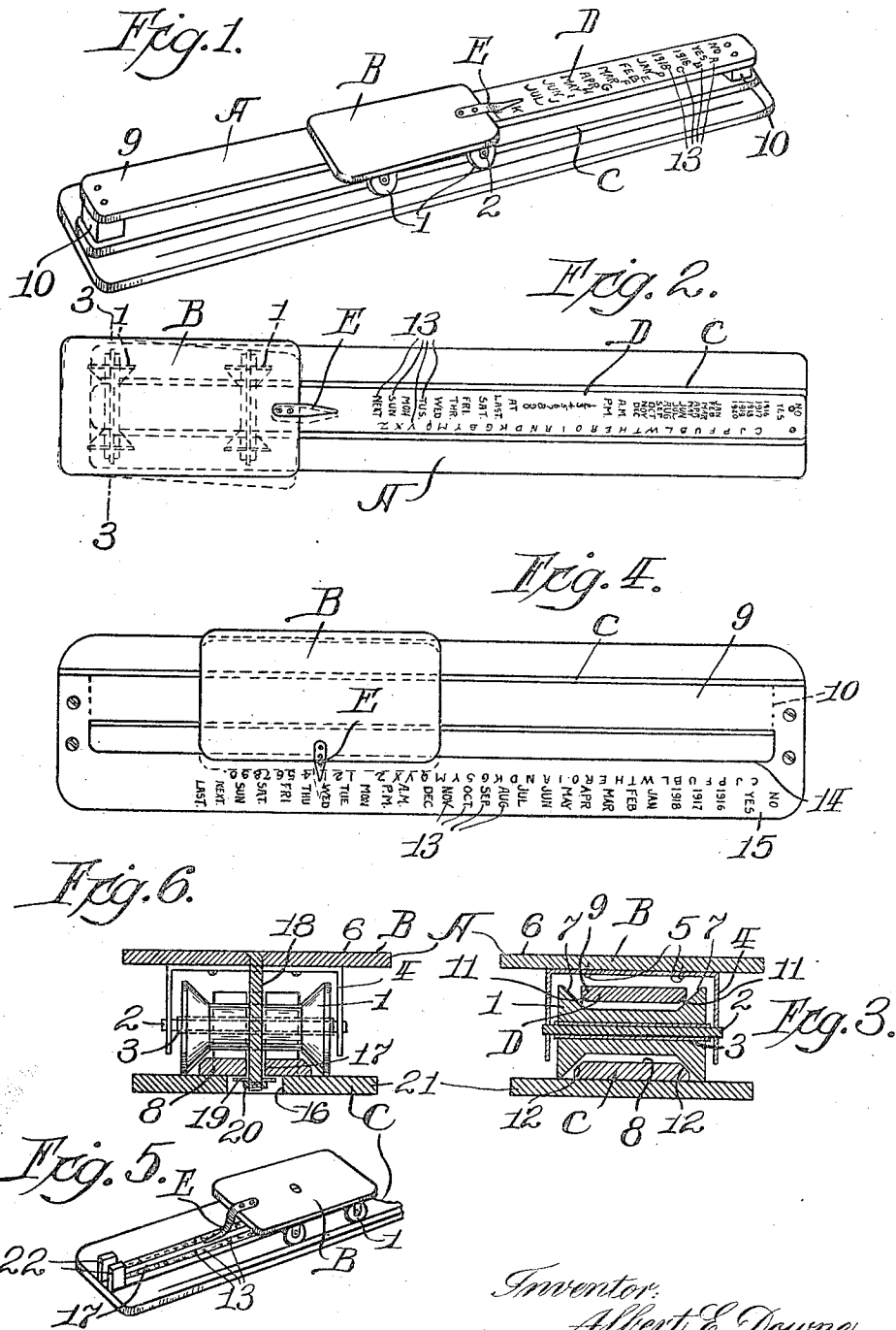


A. E. DOWNE.
 GAME DEVICE.
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 2, 1917.

1,280,424.

