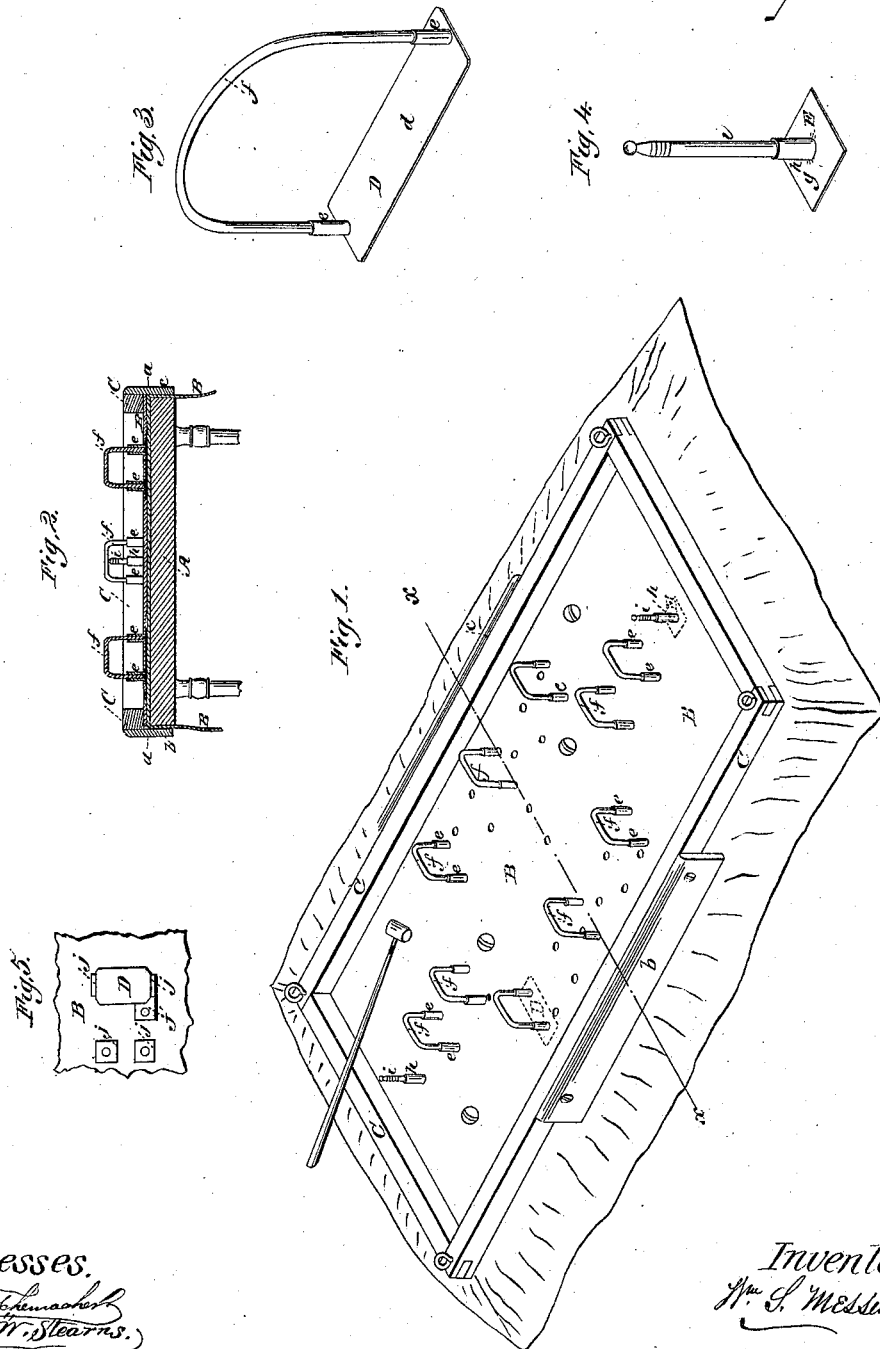


W. S. Messinger;

Game Board.

Nº 55139.

Patented May 29, 1866.



Witnesses.

