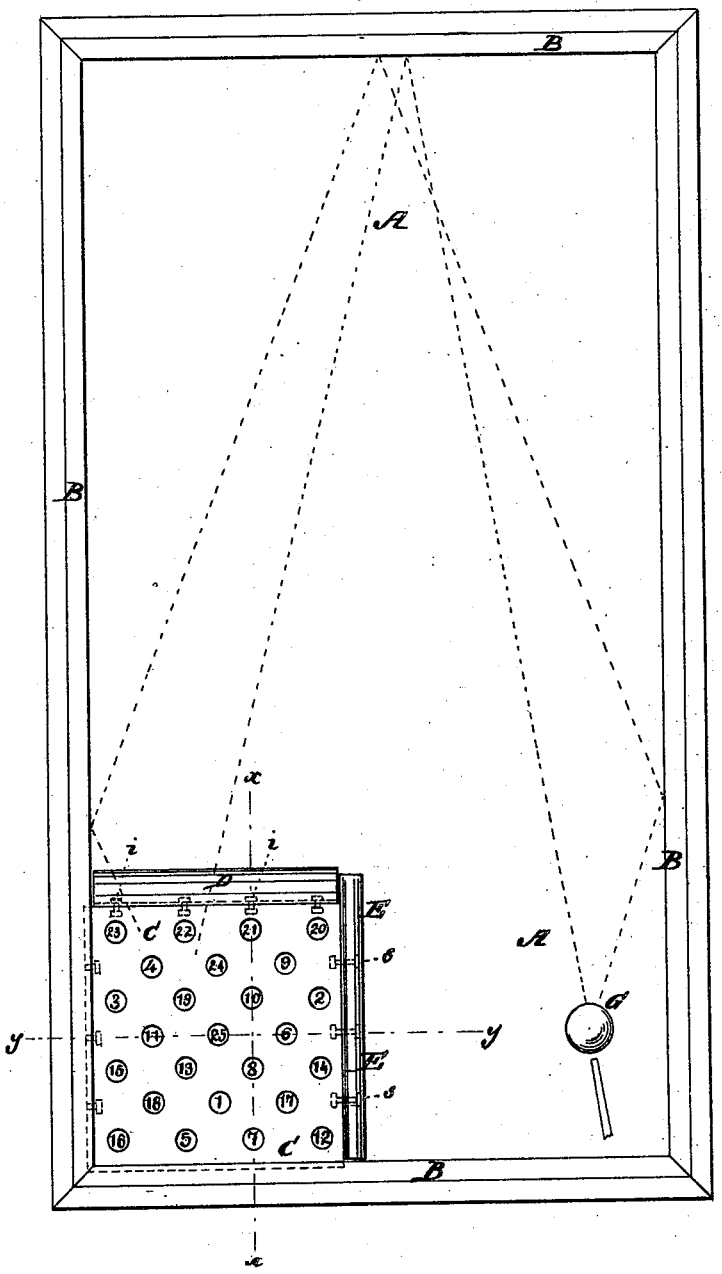
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. W. COLLENDER & A. P. RUDOLPHE.

ATTACHMENT FOR BILLIARD TABLES.

No. 183,371. Patented Oct. 17, 1876.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
C. Wolff.
Jacob Felbel

Inventor:
Hugh W. Collender & A. P. Rudolphe
By their attorney
J. N. McGuire

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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ATTACHMENT FOR BILLIARD-TABLES.

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Fig. 2.

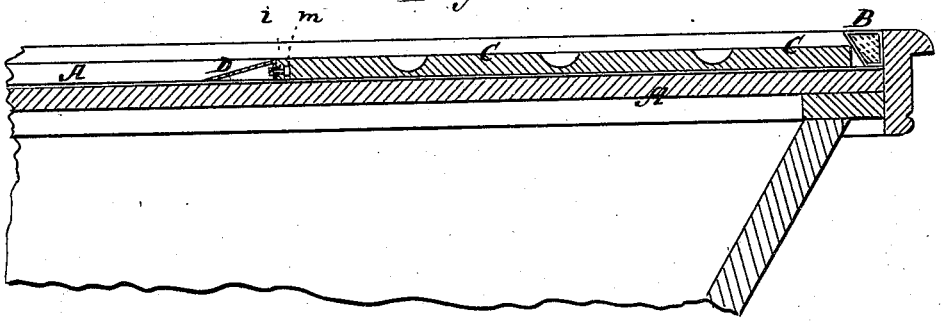


Fig. 3.

