Aug. 27, 1935. J. W. ORCUTT ET AL 2,012,518

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Dec. 5, 1934

Fig. 1.

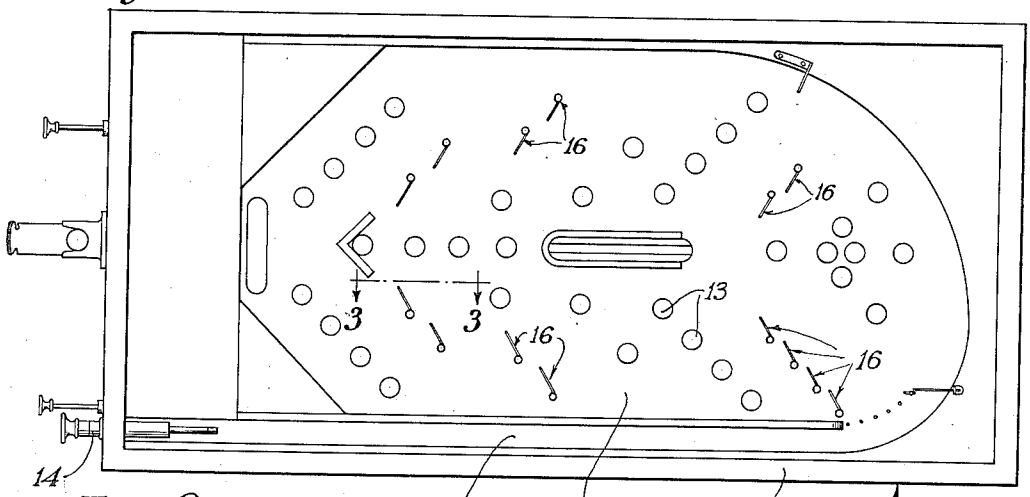


Fig. 2.

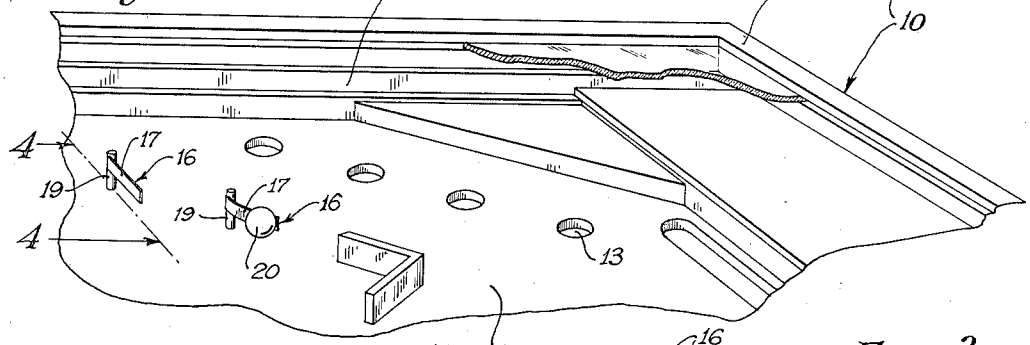


Fig. 4.

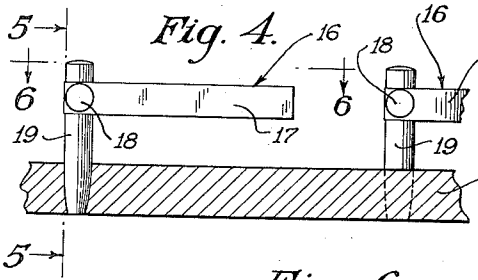


Fig. 3.

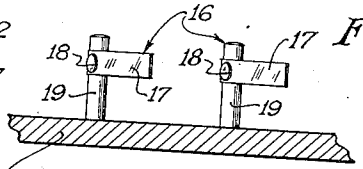


Fig. 6.

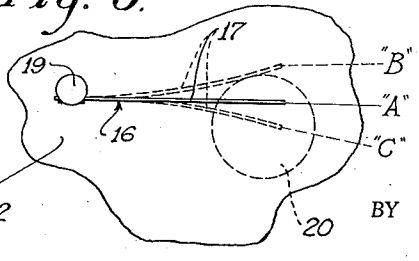
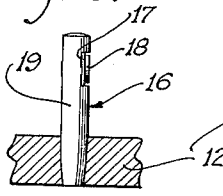


Fig. 5.



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2,012,518

GAME APPARATUS

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Application December 5, 1934, Serial No. 756,012

1 Claim. (Cl. 273—121)

This invention relates to a game apparatus.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved game apparatus which is relatively simple and inexpensive in construction and efficient in use.

Another object of the present invention is to provide in a game apparatus of the so-called pin and marble game type the combination of: a cabinet including an inclined playing board having ball exit openings or scoring openings; means for propelling balls onto the upper portion of the said inclined playing board so that they may gravitate thereover and enter into the said ball exit openings; and means in the form of a bank or group of resilient rebound "flags" or spring members arranged at various preselected points upon said playing surface in the path of spent balls gravitating thereover so that the spent balls may engage said rebound "flags" and be repropelled by the latter toward the upper end thereof so that they may again gravitate thereover and enter into said ball exit or scoring openings.