W. S. Messinger
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Inventor.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. MESSINGER, OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

APPARATUS FOR PARLOR-CROQUET.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **55,139**, dated May 29, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. MESSINGER, of Roxbury, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Parlor-Croquet, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of my improved parlor-croquet applied to the top of an ordinary dining-table. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the same on the line *xx* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a view of a wicket constructed on my improved plan. Fig. 4 is a view of one of the stakes with its socket; Fig. 5, detail showing a portion of the under side of the cloth which covers the table.

The game of croquet, ordinarily played out of doors on the grass, has been arranged for the house on a table into which the wire wickets and stakes were firmly driven, the spring of which caused the balls, on striking them, to rebound and roll at random, so that the shots of the player could not be depended upon, which is not the case where the wickets and stakes are driven into the ground. The surface of the table has also been covered with cloth stretched tightly over it, forming a hard surface, on which the balls rolled about too freely, not representing the game as played on the grass. A table sufficiently large to make the game one of interest also occupies considerable space in a room, and cannot be furnished at a sufficiently low price.

My invention has for its object to overcome these difficulties and to enable the game to be readily set up on any ordinary table of the required size; and it consists in a cloth perforated to receive sockets for the wickets and stakes, the cloth being laid over the table (on which a blanket or other suitable article is spread) and held in place by a suitable frame placed over it, which also serves to keep the balls from rolling off the table.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents the top of an ordinary dining-table, over which is spread a blanket or other similar article, *a*, to make the surface correspond as nearly as possible to the yielding surface of the ground.

Over this is laid the cloth B, which is held down by means of a frame, C, which is made of wood and jointed, so that it can be taken apart when removed from the table. The strips or cleats *b c*, attached to the sides of the frame C, project down over the edge of the table and serve to steady and hold it in place. The frame also serves to prevent the balls from rolling off the table.

The cloth B is perforated in the required places for the reception of the wicket-sockets D and stake-sockets E. The socket D (seen detached in Fig. 3) is formed of a flat piece of tin or other metal, *d*, from which project, at the required distance apart, two short tubes, *e*, into which are fitted the ends of the wire wickets *f*, the flat portion *d* lying between the blanket *a* and the cloth B, as seen in Fig. 2, while the tubes *e* project up through the cloth to receive the wickets, as seen in Fig. 1. The socket E is formed of a flat piece, *g*, from which projects a short tube, *h*, to receive the stake *i*, as seen in Fig. 4. The flat portions of these sockets are of such a width that the cloth B, held by the frame C, will keep them in place, while they will yield without springing on a ball striking a wicket or stake, thus preventing the ball from rebounding and rolling at random over the table.

The cloth is strengthened and prevented from tearing where it is perforated for the sockets by pasting small pieces of parchment or other suitable material, *j*, on its under side, as seen in Fig. 5, and the cloth is perforated with several series of holes, as seen in Fig. 1, to allow the wickets to be arranged for different games or for different-sized wickets to be used.

When it is required to put away the game it is simply necessary to raise the frame C and take it apart. In the full size each piece of the frame would be hinged, so that it can be packed in a small compass. The wickets and stakes are then withdrawn from their sockets and the sockets removed from the cloth B, which is then folded up compactly and placed in the box, together with the frame, wickets, sockets, stakes, &c.

It will thus be seen that the cloth, with its wickets, &c., may be applied to an extension or other large table, which is to be found in every household, and the necessity of having a table specially adapted for the game is avoided, while the game more closely imitates

that played on the grass than any other household game yet produced, on account of the peculiar adaptation of the wickets and stakes to the cloth and the soft material placed beneath the cloth, so as to make its surface slightly yielding. The game as above described can also be furnished at a very moderate cost.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The wickets *f* or stakes *i*, with their sockets

D or *E*, in combination with the cloth *B*, perforated to receive them, substantially as set forth.

2. The perforated cloth *B* and frame *C*, in combination with the wickets *f* and stakes *i* and their removable sockets *D* and *E*, substantially as described.

WM. S. MESSINGER.

Witnesses:

P. E. TESCHEMACHER,

N. W. STEARNS.