

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK W. GIBSON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

TOY BOWLING-ALLEY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 706,925, dated August 12, 1902.

Application filed June 5, 1901. Serial No. 63,225. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK W. GIBSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented
5 a new and useful Improvement in Toy Bowling-Alleys, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a toy bowling-alley, and has for its object to provide a strong,
10 portable, and inexpensive device which can be folded for stowage and shipment.

The invention consists in features of novelty, as hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying
15 drawings, forming part of this specification, whereon—

Figure 1 is a top plan of my improved toy bowling-alley; Fig. 2, a side elevation thereof; Fig. 3, a longitudinal vertical section through
20 the alley on line 3 3 in Fig. 1; and Fig. 4, a transverse section thereof, to enlarged scale, on line 4 4 in Fig. 1.

Like letters and numerals of reference denote like parts in all the figures.

25 A represents my improved toy bowling-alley, which is composed of the alley-bed *a*, the side gutters *b*, back-stop *c*, and pit *d*, as in an ordinary bowling-alley, all the said parts being secured together by nails, screws,
30 glue, or otherwise, so as to form a single portable piece. For insuring lightness and strength with cheapness of construction the bed *a* is preferably composed of a single board, and gutters *b* are made U-shaped in
35 cross-section, preferably of wood, and secured by their inner legs 1 to the alley-bed *a* on its under side by nails 2, Fig. 4, or other fastenings, so that the side edges of the bed *a* are
40 flush with the inner faces of the legs 1, as shown, whereby the gutters *b* serve as stiffening-ribs to the bed *a* without the use of stiffening-fillers or cross-pieces, as would otherwise be needed. By this construction also the bed
45 *a* can be made of less thickness and considerably lighter than if the side gutters *b* were not attached thereto in the manner described to prevent its warping.

Across the front end portion of the bed *a* is arranged an extension or starting board *f*,
50 corresponding preferably in width to the bed *a* and having at one end on its side edges a

projecting pintle or axis 3 3', which is alined semicircumferentially to the correspondingly-shaped edge of the said end of the board *f* and by which the extension-board *f* is preferably hinged over and in close proximity to
55 the alley-bed *a* in two opposite bearings and blocks *g g'*, which are secured to the sides of the alley. By this means the extension-board *f* can be adjusted on its hinge 3 3' to any
60 desired inclination with the bed *a*, the space or gap between the hinged end of the board *f* and the bed *a* remaining the same at whatever inclination to the bed *a* the board *f* may
65 be placed.

The tenpins *e* being placed in position on the bed *a* in the usual well-known manner, as shown, and the ball *x* at the highest or any desired point on the extension-board *f*,
70 on releasing the ball *x* it will descend the extension-board *f* by gravity with a uniformly-accelerated velocity, and owing to the absence of jar or vibration of the alley caused
75 when operating the spring devices now used for propelling the balls in this class of alley the initial direction of the ball *x* on its reaching and traveling along the bed *a* will be
80 maintained and the opportunity for exercising skill in releasing the ball *x* thereby increased. Another advantage of the extension-board *f* is that it practically lengthens
85 the alley and when not in use can be folded back onto the bed *a*, as shown by dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2, thereby rendering the alley compact for the purpose of stowage and shipment.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a toy bowling-alley, a bed composed of a single board and having side gutters fixed
90 thereto on its under side, the said gutters being U-shaped in cross-section and having their inner legs flush with the side edges of the bed, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
95 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK W. GIBSON.

Witnesses:

EDWARD W. FURRELL,
GEO. L. BELFRY.