

No. 842,784.

PATENTED JAN. 29, 1907.

W. B. HILL.
TOY.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 20, 1906.

Fig. 1.

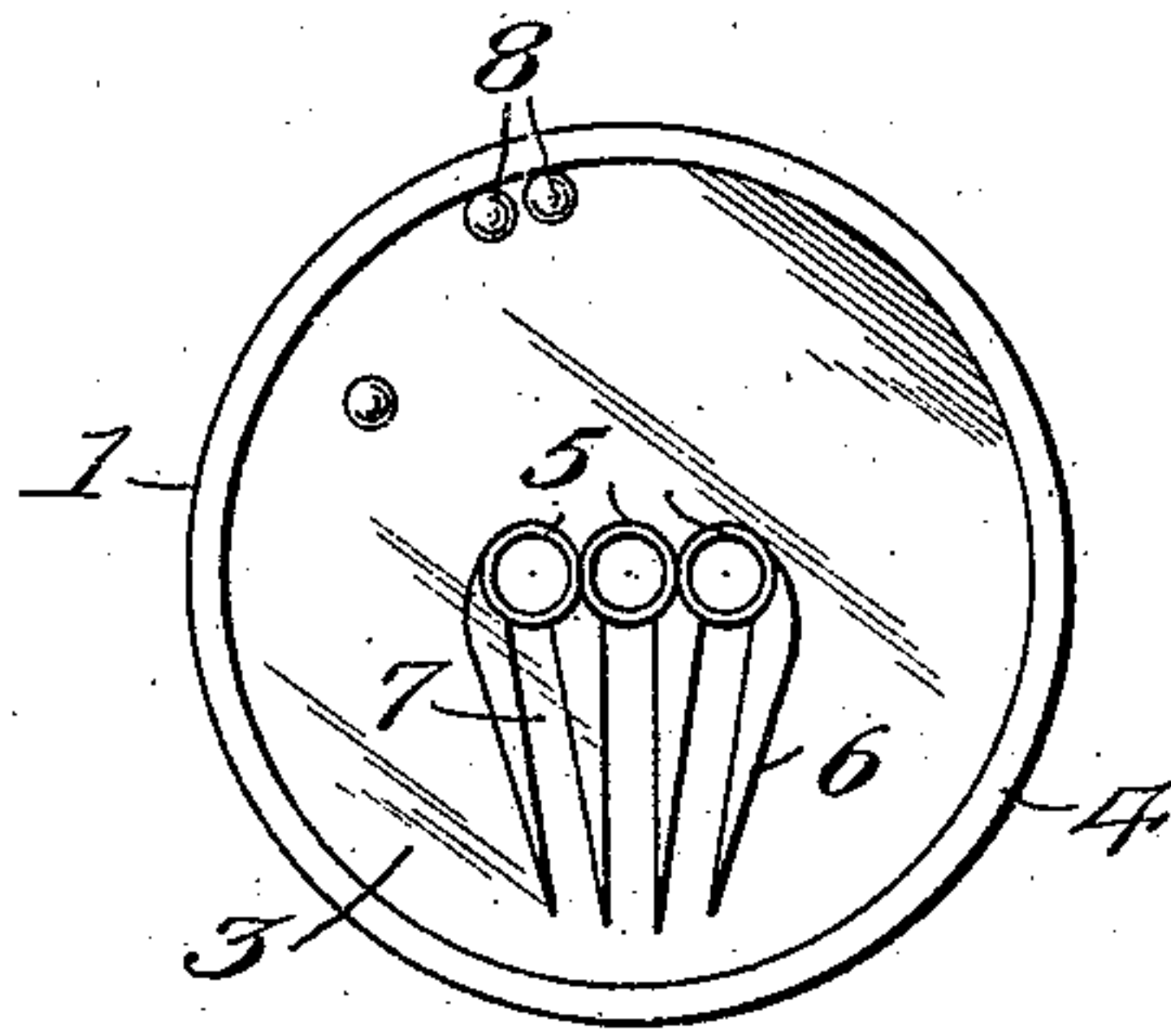
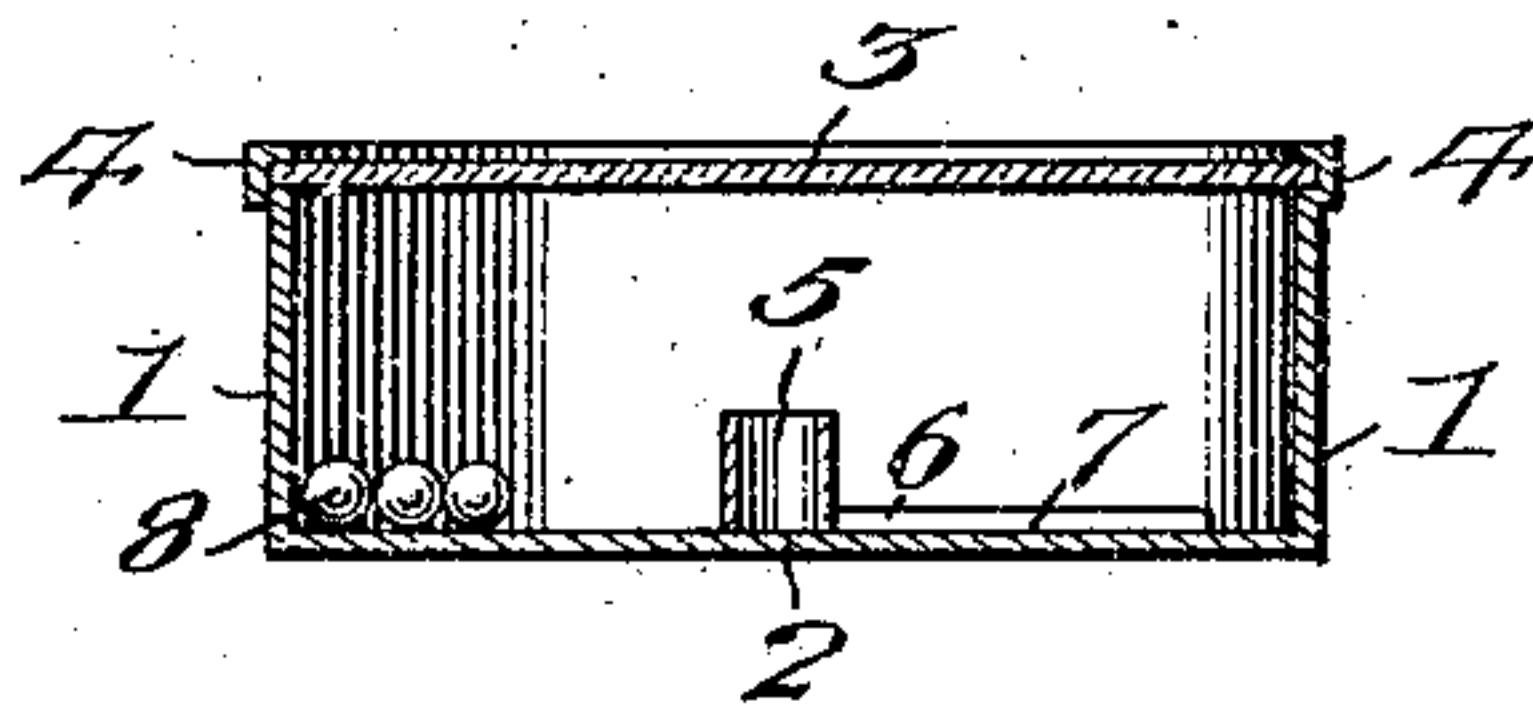