Patented Oct. 1, 1918.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 1, 1918.

Application filed May 2, 1917. Serial No. 166,060.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT E. DOWNE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Game Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvement in game devices that can be played by one or more persons and the primary object is in a device of simple construction where the parts are held together to prevent disengagement and loss of the same.

The primary object is in a device having a track upon which a table having wheels for carrying the same can be run back and forth freely, the table having an indicating finger which is adapted to point out characters which are printed in a convenient place on the device.

A further object of this invention is in slidably securing the reciprocating table or car to the track so as to prevent accidental disengagement. It is also an object to have the table freely mounted on the axles of the wheels which carry the same so that the table will move transversely slightly in relation to the track. This transverse movement can be either on one axle or both.

It is an object to use this game device to point out characters which would correspond with similar characters on a printed piece of paper and the characters on the printed paper having an answer or statement printed after the characters so that when the game device is used and a particular character is pointed out, by referring to this same character on the paper, the statement can be read by the party or parties operating the game device and thus affording a good deal of amusement for the operators.

In the drawing forming part of the specification:

Figure 1 is a perspective of the game device.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the game device. Fig. 3 is a cross section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a plan of an alternative form of construction.

Fig. 5 is a perspective of an alternative form of construction, part of the device being broken away.

Fig. 6 is a cross section through the cen-

ter of one of the wheels which carry the movable table illustrating the construction shown in Fig. 5.

In the drawing, A represents a game device having a reciprocating table B which is freely mounted upon a track C and is slidably held to the track by the longitudinal member D.

The movable table or car B is supported by means of wheels 1 which have a sleeve rigidly fixed therein and through which shafts 2 freely pass. The axle 2 is connected with the table by means of the brace 4 which is secured to the table top 6 by the screws 5 or in any other suitable manner. The table B is preferably carried by two wheels 1 which are positioned near each end of the same directly below the table top 6. The wheels 1 are preferably formed spool shaped, in cross section, and have tapering flanges 7 on either side. The flanges 7 being adapted to hold and guide the wheels and table on the track C.

The track C is formed with an elevated portion or guide strip 8 which is centrally disposed longitudinally on the track and is adapted to extend between the flanges 7 of the wheels 1, thus as the wheels revolve and the table moves back and forth on the track C, the track will hold the wheels against transverse motion on the same but will allow them to freely rotate over the surface of the track. A longitudinal bar 9 is secured to the track C on either end by means of the bolsters 10 and the bar 9 is adapted to extend between the wheels 1 and the table top 6 through the braces 4. The bar 9 has its lower edges beveled at 11 so as to conform in shape with the flanges 7, thus allowing the bar 9 to be placed in close proximity to the wheels 1 and to assist in tracking or holding the wheels against transverse movement on the track. The bar 9 prevents disengagement of the wheels 1 and the table B from the track C.

The portion 8 of the track C has beveled edges 12 against which the flanges 7 are adapted to engage to guide the wheels 1. An indicating finger E is rigidly secured to the table top 6 in any suitable manner and is adapted to point out characters 13 which are printed along the surface of the bar 9. The finger E is bent downward so as to travel close to the upper surface of the bar 9. The

characters 13 can be in the form of numbers, abbreviations, letters, words, dates, etc., as may be desired and one or more rows of characters can be placed along the bar 9.

- 5 Where two rows of characters are used, it is preferred to have the end of the table to which the finger is attached, loosely mounted so that the axle 2 can move transversely in the sleeve 3, thus allowing the finger E to point to either column of characters as is indicated in the dotted outline in Fig. 2. The limit of transverse motion of the table B is determined by the length of the sleeve 3 and the sleeve 3 is preferably rigidly fixed in any suitable manner in the wheels 1, while the axle 2 is fixed to the brace 4.

