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71 Applicant: MARPLECOURT ENTERPRISES LIMITED, 17-18 Rathbone Place, London W1 (GB)

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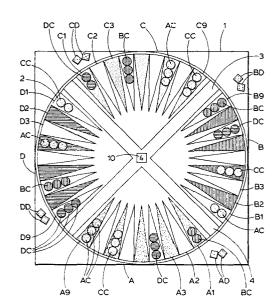
② Inventor: Chavez-Munoz, Ricardo, 9 Leigham Vale Road, Southbourne Bournemouth (GB)

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(4) Representative: Baillie, Iain Cameron et al, c/o Ladas & Parry Isartorplatz 5, D-8000 München 2 (DE)

(54) Board Game.

(2) diametrically divided by two orthogonal bars (3, 4) to thereby form quadrants (A, B, C, D). Each of the quadrants is divided into nine points (A1-A9, B1-B9, C1-C9, D1-D9) and alternate points around the playing area have the same colour, but the remaining points in each quadrant are of a different colour. The game may be played by two to four inclusive players each allocated a particular quadrant and a set of counters (AC, BC, CC, DC) is provided for each player. The counters are initially arranged in predetermined positions and the object of the game is for a player allocated to one of the particular quadrants to move his counters having the same colour as his differentiating colour segment back to that segment and thence to bear the counters off the board; the first player to bear his allocated counters from the board being the winner.



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BOARD GAME

This invention relates to a board game which is a Backgammon-like game, but which is an extension of Backgammon in much the same way as hexagonal and three-dimensional Chess are extensions of the game of Chess. The term "board" as used herein is meant to include any suitable form of support means which may for example be made from one of cardboard, wood or cloth.

The game of Backgammon is well known and for details as to how to play Backgammon reference may be made to "Win at Backgammon" by 10 Millard Hopper published by Dover Publications Inc, 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, ISBN0-486-22894-0. As described in the forenoted publication, Backgammon is essentially a board game for two players utilising a square or rectangular board with a series of twelve isosceles triangles having their bases facing each player along 15 opposing sides of the board and with a bar extending from one player to another and bisecting the triangles of each player. Thus the board is arranged such that six isosceles triangles are provided with their bases facing each player in one half of the board which may be denoted "whites" home table and "blacks" home table respectively (assuming 20 white and black counters respectively are used) and on the other half of the board, are six further isosceles triangles having their bases directed toward each player. The triangles for "whites" home table, say, are numbered 1-6 from the right hand side of the board (as viewed by white) and black's isosceles triangles in his home table are 25 numbered 1-6 from the left hand side of the board (as viewed by black). The remaining isosceles triangles on the side of the board adjacent to white and black respectively are given virtual numbers 7-12 inclusive and referred to as "white's" or "black's" outer table respectively. The term "virtual number" has been employed since the 30 isosceles triangles in the respective outer tables are not in fact numbered on the board. With such an arrangement, the isosceles triangles are given alternate colours in a continuous direction around the board, so that triangle 1 on "white's" home table may, for example, be coloured white, whereas the opposing triangle in "black's" 35 home table numbered 1 may be coloured black.

White has white counters and these are set up as follows: 5 counters on white's home table numbered 6,

- 3 counters on white's outertable virtual number 8,
- 5 counters on black's outer table virtual number 12, and
- 2 counters on black's home table No. 1.

Black's counters are set up opposing, i.e. facing, white's counters.

The object of the game is to throw a pair of dice so that in accordance with the rules of the game of Backgammon, the counters (or men as they are called) of white and black are moved to their respective home tables and thence to be borne off the board; the winner being the first person to bear all his counters off the board.

The rules of Backgammon are well known per se and, if required, further reference may be made to the forenoted publication "Win at Backgammon", the contents of which are incorporated herein by way of reference.

It will be realised that the game of Backgammon is restricted to being played by only two players and that a player has to get his counters through his opponent territory or board to get them to his home table.

The present invention seeks to provide a board game which may be 20 played by two to four inclusive players.

