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DEVICE FOR A GAME OF NUMBERS

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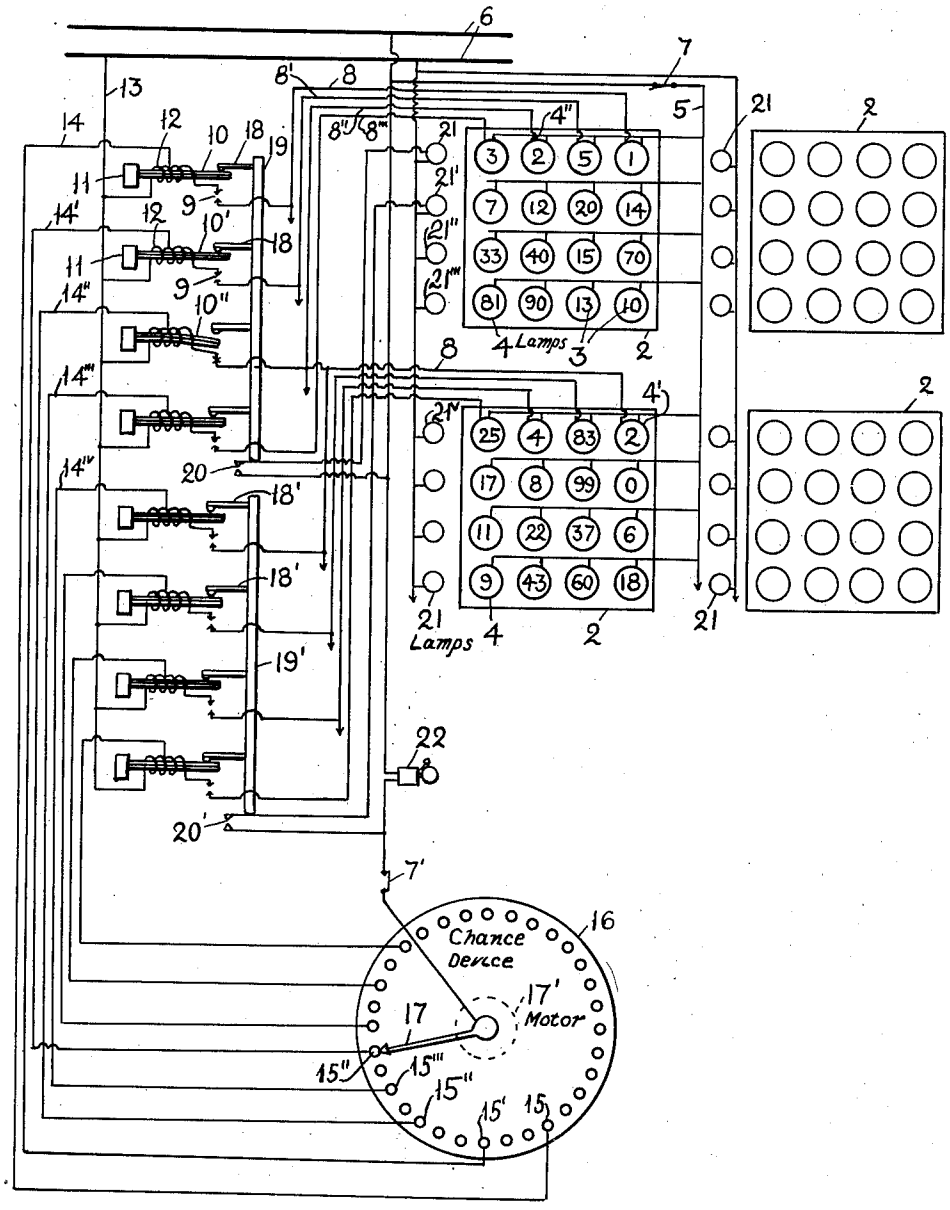

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DEVICE FOR GAMES OF NUMBERS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 177—384)

My invention relates to games of numbers and has particular reference to games of numbers employing cards with variously arranged rows of figures in connection with a number indicating or selecting device, such as the well-known game of "bingo," lotto," etc.

