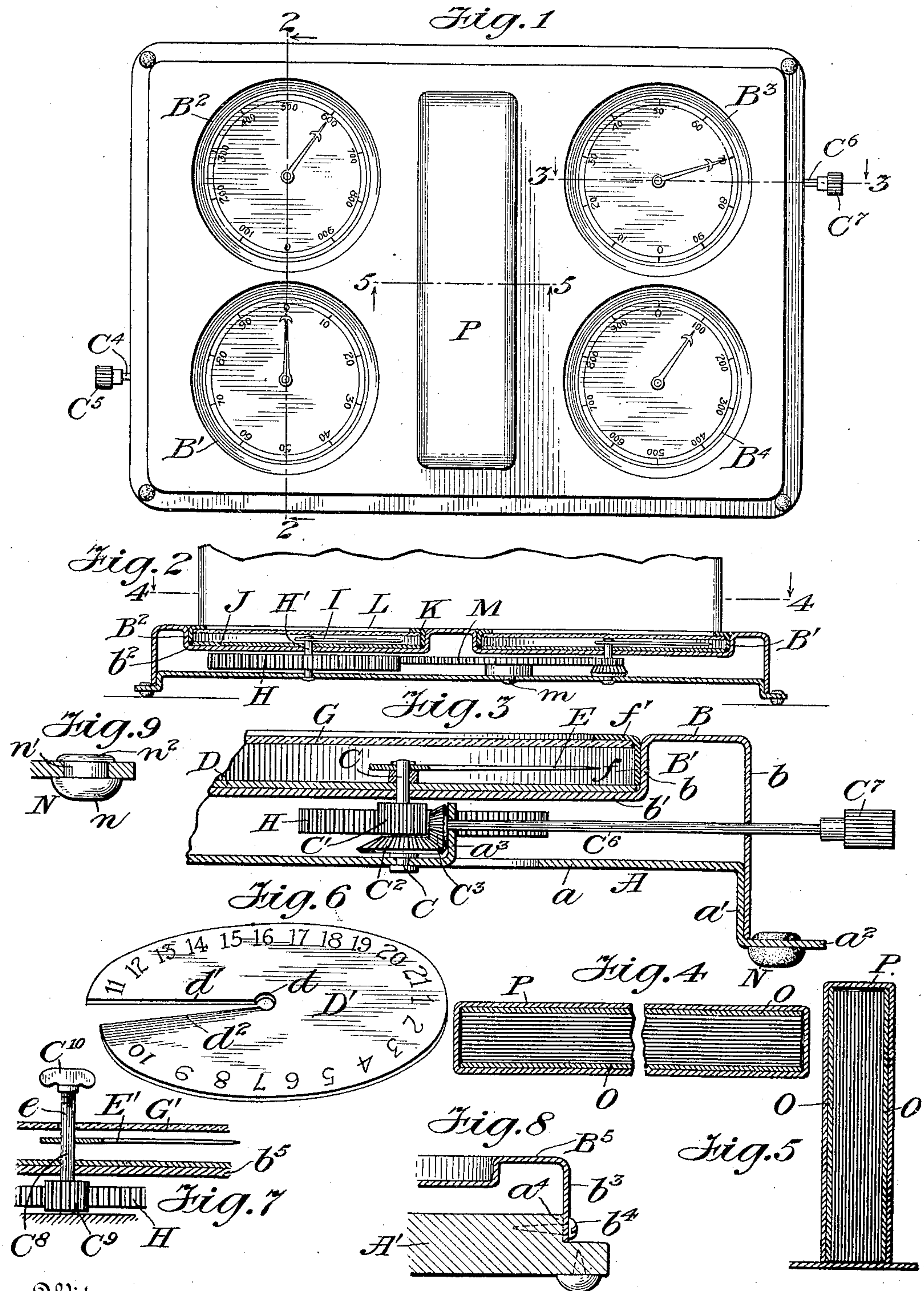


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PATENTED AUG. 28, 1906.