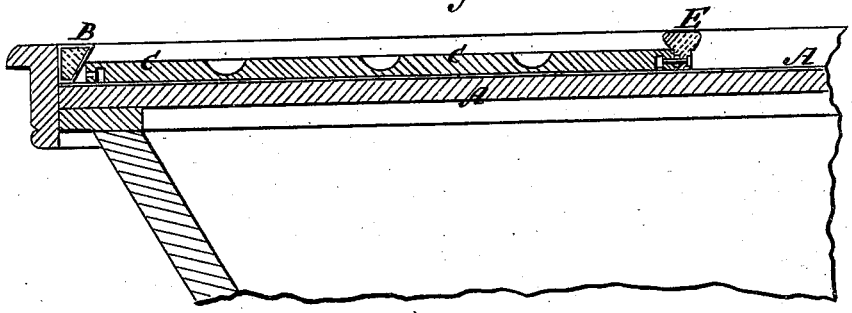
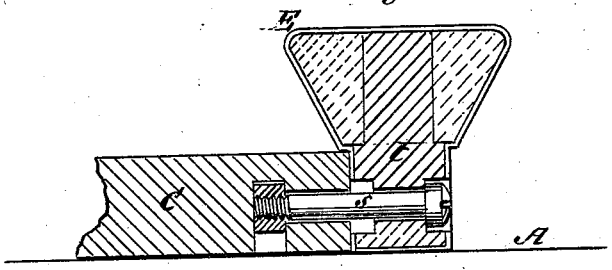


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGH W. COLLENDER AND ANTHONY P. RUDOLPHE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN ATTACHMENTS FOR BILLIARD-TABLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **183,371**, dated October 17, 1876; application filed September 16, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HUGH W. COLLENDER and ANTHONY P. RUDOLPHE, both of the city of New York, county of New York and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Game; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, making part of the specification of our said joint invention.

Our invention relates to a novel contrivance especially adapted for use in conjunction with an ordinary billiard-table; and consists in the employment of a slab of suitable thickness, having formed in it certain depressions or cavities for the accommodation of a ball, provided with one tapering or inclined edge for the ball to ride over, and with a cushion-rail at one of its other edges, all as will be hereinafter fully described; and our invention further consists in making the inclined or tapering edge of a piece separate from the stock composing the slab, and detachable therefrom, as and for the purposes to be hereinafter more fully explained; and our invention further consists in making the slab-cushion detachable and reversible, in the manner and for the purpose to be hereinafter more fully set forth.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will proceed to more fully describe its construction and operation, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan or top view of an ordinary carrom billiard-table, with our invention adapted and applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same, at the line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section at the line *y y*, Fig. 1; and Fig. 4 is a detail view of the detachable cushion in cross-section.

In all the figures the same part will be found designated by the same letter of reference.

A represents the bed, and B the cushions, of an ordinary billiard-table; and in one corner of the bed is shown, placed properly in position, an appliance which is composed mainly of a slab, C, made, by preference, of marble, in the top surface of which are formed several depressions, numbered, respectively, as illustrated, from 1 to 25, and adapted to serve as retaining cavities or seats (as will be presently explained) for the ball used by the player. This slab C is of such thickness as to permit the usual cushions B of the table A to serve the purpose of retaining the ball played on to the top of said slab, and is provided at one edge, as shown, with a metallic or other inclined plane, D, by means of which the ascent of the ball played with from the bed A of the table to the top of said slab C may be readily effected.

At another edge of the slab C, at right angles to the edge having attached to it the inclined plate D, is securely fastened a cushion-rail, E, about equal to the length of the edge of the slab, and so made and combined with said slab that while it serves as a cushion to the ball while rolling about on top of the slab C, and also as a cushion to the outer edge of said slab, to protect the ball when thrown or rolled on the bed of the table near the side of the slab, it can also be detached from said slab and re-attached to another edge of the latter, when it is desired to change the location of the slab on the billiard-table.

