

27 APR 1999

TABLETOP HAVING MULTIPLE INDOOR GAME LAYOUTS

The invention relates to a tabletop, more particularly to one having multiple indoor game layouts.

5 It is known to provide the tabletop of a table with a specific indoor game layout for entertainment purposes. The known game tables, however, permit the user to play only a limited number of indoor games thereon. In order to have more choices, a variety of
10 game tables with different indoor game layouts are needed in a game room to satisfy people in the same and to provide diverse entertainment. For a small-sized game room, the space for the game tables and hence the number of the game tables, is limited,
15 thereby reducing the practical use and benefits of the game room. For a house with no game room, only one game table is usually allowed in the living room and thus, only a small number of indoor games can be played thereon.

20 The object of this invention is to provide a tabletop having multiple indoor game layouts. When the tabletop is mounted on a leg assembly to form a table, the table does not only serve the function of a common table, but can also be used for playing different
25 indoor games, thereby resulting in diverse entertainment within a limited space.

Accordingly, a tabletop of the present invention

includes a base member, a board member, a looped frame member, and a cover member. The base member has an upper surface. The board member is superimposed removably on the upper surface of the base member, and has an upper surface, a lower surface to face the upper surface of the base member, and a peripheral rim flange that extends downwardly from the lower surface of the board member and that extends around the base member when the board member is superimposed on top of the base member. The looped frame member is superimposed removably on the upper surface of the board member, and has an upper side and a lower side to face the upper surface of the board member. The looped frame member cooperates with the board member to confine a playing space within the looped frame member and accessible from the upper side of the looped frame member. The cover member is superimposed removably on the upper side of the looped frame member. The cover member has a top surface, a bottom surface to face the upper side of the looped frame member, and a peripheral guard flange that extends downwardly from the bottom surface of the cover member and that extends around the looped frame member when the cover member is superimposed on top of the looped frame member. At least one of the upper surface of the base member, the upper surface of the board member, and the bottom surface of the cover member is provided with an indoor game layout.

Other features and advantages of this invention will become more apparent in the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of this invention, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of a tabletop of the present invention mounted on a leg assembly to form a table for general use;

Figure 2 is a partly exploded view of the preferred embodiment mounted on the leg assembly;

Figure 3 is a partly sectional schematic view of the preferred embodiment mounted on the leg assembly;

Figure 4 illustrates how the preferred embodiment is used in a first way;

Figure 5 illustrates how the preferred embodiment is used in a second way;

Figure 6 illustrates how the preferred embodiment is used in a third way;

Figure 7 illustrates how the preferred embodiment is used in a fourth way; and

Figure 8 illustrates how the preferred embodiment is used in a fifth way.

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, the preferred embodiment of a tabletop 1 according to the present invention is shown to be installed on a leg assembly 11 in a conventional manner to form a table for general

use. The preferred embodiment includes a base member 10, a board member 20, a looped frame member 30, a cover member 40, and first and second spacing devices.

5 As illustrated, the base member 10 is installed on the leg assembly 11, and includes a rectangular upper support board 12 of an rectangular shape and a surrounding wall 120 that extends downwardly from a periphery of the upper support board 12. The surrounding wall 120 includes four side walls, each
10 of which is formed with an opening to slidably receive a drawer 14 therein so that tokens and game pieces can be kept in the drawers 14. The upper surface of the support board 12 is formed with an accommodating recess 13 that is accessible from an upper side thereof. The
15 upper surface of the support board 12 further has a peripheral portion formed with four retaining grooves 121 at four corners thereof, the purpose of which will be described in the succeeding paragraphs.

A cloth layer 15, preferably made from flannel and
20 with a first indoor game layout 151, is provided on the upper surface of the support board 12 so that a first indoor game can be played thereon. As best shown in Figure 7, three dice can be tossed into the accommodating recess 13 of the support board 12 to play
25 a game of big-and-small. The surrounding wall that confines the accommodating recess 13 can be provided with a cloth layer thereon.

As shown in Figure 6, a second indoor game layout 221, such as a chess and checkers game layout, can be provided on the upper surface 22 of the board member 20 in a manner similar to that of the first indoor game layout 151 so that a game of chess or checkers can be played thereon. The board member 20 preferably has a peripheral rim flange 21 that extends downwardly from the lower surface thereof and that extends around the base member 10 when the board member 20 is superimposed removably on top of the base member 10.

The first spacing device includes four spacer pegs 122 which have lower ends 123 that extend respectively into the retaining grooves 121 in the support board 12, and upper ends that abut against the lower surface of the board member 20, thereby preventing direct contact between the support board 12 and the board member 20 when the latter is superimposed on top of the former.

Referring again to Figures 2 and 3, the looped frame member 30 is superimposed removably on top of the upper surface of the board member 20. The frame member 30 has an upper side, and a lower side to face the upper surface of the board member 20. The frame member 30 includes four side frames 31 which cooperate with the upper surface of the board member 20 to confine a playing space 32 within the looped frame member 30 accessible from the upper side of the frame member 30.

