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(54) **CARD SHOE FOR HOLDING PLAYING CARDS**

KARTENSCHLITTEN ZUM HALTEN VON SPIELKARTEN

SABOT POUR CONTENIR DES CARTES À JOUER

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] This description generally relates to the field of table gaming, and more particularly to card holding devices, for example card shoes that hold a number of cards during a playing card game and allow cards to be extracted from the card shoe one at a time.

Description of the Related Art

[0002] Conventional card shoes are typically sized to receive two to eight standard decks of playing cards, with fifty-two (52) playing cards per standard playing card deck. Such card shoes are used during professional card games (e.g., casino blackjack, poker, Texas Hold'em etc) so as to allow a dealer to readily extract cards during a fast paced card game.

[0003] U.S. Patent 6,402,142 shows one card shoe configuration that includes a housing having an opening formed at a front of the housing from which playing cards can be extracted. The housing may include a playing card support surface sloping at a downward angle from a rear to the front of the housing, which is capable of supporting several standard decks of playing cards. The card shoe may include a playing card wedge, with a sloped face to contact and offset the playing cards in the housing relative one another.

[0004] The wedge may optionally include a roller that allows the wedge to easily move down the playing card support surface. The playing cards are compressed between the sloped face of the playing card wedge and the front of the housing, which may also be stoped. The downward angle of the playing card support surface employs gravity to bias the playing cards toward the front of the housing under their own weight, as well as under the weight of the playing card wedge. As playing cards are removed, the weight biasing the remaining playing cards toward the front of the housing decreases. Hence, there is less resistance to the finger pressure applied by the dealer as the dealer attempts to remove a playing card from the housing. This makes it difficult for the dealer to establish sufficient friction or "purchase" with the playing card to remove the playing card. This also disadvantageously tends to push the playing cards into the housing.

[0005] Another type of card shoe is similar to the above-described card shoe, but includes one or more springs that couple the playing card wedge to the housing. The springs operate alone, or in conjunction with the force of gravity, to bias the playing card wedge toward the opening in the housing. As the playing card wedge moves closer to the opening, the springs contribute appreciably less to the overall force biasing the playing card wedge toward the opening. The biasing force of the springs becomes negligible before all the playing cards

are removed from the card shoe. For example, negligible spring force may occur when there are less than two decks (*i.e.*, 104 playing cards) remaining in the card shoe. Consequently, there is little or no resistance to the finger pressure applied by the dealer as the dealer attempts to remove a playing card from the housing. This makes it difficult for the dealer to establish sufficient friction or "purchase" with the playing card to remove the playing card. This also disadvantageously tends to push the playing cards into the housing.

[0006] As illustrated in U.S. Patent 6,402,142, the card shoe may include a detent mechanism that holds the card wedge at the back of the housing to facilitate refilling the housing with playing cards. After filling, the dealer must grab and exert force (e.g., pull, push, lift) on the wedge to disengage the wedge from the detent mechanism. The lack of gripping surfaces and the close proximity of the wedge to the back of the housing when in the locked position such that fingers cannot be inserted therebetween makes this task exceedingly difficult and time consuming, particularly during a fast paced card game.

[0007] Accordingly, it would be desirable to have a card shoe that provides easier and smoother removal of each card from the card shoe, regardless of the number of playing cards remaining in the card shoe, in addition to quick and easy refilling of the card shoe.

[0008] An additional problem typical of conventional card shoes is withdrawal of more than one playing card at a time. This may be accidental, for example, due to adjacent playing cards becoming stuck together, or may be intentional where a dealer is attempting to cheat. It would be advantageous to reduce or prevent such from happening in either circumstance.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] According to one aspect, an anti-reversing clutch assembly locks onto the roller and may prevent the wedge from rolling back into the card shoe as the dealer applies finger pressure to remove the card from the wedge.

[0010] According to one aspect, a card shoe includes a housing forming a receptacle sized to receive a plurality of playing cards, the housing having a sloped front face, an opening formed in the front face, the opening sized to allow the withdrawal of playing cards from the receptacle, a card support surface proximate a bottom of the opening, and at least one protuberance extending upward from the card support surface, the protuberance proximate the opening of the front face of the housing such that playing cards pass over the protuberance when the playing cards are withdrawn from the receptacle through the opening.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

[0011] In the drawings, identical reference numbers

identify similar elements or acts. The sizes and relative positions of elements in the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale. For example, the shapes of various elements and angles are not drawn to scale, and some of these elements are arbitrarily enlarged and positioned to improve drawing legibility. Further, the particular shapes of the elements as drawn, are not intended to convey any information regarding the actual shape of the particular elements, and have been solely selected for ease of recognition in the drawings.

Figure 1A is an isometric view of an empty card shoe having a single protuberance proximate an opening for extracting playing cards from the card shoe, according to one illustrated embodiment.

Figure 1B is an isometric view of a card shoe holding a plurality of playing cards and having a pair of protuberances proximate an opening, according to another illustrated embodiment.

Figure 2 is a top, front, left side isometric view of a wedge assembly of Figures 1A and 1B mounted to a roller subassembly, according to one embodiment. Figure 3 is a bottom, front, left side isometric view of the wedge assembly of Figure 1A and 1B mounted to a roller subassembly, according to one embodiment.

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of the roller subassembly of the wedge assembly, according to one illustrated embodiment where the roller subassembly includes a shaft, an anti-reversing clutch assembly, and roller mounted on the shaft.

Figure 5A is an isometric view of a card shoe having an anti-backsliding protrusion with only a few cards remaining in the card shoe, according to one embodiment.

Figure 5B is a cross-sectional view of the card shoe of Figure 5A.

Figure 6A is an isometric view of a card shoe having a lever and a track with a locking mechanism at a back end of the card shoe, according to one embodiment.