According to the broadest aspect of this invention there is provided a board game for two or more players including a support means marked with a playing area, the playing area being divided by bars to thereby form four or an even number of more home areas each 25 separated one from another by a bar, each home area being divided into a plurality of marked positions of alternating colours so that no two adjacent marked positions are the same colour, one colour being the same in all home areas with the other colour being a different hue in each home area, a set of counters for each said another colour and 30 having a like colour therewith, each set of counters having a plurality of counters, one set of counters being provided for each player, and a pair of dice, whereby in playing the game, a player is allocated a particular one of said another colour and the counters are initially disposed about the support means in like fashion for each 35 player, the players take turns in throwing the dice and in dependence thereof move the counters allocated thereto into the home area marked with a colour allocated to said player, and a player subsequently

bears off the counters allocated thereto from the support means, the first player to bear his allocated counters from the support means being the winner.

According to another aspect of this invention there is provided a 5 board game for two to four inclusive players including a support means marked with a circular playing area, the playing area being diametrically divided by two orthogonal bars to thereby form quadrants, each quadrant being divided into nine segments of alternating colour so that no two adjacent segments are the same 10 colour, one colour being the same in all quadrants with the other colour being a different hue in each quadrant, a set of counters for each said another colour and having a like colour therewith, each set of counters having a like plurality of counters, one set of counters being provided for each player, and a pair of dice, whereby in playing 15 the game, a player is allocated a particular one of said another colours and the counters are initially disposed about the support means in like fashion for each player, the players take turns throwing the dice and in dependence thereon move the counters allocated thereto into the quadrant marked with the colour allocated to said player, and 20 a player subsequently bears off the counters allocated thereto from the support means, the first player to bear his allocated counters from the support means being the winner.

The manner in which the counters are moved are generally similar to that of Backgammon, known per se, although there are some 25 differences in the rules as noted hereinafter.

Preferably the colour in the segments is provided in the area of an isosceles triangle having the base thereof touching the radices of the segments where they intersect the circumference of the playing area, and in a preferred embodiment, the apex of the triangle is 30 positioned at substantially two third of the radius of the segment.

Preferably the adjacent players move the counters thereof in opposing directions. Thus, the direction of moving counters from alternate quadrants is the same, i.e. clockwise or anticlockwise. Advantageously, the segments of each quadrant are numbered in descending order in the direction of play for that quadrant with the remaining segments on the support means taking corresponding virtual numbers (the term virtual number being herein defined).

Advantageously, fifteen counters form each set of counters, although when played by four players, preferably eleven counters are initially utilised by each player. Preferably when four players are involved in the game, each player is allocated a predetermined another colour and the counters of that another colour are arranged for each players as follows:

3 counters on segment No. 9 of the colour allocated the player, (i.e. the outer or highest numbered segment of the players allocated colour segment);

3 counters on virtual numbered segment 15;

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- 3 counters on virtual numbered segment 25;
- 2 counters on virtual numbered segment 36.

However, the game may be played with thirteen or fifteen counters per player, by adding one or two counters, as required, to segment

15 numbered 9 or virtual numbered segment 25 respectively. When only two players are involved, fifteen counters are used per player and initially arranged as forenoted.

Conveniently, the support means is a board or cloth and with advantage, a pair of dice are supplied for each player. Advanta20 geously the dice have the same colour as the counters allocated a player.

The game according to the invention is played in accordance with the rules hereinafter defined.

The invention will now be described by way of example, with 25 reference to the accompanying Figures in which:

Figure 1 shows a plan view of the game board with the counters arranged for the commencement of the game; and

Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 show partial plan view of the board for assistance interpreting the rules for the game.

The board 1 shown in Figure 1 has a circular playing area 2 with the playing area being divided by orthogonally disposed bars 3, 4 to thereby divide the playing area into quadrants designated as home board in A, B, C and D respectively. Each of the quadrants is divided into nine segments with each of the segments being marked with a respective isosceles triangle A1-A9, B1-B9, C1-C9 and D1-D9 respectively. Each triangle has its base touching the radices of the segments where they intersect the circumference of the playing area

and the height of the apex of each of the triangles is positioned at approximately two thirds the radius of the segments. It will be noted that the triangles or points as they are called are numbered in alternate directions, such that the points of quadrant A are

5 referenced Al-A9 in a clockwise direction and similarly quadrant C points are referenced Cl-C9, whereas the points of quadrants B and D are referenced Bl-B9 and Dl-D9 respectively in an anticlockwise direction. The purpose for this is that players from adjacent quadrants traverse the board in opposing directions.

