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 GAME APPARATUS.
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1,217,908.

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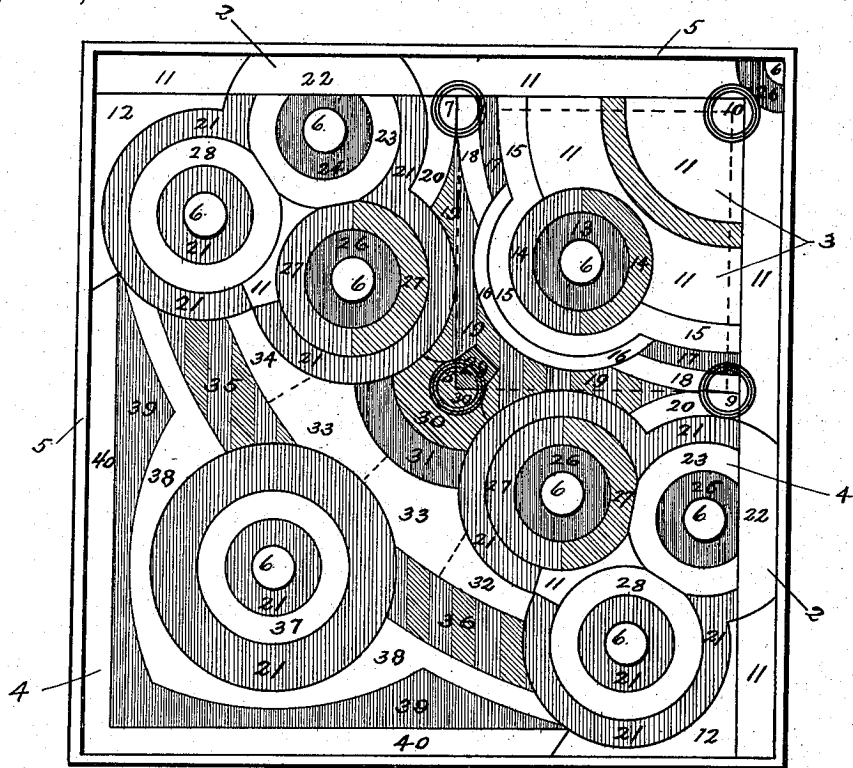


FIG. 1.

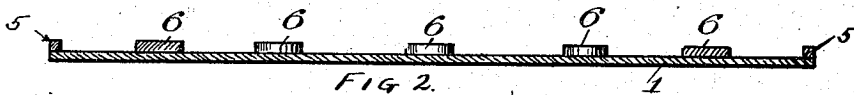


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3. FIG. 4. FIG. 5. FIG. 6.

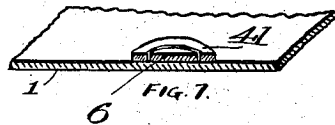


FIG. 7.

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GAME APPARATUS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES B. BREWER and HARVEY E. HANES, citizens of the United States, residing at Hyattsville, Prince Georges county, Maryland, and Herndon, in the county of Fairfax and State of Virginia, respectively, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to game apparatus and includes the predominating characteristics of the game of baseball.

The object of the invention is to provide an inexpensive gameboard of the class specified, the same being lined or marked off to represent defined and designated areas or zones contiguous to positions corresponding to the bases, home-plate and field-players, etc., of the regular outdoor game of baseball. In addition, there are upstanding pieces or elements secured to the board at the bases, etc. In the aforementioned zones or areas, appropriate legends or designations are printed or otherwise impressed thereon to indicate the plays of the players or advances of a runner or runners. The action of the game is progressed and controlled by a movable piece, in the form of a ball, disk, or the like, which is snapped, flipped or otherwise set into motion with the finger from the home-plate toward the outfield.

A further object is to reproduce, so far as practicable, the various features of the game of baseball; and, to this end, the positions of the aforementioned upstanding pieces or elements are so predetermined and said pieces are so dimensioned that the movement and positioning of said movable pieces in relation to the spaces and areas bring into play a high degree of skill and judgment. However, the relative arrangement of the components of the gameboard is such that the element of chance and uncertainty enters into the game similarly as in the regular game of baseball.

