Aug. 29, 1933. S. WEISS 1,925,018

GAME BOARD

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Fig. 1

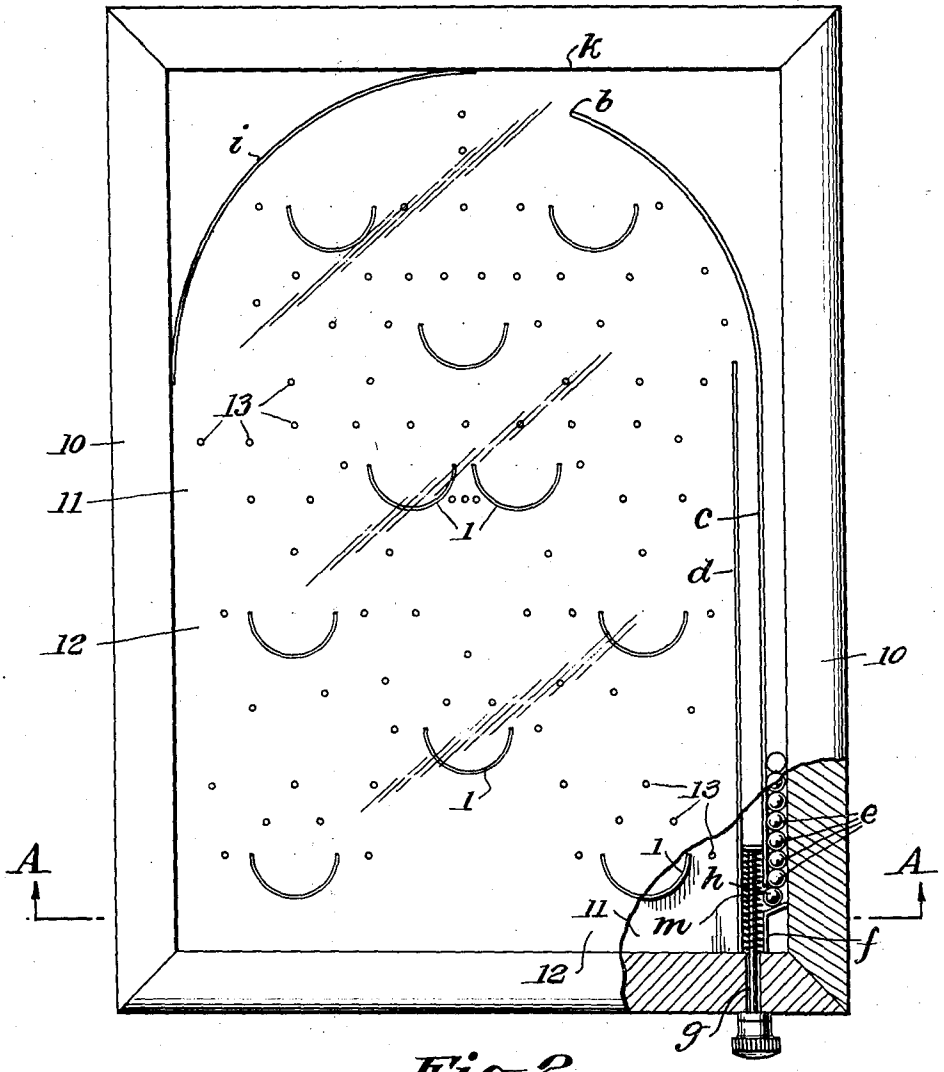

Fig. 2

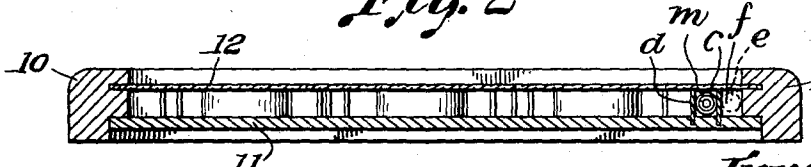

Fig. 7

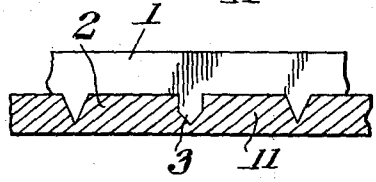