Each of the points around the board is a different colour from an adjacent point. The points are arranged to be alternately different colours around the playing area, but with one of the colours (preferably white) being the same in all quadrants, so that, for example, A8, A6, A4, A2, B1, B3, B5 etc are white, whereas the remaining points in a quadrant are a different colour and the different colour in each quadrant is different from that of any other quadrant. Thus points A9, A7, A5, A3, A1 are red in colour, whereas points B2, B4, B6, B8 are black in colour, points C9, C7, C5, C3, C1 are yellow in colour and points D2, D4, D6 and D8 are blue in colour.

A player is allocated a particular home board colour, i.e. red, black, yellow or blue and assigned up to fifteen counters or men of the same colour as the colour of his home board. Thus, the player assigned home board A which is red, will have red counters, and so on.

With four players, the counters are arranged as shown in Figure 25 1. The men for a player using home board A are set out as follows:

- 3 men on A9;
- 3 men on virtual numbered point 15, i.e. D4;
- 3 men on virtual numbered point 25, i.e. C7; and
- 2 men on virtual numbered point 36; i.e. Bl.

Thus, the men for the player using home board A are disposed counting in a clockwise direction from point Al. A similar procedure is adopted for a player using home board C, but for players home boards B and D an anticlockwise count from their point 1 is effected.

It has been found best for three and four handed versions of the 35 game to be played with eleven men per player. However, the game may be played with thirteen of fifteen men per player, in which case one or two men respectively are added to points 9 and 25 for each player.

For a two handed version of the game, fifteen men per player should be used and the game may be played to Backgammon rules.

For each player there is provided a pair of dice AD, BD, CD and DD for home boards A-D respectively, and the dice are arranged to be the same colour as the distinguishing colour of each quadrant and the counters assigned to each player.

A doubling cube 10 is provided similarly to the cube used in Backgammon and the cube has sides marked 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 respectively and the players decide at the outset of the game whether 10 the cube 10 is to be employed. The function of the doubling cube 10 will be described later herein.

Similarly to Backgammon, the following glossary of terms apply: A bar

The lines 3, 4, between each of the home boards upon which men put out of play are placed during the game to await re-entry into the game.

Bearing Off

The action of removing a player's men (counters) from his home board in order to complete the game.

20 Hit

The action of removing an opponent's man with a player's man when that opponent's man is on its own on a vacant point.

Owned Point

A point occupied by two or more men of any one player.

25 Vacant Point

An unoccupied point or occupied by only one man.

Similar to Backgammon, the object of the game in order to claim victory is for a player to have moved all of his men into his own home board and have borne them off before his opponent or opponents has 30 borne all of his men off the board.

To start the game, the players must decide the number of men to be set up on the board and each of them rolls a die with the highest roll starting play. If there are four players, then the order of play continues in a clockwise direction of players with the players rolling both their allocated dice. If only three players are playing the game, then one player will advance in the opposite direction to the

other two players. Thus, in a game for players using home boards A,

B and C, player B will advance in the opposite direction to players A and C. In such an instance where there are three players, the following rules apply:

- 1. The players roll a die for the choice of home and the highest
 5 roll takes first choice and so on. The single player in the odd home
 board i.e. the direction of travel, shall commence play and shall have
 the first option to double the game when using the doubling cube (to
 be described later herein).
- 2. During a series of games the player shall play on the odd 10 home board only once in a series of three games, unless otherwise arranged. The fourth set of men shall remain off the board.

When the game is to be played by two players, the player shall set up their men on home boards going in opposite directions only. Thus it is proposed that the player having home board A shall not play the player having home board C and the player having board B shall not play the player having home board D. The men will be set up as shown in Figure 1 for the two home boards only, with the other sets of men remaining off the board. As in the Backgammon, the game is to be played with fifteen men per player with the arrangement being as previously described. With only two players, the game may be played in accordance with the rules of Backgammon.

