F. C. HOBBS.

BILLIARD COUNTER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 18, 1910.

993,994. Patented May 30, 1911.

Fig. 1.

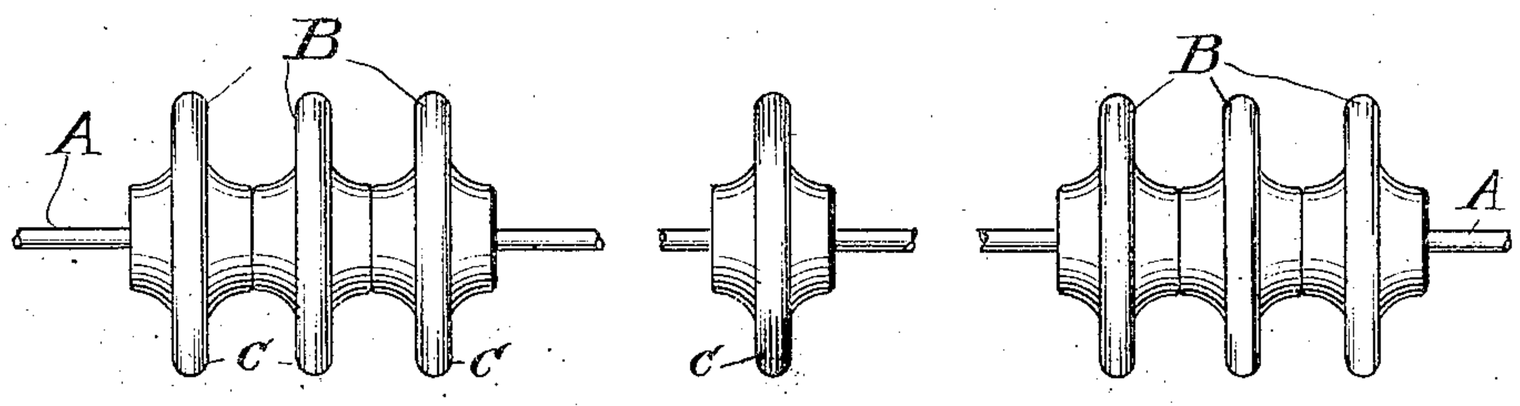


Fig. 2.

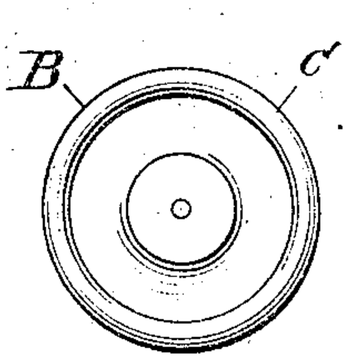


Fig. 4.

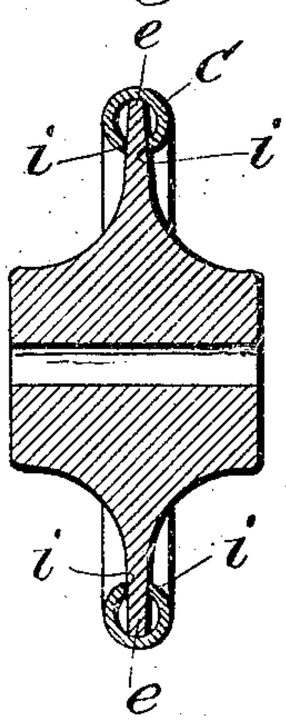
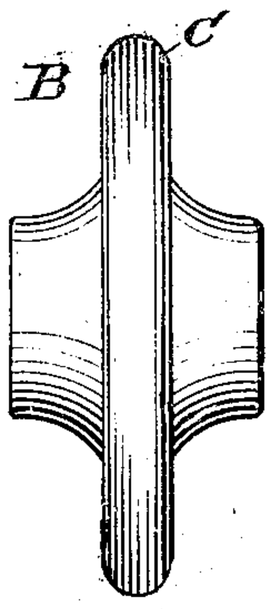


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK C. HOBBS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO THE BRUNSWICK-BALKE-COLLENDER COMPANY OF NEW YORK, OF NEW YORK COUNTY, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

BILLIARD-COUNTER.

993,994. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 30, 1911.

Application filed November 18, 1910. Serial No. 593,035.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK C. HOBBS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, (whose post-office address is care Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company of New York, 29–35 West Thirty-second street, New York, N. Y.,) have invented a new and useful Improvement in Billiard-Counters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part thereof.

My invention relates to that type of game registering devices used in playing games on billiard tables, known as string counters; and which consists, as is well known, of two series of buttons, or disk-shaped units made of wood; centrally perforated; and strung on a wire, over head (usually located over the billiard table) so that the players can slide, or manipulate the buttons on the wire, by the application to the counters, of the playing end-portion of a billiard cue.

