

(Model.)

C. W. STEARNS.

WHIST MARKER.

No. 304,370.

Patented Sept. 2, 1884.

Fig. 1.

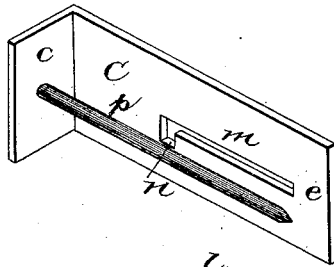


Fig. 4.

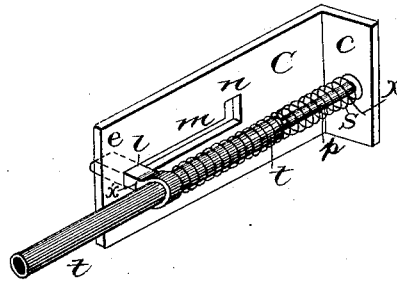


Fig. 2.

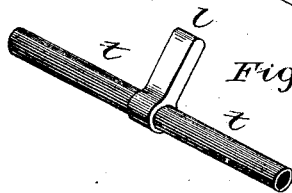


Fig. 3.

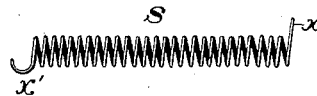
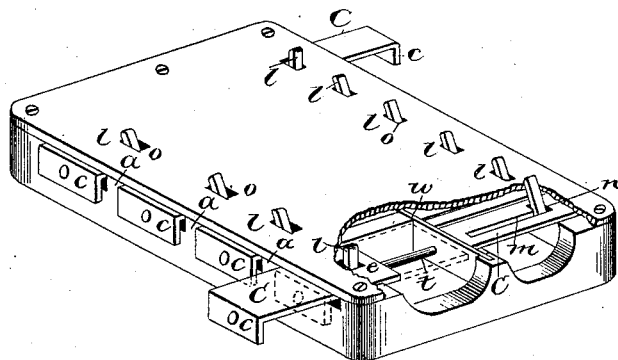


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:

Mayron W. Traver  
Robert Dickey

Inventor:

Charles W. Stearns

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. STEARNS, OF MILTON, NEW YORK.

## WHIST-MARKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 304,370, dated September 2, 1884.

Application filed September 29, 1883. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. STEARNS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Milton, county of Ulster, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Marker for Whist and other Games, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in markers for whist and other games in which several movable pieces or counters are arranged in a flat box or case and are caused to shoot forth, so as to show the points gained and the games won; and the objects of my improvement are, first, convenience in manipulating the counters; second, to hold the counters firmly in place, so that they may not be liable to derangement; third, compactness in arrangement of the whole apparatus, while at the same time the size of the several counters admits of their being distinctly seen by all the players. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the under side of an oblong plate forming the body of one of the movable counters. Fig. 2 represents a tube with an arm or lever projecting from about the middle. Fig. 3 is a spiral spring so shaped at the ends as to afford a transverse combined with its longitudinal action. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the counters from its under side, with the mechanism (lever, spring, &c.) by which it is operated. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the box or case containing all the counters in position.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout all the several views.

The oblong plate C C, Fig. 1, has a flange or lip, c c, bent downward across its forward end. In the middle of this flange a rod or guiding-pin, p p, is set parallel lengthwise to the under surface of the plate C C. The rear half of the plate C C is pierced by a slot, m, extending nearly to the rear end of the plate at e, while at the opposite or forward end of the slot there is a notch, n. The tube t t, Fig. 2, having a vertical arm or lever, l, is made to slide upon the guiding-pin, p p, Fig. 1, while its lever l is fitted to move freely along the slot m until it falls into the notch n. A spiral spring, s s, Fig. 3, somewhat longer than the body of the counter, and having a portion of the wire at its

forward end, x, straightened transversely, and at the opposite or rear end, x', bent in form of a hook, is slipped onto the tube, so that its rear end, x', may be hooked on or caught around the lever l. The forward end of the spring is then slipped on over the guiding-pin p p, which is also made to enter the tube, and both tube and spring are then pushed forward until the straightened end of the spring, x, rests against the flange c c, the lever l being at the same time made to enter the slot m. The direct action of the spring is now to push the lever l against the lower end of the slot at e, while the shape of the wire at each end of the spring keeps it from rotating on the tube and guiding-pin; but before entering the lever in the slot a half-turn is to be given the tube, by which the spring acquires an elastic force transverse to its axis, so that when the tube is pushed forward this transverse force by rotating the tube causes the lever to fall into the notch n, thereby holding the spring in a compressed state. Directly the lever is disengaged from the notch the spring expands and forces the tube backward until the lever meets the lower end of the slot at e; but if, before the lever has been disengaged from the notch, the rear end of the tube has been set against a fixed point, the tube can have no backward movement from the expansion of the spring; but instead of that the body of the counter is driven forward. This happens when the counters are set in a suitable box or case, B B. (Represented by Fig. 5.) This case is of a flat oblong shape and constructed of a bottom piece with narrow cleats across the ends, on which rests a top piece or cover, thus leaving a shallow space between it and the bottom. This space is divided into several chambers to receive the counters by one partition, w w, Fig. 5, running lengthwise, and several transverse partitions, a a a. Directly over the chambers holes are made in the cover at o o o, &c., to receive the levers l l l, &c., projecting upward from the counters underneath. After the counters are placed in their chambers the levers are then entered through the holes in the cover, and the cover is fastened to the lower part of the case. The rear end of each tube t t, Fig. 5, now rests against the longitudinal partition w w. The act of pushing the counter backward compresses the spring and causes the notch to ap-

proach the lever, which is made to fall into it by the transverse action of the same spring, and so long as the lever rests in the notch the spring is kept compressed and the counter remains sheathed within the case. This is seen on the left side of Fig. 5, where three of the counters are pushed back into the case, and their levers *l l l*, projecting through the holes *o o o* in the cover, by their inclined position, show them to be engaged in the notches of the respective counters underneath, while the two counters that appear projecting forward out of the case show their levers in a more upright position, because they have been lifted out of the notches, which has allowed their springs to expand and force the counters to project forward out of the case. This forward movement of the counter continues until it is arrested by the end *e* of the slot *m* striking against the lever, and also by the lever itself being kept from moving forward by being put through a hole in the cover.

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

1. A game-counter composed of a box or case, a series of spring-actuated counters sliding within such case, and means for causing

one or more of such counters to project from the case, substantially as described.

2. A game-counter composed of a box or case, a series of sliding counters therein, a spring connected to each counter, a locking device, and a releasing device, all substantially as described.

3. In a game-counter, the combination of a box or case, a series of sliding counters, a combined torsion and pressure spring connected to each counter, and a locking and releasing lever, all substantially as described.

4. The combination of the box or case, the slotted counters sliding therein, the guides *t*, the springs *s*, and the levers *l*, all substantially as described.

5. The combination of the slotted box or case, a series of horizontally-sliding counters, guiding-tubes *t*, and stems *p*, levers *l*, and combined torsion and pressure springs *s*, connected to the levers and to the sliding counters, substantially as described.

CHARLES W. STEARNS.

Witnesses:

TITUS M. COAN,  
WILL H. LOW.