In play of the present game, each player rolls his dice to determine the moves of the men on the board. Because the rules of the present game are generally similar to Backgammon, they will not be described herein in detail and reference is incorporated herein to the forenoted publication "Win at Backgammon".

However, the following summary of the rules of the present game will be given.

Players A and C move their men in an anticlockwise direction and 30 players B and D move their men in a clockwise direction.

A player may move one man the distance to correspond to the total number shown by both dice he has thrown, or he may move two men, one the distance corresponding to the number shown on one die and the other, by the distance corresponding to the number shown on the other die.

When a man is moved, the number shown by both dice, it may not be moved to any owned point of an opponent, although it may touch such an

owned point in the course of its travel. In this respect, reference should be made to Figure 2 in which player D has thrown his dice DD and rolled a 5 and a 1. Player D decides to move his counter DC on point D9 in Figure 2, 5 points and a further 1 point, and in moving 5 counter DC 5 points he touches upon point D4 which is owned by player A having three counters AC thereupon. However, unlike Backgammon, such a "touch" is permitted. Thus, although a man may not be moved to reside on any owned point, it may touch an owned point on its travel to a vacant point or a point owned by the player making the move.

When a player is able to move only one of the numbers shown on the dice, he must move one man the higher number. However, if all moves are blocked, he must move one man the lower number.

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Players must move their men, the number shown by the dice unless all possible moves are blocked, in which case the player forfeits his roll. When a double number or doublet is rolled a player must move twice the number shown; the move may be in any combination of up to four men, e.g. suppose a player has rolled two two's on his dice, then he may move one man eight points, two men four points, four men two points, or one man six points and one man two points. If having rolled a doublet and a player finds his men are blocked at any stage, he must move his men the highest possible total of the roll.

At the start of the game, all player's own a point in each of the four home boards. A point is owned when a player has two or more men on a particular point and a point may be owned by only one player. A 25 man moved to a vacant point and left on its own may be hit and removed from play by another player. It is part of the strategy of the game to hit an opponent's man at a player's convenience. Referring to Figure 3, player A has rolled his dice AD 3 and 1 and decides to play his moves so that he can hit player B's counter BC on point A8 by playing the 1 first from point A9. Thus, one of a player A's counters AC on point A9 is moved as shown by the solid arrow headed line from A9 to A8 thereby causing counter BC on A8 to be removed to the bar 4 as shown by the broken arrow headed line, and thence to progress for the three rolled by the other die to point A5 which was already owned by player A having two men thereon.

When a player has a man hit and it is placed on the bar 4, the player is not allowed to move any of his other men until his man or

men on the bar are re-entered onto the board at the furthest home board from his own. Thus for player A, he must enter his men at home board B, player B must re-enter his men at home board A, player C must re-enter his men at home board D and player D must re-enter his men at 5 home board C. A man may be re-entered on a vacant point, i.e. an unoccupied point or occupied by only one man of an opponent or a point owned by the player attempting to re-enter a man. The number rolled by the dice must correspond either individually or in combination with the point number of the re-entry home board upon which the man may be 10 positioned i.e. a vacant point as defined herein or a point owned by the player attempting to re-enter. Thus, referring to Figure 4, player D has rolled his dice DD 6 and 1. Because point C6 is owned by player B's counter's BC, the number 6 rolled on one of the dice may not be used by player D having his counter DC on the bar 4, but the 15 total rolled, i.e. 7, may be used as shown by the solid arrow headed line. However, counter DC on the bar 4 may also be moved to point Cl as determined by the roll number indicated by one of the dice. Such a move is indicated by broken arrow headed lines and is permitted since point Cl is occupied by only one counter AC which isowned by player A. 20 Player D may therefore hit the counter AC at point Cl thereby sending man AC to the bar.