The invention, in one aspect, resides in the board itself, marked off and bearing appropriate designations and legends, as aforementioned, the similarly marked spaces having different meanings, that is, some of them indicate the earned position to which both the batter and any runner then on base may

be entitled and, also, the play of the fielder, whether he has made an "assist", a "put-out", an "error", etc.; and also in the character and relative position and varying values of the upstanding pieces mounted thereon, and, in addition, in the novel forms of player-components; furthermore, in certain novel features of construction and aggroupment of parts, all as hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification and in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, we have exemplified an embodiment of our invention. It is, however, obvious and we wish it understood, that we do not limit ourselves to this particular embodiment, since others may be developed by a modification of that herein disclosed and yet be within the spirit of our invention and, also, within the scope of the appended claims.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in plan of a gameboard constructed in accordance with certain features of our invention;

Fig. 2 is a view in vertical section, on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6 illustrate various forms of movable elements utilized in playing the game; and

Fig. 7 shows an annular element also utilized in playing the game.

It is to be understood that the game may be played by any number of persons; but, generally, two would play it.

As here exemplified, the gameboard,—designated generally by the reference-numeral 1—is arranged to represent the defensive side or "nine", while the movable pieces—designated 2—represent the ball and the offensive side or "nine". There are, generally, nine of these movable pieces, representing regular players, in successive or simultaneous action—according to the development of the game—and one or more additional pieces to represent substitute players, which are on the offensive part of the time and on the defensive at other times.

The board is lined or otherwise marked off and, in some instances, colored, to represent a diamond 3 and outfield 4. These are embraced as an inclosed "field" by strips 5 secured to the board and constituting a

rebounding edge. These strips not only constitute guards but serve also as rebounding surfaces which become important features in the skilful playing of the game.

5 On the surface of the board and at pre-determined positions in reference to the "position"-areas of the diamond and outfield, upstanding pieces 6 are mounted. These are preferably made of wood; they are of a definite number; and they are disposed in a particular relative arrangement. They represent the defensive players in the field, and the "ball" 2 may be caused to pass between any two or more of them or to impinge against and rebound from their peripheries and, thus, be deflected at varying angles so that they will eventually reach preferred and desirable positions.

20 The laying off of the board is such that there is represented a first-base 7, a second-base 8, a third-base 9, and "home-plate" 10, and these respectively represent "positions" earned by the "batter"—that is, the movable piece which is then in action—so that, if it reaches first-base, it becomes a "runner".

25 Preferably and as shown, the "position"-zones, areas, etc., laid out on the board indicate the positions attained by the "batter", the movements of the "runner" or "runners", and the efficiency of a "fielder". As already explained, these zones or areas bear arbitrarily-selected but descriptive legends and, for the most part the respective "position"-zones and areas, as represented in the accompanying drawings, are "Strike" or "Foul strike", marked 11; a "Ball", marked 12; "Batter out—double play if second base is occupied", marked 13; "Sacrifice—batter out—leading runner advances one base", marked 14; "One base hit—all runners advance one base", 15; "Struck by pitched ball" 16; "Strike—leading runner out", 17; "Strike—leading runner advances one base", 18; "One base hit—but leading runner out", 19; "One base hit—all runners advance", 20; "Batter flied out", 21; "Passed ball", 22; "One base hit for batter—runners advance only if forced—error for fielder", 23; "Batter out—double play if 1st base occupied", 24; "Batter out—double play if 3rd base occupied", 25; "Batter out—double play if any base occupied", 26; "Two base hit—but leading runner out—error for fielder", 27; "Two bases for batter—one base for runner unless forced—error for fielder", 28; "Balk", 29; "One base hit—all runners advance", 30; "Batter out—double play if one base occupied—triple play if 2 occupied", 31; "Ball if runner on 1st, steals 2nd and if 2nd not occupied", 32; "Ball, if runner on 2nd steals 3rd and if 3rd not occupied", 33; "Ball if runner on 3rd steals home", 34; "Batter flied out—runners advance one base, except from 1st base", 35; "Batter flied out—runner if on 3rd scores", 36; "Three base hit—

error for fielder", 37; "Three base hit", 38; "Batter out", 39; "Home run", 40.