The contrivance just described is, by preference, made of such size or superficial area that when placed in position, as represented, the extreme forward edge, at which the ball ascends from the table-bed, will about correspond with the imaginary line on the table-bed called the "string-line;" and the cushion-rail E will extend in a right line from the string "spot," to the middle of the cushion-rail at the head of the table.

In the use of the contrivance a ball, G, similar to such balls as are used in playing billiards, but of a smaller diameter, is used, which ball is to be played with a cue, from any point on the table and within the "string," against the cushion B, so as to return toward and ascend onto the slab C, where it may settle into one of the cavities or seats, 1, 2, &c.

In the style of game we have adopted in the use of our invention, any number of players may engage, each in succession playing the ball G, to the end and object of effecting its lodgment in some one of the numbered cavities of the slab C, the game being won

by him who effects the lodgment of the ball in the cavity having the highest number.

The order of play may be determined by the preliminary distribution of small balls from a bottle or ball-holder, such as generally used for a similar purpose in playing pool, and in lieu of making the highest number the winning one, the lowest may be adopted, if desired.

Of course, in the use of the contrivance, many modifications of game may be devised and adopted.

As the contrivance is designed to be applied to the usual billiard-table without any permanent attachment or means of securement that might injure the cloth or cushions, or mutilate any part of the table, and as at the same time it is important to have the fixture capable of perfectly maintaining its position, and presenting a perfectly true, level, and smooth surface or top for the performances of the ball, we propose to make the slab C of marble, slate, or some other material which, while it is heavy, may be made to present a smooth and hard surface to the action of the ball used to play with.

The inclined plate or plane D we make separate, and, by preference, of polished metal, and so combine it with, and secure it to, the slab C, that, while a perfect joint is made at the juncture of the two parts, the lower edge of the plane D may rest on the cloth of the table-bed in such manner that no obstruction will be offered to the ascent of the ball; and we so make this inclined plate with slots for the accommodation of securing-bolts, and so provide the slab C with nuts let into several of its edges, that the said plate D may be secured at pleasure to different edges of the slab. This mode of attachment of the plate and slab is most clearly shown at Fig. 2, where will be seen one of the bolts *i* and let-in nuts *m*, by which said parts are secured together.

The object and advantage of the capacity to shift the plate D from one to another edge of the slab C is, that by this means the position of the slab may be changed either to counteract any slight inequalities or imperfection, or to change the location of the differently-numbered cavities.

The cushion-rail E, as before stated, is made reversible, and the slab C is provided at several edges with means for the attachment of the said cushion-rail. This feature of construction is best shown at Fig. 3, where it will be seen that the cushion-rail E is so shaped as to be adapted to placement on different edges of the slab C, and that the securing-bolts *s* may be inserted from either side of the shank or leg portion *t* of said duplex cushion-rail.

In Fig. 1 of the drawings we have illustrated by dotted lines some of the directions in which the ball may be played in the use of our new apparatus or contrivance.

It will be understood that by means of the capacity to reverse the location of the cushion-rail E relatively to the slab, we are enabled to shift the slab, or place it at option in any one of the four corners of the table, and to thus avoid the wear and tear of the table and its cushions at one portion more than another.

The ball or balls used with our new contrivance should be selected of such diameter that while they can be effectually used on the bed A with the cushions B, they will not be too large to be controlled in a proper manner by the said cushions and the slab-cushion at E when the ball rolls on top of the slab C.

Having so described the construction and operation of our new contrivance that those skilled can make and use it, and being aware that it may be used in various other ways than that in which we have so far used it, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A slab, having ball-seats or cavities in its upper surface, and provided with an inclined surface at one edge, and a cushion at another edge, and adapted to be used on a billiard-table, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the slab C, or its equivalent, an inclined and removable or shifting plate or piece, D, the whole constructed to operate substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In combination with a slab or contrivance adapted to be moved or shifted to different corners of a table, a reversible and shifting cushion-rail, E, whereby the contrivance may be adapted to any one of the four corners of the table.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 7th day of September, 1876.

H. W. COLLENDER. [L. S.]
A. P. RUDOLPHE. [L. S.]

In presence of—
J. N. McINTIRE,
JACOB FELBEL.