W. J. PRATT.
GAME COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 20, 1903.



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GAME-COUNTER.

No. 829,603.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 28, 1906.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER J. PRATT, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Game-Counters, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to game-counters, and has for its more prominent object a simple and convenient construction whereby the tally of a definite number of points can be readily indicated on one register and a total tally automatically indicated by a second register properly geared and actuated from that first mentioned.
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Provision is made whereby the arrangement of primary and total registers is duplicated to provide registering means for opposing players or sides, the duplication being compactly presented in a single device and in a manner conducing to the convenient manipulation of the respective primary registers when the counter occupies a position on the table, and particularly when adjacent to one
20 of the corners thereof.

A novel covered receptacle for the accommodation of a pack of playing-cards is combined with the device, while capacity for conditioning the register-dials to specially adapt them for different styles of games is also a feature.
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The structural feature of the body of the counter and the relation of parts comprising said body with respect to the register-gearing represent improvements in this line of devices.
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There are other novel features connected with the counter, which, in addition to those alluded to, are clearly set forth in the subsequent detailed description.
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In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan view of a game-counter embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail transverse section through the registering mechanism at one end of the counter, the parts being represented on a somewhat larger scale and the section being in the plane indicated by the broken line 2 2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is another detail section, but on a still larger scale, the section being indicated by the broken line 3 3, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view through the card-receptacle, the section being in the plane indicated by the broken line 4 4, Fig. 2.
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Fig. 5 is another section of said receptacle, the section being in the plane indicated by the broken line 5 5, Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the interchangeable dials, the edges of the split portion of said dial being represented as slightly separated to facilitate its adjustment and removal. Fig. 7 is a vertical detail sectional view of one of the primary registers and illustrating a modification. Fig. 8 is a similar sectional view disclosing a modification of the body structure. Fig. 9 is a detail sectional view illustrating one manner of securing the rubber feet or cushions to the base.
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Similar reference characters are employed to designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings wherein they occur.
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As generally disclosed in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the novel counter comprises a comparatively flat body of approximately rectangular contour. One manner of constructing this body comprehends the employment of two sheet-metal sections A and B, each properly shaped by stamping or pressing the same from a blank, the section A constituting the base or lower part of the body and presenting an elevated platform *a* of comparatively extended surface area, a depending rim *a'* and lower horizontal flange *a''* being integrally at the platform-margin at the several sides and corners of the latter.
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The section B, which forms the top of the body, is shaped to present the somewhat vertically extended marginal flange *b*, designed to snugly embrace at its lower portion the vertical ledge presented by the rim *a'* of the section A. Such rim and embracing portion of the section B may be positively secured together by any suitable means—as, for instance, by soldering or riveting.
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In the operation of producing the section B I cause the same to be provided contiguous to each end with a pair of depressions, the depressions of each pair being relatively transversely disposed and of circular contour, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 1. The four several depressions thus made are designated by the reference characters *B'* *B''* *B'''* *B''''*, respectively.
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As will be seen by reference more particularly to Figs. 2 and 3, each of the depressions involves an annular vertical wall *b''* and bottom *b'*, the latter being centrally perforated
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for the bearing of a short vertical arbor C, the upper extremity of which projects a short distance above said bottom. The lower end *c* of said arbor is shouldered and headed to permit it to retain a proper bearing in the platform *a*, the arrangement being such that such arbor can have a free revolving movement in its bearings both in the bottom *b'* and in said platform.

Keyed on the arbor C immediately beneath the bottom *b'* is a small gear-pinion C', the teeth of which are nine in number for a purpose that will hereinafter appear. Integral with the lower portion of this pinion is a beveled pinion C², which is in mesh with a beveled pinion C³ on the inner end of a horizontal rod or stem C⁴, disposed within the chamber presented by the sections A B and with its outer end portion extending through the vertical wall *b* of the section B and having secured on the extremity thereof a milled operating-head C⁵. It will be observed by reference to Fig. 1 that the rod C⁵ projects and carries its milled head at one end of the body instead of at one of the sides thereof. By referring to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the outer bearing for the rod C⁶ is provided in the wall *b*, while the inner bearing for said rod is secured in a vertical tongue *a*³, formed by appropriately slitting the metal of the platform *a* and bending upward the tongue so formed, so that the inner end of said rod will be supported in an opening therein, said tongue serving the further purpose of maintaining the pinion C in proper engagement with the pinion C².