The position-zones and areas are so disposed relatively as to place a premium on the skill, judgment and foresight of a player of the game. As will be noted, some of the "position"-areas or zones are accorded more than one significance and this is for the purpose of developing "team-work", so called, and indicate to the player then "at bat", that it is incumbent upon him to note whether there is then a "runner" on any of the bases and, if so, on which particular base, so that he may seek to attain a high degree of efficiency in the game just as team-work in the matter of the regular game is necessary in a well-trained club in the regular game.

As particularly shown in Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6, there may be different sizes and shapes of movable pieces representing the "batters", so that a difference in the capacity of the different players is simulated. This difference in the size of the "batters"—which when flipped immediately assumes the rôle of a "ball"—provides for an increased or decreased value according to whether it is large or small; and, thus, its ability to pass between the proximate upstanding pieces is correspondingly increased or diminished. Furthermore, the size of a piece determines its capability to remain close to the border-strip to be counted as in a preferred space, such as the "home run"-area 40, for instance. Moreover, the capacity of the various defensive players is augmented or reduced by the difference in the danger-zones or circles drawn around such player, and their different significations.

Another feature of the game is the provision of an encircling ring 41 adapted to be used as a substitute player of different size from one or more of those on the board in order to increase or diminish the obstructions to the "ball." This can be accomplished by providing additional disks or other shaped pieces of different size to bodily take the place of the regular ones or, preferably, by making the regular players of a minimum size and providing the ring 41 for encompassing any particular player or players and thus increasing the size of the player. Where the ring 41 encircles a player in the field, it increases the extent of obstruction that is ordinarily presented by the encircled player. The ring represents "a substitute player." Two of these enlarged rings would ordinarily be provided in order that each side may have its own "substitute player" to place in position, when desired, while the one for the opposing side takes his turn at the bat. This provides a ready means of "taking the pitcher out" if the game is going too much against one side or the other. A "better pitcher" is put in the pitcher's "box," for instance and as

shown in Fig. 7, by adding the ring 41 to that already in place, in order to further obstruct the passage of the "ball" to the preferred positions on the board.

5 The ring just referred to as a "better pitcher" because of its greater diameter, is for the same reason, when used on the offensive side, a poorer "batter," because, while of greater size, its easy passage between the fixed offensive players is interfered with and
10 entirely prevents its reaching some of the preferred positions. If used defensively in the field, it must subsequently be used defensively at the bat in the inning which follows. This provides a means for penalizing
15 its use and cautions one who plays the same to defer, until a late inning, using it defensively to the disadvantage of his opponent. A second ring of the same size is provided so that the opposing side may also
20 have at hand a "better pitcher" while its duplicate is "batting" or running bases. When the encircling ring is placed around the upstanding element, representing the
25 pitcher, it is a "substitute player," but more specifically a "substitute pitcher," and it is as a "substitute pitcher" that it is ordinarily used. When so placed, even though the ball does not come in contact with said ring, it
30 affects the pitcher by increasing the size of the zone which he protects and makes it more difficult to get the ball past the pitcher.

The actual play of the game is for a person representing one side (the offensive
35 side) to place the disk, or other object representing the batter, on the "home-plate" and flip the same with the finger toward the field, which thereupon becomes the "ball." The place, on which the disk lands, marks
40 the play to which the batter is entitled, whether for or against him. Spaces are also arranged and marked so that certain of these give action to the runner either favorable or unfavorable. Certain of them also denote
45 whether the outfielder has played well or poorly and whether his record is enhanced or has "errors" scored against him.

Each side at the bat, as in baseball, plays until three "outs" are scored against the side,
50 when the other side comes in and the same performance is carried out by it, and so on until the usual nine innings of the game have been played, or if tied in that inning,
55 until one or the other side reaches an increased score.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that we have devised an attractive and interesting game and one in which skill, judgment, quick perception of telling plays, etc., may
60 be highly developed by practice and observation. Moreover, the general scheme of the game is to simulate the ordinary plays and also, so far as possible, the critical stages and plays of the regular game.

65 Obviously, the gameboard is susceptible of

a wide range of modification, without a departure from the spirit and underlying principles of our invention; hence, it is to be understood that the particular embodiment
herein revealed is to be construed as merely 70 illustrative and not in any limiting sense.

