

No. 840,459.

PATENTED JAN. 1, 1907.

H. J. PHILLIPS.

CARD SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 15, 1906.

Fig. 1

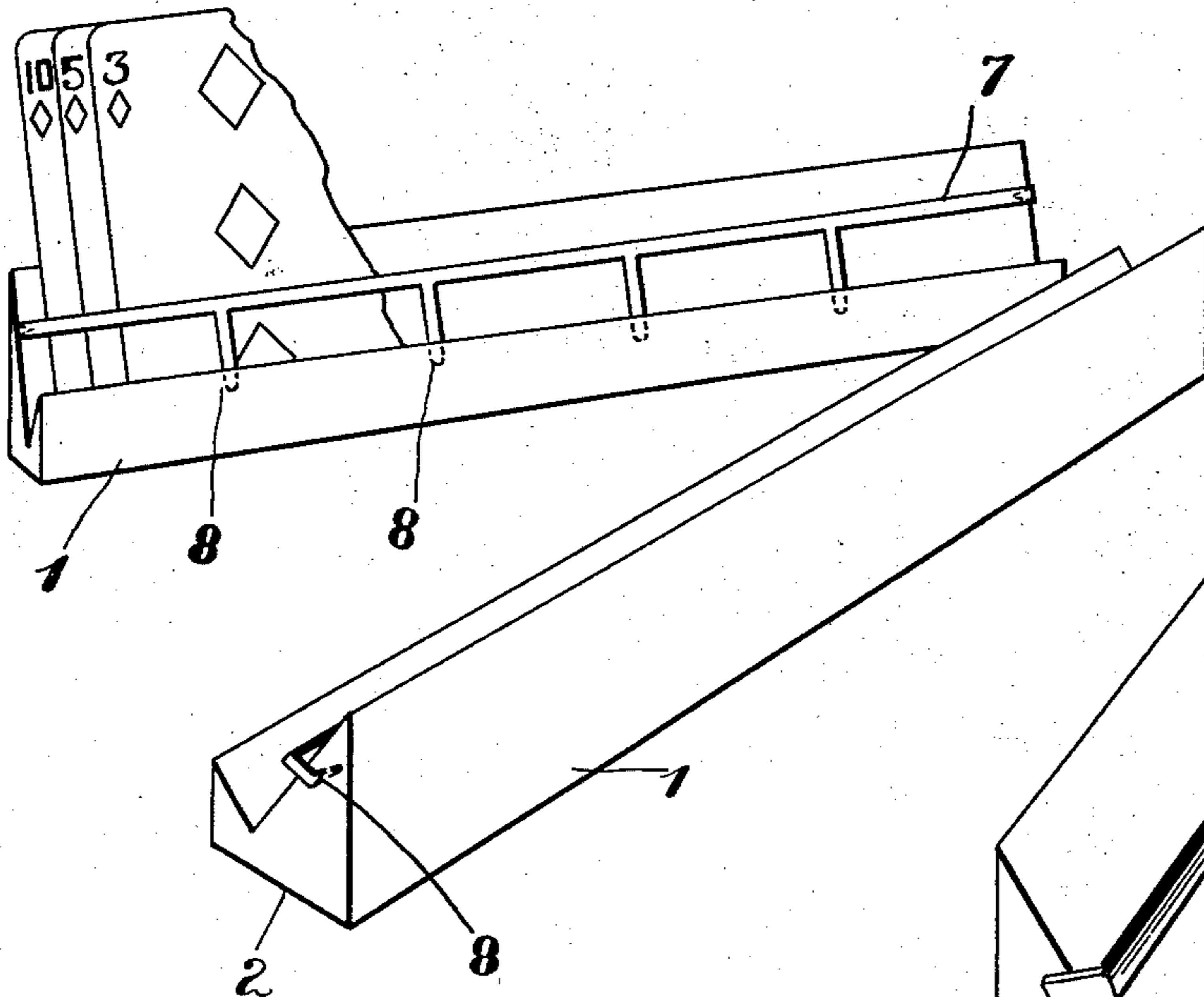


Fig. 2

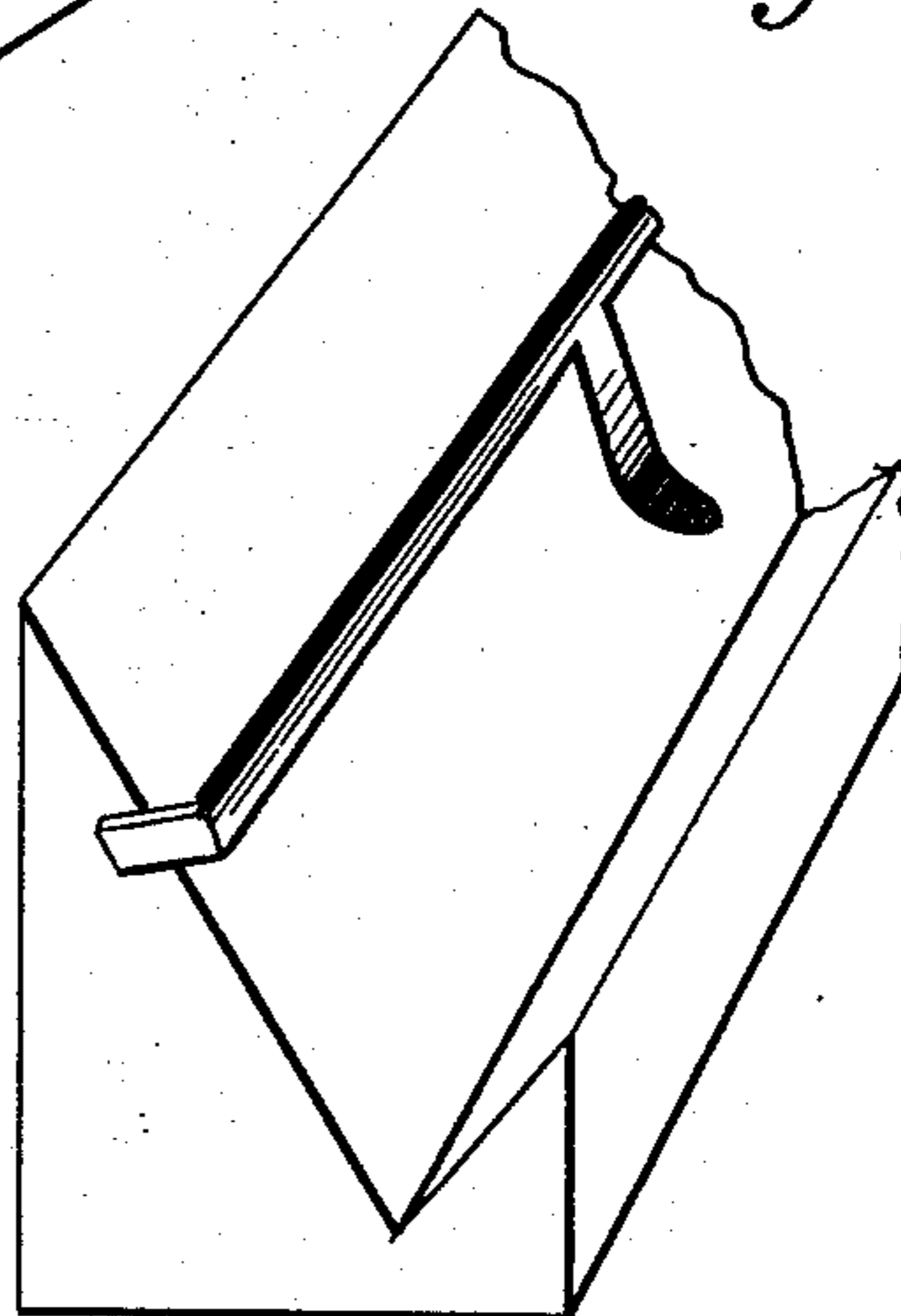
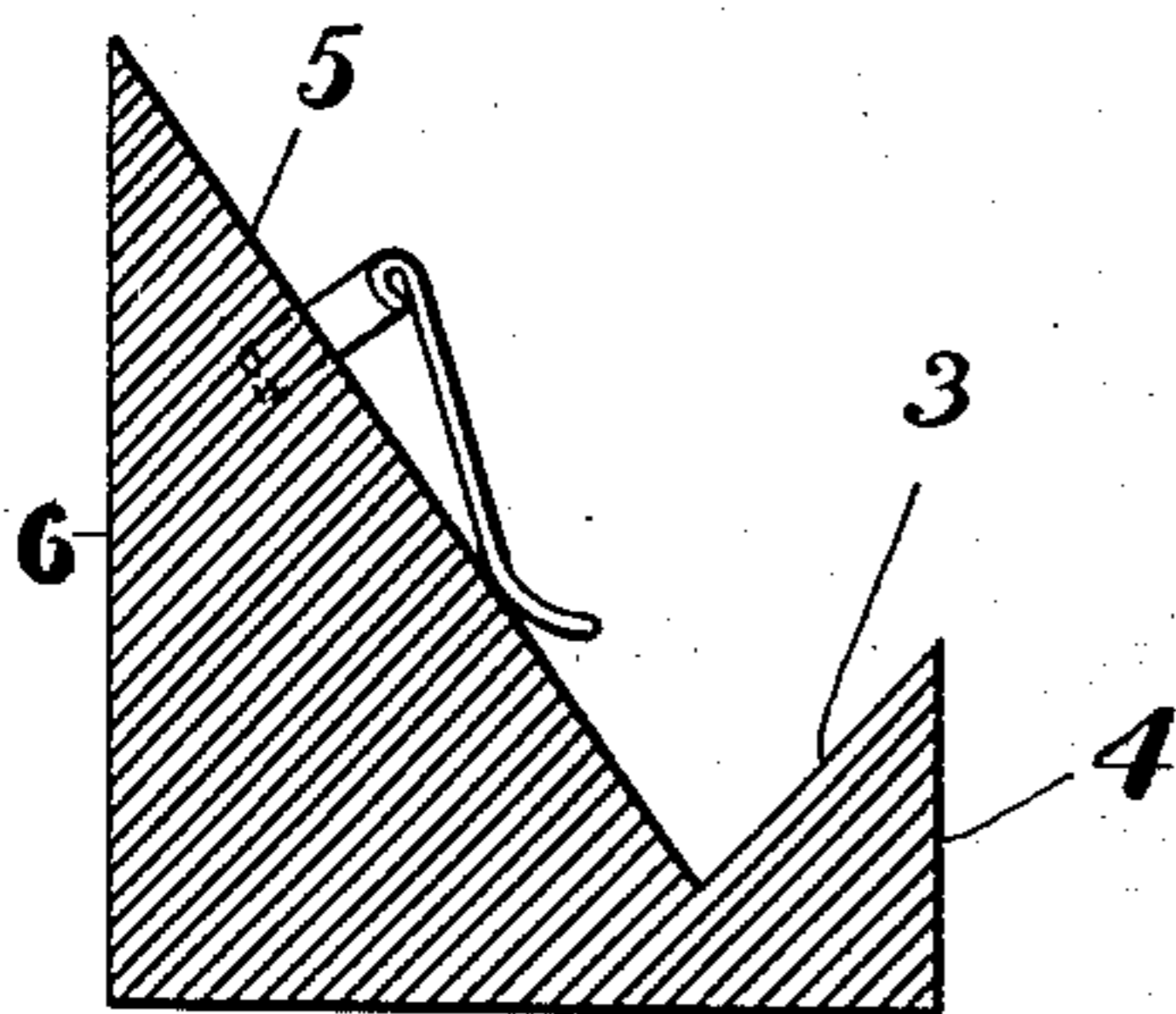


