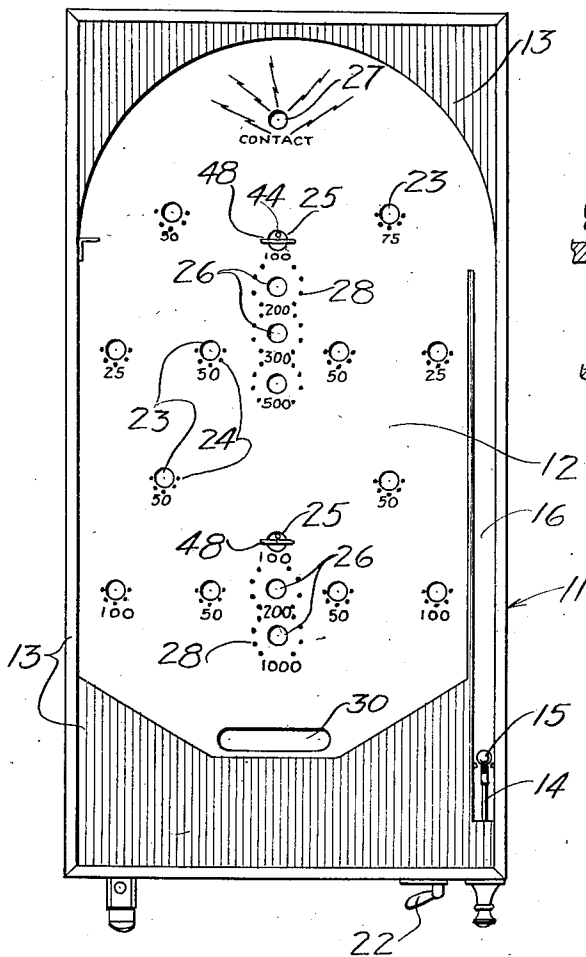


Fig. 3.

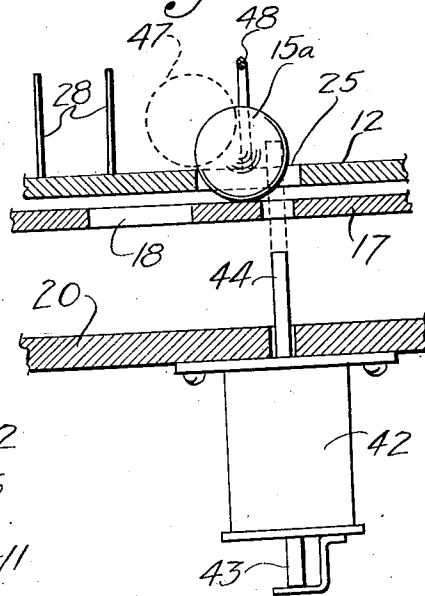
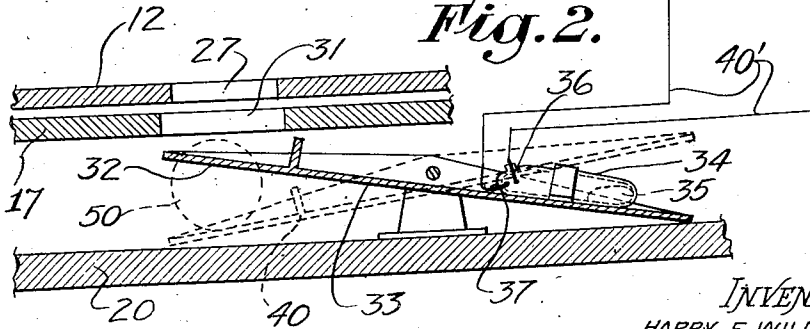


Fig. 2.



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GAME DEVICE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 273—121)

Although the invention relates in general to game devices, it relates in particular to a game in which objects, such as small balls, marbles, etc., are shot or propelled over a playing space or field into receptacles or pockets.

In my invention the balls are caused to move across a preferably inclined playing board, and although the playing board is substantially flat and horizontal, these details are not of primary importance since it is the principal object of the invention to provide in a game device of the general character herein described certain specified pockets or receivers to receive the balls and another pocket or receiver which is, for convenience, and as a matter of interest to the players of the game, called the contact pocket. Operating in conjunction with the contact pocket I provide means, preferably electrical in operation which will operate in response to a ball entering the contact pocket to dislodge from one or more of the specified pockets such balls as may be resting therein.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a series of secondary pockets of higher scoring value into which balls may advance from the specified pockets in which they were initially received.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a device of the foregoing character which has very simple means for advancing a ball from a pocket in which it is initially received to a pocket of higher scoring value, such advancing means including a simple and positively acting switch means at the contact pocket and solenoid means disposed in such relation to the pocket in which a ball to be advanced is initially received so that the armature or moving part thereof will positively move the ball from the pocket and cause the same to move to a secondary pocket.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will be brought out in the following part of the specification.