Play continues in this manner until a player has brought all his men into his own home board, whereupon he begins "bearing off". This a player may do by exact rolls of a dice. Referring now to Figure 5, 25 player C who has rolled his dice CD 5 and 3 may bear off one man the total number thrown, i.e. 8, from point C8 as shown by broken arrow headed lines or one man each from point C5 and C3 as shown by the solid arrow headed lines. When a player is unable to use his roll to bear off, because he has no men on the points corresponding with the numbers rolled, he may move his men toward position 1 of his home board in accordance with the number rolled. In the alternative, if the player rolls a higher number then he requires, he must bear his men off from the nearest highest point. If any man is left on a vacant point when bearing off, it may be hit by an opponent.

Referring to Figure 6, player A has rolled his dice AD two sixes so that he has a total of twenty four points which may be used by any combination of four men. Player A decides to move two men from point

A5 and two men from A4 as shown by the solid arrow headed lines (it being remembered a maximum of four men may be moved at any one time), but this then leaves him with a vacant point A4, which having only a single counter AC thereon, is liable to be hit. If the man AC on position A4 is hit, it must be re-entered at the furthest home board from his own, i.e. in the present example at home board B and then worked round the board back to home board A before the player A may bear off any further men.

The game is won by the first player to bear off the board all his $10\ \mathrm{men}$.

The nature of the player's win is scored as follows:

A single game win, worth 1 point:

The single game is won from any opponent who has borne off at least 1 man. Any player who has borne off any men can only loose a single game.

A double win game, worth 2 points:

A double game is won from any opponent who has not borne off any man but has none on the third or fourth board away from his home board.

A treble game win, worth 3 points:

A treble game is won from any opponent who still has men on the third and/or fourth board away from his home board.

A "QUATRO" game win, worth 4 points:

A "QUATRO" game is won from any opponent who has a man or men on 25 the fourth board away from his home board. In a game with three or four players, the player may win a "QUATRO" or treble, or double, or single game from any or all opponents.

When the doubling cube 10 is used, the points scored per player will multiply accordingly. The use of the doubling cube is optional 30 and must be decided before the start of play. Assuming it is being decided to employ the doubling cube 10, then at the start of play the doubling cube is placed at the centre of the board showing the 64 number uppermost. The doubling cube becomes operational when a player decides to double up the value of the game. The player shall wait for 35 his turn to roll the dice before deciding to double the game. He shall then place the doubling cube on the top corner on his home board showing the number 2 uppermost and announcing his intention. Once the

doubling cube is offered, players will accept or decline in clockwise direction around the board. Players who decline the offer shall withdraw their men from the board and loose the game to the player who doubled the game. The game is considered doubled when at least one opponent accepts the doubling cube from then on, the single game win will be worth 2 points, the double game worth 4 points, etc. Play resumes with the doubling player rolling his dice in the normal fashion. Any player may double up the game again to 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 at any time according to the above rules, but a player may not double the game up twice in succession at any time.

It is possible to play the above described game as a team game in which instance, players A and C will form a team and play a team formed by players B and D.

Having thus described the operation of the game, it will be
realised that in the present game, it may be played by two, three or
four players and that when four players are playing the game, any one
player has to get his men through three opponent's territories to get
them home, while seeing his opponent's men go through his home board
to get home.

The following above mentioned rules are different from the rules of Backgammon:

- 1. A player may "touch" an establish point when moving onto a vacant point.
- 2. A player may re-enter the board with the point shown on 25 either dice or any combination of both dice. Re-entering takes place from the home board furthest from the player's own home board.
 - 3. When the doubling cube is in use, a player offers the doubling cube to his opponent or opponents by placing it at the top of his home board and players may accept or reject in clockwise order.
- 30 Players not accepting the "double" withdraw from the game and remove their men from the board.