Figure 6B is a cross-sectional view of the card shoe of Figure 6A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0012] In the following description, certain specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of various embodiments of the invention. However, one skilled in the art will understand that the embodiments may be practiced without these details. In other instances, well-known structures associated with card shoes have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the description.

[0013] Unless the context requires otherwise, throughout the specification and claims which follow, the word "comprise" and variations thereof, such as, "comprises" and "comprising" are to be construed in an open, inclu-

sive sense, that is as "including, but not limited to."

[0014] Reference throughout this specification to "one embodiment" or "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment. Thus, the appearances of the phrases "in one embodiment" or "in an embodiment" in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Furthermore, the particular features, structures, or characteristics may be combinable in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

[0015] The headings provided herein are for convenience only and do not interpret the scope or meaning of the claimed invention.

[0016] This description generally relates to card shoes for holding and distributing playing cards during a playing card game. Card shoes are generally used in casinos and often hold between two (2) to eight (8) decks of playing cards. However, it is understood that some card shoes may hold a fewer or a greater number of playing cards. Further, some card shoes may be automated, employing electro-mechanical and/or electro-optical components to read machine-readable and/or human readable indicia carried by the playing cards, and/or to shuffle, randomize or sort playing cards.

[0017] Figure 1A shows an empty card shoe 1a having a housing 2, a wedge assembly 4 and a protuberance 15 proximate an opening 12, according to an illustrated embodiment. Figure 1B shows a card shoe 1b holding a plurality of playing cards 21, the housing having more than one protuberances 15 formed on a metal plate proximate an opening 12, according to another illustrated embodiment. Reference is now made to Figures 1A and 1B.

[0018] The housing 2 includes a playing card support surface 6, sidewalls 8 and a front cover 10. The playing card support surface 6, the sidewalls 8, and the front cover 10 forming a receptacle 11 configured to receive and support a number of playing cards 21. The playing card support surface 6 may or may not slope downward from a rear 3 of the housing 2 toward the front cover 10. As noted above, a sloped surface may take advantage of gravity as the sole or partial biasing force that urges the playing cards toward the opening 12 of the housing 2. The card shoe 1a, 1b may include a cover 9 that is movably coupled to the housing 2, for example pivotally coupled along an edge 7 of the housing 2. The cover 9 can be lifted to allow for the loading of the plurality of cards 21 and then closed thereafter to conceal the plurality of cards 21. In the event that the card shoe 1a, 1b is used during a blackjack game, the cover 9 may prevent card players from estimating the number of playing cards 21 remaining in the card shoe 1a, 1b.

[0019] The front cover 10 includes the opening 12 from which a dealer can extract the playing cards 21 from the card shoe 1a, 1b. The opening 12 is sized to allow the dealer to place one or more fingers onto the next (*i.e.*, outermost) playing card that is to be removed from the card shoe 1a, 1b. The playing card support surface 6 can

cooperate with the front cover 10 to skew or otherwise offset the playing cards relative to one another, which tends to increase the likelihood that playing cards 21 are extracted one at a time from the card shoe 1a, 1b.

[0020] It is understood that sometimes, however, more than one playing card may be extracted from the card shoe 1a, 1b, whether done intentionally in order to cheat or unintentionally because two playing cards become stuck together. The movement of the playing cards 21 over the one or more protuberances effectively un-sticks or separates the top playing card from the underlying playing card or cards during the extraction, thereby facilitating the extraction of only one playing card at a time from the card shoe 1a, 1b.

[0021] The one or more protuberances 15 extend generally upwardly from the support surface 6 or metal plate, proximate a bottom of the opening 12. The protuberances 15 are proximate the opening 12 of the front face 10 such that the outermost or front most playing card 21 passes over the protuberance 15 and is withdrawn from the receptacle 11 while the underlying card(s) is separated from the outermost playing card 21 by the protuberances 15. Thus, the protuberances 15 allow for the card dealer to extract a single card at a time from the plurality of playing cards 21.

[0022] The protuberances 15 may take the form of a bump or any such hemispherical shape. The one or more protuberances 15 may be selectively arranged in the form of a first and second protuberance (collectively referenced as 15) laterally spaced across the opening 12 with a spacing therebetween that is less than or equal to the length of each of the playing cards 21.

[0023] The housing 2 may further include one or more slots or tracks 14. The track 14 can be sloped or otherwise configured to cause the wedge assembly 4 to move forward, toward the opening 12. One or more springs 16 (only one illustrated) may be coupled to guides 17, 19 received in the track 14. The guides 17 may be fixed to the housing 2, whereas the guides 19 couple the wedge assembly 4 to the spring 16 and are operable to move along the track 14. In one embodiment, the spring 16 is an extension spring anchored proximate the front of the housing 2 that biases or urges the wedge assembly 4 toward the opening 12. In another embodiment, the spring 16 is a compression spring anchored proximate the rear of the housing 2 that biases or urges the wedge assembly 4 toward the opening 12.

[0024] Figures 2 and 3 show the wedge assembly 4 having a wedge block 5 configured with a sloped engagement surface 18 disposed between first and second side surfaces 20, according to one embodiment. The wedge assembly 4 further includes guides 19, 22 extending from each of the first and second surfaces 20. The guides 19 are coupled to respective springs 16 (only one illustrated) and may also be supported in the track 14 of the housing 2 as mentioned above. The guides 22 may also be supported in the track 14 of the housing 2 counteracting any overturning moment that may cause the wedge assembly

4 to rotate about the guides 19.

[0025] Figure 3 also shows a roller 24 of a roller sub-assembly 25 (Figure 4), which is part of the wedge assembly 4, extending at least slightly below a bottom surface 26 of the wedge block 5.

