F. C. Schaefer,

Chess Board,

No. 52,891. Patented Feb. 27, 1866.

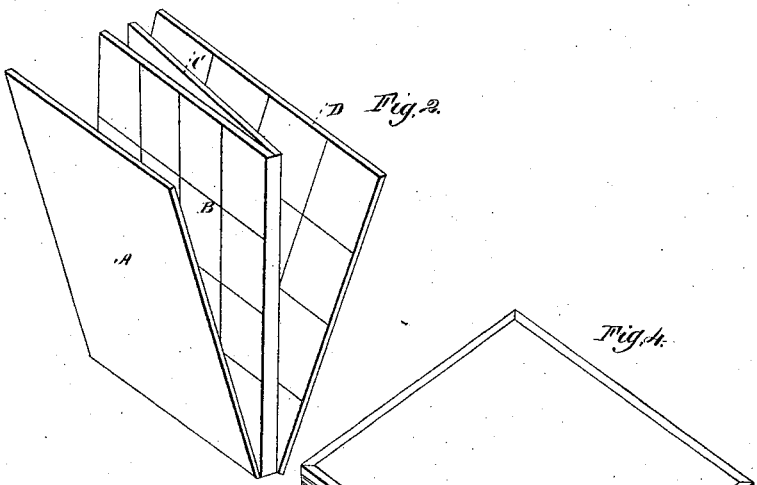


Fig. 2.

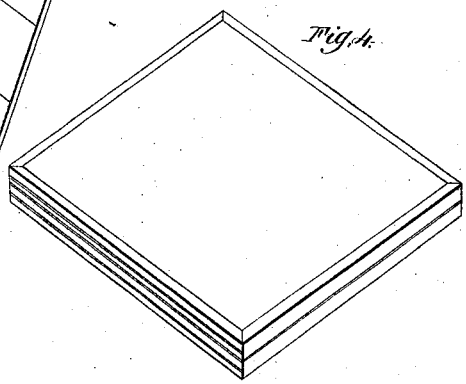


Fig. 4.

Fig. 1.

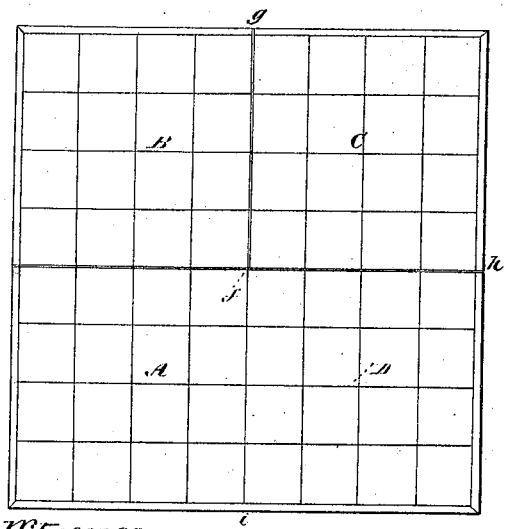
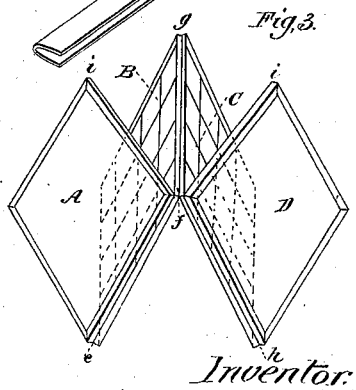


Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses.

R. T. Campbell

Edw. Schaefer.

Inventor.

F. C. Schaefer

by his

Atty

Mann, Brownell & Mann

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

F. C. SCHAEFER, OF DUBUQUE, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN CHESS-BOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **52,891**, dated February 27, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK C. SCHAEFER, of the city of Dubuque, county of Dubuque, and State of Iowa, have invented a new and Improved Folding Chess-Board; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of my specification, in which drawings—

Figure 1 is plan view, showing the chess-board unfolded and ready for use. Figs. 2 and 3 show the same partially folded; and Fig. 4 is a view showing the chess-board completely folded.

The object of my invention is to so construct a chess-board (or checker-board) in four rectangular parts of equal dimensions that the same may be folded together so as to be readily carried in the pocket of a person transporting it, but which, when in the act of use and unfolded, may be removed from place to place without folding up or derangement of the pieces which may be upon the board, and without the use of clamps. To effect this I construct the chess-board of four main parts, as indicated at A, B, C, and D in the drawings. Each of these parts has sixteen checker-squares upon it, so that when said parts are in the contiguous position, as represented in Fig. 1, a complete chess or checker board will be presented ready for use.

The materials which I employ for constructing my chess-board, as well as the style and mode of ornamenting it, are the same as in the manufacture of the ordinary style of boards on sale at the shops.

In Fig. 1 I have shown my board with the several parts A, B, C, and D in proper position for placing the pieces upon it preparatory to the commencement of a game. When the said parts are in this position the part A may be turned up and folded over onto the part B, and the part D may be turned up and folded over onto the part C. This act is partially indicated in Fig. 3, with the additional indication of the act of also folding the parts B and C together, these several acts, when completed, causing the parts A, B, C, and D of the board to assume the closely-compacted condition indicated in Fig. 4, in which form the chess-board may be inserted in an ordinary pocket of a garment, and so be transported from place to place.

In the manufacture of the chess-board so that the parts A, B, C, and D shall be held together so as to be made to assume the condition represented in Fig. 1, or be folded together, as above described, I apply joints to the several parts, as will now be described.

In Figs. 1 and 3 the line from *e* to *f* indicates a joint by means of which the parts A and B are connected together. This joint, in this instance, is formed by the flexible fabric of which the face of the chess-board is composed, and upon which the checker spots or squares are formed. In place, however, of such joint being formed of flexible fabric composing the face or front surface of the board, metal hinges may be applied, so as to allow of the folding of the part A upon the part B, as heretofore described. The line from *f* to *h* represents a joint or hinge, the same as that from *e* to *f*, thereby allowing the part D to be folded upon the part C. The line from *f* to *g* in last-named figures also indicates a joint like those previously described, but formed of the flexible fabric which is used to cover a portion of the back of the chess-board, thus allowing the part C to be folded upon the part B, as indicated in Fig. 3 in part. Metallic hinges may be applied to these parts in lieu of a flexible fabric pasted to the back of the board, and so as to allow of the proper folding of these parts. Between the parts A D, on the line *f i*, there is no joint, said parts being disconnected on said line so that they may spread apart in the condition indicated in Fig. 3 in the act of folding.

It is evident from the foregoing description that if the thumb of a person be placed upon the face of the board so as to cover a portion of the parts A D, while the fingers sustain said parts on their under side, all the parts of the board will maintain a like plane, or nearly so, in which condition the board may be removed from one place to another while a game is progressing, and this without disturbing the pieces upon the board, thus rendering the ordinary clamp, as at Fig. 5, unnecessary for locking the sections of a folding chess-board.

If my chess-board was made with a series of sections of a length equal to the width of

the board when unfolded for use it would be objectionable, owing to its length when folded or rolled together; but by my invention I have attained all the advantages of a folding board without such objection.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

A chess or checker board composed of four main parts, A B C D, united together in the manner and for the purpose substantially as described.

Witness my hand in the matter of my application for a patent on a portable checker and chess board this 13th September, A. D. 1865.

F. C. SCHAEFER.

Witnesses:

M. H. BEACH,

GEO. GRAY.