

PATENT SPECIFICATION

592,536



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Puzzle Board Game

I, HERBERT BATTY SAUNDERS, a British subject, of Parkside, Bouldnor Park, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what

5 manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

10 This invention relates broadly to puzzle games of that kind for which the apparatus provided consists of a board and a number of pieces adapted to be moved from place to place on the surface of said board, the problem set for a player being to move pieces, in accordance with pre-

15 scribed rules, in such a manner as to effect a specified disposition of a certain piece on the board.
More specifically, the invention has reference to that type of puzzle game apparatus which comprises a board having side and end walls bounding a rectangular plane surface divisible into an even number of constituent square areas of convenient size (say one inch square), which

20 will be called basic squares, and a plurality of rectangular pieces, all to be placed on said surface, said pieces being of various sizes, as viewed in plan, one of said pieces being larger than any other piece and each of them being of a size substantially equal to that of one basic square or a multiple thereof, the aggregate area of the said surface coverable by all the pieces together being less than the total area of the surface by an area equal to the size of at least two basic squares.

The characteristic feature of the present invention resides in the fact that the piece which is largest as viewed in plan, is less in thickness than any other one of the pieces and that one of the walls of the board is pierced by a slot dimensioned and positioned to pass only this largest and thinner piece, so that the latter, when registering with said slot, can be slidden off the board, through said slot, whereas all the other pieces, owing to their greater thickness, are prevented from passing through said slot.

50 The accompanying perspective drawings show one embodiment of the invention by way of example. Of these drawings:—

Figure 1 represents a board with ten pieces thereon; and

Figures 2, 3 and 4 are separate representations of individual pieces numbered 1, 2 and 7 respectively.

Pieces 1 to 10 are shown upon a plane rectangular surface 11 of a board 12, the surface 11 being divisible into an even number (twenty) of constituent basic squares, each of the size of one of the smallest pieces shown, for example the piece 7.

The board 12 is oblong, being of a width of four basic squares and a length of five basic squares; and the pieces 1 to 10 are rectangular and of various sizes as viewed in plan, some of them being substantially equal in size to one basic square, some oblong and substantially equal to two basic squares, and the largest piece, namely, the piece 2, square and substantially equal to four basic squares. Of the pieces equal in size to one basic square there are four, namely, the pieces, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and of those equal to two basic squares there are five, namely, the pieces 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, there being thus ten pieces in all.

The board 12 is formed with a low wall upstanding around its edges and adapted to retain the pieces 1 to 10 upon the surface 11. The wall is composed of four parts, namely, a back wall 13 and a front wall 14 along the two shorter edges respectively of the board 12, and two side walls 15, 16 along the two longer edges.

The largest piece, 2, is slightly less in thickness than any other piece and the front wall 14, according to the present embodiment of the invention, is broken by a rectangular slot 17 of a width equal to slightly more than that of two basic squares and of a depth slightly more than the thickness of the largest piece 2 but less than the thickness of the other pieces. In this way the slot 17 is adapted to allow the largest piece 2 but none of the others to pass through it. The bottom of the said slot 17 is shown on the level of the surface 11 of the board 12 and the said slot, which extends longitudinally of the front wall 14, is disposed centrally in relation thereto.

For facilitating the setting-out of

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pieces on the board 12 and the describing of moves, it is convenient that the ten pieces 1 to 10 bear respectively as identifying marks the numbers 1 to 10 as depicted, and also that the surface 11 of the board 12 be divided, as by ruling, into ten locations each of which is adapted to accommodate one of the pieces, the ten locations being as identifying marks the numerals 1 to 10 and each of those locations being of substantially the same size and shape as the piece bearing the same numeral. In the case of the board 12 the rulings for the ten locations would correspond to the divisions amongst the ten pieces as depicted.

If, however, a diagram (or adequate verbal description) is provided to assist players in setting out the pieces in the manner depicted—as is necessary in order to make the puzzle difficult—or if the starting positions of the pieces are memorised, the numbering of the pieces and the demarcation and numbering of the locations can be dispensed with.

The locations are disposed upon the surface 11 of the board 12 in the same manner as are the pieces 1 to 10 shown in Figure 1: location 1 is at the back left-hand corner of the board, alongside the left-hand wall 15, and comprises the corner basic square and the one immediately in front thereof, being therefore adapted to accommodate one (that numbered 1) of the oblong pieces; alongside location 1, to the right (as viewed from the front of the board) is location 2, which comprises two basic squares alongside the back wall 13 of the board and the two immediately in front of these, being therefore adapted to accommodate the largest piece (that numbered 2); 3 is at the back right-hand corner of the board, and comprises the corner basic square and the one immediately in front thereof; 4 comprises the two basic squares alongside the left wall 15 of the board immediately in front of location 1; 5 is immediately to the right of location 4 and comprises the two basic squares arranged transversely of the board immediately in front of location 2; 6 is alongside the right-hand wall 16 of the board and comprises two basic squares, being immediately in front of location 3 and immediately beside location 5, to which latter location half of location 6 is contiguous; 7 and 8 comprise one basic square each and are immediately in front of location 5, 8 being immediately to the right of 7 and immediately to the left of 6; 9 comprises one basic square and is at the front left-hand corner of the board; and 10 comprises one basic square in the front right-hand corner of the board. Two of the basic squares are not comprised in

any location; these are the basic squares immediately in front of locations 7 and 8, between locations 9 and 10.

