H. W. COLLENDER.

BILLIARD CHALK CUPS.

No. 190,285. Patented May 1, 1877.

Fig. 1.

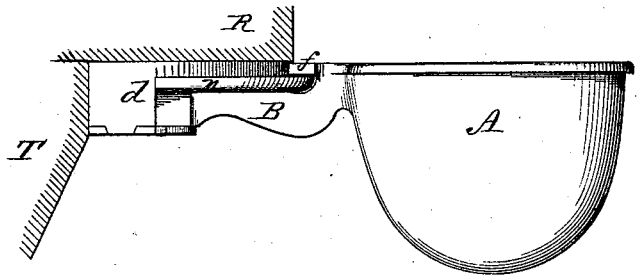


Fig. 2.

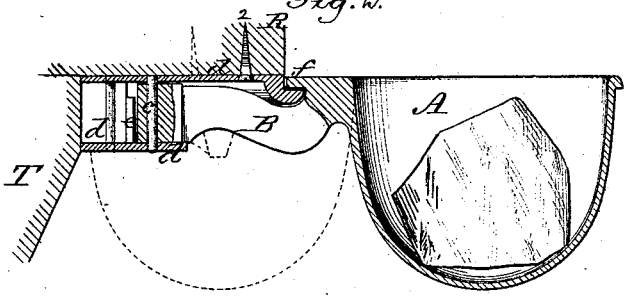


Fig. 3.

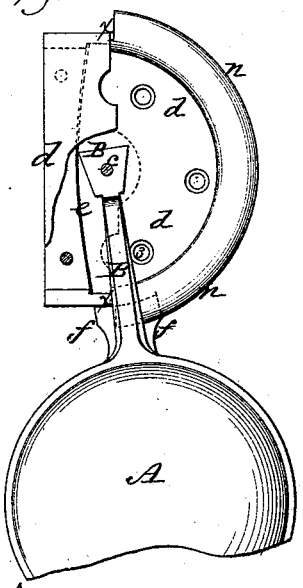
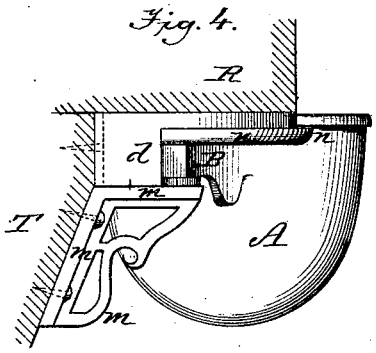


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN BILLIARD CHALK-CUPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **190,285**, dated May 1, 1877; application filed April 11, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGH W. COLLENDER, of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improved Chalk-Cup; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Previous to my invention one of the most serious objections to the ordinary chalk-cup for billiard-tables has been the liability of the fixture to constantly get out of order in consequence of the strain to which the pivot on which the box swings is subjected, and the effect of such strain to loosen or break down this pivotal connection of the chalk-box with the table.

Another serious objection experienced in the use of chalk-boxes, as most usually made and applied to billiard-tables, has been the constant liability of the box to swing out from under the cushion-rail in the way of the player, and, by its protrusion when not needed, lead to the chalking or soiling of the player's clothes while playing round the table.

To overcome these difficulties, and provide the billiard-table with a much more desirable chalk box or holder in other respects than any heretofore known and used, are the main objects of my invention; which, to these ends, consists, first, in the combination, with a chalk-cup arranged to swing horizontally, of means adapted to afford support vertically to the box at a point between its outer portion and the pivotal point, and thus relieve the pivot of all side strain, as will be hereinafter more fully explained; and, second, in the use, in connection with the swinging chalk-receptacle, of means for insuring its movement entirely out of the way of the player when swung toward a position of disuse, and its retention in such out-of-the-way position, all as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe more fully the construction and operation of my improved billiard-table chalk-box, or chalk-cup, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view, and Fig. 2 a vertical section, of one of my improved chalk-boxes as applied to a billiard-table. Fig. 3 is a bottom view of the fixture detached; and Fig. 4, another side view of the fixture, showing a modification thereof, and a different mode of attachment to the table.