Referring to the drawing which is for illustrative purposes only,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a preferred form of the invention in which the playing field or board is in an inclined position and the receivers for the balls are in the form of ball seats or pockets.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary section on a longitudinal vertical plane extending through the table structure of Fig. 1, showing the switch means associated with the contact pocket, this view also including a diagram of the electric circuit of the invention.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary section on

the same plane as Fig. 2, showing my preferred means for dislodging a ball from a receiving or primary pocket so that it may move to a pocket of higher scoring value.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 1, I employ a table structure 11 having a playing field comprising a board 12 which is downwardly recessed or offset with relation to a peripheral wall structure 11 forming a boundary for the playing field 12. In accordance with the customary practices in the manufacture of game devices of the general character shown, a plunger 14 is adapted to impell a playing ball 15 through a channel 16 onto the playing field 12, the purpose of so doing being to cause the ball 15 to pass into certain receivers, represented in general by pockets or openings, as will be hereinafter set forth.

As shown in Fig. 2, the board 12 constituting the playing field has a sliding panel 17 disposed thereunder, this sliding panel 17 having openings 18 therein in accordance with known practices in the art. Below the sliding panel 17 is a floor 20 which receives the balls 15 which have been dropped through the openings 18 in the sliding panel 17, and down which the balls 15 roll to a space, not shown, from which they may be lifted one at a time by a suitable ball elevating device having an operating handle 22, into the lower end of the channel 16.

The board 12 has a number of ordinary pockets 23 formed by holes in the board 12, which may be partly outlined by pins 24, but of prime importance are the openings 25 forming primary pockets, ball seats, or receivers, the openings 26 forming secondary pockets, ball seats, or receivers, and the opening 27, preferably at the upper end of the board 12, forming the exit opening or contact receiver. Pins 28 are placed along the secondary receivers 26 to guide therein balls which have been dislodged from the primary receivers 25 in the playing of the game.

In the playing of the game, it is attempted to shoot the balls 15 so that both of the primary receivers 25 will be occupied. In so doing some of the balls may enter the ordinary pockets 23 or the "no count" pocket 30. With one or both of the primary pockets 25 filled, the player tries to place a marble in the contact opening 27 so as to cause the balls in the pockets 25 to advance to the first of the secondary pockets 26, each of which are shown as having twice the scoring value of the primary pockets 25.

As shown in Fig. 2, there is an opening 31 in the sliding panel 17 below the contact receiver or opening 27 so that a ball may drop down onto

the forward raised end 32 of a centrally fulcrumed lever 33 having a mercury switch 34 secured to the rearward end thereof in such position that the body of mercury 35 will be normally remote from the contacts 36 and 37. A ball, as shown by dotted lines 38, will tilt the lever 33 to the position in which it is shown by dotted lines 40 and the body of mercury 35 will run leftwardly into engagement with the contacts 36 and 37, thereby closing a circuit 40' containing a current source 41 and solenoids 42 having armatures 43. The armatures 43 have extensions 44, as shown in Fig. 2. The solenoids 42 are mounted on the under faces of the floor member 20 in such positions that the extensions 44 will align with the rearward portions of the openings 25 so that when the switch 34 closes the circuit 40' the extension 44 will move up to the dotted line position 45 and move the ball 15a to the position 47 forwardly of the inverted U-shaped guard loop 48. The action of the solenoids 42 will be of instantaneous character owing to the fact that a ball will readily roll from the position 50 in which it is shown in Fig. 2, thereby releasing the lever 33 so that the switch 34 may open.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a game apparatus, the combination of: an inclined playing board having a ball exit opening formed in the upper portion thereof; said playing board having ball seats or pockets spaced at intervals between the lower end thereof and said ball exit opening; said ball seats having scoring values, and the said scoring values of said ball seats increasing in the descending order of their arrangement upon said playing board; means for propelling balls one at a time onto the upper portion of said playing board so that they may gravitate thereover into the uppermost of said ball seats or into said ball exit opening; and means including an electromag-

netic device actuated by a ball passing through said exit opening to dislodge a ball from the uppermost of said ball seats so that the thus dislodged ball may gravitate over said playing board into another of said ball seats of higher scoring value than the said ball seat from which it is thus dislodged.

2. In a game apparatus, the combination of: a member providing an inclined ball playing surface; said playing surface being provided with a ball seat and said member having a ball exit opening extending vertically therethrough; means for propelling balls one at a time onto the upper portion of said playing surface so that they may gravitate thereover and enter said ball seat or pass downwardly through said ball exit opening; an inclined ball runway below said playing surface and having communication with said ball exit opening for returning a ball from said exit opening to a point adjacent said propelling means; and means actuated by a ball passing downwardly through said exit opening into said runway to dislodge a ball vertically upwardly from said ball seat onto said playing surface so that the said ball thus dislodged from said ball seat may continue to gravitate over said playing surface.

3. A game apparatus of the class described embodying an inclined deck; means for impelling balls onto said deck; a plurality of tracks inclined from the horizontal on said deck and adapted to deliver impelled balls into pockets in said deck; means for retaining balls at the upper ends of said tracks; and means operatively associated with a hole in said deck and spaced away from said tracks and operated by the weight of a single ball passing thru said hole for lifting a plurality of balls simultaneously onto said tracks.

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