CLAIMS:

- 1. A board game for two or more players including a support means marked with a playing area, characterised by the playing area being 5 divided by bars 3, 4 to thereby form four or an even number of more home areas (A, B, C, D) each separated one from another by a bar, each home area being divided into a plurality of marked positions (Al-A9, Bl-B9, Cl-C9, Dl-D9) of alternating colours so that no two adjacent marked positions are the same colour, one colour being the same in all 10 home areas with the other colour being a different hue in each home area, a set of counters (AC, BC, CC, DC) for each said another colour and having a like colour therewith, each set of counters having a plurality of counters, one set of counters being provided for each player, and a pair of dice (AD, BD, CD, DD), whereby in playing the 15 game, a player is allocated a particular one of said another colour and the counters are initially disposed about the support means in like fashion for each player, the players take turns in throwing the dice and in dependence thereon move the counters allocated thereto into the home area marked with a colour allocated to said player, and 20 a player subsequently bears off the counters allocated thereto from the support means, the first player to bear his allocated counters from the support means being the winner.
- A board game for two to four inclusive players including a
 support means characterised in that the support means (1) is marked with a circular playing area, the playing area being diametrically divided by two orthogonal bars (3, 4) to thereby form quadrants (A, B, C, D), each quadrant being divided into nine segments (Al-A9, Bl-B9, Cl-C9, Dl-D9) of alternating colour so that no two adjacent segments are the same colour, one colour being the same in all quadrants with the other colour being a different hue in each quadrant, a set of counters (AC, BC, CC, DC) for each said another colour and having a like colour therewith, each set of counters having a like plurality of counters, one set of counters being provided for each player, and a
 pair of dice (AD, BD, CD, DD), whereby in playing the game, a player is allocated a particular one of said another colours and the counters are initially disposed about the support means in like fashion for

each player, the players take turns throwing the dice and in dependence thereon move the counters allocated thereto into the quadrant marked with the colour allocated to said player, and a player subsequently bears off the counters allocated thereto from the support means, the first player to bear his allocated counters from the support means being the winner.

- 3. A game as claimed in Claim 2, characterised in that the colour in the segments is provided in the area of an isosceles triangle having 10 the base thereof touching the radices of the segments where they intersect the circumference of the playing area.
- 4. A game as claimed in Claim 3, characterised in that the apex of the triangle is positioned at substantially two thirds of the radius of the segment.
 - 5. A game as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the adjacent players move the counters thereof in opposing directions.

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6. A game as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5 characterised in that the segments of each quadrant are numbered in descending order in the direction of play for that quadrant with the remaining segments on the support means taking corresponding virtual numbers.

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- 7. A game as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that fifteen counters form each set of counters.
- 8. A game as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that
 30 when four players are involved in the game, eleven counters are
 initially utilised by each player.
- 9. A game as claimed in Claim 8, characterised in that each player is allocated a predetermined another colour and the counters of that 35 another colour are arranged for each players as follows:
 - 3 counters on segment No. 9 of the colour allocated the player,
 - 3 counters on virtual numbered segment 15 for the colour

allocated the player;

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- 3 counters on virtual numbered segment 25 for the colour allocated the player;
- 2 counters on virtual numbered segment 36 for the colour 5 allocated the player.
- 10. A game as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 7, characterised in that the game may be played with thirteen or fifteen counters per player, by adding one or two counters, as required, to segment numbered 9 or virtual numbered segment 25 respectively.
 - 11. A game as claimed in Claim 10, characterised in that when only two players are involved, fifteen counters are used per player.
- 15 12. A game as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the support means is a board or cloth.
 - 13. A game as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that a pair of dice are supplied for each player.

14. A game as claimed in Claim 13, characterised in that the dice have the same colour as the counters allocated a player.