[0026] Figure 4 shows the roller subassembly 25 in detail. The roller subassembly 25 includes the roller 24, which is rotatably fixed to an anti-reversing clutch assembly 26, which in turn is rotatably coupled to a shaft 28. In one embodiment, the roller 24 is made from a urethane material and press fit onto the clutch assembly 26. The clutch assembly 26 may be an overrunning clutch or drawn cup roller clutch, such as or similar to those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,994,377; 3,993,177; 3,993,176; 3,990,555; 3,972,573; 3,942,616; 3,937,312; and 3,937,311. This type of clutch assembly 26 permits the roller 24 to freely rotate in a first direction, yet positively locks onto the shaft 28 to substantially prevent reverse rotation (*i.e.*, rotation that is counter or opposite to the first rotational direction) of the roller 24.

[0027] The shaft 28 includes a tool engagement portion 30 and a shaft centerline or axis 32. It is understood and appreciated that the shaft centerline 32 is to be distinguished from a roller rotational centerline or axis 33. The roller rotational axis 33 is lower than the shaft centerline 32 since the roller 24 extends below the bottom surface 5 of the wedge 4. During operation, the roller 24 and portions of the clutch assembly 26 rotate in unison on the shaft 28 and about the roller rotational axis 33. In the illustrated embodiment, the shaft 28 does not rotate relative to the wedge assembly 4.

[0028] As the dealer removes each playing card, the biasing force of the spring 16, the weight of the wedge assembly 4 and/or the weight of the playing cards 21 urges the wedge 4 toward the front cover 10. As the dealer applies pressure to the next card to be removed, the anti-reversing clutch assembly 26 positively locks onto the shaft 28 to substantially prevent reverse rotation of the roller 24 and thus prevents the wedge assembly 4 from moving away from the front cover 4 and the opening 12 of the housing 2.

[0029] Figure 5A shows a card shoe 1c having an anti-backsliding protrusion 35 and only a few cards 21 remaining in the shoe 1c, according to one illustrated embodiment. Figure 5B shows a magnified cross-sectional view of the card shoe 1c and the anti-backsliding protrusion 35, according to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 5A. Reference is now made to Figures 5A and 5B. The anti-backsliding protrusion 35 may substitute for, or may augment the anti-reversing clutch assembly 26.

[0030] The card shoe 1c is similar in many respects to the card shoes 1a, 1b of Figures 1A and 1B, respectively. Hence, identical or similar elements or components will be identified by the same reference numbers. Only significant differences in structure and operation are discussed below. When few cards remain in the shoe 1c, there is a greater risk of the outermost playing card 21 backsliding into the housing 2 during the extraction proc-

ess. As the dealer exerts force onto the outermost playing card 21 proximate the opening 12, the card 21 may slide upwards along the sloped surface 18 of the wedge 4 and into a top portion of the housing 2.

[0031] The anti-backsliding protrusion 35 generally extends downward from at least proximate the top of the housing 2 and positioned within the receptacle 11 proximate the front face 12. The anti-backsliding protrusion 35 effectively prevents the card 21 from backsliding into the receptacle 11 and hampering the dealer's ability to extract the playing card 21.

[0032] The anti-backsliding protrusion 35 may be of several types of rigid or non-rigid material. The protrusion 35 engages a portion of at least one playing card 21 when the playing card 21 is biased toward a back of the housing 2. The anti-backsliding protrusion 35 substantially prevents the outermost (proximate the opening 12) playing card 21 or playing cards 21 from sliding rearward toward the back 3 of the housing 2 in response to an applied force by the dealer. The card 21 can backslide up until the point within the receptacle that the protrusion 35 extends from, which is positioned close enough to the opening to allow for easy access during extraction.

[0033] Figure 6A shows a card shoe 1d having a lever 37 and a track 14 with a locking mechanism 37 at the rear 3 of the card shoe 1d, according to one illustrated embodiment. Figure 6B shows a cross-sectional view of the card shoe 1d having the lever 37 and locking mechanism 39, according to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 6A. Reference is now made to Figures 6A and 6B.

[0034] The card shoe 1d includes the housing 2, similar in some respects to that illustrated in Figures 1A and 1B, hence identical or similar structures are identified by common reference numbers.

[0035] When all the desired playing cards 21 are removed from the card shoe 1d, the wedge 4 can be reset and retained toward the rear 3 of the housing 2 so that another set of playing cards 21 may be readily loaded into the receptacle 11. The wedge 4 may be slightly lifted so that the roller 24 does not contact the support surface 6, and then slid away from the front cover 10 towards the rear 3 of the housing 2 until the guides 19 are locked into position by the locking mechanism 39 such as a detent mechanism. In one embodiment, the locking mechanism 39 is formed by a moderate upward sloping portion 40 of the track 14 followed by a sharp downward sloping portion 42. Once the wedge assembly 4 is locked into position, the playing cards 21 may be loaded into the receptacle 11 of the card shoe 1d. Locking the wedge assembly 4 before loading the playing cards 21 into the receptacle 11 frees one of the dealer's hands from otherwise holding the wedge 4 in place. Thus, the dealer is able to grasp the set of playing cards 21 with both hands and reload the playing cards 21 into the receptacle 11 with ease.

[0036] The lever 37 has a first end 44 and a second end 46 and is pivotally mounted proximate the rear 3 of the housing 2. The lever 37 is operable to selectively bias

the wedge 4 away from the rear 3 of the housing 2 to disengage the locking mechanism 29. The lever 37 engages at least a portion of the wedge 4, for example a back of the wedge 4 opposite the sloped surface 18 and forces the guide 19 forward. The guide 19 slides up the downward sloping portion 42 of the track 17. The card dealer may exert force onto the second end 46 to cause the first end 44 to provide enough force to overcome the locking mechanism 39. Once the guides 19 of the wedge assembly 4 overcome the downward sloping portion 42, the biasing force of the spring 16 takes over to cause the wedge 4 to bias the plurality of cards 21 loaded into the receptacle 11 toward the front cover 10.