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Fig. 3

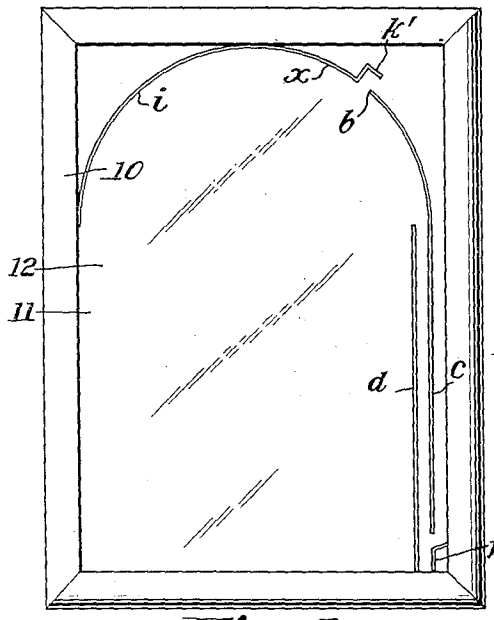


Fig. 4

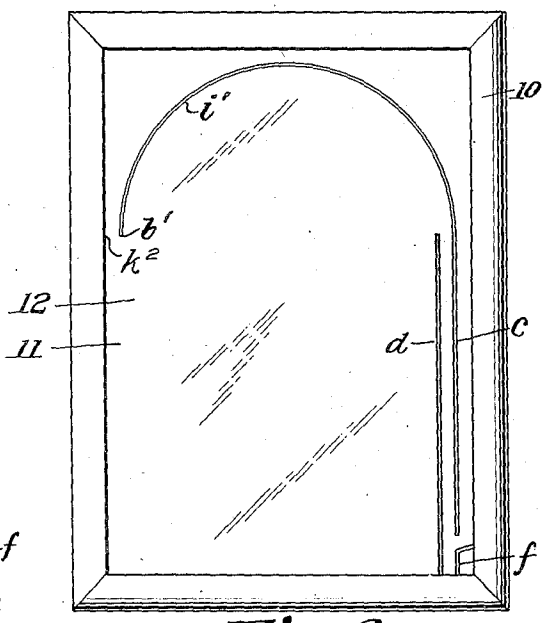


Fig. 5

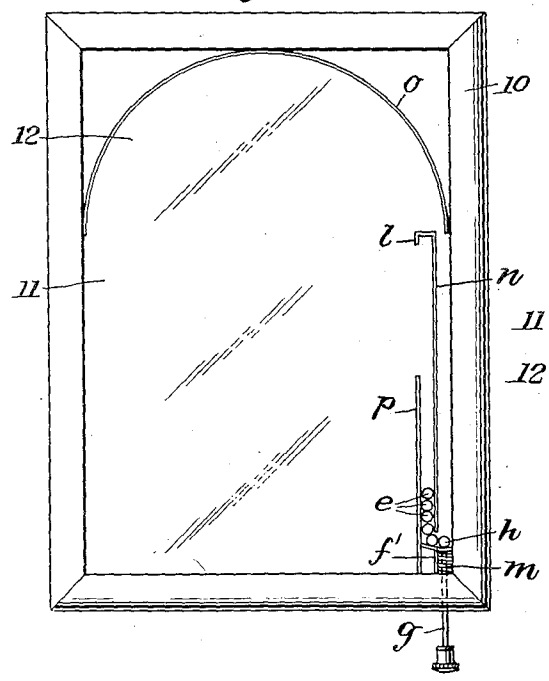
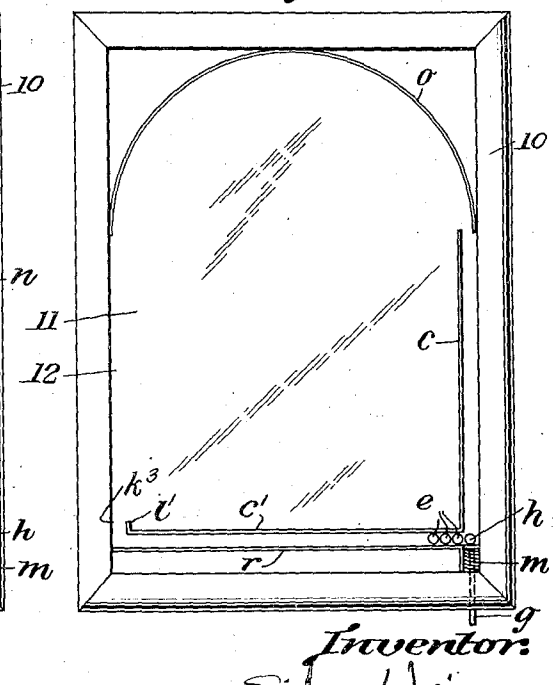