Upon the bottom of the depression *b'* is a dial D, which may be of paper or other suitable material and which is of such circular form as to insure its bearing intimately against the inner surface of the annular wall *b* of the depression. This dial has on its upper surface an annular series of numerals and intermediate graduations which, as shown in Fig. 1, range from "0" to "99," respectively. Of course the dial is centrally perforated for the passage of the upper portion of the arbor C, upon the projecting part of which and above the dial is secured the butt of the index or pointer E, adapted to circularly sweep in a path above the dial as said arbor rotates.

Snugly and frictionally fitting within the depression B' is a metal bezel of the cross-sectional shape most clearly indicated in Figs. 2 and 3 and embodying a vertical annular rim *f* and inner horizontal flange *f'*, the rim being of such height that the flange is maintained in substantially the same horizontal plane as the top surface of the section B. This bezel is designed to retain in position a disk G, of transparent celluloid or other similarly-conditioned material, adapted for forming a panel through which to observe the dial relation of the pointer.

Interposed between the platform *a* and the

bottom of the depression B² is a gear-wheel H, whose teeth are ninety in number, such gear-wheel being keyed on a small arbor H', the lower end of which revolvably bears in the platform *a*, while the upper end projects for a considerable distance above the bottom *b*² of said depression for connection therewith of an index I. Similarly as in the manner of the depression B' the depression B² contains a dial J and bezel K, the latter confining and retaining a transparent panel L. The numerical characters and divisions on the dial J, as will be seen, range from "0" to "999," respectively. Interposed between the pinion C' and the gear-wheel H is a gear-wheel M, having a journal *m* revolvably bearing in the platform *a*, said gear-wheel M being of a diameter and having teeth in number corresponding with the wheel H. This wheel M, as will be clearly seen in Fig. 2, meshes both with the pinion C' and with the pinion H, the arrangement being such that when said pinion has been revolved to an extent sufficient to carry its index E completely around its dial the wheel H will have been rotated and its index or pointer moved to an extent corresponding with "100."

By reference to Fig. 1 it will be observed that the rod C⁶, operating the gearing of the primary register B³ at the other end of the machine, as well as said register, is diagonally located with respect to the primary register B' and its operating-stem, and it will be comprehended that said primary register B³ and its companion total-register B⁴ are equipped with gearing, dials, and other appurtenances in all respects similar to the primary and total registers at the other end of the body.

It will therefore be readily appreciated that with the improved counter constructed as thus far described the same may occupy a position near one corner upon the table on which the game is played, so that the operating-heads C⁵ C⁷ will be convenient for manipulation at opposite ends of the body by contiguously-seated players. If the table is small and only two players are engaged in the play, the counter can be positioned for convenient manipulation by persons seated opposite each other. If the game be one in which partners are engaged, the customary alternate positions of the partners will permit the counter to occupy a location readily accessible to two opposing partners.

As illustrated in Fig. 1, the dials are conditioned for service in connection with the game of pinochle, where the count involves the registering of numbers of considerable value and where it is desirable that the capacity of the primary register should be supplemented by that of the secondary for indicating quick totals. It may be stated, however, that the counter can be readily equipped to serve in connection with other

styles of games. This may be provided by arranging for the convenient removal and application of the dial-disks. One manner of accomplishing this is represented in Fig. 6, wherein the disk D' is shown as having a radial slit extending from the central opening d to the periphery thereof. This provides a divided portion the edges d' d^2 of which can normally lie in mutual contact, so that the integrity of the dial-surface will be maintained. When it is desired to apply this dial, it will only be necessary to slightly separate such edge portions, as illustrated in Fig. 6, whereupon the dial can be slightly turned to cause the index to pass laterally through the slit opening to a position below the dial and the latter then raised and withdrawn. It is not necessary, however, that the divided edges of the dial should normally mutually abut, as a dial having a radial slot of the requisite width will practically serve all purposes and yet in no way interfere with the proper disposition of numerals and graduations thereon.