[0037] Changes can be made to the invention in light of the above-detailed description. In general, the terms used should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification, but should be construed to include all card shoes usable in the aspect of gaming and methods that operate in accordance with the claims. Accordingly, the invention is not limited by the disclosure, but instead its scope is to be determined entirely by the following claims.

Claims

1. A card shoe (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d), comprising:

a housing (2) forming a receptacle sized to receive a plurality of playing cards, the housing having a sloped front face (10), an opening (12) formed in the front face, the opening sized to allow the withdrawal of playing cards from the receptacle, a card support surface (6) proximate a bottom of the opening, **characterised by** at least one protuberance (15) extending upward from the card support surface, the protuberance proximate the opening of the front face of the housing such that playing cards pass over the protuberance when the playing cards are withdrawn from the receptacle through the opening.

2. The card shoe of claim 1 wherein the housing has a first and a second protuberance (15), spaced laterally across the opening with a spacing therebetween that is less than or equal to a length of each of the playing cards.

3. The card shoe of claim 1 wherein the first and the second protuberances (15) each take the form of a bump.

4. The card shoe of claim 3 wherein the first and the second protuberances (15) are each hemispherical in shape.

5. The card shoe of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a metal plate proximate the opening (12) and

the first and the second protuberances (15) extend from the metal plate.

6. The card shoe of claim 1, further comprising:

a wedge assembly (4) having a wedge block (5) and a roller subassembly (25), the wedge block includes a bottom surface (26) and a card engagement surface (18) positioned at an angle relative to the bottom surface, the wedge block is receivable in the receptacle of the housing of the card shoe, the roller subassembly includes a roller (24) rotationally coupled to the wedge block and rotatable in a first rotational direction and lockable to substantially resist rotation in a direction opposite the first rotational direction.

7. The card shoe of claim 6, further comprising:

a shaft (28) coupled to the wedge block, wherein the shaft includes a first portion concentrically disposed about a first shaft axis (32) and a second portion eccentrically disposed about a second shaft axis (33), and a clutch assembly coupling the roller to the wedge block, wherein the clutch assembly is lockable onto the shaft when the roller is urged in the direction opposite the first rotational direction.

8. The card shoe of claim 6, further comprising: a lever (37) pivotally mounted to selectively bias the wedge away from a back of the housing.

9. The card shoe of claim 1, further comprising:

an anti-backsliding protrusion (35) extending generally downwardly from at least proximate a top of the housing and positioned within the receptacle proximate the front face of the housing, wherein the anti-backsliding protrusion engages a portion of at least one playing card when the playing card is biased toward a back of the housing under force exerted by a dealer removing at least one of the playing cards from the housing.

10. The card shoe of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover (9) that is pivotally connected to the housing to allow the plurality of playing cards in the form of several decks of cards to access the receptacle.

Patentansprüche

1. Kartenschlitten (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d), enthaltend:

ein Gehäuse (2), das eine Aufnahme bildet, die

so bemessen ist, dass sie eine Vielzahl von Spielkarten aufnimmt, wobei das Gehäuse enthält: eine schräge Vorderfläche (10), eine Öffnung (12), die in der Vorderfläche ausgebildet ist, wobei die Öffnung so bemessen ist, dass sie ein Herausziehen von Spielkarten aus der Aufnahme gestattet, und eine Kartenträgerfläche (6) in der Nähe einer Unterseite der Öffnung, **gekennzeichnet durch** wenigstens einen Vorsprung (15), der sich nach oben von der Kartenträgerfläche erstreckt, wobei der Vorsprung in der Nähe der Öffnung der Vorderfläche des Gehäuses derart beschaffen ist, dass die Spielkarten über den Vorsprung gleiten, wenn die Spielkarten aus der Aufnahme **durch** die Öffnung herausgezogen werden.

2. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Gehäuse einen ersten und einen zweiten Vorsprung (15) hat, die seitlich über die Öffnung in einer Distanz voneinander beabstandet sind, die kleiner oder gleich einer Länge jeder der Spielkarten ist.

3. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, bei dem der erste und der zweite Vorsprung (15) jeweils die Form eines Buckels haben.

4. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 3, bei dem der erste und der zweite Vorsprung (15) jeweils halbkugelförmig sind.

5. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das Gehäuse eine Metallplatte in der Nähe der Öffnung (12) enthält und sich der erste sowie der zweite Vorsprung (15) von dieser Metallplatte erstrecken.

6. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin enthaltend:

eine Keilanordnung (4), die einen Keilblock (5) und eine Walzenteilanordnung (25) hat, wobei der Keilblock eine Unterseite (26) und eine Karteneingriffsoberfläche (18) enthält, die in einem Winkel im Bezug auf die Unterseite angeordnet ist, der Keilblock in der Aufnahme des Gehäuses des Kartenschlittens aufgenommen werden kann, und die Walzenteilanordnung eine Walze (24) enthält, die mit dem Keilblock drehbar gekoppelt und in einer ersten Drehrichtung drehbar ist sowie verriegelbar ist, um im wesentlichen einer Drehung in einer Richtung entgegengesetzt zur ersten Drehrichtung zu widerstehen.

7. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 6, weiterhin enthaltend:

eine Welle (28), die mit dem Keilblock verbunden ist, wobei die Welle einen ersten Abschnitt,

der konzentrisch um eine erste Wellenachse (32) angeordnet ist, und einen zweiten Abschnitt, der exzentrisch um eine zweite Wellenachse (33) angeordnet ist, sowie eine Kupplungsanordnung enthält, die die Walze mit dem Keilblock koppelt, und die Kupplungsanordnung auf der Welle arretierbar ist, wenn die Walze in die Richtung entgegengesetzt zur ersten Drehrichtung gezwungen wird.

8. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 6, weiterhin enthaltend: einen Hebel (37), der schwenkbar angebracht ist, um den Keil wahlweise von einer Rückseite des Gehäuses weg vorzuspannen.

9. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin enthaltend:

einen Anti-Rückrutschvorsprung (35), der sich im wesentlichen aus einer Nähe einer Oberseite des Gehäuses nach unten erstreckt und innerhalb der Aufnahme in der Nähe der Vorderfläche des Gehäuses angeordnet ist, wobei der Anti-Rückrutschvorsprung mit einem Abschnitt wenigstens einer Spielkarte in Eingriff gelangt wenn die Spielkarte zu einer Rückseite des Gehäuses infolge einer Kraft vorgespannt wird, die von einem Geber ausgeübt wird, der wenigstens eine der Spielkarten aus dem Gehäuse entnimmt.

10. Kartenschlitten nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin enthaltend:

eine Abdeckung (9), die mit dem Gehäuse schwenkbar verbunden ist, um es zu gestatten, eine Vielzahl von Spielkarten in Gestalt mehrerer Stapel von Karten in die Aufnahme einzulegen.

Revendications

1. Sabot (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) pour cartes à jouer, comprenant :

un boîtier (2) formant un réceptacle dimensionné pour recevoir une pluralité de cartes à jouer, ledit boîtier présentant une face antérieure pentue (10), une ouverture (12) pratiquée dans ladite face antérieure, ladite ouverture étant dimensionnée pour permettre l'extraction de cartes à jouer hors dudit réceptacle, et une surface (6) de support de cartes à proximité d'un fond de ladite ouverture, **caractérisé par** au moins une protubérance (15) s'étendant vers le haut à partir de ladite surface de support de cartes, ladite protubérance étant proche de l'ouverture de

la face antérieure du boîtier, de telle sorte que des cartes à jouer passent au-dessus de ladite protubérance lorsque lesdites cartes à jouer sont extraites du réceptacle en franchissant ladite ouverture.

2. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le boîtier comprend des première et seconde protubérances (15) espacées latéralement, en travers de l'ouverture, et séparées d'une distance inférieure ou égale à une longueur de chacune desdites cartes à jouer.

3. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les première et seconde protubérances (15) revêtent, chacune, la forme d'une bossette.

4. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 3, dans lequel les première et seconde protubérances (15) présentent, chacune, une configuration hémisphérique.

5. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le boîtier est muni d'une plaque métallique à proximité de l'ouverture (12), et les première et seconde protubérances (15) s'étendent à partir de ladite plaque métallique.

6. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre:

un ensemble de coincement (4) comportant un bloc de coincement (5) et un sous-ensemble (25) à rouleau, ledit bloc de coincement offrant une surface de fond (26) et une surface (18) de venue en contact des cartes, qui décrit un angle par rapport à ladite surface de fond, le bloc de coincement pouvant être engagé dans le réceptacle du boîtier du sabot contenant les cartes, ledit sous-ensemble à rouleau incluant un rouleau (24) qui est relié audit bloc de coincement avec faculté de rotation, peut tourner dans un premier sens de rotation et peut être verrouillé afin de résister, de manière substantielle, à une rotation dans un sens opposé audit premier sens de rotation.

7. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 6, comprenant en outre:

une broche (28) reliée au bloc de coincement, ladite broche incluant une première partie disposée concentriquement autour d'un premier axe (32) et une seconde partie disposée, de manière excentrée, autour d'un second axe (33), et un système d'accouplement reliant le rouleau audit bloc de coincement, ledit système d'accouplement pouvant être verrouillé sur ladite

broche lorsque ledit rouleau est sollicité dans le sens opposé au premier sens de rotation.

8. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 6, comprenant en outre : un levier (37) monté à pivotement, afin de solliciter sélectivement le coin pour l'éloigner d'une zone postérieure du boîtier. 5

9. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre: 10

une saillie (35) interdisant un coulissement rétrograde, qui s'étend globalement vers le bas à partir d'au moins une zone proche d'un sommet du boîtier, et est logée dans le réceptacle à proximité de la face antérieure dudit boîtier, sachant que ladite saillie, interdisant un coulissement rétrograde, entre en contact avec une partie d'au moins une carte à jouer lorsque ladite carte est poussée, en direction d'une zone postérieure du boîtier, sous l'action d'une force appliquée par un distributeur prélevant au moins l'une des cartes dudit boîtier. 15 20

10. Sabot pour cartes à jouer, selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre: 25

un couvercle (9) qui est relié au boîtier de manière pivotante pour permettre à la pluralité de cartes à jouer, revêtant la forme de plusieurs jeux de cartes, d'accéder au réceptacle. 30