Fig. 6



Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,925,018

GAME BOARD

Sidney Weiss, St. Louis, Mo.

Application September 6, 1932. Serial No. 631,929

6 Claims. (Cl. 273—121)

The present invention relates to a game board of the type in which a number of balls or counters are ejected by a plunger or the like on to a field or surface provided with pins, obstructions, pockets and the like suitably positioned and designated for scoring, and has for an object to provide means for returning the balls or counters to the starting point and automatically feeding one ball at a time into position for ejectment.

Another object is to provide a game board of this character wherein the ejector, the playing surface and the ball return means are disposed substantially in a single plane so that all of the devices or parts used may be mounted upon a single flat surface, providing a complete and compact unit capable of economical production, which is light in weight and which will withstand hard usage particularly in handling and transportation, and which has practically no parts to get out of order.

A further object of the invention is to provide a game board of this type having an ejecting plunger, and provided with a transparent cover extending over the entire board to confine the balls thereon at all times and admit the visual inspection of the plunger itself in all positions to gauge the retraction thereof in making a play, and to visually follow the course of the balls during ejectment, while passing over the playing surface and also during the return of the balls to starting and ejecting positions.

Another object of the invention is to provide a game board embodying all of the above features and wherein the balls may be returned to starting position by merely tilting the board after play of the balls and without the operation or use of any movable or separate parts and without requiring the balls to be raised or lowered from the single plane or surface of the board.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

In the drawings, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts through the several views,

Figure 1 is a plan view of the game board with parts shown in section.

Figure 2 is a transverse section through the same substantially on the line A—A of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a plan view of a slightly modified form of the game board with the plunger and its spring and the pockets and pins removed.

Figure 4 is a like view of another modification.

Figure 5 is a similar view of a further modified form with the plunger and spring in position.

Figure 6 is a like view showing a still further modified form of the invention, and

Figure 7 is a fragmentary sectional view of the board, showing the mounting of the ball guides or tracks thereon.

Referring now to the drawings, and first to Figures 1, 2 and 7, 10 designates an enclosing marginal frame which may be of any suitable material and of any desired shape, such as rectangular as shown. Secured to the bottom of the frame 10 is a surface board 11 of any suitable construction providing a flat surface in a single plane extending throughout the frame and providing a bottom for the device. The inner edge of the frame 10 may be flat to provide an inner marginal wall for the playing surface 11, and the frame 10 carries a top panel 12 of glass or other suitable transparent material which is spaced above the surface 11 to provide a free playing space for balls or the like as will hereinafter appear.

The front end of the board is placed adjacent the player and the balls or counters are projected preferably from the front right hand corner as shown. A guide or track *c*, which may comprise a strip of metal of suitable length, rises from the surface 11 and lies in parallel relation to the tight side of the frame 10. The front end of the guide *c* is spaced from the forward corner of the frame to accommodate a deflector strip *f* which extends in the said space and has its rear end bent at an obtuse angle toward the side of the frame 10 to provide a ball deflecting shoulder and a passage for a ball between the adjacent ends of the strips *c* and *f*.