Fig. 3



Witnesses:

Jesse Allen Holton
Adolph C. Kaiser.

Inventor:

Henry J. Phillips
by Emory Booth
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY J. PHILLIPS, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO PARKER BROTHERS, INCORPORATED, OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, A CORPORATION OF MAINE.

CARD-SUPPORT.

No. 840,459.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY J. PHILLIPS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salem, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Card-Supports, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like figures on the drawings representing like parts.

My invention relates to card-supports and more particularly to the provision of improved supporting devices for the cards of a "dummy" hand, especially in a game where two or more dummy hands are employed. Not only the game of bridge-whist, but other four-handed games as well, are frequently played by two players, each of whom in addition to the cards of his own hand plays the cards of a dummy or auxiliary hand, the cards of the four hands being played in the sequence they would have in the usual four-handed game.

In the provision of a card-support for a two-handed or multiple dummy it is desirable that the cards in each dummy hand should be thoroughly exposed to the dummy's partner while completely obscured from the vision of his opponent. It is also desirable that the cards should be so supported as to assist rather than confuse the correct sequence in play—that is to say, they should preferably occupy such a sequential relation with reference to the players as would be in fact occupied by those players which the dummy cards are supposed to represent.

In carrying out my invention I have provided a dummy-card support which not only carries out these objects, but which is simpler in construction and easier to use than those supports heretofore employed and requires no unusual constraint in the position which must be assumed by the two players about the table.