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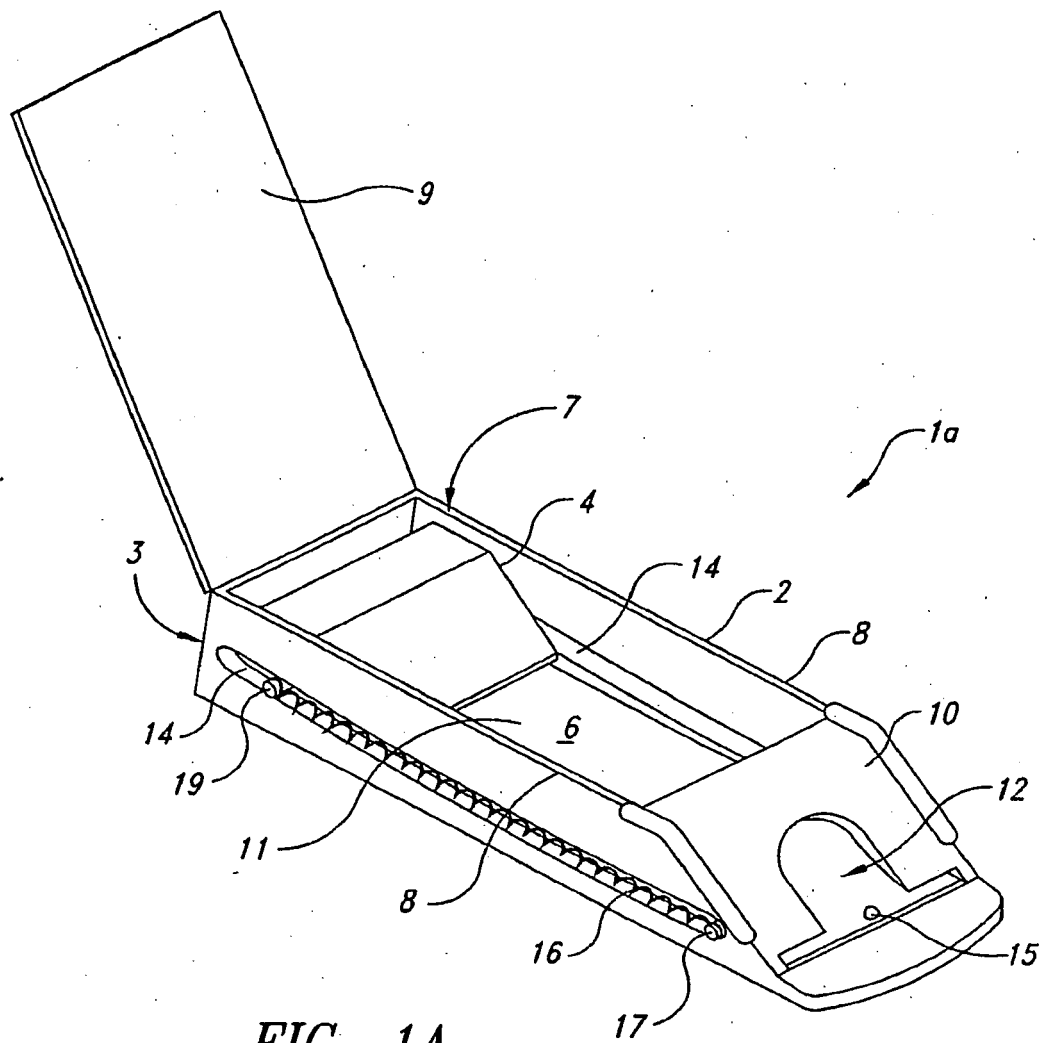