The game of "bingo" involves the use of a disc with numbers and a spinning pointer which indicates a certain number by chance. Holders of cards in an audience viewing the disc watch until one of the rows of figures on a card is completed, calling this fact to the attention of the operator and being then entitled to a prize.

The game in such a form is not practical for use with a large number of cards when the card owners are not present at the point where the numbers are being called. My invention has for its object to provide a device by means of which the numbers called will be automatically shown on a special board, being, for instance, illuminated by special lamps. I also provide means to produce a signal when one row in one of the cards is completed. The numbers may be then broadcast by radio or otherwise made known to a large number of people holding cards. The broadcasting may be automatic in order to eliminate all possible errors.

While the board may have but a limited number of cards, this number may be multiplied many times by serial index symbols, so that for every winning card on the board, there may be a large number of winning cards in the hands of card holders, these cards bearing different series symbols or colors. It is possible, of course, that for every drawing a certain series may be called, so that there will be only one winning card.

My invention is more fully described in the accompanying specification and drawing, the single figure of which represents by way of illustration a diagrammatic view of my board with a number indicating spinning device.

My game of numbers consists of a board 1 having a plurality of sections 2, every section having numbers or other symbols 3, preferably arranged in horizontal and vertical rows. The numbers are arranged at random, differently in different sections or "cards." The numbers are painted on pieces of translucent glass and have electric lamps or bulbs 4 behind. The numbers, for convenience, are shown in the drawing in two sections only, the other sections having similar numbers, arranged differently in different rows, some of the numbers being duplicates in different sections.

All lamps are included in electric circuits, only a few of such circuits being shown in the drawing. One terminal of every lamp is connected by a lead 5 with one side of a supply line or similar source of current 6 through a switch 7. The other terminals of the lamps are connected by leads 8 with contact points 9 and also with all the other lamps on the board back of the identical numbers. For closing the contact points a special device is provided including thermoelectric bimetallic members 10, 10', 10'', 10''', etc., rigidly supported at 11 and free to deflect at their other ends. Heating coils or other resistance heating elements 12 are mounted on the bimetallic members, one end of every coil 12 being connected to the other contact point 9, the other end of the coil being connected by a lead 13 to the other side of the supply line 6.

The middle portion of every coil is connected by a lead 14 to one of the contact elements 15 on a disc or dial 16. A contact pointer 17 may be spun over the face of the disc or dial, successively touching the contact elements 15, the latter being slightly depressed to compel the pointer to stop on one of such elements at the end of every spin.

The pointer may be spun either manually or by a suitable motor 17'.

The free ends of the bimetallic members support lugs 18, 18', etc., on bars 19', 19'. The ends of the bars are located above contact points 20', 20' forming part of a circuit including the source of current 6 and signaling devices, such as red lamps 21 and/or electric bell 22. A similar system is provided for every horizontal row of symbols and, if desired, for every vertical row.

There will be no interference between the individual groups since identical symbols in different groups will be connected in parallel and in no case will any points of different polarity be connected together. The same applies to alarm switches 20 which are also connected in parallel with no interference with the lamp circuits.

The operation of my device is as follows:

With the switch 7 closed, the pointer 17 is spun and left free to stop by inertia at one of the contact elements 15, thus closing the circuit for one of the coils. As shown in the drawing, the pointer closes the circuit for the bimetallic member 10''. The latter is heated by the coil 12 and is therefore deflected, closing contact points 9 for the circuit including lamps for all numbers 2 on the board. The last circuit also includes the coil 12, which will continue heating the bimetallic member and maintaining the contact points 9 closed, even after the pointer 17 is spun again, leaving

the contact element corresponding to the first circuit.

