

No. 647,047.

Patented Apr. 10, 1900.

H. THEOBALD.
GAME APPARATUS.

(Application filed Mar. 15, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

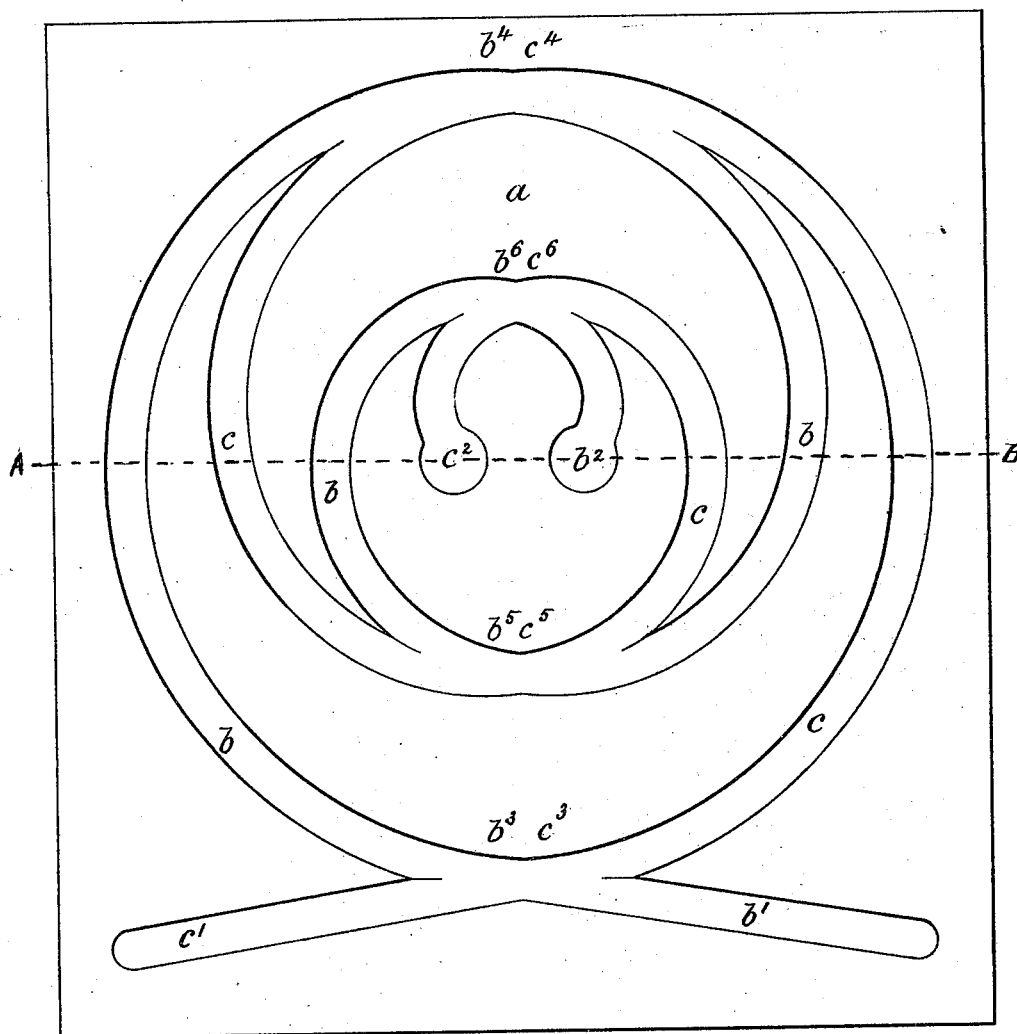


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY THEOBALD, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

GAME APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 647,047, dated April 10, 1900.

Application filed March 15, 1899. Serial No. 709,156. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY THEOBALD, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and a resident of London, England, have
5 invented a certain new and useful Improved Game Apparatus, (for which I have filed applications for patents in Great Britain, dated August 20, 1898, No. 17,976; in France, dated February 17, 1899, and in Belgium, dated Feb-
10 ruary 17, 1899,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improved game apparatus and is represented on the accompanying drawings, in Figure 1 in plan, and in
15 Fig. 2 in sectional elevation on the line A B, Fig. 1.