FIG. 1A

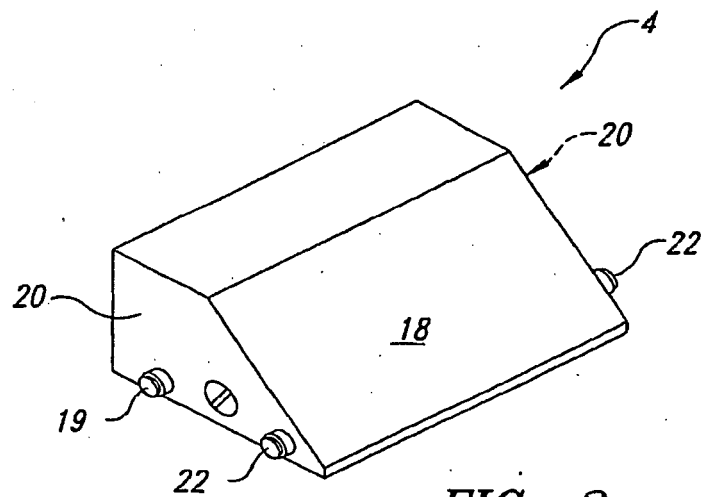


FIG. 2

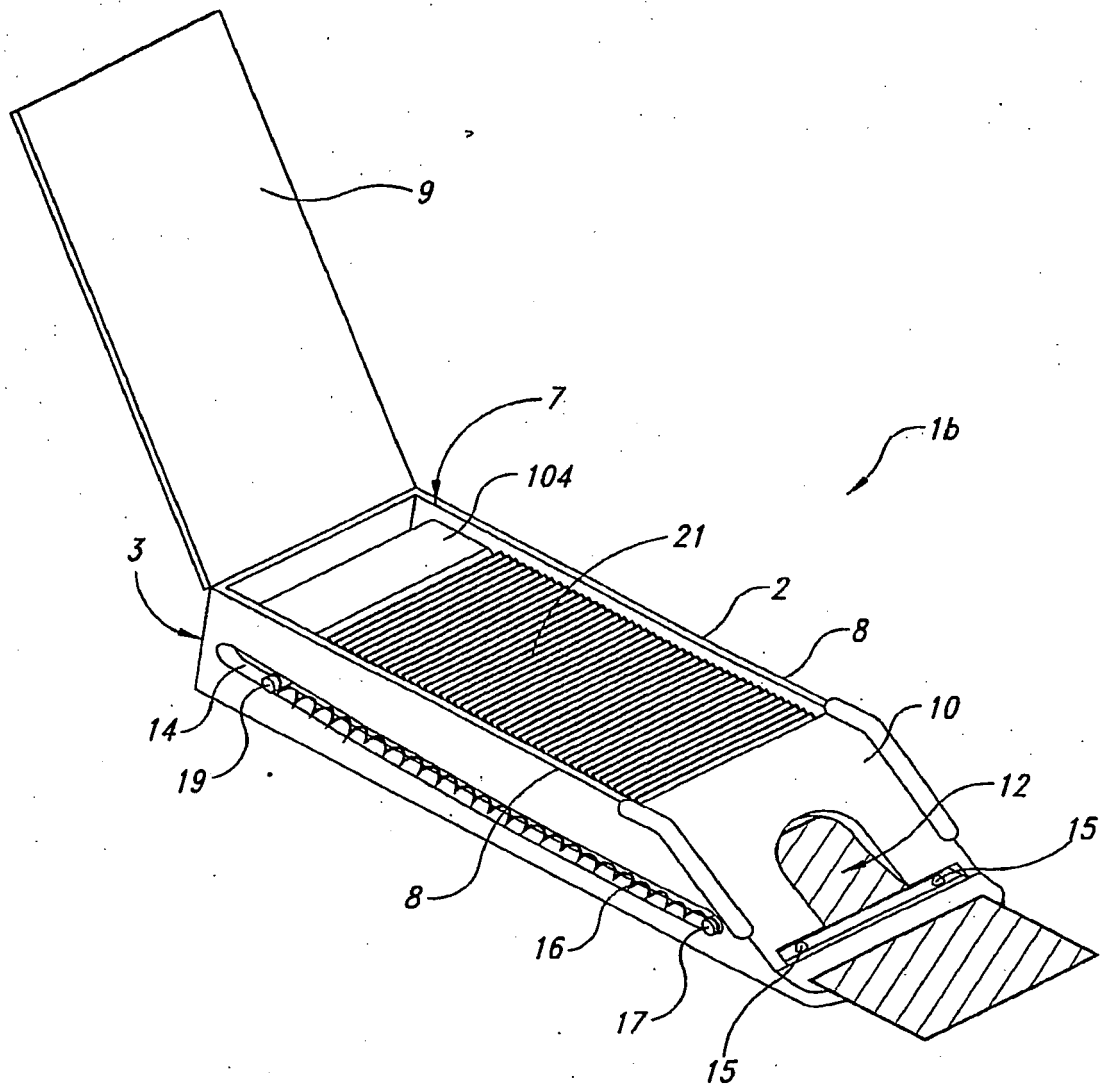


FIG. 1B

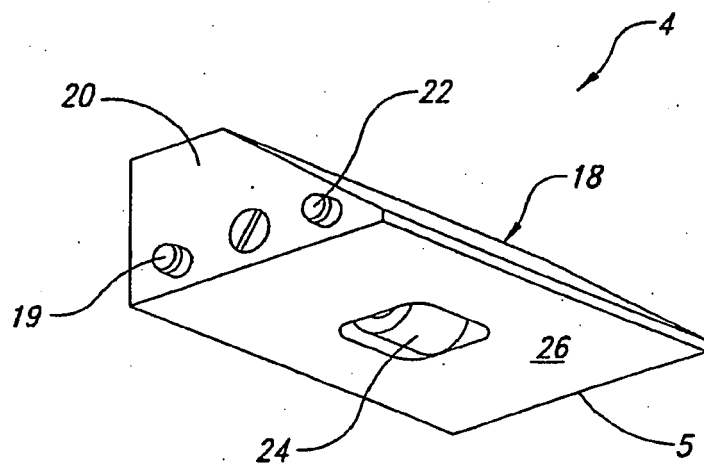


FIG. 3

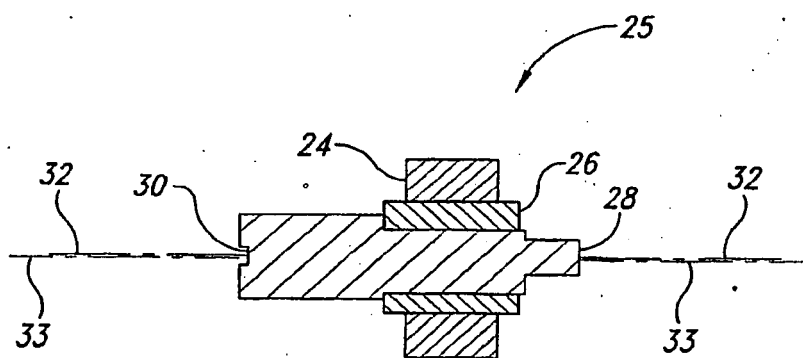


FIG. 4

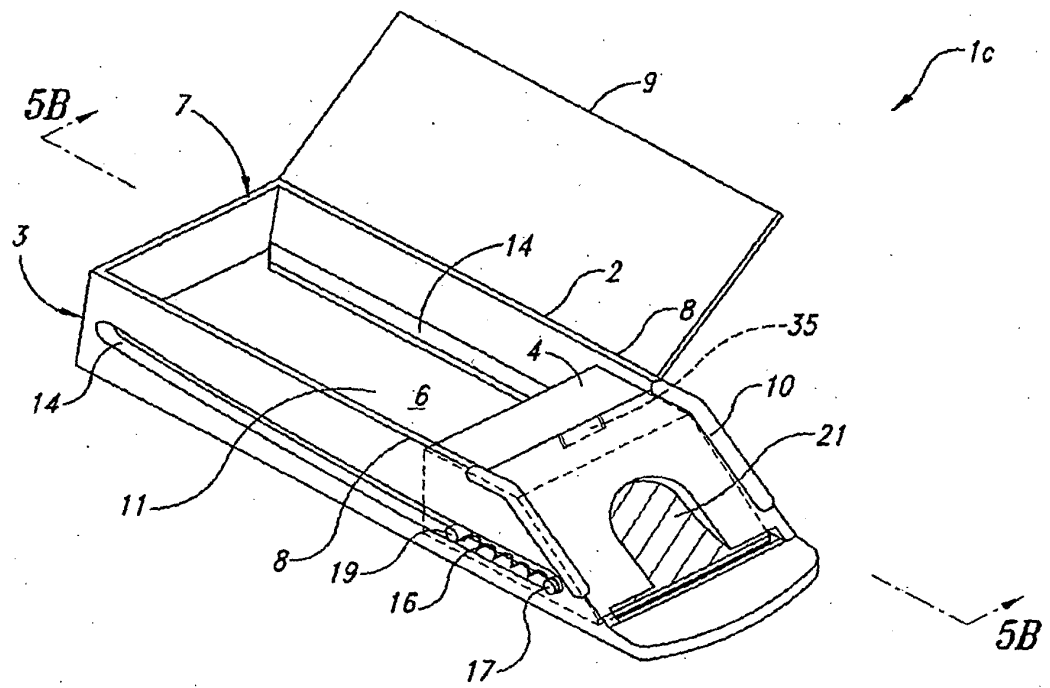


FIG. 5A