15. A game as played in any preceding claim, played in accordance 25 with the rules defined hereinbefore.

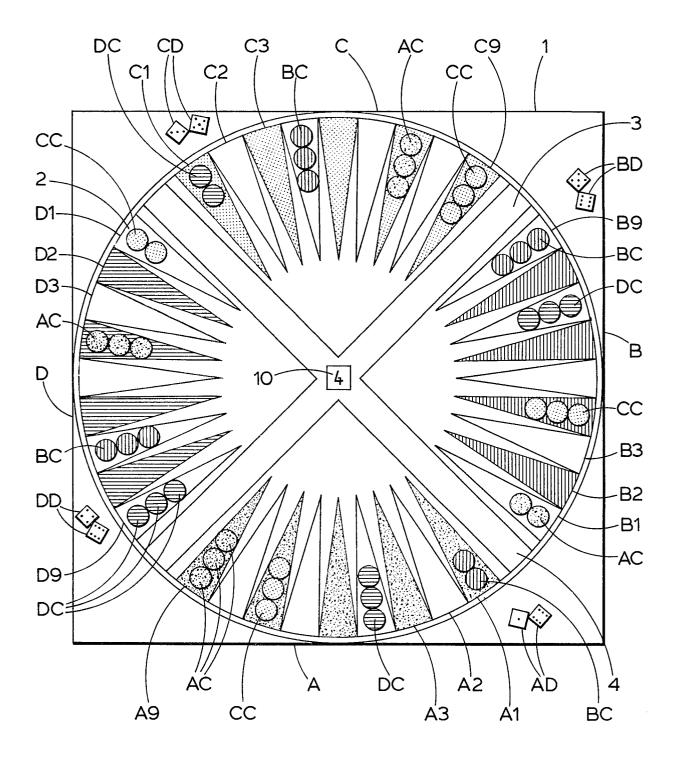
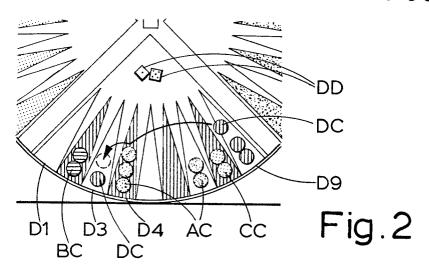
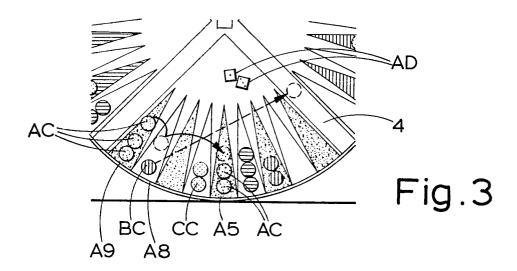
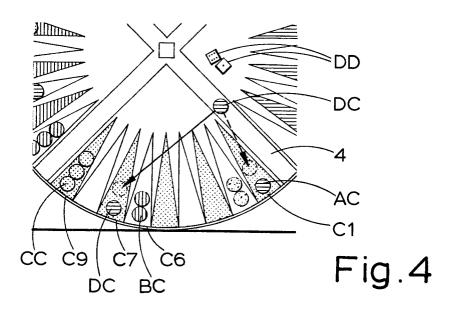
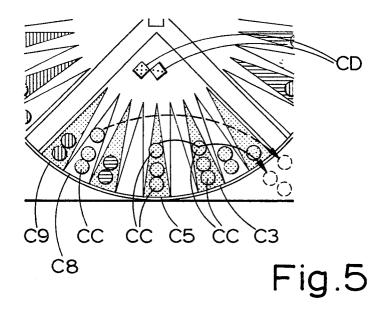


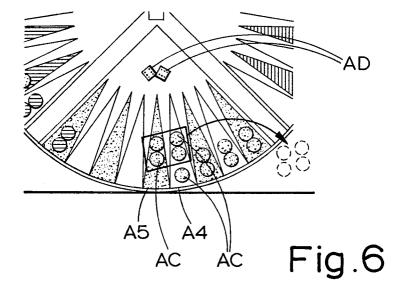
Fig.1













EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 83 30 1308

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

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	DOCUMENTS CONS	Page 2		
Category		h indication, where appropriate, ant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Y	US-A-4 058 319 al.) * Column 3, 1 lines 53-56; column	ine 40; column 5,	1-3,5- 7,12- 14	
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A	FR-A- 722 494 * Whole document	(ETS. C. MICHEL)	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
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	The present search report has be	peen drawn up for all claims		
	Place of search BERLIN	Date of completion of the search 06-06-1983	CLOT	P.F.J.
Y : pa do A : te O : no	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCI articularly relevant if taken alone articularly relevant if combined w ocument of the same category chnological background on-written disclosure termediate document	E: earlier pat after the fi vith another D: document L: document	ent document, ling date cited in the ap cited for other f the same pate	lying the invention but published on, or plication reasons ent family, corresponding