Other objects will appear hereinafter.

The invention consists in the novel combination and arrangement of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will best be understood by reference to the accompanying drawing, showing the preferred form of construction and in which:

Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a game apparatus embodying a preferred form and arrangement of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary perspective view of the game apparatus shown in Fig. 1 illustrating a preferred form of the new rebound "flags" or springs;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 in Fig. 1 illustrating a preferred form of the new rebound "flags" or springs.

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view of a preferred form of the new rebound or repropelling springs, taken on line 4—4 in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 in Fig. 4; and

Fig. 6 is a top plan view on line 6—6 in Fig. 4.

The present invention is associated with a game apparatus of the so-called pin and marble game, shown in the drawing, and generally indicated therein at 10; said apparatus comprising a cabinet 11 including an inclined playing board 12 having ball exit or scoring openings 13 formed therein.

A propelling device in the form of a plunger 14 is arranged in the cabinet 11 and balls are propelled by the same, one at a time, up the ramp 15, onto the upper area of the inclined playing surface 12 so that they may gravitate thereover and enter into the ball exit or scoring openings 13.

Various devices have heretofore been designed, in conjunction with pin and marble games, for repropelling or reprojecting spent balls upwardly over the inclined playing surface toward the upper end thereof so that they may again gravitate over the inclined playing surface and enter into the ball exit or scoring openings. Among such devices which have heretofore been proposed are electrically operated devices arranged on the playing surface adjacent the lower end thereof and actuated by a played ball passing through an exit opening in the playing surface, or otherwise, into engagement with a circuit-closing device so as to energize an electromagnetic circuit and thereby actuate the said reprojecting device so as to repropel or reproject a ball up onto the upper portion of the inclined playing surface so that it may again gravitate over the playing surface 12 and enter into the ball exit or scoring openings 13.

The present invention provides, at various strategic points on the inclined playing surface 12, ball-reprojecting devices, generally indicated at 16.

Each of the reprojecting devices 16 comprises a resilient flat spring 17, these springs 17 extending in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of the inclined playing board 12. Each of these rebound or reprojecting springs 17 has one end portion relatively free and has its other end portion attached, as at 18, to an upright post 19, the posts 19 being arranged upon the inclined playing board 12 and supporting the reprojecting springs 17 above the playing surface of the inclined playing board 12.

Operation

Balls are propelled or projected, one at a time, onto the upper portion of the inclined playing board 12, by means of the propelling device 14, and gravitate thereover so that they may enter into the ball exit or scoring openings 13. However, the balls 20 which engage the reprojecting springs 17, as they roll down the inclined playing surface 12, will bend the springs 17 from their normal position "A" (Fig. 6) into position "B", thus tensioning or energizing the springs whereupon the springs thus energized or tensioned by the impact of the balls 20 will rebound into position "C" (Fig. 6) and in so doing will reproject the balls 20 upwardly over the inclined playing surface 12 toward the upper end thereof so that

the thus reprojected balls may again gravitate over the playing surface 12 and possibly enter into the ball exit or scoring openings 13; whereupon the springs 17 then return, by their own innate resiliency, back into their initial positions (position "A", Fig. 6).

In the foregoing manner, played balls are reprojected over the inclined playing surface of the game apparatus without the use of the relatively expensive and complicated electro-magnetic or other reprojecting devices heretofore used in the art.

Moreover, the rebound springs or flags 16—17 embodied in the present invention add a large measure of so-called "player appeal" and suspense to the game apparatus with which they are used and they possess these elements in a greater degree than the prior art games which employ electromagnetic devices for reprojecting the spent balls upwardly over the inclined playing surface because of the fact that the action of these electromagnetic devices being very rapid, causes the balls to be reprojected up the inclined playing surface so rapidly that the movement of the thus reprojected balls possesses little, if any, of the element of suspense to the player, likewise, the action of the rebound springs 16—17 being relatively slow causes the balls reprojected thereby to travel up the inclined playing surface 12 relatively slow so that the desirable element of suspense to the player is added to a game apparatus embodying the present invention.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying our invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification, without departing from the spirit of the invention. We, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail ourselves of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claim.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

In a game apparatus a cabinet including an inclined playing board having ball exit openings formed therein; means for propelling balls one at a time onto the upper portion of said inclined playing board so that they may gravitate thereover and enter into said openings; and means arranged upon said inclined playing board for reprojecting played or spent balls over said inclined playing board toward the upper end thereof so that the thus reprojected balls may again gravitate over said inclined playing board and enter into said exit openings; said reprojecting means including a plurality of upright posts or supporting members arranged at preselected points upon said inclined playing board and projecting vertically upwardly therefrom; each of said posts having a notched portion formed therein providing a relatively flat face; and an innately resilient flat metal "flag" or strip attached to each of said posts or supporting members; each of said "flags" or strips having a portion disposed in the said notched portion of the corresponding one of said posts against the said relatively flat face formed thereby and including a portion projecting substantially horizontally over said inclined playing board above the latter so as to be engaged by balls gravitating thereover; and a fastening member extending through the said first-named portion of each of said flat strips and the notched portion of the corresponding post.

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