What we claim is:

1. A game apparatus comprising a playing surface marked to indicate a base-ball
"field" divided into zones; spaced apart up- 75 standing elements disposed upon said playing surface; and means, adapted to be associated with said upstanding elements for varying the size of the zones.

2. A game apparatus comprising a play- 80 ing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones; spaced apart upstanding elements disposed upon said playing surface; and means, comprising mem- 85 bers adapted to be mounted on said upstanding elements, for varying the surface area of the zones.

3. A game apparatus comprising a play- 80 ing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones; spaced apart up- 90 standing elements disposed upon said playing surface; and means, comprising ring members having a rebounding surface and adapted to be mounted on said upstanding
95 elements to vary the space between said upstanding members and accessibility to said zones.

4. A game apparatus comprising a play- 100 ing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, and having a fixed point therein from which a movable playing-member may be projected into said zones; upstanding deflecting elements dis- 105 posed on said playing surface between said fixed point and certain of said zones; and means associated with said deflecting elements for varying the accessibility of said playing member to said zones.

5. A game apparatus comprising a play- 110 ing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, and having a fixed point therein from which a movable playing-member may be projected into said zones; upstanding deflecting elements dis- 115 posed on said playing surface between said fixed point and certain of said zones; and means associated with said deflecting elements for varying the accessibility of said playing member to said zones; and an up- 120 standing rebounding edge surrounding said playing surface and against which said playing member may impinge.

6. A game apparatus comprising a play- 125 ing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, and having a fixed point therein from which a movable playing-member may be projected into said zones; upstanding deflecting elements dis- 130 posed on said playing surface between said fixed point and certain of said zones; and

means comprising members adapted to be mounted on said deflecting elements for varying the accessibility of said playing member to said zones.

5 7. A game apparatus comprising a playing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, spaced apart up-
 10 standing elements disposed upon said playing surface; means adapted to be associated with said upstanding elements for varying the size of the zones; and a series of play-
 15 ing elements of relatively different dimensions adapted to be projected toward said zones.

8. A game device comprising a playing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, and having a home plate from which a playing member may be projected into said zones; said field being also marked to indicate playing positions of a pitcher, first, second and third baseman, shortstop, right, left and center fielder, respectively, said positions being disposed centrally with relation to certain of said zones, an upstanding deflecting element disposed on said playing surface in each playing position, an upstanding rebounding edge against which the slidable playing member may impinge, and means adapted to be associated with said deflecting elements for increasing and decreasing accessibility of the playing member into the zones when projected from the home plate.

9. A game device comprising a playing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones, and having a home plate from which a playing member may be projected into said zones; said field being also marked to indicate playing positions of a pitcher, first, second and third baseman, shortstop, right, left and center fielder, respectively, said positions being disposed centrally with relation to certain of said zones, an upstanding deflecting element disposed on said playing surface in each playing position, an upstanding rebounding edge against which the slidable playing member may impinge, and a member adapted to be placed upon a deflector element to increase the area of the playing

position and correspondingly decrease accessibility to a zone.

10. A game apparatus comprising a playing surface marked to represent a base-ball "field" divided into zones and having a "home-plate" from which a playing member may be projected toward said zones; said field being also marked to indicate playing positions of a pitcher, shortstop, first, second and third basemen, right, left, and center fielder, respectively; a plurality of said zones surrounding each playing position and bounded by lines representing the circumference of a circle having a center in common with the center of each playing position; certain other of said zones being bounded by circular lines having a center common with the center of the home plate; an upstanding deflecting element disposed on said playing surface centrally of each playing position; an upstanding rebound edge surrounding said field and against which the playing member may impinge; and members associable with said deflecting elements to increase the area of the playing positions and hinder accessibility of the playing member to the zones when projected from the home plate.

11. A game apparatus comprising a playing surface marked to indicate a base-ball "field" divided into zones and having a fixed point from which a series of movable playing members may be projected toward said zones, deflecting elements disposed in said playing surface between said fixed point and certain of said zones; means associated with said deflecting elements for varying the accessibility of said playing members to said zones, and a series of playing members of relatively different dimensions adapted to be projected toward said zones.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES B. BREWER.
 HARVEY E. HANES.

Witnesses:

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 EDMUND H. PARRY.