As is well known to billiard room keepers, it sometimes (not infrequently) occurs that, in too hastily or roughly "shoving up" one or more buttons with the cue, in registering the score of an inning, one of the wooden counters is broken in two, the fracture being diametric of the button and passing through its central aperture, or eye, so that the severed parts of the split button drop off of the string wire. And to replace the broken device by a new button, necessitates the detachment of the string wire from its anchorage; the removal of some (sometimes many) of the uninjured buttons; the placement then on the wire, in its proper place, of a new button; then the replacement, or stringing on the wire of the buttons which had to be temporarily removed; and finally the refastening up in place (in its proper taut condition) of the strung wire. And as the billiard room keeper well knows, all this involves much trouble.

It has been suggested, I believe, to lessen the trouble of the replacement of broken off buttons by new ones, to provide for use (to be supplied to billiard room keepers) substitute buttons made of wood, in two parts, and supplied with means for securely uniting the two parts, after their application, separately, to the wire; and I believe patents have been granted for such devices, adapted to avoid all the trouble incident to the stringing onto the wire of a new, centrally perforated, button. But such devices have none of them ever gone into practical operation, or use by room keepers (that I know of) and the custom still prevails of curing the deficiency of a broken off button in the manner I have above explained.

My invention has for its object to provide for use string counter buttons, which cannot possibly get broken or split in two, so as to permit the parts of the fractured button to become detached from the string wire. And to this end and object my invention consists in a wooden button, or centrally peripheral disk, of the usual size and shape, provided with a peripherally arranged integral metallic band, which encircles the button, incasing the perimeter of the disk; in such manner that even should the wooden disk, from any cause, get split diametrically (with the grain of the wood) its two parts will be maintained in juxtaposition just the same as though the wooden disk experienced no fracturing of its stock.

Though the contingency of the wood ever getting split is practically impossible, on account of the wooden disk being bound or banded by a metallic device which also embraces, laterally, at every point in its circumference, an appreciable part of the wooden stock constituting the perimeter of the disk.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use a string counter, provided with my improved non-breakable wooden buttons, I will now proceed to more fully describe my invention by reference to the accompanying drawing, which forms part of this specification, and in which I have shown the invention carried out with that precise form of non-breakable, wooden, button, or counter unit, which I have so far successfully used in practicing my said invention.

In the drawing Figure 1 is a side view or elevation, full size, of a sufficient portion of a string counter to illustrate my invention; Fig. 2 is a side view, same scale, of one of my improved non-breakable wooden counter buttons, detached from the string wire; Fig. 3 is an edge view of the button detached, double size; and Fig. 4 is a diametric sectional view, double size, showing

plainly the precise construction of the metal-bound wooden button of my invention.

In the several figures the same part will be found always designated by the same letter of reference.

A, is the usual wire on which the buttons are strung, as shown at Fig. 1,—in the usual manner.

B, is the wooden, metal-bound, counter button or disk, of about the usual shape and appearance, except that its circular, perimetral portion, is incased within and it is banded, or bound, circumferentially, by the metallic binder C. And this binder C, of sheet metal, is of such shape, in cross section, at every point in its circumference, as plainly shown, (see particularly Fig. 3) as to incase within it an appreciable portion of the wooden disk, at the vicinity of its perimeter; and to surround the perimeter of the disk circumferentially, as shown. And, preferably, the combined arrangement of the wooden and metallic parts of the button, is such that the metallic band, or binder C contacts circumferentially with the peripheral edge of the wooden disk, as clearly shown at *e*, Fig. 3. The metal binder device, also at its circular edges *i*. *i*. forcibly contacts with the wood of the button as seen; and these edges *i*. *i*. should fit tight against the wood, (whether the binder C be made to fit tight to the periphery of the disk at *e* or not) in order that the combined metal and wooden parts shall be securely and lastingly fastened together. And in making the combination wood and metal button, this rigid and durable union of the wooden and metallic parts may be readily attained to by, either spinning (a previously suitable shaped circular metallic blank) on to the periphery of the wooden disk; or by upsetting and compressing a suitable shaped metal blank onto the perimeter of the wooden disk, between a suitable shaped set of metal dies.

It will be readily understood that a wooden counter button, or disk, otherwise substantially like those now in use, but made with a metallic binder device C substantially like that shown, and applied to the wooden part in substantially the way described, cannot possibly be broken off of, or broken so as to become detached from, the string wire A.

Wishing it to be understood that I do not confine myself, in practicing my invention, to the precise forms and arrangement together of the metal and wooden parts shown and described; what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

As an improved article of manufacture, a string counter button, comprising a centrally perforated wooden disk, of the necessary shape, with hub-like portions, and a tapered body, and composed of a single piece; and a sheet metal band embracing closely and securely the perimeter of the wooden part, as specified; the whole made and operating as and for the purposes set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of November, 1910.

FRANK C. HOBBS.

In presence of—

WM. H. LANSMITH, Jr.,

M. CORCORAN