

(No Model.)

(Application filed Feb. 16, 1900.)

Patented May 22, 1900.

Fig. 1.

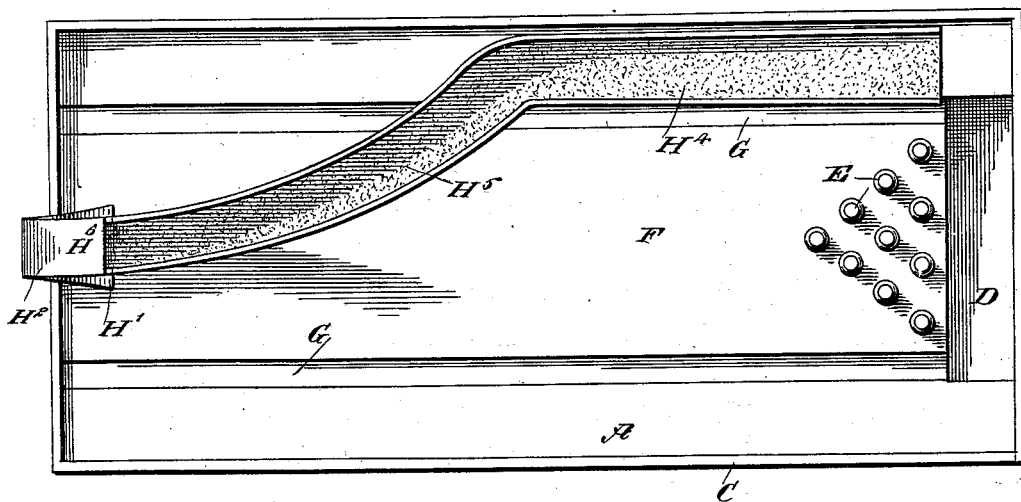
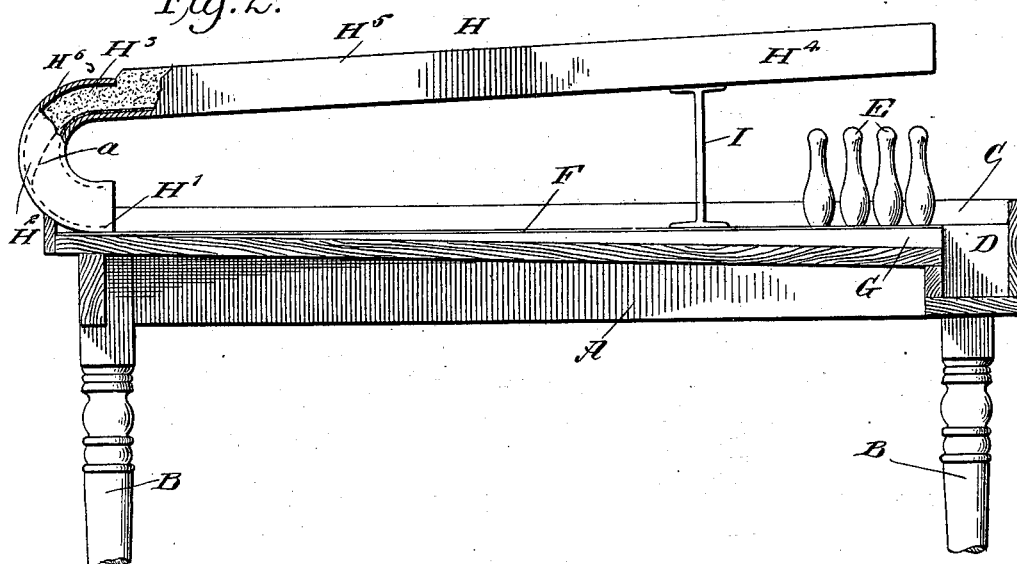



Fig. 2.



WITNESSES :

James F. Duhamel.
John Latta

INVENTOR

INVENTOR
Henry J. Heckenback
BY 
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY J. HECKENBACH, OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS.

