

T. BIRCH.
GAME APPARATUS.

Patented Apr. 5, 1898.

Fig. 1.

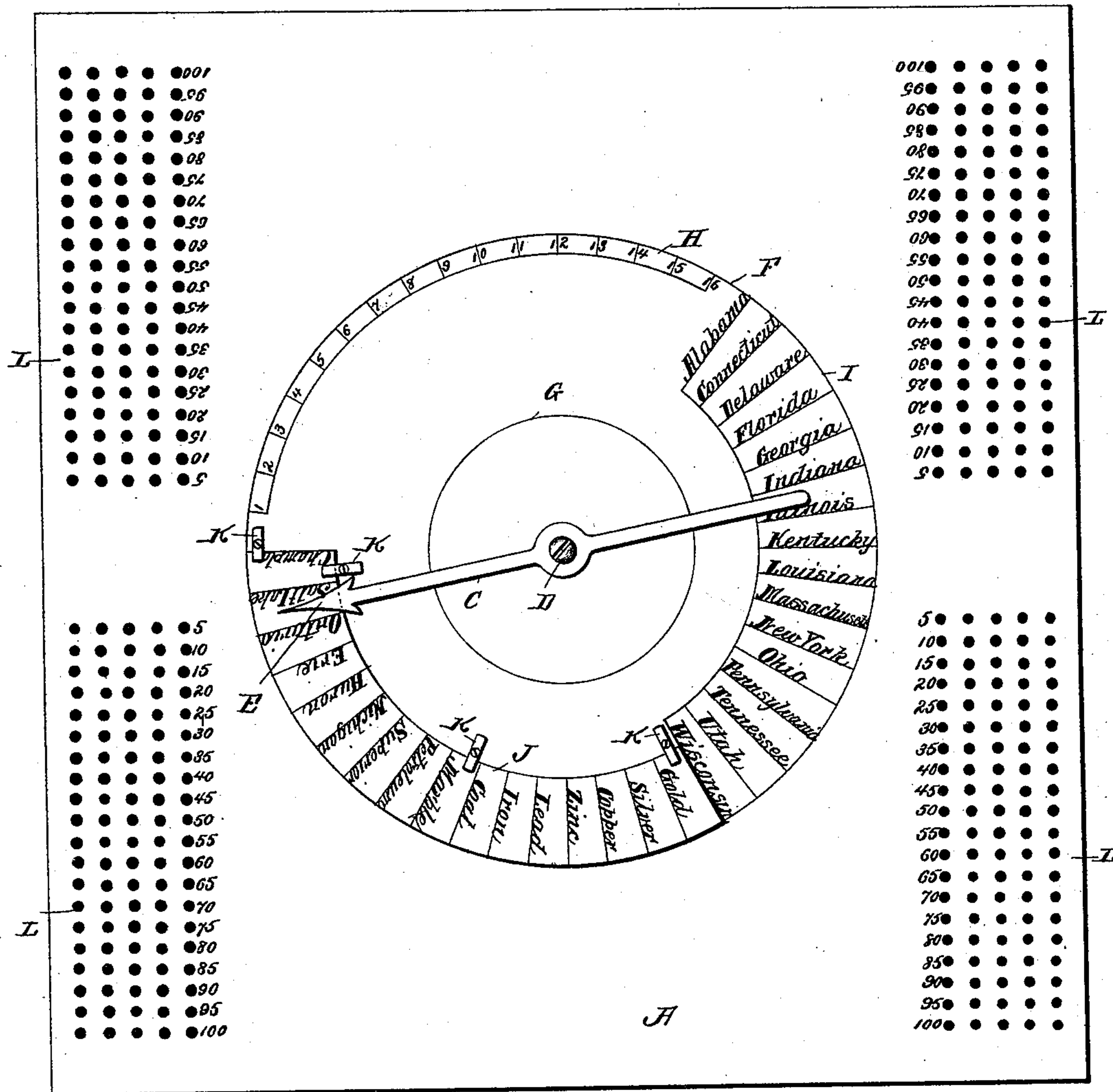
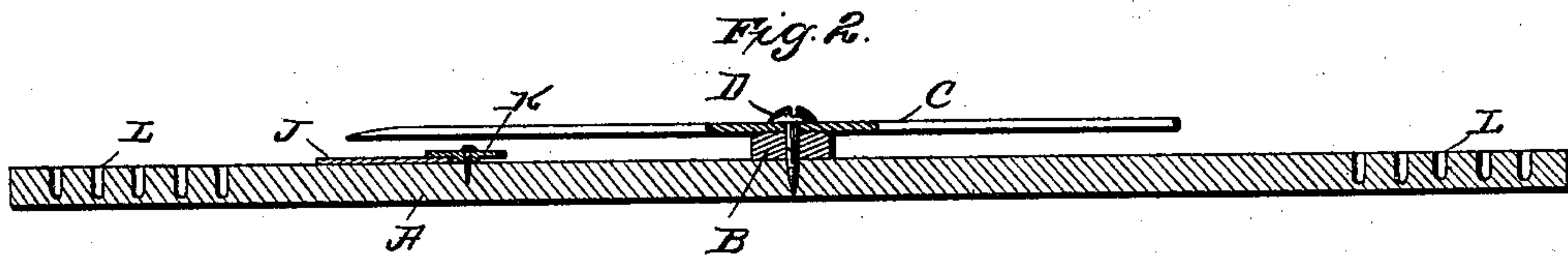


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 601,700, dated April 5, 1898.

