





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OTIS W. FIELD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## GAME-COUNTER.

No. 818,676.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, OTIS W. FIELD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Game-Counter, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to counters; and it consists, substantially, in the details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter more particularly described, and pointed out in the claims.

The invention has reference more especially to counters adapted for use in connection with games, as billiards and the like, and one of the principal objects thereof is to provide a device of this kind which is simple in construction and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture, besides being thoroughly effective and reliable in use and possessing the capacity for long and repeated service.

A still further object is to overcome numerous disadvantages and objections encountered in the use of many other contrivances hitherto devised with like ends in view.

The above and additional objects are attained by means substantially such as are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a broken side elevation of one embodiment of the invention. Figs. 2 and 3 are enlarged vertical transverse sectional views of the device on the lines 2 2 and 3 3, respectively, of Fig. 1 and showing some of the counting members in both raised and lowered positions. Fig. 4 is a similar view on the line 4 4 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 5 is an enlarged broken top plan view of a portion of the structure. Fig. 6 is a side view of a portion of another embodiment of the invention and showing the resetting device in the position to which it is moved to restore the counting members of a series to position after being depressed. Figs. 7 and 8 are similar views representing further modifications of the invention. Fig. 9 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the line 9 9 of Fig. 8, and Fig. 10 is a sectional detail view in perspective indicating a form of means which may be employed for retaining each of the counting members of the structure in its normal elevated position.

Before proceeding with a more detailed description it may be stated that in each of the forms of my improvements herein shown I employ a special casing or supporting frame

in which are operatively organized a plurality of preferably horizontally-alined counting members of special construction, each having independent movement in or on guides therefor within the casing, to be brought to position to indicate or register a particular number of points of the game being played. There may be fifty, one hundred, or any other desired total number of the counting members employed, which are separately operative from either side of the structure to be displaced for the purpose of indicating or scoring the number of points made by the players, (usually two,) each in his or her turn of play. Said counting members are preferably in duplicate series, (there being a casing or supporting-frame for each series,) and in connection with those of each series I employ a specially-constructed resetting device common to all of them, as will hereinafter appear. Either one or both of the faces of the counting members of the two series may be numbered consecutively in opposite directions, as may also the corresponding portions of either one, or both, of the outer faces of the casings or supporting-frames therefor, so as to enable the scores to be at once read from either side of the structure at a glance, although in certain of the embodiments of my improvements herein shown I obtain the same result by omitting the numbering from either the counting members themselves or from the said casings or supporting-frames therefor.

In addition to the duplicate series of counting members employed for scoring the number of points made by each player in a game I also employ at the end of each of such series a series of auxiliary counters for indicating or scoring the totals of games played, and while I have herein represented my improvements in a certain preferred embodiment it will be understood, of course, that I am not limited thereto in precise detail, since immaterial changes therein may be made coming within the scope of my invention.

Reference being had to the drawings by the designating characters therein, and more especially to Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, 1 1 represent duplicate parallel members of a casing or supporting-frame for the several operative parts or elements of the structure, said members being spaced apart and in parallelism and being secured together by means of blocks 2 and screws 3, located, preferably, at or near the ends thereof, thus to provide an



extended channel between the members. The said members 11 are provided at intervals of the inner faces thereof with oppositely-disposed guides 4, having spaces 5 therebetween, and the said blocks 2 are cut out to form spaces 6, coinciding with said spaces 5, as shown. Movable vertically between opposite ones of the guides 4 are counting members 7, each preferably rectangular in form and provided at its upper extremity with a stem 8, having a curved enlargement 9 at the end thereof, with which a billiard-cue or the like may conveniently be brought into contact for the purpose of carrying the counting member downwardly in its guides.

As shown in Fig. 1, the parallel members 11 are of the length required for two series of the counting members 7, comprising, say, fifty each, while the said parallel members are preferably further secured together by a straight block 10 and screws 10<sup>a</sup>, located intermediate of the two said series of the counting members, the latter of each series being consecutively numbered outwardly from "1" to "50," inclusive. Each counting member 7 of each series thereof is formed longitudinally of duplicate parts 11, separated by a space 12, extending upwardly within the stem 8 of the member, (see Figs. 2 and 3,) and said parts are connected together at or near the upper inner corners thereof by means of a short rod or pin 13, both to secure the parts in rigid relationship with each other and for the cooperative action with the member of a resetting device common to all the members of the series to which said member belongs. Said resetting device may be constructed in various ways; but preferably I provide the same with a flat plate 14, slidable longitudinally between the parallel members 11 of the casing or frame through the appropriate ones of the hereinbefore-mentioned spaces 5 and 6, formed between the opposite guides 4 and in the block 2, respectively. The outer edge 15 of the said plate is disposed before the inner end of a longitudinally-extending pin 16, rigidly supported at its outer end in a bearing 17 therefor, secured, by means of screws 18 or in any other suitable way, to the inner face of one of the members 11 at or near the outer end thereof. The pin 16 is divided for a part of its length from the free end thereof (see Fig. 5) to form a space 19, into which the adjacent end portion of the said slidable plate may be caused to move, and surrounding the pin and exerting its tension between the adjacent vertical edge of the plate and the bearing 17 is a spiral spring 20. At the outer end portion of each slidable plate or resetting device 14 is formed a longitudinal slot 21, through which extends a guide screw or pin 22, projecting from the adjacent block 2, (see Fig. 1,) and preferably the plate is also formed at another part of its length with another longitudinal slot 23,