BOWLING-ALLEY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 650,245, dated May 22, 1900.

Application filed February 16, 1900, Serial No. 5,444. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY J. HECKENBACH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Belvidere, in the county of Boone and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bowling-Alleys, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to bowling-alleys known as "portable" alleys or "parlor" bowling-alleys; and it has for its object to provide a game apparatus of the above-indicated class which will be simple and durable and in which the number of pins knocked down at each throw will be almost entirely a matter of chance, the ball being given a very complex motion.

To this end my invention consists in the particular construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures.

Figure 1 is a plan of my improved bowling-alley, and Fig. 2 is a side elevation thereof with parts broken away.

The improved bowling-alley comprises a suitable table A, which may be supported upon legs B. The table has a surrounding vertical flange C, and at one end is located the depression or pit D, adapted to receive the knocked-down pins. The pins E (usually ten in the customary arrangement) are adapted to be set up adjacent to the pit D at the end of the longitudinal bed-plate F, extending centrally of the table. At each side of said bed-plate are arranged the channels G, inclined downwardly toward the pit D and adapted to lead into it any ball that may roll off the bed-plate. At the end of the bed-plate F, opposite to the pins E, is located the discharge end H' of a ball-runway H, which end is approximately horizontal. The adjacent portion H² of the runway is curved upward, and then the runway has a portion H³ inclined in the opposite direction—that is, away from the pins E. The portions H' and H³ are superposed—that is, the discharge end H' is under the chute portion H³, as shown in Fig. 1. The portions H' H² H³ of the runway

are located in the longitudinal center of the bed-plate F; but the upper end section H⁴ of the runway is located at one side and preferably supported by a leg I. A laterally-curved portion H⁵ connects the lower end of the section H⁴ with the upper end of the portion H³. The runway is preferably lined with billiard-table cloth, as shown. The top of the section H⁴ and portions H⁵ and H³ is preferably open, although it might be covered; but part of the portion H³ has a top or cover H⁶, which is continued along the portion H² and finally forms a bottom for the discharge end H'. This discharge end is preferably flaring and wider than the superposed portion H³ of the runway. (See Fig. 1.)

The pins E having been set up, a suitable ball is started rolling at the upper end of the runway H, and said ball first travels longitudinally in the section H⁴ and is then deviated laterally in the portion H⁵ to reach the centrally-located portion H³. Here the ball is prevented by the cover H⁶ from leaving the runway, and in passing through the portion or chute H² the ball travels across the runway from the bottom of the upper section of the runway to the bottom of the lower section thereof, as indicated by the dotted line a in Fig. 2. The ball is then discharged lengthwise of the bed-plate F from the flaring section or spout H' to strike the pins E.

It will be observed that the runway comprises an upper section H⁴ H⁵ H³ and a lower section H', which are connected by an approximately-vertical intermediate section or chute H², and that the wall H⁶, which forms a cover for the lower end of the upper section, is extended along the chute and along the lower section to form the bottom of the latter. The lateral deviation of the section H⁵ imparts a twisting motion to the ball, rendering its course and action very uncertain.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A bowling-alley comprising pins, a bed-plate upon which the pins are adapted to be set up, and a ball-runway comprising an upper section provided with a lateral deviation and inclined downwardly from the pin-receiving end of the bed-plate toward the other end thereof, a lower section inclined in the oppo-

site direction and having a discharge end or
spout facing the pins, and a chute connect-
ing the upper and lower sections of the run-
way, the adjacent portions of the upper and
5 lower sections being superposed, and the up-
per section having, at its lower end, a cover
which is extended along the chute and the
lower section to form a bottom for the latter.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
name to this specification in the presence of 10
two subscribing witnesses.

HENRY J. HECKENBACH.

Witnesses:

GEORGE GEIGER,
EWALD E. KUNZE.