P. ORTH.

Game-Counter.

No. 203,189. Patented April 30, 1878.

Fig. 1.

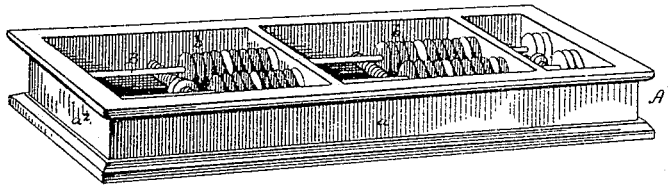


Fig. 2.

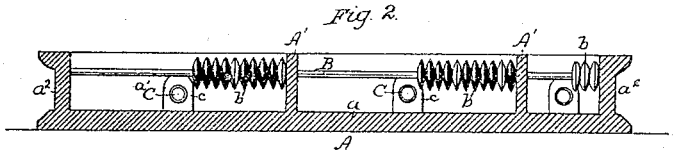


Fig. 3.

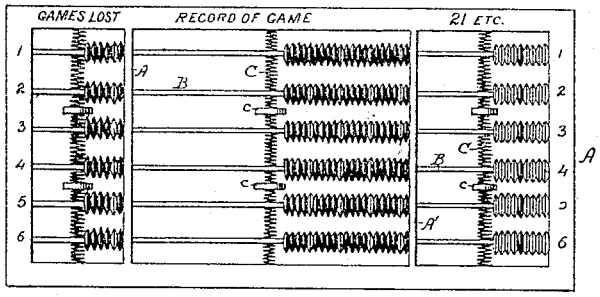


Fig. 4

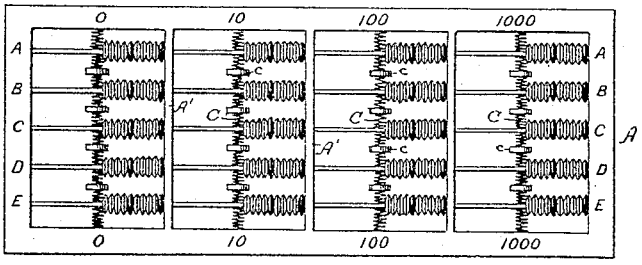
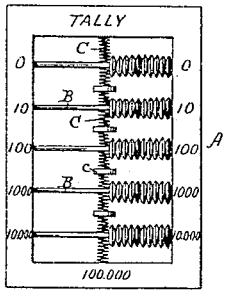


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHILIP ORTH, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN GAME-COUNTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **203,189**, dated April 30, 1878; application filed April 2, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PHILIP ORTH, of Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Game-Counters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

The object I have in view is the production of a game-counter for scoring the counts made in games of various kinds, which will be convenient in use, will always retain the count when placed in any position, and even when shaken around or knocked off the table, and will be ornamental, simple, and durable in construction, the same device being also adapted, without materially altering its construction, for use as a toy, or as an aid to instruction in teaching counting and adding, or can be employed by business men for keeping count or tally of various articles; and my invention therein consists, mainly, in providing such a device with cords or wires, upon which the beads or buttons are strung, and with one or more spiral springs, placed at right angles to the cords or wires, for keeping the beads or buttons separate on the opposite sides of such spiral spring or springs, as fully hereinafter explained.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a game-counter embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section of the same in front of one of the wires or cords; Fig. 3, a plan view of a counter arranged to keep six scores; Fig. 4, a view of a counter for keeping tally of articles of various kinds; Fig. 5, a view of a single tally.

Like letters denote corresponding parts.

The counter or tally is composed of a shallow rectangular box, A, having bottom *a*, sides a^1, and ends a^2. This box is adapted to be set flat upon a table, and may be finished and ornamented in any way to make it attractive. In the box A are mounted the cords or wires B, which are stretched horizontally in the same far enough below the sides and ends of the box to protect the beads or buttons *b*, which are strung upon them. These buttons are made of any suitable material, and preferably of about the shape shown in the drawings, and for ornamentation may be of various colors. Below the wires B, about centrally between the outward limits of movement of each set of buttons, is arranged a spiral spring, C, which is connected at its ends, in any suitable manner, to the sides *a* of the box. This spring must be quite fine and elastic, so as to allow the buttons to be easily pushed over it, but still unyielding enough to keep the buttons on either side of the spring until pushed one way or the other. By these means the count is accurately kept, since the position of the buttons cannot be accidentally changed. To better sustain the spring C in the desired position, I provide the box with short supports *c*, which are secured to the bottom *a* of the box, and project upwardly from the same centrally between and below every two of the wires B. These supports have holes cut in them near their tops, through which passes loosely the spring; or the spring may be divided at each support and secured to the opposite sides of the same, or secured to such supports without being divided.

It is evident that a rubber or other elastic strap or cord could be used in place of the spiral spring, if desired, or that a leaf-spring, with its center bent up into the path of movement of the buttons, could be placed on the bottom of the box longitudinally beneath each of the wires.

The box A is divided by transverse partitions A′, extending between the sides a^1, and of the same height as said sides. The wires or cords B pass through these partitions, and in the spaces formed by them are arranged the different sets of buttons. The partitions separate the sets of buttons for counting the different features of the game, and centrally in each of these spaces are situated one of the springs C and its supports *c*.

In Fig. 1 is shown a counter designed especially for keeping record of a two-hand game, or where two counts are to be kept. This form has two wires, and the box is divided into three spaces. The edges of the box may have marked upon them the object of each set of buttons. The central space is for keeping the current record, and the wires B in this space may have any desired number of buttons. They are shown with eleven each; but the num-

ber may be five or twenty-one, or any other number. The space at the right is designed to be used for recording any number over the number of buttons in the central space, each one of these buttons being considered equivalent to all the buttons on one string in such central space; or it may be used for scoring the games won. The space on the left of the central space may be used for games lost or won.

In Fig. 3 is shown a counter constructed to keep six scores. This counter is exactly like the one just described, with the exception that the box is widened and more wires added.

The tally shown in Fig. 4 can be used for various purposes—for counting money, keeping record of lumber of different kinds while being loaded or unloaded, scoring the number of bags of grain, barrels of flour, &c.

A single tally is shown in Fig. 5. This may be used to some extent for the same purpose as the one shown in Fig. 4, or for a toy for children, or as an aid to teachers in teaching children to count and add.

It is evident that any number of wires or cords can be used in one counter, and any number of buttons placed upon each wire, and that the number of partitions and spaces can be changed without departing from the spirit of my invention.

The convenience and certainty of my tallies form their chief advantage, while their simplicity and attractiveness will commend them for the various purposes described.

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

1. In a counter, the spring C, stretched transversely across the line of movement of the beads or buttons, for keeping them separate, substantially as described.

2. In a counter, the spring C and supports *c* between the lines of beads or buttons, substantially as described and shown.

This specification signed and witnessed this 14th day of March, 1878.

PHILIP ORTH.

Witnesses:
R. N. DYER,
WARREN SEELY.