It may be noted that the lug 18' on the bar 19 is no longer supported by the end of the bimetallic member 10'', although the other bimetallic members continue to support the bar. The bar will be released only when every one of the bimetallic members corresponding to one row of symbols on a card (vertical or horizontal) is energized and deflected. The bar 19 will then press against the contact points 20, energizing the bell 22 and/or lamp 21, thus indicating that there is one winner in the series of cards corresponding to the cards on the board.

The numbers or symbols on the board may be removable if it is desired to change the combinations from time to time changing also the corresponding connections.

The rules of the game may be varied according to the circumstances or convenience. Thus it may be decided that a play is disregarded when the pointer stops at a point for which the lamps are already lit. With insufficient number of players or limited time it may be decided to stop the game after expiration of a certain time regardless of whether all the boards have been occupied by players or not.

It is understood that my game of numbers may be further modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game of numbers comprising a plurality of electric lamps arranged in rows, individual switches for the lamps, means to close the switches at random, the switches being arranged in rows corresponding to the rows of the lamps, signals for indicating when all the lamps in one row are lighted, switches for the signals, time-delay means to maintain the circuit closed when the switch is opened until the circuit is manually disconnected, and means to close a signal switch when all the lamps in a corresponding row are lighted.

2. A game of numbers comprising a plurality of electric lamps arranged in rows, symbols illuminated by the lamps, individual relay switches for connecting the lamps in circuit with a source of current, means to close the switches at random, lamps in different rows for similar symbols being connected to one switch, the switches being arranged in rows corresponding to the rows of the lamps, signals for indicating when all the lamps in one row are lighted, contacts for the signals, time-delay means to maintain the circuit closed when the switch is opened until the circuit is manually disconnected, and means to close a signal contact by closing all the lamp switches in a corresponding row.

3. A game of numbers comprising a plurality of electric lamps arranged in groups, lamps in every group being arranged in horizontal and vertical rows; switches, every lamp being connected in a circuit with a switch and a source of current; a rotarry member with a plurality of contact members, every control member being connected in a circuit with the corresponding switch, the rotary member being adapted to be rotated and to continue rotation by inertia for finally closing one of the relay circuits, thereby energizing the corresponding lamp; electric signals for the rows of the lamps connected in circuits with source of current; relays for the signals; time-delay means to maintain the circuit closed when the switch is opened until the circuit is manually disconnected, and means to energize the signals when all the lamp switches in the corresponding row are closed.

4. A game of numbers comprising a plurality of electric lamps arranged in groups, lamps in every group being arranged in horizontal and vertical rows; switches, every lamp being connected in a circuit with a switch and a source of current; a rotary member with a plurality of contact members, every contact member being connected in a circuit with the corresponding switch, the rotary member being adapted to be rotated and to continue rotation by inertia for finally closing one of the switch circuits, thereby energizing the corresponding lamp; electric signals for the rows of the lamps connected in circuits with a source of current; time-delay means to maintain the circuit closed when the switch is opened until the circuit is manually disconnected, and mechanical members operated by the lamp circuits and adapted to close the signal circuits when all the lamps of a corresponding row are energized.

5. A game of numbers comprising a plurality of electric lamps arranged in groups, lamps in every group being arranged in horizontal and vertical rows; relays, every lamp being connected in a circuit with a relay and a source of current; a rotary member with a plurality of contact switches, every switch being connected in a circuit with the corresponding relay, the rotary member being adapted to be rotated and to continue rotation by inertia for finally closing one of the relay circuits, thereby energizing the corresponding lamp; electric signals for the rows of the lamps connected in circuits with a source of current; relays for the signals; a plunger operatively connected with the lamp relays; time-delay means to maintain the circuit closed when the switch is opened until the circuit is manually disconnected, and contact points connected in circuits with the corresponding signals, the plunger being adapted to close the contact points when all the lamp relays of a corresponding row are energized.

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