The rear end of the guide strip *c* is curved or rounded away from the rear right corner of the board and terminates at *b* in spaced relation to the rear end of the frame 10 at the point *k* to provide therebetween a ball return passage which leads to the space between the side of the frame 10 and the strip *c* providing a magazine for balls *e*. The shoulder of the strip *f* constitutes the bottom of the magazine and supports the lowest ball *h* ready to drop into the ejecter.

The rear left corner of the board may be provided with a curved guide *i* so disposed as to constitute a substantial continuation of the curved rear end of the guide *c*, the strip *i* terminating short of the point *k* of the frame 10 and lying at its end flat against the frame to direct returning balls into the return passage behind the strip *c*. The strip *c* provides a ball projecting guide, the passage of the guide being defined be-

tween the strip c and a strip *d* which is in spaced parallel relation thereto. The strip *d* terminates at its rear end at substantially the commencement of the curvature of the rear end of the strip *c* and extends forwardly to the front end of the frame 10.

A plunger *g* is mounted in the ejecting space between the strip *d* on one side and the strips *c* and *f* on the other side. The plunger *g* has its stem slidably through the front of the frame 10 and has a spring *m* about the stem between the head of the plunger and the front of the frame 10. The spring *m* is of suitable size to hold the bottom ball *h* from falling behind the plunger when projected as shown in Figure 1.

The surface or bottom 11 of the board is provided with any suitable number of pockets 1 which may be curved, strips of metal having prongs 3 penetrating the upper portion 2 of the bottom 11 as shown in Figure 7. Pins 13 or other obstructions may be mounted on the surface 11 about and between the pockets 1.

In playing, the rear end of the game board is slightly elevated to cause the balls *e* to roll forwardly in the magazine and rest on the shoulder of the strip *f*. The player may observe through the top panel 12 the positions of the balls. Watching the plunger *g*, the player retracts the same until the plunger passes the shoulder of the strip *f* whereupon the bottom ball *h* rolls into the ejecting passage in the path of the plunger. The plunger is now properly tensioned as skill dictates and the player releases the same. The ball is ejected against the guide *c* and deflected thereby onto the outer playing surface. If sufficient force is exerted by the plunger, the ball will strike the left rear guide strip *i* and will be directed forwardly toward the pin 13 and the pocket 1. The pockets may of course be given any suitable designations to admit of keeping a score. After the balls *e* leave the ball projecting guide *c* they advance, by either or both of the forms of projection and gravity, against and between the pins and into the pockets 1 when conditions are favorable. After the balls have been played, the game board is raised at its front end and the balls then gravitate toward the rear and are guided by the track or strip *i* through the space *k*—*b* and behind the guide *c*. By tilting the board forwardly again the balls *e* are caused to roll into the magazine adjacent the plunger and in the starting position.

In the modification shown in Figure 3, the board structure is the same as in Figure 1 with the exception that the curved guide *i* has an extension *x* which is curved on a common radius with the guides *i* and *c* and which may be a separate strip from the guide *i* as shown. The extension guide *x* has an offset portion *k'* providing a passage between the offset and the end *b* of the guide *c* through which the balls *e* may pass when being returned to the magazine.

In the modified form shown in Figure 4, the guide strip *i'* comprises a curved continuation of the guide strip *c* and terminates beyond the left corner of the board at *b'* in spaced relation to the adjacent marginal point k^2 of the frame 10. In the form shown in Figure 5 guide strip *n* is spaced along the right side of the frame 10 and terminates at its rear end opposite the end of the curved guide *o* and has thereat an outwardly turned flange *l* forming an abutment to prevent returning balls *e* from passing into the ejecting passage which, in the present form, lies adjacent to the side of the frame 10. The strip *n* is spaced at its forward end from the frame to accommodate the shoulder strip *f'* reversely disposed from the structure of Figure 1 to accommodate the reversal of the ejecting and return passages. The inner guide strip *p* is short and extends from the front of the frame 10 to a point intermediate the ends of the strip *n* and provides a return space for balls between the rear end of the strip *p* and the flange *l*.