When it is desired to make any change in the matter of dials, the bezel F of each depression can be removed, which can be accomplished by inserting a thin edge or point between the same and the wall of its depression, whereupon the same and its transparent panel will be dislodged. The substitution and adjustment of the dial can then ensue, as previously explained.

With a view of facilitating the removal and adjustment of each bezel I prefer to make the same of spring metal possessing such resiliency that while providing a sufficient yield to permit its disengagement it will, on the other hand, have the requisite strength to enable its rim f to positively and intimately bear in engagement with the inner surface of its depression-wall.

The formation of the body by means of the two sheet-metal sections A and B , as heretofore described, not only provides for the convenient and efficient location of the various depressions, but these latter are of such character and the gearing within the chamber formed by the sections A and B so conditioned that the depressions bear upon upper portions of the gearing and serve to maintain the same in position, the relation of the parts being such, however, that the bearing is a mildly frictional one, and therefore while permitting the rotation of the several wheels and pinions under the power imposed by revolving the heads yet exerts sufficient retardation to insure the retention of the wheels with accuracy in the positions and to the extents they are turned by hand.

To prevent defacement of the table or other surface upon which the counter rests and to also avoid noise that might be occasioned by moving the counter, I locate at each corner of the body a lower rest or cushion

N , of rubber or equivalent yielding material. As shown, these rests or cushions each comprise a lower rounded portion n , integrally provided with a neck n' of considerable diameter and having an upper shallow head n^2 , the height of the neck being substantially equal to the thickness of the flange a^2 with which the cushion or rest is to be connected, the connection of the rest being accomplished by passing the shallow head n^2 through an appropriately-sized opening in said flange, so that said head will expand immediately above the flange, and thus retain the rest in engagement therewith, with the neck n' snugly occupying said opening.

With a view of increasing the usefulness and serviceability of the counter I secure upon the upper surface of the section B , transversely parallel between the two sets of registers, a pair of vertical walls $O O$, which are of such size that they will snugly receive between them an ordinary deck of cards, the end edges of the latter lying flush or inside of the top and end edges of said walls. A housing or cover P , of celluloid, aluminium, or other light and attractive material and embodying sides and end walls, as well as a closed top p , is adapted to be placed over said walls, so as to snugly inclose the same and the deck of cards between. Now by removing the cover the deck of cards may be readily dislodged by simply pressing against the deck at one end, so as to force the cards from between the walls of the other end.

While I have described the sections $A B$ as being stamped or pressed from blanks of sheet metal, it will be understood that I may employ other material with satisfactory results. Thus, for instance, the sections may be formed or molded of papier-mâché or other composition adapted for the purpose, and in the event of employing metal I do not intend to restrict myself to any particular kind. If made from sheet metal—as, for instance, tin—the exposed surfaces may be japanned or lacquered to impart an attractive and ornamental finish.

It may be preferable to make the body with an upper pressed or molded section, the lower section being of wood. In Fig. 8 I have outlined such an arrangement, B^5 designating the upper molded section, the vertical marginal flange b^3 of which embraces and intimately bears against the vertical marginal shoulder a^4 of the base A' , the latter being of wood, and to which the flange is secured through the medium of securing-screws b^4 .

In lieu of the beveled gearing and extended rods and heads other means may be employed for actuating the primary registers. Thus in Fig. 7 I have represented a vertical arbor C^8 as having the pinion C^9 secured thereto beneath the bottom b^5 of the depression with which it is related, said arbor extending above said bottom and having the index-finger E'

secured thereto and also having its upper threaded portion ϵ adapted to project through an opening therefor centrally in the transparent panel G' for the application of a threaded operating-head C^{10} . By simply turning the head the primary register to which these parts relate will be operated and the companion total-register coincidentally affected. In this arrangement when it becomes desirable to effect an interchange of dials the head C^{10} can be unscrewed while the arbor is being appropriately held and the bezel and transparent panel subsequently removed for permitting the proper substitution of the dial.