A game of "mah-jong" can be played in the playing space 32, as best shown in Figure 5. The frame member 30 has a peripheral positioning flange 34 (see Fig. 3) that extends downwardly from the lower side thereof and that extends around the board member 20 when the frame member 30 is superimposed on top of the board member 20. The upper sides of the side frames 31 are formed with four retaining grooves 311 at four corners of the frame member 30, the purpose of which will be described in the succeeding paragraphs.

The cover member 40 is rectangular in shape and is superimposed removably on top of the upper side of the frame member 30. The cover member 40 has a top surface, a bottom surface 42 that is provided with an indoor game layout 421 in a manner similar to that of the first indoor game layout 151 and that faces the upper side of the frame member 30, and a peripheral guard flange 41 that extends downwardly from the bottom surface 42 of the cover member 40 and that extends around the frame member 30 when the cover member 40 is superimposed on top of the frame member 30. The bottom surface 42 of the cover member 40 is further provided with four retaining grooves 43 at four corners thereof and aligned respectively with the retaining grooves 33 in the frame member 30. In order to prevent direct abutment between the bottom surface of the cover member 40 and the upper side of the frame member 30, the second

spacing device is disposed therebetween. The second spacing device includes four rubber spacing units 33 that have lower ends 331 inserted into the retaining grooves 311 in the frame member 30, and four plastic support units 44 that have upper sections inserted into the retaining grooves 43 in the cover member 40. The upper ends 332 of the spacing units 33 abut against the lower sections of the support units 44, thereby spacing the bottom surface 42 of the cover member 40 from the upper side of the frame member 30. Under such a condition, the preferred embodiment is converted into a table for general use, such as for dining as best shown in Fig. 1. The cover member 40 can be turned upside-down in order to superimpose the top surface of the cover member 40 on the rubber spacing units 33 of the frame member 30, wherein an indoor game can be played with the assistance of the indoor game layout 421, as best shown in Figure 4. The indoor game layout 421 can be a game of black jacket.

Referring again to Figure 3, the cover member 40, the frame member 30 and the board member 20 cooperate to form a storage space (A) that can be used to store game pieces and tokens therein.

Referring to Figure 8, a wheel roulette 16 can be mounted in the accommodating recess 13 of the base member 10 and another indoor game layout 171 associated with the wheel roulette 16 can be provided on the upper

surface 17 of the base member 10 so that a game of roulette can be conducted thereon after the cover member 40, the looped frame member 30 and the board member 20 are removed from the base member 10.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A tabletop comprising:

a base member having an upper surface;

5 a board member superimposed removably on the upper surface of the base member, the board member having an upper surface, a lower surface to face the upper surface of the base member, and a peripheral rim flange extending downwardly from the lower surface of the board member and extending
10 around the base member when the board member is superimposed on top of the base member;

a looped frame member superimposed removably on the upper surface of the board member, the looped frame member having an upper side and a lower side
15 to face the upper surface of the board member, the looped frame member cooperating with the board member to confine a playing space within the looped frame member and accessible from the upper side of the looped frame member;

20 a cover member superimposed removably on the upper side of the looped frame member, the cover member having a top surface, a bottom surface to face the upper side of the looped frame member, and a peripheral guard flange extending downwardly from
25 the bottom surface of the cover member and extending around the looped frame member when the cover member is superimposed on top of the looped frame member;
and



at least one of the upper surface of the base member, the upper surface of the board member, and the bottom surface of the cover member being provided with an indoor game layout.

- 5 2. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, wherein the base member includes an upper support board and a surrounding wall extending downwardly from a periphery of the upper support board.
- 10 3. The tabletop as defined in Claim 2, wherein the base member further includes at least one drawer mounted slidably on the surrounding wall.
- 15 4. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the base member is formed with an accommodating recess therein.
- 20 5. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one of the upper surface of the base member, the upper surface of the board member, and the bottom surface of the cover member has a cloth layer secured thereon, the cloth layer being provided with the indoor game layout.
- 25 6. The tabletop as defined in Claim 5, wherein the cloth layer is made from flannel.
7. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a spacing device disposed between the upper surface of the base member and the lower surface of the board member to prevent direct contact therebetween.



- 5 8. The tabletop as defined in Claim 7, wherein the upper surface of the board member has a peripheral portion formed with a plurality of retaining grooves, the spacing device including a plurality of spacer pegs having lower ends that extend respectively into the retaining grooves, and upper ends that abut against the lower surface of the board member.
- 10 9. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a spacing device disposed between the upper side of the looped frame member and the bottom surface of the cover member to prevent direct contact therebetween.
- 15 10. The tabletop as defined in Claim 9, wherein the spacing device includes a plurality of spacing units provided on the upper side of the looped frame member, and a plurality of support units provided on the bottom surface of the cover member, the support units abutting respectively against the spacing units to space apart the upper side of the looped frame member and the bottom surface of the cover member.
- 20 11. The tabletop as defined in Claim 10, wherein the spacing units are made from rubber, and the support units are made from plastic.
- 25 12. The tabletop as defined in Claim 1, wherein the looped frame member further has a peripheral positioning flange extending downwardly from the



lower side of the looped frame member and extending around the board member when the looped frame member is superimposed on top of the board member.