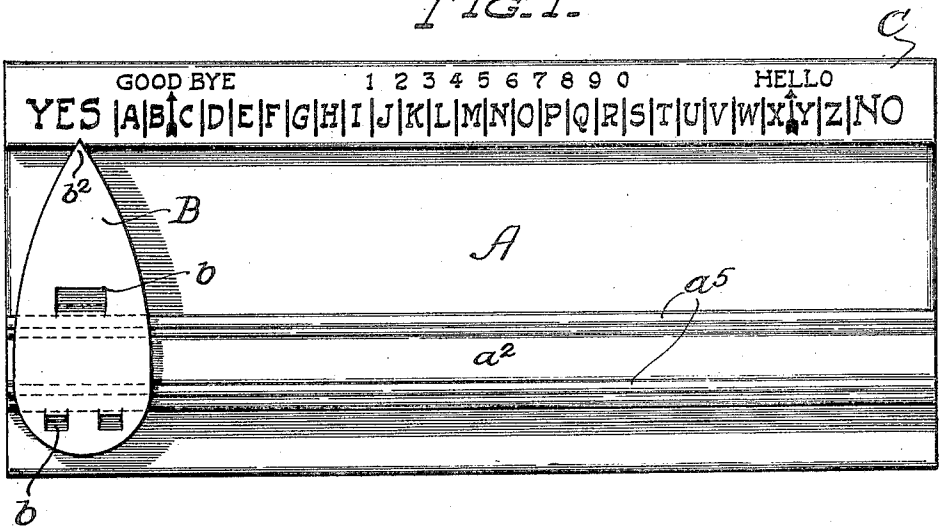
H. M. BIGELOW.

OUIJA BOARD.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 17, 1920.

1,400,791. Patented Dec. 20, 1921.

FIG. 1.



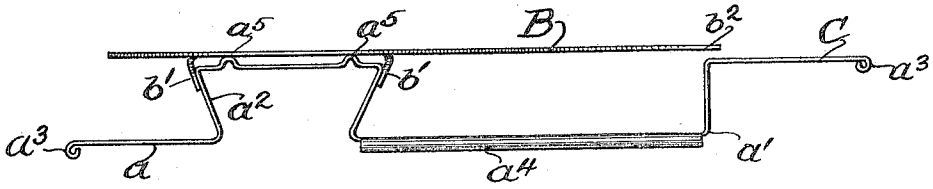


FIG. 2.

Witness
Phil J. Dawn
Del.

Inventor
Harry M. Bigelow,
By
Erwin, Wheeler & Woolard.
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY M. BIGELOW, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

OUIJA-BOARD.

1,400,791. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 20, 1921.

Application filed May 17, 1920. Serial No. 382,032.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY M. BIGELOW, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Milwaukee, county of Milwaukee, and State of Wisconsin, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Ouija-Boards; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings for an illustration of one form in which the invention has been embodied.

My invention relates to an improved structure of ouija boards.

The ouija board, as is well known, is a device designed to permit human beings to give expression to subconscious thoughts induced by complete muscular and mental relaxation. Its purposes and principles of operation are so well known that it is unnecessary to here describe them in the interest of the disclosure of the present invention, which relates merely to features of construction of the improved ouija board.

The invention will be fully described further on in this specification and the novel features thereof be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved ouija board, constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is an end view thereof looking from the right in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, my improved ouija board is constructed from a metal plate A of proper gage. This plate will be bent so as to have the uniform cross sectional contour shown in Fig. 2 in which base parts a and a' are provided with an upstanding dovetail member a^2, the latter being for a purpose to be described. The edges of the board will be rolled as at a^3 and a^4 to provide strengthening ribs, which will impart rigidity to the structure to prevent distortion thereof.

An indicator or index B formed from a piece of sheet metal is perforated as at b to provide downturned projections b' which embrace the upstanding dovetail portion a^2 and are guided thereon in the movement of the index member B over the board. The upper surface of the dovetail portion a^2 is provided with longitudinal ribs or beads a^5, which form bearing surfaces for the index member B in its movements. The said ribs or beads provide for a minimum of frictional engagement between the index member and the dovetail guide, so that the index member may be moved along the guide under the impulses of the operators with a negligible degree of physical resistance.

A further advantage which follows the use of the guiding means described, is that the index member is restrained from lateral vibration in its movements along the guide, so that the point of such member does not depart from its line of movement in parallelism to the plane of the indicia. The guiding members are arranged so to have only the clearance necessary to permit them to have free movement, one with reference to the other, in a longitudinal direction under the impulses of the participants.

At its rear side, the board is provided with a table C, upon which will be placed the various indicia with which the ouija board will be equipped to enable a manifestation of expression by the operators. The index is pointed at the end next adjacent the table, as at b^2, so that the point of the index in traversing the table will be brought to a position of rest adjacent the insignia through which the expression of the operators is to be made.

My improved construction enables me to produce a ouija board of substantial and pleasing appearance, and of compact form inasmuch as by means of the dovetail, a positive connection between the parts is established, and while I have referred to parts as being constructed of metal, it will be understood that this is not of the essence of my invention.

By a series of actual tests, the ouija board embodied in the present construction has been demonstrated a success, in the performance of the purposes for which it is designed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

1. A ouija board having a table upon which are placed the indicia of expression, a raised guide forming a part of the board proper, and a movable index having a dovetail engagement with and directed by the guide with the point thereof in proximity to the expression indicia.

2. A ouija board comprising a base and

a guide upstanding thereon, a table parallel to the guide and containing the expression indicia, and an index member, a dovetail engagement with the guide movable over the guide and having means for engaging the latter to direct the point of the index along the line of expression indicia.

3. A ouija board formed from a sheet and having a raised guide and an expression indicia table thereon in parallel relation, and an index member movable along the guide with the point of the index adjacent the line of the expression indicia, the face of the guide being provided with a plurality of ribs to minimize the frictional engagement of the index in its movements over the guide.

4. A ouija board comprising an expression indicia table and a parallel dovetail guide, and an index member movable over the guide and having means engaging the guide to direct the movements of the index over the said table.

5. A ouija board comprising an expression indicia table, a guide on the board parallel thereto, and an index member supported by the guide and movable upon and over the same and having a sliding engagement with the guide so as to direct the longitudinal movement of the index member and restrain lateral movement thereof.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name this 6th day of May, 1920.

HARRY M. BIGELOW.

Witnesses:
JACOB NELSON,
LEO ADRIANSEN.