Fig. 2.



Witnesses

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TOY.

No. 842,784.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 29, 1907.

Application filed October 20, 1906. Serial No. 339,850.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. HILL, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Terre Haute, in the county of Vigo and State of Indiana, have invented new and useful Improvements in Toys, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toys of that general character comprising a box or casing having one or more receptacles disposed therein and one or more balls designed to be seated in the receptacle or receptacles by a skilled manipulation of the box or casing to guide and control the balls in their movements.

The object of the present invention is to provide a novel and improved construction of toy of this type designed for playing a game of an amusing and instructing character, which I have termed "Bats in the belfry."

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of a toy embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section of the same.

The device comprises a box or casing 1, preferably of circular form and having a bottom 2 and a transparent top or panel 3, the latter being composed of a disk of mica, glass, or other equivalent material secured in position in any preferred manner, as by a holding-ring or bezel 4.

Arranged at the center of the chamber or compartment of the casing is a row of tubes 5, preferably three in number, extending upwardly from the bottom 2 and forming open-topped pockets, which may be considered the portions or compartments of a belfry. Projecting from one side of this row of tubes is a series of strips 6, secured to the bottom 2 and simulating in form and arrangement the tines of a fork, thus providing guide-passages 7 leading to the pockets and separated at their forward ends by a narrow passage from the adjacent portion of the side wall of the casing.

In the casing are balls, spheres, or other circular objects 8, which are free to travel on the bottom 2 and to be guided in a circular path by the side wall of the casing and are equal in number to the pockets and of a proper size or diameter to travel in the guideways 7. It will be observed that these guideways 7 are disposed at the same level and are designed to lead the balls to the lower ends of the tubes.

In playing the game the object is to so

manipulate the casing as to cause the balls to travel over the surface of the bottom and into the guideways to the base of the tubes or pockets into which they are intended to be jumped. This is obviously a difficult object to accomplish and requires skill and care on the part of the player or operator to control the movements of the balls, the erratic motion of the balls and the training of the eye and hand in controlling them affording amusement and useful instruction. When the balls represented by the balls are confined or entrapped in the compartments of the belfry, one in each compartment, the game is played or the puzzle of entrapping the balls solved. By the described arrangement of the passages and the necessity of jumping the balls into the pockets the operation of entrapping the balls is rendered one of greater difficulty and causes increased amusement and interest, owing to the tendency of an entrapped ball to pass out of its pocket during the efforts of the operator to entrap another ball.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a transparent top, a row of tubes rising from the bottom of the casing and forming compartments, guides leading from one side of the casing to the tubes, and balls adapted to be guided and seated in said tubes.

2. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a transparent top, a row of tubes rising from the bottom of the casing and forming pockets, strips secured to the bottom of the casing and extending outwardly from one side of the row of tubes and simulating in form and arrangement the tines of a fork, and balls within the casing and adapted to be guided and seated in said tubes.

3. A device of the character described comprising a casing having a transparent top, a row of open-topped pockets extending upwardly from the bottom of the casing, guide members on the bottom of the casing leading to the pockets, and balls adapted to pass along said guideways to the bases of the pockets and jumped thereinto.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM B. HILL

Witnesses:

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