The improved apparatus consists of a "board" *a*, characterized by being formed with two grooved tracks *b c*, each being of a
20 spiral or analogous convoluted formation having a tangential continuation *b'* or *c'*, forming the starting-path, at its outer periphery, and a terminating enlargement *b²* or *c²*, forming a goal, at its inner periphery adjacent to
25 its focus of generation, and the two being oppositely or reversely arranged, the one convoluting with a right-handed incurve and the other with a left-handed incurve and the two being arranged in symmetrical disposition in
30 such manner that they intersect or cross each other at various points *b³ c³ b⁴ c⁴ b⁵ c⁵ b⁶ c⁶*, the series of which are in alinement, Fig. 1, so that in a complete circuit of the two curves they intersect at three points and in two complete
35 circuits at five points, and so on, these intersections of the tracks being the only parts thereof where their courses are common.

The improved board may be made of wood or of metal or of any other suitable material,
40 and the grooved tracks therein may be made either by cutting, molding, or otherwise forming the same in any convenient manner in and below the general surface of the board to a depth just exceeding their semidiameter
45 or by metal strips let into the face of the board.

In a small board having comparatively-short tracks or courses intersecting at few points the board may be flat and the tracks
50 may be of even depth throughout; but in a large board having longer tracks or courses intersecting at several points the board may

with advantage be slightly coned or dished toward the poles or foci of the spirals as a center and the tracks made of even depth
55 throughout, or the board may be flat and the tracks be made each with a gradually-increasing depth evenly declining from its starting-point to its goal.

The improved game-board is intended to be
60 used with balls used by two players, each of whom projects a ball along one of the tracks, each of the players using a different track and one of them projecting his ball after the first player's ball has passed the first point of
65 intersection *b³ c³* with the object of intercepting the first-despatched ball at one or other of the remaining intersections *b⁴ c⁴ b⁵ c⁵ b⁶ c⁶* before it reaches its goal, while the object of the first player is to get his ball to goal with-
70 out its being struck or intercepted by the ball of the second player. In the use of the board in such a game the balls used should be of equal size and weight; but balls of different
75 size and unequal weight may be used with the object of causing the larger or heavier ball upon meeting the other at any one of the said intersections common to both tracks to reverse the motion of the latter ball and di-
80 vert it from its track into the other track.

The tracks may be made of a semicircular or of any suitable shape in cross-section and should be made sufficiently deep to counter-act the centrifugal tendency of the projected
85 balls and to cause them to follow the desired course. To insure this action, if the course be long and the balls be required to be sharply projected the outer edges of the tracks may be somewhat raised or embanked above the
90 general surface of the board, and on the leading sides of the intersecting parts of the tracks such outer edges may be made tangential to a slight extent, so as the better to direct the ball when emerging from a track
95 toward the reëntrance to the continuation of such track.

To readily distinguish the tracks, they may be differently colored, and different scoring values may be given to the different intersec-
100 tions of the two tracks and to their respective goals.

The balls may be projected over the starting-paths either by hand or by any suitable ball-projecting appliance applied to the

board, the object being to tax the skill of the players in playing their balls with such respective velocities as will attain their respective objects.

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

A game-board, for use with rolling balls, formed with two grooved tracks, each being a regular spiral or analogous regular convoluted formation having a tangential continuation forming a starting-path at its outer end, and a terminating enlargement forming a goal at its inner end adjacent to its focus of generation, and the two grooves being re-

versely arranged, the one convoluting with a right-hand incurve and the other with a left-hand incurve, and the two being arranged in symmetrical disposition in such manner that they intersect each other at the various points where their courses are in common, as set forth.

Signed at London, England, this 3d day of March, 1899.

HARRY THEOBALD.

Witnesses:

CHARLES AUBREY DAY,
ALFRED CHARLES DAY.