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

A is the cup, formed with a shank, B, adapted to be and pivoted at *c* in a metallic frame or stand, *d*, which is securely fastened by screws 1 2 3, or otherwise, to the lower surface of the cushion-rail R, or, as will be presently explained, to the broad-rail T of the table.

The stand *d*, to which the shank or arm B of the chalk-box is pivoted at *c*, is provided with a spring, *e*, against which the rear end of shank B works, in a manner to be presently explained, and is formed with a curved ledge or flange, *n*, on the upper surface of which rides and bears a projection, *f*, of the shank B, in such a manner that in every position in which the chalk-box can be placed this projection *f* of its shank B will operate as a support vertically on the horizontal flange *n*, to sustain the box against any forcing downward, (by being crowded under the cushion-rail when too full of chalk, or by other causes,) and thus prevent any undue strain on, or derangement of, the pivotal attachment of the chalk-box at the point *c*.

By reference to Fig. 3, the peculiar shape of the pivotal end of shank B, and its arrangement with the spring *e*, will be clearly seen to be such that when the chalk-box shall be swung out into the position shown at Fig. 1—that is, at right angles to the line of the cushion-rail—the flat rear end of shank B will come to a bearing against the middle of spring-plate *e*, and that the shank B (and cup A) will be held by said spring *e* in the position shown in Fig. 1. It will also be seen that when the chalk-box shall be pushed or swung horizontally to one side, in either direction, so that the spring *e* will bear on either of the corners of the back end of shank B, as shown, for instance, at Fig. 3, the action of the spring *e* will have the effect of forcing the shank B to swing as far as possible under the table, and to hold or retain it in such position.

The extent to which it is possible for the spring *e* to force the shank B (and cup A) to swing backward or under is determined by contact of the arm B with the stop-shoulders at *x*, one on each side of the stand *d*.

From the description so far given, and the drawings, it will be understood that in the use of chalk-boxes made and applied as described, the player has simply to pull the cup slightly outward or from under the cushion-rail, when the spring will operate to flip the box to the position seen at Fig. 1, and there hold it; that when not needed for further use the player has simply to move the box slightly toward the table, when the spring *e* will operate to effect the complete movement of the box under the table, and its retention in such out-of-the-way position; and that if the chalk-box be left sticking out, in the position seen at Fig. 1, any slight contact of the body of the player, as he walks round the table, (in either direction,) will so move the box to one side that it will then be automatically thrown and held under the cushion-rail out of the way; and it will be understood that in any position in which the chalk-box may be placed it will be so sustained vertically at a point between the cup A and pivot *c*, by means of the supporting-flange *n* and bearing *f*, that no downward pressure exerted on the cup can break or strain out of adjustment the pivotal connection at *c*, and that, therefore, the annoyance in common chalk-boxes, occasioned by the constant derangement of the fixture at the pivotal point, will be wholly overcome.

At Fig. 4 the contrivance is so modified in the form of the metallic stand *d*, by the addition of a bracket-like portion, *m*, that the fixture may be, as shown in that figure, screwed or otherwise fastened to the body or broad rail T of the table, in lieu of the cushion-rail. This modification in form and mode of attachment may be desirable sometimes, as by it the temporary removal and handling of the cushion-rail may be effected without the removal of the chalk-box fixture.

In carrying out my invention, modifications in the details of construction of the fixture may, of course, be made without substantially changing its principle of construction and operation, or departing from the spirit of my invention.

I am aware that it is not new, broadly, to support the vibrating arm at a point in front of the pivotal point; but,

Having so fully explained the construction and operation of my improved chalk-box fixture that those skilled in the art can make and use it, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the vibrating or swinging chalk-cup, provided with a bearing-lug, *f*, with the plate *d*, to which the arm is pivoted, formed with a depressed flange or lip, *n*, at its outer circumference, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the swinging chalk-holder device, and the stand or fixture to which it is pivoted, means, substantially as described, for effecting the movements of the vibratory arm toward and its retention in the several positions in which the chalk-cup will be exposed for use, or held in an out-of-the-way position, as hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of April, 1877.

H. W. COLLENDER. [L. S.]

In presence of—

J. N. McINTIRE,

MULFORD W. HAYWARD.