Application filed May 11, 1897. Serial No. 636,060. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS BIRCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Noblesville, in the county of Hamilton and State of Indiana, have invented a certain Improvement in Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new, amusing, and instructive game which I prefer to call the "one to sixteen combination game," and has for its object to provide a simple and cheap apparatus of this description which while affording endless amusement to both old and young will impart instruction to all classes of persons upon an indefinite variety of subjects, and as this instruction is imparted as a part of the game it will be imbibed and retained with comparatively little effort upon the part of the players.

Another object of the apparatus is to provide simple means for altering the instructive features and substituting others therefor, so that the game may not become monotonous to persons who play the same a number of times.

Another object of the apparatus is to provide simple and effective means which shall form a part of the device for keeping count of the score made by the several players.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth, and then specifically designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, its construction and operation will now be described in detail, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of an apparatus embodying my game, and Fig. 2 a central section thereof.

In carrying out my invention as here embodied I provide a base-board A, which may be made of any suitable material, such as pasteboard covered with a suitably colored and printed paper, so as to have appear upon the upper surface thereof the desired features of the game. To the center of this board is secured a block B by gluing or otherwise, and thereon is pivoted the pointer C by

means of a screw D. This arrangement permits the free revolving of the pointer without coming in contact with the surface of the board, so that it may be spun by each of the players in turn, and when the force thereof is expended the indicating end E will stand adjacent to some number or name, as hereinafter set forth.

A circle F is inscribed concentric with the movements of the pointer, and a second circle G may also be placed inside of the first-named circle, and a band H is defined by a section of a circle and is divided into spaces by radial lines, and each of these lines is designated by a number, said numbers running from one to sixteen in consecutive order. Another band I, considerably wider than the band H, is formed within the circle F by a section of a circle, and this band is also divided into spaces by radial lines, each line being designated by the name of a State.

A segment of pasteboard or other suitable material J is divided into spaces by radial lines having a variety of names thereon—such as gold, silver, the names of lakes, or the names of animals—and this segment may be secured in proper relation to the circle by means of the turn-buttons K, and when so secured will form a part of the game, and yet when it is desired to substitute other names for those appearing upon this segment the segment may be removed and another having other names thereon placed in position and secured, as above set forth. The band I may likewise be formed of a separate segment and secured in place by means of like turn-buttons.

In order that the score of the several players may be accurately kept, series of holes L are formed in the board, preferably at the sides thereof, as clearly shown, and have each row thereof designated by "5," "10," "15," &c., up to "100," and as a score of one hundred wins the game it will be seen that by the use of small pegs adapted to fit within these holes the score may be kept by moving one of the pegs over the number of holes called for by the pointer when spun by a player.

In playing this game two or more persons start by spinning the pointer, and if it stops at "1" the player scores sixteen, because one

is contained in sixteen sixteen times. On the other hand, if the pointer stops at "2" it counts eight, because two is contained in sixteen eight times, and in like manner any number which will divide sixteen indicated by the pointer will give to the player the quotient of such division. If the pointer stops midway between any two numbers, they may be added together—as, for instance, two and three equals five—and if this sum does not exceed sixteen the player gets one; but if the pointer stops on any figure that is not an exact divisor of sixteen, but is a multiple of some of the other figures—as, for instance, three being an exact divisor of six (next highest number always being taken of which it is an exact divisor)—the player gets two, or if the pointer stops on "5," it being an exact divisor of ten, the player also gets two, or the pointer stopping on "6," and six dividing twelve into two, gives the player two. In like manner the indicating of "7" by the pointer wins two, &c.; but if the pointer stops on "11" or "13" the player loses that much of his score, because neither is divisible by or contained in any of the numbers used.

When the pointer so stops as to indicate a State, the player is required to state what section of the Union the State is in, how it is bounded, name its capital city, what are the principal products of the State, &c. If the answer be correct or satisfactory to the opposite party, then the player gains five; if incorrect or not satisfactory, then the player loses five.

Should a mineral be indicated by the stopping of the pointer, the player is to state where such mineral is found in greatest abundance, to what uses it is put, &c., a correct answer winning five, while an incorrect answer loses five. This is likewise the case when the pointer indicates a lake, the player being required to state where the lake is located, how it is bounded, and the name of the principal shipping-ports, a correct answer winning five, an incorrect answer losing five. The score is kept as above described up to one hundred.

Since the segment J may be removed and another substituted therefor, the game may be varied almost indefinitely by having a number of these segments containing thereon a variety of names—such as animals, birds, fishes, people, or other objects.

In use this game will not only afford amuse-

ment, but will be exceedingly instructive to all classes of persons, since it will not only cause them to study up the data necessary to answer the question indicated by the stopping of the pointer, but will also permit them to imbibe information and instruction from the other players, who are likewise compelled to answer the questions above referred to.

One of the advantages of my improved game is that it may be produced at a comparatively small cost and therefore may be sold at such a price as to fall into the hands of all classes of persons.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A game apparatus, consisting of a base-board, a pointer pivoted to the center thereof so as to freely revolve, a circle formed around the center of said pointer, a series of numbers located within this circle, the names of certain States of the Union also located within the circle, and a segment having a number of names or designating terms thereon adapted to be detached from the board, as specified.

2. A game apparatus, consisting of a base-board having four series of holes formed therein for the reception of score-pins, a circle inscribed upon said board, a block located at the center of the circle, a pointer pivoted upon the block, a series of numbers located within the circle, the names of certain States of the Union located within the circle, and a segment having names thereon detachably secured to the board, as specified.

3. The herein-described combination of a base-board having four series of holes therein for the reception of score-pins, a block secured at the center of the board, a circle formed concentric with this block, a pointer pivoted upon the block, a band inscribed within the circle and divided into spaces, each of which is numbered, a band I also inscribed within the circle and having the names of certain States of the Union thereon, a segment having certain names thereon, and turn-buttons for securing this segment in place relative to the circle, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOMAS BIRCH.

Witnesses:

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