through which extends a guide-rod 24, mounted between the parallel members 11 of the casing or frame. (See dotted lines in Fig. 1.)

At or near the inner end thereof each slidable plate 14 is formed with an inwardly-extending longitudinally-elongated opening 25 of capacity to receive the end of a billiard-cue or the like, and said plate is formed throughout its length with a series of upstanding projections 26, each having a vertical edge 27 and an upwardly and inwardly inclined edge 28, intersecting therewith at an angle 29, (see Fig. 1,) it being observed that in the normal positions of the counting members 7 of each set the connecting-rod 13 between the duplicate parts of each member of the set occupies a position directly adjacent to the vertical edge 27 of one of said upstanding projections 26 at the upper end thereof. It will also be observed that the parallel members of the casing or frame are formed opposite the opening 25 in each plate 14 with a similar, but longer elongated opening 30 to permit of movement of the billiard-cue with the plate.

It will now be seen that the points made by each player of the game may be readily scored after each play by simply depressing or displacing the appropriate counting member 7 of one of the series thereof by means of the end of the billiard-cue applied to the enlarged end of the stem of the member, so as to carry said member to the lowered position of some of them, (indicated in Fig. 1,) and then when it is desired to restore all the lowered members of the series to their original or first position it is simply necessary to insert the end of the billiard-cue in the opening 25 of the proper slidable plate 14 through one or the other of the openings 28 in the parallel members of the casing and force the plate outwardly. On the outward movement of said plate the rods 13 (which now occupy positions within the angles formed by the lower ends of the vertical and inclined edges of adjacent upstanding projections 26 of the plate 14 in question) of the lowered counting members will be caused to ride upwardly on the inclined edges of the appropriate upstanding projections 26 of the plate, and thus will these members be elevated. When either plate 14 is forced outwardly, the spring 20 therefor is compressed, as will be apparent, and then on releasing the plate the same is again forced inwardly by the reaction of the spring.

At the outer end of each casing or supporting-frame I also employ a set of auxiliary counting members 31, working in extensions 32 of the casing between sets of guides 33, corresponding to the guides 4, said auxiliary members being for the purpose of scoring or keeping an account of the number of games lost by each player, the faces thereof, as well as the corresponding outer surface portions



of the said extensions 32, being preferably provided with numerals or other indicating characters, as shown in Fig. 1. The members 31 of each set thereof are preferably operated in this instance independently of the members 7 of the series corresponding thereto, as well as independently of each other, by which to be depressed or lowered to score the proper number of games played. Instead of this embodiment, however, I may include each set of auxiliary counters 31 as a practical continuation of the series of members 7, with which they are associated, in which case also the slidable plate 14 for such series of members 7 will be correspondingly extended and formed with additional upstanding projections 26<sup>a</sup> for cooperation with said auxiliary members. (See Fig. 6.) In this figure the slidable bar 14 is shown at the limit of its outward movement or just prior to the release thereof to be returned to its first position by the reaction of its spring 20, which is shown under compression.

In Fig. 7 only the outer faces of the parallel members 1 of the casing or supporting-frame are consecutively numbered and the counting members 7<sup>a</sup> are each constructed of a smaller body, as shown, it being stated that with this form of my invention the number of points scored in a game is determined by the lowered positions of the counting members.

In Figs. 8 and 9 also only the outer faces of the parallel members 1 of the casing or supporting-frame are consecutively numbered, as shown, the counting members 7<sup>b</sup> (see Fig. 9) each being of such small dimensions as not to be carried beyond the lower edges of said parallel members when depressed or displaced vertically. With this form of my invention the reaching of the number of points scored in a game is also determined by the position of the counting members.

Except in the particulars already noted, the counting members of the embodiments of the invention shown in Figs. 6, 7, 8, and 9 are otherwise the same in construction as those shown in Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, and in each of the embodiments shown the divided duplicate parts of each of said counting members are formed with lateral shoes or extensions 35 for sustaining the member in its normal or upward position by friction against adjacent portions of the inner faces of the parallel members of the casing, as will be understood.

In Figs. 1 and 5 the extensions 32 at each end of the parallel members of the casing or supporting-frame are preferably secured together by an extra block 36 and fasteningscrews 37, although the same may not be necessary, and for the purpose of enabling the entire structure to be suspended from an upper support by means of wires or the like the

outer faces of said parallel members of the casing or supporting-frame may be provided with eyelets 38, for instance.

