

PATENT SPECIFICATION

397,165



Application Date: Jan. 20, 1932. No. 1770/32.

„ „ April 21, 1932. No. 11,499/32.

One Complete Left: Jan. 20, 1933.

Complete Accepted: Aug. 21, 1933.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

No. 1770, A.D. 1932.

Apparatus for Playing a Race Game.

We, HENRY THOMAS BROOKER, British Subject, of 19, Branksome Road, Southend-on-Sea, and LESLIE EDWARD WILLIAMS, British Subject, of 7, St. Georges Road, Forty Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

The present invention relates to an improved apparatus for playing a race game particularly suited for parlour, table or like use.

The apparatus is of the kind in which a series of travellers, each in or on a track or guideway and free for movement thereon, are advanced along the tracks towards an appertaining target by a series of intermittent thrusts imparted by an actuating device.

Hitherto the intermittent thrusts have been imparted by an actuating device through the mediation of a freely moving propelling unit.

According to the present invention the intermittent thrusts are imparted to each propelling unit by an independent actuating device, whereby, for example, two or more players may oppose each other, and each have independent control over the magnitude and period of the series of intermittent thrusts to be imparted to the propelling units.

In this connection the actuating means may be of such a character that the propelling unit suffers a rebound on its return to the playing position and one or more strokes may be lost or only weakly made

In a convenient and advantageous embodiment under the present invention the actuating means, the track and its traveller, and a target or indicator designed to be operated when the traveller has completed its journey, may constitute a complete unit, and this unit may have a depending pivot at or adjacent the winning post end of the track for pivotally mounting such end of the track in a base round the margin of which in spaced relation may be pivoted other like race tracks, the height of the base and/or

[Price 1/-]

a shoulder on the pivot being so chosen as to give a desirable slope to the race track, the starting end of which with the actuating means may be attached to a flat base for steadily supporting the starting end of the track.

The target or indicator may be in the form of a flat post mounted on a horizontal pivot and when lying down it may present an arm in the path of a leading portion of the traveller so that when this has been propelled for a certain distance along the track, the leading portion of the traveller strikes such arm and raises the target or indicator to a vertical position, in which position a stop on the target is opposed to a shoulder on the traveller and arrests the traveller at the winning post end of the track.

Slipper and guide connections may be made between the travellers and the track for preventing withdrawal of the travellers in an upward direction.

The actuating means preferably takes the form of a bow spring under the free end of which a steel ball is adapted to be brought to rest by a stop in such a position that on pressing the bow spring downwardly its free end slidingly flexes over the sphere moving slowly at first and then suddenly pressing downwards with a snap, and imparting an impulse to the ball which gives it a sharp propulsive thrust towards the traveller.

As soon as the energy imparted to the ball is exhausted, the ball returns by reason of the slope of the track and then by striking the stop below the bow spring rebounds somewhat up the track, in which movement the bow spring may be operated without any thrust being imparted to the ball, or with a thrust of lesser magnitude than if the bow spring is actuated after the ball has come to rest against the stop.

The before mentioned stop may be a blade spring which may be formed by slitting the lower member of the bow spring to free a medial portion thereof for such service.

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