At the start of the game each of the ten pieces is placed on the board in the location that bears its own number, as shown in Figure 1. Then the puzzle set for the player is to move pieces, one at a time, in accordance with prescribed rules, in such a manner as in the smallest number of moves to bring piece 2 from its original position against the back wall 13 of the board centrally thereof to the corresponding position against the front wall 14, that is, immediately behind the slot 17, so that by a single further move piece 2 can be moved through the slot or gate and off the board.

An essential rule of the game is that a piece may be moved only into a basic square or basic squares not occupied by another piece or other pieces, and then only if an edge of such basic square or basic squares is contiguously alongside an edge or part of an edge of the piece which it is desired to move. Thus at the beginning of the game piece 7 might be moved into the vacant basic square immediately in front of it but not into the square immediately in front of piece 8.

It will be found that the chief difficulty that hinders movement of piece 2 consists in the presence of the oblong pieces. In restricting the permitted movements of the oblong pieces alternative rules are possible, but it is preferred to prescribe that no piece may be lifted from the board, and that no oblong piece may be turned, but must always remain arranged respectively transversely or longitudinally of the board in accordance with its original position. When the movement of the oblong pieces is thus restricted by rule the puzzle is made very difficult, and, it is believed cannot be solved in fewer than 120 moves.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. Means for playing a puzzle game of the type described, said means comprising a board having a rectangular plane surface bounded by side and end walls, said surface being divisible into an even number of constituent basic squares, and a plurality of rectangular pieces, all to be placed on said surface, said pieces being of various sizes, as viewed in plan and one of them being larger in size but less in thickness than any other piece, each of said pieces being of a size substantially equal to that of one basic square or a multiple thereof, the aggregate area of the said surface coverable by all the pieces together

being less than the total area of the surface by an area equal to the size of at least two basic squares and one of the walls of the board being pierced by a slot dimensioned and positioned to pass only said largest and thinner piece, so that the latter, when registering with said slot, can be slidden off the board, through said slot, whereas all the other pieces, owing to their greater thickness, are prevented from passing through said slot.

2. Means according to claim 1 and in which the bottom of the said slot is on the level of the said surface of the board.

3. Means according to claim 1 and in which the said slot is disposed centrally in

and longitudinally of the front wall of the board.

4. Means for playing a puzzle game of the type described, said means comprising a peripherally walled board and pieces to be placed on said board, all being constructed substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 29th day of January, 1946.

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[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

FIG. 1.

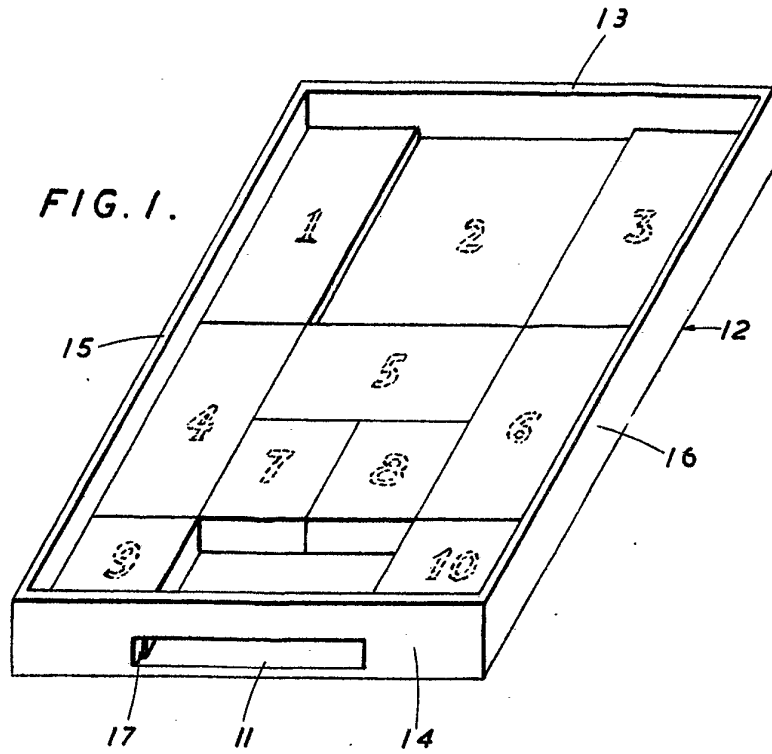


FIG. 2.

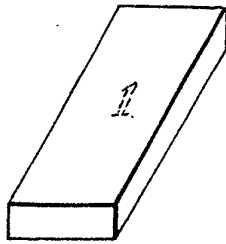


FIG. 3.

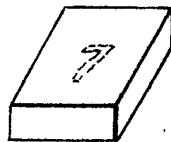
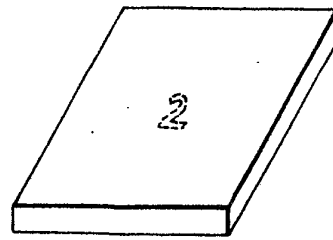


FIG. 4.