By constructing each of the counting members of the structure in two parts divided longitudinally by a space, as explained, said member is given an inherent resiliency laterally, thus to be self-sustaining between the parallel members of the casing or supporting-frame, as will be apparent. In Fig. 10 another form of counting member 7<sup>c</sup> is shown, comprising duplicate parts 39, separated by a space, as in the other instance referred to, and a stem 40, pivoted upon a bracket 41, rising from one of the parallel members 1 of the casing or supporting-frame. Within the channel between said parallel members the lower intumed end 42 of said spring engages with one part of said counting member 39, while its upper end is formed with the bent enlargement 43 for contact therewith of the billiard-cue to depress the member similarly as in the other embodiments of the invention referred to. In this construction the parts of the counting member are preferably devoid of lateral shoes or extensions, as shown.

Having thus described the invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A game-counter comprising a casing, and counting members normally occupying alined position therein and adapted to be moved therefrom to indicate a score, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space and adapted to press against portions of the casing when in said position.

2. A game-counter comprising a casing, counting members normally occupying alined position therein and adapted to be moved therefrom to indicate a score, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space and adapted to press against portions of the casing when in said position, and means for simultaneously restoring any number of said members to normal position after being moved therefrom.

3. A game-counter comprising a casing, counting members normally occupying alined position therein and adapted to be moved therefrom to indicate a score, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space and adapted to press against portions of the casing when in said position, and means for simultaneously restoring any number of said members to normal position after being moved therefrom, embodying a slidable plate having projections for engaging with portions of the members.

4. A game-counter, comprising counting members normally occupying alined position with reference to each other, each being held in such position by friction and adapted to be



moved therefrom to indicate a score, and means for simultaneously restoring any number of said members to normal position after being moved therefrom, embodying a guided  
 5 spring-retracted slidable plate having projections for engaging with portions of the members, and formed at an end thereof with an opening adapted to receive the end of a billiard-cue for actuating the plate.

10 5. A game-counter, comprising a casing, counting members normally occupying alined position therein, each being held in such position by friction and adapted to be moved therefrom to indicate a score, and  
 15 means for simultaneously restoring any number of said members to normal position after being moved therefrom, embodying a spring-retracted plate having projections for engaging with portions of the members, and  
 20 provided with an opening for receiving a hand-actuating device therefor.

6. A game-counter comprising a casing, counting members normally occupying alined position therein and adapted to be  
 25 moved therefrom to indicate a score, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space and adapted to press against portions of the casing when in said position, and means for  
 30 simultaneously restoring any number of the members to normal position after being moved therefrom, embodying a spring-retracted slidable plate having projections for engaging with portions of the members.

35 7. A game-counter comprising a casing, counting members normally occupying alined position therein and adapted to be moved therefrom to indicate a score, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space  
 40 and adapted to press against portions of the casing when in said position, and means for simultaneously restoring any number of the members to normal position after being  
 45 moved therefrom.

8. A game-counter, comprising a casing constructed of parallel members spaced apart, and counting members normally occupying alined position within the casing, each  
 50 adapted to be moved from such position to indicate a score, and each also being constructed of duplicate parts separated from each other by a space and having lateral shoes for frictionally engaging with adjacent  
 55 portions of the inner surfaces of said parallel

members when the counting member is in normal position.

9. A game-counter, comprising a casing constructed of parallel members spaced apart, a series of consecutively-numbered  
 60 counting members normally occupying alined position therein, each being resilient laterally to press against corresponding portions of the inner faces of said parallel members, and each adapted to be moved from  
 65 such position to indicate a score, and means for simultaneously restoring any number of said counting members to normal position after being moved therefrom.

10. A game-counter, comprising a casing  
 70 constructed of parallel members spaced apart, a series of consecutively-numbered counting members normally occupying alined position therein, each being constructed of duplicate parts spaced from each  
 75 other and connected together by rods, and each being adapted to be moved from such position to indicate a score, and means for restoring any number of said counting members to normal position, after being moved  
 80 therefrom, embodying a spring-retracted plate having projections each having a straight edge and an inclined edge.

11. A game-counter comprising a casing having a channel, and counting members  
 85 movable into and out of the channel and provided with stems having curved enlargements extending outside the channel, each of said members being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space  
 90 and adapted to press against portions of the sides of the channel when the member is moved into the latter.

12. A game-counter comprising a casing having a channel, and counting members  
 95 movable into and out of the channel and provided with stems having curved enlargements extending outside the channel, each member being constructed of integrally-connected parts separated by a space and hav-  
 100 ing lateral feet adapted to press against portions of the sides of the channel when the member is moved into the channel.

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

OTIS W. FIELD.

Witnesses:

E. A. BLAKELY,  
 JAMES H. YOUNG.