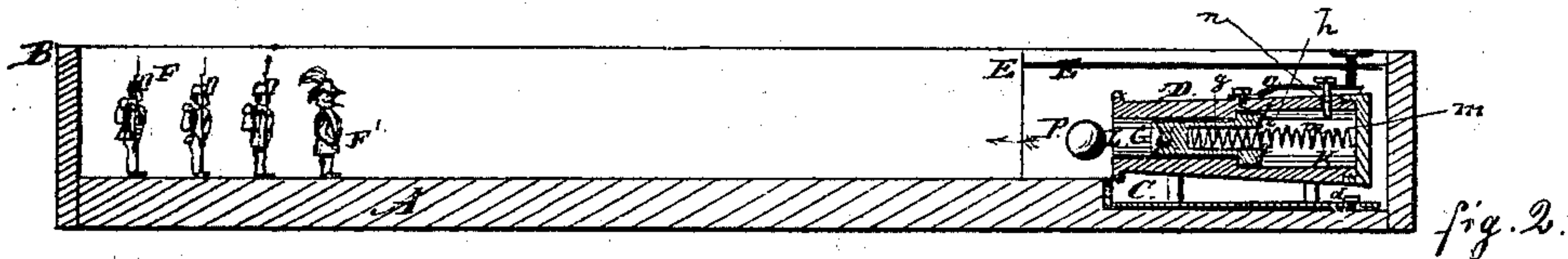
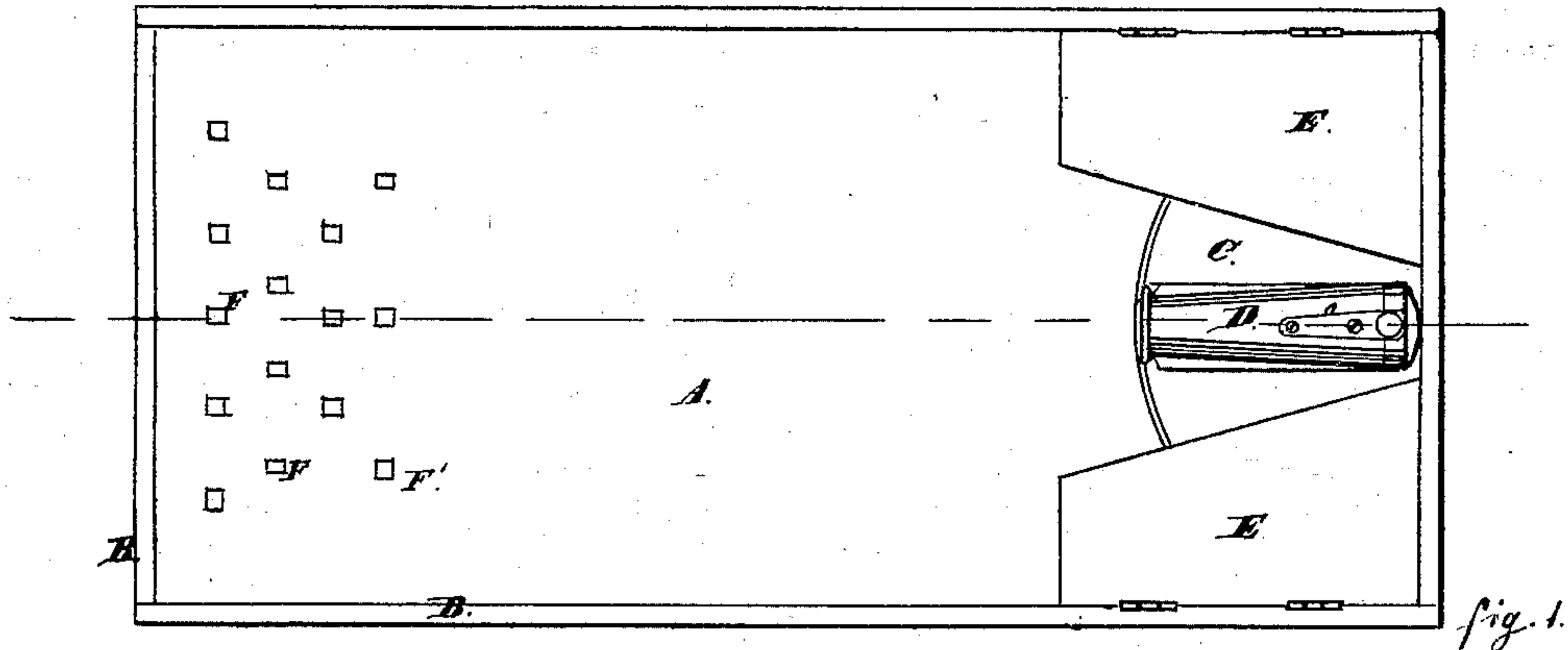


A. M. SMITH.  
Game Apparatus.

No. 135,494.