It will be recognized from the foregoing description that a game-counter embodying my invention is not only comparatively simple and inexpensive, but of highly ornamental character and capable of a wide range of serviceability, including accurate registration of the score or tally pertaining to various games. The features already described may be supplemented and the usefulness of the counter enhanced by making the body of sufficient plan area to permit of the location in the top of additional depressions capable of serving for the reception of matches, tobacco-ashes, and for other purposes.

The stamped character of the sections A B and the simple form of the gearing and other appurtenances adapt the parts of which the counter is composed to be readily assembled by comparatively unskilled labor.

I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the particular arrangement and construction of parts shown and described, but reserve the right to all modifications that may be fairly considered within the scope of my invention.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination in a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having a depression depending within said space, an arbor revolubly mounted to project above the bottom of said depression and carrying a suitable index-pointer, a dial on the depression-bottom, a bezel for the depression, a transparent panel confined by the bezel, and means for operating the index-pointer.

2. The combination in a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having a depression depending within said space, an arbor revolubly mounted to project above the bottom of the depression and carrying a suitable index-pointer, a dial on the depression-bottom, gearing within said intermediate space for revolving said arbor, and gear-operating means.

3. The combination in a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having an integral part depending within said intermediate space to form a depression, an arbor revolubly mounted to project above the bottom of the depression and carrying a suitable index-pointer, a dial on the depression-bottom, a bezel for the depression, a transparent panel confined by the bezel, gearing within said intermediate space for revolving said arbor, and gear-operating means.

4. The combination in a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having a companion pair of depressions, primary and secondary registering dials on the bottoms of said depressions respectively, vertical arbors bearing in and projecting above the depression-bottoms and carrying index-pointers, gearing located in the intermediate space and adapted to communicate motion from the arbor of the primary register to the arbor of the secondary register, and provision for rotating the primary arbor by hand.

5. The combination of a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having integral parts depending within said intermediate space to form a companion pair of depressions, primary and secondary registering-dials on the bottoms of said depressions respectively, the primary dial being removable, vertical arbors bearing in and projecting above the depression-bottoms, and carrying index-pointers, gearing located in the intermediate space and adapted to communicate motion from the arbor of the primary register to the arbor of the secondary register, provision for rotating the primary arbor by hand, a transparent panel for the primary register, and means for detachably confining said panel in position.

6. The combination of a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizontal portion having parts depending within said intermediate space to form a plurality of depressions, registering-dials on the bottoms of said depressions, a vertical arbor bearing in and projecting above each depression-bottom and carrying an index-pointer, and means for operating the arbor of each depression independently of the arbor of the other depression.

7. The combination in a game-counter, of a body comprising a base and a top section in joined relation to form an intermediate space, the top section embodying an upper horizon-

tal portion having parts depending within
said intermediate space to form a plurality of
depressions, registering-dials on the bottoms
of said depressions, a vertical arbor bearing
5 in and projecting above each depression-bot-
tom and carrying an index-pointer, separate
gearing for each arbor, within the interme-
diate space, and means for operating the
gearing of each harbor independently of the
10 gearing of the other arbor.

8. A game-counter comprising top and
bottom sections, the bottom section having
integrally a vertical marginal rib and per-
forated horizontal flange, and the top sec-
15 tion integrally provided with an outer wall
embracing said rim, said top section contain-
ing a pair of depressions, primary and sec-

ondary dials within said depressions, primary
and secondary arbors projecting within the
latter and carrying index-pointers, gearing 20
for driving the secondary arbor from the ro-
tation of the primary arbor, hand-operable
means for actuating the latter, and yielding
cushions having necks snugly occupying the
perforations of the flange, and having heads 25
above the same.

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

WALTER J. PRATT.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM PAXTEN,
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