My invention will be best understood by reference to the following description, when taken in connection with the accompanying illustration of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows in perspective a pair of dummy-card supports arranged in a position which they may occupy during use in a game. Fig. 2 shows an enlarged detail of one of the supports, and Fig. 3 is a

cross-section in elevation showing a card-retaining finger.

Referring to the drawings and to the embodiment of my invention there illustrated, I have shown the supporting device there illustrated to consist of a pair of similar substantially solid blocks 1, each of which is provided with a substantially flat bottom face 2, upon which it may rest firmly upon the table or other support. In this position it presents a pair of upwardly-diverging card-supporting faces the shorter of which, 3, extends obliquely to the front upright face 4 of the support, and the longer of which, 5, extends obliquely to the rear face 6 of the support. These faces meet each other at a slightly-acute angle, so that if with the support resting upon the base the cards are dropped into the groove or ledge formed by the convergence of the two card-supporting faces the backs rest lightly upon the longer face 5 and their bottoms upon the shorter face 3.

No other formation than the mere angular inclination of the card-supporting face 5 and the provision of the ledge afforded by the face 3 at the bottom thereof need be provided, but, if desired, there may also be employed additional means for retaining the cards against displacement. Such means, for example, are embodied in the illustrated form of my invention in the card-retaining rail 7, which extends lengthwise and directly in front of the card-retaining face 5 of the holder, but sufficiently removed therefrom, Fig. 3, to permit the card readily to be inserted back of the same in the holder.

In the preferred embodiment of my invention the retaining-rail 7 is merely struck up out of light sheet metal, being provided at its ends with inturned points 8, which are driven into or inserted within the end faces of the holder so as to be held rigidly thereon.

If desired, the retaining-rail may be provided at intervals with downturned resilient fingers 8, which are curved inwardly toward the card-supporting face to have a resilient contact therewith, so that when a card is inserted the same is retained thereby against accidental displacement.

When used for the support of a pair of dummy hands, the cards for each dummy are placed in one of the two racks or supports by the dummy's partner. The fact that the two card-supports are separate and may be

moved relatively to each other greatly facilitates the placing of the cards in the support, as compared with previous dummy-card supports, where the two racks have been held in fixed relation facing each other and the two players have been brought more or less in conflict in initially placing the cards in their respective racks.

In the present instance each player after having picked up his dummy's hand can place his rack or support directly in front of him and there conveniently arrange the hand. The supports are then placed so that each player can see his dummy partner's hand, but cannot see his opposing dummy's hand. Such a condition may be supposed with reference to the supports as arranged in Fig. 1 if it be assumed that one player is facing the drawing with his opponent directly at his left, the latter looking in a direction approximately at right angles to that in which the first faces. The supports being separate and independent they may be shifted about and arranged in an infinite variety of relations and positions. The players usually sit adjacent each other and at substantially right angles, but the fact that the supporting-racks are separate permits the players to vary from this considerably, adjusting the card-supports to suit their own selected positions. Where the two supporting-racks have been held in fixed relation, the players have been obliged to occupy certain definite positions about the table. The separability of the two supports therefore not only adds to the facility in initially placing the cards and handling the supports, but it materially lessens the constraint which is placed upon the players in respect to the positions which they must occupy.

With the holders placed as shown in the drawings, with the two sets of cards face to face while slightly offset laterally, the hands

bear the proper sequence relation and the correct order of play is easily kept up—that is to say, each player while facing his dummy hand has at one side of him his opponent and at the other side his opponent's dummy hand.

The solidity of the supports renders them free from the objection to which collapsible or folding supports have been subject—namely, the likelihood of collapsing during playing of the hand or while the cards are being placed. The supports may be made of any desired material, but are preferably of wood.

The angle of the supporting-face is sufficient to retain the cards, while giving them enough pitch or elevation to conceal their faces from the player who is looking over their backs. It will be obvious, however, that by the use of a card-retaining rail or resilient finger, such as illustrated, the pitch or inclination of the supporting-face may be greatly increased.

While I have shown and described one form of my invention, it will be understood that the same is not limited to the construction, form, or relative arrangement of parts disclosed, but that extensive modifications therein may be made without departing from the true spirit of the invention.

I claim—

A card-support having a base, a card-supporting wall sloping backward from the base, a rest to hold the card, and a retaining rail or wire for the sloping card-supporting wall.

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

HENRY J. PHILLIPS.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR E. CARSON,
THOMAS B. BOOTH.