- In the alternative form illustrated in Fig. 4, the table holding bar 9 is formed with a longitudinal slot 14 and a projecting portion 15, the slot 14 allowing the wheels and one arm of the brace 4 to pass freely therein and to travel back and forth in the slot 14. In this construction, the bar 9 is held by bolsters in the same manner as in the preferred construction. The projecting portion 15 is adapted to carry the indicating characters 13 and the finger E being mounted on one side of the table instead of on the end, the axles 2 in the construction illustrated in Fig. 4 allowing the transverse motion as illustrated in dotted outline of the table B.

- In the construction illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, the track C is formed with a longitudinal slot 16 and the member 8 with a slot 17 extending in line with the slot 16 but being narrower. A bolt 18 passing through the center of the table B is adapted to extend vertically between the wheels 1 and through the slot 17, being slidably held in the slot 17 by means of the washer 19 and nut 20 which is threaded on the end of the bolt as illustrated in Fig. 6. The slot 16 forms a longitudinal recess for the washer 19 and nut 20 and the bolt 18 is short enough so as not to project outside of the lower portion of the slot 16, thus preventing the bolt from scraping any surface on which the track C is laid. It is obvious that the member 8 can be secured to the body portion 21 of the track C in any suitable manner, stops 22 being positioned at either end of the slot 17 so as to limit the movement of the table on the track C.

- In the construction illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6, the characters can be printed along the upper surface of the member 8 on either side of the slot 17 and the finger E bent so as to lie in close proximity to the member 8.

- In operation of the game device A, one or more persons can obtain a good deal of amusement by placing the finger tips lightly on the table and allowing the table to move automatically back and forth by the unconscious muscular contraction of the arms of the operators, thus the finger E pointing

out various characters 13, indicating dates, spelling words or giving direct answers.

The operation of the device A is simple and can be used by a child in learning the alphabet or for any other suitable amusement to which the device is adapted.

In the use of the device A, the car moves along automatically back and forth stopping at or pointing out abbreviations, letters, figures or words, answering questions of a humorous or serious character, thus furnishing amusement for the operators. It may also indicate or operate in conjunction with the mind in producing muscular or mental action without the exercise of the individual will, thus giving the device the character of a psychological instrument, demonstrating possibly psychological phenomena.

The game device can be used with a printed list of characters which are similar to the characters indicated on the device A and as one person operates the device A and points out the characters, another person can read the statements printed after similar characters on the printed sheet, thus affording a good deal of amusement to the operators. The printed sheet is of any desired construction or nature and the wording made to suit the occasion, the printed sheet not being illustrated in the drawing.

While I have illustrated a particular construction of device, I desire to have it understood that this is only illustrative and my invention can be carried out by other means and put to other uses within the scope of the following claims:—

1. In a game device having a movable table, wheels upon which said table is mounted, a track for said wheels, an indicating finger secured to said table and means passing between said table and track for slidably securing said table to said track to prevent said table from becoming disengaged from said track.

2. In a game device having reciprocating means for indicating characters which are printed on a track, said reciprocating means being adapted to reciprocate back and forth on said track and means in said reciprocating means allowing lateral movement of said reciprocating means to indicate characters in a double row, said characters being formed on said track.

3. In a device of the class described comprising, a track, a table having carrying wheels secured thereto, said table being adapted to reciprocate freely back and forth on said track, an indicating finger secured to said table, characters printed on said track and means extending below said table to slidably secure it to said track with its upper surface clear of any upwardly projecting elements, whereby the upper surface of said table can be engaged for the purposes specified.

4. In a device of the class described, comprising a reciprocating table mounted upon carrying wheels, a track upon which said wheels are adapted to run, means passing
5 between said table and said wheels being adapted to slidably secure said table to said track, characters printed on said holding means and an indicating finger secured to
10 said table for pointing out said characters as said table is reciprocated back and forth.
5. In a device of the class described comprising a reciprocating table mounted upon carrying wheels, a bearing sleeve rigidly fixed in each of said wheels, a shaft of a greater length than said bearing sleeve
15 adapted to extend freely through said sleeve and a brace or support secured to said table and fixed to the ends of said shaft, whereby said reciprocating table can move longitudinally and laterally for the purposes
20 specified.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."