The ball magazine lies between the strips *n* and *p*, and the balls *e* may first be rolled forwardly on the playing surface 11 and then toward the end of the guide *p* by tilting the board to gravitate the balls to the starting position.

Figure 6 shows a further modification wherein the frame 10 has a false front bar *r* extending in parallel relation to the front of the frame and spaced therefrom, the bar abutting the left side of the frame and having an inturned leg or spacer at its other end disposed in line with the guide strip *c*. The plunger *g* with its spring *m* is adapted to move in the space provided by the inturned leg of the bar *r*. The guide strip *c* has an angular extension *c'* at its forward end which extends parallel to and in spaced relation from the bar *r* to provide a magazine for the balls *e* and a return passage leading from the left front corner of the board. The guide extension *c'* is spaced from the adjacent point k^3 of the frame and has a guard shoulder *l'* to hold projected balls from entering the magazine until the play is completed.

In all forms of the invention the movements and operations of the balls and the plunger may be at all times kept under observation, and the balls cannot be projected from the board. By holding the board in the hands, the balls may be easily returned from the playing surface 11, pockets 1 and pins 13 to the magazine by tilting the board in the right directions.

I claim:

1. A ball game comprising a playing surface bounded by side walls, a ball projecting guide adjacent but spaced from one boundary wall of the surface, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the guide, said guide having a curved wall terminating short of the end of the surface opposite the plunger, said curved wall and the adjacent boundary wall of the surface forming a passage for the return of played balls to a magazine adjacent the plunger.

2. A ball game comprising a playing surface bounded by side walls, a ball projecting guide adjacent but spaced from one boundary wall of the surface, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the guide, said guide having a wall terminating short of the end of the surface opposite the plunger, said wall and the adjacent boundary wall of the surface forming a passage for the return of played balls to a magazine adjacent the plunger.

3. A ball game comprising a wholly enclosed playing surface mounted between two panels, at least one of which is transparent and bounded by side walls, and having a ball projecting guide adjacent but spaced from one boundary wall of the surface, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the guide, said guide having a wall terminating short of the end of the surface opposite the plunger, said wall and the adjacent boundary wall of the surface forming a passage for the return of played balls to a magazine adjacent the plunger.

4. A ball game comprising a playing surface bounded by side walls, a ball projecting guide

having side walls approximately parallel to one of the boundary walls of the playing surface, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the guide and an opening in one of the guide walls communicating with a ball return guide which is also a magazine to hold the balls until they pass through said opening into the ball projecting guide in front of the ball projecting plunger, one wall of said ball return guide terminating short of one of the boundaries of the playing surface forming a passage for the return of played balls to the magazine.

5. A ball game comprising a wholly enclosed playing surface mounted between two panels, at least one of which is transparent and bounded by side walls and having a ball projecting guide having side walls approximately parallel to one of the boundary walls of the playing surface, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the guide and an opening in one of the guide walls communicating with a ball return guide which is also a magazine to hold the balls until they pass through said opening into the ball projecting guide in front of the ball projecting plunger, one wall of said ball return guide terminating short of one of the boundaries of the playing surface forming a passage for the return of played balls to the magazine.

6. A ball game comprising a board bounded by side walls, and having a playing surface with ball receiving pockets thereon, a ball projecting chute on said board adjacent to but spaced from one boundary wall thereof, the space between the chute and the adjacent boundary wall constituting a ball magazine, a ball projecting plunger mounted in one end of the chute, said magazine having a ball exit opening leading to the chute at a point adjacent the plunger, said board having a curved guide wall beyond the other end of said chute to deflect balls projected out of said chute onto said playing surface, said curved guide wall having an opening therethrough affording a passageway through which played balls may be returned from the playing surface to said magazine upon tilting said board.

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