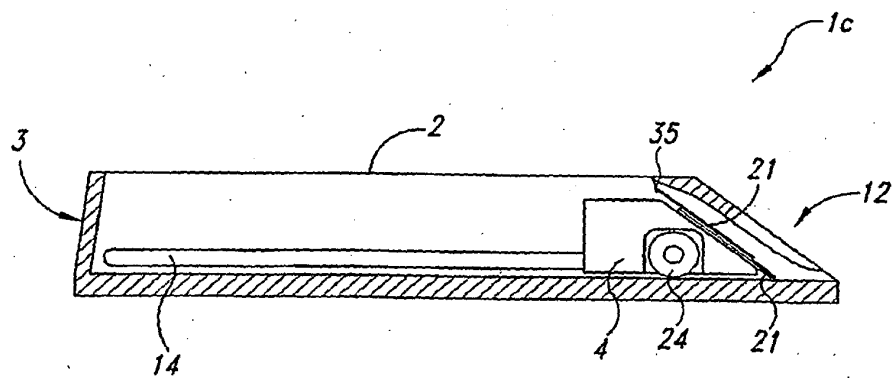


FIG. 5B

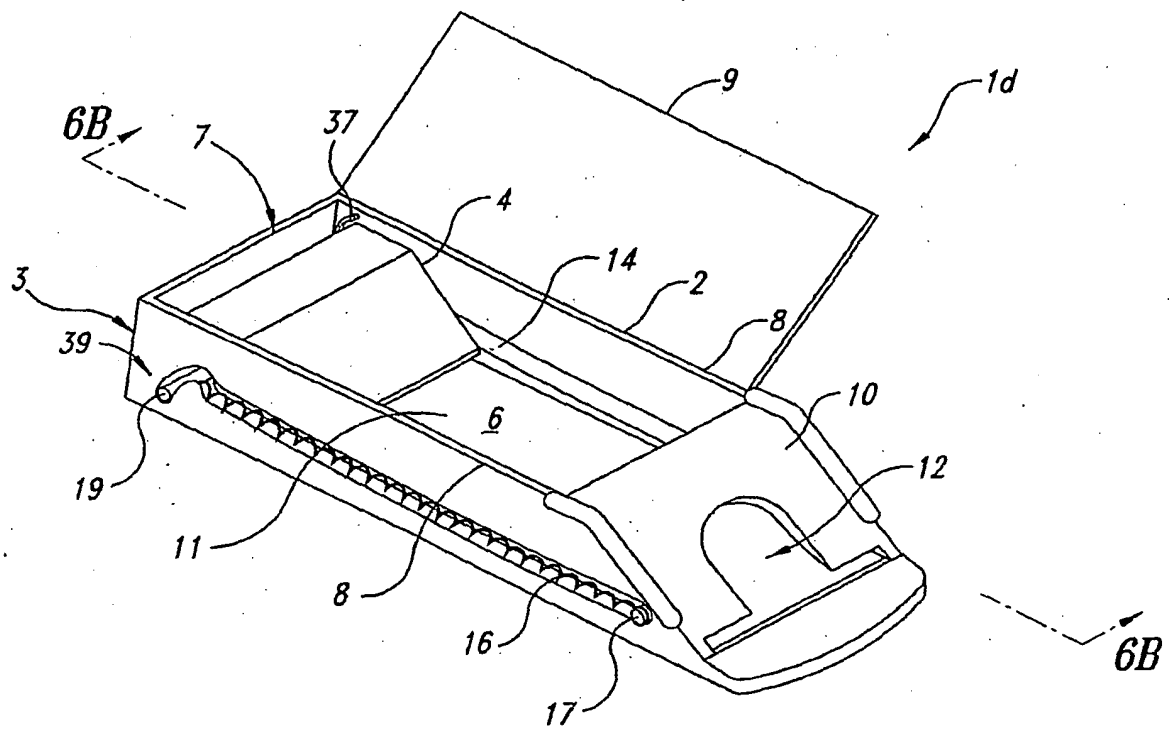


FIG. 6A

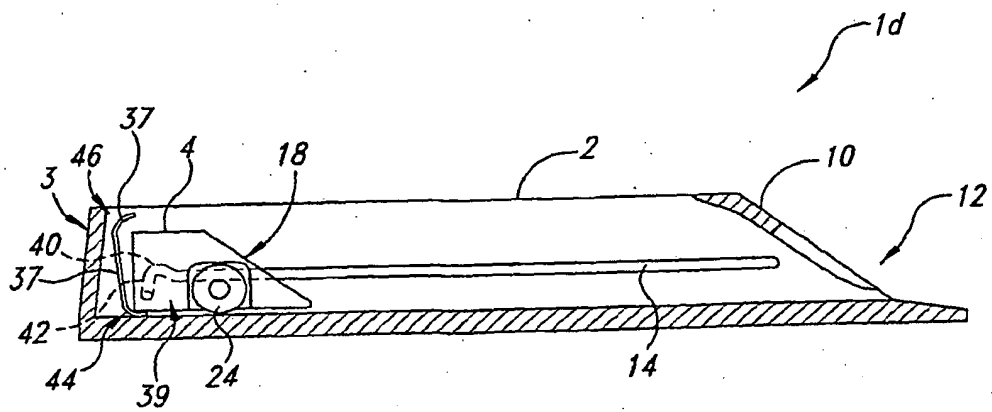


FIG. 6B

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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