Patented Feb. 4, 1873.



Witnesses:

Henry L. Brown.  
Edgar A. Griffin

Inventor:

Amos M. Smith  
by Coburn & Munday  
his Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AMOS M. SMITH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## IMPROVEMENT IN GAME APPARATUS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 135,494, dated February 4, 1873.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, AMOS M. SMITH, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented an Improved Child's Game of Soldier-Billiards, of which the following is a specification:

### *Nature of the Invention.*

This invention relates to the apparatus for playing a child's game; and it consists of a table with guarded sides, upon which upright men are placed, which are to be knocked down by means of a rubber ball propelled from a spring-operated miniature cannon pivoted at one end of the board or table, the men being placed in position at the other end, all of which will hereinafter more fully appear.

In the accompanying drawing which forms a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a top or plan view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section of the same.

Like letters of reference made use of in the several figures indicate like parts.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same with particularity, making use in so doing of the aforesaid drawing by letters of reference thereto.

### *General Description.*

A level surface or table, A, is surrounded by a guard or cushion, B, inclined or beveled inward at the top the more effectually to prevent the ball from being thrown off in playing. At one end a depression, C, is made to contain the cannon D, and bring the bore on a level with the surface to discharge the ball truly without ricochet. This cannon is pivoted, by the pivot *d*, so as to swing horizontally to be directed toward any part of the board in front. At each side of this depressed portion C, which I term the "battery," are placed boxes E E to fill out the space and to contain the implements of the play. These boxes, to preserve a military nomenclature, I term "caissons."

The men F are placed erect at the other end of the table, in any appropriate array, and are made to represent soldiers of vari-

ous rank, accompanied by officers F', and the rules of the game may be such that the men, as they are knocked down, shall count in the game at different values, according to rank.

The cannon D contains a piston, G, prolonged to the rear in the shape of a tube, *g*, fitted at the rear with a collar, *h*, which plays in an enlargement or chamber, K, of the bore L. This tube *g* contains a spiral spring, *m*, which rests against the butt of the cannon. A detent or lock, *n*, passes from above through the breech of the cannon, and lies in the path of the collar as the piston is pressed back, slipping down in front of said collar by reason of its spring *o*, as said piston is pressed back in loading. For convenience in replacing these several parts the breech of the cannon is made removable, as shown. P is a rubber ball, made of solid rubber, and is loaded in the cannon by forcing it down the muzzle until the collar *g* is caught by the detent *n*.

To fire the cannon the detent *n* is raised, which releases the piston, which is forced suddenly out by the spring, projecting the ball in the direction aimed.

The elastic ball may be caused to strike the guard or sides before reaching the men, taking an "angle," as in billiards, which adds considerable interest to the game, and additional value may be given to such shots by the rules of the game, if desired.

The great advantage of making the ball of India rubber consists in the fact that, being elastic, it will not batter and injure the figures of soldiers, and can be made at a less expense than would be incurred in making an elastic cushion completely around the table. The value of each figure in the game should be marked upon it, as well as explained in printed instructions to players, which it is customary to give with such games.

The depression C may be dispensed with, provided the cannon, upon its under side, is cut away sufficiently to bring the bore nearly on a level with the surface of the table.

### *Claim.*

Having thus fully described the construc-



tion and operation of my invention, that which I deem new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The child's-game apparatus, consisting of a table with guarded sides, at one end of which is placed an imitation cannon, arranged to propel, by a spring contrivance, a ball of rubber against figures of soldiers and their

commanding officers placed at the other end of the table, and counted of different values according to their rank, substantially as specified.

AMOS M. SMITH.

Witnesses:

HEINR. F. BRUNS,  
JOHN W. MUNDAY.